



ENGAGE



EDUCATE



EMPOWER



FALL 2014

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Yoga For Good

Wednesdays, Aug 13 - Oct 1

Join us for an invigorating yoga class appropriate for all levels in ALNC's Nature Classroom, with the beautiful native prairie as a backdrop. Drop-in at \$10 class!

### Geocaching Family Fun

Saturday, Sept 6, 2014

Join us for a modern day treasure hunt! Learn how to use a GPS unit and spend the afternoon on a geocaching adventure at ALNC's Black Earth campus to find caches.

### A Lens On the Natural World

Oct 11, 12, 25 & 26, 2014

ALNC is delighted to partner with photographer Lisa Frank for this 4-day workshop! Learn to enhance your own photography while shooting in the beautiful habitats of ALNC and Edna Taylor Park, then be featured in an online exhibition after the class.

### Fall Festival

Friday, October 24, 2014

Join us for a night of spooktacular family fun on Friday, October 24 at our annual Fall Family Festival! This fun-filled event is FREE for ALNC Members - what a great time to join or renew as a member to enjoy year-round benefits!

### ALNC Members Save 10%!

Join for as little as \$50 and get priority registration, free Fall Fest admission, save 10% off programs & more!

## Summer Flora and Fall Festivals at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center!

What an incredible summer it has been at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center! The nature trails, classrooms and exhibits have been full of campers, classes and visitors enjoying the glorious summer habitats and fun new exhibit themes. Even with the summer prairie plants still in bloom, we look forward to fall with its myriad opportunities to explore and reconnect with nature here at ALNC. From new offerings like **Yoga in our nature classroom**, to traditions of the season like **Pipers in the Prairie** and our **Fall Festival**, the calendar is packed with fun, family-friendly occasions to get the most out of ALNC, your community nature resource!

This is a wonderful time to visit the nature center to experience the changing seasons for yourself. Walk along our prairie and woodland trails through towering silphium and leafy oaks, wave farewell to the monarchs as they begin their migration to Mexico, and spot muskrats and groundhogs munching greens to fatten up for winter. Read on for our latest initiatives and opportunities to visit, and be sure to 'like' us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for news, programs, and phenology photos!

Join us for the season's most enchanting event: **Pipers in the Prairie & Festival Fire on Saturday, October 4th!**

This family friendly event – a Madison tradition now in its 12th year – offers a unique and unforgettable seasonal celebration unlike anything in Madison, with captivating music, delicious food and drink, seasonally-inspired crafts for kids, bagpipers in the prairie, a spectacular festival fire, and more!

All proceeds benefit educational programming at ALNC.

Pre-registration is recommended - please call (608) 216-9373 or visit [aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org) for info!



ALNC's 2013 Annual Report is now available - please call (608) 221-0404 to request a digital or printed copy!

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

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Dear Friends,

Each day since beginning my tenure at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center in June, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible benefits of nature education for children and families alike. From field trips and summer camp programs to Climate Science Lectures, and from the Interpretive Phenology Garden to new shows on the Science on a Sphere theater, ALNC has opportunities for people of all ages connect to the natural world. This work could not be more crucial: children today in the US spend less than 1% of their time outdoors, even as research continues to show the importance of nature to our health and well-being.

We hope you will join us to celebrate the end of a wonderful summer and the start of another season full of nature exploration at our upcoming our fundraising gala, **Pipers in the Prairie, on October 4**, and our member's event, **Fall Fest, on October 24!** Fall Fest is free for members – it's a perfect time to join or renew your membership and receive year-round program discounts and benefits!

As we celebrate the changing season and look forward to Fall phenology and programs, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for the generous support of community members like you who enable us to provide innovative hands-on education to more than 45,000 visitors, students and families each year. We truly couldn't do it without you and hope you will consider including ALNC in your year-end giving plans so we can continue to build a happy, healthy and sustainable future for generations to come!

Warm Wishes for a Fantastic Fall Season,



Bob Miller  
President & Executive Director



## Accessible Nature Installations at ALNC

**N**ext time you visit ALNC, be sure to explore our new trail features, made possible through a grant from the Madison Community Foundation and Dane County Partners for Recreation and Conservation, part of an ongoing effort to make nature accessible to everyone and share our love of the land!

**O**ur new Phenology Garden at the Monona campus allows students and families to learn more about the land and Aldo Leopold's mission through phenology. Phenology is the study of nature's seasonal changes from year to year, such the first lilac bloom in late spring, the arrival of the monarch butterfly in early summer, and the departure of geese in the fall. Keeping records of these changes allows us to connect more deeply with the world around us and helps us to better understand the ecosystems we are a part of. The garden will serve as a living classroom where our visitors can observe and record information about native flora and fauna, as well as ecology and habitats.



The Phenology Garden's native plants have been blooming throughout the summer.



Staff installing a new floating bridge at the pond.

**A** new Wetland Education Bridge has also been installed at the eastern edge of our pond, to enhance the wetland and prairie trail interpretive experience and expand recreational opportunities by better connecting our trail system. The construction of this bridge and the upcoming installation of an Accessible Nature Trail on our grounds will allow more visitors of all ages, interests and abilities to participate in our environmental programs and experience the beauty of our native habitats. Stop by soon to visit our nature trails, check out the bridges and gardens, and start a phenology journal of your own!

## FAMILY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### FAMILY GEOCACHING ADVENTURE

**Saturday, September 6, 2014 — 1 pm - 4 pm**

AT Black Earth Campus. Join us for a modern day treasure hunt! Geocaches are hidden containers that you track down using GPS units. Learn how to use a GPS unit and spend the afternoon on a geocaching adventure at ALNC's Black Earth campus to find caches. We'll also have a crash course in map and compass orienteering, a good skill to have in case technology fails. GPS units will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you have one.

Pre-registration required.

ALNC members: \$7/person or \$25/family; Non-members: \$8/person or \$29/family

### PIPERS IN THE PRAIRIE - SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS

**Saturday, October 4, 2014 — 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

Join the Aldo Leopold Nature Center to light up the night sky at the 12th Annual Pipers in the Prairie major fundraising gala! Call 608) 216-9373 or visit [www.aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://www.aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org) to register. In partnership with American Family Insurance, BMO Harris Bank, DuPont, EZ Office Products, Foley & Lardner (Anne Ross), Great Dane Pub & Brewing Company, Heartland Litho, Images Plus, Meriter/Physicians Plus and Thermo Fisher Scientific, Clear Channel (The Mic & WIBA), Isthmus Publishing, Madison Magazine The Cap Times and WKOW - TV 27.

\$75/adult (18+), \$25/child (ages 5-17), Children 4 and Under Free

### FALL FEST

**Friday, October 24, 2014 — 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

Mark your calendars for ALNC's annual spooky celebration! Join us for a fun-filled evening of outdoor activities with your family as we celebrate the "Creatures of the Night" in not-so-scary style! Wander our torch lit trails to the A-MAZE-ING Basswood tree, visit the "Bone-Yard", the haunted shack, and learn about ALNC's nocturnal critters while "trick or tracking". Come dressed in costume and join in the costume parade! Pre-registration recommended; walk-ins accepted. In partnership with Alliant Energy Foundation, BMO Harris Bank, DuPont, Madison Gas & Electric, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Clear Channel (The Mic & WIBA), The Cap Times and WKOW-TV 27.

### FAMILIES ON THE FRONTIER

**Saturday, November 22, 2014 — 1 – 3 pm**

Celebrate fall and the harvest season by going back in time to a world much different than today! We'll visit the Children's Shack to do pioneer chores and play games, churn butter, sing songs, and learn about living off the land in the spirit of Aldo Leopold. Pre-registration recommended; walk-ins accepted.

ALNC members: \$7/person or \$25/family; Non-members: \$8/person or \$29/family

### WINTER SOLSTICE

**Friday, December 19, 2014 — 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

Families are invited to rejoice in a celebration of that tradition at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center's annual Winter Solstice Celebration with naturalist-led twilight hikes on ALNC's trails; nature crafts for the kids, a festive bonfire and ceremonial burning of the Yule log, hot cocoa, seasonal snacks, and more! Don't miss this special night of joyful festivities as we look forward towards longer and lighter days. Pre-registration recommended; walk-ins accepted.

ALNC members: \$7/person or \$25/family; Non-members: \$8/person or \$29/family

**To register for Public Programs, classes and other events, visit [aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org). For more information or to register by phone, call 608-221-0404, x1.**



## Coming up in our Climate Lecture Series



### New Energy Economy: Barriers, Challenges, and Opportunities

**Thursday, September 11 — 6 pm — FREE**

Energy needs and solutions are changing around the world, in the U.S., and right here in Wisconsin. How fast and how dynamic the energy transition will occur remains unclear due to policy and economics.

Join us on **Thursday, September 11 at 6 pm** for a presentation by Gary Radloff, Director of Midwest Energy Policy Analysis at the Wisconsin Energy Institute, which will highlight significant trends, current factoids and events of the day in attempt to sort out what the changing energy world means for your daily life. The FREE 6 pm lecture will be followed by a 7 pm tour of the Climate Science Education Center.

# PUBLIC PROGRAMS...

## VACATION DAY PROGRAMS - OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

**Your kids are off school - now what?** Sign them up for a fun, educational day of activities at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center! See the list below for Vacation Day programs coming up. Bring a sack lunch for all full-day programs! AM and PM snacks provided. All Vacation Day Programs appropriate for children ages 5–12.

### APPLE SCIENCE

**Thursday, October 30, 2014 — 9am - 4pm**

*Registration Deadline: Monday, October 27, 2014*

Apples today keep the no-school blues away! Come join us for a smorgasbord of science featuring a favorite fall fruit. We'll learn how to use a cider press, explore different types of apples, bake an apple snack, dissect an apple, make apple art and learn about physics and reactions with apple eruptions!

Fee: \$50/child (members save 10%)

### PHENOLOGY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

**Friday, October 31, 2014 — 9am - 4pm**

*Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 28, 2014*

Phenology is the study of changes over time and is happening all around us! Even though fall is settling in, there is still plenty happening outdoors to observe! We will learn about phenology and the connection Aldo Leopold had with recording observations over time. Then, we will use technology to record and compare observations.

Fee: \$50/child (members save 10%)

### NATURE, CAMERA, ACTION!

**Friday, November 14, 2014 — 9am - 4pm**

*Registration Deadline: Tuesday, November 11, 2014*

Live from Monona...starring you! Ever wanted to create or star in a nature film or documentary? Join us for a day of nature observation, exploration and digital media! We'll spend the morning outdoors observing, investigating and digitally recording the things we see and discover. After lunch, we'll research our observations, review our footage and create videos to share our observations with others all over the world. Using green screen technology in the Kids ClimateCast studio, we'll practice, record and post our video observations for others to learn from and enjoy.

Fee: \$50/child (members save 10%)

### GOBBLE GOBBLE

**Wednesday, November 26, 2014 — 9am - 12pm**

*Registration Deadline: Sunday, November 23, 2014*

Calling all Jakes and Jennys! Come join us for a very "fowl" morning of fun as we learn all about turkeys. Learn how (and why) they gobble, explore the habit and habitats of wild turkey, and how to identify turkey scat through fun games, crafts and outdoor explorations.

Fee: \$22/child (members save 10%)

### LUNCH BUNCH

**Wednesday, November 26, 2014 — 12 noon - 1 pm**

*Registration Deadline: Sunday, November 23, 2014*

Your child will relax and enjoy nature stories read aloud by our naturalists while eating lunch. Afterwards, we'll burn off some energy playing games outside with a nature theme! Please bring a sack lunch; we'll provide water and lemonade. Fees: \$7/child per session (members save 10%)

### WEIRD SCIENCE

**Wednesday, November 26, 2014 — 1pm - 4pm**

*Registration Deadline: Sunday, November 23, 2014*

Weird and wacky science experiments await your discovery! We'll learn some basic science principles of science while conducting science experiments, including our famous "electric pickle" experiment, volcanic eruptions, and many more!

Fee: \$22/child (members save 10%)

### SAVE THE DATE FOR DECEMBER VACATION DAYS!

**December 22 - 23, December 29-31, and January 2nd. 9 am to 4 pm each day.**

*To register for Vacation Day programs, visit [aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org), click on Programs, then Youth Programs, then Vacation Day Programs. Click to see all programs and follow the links to register online. For more information or to register by phone, call 608-221-0404 x1.*



**Our Nature Nook vivariums hosted several monarch butterflies this summer, providing a living laboratory for visitors to see them in each stage of metamorphosis!**

**NEW LONGER HOURS!** We have added new extended day offerings for vacation day programs to help meet the needs of parents with busy schedules. Before, and after program hours, children can participate in supervised outdoor games and exploration before or after an active day. Fee For Extended Day Option: \$16/day (members save 10%)

Drop off and pick up times for extended day options:

AM: Drop off your child as early as 8:30am, program starts at 9:00am

PM: Program ends at 4:00pm, must pick up by 5:30pm

# PUBLIC PROGRAMS...

## ADULT WORKSHOPS

### A LENS ON THE NATURAL WORLD

October 11, 12, 25 & 26, 2014 — 10am - 2pm each day

ALNC is delighted to partner with photographer Lisa Frank for this 4-day workshop! Each day the class will begin with time spent outdoors at the ALNC and Edna Taylor Conservation Park. Participants will be given projects that strengthen their awareness of a reciprocal relationship with nature, their observational skills, their sensory perception and their artistic spirit.

Learn ways to enhance your photographic abilities as well as techniques for compositing them with other photos and found materials. Participants will also use a scanner for dramatic and expressive image making and have the opportunity to experiment with new techniques. An online exhibition will be posted at the end of the class.

Pre-Requisites: Some basic computer and camera skills are required. Having your own laptop and camera is preferred but special accommodations can be made if you don't. Being somewhat familiar with Adobe Photoshop will be helpful. Participants will come away with new photographic skills and a fresh appreciation of nature at whatever level of experience they have. Questions about the course can be emailed to Lisa Frank: lafrank@mac.com. Instructors: Lisa A. Frank, photographer, (Design Studies Department adjunct faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Madison) www.lisafrankphotography.com and Wendy Alethta, LCSW (nature-assisted life coach and psychotherapist practicing at Psychology Associates of Madison)

Fee: \$140; ALNC Members save 10%. To register, visit [aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org), click on "Programs" then "Adult Programs" or call 608-221-0404 x1.



## WONDER BUGS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM 9:30-10:45am — Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

**NEW THIS FALL....Tuesday, Wednesday and FRIDAYS! Sign up for your favorite session or register for a package to come each week this fall! Prices for individual sessions: \$9/child, ALNC Members save 10%. Package price (choose to attend on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays): Fridays (11 weeks-no class Friday, November 28): \$89/child;**

### STOP, DROP & ROLL

September 9, 10 or 12 (T, W or F)

No, there isn't a fire. But try to catch a roly-poly bug and watch what happens. Turn over logs, hunt in the woods, and roll around in fun-filled songs and crafts!

### BANK ON IT

September 16, 17 or 19, 2014 (T, W or F)

Bubbles of fun are gurgling your way today. Ride the wave of games and activities as we explore the marsh and pond. Water your way to new learning growth today!

### GOOSY GOOSY GANDER

September 23, 24 or 26 2014 (T, W or F)

Whither do you wander? Are you flying south for the winter or braving the cold? Only our eyes will behold! Come fly in the wonders of geese; we guarantee the fun shall never cease.

### TREES PLEASE!

September 30, October 1 or 3, 2014 (T, W or F)

Today, we will reach for new heights. Come get up close and personal with trees. Stories and games will branch out your knowledge, and at the end of the day you'll be asking for more!

### TAILS AT NIGHT

October 7, 8 or 10, 2014 (T, W or F)

Opossum tails aren't tall but they sure are good for hanging. Learn all about this shy night-loving animal and have fun hanging around.

### WHAT GOES UP...

October 14, 15 or 17, 2014 (T, W or F)

...Must come down. There is much to see up in the forest canopy. Explore this hands-down truly exciting forest habitat. We'll play games and explore down below until the fun comes up! You won't want to leaf it for later.



### LEAF MAN

October 21, 22 or 24, 2014 (T, W or F)

Leaves and art, oh my! What shapes will we see as the leaves blow by? Mix and match, sort and glue, we love fall—how about you?

### MOON OVER MY CORN

October 28, 29 or 31, 2014 (T, W or F)

The moon at night is big and bright. Deep in the heart of nature! At harvest time it likes to shine. Deep in the heart of nature! Get ready to reap the fun and gather the facts about this delicious time of year!

### BY THE LIGHT OF THE...

November 4, 5 or 7, 2014 (T, W or F)

...Beaver Moon. Furs and trapping. Don't get caught napping. Singing, playing. Are the traders paying? Fun while learning. Today will keep you yearning! For all things beaver and more!

### LEADER OF THE PACK

November 11, 12, or 14, 2014 (T, W or F)

Coyotes are wily. Coyotes are fun. Come learn about these "barking dogs" until the day is done. We'll play games and craft, sing songs that are daft. You'll be howling with delight! Today and later at night!

### GOBBLE GOBBLE

November 18, 19 or 21, 2014 (T, W or F)

Did you know turkeys roost in trees? Want to know more? Just ask please! Come find out a thing or two- about a wild birdie before you chew. Come gobble up the fun!

### NUTS TO YOU

November 25 & Wednesday, November 26, 2014 (T or W— NO Friday)

Red, gray, flying and fox; squirrels must be sneaky and watch out for hawks! Come gather some acorns and squirrel away some knowledge about our furry fall friends.

## HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS - TUESDAYS THIS FALL!

Attention Home School parents: during the school year (September-June) ALNC offers engaging and exciting programs for home school students (ages 5+) on a weekly basis.

Join us each week for a variety of nature and science program topics every Tuesday from 1-3pm. For more information, to see a list of dates and topics, or to register online, visit [www.aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://www.aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org), click on "Programs", then "Youth Programs", then select "Home School Programs".



## SCOUT PROGRAMS - NEW OFFERINGS AND OLD FAVORITES!

ALNC has Girl Scout program offerings aligned with the recently revised Girl Scout USA Journeys, Legacy Badges and Fun Badges, and offers Boy Scout programs and Overnight Scout programs at our Black Earth location.

Join us this year for our pre-scheduled programs or call 221-0404 x1 to schedule an individual program for your boy scouts, girl scouts or other organized youth groups. For more information, to see a list of pre-scheduled program dates and topics, or to register online, visit [www.aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://www.aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org), click on "Programs", then "Youth Programs", then select "Girl Scouts".

If you don't see a program you're looking for, just call us to see if we can create a tailored program for your troop! General topics are available ranging from Pond Exploration during the warm months to Snowshoeing in the winter!



**Connect With ALNC Online for Photos, Videos, Program and Phenology Updates and More!**

**Visit our website, "Like" us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter, and find us on Yelp!**

# New Private Rentals & Weddings at ALNC!

Are you looking for a unique, scenic and eco-friendly place to host an upcoming party, family reunion, wedding, meeting, retreat or corporate party? Whatever you envision for your special event, ALNC has the ideal space for you! In addition, ALNC can offer your guests exciting one of a kind experiences like custom shows in the Science On a Sphere, guided hikes, nature activities, tours of our interactive exhibits and much more!

Email [awhite@naturenet.com](mailto:awhite@naturenet.com) or call 608-221-0404 x2 to find out more and schedule tours!



## Members Make a Difference!

### ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER MEMBERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE...

- To provide innovative environmental education for all ages
- To present high-tech, interactive Climate Change exhibits
- To operate two innovative nature centers year-round
- And to help foster admiration and respect for nature and encourage sustainability and stewardship of the land.

Your Membership helps us advance our efforts to connect our visitors with the natural world, and with your renewed support, ALNC will continue to provide innovative and hands-on programming – fostering environmental awareness and empowering students to become healthy, confident community leaders and responsible stewards of the land.



### THE MEMBER ADVANTAGE

As an ALNC Member, not only do you support our efforts in connecting students with the natural world and building a sustainable future, you also receive valuable year-round benefits including:

- 12 months of FREE admission for four people to the Nature Center's interactive exhibits, open daily, with special themes highlighted each month
- 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases, family programs and summer camps, with advance registration on programs & camps
- FREE admission to members-only events like *Fall Fest*
- FREE rental of our year-round *Family Trailside Backpack program*
- Subscription to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center's newsletter
- NEW: A New Member Welcome Kit full of nature goodies (must be picked up at ALNC Monona)

Please consider renewing your membership or joining ALNC today! Visit [www.aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://www.aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org).

From all of us at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center,  
Thank you!

## LAND STEWARD VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

### MONONA & BLACK EARTH

Interested in helping restore and maintain ALNC's prairie, marsh and woodlands? Join us to help control invasives, collect seeds and establish native plantings, get dirty and have some fun!

Volunteer work days will focus mainly on land management projects and invasive species removal. Work days may be cancelled due to inclement weather or planned activities may be modified.

Groups are encouraged to contact us and coordinate with us to set a specific work date and schedule.

Adults and youth welcome - come with the whole family!

**Join us from  
9:00-11:30am  
for one of these  
workdays!**

**Saturday, September 20  
Saturday, October 18  
Saturday, November 15**

For inquiries about land steward volunteer workdays, or if you belong to an organization or group and prefer to schedule a date to volunteer, specific arrangements may be made for a group workday.

Call 608-221-0404 x8 or email us at [facilities@naturenet.com](mailto:facilities@naturenet.com) for more information.

## CONNECT WITH ALNC ONLINE FOR PHOTOS, VIDEOS, PHENOLOGY AND PROGRAM UPDATES AND MORE!



## ALNC's Gift Shop Open Daily!

Fun & unique nature-themed items you and your family will love!

Aldo Leopold Nature Center has a gift shop - open daily and for special events. Feel free to shop any time during your stay, or purchase a gift certificate for someone special.

Members receive a 10% discount - stop in for holiday shopping!



## Where Learning is Natural!

The mission of the Aldo Leopold Nature Center is to provide innovative hands-on programs and interactive exhibits for visitors of all ages which "...teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and enjoy what he understands" in the spirit of famed Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold.

### Exhibit & Gift Shop Hours:

Monday-Friday  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Saturday-Sunday  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Trails open from dawn to dusk.  
608-221-0404 - telephone  
608-221-9095 - fax  
[aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org](http://aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org)

