



ENGAGE



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SPRING 2013

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER

SPEND SATURDAYS WITH US!

Searching for a fun way to spend your Saturday?

ALNC is now **open every Saturday from 10 am – 2 pm!** Enjoy a virtual trip to outer space in our Science On a Sphere, hike our trails, see the eco-sphere, share your discoveries in the Nina Leopold Bradley Phenology Center and more!

Remember, ALNC Members receive **FREE** admission for four people into the interactive exhibits, in addition to valuable benefits all year long!

Join today by visiting our new website, aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org or by calling 608-221-0404 x9.



SAVE THE DATE!

Check Out Our New Event – the Brainiac Bowl!

(See page 5 for more details.)

A Summer Worth Bragging About!

It's hard to believe, but summer is just around the corner! How will your child say they spent their summer break? This year, give your youngster something to brag about by sending them on an adventure at ALNC! There are more than 100 exciting and educational summer camp sessions for children ages 2-16 to choose from, where your camper can try their hand at pioneering, muck in the marsh like a muskrat, go on an archeological dig to uncover ALNC's buried history and learn to fish like Leopold! Sessions fill up quickly, so don't delay – register early to get your youngster geared up for a summer they'll never forget! **Summer camp registration packets will be mailed soon!**



Register Early AND Save 10%! Member Registration begins March 1! Not a member?

Join for as little as \$50 and get priority registration, save 10% off all camps and programs and much more!

Two Sweet Ways to Start Your Spring!

LEOPOLD DISCOVERY DAY - SATURDAY, MARCH 2
MAPLE SYRUP FEST - SUNDAY, MARCH 24

(See page 2 for more details.)

A New Look for ALNC!

ALNC regulars may notice some differences in this newsletter. To better reflect our newly expanded programming and to make it easier for visitors like you to find our programs, we have updated our logo and will be launching our new website, aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org soon! Sign up for our e-newsletter for updates!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

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Dear Friends,

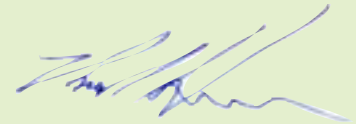
Can you sense it? Outside, the ice is thawing, trees are beginning to bud, and temperatures are slowly rising. Yes, spring is winging its way back to us!

From the unfurling of the fiddleheads in Kindergarten Woods, to the trumpeting call of Canadian geese overhead and the thawing of the prairie, I am excited to share my first spring at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center with all of you!

I hope you can join us to celebrate the season by exploring our trails, visiting special spring displays in our interactive exhibits or attending one of our programs like *Leopold Discovery Day* and *Maple Syrup Fest*.

As we thaw our way into the year, remember that summer is just around the corner. Be sure to check out our exciting nature discovery and adventure camps for ages 2-16 to sign your youngster up for an unforgettable summer.

See you on the trails,



PAUL HOUSEMAN



Paul Houseman
Interim Executive Director

Discover Leopold!

LEOPOLD DISCOVERY DAY - SATURDAY, MARCH 2 10 AM - NOON

Just who was Aldo Leopold? Bring the whole family to learn about and celebrate the life and legacy of Aldo Leopold! Hands-on activities, games and scavenger hunts throughout the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery will highlight some of Aldo's favorite pastimes such as tree identification, fishing, phenology and much, much more. FREE.

In partnership with Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery and Monona State Bank.



Tap, Tap, Sweet Sap!

MAPLE SYRUP FEST - SUNDAY, MARCH 24 1-3 PM



This family-friendly event offers a blend of indoor and outdoor activities found nowhere else in Madison. Stations throughout ALNC grounds will lead visitors, at their own pace, through the history and science of maple syruping and related activities. Visitors will see demonstrations of various methods by which Native Americans, pioneers, and people today tap trees for the production of maple syrup and sugar. Pre-registration recommended; walk-ins accepted.

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

In partnership with Alliant Energy Foundation, American Transmission Company, CUNA Mutual Group Foundation, Evjue Foundation, Inc. the charitable arm of The Capital Times, Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin, Madison Gas & Electric Foundation, 92.1 The Mic, WIBA AM and WKOW-TV27.

Celebrate Earth Day with Nature Net

Earth Day is almost here! This year, get your family engaged, impassioned and outside with Nature Net's "Earth Day Bouquet" of fun and educational events to celebrate Earth Day and National Environmental Education Week!

Nature Net's "Earth Day Bouquet" will give your family the chance to get up close and personal with the Earth, celebrate the spring, and make Earth Day a special event in your lives. This bouquet of offerings will kick off on April 13, and the fun will continue through Earth Day to April 27, with exciting nature events at Nature Net sites.

For details on event times and locations for these special celebrations, visit naturenet.com.



FAMILY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

LEOPOLD DISCOVERY DAY - SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

MAPLE SYRUP FEST - SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

THE GREAT EGG HUNT AND SPRING SPECTACULAR

Legend has it that every spring a rabbit would visit children's homes during the night and leave a woven nest with an egg in it as a sign that spring had arrived. Join us to celebrate spring as we bring this legend to life. Go on an egg hunt to search for eggs throughout the ALNC grounds, learn how to use natural dyes, visit with some spring animals, and learn all about other animals that lay eggs, win prizes and much, much more! Hop on over to ALNC to celebrate all things spring! **Pre-registration required.**

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

To register for Public Programs, visit aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org. For more information or to register by phone, call 608-221-0404, x1.

Saturday, March 2
10 am - 12 pm

Sunday, March 24
1 - 3 pm

Saturday, March 30
2 - 4 pm



VACATION DAY PROGRAMS

SPRING BREAK WEEK

WETLAND WAKE-UP

Become a wetland ecologist for the day! We'll visit the pond and marsh to listen closely for croaks, chirps, trills, and whistles of frogs and toads to learn how to identify them. We'll also bird watch with binoculars, search for spring migrants, peek in the pond to see what creatures have emerged, and explore all areas wet and muddy in this "ribbiting" investigation!

Monday, March 25
9 am - 4 pm
Registration Deadline:
Thursday, March 21

WACKY WEATHER

Join us as we record the daily weather conditions and make and record a forecast in our Kids Climate Cast. We'll model how weather works by making clouds and tornados, study and enjoy the wind and sky, and explore the forces behind severe weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis and play some wacky weather games.

Tuesday, March 26
9 am - 4 pm
Registration Deadline:
Friday, March 22

SPRING FLING

Celebrate the return of spring! We will search for signs of spring while having a spring scavenger hunt to celebrate the re-awakening of the earth after a long winter. Make a mud painting, plant a seed, learn about animal babies and use natural materials to dye an egg to mimic the variety of colorful eggs made by wild critters.

Wednesday, March 27
9 am - 4 pm
Registration Deadline:
Monday, March 25

PIONEER DAYS

Turn off the TV and join us for some old-fashioned fun! We'll spend the day playing pioneer games; have sack races and much, much more. From firewood to food, we'll also learn how pioneers lived off the land through fun and exciting explorations.

Thursday, March 28
9 am - 4 pm
Registration Deadline:
Tuesday, March 26

SMALL STEWARDS

We'll play while we work and work while we play as we spend our day helping our land stewards, nature and learning about Aldo Leopold's "land ethic"! Channel your inner Aldo as we hang and fill bird feeders, monitor bluebird boxes, have a garlic mustard pulling contest and much, much more!

Friday, March 29
9 am - Noon
Registration Deadline:
Wednesday, March 27

NATURE PLAY DAY

Let your imaginations run wild as we explore and play in the wild, woody, and wet areas of ALNC. Play games, make animal dens to pretend, build a fort, race a leaf across the pond...the possibilities are endless. If spring storms send us inside, we'll bring the outside in and continue the fun.

Friday, March 29
1 - 4 pm
Registration Deadline:
Wednesday, March 27

All Vacation Day Programs appropriate for children ages 5-12. Bring a sack lunch for all full-day programs and lunch bunch!

Lunch bunch activities available on March 29 for an additional \$6/member/child; \$7/non-member/child

Full-day programs (9 am - 4 pm) - \$45/member/child; \$50/non-member

Half-day Programs (9 am - Noon or 1 - 4 pm) - \$20/member/child; \$22/non-member

To register for Vacation Day programs, visit aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org. For more information or to register by phone, call 608-221-0404, x1.

**SIGN UP FOR THE
WHOLE WEEK
& SAVE!**

Special Vacation
Day Package Price
(Monday-Friday):

ALNC Members:
\$203/child;
Non-Members:
\$225/child

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. 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

Fee For Extended Day Option: \$13.50/member/child ; \$15/non-member

PUBLIC PROGRAMS...

ADULT WORKSHOPS

WILD ABOUT FISH: PROJECT WILD AND ANGLER EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Join us for a day of Project WILD and Angler Education! Discover how explorations of fish and their aquatic habitats, coupled with guided adventures in local wildlife and water resource investigations, can provide a solid foundation in science through questioning, observation, investigation, and application. Participants receive certification in Project WILD, the Project WILD & WILD Aquatic Curriculum Guides, instructor certification in Angler Education, and Angler Education Curriculum Guides. All teaching materials are an easy fit for any classroom and lesson plans support new Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards for grades K-12. Through active participation and FUN activities, you will learn how these programs promote responsible use of natural resources while inspiring youth to care about the future of the habitats that we share with terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Come and see what we can do to help you reach - and teach - your students how to be good stewards of nature! Registration fee includes all materials, curriculum guides, and a light lunch.

ALNC Members & Non-Members: \$40

For questions about this workshop or to register, please contact education@naturenet.com or call 608-221-0404x2. Workshop led by DNR staff.



WILDERNESS FIRST AID: TWO-DAY CERTIFICATION COURSE

No one likes to admit it, but when people encounter nature, accidents happen. Stings, bites, rashes, breaks, and sprains are all too common when you spend time outdoors. What's really important is how you respond to a medical situation and having the knowledge to respond. Wilderness medicine differs significantly from standard first aid courses that are oriented toward the urban environment. In this Wilderness Medical Associates course you will learn to deal with medical emergencies when help is miles away and dialing 911 is not an option. We hope you never need to use this knowledge, but it's a bit of insurance for you and anyone traveling with you. This is a great course for anyone who spends time in the backcountry, and for parents and youth leaders, too! Class size is limited so please register early! Students must be at least 16 years of age. Participants under 18 must have proof of parental consent to participate. This program is co-presented by Rutabaga and Wilderness Medical Associates.

ALNC Members & Non-Members: \$250 if registered by April 1; \$275 after April 1

For more information, visit the Rutabaga website www.rutabaga.com/outdoorprograms or to register, contact Rutabaga at 1-800-I-Paddle or 608-233-9300.

**Saturday, May 4
9 am - 4 pm**
**Registration Deadline:
Friday, April 26**

**Saturday, May 7 -
Sunday, May 8**
8 am - 6 pm
Black Earth Campus



WONDER BUGS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM - 9:30-10:45am (all days)

FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS

Tuesday, March 5 & Wednesday, March 6

Buddy up to birds and learn about their world. We'll play games, sing songs, and head out on a bird and nest-finding adventure.

PETAL POWER

Tuesday, March 12 & Wednesday, March 13

Flower's the name, pollination's my game. Petal your way here and then stamen right where you are. We'll sing, play and craft and be busy like bees!

SPRING INTO NATURE

Tuesday, March 19 & Wednesday, March 20

As we send winter on its way, welcome Spring is what we'll say! We'll search for spring low and high and discover the fun of wondering why.

STRIPED AT NIGHT

Tuesday, March 26 & Wednesday, March 27

Warning: this may stink, like a skunk that is. How much fun can you have while holding your nose? Come discover why skunks are more than just odiferous.

ONE, TWO, COLORS FOR YOU

Tuesday, April 2 & Wednesday, April 3

Three, four, colors galore! We'll make rainbows and mix paints. We'll search outside, too, for colors bold and faint.

GET A GRIP

Tuesday, April 9 & Wednesday, April 10

We'll handle spring in exciting ways today because there's so much to discover using our fingers. It's a stroke of genius!

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE EARTH

Tuesday, April 16 & Wednesday, April 17

It's never too early to celebrate Earth Day! Come enjoy activities and games that will put a twinkle in your eye.

THOSE EGG-SCLENT EGGS

Tuesday, April 23 & Wednesday, April 24

What do chickens, frogs, turtles, and butterflies have in common? Why eggs of course! We'll go on an egg hunt and investigate different kinds of eggs!

SQUIRMY WORMIES

Tuesday, April 30 & Wednesday, May 1

Come shake the sillies out and squirm the wormies away. We'll dig up worms, read stories and sing songs. It's a wiggling adventure!

ME AND TOAD

Tuesday, May 7 & Wednesday, May 8

"Wart" are we going to do today? Toad-ally awesome games and adventures! Discover it all today, and say, I "toad" you this would be terrific!

SPITTLE ME THIS

Tuesday, May 14 & Wednesday, May 15

What is bubbly, sticky, white, and hiding on a green plant? A spittlebug nymph hide-out of course! Explore the frothy world of this fascinating insect!

JUST BREATHE

Tuesday, May 21 & Wednesday, May 22

Inhale the wonders of spring. Smell the mysteries of the green and budding land. Spring will come alive as we explore nature!

HERE CHICK, CHICK, CHICK

Tuesday, May 28 & Wednesday, May 29

Chick, small fry or cub, you'd be surprised how many different names there are for baby animals. We'll read stories and play games about animal babies.

THREE CHEERS FOR EARS!

Wednesday, June 5, 2013 (no session Tuesday, June 4)

Close your eyes and listen to the nat-aural noises all around you. Turn up the audio today and discover the sounds of spring.

Your Support Is Key to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center's Success

Thanks to help from individuals, corporations and foundations, ALNC provides students of all ages with innovative and interactive experiences that connect with nature.

Through membership and donations, support from individuals enables ALNC to **engage** visitors of all ages. Barbara Essock, carrying on her late husband's legacy, told us, "I became involved with ALNC as a result of Bob's long-time interest. Like many of the numerous community organizations he supported, Bob was personally involved with ALNC--donating his photographic services, as well as making monetary donations. It brings me much joy to know that Bob's legacy continues and that the thousands of children who benefit from attending programs at the Nature Center learn valuable lessons that will have a positive impact on their own lives and on future generations."

Corporations are critical in helping ALNC **educate** a growing number of visitors—teaching them the importance of understanding the interconnectedness of all living beings. BMO Harris Bank, formerly M&I Bank, has been a dedicated and generous partner since 2001. Doug Nelson, BMO Harris Bank Regional President, Southwest Wisconsin told us, "Teaching our children to preserve the Earth for generations to come is an important mission and we are proud to continue our support of the Aldo Leopold Nature Center. The Center's signature events BMO Harris Bank is sponsoring in 2013 provide fun, interactive ways to learn about nature and the individual choices we can all make to help improve our environment."

Support from foundations has always played a key role in ALNC's success. Thanks to the early and sustained support from The Evjue Foundation, the charitable arm of The Capital Times, ALNC has been able to **empower** hundreds of thousands children with their mission to foster admiration and respect for nature.

Asked why the Evjue Foundation has invested in ALNC's mission, Dave Zweifel, a Board member said, "William T. Evjue, the founder of *The Capital Times*, was a longtime admirer of Aldo Leopold and a strong supporter of conservation and environmental causes during his lifetime. He used his newspaper to

promote a love for the outdoors and appreciation of nature. The Aldo Leopold Nature Center fits perfectly with the founder's interests. That, plus the fact he was always supportive of programs that worked with young people. And no one does that better than ALNC and that's why the Evjue Foundation has always tried to help where it can."

Thank you Barbara, BMO Harris Bank, The Evjue Foundation and all ALNC's generous 2012/13 partners who help **engage, educate and empower** visitors to become responsible stewards of the land, confident and committed members in the community and, potentially, leaders in a challenging, sustainable future! See aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org for all 2012 donors.

For information on how you can make a difference by becoming an individual, corporate or foundation partner, please contact Kelley Van Egeren at 608-216-9373 or kelley@naturenet.com.



Evjue Foundation, Inc.
The charitable arm of
The Capital Times



SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, June 22
for the Run Wild
in the Woods
and Celebrate the
Summer Solstice 5k
and 10k Run/Walk
at the Black Earth
Campus!**

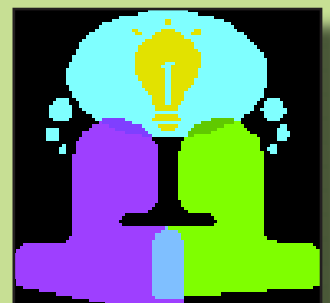
Calling all Brainiacs...

Dust off your thinking cap and join us for a new event, the Brainiac Bowl, on April 20.

This one-of-a kind trivia contest will test your knowledge of the sciences, environmentalism, natural history and much more.

In addition, a reception with refreshments and a costume contest with prize packages will round out this evening of competition and fun. Come join us in the quest to become this year's Brainiac champion!

Stay tuned for more info or contact Kelley Van Egeren at 608-216-9373 or kelley@naturenet.com.



Members Make a Difference!

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.

ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER MEMBERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE...

- To provide innovative environmental education to 1,000's of students of all ages
- To present pioneering, 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 Monday – Saturday, with special themes highlighted once a month
- 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases and family programs and summer camps, with advance registration
- 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 and e-newsletter
- A cool Aldo Leopold Nature Center window cling
- And much more!

Please consider renewing your membership or joining ALNC today! Visit our website at aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org.



Consider ALNC when Hosting an Event!

Looking for a site to host a party, wedding, family reunion, retreat, meeting or corporate party? Look no further than the Aldo Leopold Nature Center! Both our Monona and Black Earth campuses offer a variety of unique, scenic and eco-friendly facilities to meet your needs and impress your guests while helping support environmental education.

From intimate meetings to grand weddings and unique corporate parties, ALNC is sure to deliver an unforgettable event. 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, your choice of images in the green screen studio and much more!



For more information email Alanna@naturenet.com or call 608-221-0404 x 4.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

By dedicating a gift through your estate plans to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, you can ensure that future generations have the opportunity to connect with nature, and develop the same sense of stewardship, respect and responsibility toward our natural world that you hold today.

You can make a gift of cash, securities, or personal property, or name Aldo Leopold Nature Center as a beneficiary of your life insurance, retirement or other savings accounts.

To include the Aldo Leopold Nature Center as a beneficiary of your estate plan, please use the following language: "I gift _____ (% or dollar amount) to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc. [federal tax id #39-1786897], a nonprofit organization organized and existing under the laws of Wisconsin and with a principal mailing address of 330 Femrite Drive, Monona, WI 53716."

For more information on making a gift of everlasting significance, please contact Kelley Van Egeren



or Camille Zanoni at (608) 221-0404 or email kelly@naturenet.com. Thank you.

"The Aldo Leopold Nature Center is an organization that provides an essential service to the community. If children aren't instilled with love and respect for nature, there is not much hope that the human race will have the desire and wherewithal to solve the many environmental problems that beset us."

- Robert Alexander
ALNC member and planned giving donor.

JOIN TODAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOMORROW!

Renew your membership or join ALNC today and help ALNC foster admiration and respect for nature. Please fill out this form and return it to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, 330 Femrite Drive, Monona, WI 53716.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

☐ Please do not share my contact information.

Payment Method:

☐ Check enclosed (payable to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center)

☐ Bill my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

CARD NUMBER _____ Exp. Date _____

SIGNATURE _____ Key Code _____

Visit our website at aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org to join and learn more about our exciting member benefits! To make a pledge or credit card donation by phone, please call 608-221-0404, x3.

☐ Please send me information about including ALNC in my estate plans.

☐ I have already included ALNC in my estate plans

Donation Amount:

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

☐ \$250

☐ \$500

☐ \$1,000

☐ Other: \$ _____

Thank You!

ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER

330 Femrite Drive
Monona, WI 53716

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, seed with native plants, 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.

For inquiries about land steward volunteer work-days, groups and work days and time, call 608-221-0404 x2 or email education@naturenet.com.



CONNECT WITH ALNC ONLINE FOR
PHOTOS, VIDEO, 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!

Be sure to check out all the new items. Just added - American Girl books & journals!



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
Trails open from dawn to dusk.
608-221-0404 - telephone
608-221-9095 - fax
aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org

Double Mailings?

Have you received extra copies of recent ALNC mailings? Please call 608-221-0404 with any corrections.

