



Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

2014 Program Schedule

Tamarac provides many opportunities for visitors to experience a natural world where plants, wildlife, and serenity can be found everywhere. Come out and enjoy the refuge. Go for a hike, take in a special presentation or movie, or just go explore! There is something for everyone at Tamarac.

Blackbird Wildlife Drive: In search of wildlife?

Take a drive on this five mile interpretive route following the edges of lakes, marshes and meadows. Pick up a brochure at the information kiosk located at the start of the Drive on Hwy 26.

Old Indian Hiking Trail: Follow in the footsteps of the Ojibwe people and experience the beauty of the maple basswood forest on this 2.4 mile loop trail.

North Country Trail: Hike a portion of this 4600 mile National Scenic Trail as it traverses the refuge through a variety of habitats. Access on 400th Ave., Blackbird Wildlife Drive or Pine Lake Parking Area on Cty Hwy 29.

Wildlife Excursions: Explore the refuge with a knowledgeable guide! Tours will be offered every Thursday June-August at 10:00 am. Search for wildlife and learn about the cultural and natural history of Tamarac Refuge. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Wild Wednesdays! 10:00 am June-August. Explore the world of nature with your child during this hour long adventure geared for 3-7 yr olds. Meet at Chippewa Picnic Area.

Weekend Movies and Presentations: Wildlife films, special programs and activities will be offered every weekend May 18 through October 12.

Visitor Center Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm and summer weekends 10:00 am- 5:00 pm (May 17-October 19).

Restrooms are located at Pine Lake Parking and Chippewa Picnic Area.



For volunteer information, visit the Friends of Tamarac website at www.tamaracfriends.org or check out Tamarac's Facebook page!

For refuge information, contact the staff at 218-847-2641 or visit www.fws.gov/refuge/tamarac.



Movies and Activities

*Sunday Wildlife Movies will be followed by a short program or activity as it relates to the refuge beginning June 1.

May 17, 9:00 am

Nature Hike

Join a North Country Trail volunteer for a morning of exploration. Discover the first flowers of the season and listen for the sounds of spring as the forest wakes up. Meet at the 400th Ave. trailhead and shuttle to the Blackbird trailhead for this 5 mile hike.

 Sunday May 18, 2:00 pm

Movie: Extraordinary Birds

Stunning nature photography takes flight to capture the wondrous behavior of birds. Follow a falcon in a hunt for prey, a tiny hummingbird who commutes 5000 miles and an owl who makes its living in a barnyard. 50 min. Celebrate birds during this Festival of Birds weekend.

 Sunday May 25, 2:00 pm

Movie: Love in the Animal Kingdom

Animals dance, sing, flirt and compete with everything they've got to secure a mate. But are these important bonds love? Take a provocative look at the feminine wiles of a gorilla, the search for Mr. Right among a thousand flamingoes, the soap opera arrangements of gibbons and more. 50 min.

 Sunday June 1, 2:00 pm

Movie: Is that Skunk?

Utterly recognizable yet still mysterious, these black and white creatures inhabit woods and neighborhoods all across America. What is like to be a skunk? Find out as scientists track them day and night to reveal some smelly secrets! 50 min. Stay for a short presentation: Tamarac's Wily Weasels!



Friday June 6, 8:00-10:00 pm

Frolicking with Frogs

Kick off your weekend with croaking frogs!

Identify frogs by their calls while learning about their natural history and significance in the ecosystem. You may even get up close and personal with these wild critters. Bring a flashlight and boots or shoes you can get wet. Meet at the visitor center.



Saturday June 7, 1:00 pm

National Trails Day Hike

Join a North Country Trail volunteer for this 5 mile trek through Tamarac's rich diversity of habitats. Meet at the 400th Ave. trailhead and carpool to the Blackbird trailhead.

 Sunday June 8, 2:00 pm Movie: Bald Eagle

Take an unprecedented look at a year in the life of North America's most recognized aerial predator. From the pristine

wilderness of Alaska to the Upper Mississippi River Valley, go behind the scenes and into the nest to discover the eagle's struggle to survive. 50 min. After the movie, learn about Tamarac's eagles with a possible site visit to an active nest.



Saturday June 14, 8:30 am

Beginning Birding Tour

Join Resident Volunteer Judy Bell for a beginning birding tour. Find out the inside scoop on Tamarac's hotspots. Learn to identify 20 species. Binoculars and guide books will be provided. Meet at the visitor center for this early summer adventure.



Sunday June 15, 2:00 pm

Butterfly Kisses and Wetland Jewels

Join John Weber, butterfly enthusiast and citizen scientist, for an intriguing look into the world of butterflies and dragonflies. Learn about their fascinating lifestyles and their significance in a changing climate. Meet at the visitor center. We will then travel to Chippewa picnic area in search of these beauties of summer.

Saturday June 21, 10:00-2:00 pm Photography Workshop

Discover the fun and adventure of photographing wildlife, plant life and the ever changing scenes of nature at Tamarac. Bring your own camera and sack lunch. We'll travel to some unique areas on the refuge. Workshop is geared toward beginner and intermediate levels. Meet at the visitor center.



Sunday June 22, 2:00 pm

Movie: North America Episode 1– Born to be Wild

Take an extraordinary journey through North America and meet the incredible array of exotic wildlife that lives in our backyard. Through epic cinematography and compelling storytelling, we experience their struggle for survival in this land of extremes. 50 min. Wildlife include grizzly bear, wolf, gray whale, cougar. Stay and discover how Tamarac's wildlife adapt to the extremes of Minnesota.



Saturday June 28, 10:00 am

Woodland Amble

In this easy-paced walk, we will explore a variety of wildflowers, shrubs and trees along the North Country Trail. Let's discover what is hidden on the forest floor and in the canopy layers. Field guides, hand lenses will be provided. Bring water, bug protection, cameras and curiosity for this two hour stroll. Meet at the 400th Ave. North Country Trail trailhead.



Sunday June 29, 2:00 pm

Movie: What Plants Talk About

Plants are actively communicating with the environment every day, responding to nutrients, predators, and herbivores that are around them. This film shows that plants are smarter than we thought! 50 min. Stay to learn about the invasive plants of the refuge and how we are trying to outsmart them!



Sunday July 6, 2:00 pm

Movie: North America; Episode 2 - No Place to Hide

A world of extreme storms and unpredictable blizzards, this land tests all those who set foot on it. From bunker building prairie dogs to the fastest land animals on the continent, the fight to survive shapes all who dare call this place home. Stay and discover how some Tamarac species adapt to our northern climate.



Saturday July 12, 8:30 am

Early Birding Tour

Here's another chance to experience the refuge with seasoned birder, Judy Bell. Learn to identify 20 species while visiting various habitats on the refuge. Binoculars and guide books will be provided. Meet at the visitor center.



Sunday July 13, 2:00

Movie: Bears

Discover the world of bears and experience a fascinating encounter with one of nature's most inspiring and misunderstood creatures. 40 min. Stay for the *Bear Essentials* program. Learn how a black bear's lifestyle changes through the seasons.



Sunday July 20, 2:00

Movie: First Flight, A Mother



Hummingbird's story 45 min. This award winning enchanting documentary follows the dedicated efforts of a tiny black-chinned hummingbird to lay, incubate, hatch two tiny eggs and raise the fledgling chicks. 45 min.

Following the film, join us for *Hummingbird Trivia and Feeding Tips*.



Saturday July 26, 10:00 am

Nature Photo Adventure

Capture the beauty of nature as we explore the refuge. You'll become inspired as we take you to some scenic and perhaps lesser known areas of the refuge. You never know what may be around the bend. Bring a snack and water for this 2 hour photo shoot. Meet at the visitor center.



Sunday July 27, 2:00 pm

Movie: Beavers- The Biggest Dam Movie You Ever Saw! Take an intimate swim with beavers and experience the rich aquatic habitat of one of nature's greatest engineers. Our most popular movie! 38 min. Following the movie, join us for a

fun *Beaver Adaptations* activity, view video from our beaver cam and visit a beaver lodge.

Sunday August 3, 2:00 pm

Movie – North America; Episode 3- Learn Young or Die

In the upper reaches of this vast continent, survival is a daily battle. From avalanche dodging grizzlies to head bashing big horn sheep, from diving bears to cunning coyotes, we witness the extremes and wonders of North America's mountains and forests. 50 min. Stay to discover more about Tamarac's wildlife survival secrets.

Saturday August 9, 8:30 am Trumpeter Tour

Discover the world of trumpeter swans. Learn how this bird was nearly decimated and how Tamarac played a critical role in its amazing recovery. We'll visit several locations to view adults and their young. Meet at the visitor center.



Sunday August 10, 2:00 pm

Movie – An Original Duckumentary

Ducks waddle, glide, dive, and dabble, and their feathers shimmer with dazzling hues. Take to the skies with a flock of green-winged teal. Watch Wood ducks raise a family. Learn why Goldeneyes head north in the winter. 50 min. After the film, join a duck enthusiast and learn how to ID ducks and hear some calls.



Saturday August 16, 10:00 am

A Peak at Prairie Wildflowers

This hike will take us through prairie plant communities that harbor many species more typical of the Dakotas. We will also see a young patch of jack pine that are successfully regenerating when many are floundering across MN. Field guides, hand-outs and hand-lenses will be provided. Bring water, cameras and sun-screen for this two hour trek. Meet at the visitor center to carpool a short distance to hiking site.



Sunday August 17, 2:00 pm

Bugs and Creepy Crawlers: Adventures in Insect Sweeping

Insects are part of a healthy ecosystem on the refuge. We'll explore their habitat as we work the meadows with sweep nets. After collecting, we'll view these critters up close with magnifiers and identify a few species. Meet at the visitor center for this family fun adventure.

Saturday August 23, 10:00 am

Nature Photo Adventure

Late summer flowers will be blooming and there will be a touch of autumn in the air. It's just in time to capture some photos for Tamarac's Annual Photo Contest. Maybe that winning shot will be yours this day! Bring your camera, a snack and water for this 2 hour tour. Meet at the visitor center. **More**



Sunday August 24, 2:00 pm

Movie: Wolves

Discover the world of wolves by plane, helicopter, on foot and through time. 40 min. Stay for the latest update on Tamarac's wolves with a possible habitat site visit.



Sunday August 31, 2:00 pm

Movie: The Civilian Conservation Corps

Roosevelt's civilian conservation corps put more than three million young men in the nation's parks, forests, and farms. This film interweaves rich archival imagery with the personal accounts of CCC veterans to tell the story of the boldest New Deal experiments. 60 min. Stay to tour the site of Tamarac's CCC Camp. Driving distance is 2.5 miles.



Saturday September 6, 10:00 am

Wilderness Kayak Cruise

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the

Wilderness Act! Experience the beauty of an early autumn day on the lake. Join a refuge ranger to explore the wilderness islands of Tamarac Lake. What is "designated" wilderness and what does it mean for people and wildlife? Meet at the East Tamarac access with your canoe or kayak for this adventure. Life jackets are required.



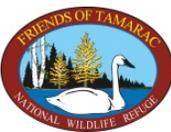
Sunday September 7, 2:00 pm

Movie: Forever Wild



To experience wilderness is to know one of this country's greatest treasures. *Forever Wild* captures the glory of undeveloped, wild places through stunning images and the passionate tales of America's modern wilderness heroes – volunteers who work to preserve a legacy of wilderness for all of us to enjoy, forever. Stay and find out how you can make a difference in

your own backyard. Join Janice Bengtson, volunteer coordinator and learn about the many volunteer opportunities on the refuge.



Friday September 12, 4:00-8:00 pm

Toast to Tamarac!

The Friends of Tamarac invite you to their 4th annual Toast at Richwood Winery. The

fundraiser will include appetizers, wine tasting, silent auction, games of chance and live music. Cost is \$25.00 in advance and \$35.00 at the door. Profits from this event will help support the environmental education program at Tamarac which connects children with nature. Visit www.tamaracfriends.org for more information.

Saturday September 13, 2:00-5:30 pm

Wilderness Photo Safari

Experience autumn on the refuge through the lens of a camera. We will travel by car caravan to the edge of the northern wilderness area. From there we will take a short hike

to capture images of this very interesting and diverse habitat. As time permits, we will stop for other photo opportunities to and from the site. Bring your camera, a snack, water, good walking shoes and creativity!



Sunday September 14, 2:00 pm

Movie: Green Fire; Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

This Emmy Award winning film explores the life and legacy of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold and the many ways his land ethic philosophy lives on in the work of people and organizations all over the country today. 73 min. Stay for a short presentation on his writing including passages from a *Sand County Almanac* and see how he has influenced wildlife management today at Tamarac.



Sunday September 21, 2:00

Movie: The Wilderness World of Sigurd Olson

Though not a biography in the strict sense – this film is rather a stirring montage of Olson's life as a writer, the natural beauty that influenced his work and the role his cabin at Listening Point played in the evolution of his wilderness vision. 30 min. After the movie, enjoy a few passages from *The Singing Wilderness* and discover why so many people have been inspired by this conservation icon.



Sunday September 28, 2:00

Movie: Arctic Dance

A pioneer in the study and protection of Alaska's rugged wilderness, Mardie Murie's work fueled the designation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Follow her adventurous life and become inspired by this legendary conservationist. 70 min. Stay for a short presentation on Mardie's books including passages from *Wapiti Wilderness*, and *Two in the Far North*.

Saturday October 4, 10:00 am- 4:00 pm - Tamarac's Annual Fall Festival



Spend a beautiful autumn day on the refuge. Venture out on a guided tour to discover Tamarac's past as we look to the future. Become a "refuge ranger" on the activity trail and learn about wildlife success stories along the way. View the Annual Photo Contest entries and vote for your favorite. Lunch will be available for sale by the Friends of Tamarac.



Sunday October 5, 2:00 pm

Movie: The Private Life of Deer

Peek into the complex society of these smart adaptable creatures with impressive skills, senses and family lives. 50 min



Sunday Oct 12, 2:00 pm

Movie: My Life as a Turkey -This beautiful, charming, funny, sad and thought provoking film explores a rare moment when man and animal become more closely linked than nature normally allows. 50 min