



Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge – Upcoming Special Events

- **Earth Day Stewardship – April 23, 9am-Noon**
In honor of Earth Day, we invite volunteers to help restore prairie and oak savanna ecosystems. During this event, volunteers will participate in stewardship activities. Groups and individuals are welcome. FREE lunch provided by the Friends of Neal Smith NWR. Pre-registration is required, email richard_hager@fws.gov to sign up.
- **Pedal the Prairie – May 21, 9:30am-Noon**
Join us for a spring bike ride & grand opening of the Prairie Parkway Bike Trail! See bison and elk, ride amongst native wildflowers, toss seed bombs, and explore our Visitor Center. Free light lunch and activities provided for registered guests! Prairie Parkway Ride (10mi.) at 9:30am and Family Fun Bike & Hike (1.5mi.) at 10:30am. E-mail Brianna_patrick@fws.gov to register.
- **Concert on Prairie (Friends of Neal Smith NWR) -June 10, 4pm-9 :30pm**
Experience a summer evening on the prairie and learn more about how the Friends support the refuge at this annual evening of entertainment. Featuring dinner, live music, Iowa artists' and authors' work, wine tasting, and guided nature walks. Tickets are available at www.tallgrass.org or call Joan VanGorp at (515)-994-2918.
- **Moths at Midnight – July 20, 9:30pm-11pm**
Discover the nocturnal life of moths and have a unique chance to explore the prairie at night! You bring the flashlight and we bring the bug nets! E-mail Brianna_patrick@fws.gov to register.
- **Bison Day – August 6, 10am-3pm**
Join us for a FREE and family-friendly celebration of bison and the prairie. Music, weaving, rope-making, archery, games and crafts will be available for all ages! See live bison and elk and compete in a bison chip throwing contest! Bison burger lunch available for purchase. Questions? E-mail nealsmith@fws.gov.
- **Monarch Madness – September 10, 9am-11am**
Calling citizen scientists of all ages! Neal Smith Refuge is looking for volunteers to assist in capturing, tagging, and releasing monarch butterflies! Tagging monarchs will help scientists learn more about their fascinating migration. **Pre-registration is required** and limited to the first 100 participants. To register, email brianna_patrick@fws.gov
- **National Public Lands Day– September 24, 9am-Noon**
National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Volunteers celebrate across the country! Join us in volunteering to create tallgrass prairie at Neal Smith Refuge! **Pre-registration required**, call 515-994-3400 to sign up.
- **Ding Darling Day– October 8, 9am-Noon**
In honor of Iowan J.N. “Ding” Darling, a pioneer conservationist, the refuge is hosting stewardship opportunities for you and/or your group. From collecting seeds to removing invasive plants, everyone will help restore prairie habitat at Neal Smith NWR. FREE lunch provided by the Friends of Neal Smith NWR. Pre-registration is required at 515-994-3400.
- **Christmas Bird Count – December 31, 8am-Noon**
Be a biologist for a day! Collect important data about birds by participating in Audubon’s annual bird count. The data collected from these counts is used by scientists to study the health of bird populations. All skill levels welcome. FREE lunch provided by Friends of NSNWR. Pre-register by emailing karen_vistesparkman@fws.gov.