

Neal Smith

National Wildlife Refuge



Special Events

Photography Workshop

Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6, 2014

Join veteran photographers and photography workshop instructors John Gregor and Bryan Hansel as they team up to bring you an all new two day digital workshop at the Neal Smith NWR.

For more information contact:

**Bryan Hansel at (218) 370-8351 or www.bryanhansel.com
John Gregor at (218) 830-0767 or www.coldsnap.com**



 **COLDSNAP**
PHOTOGRAPHY

Earth Day

Saturday, April 19

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In honor of Earth Day, we invite volunteers to help us 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.**



Prairie Learning Center Hours Change in April

The Prairie Learning Center has been closed on Sundays during the months of January, February and March. Beginning on April 6, the PLC will be open once again on Sundays from Noon to 5:00 p.m. The Prairie Learning Center will be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2014.



For more information: (515) 994-3400 - http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Neal_Smith/

Program & Activity Guide

Naturalist Programs

Saturday Nature Tots

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult and join us as we read stories, go outside, make nature crafts, and much more! **Pre-registration required.**

Date	Time	Age	Topic
March 1	10:30 am - 11:30 am	3Y to 5Y	Egg-strordinary Eggs
April 5	10:30 am - 11:30 am	3Y to 5Y	Root of the Matter
May 10	10:30 am - 11:30 am	3Y to 5Y	Wiggly Worms



Two Simple Ways to Register!

- 1. Phone:**
Call (515)994-3400
- 2. Email:**
Megan_Wandag@fws.gov

Spring Photo Hike

Saturday, May 17
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.



Photographers of all skill levels and camera types are invited to photograph the beautiful spring prairie on a ranger-led walk. We will begin with an overview of some of the common springtime flowers and wildlife that we may see, and then venture out in the morning light to document whatever we find. Images may be displayed at the Learning Center at a later time to be determined. Pre-registration is required.

Volunteer Opportunities

Second Saturday Stewardship

Interested in giving back to the environment and your community? Stewardship volunteer programs occur on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Refuge. For more information, contact **Megan Wandag** at Megan_Wandag@fws.gov or (515) 994-3400.

Date	Time	Age
March 8	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	All
April 12	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	All
May 10	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	All

DON'T FORGET!

Bring a reusable water bottle while exploring!



For more information: (515) 994-3400 http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Neal_Smith/

Self-Guided

Movie: Return to Wildness

15 minutes

Film presentation about Neal Smith NWR is shown every hour on the half hour, or upon request. No group is too small!

Visitor Center

COME VISIT!

hours are 9am-4pm, Monday—Saturday, and 12pm-5pm on Sunday beginning on April 6. Trails and Auto Tour are open from dawn to dusk. The Visitor Center will be open for Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2014.

Outdoor Scavenger Hunts

How many birds do you see? Can you identify flowers? Borrow a copy of a seasonal scavenger hunt and ID sheets at the front desk of the Visitor Center to use while you hike.



Hiking Trails

Take a hike through the beautiful tallgrass prairie or oak savanna. Try to find early blooming flowers, migrating birds, or new bison calves! Brochures and maps available at the Visitor Center.

Trail	Length	Surface	Habitat
Overlook Trail	1/2 mile	Paved—Accessible	Tallgrass Prairie
Tallgrass Trail	2 miles	Paved	Tallgrass Prairie
Oak Savanna	1/2 mile	Gravel	Oak Savanna
Basswood Trail	1/2 mile	Grass	Woodland



Prairie Learning Center Exhibits

Come explore the interactive exhibits at the Prairie Learning Center! Exhibits include an underground maze, videos, drawing table, scavenger hunts, puppet theatre, and exploratory bison room.



LET'S CRUISE

Enjoy the Refuge from the comfort of your vehicle on the 4 mile Auto Tour. This is the best way to see bison or elk. Check out a narrated interpretive CD of the route for FREE at the Visitor Center.

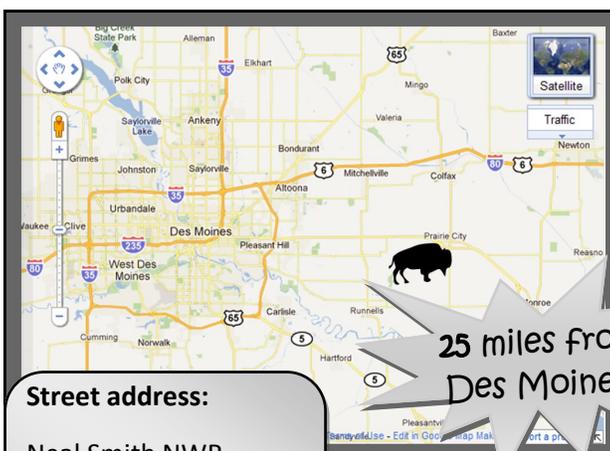


All programs are FREE & open to the public!

Spring Exploration Ideas

Here are some spring activities that you can do by yourself or with friends and family:

- 1. Search for birds.** In the spring time, birds are active and arriving in Iowa from distant lands. Some are returning to Iowa to begin mating and nesting, while others are just passing through on their journey north.
- 2. Nurture sprouting plants.** Volunteer in our greenhouse and help prairie seedlings grow by transferring them to larger containers.
- 3. Find baby animals.** Most bison calves are born in the spring. Will you be the first one to find a calf in the herd? Other animals, like birds and burrowing animals, are also giving birth and raising their young. It is a great time to observe different animal families.



Street address:

Neal Smith NWR
9981 Pacific Street
Prairie City, IA 50228



LET'S EXPLORE

Come explore the natural wonders Neal Smith NWR has to offer! Check out binoculars for FREE at the Visitor Center during normal business hours.

Did you know....



... Each Spiderwort (*Tradescantia sp.*) flower only blooms for one morning and then wilts by mid-day?

DIRECTIONS TO THE REFUGE

Coming from the EAST on Interstate 80, take the Colfax exit and go south on Iowa HWY 117, about 7 miles to Prairie City. The paved entry road is located at the southwest corner of Prairie City at the Highway 163-Prairie City Interchange.

Coming from the WEST at the junction of Interstate 35 and 80, go east on Interstate 80 about 3 miles to the HWY 65 exit. Take HWY 65 south to Iowa HWY 163. At HWY 163 turn east and go about 15 miles to Prairie City. The paved entry road is located at the southwest corner of Prairie City at the Highway 163-Prairie City Interchange.

