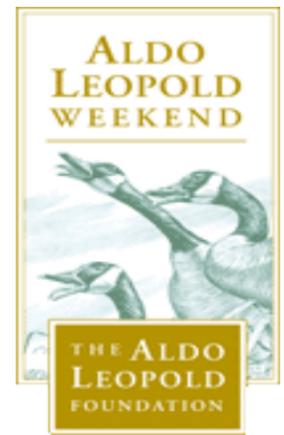


Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Invites you to join in on Aldo Leopold Weekend!

Designated the first weekend in March, Aldo Leopold Weekend is designed to bring people in the community together around Leopold's idea of a land ethic. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will host weekend programs March 7 and 8 including a full day *Nature's Notebook Phenology Workshop*, screening of *Green Fire*, guided hikes, and conservation presentations.

Programs will take place at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Bloomington Education and Visitor Center.



Nature's Notebook Phenology Workshop

Saturday, March 7

9:00 am-4:00 pm

The National Phenology Network is recruiting volunteers, students, and educators to collect and submit plant and animal observations within the Twin Cities community using the national data base Nature's Notebook. No prior experience is required! Teachers, amateur naturalists and botanists, as well as seasoned professionals are welcome. Register to use your own site or conduct observations on Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

To register, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/mohw7mq>

For more information:

Teacher Contact: Suzanne Trapp, Visitor Services Specialist, 952-361-4502 or Suzanne_Trapp@fws.gov

Volunteer Contact: Sarah Inouye-Leas, Volunteer Coordinator, 952-858-0724 or Sarah_Inouye@fws.gov

Bird Language

Sunday, March 8

9:00 am-1:00 pm

Join us as we gather on the slopes of the Minnesota River Valley to explore what the birds are telling us about our surroundings. We will split the time between the classroom and outdoors. Bring a notebook, pencils, and something to sit on outdoors. To register visit:

<http://www.mntracking.org/>

Donnie Phyllaier, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Planting for Pollinators

Sunday, March 8

10:00 am-11:00 am

Join a native plant expert to learn how you can provide ideal habitat for pollinators by selecting the right plants for the right location. Free resources about the refuge butterfly garden and about pollinator gardening will be available.

Matt Stasica, Minnesota Waterfowl Association

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

Sunday, March 8

11:00 am-12:15 pm

This documentary 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.

Brown Bag Book Lunch: Aldo Leopold Readings and Discussion

Sunday, March 8

12:15 pm-1:00 pm

Bring your lunch and join a read-aloud and facilitated discussion featuring favorite Aldo Leopold essays. Judy Geck is a Leopold Land Ethic Leader and will facilitate the discussion.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

Shell Lake Collective

Sunday, March 8

1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Learn how a group of concerned, committed citizens living near Shell Lake, Wisconsin have come together and work cooperatively to protect, restore, and enhance their private lands for conservation.

Dwindling Numbers for an Iconic Insect: A Conservation Biologist Ponders Moving beyond the Documentation of Declines

Presented by:

Karen Oberhauser, Director of the Minnesota Monarch Lab

Ward Johnson, Co-Director of the Save Our Monarchs Foundation

Sunday, March 8

2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Monarch butterfly populations have been declining over the last 20 years. Karen Oberhauser will describe the amazing biology of migratory monarch populations and the work of citizens and scientists in documenting numbers at all stages of their migratory cycle. She will discuss threats to monarchs, and potential responses to these threats. Because conservation biology must be, at its essence, a science of hope, her focus is on positive changes.

Ward Johnson will describe how gardeners are helping gardeners by providing milkweed seeds and expertise to create monarch habitat.



Guided Hike

Sunday, March 8

4:00 pm-5:00 pm

Join Ranger Judy and Volunteer Naturalists for a guided hike on the Long Meadow Lake Trail.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

