

November

Wild Writers! Connecting to Nature through Literature: Natural History

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center

Saturday, November 3

9:30 am-11:30 am

Here at Minnesota Valley we nurture nature, including human nature. Join Librarian Judy Geck for a monthly review of thematically selected books that provide skill development, activities, program support, pleasure and inspiration. Learn how to use our Resource Center to expand your literary horizons and discover how to make a difference--and a future--for human and wildlife habitat through literature. For book and nature lovers, families, and educators who want to make meaningful connections with the natural world. Two CEU's available.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

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

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center

Sunday, November 4

1:30 pm-2:45 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. Meet wildlife biologists who are bringing endangered species back to the landscapes where they once thrived, and learn how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land ties all of these modern conservation stories together, and offers inspiration and insight for the future.

Thoreau Travels the Refuge

Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center

Tuesday, November 6

1 pm-2:30 pm

Henry David Thoreau traveled on the Minnesota River by steamboat in summer of 1861. Hike along the Minnesota River to learn of his adventure on the river while observing wildlife. Binoculars, sturdy hiking shoes, and water are suggested for this 3 mile excursion.

Mara Koenig, Park Ranger

Bird Watching Trek

Wilkie Unit Trailhead

Saturday, November 10

8 am-10:30 am

Join us for a bird walk on one of the many refuge units and learn about the birds that visit the Refuge during their fall migration. With a variety of habitats

at the different units, you will want to explore them all. During fall migration observe a mix of waterfowl, raptors, warblers, and sparrows resting and feeding before they continue their southerly migration. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather.

Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Bird Watching Trek

Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center

Sunday, November 11

8 am-10:30 am

Join us for a bird walk on one of the many refuge units and learn about the birds that visit the Refuge during their fall migration. With a variety of habitats at the different units, you will want to explore them all. During fall migration observe a mix of waterfowl, raptors, warblers, and sparrows resting and feeding before they continue their southerly migration. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather.

Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Bird Watching for Beginners

Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead

Saturday, November 17

9 am-10:30 am

Bird Watching is a hobby enjoyed by millions of Americans, and you can learn how to enjoy it as well from a professional birder. You will learn how to find birds in their different habitats and will learn how to use a field guide and look for identifying features of birds such as eye rings, wing bars, and other distinctive markings. While the fall plumages of birds offer lots of challenges, it is also a great season to begin watching birds! Dress for the weather and bring along your binoculars. There will be extra binoculars to loan if you don't have any.

Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Sunset over the Refuge

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center

Saturday, November 17

3 pm-5 pm

Come and join us for a sunset hike at the Bloomington Education and Visitor Center of the refuge. We will be hiking down the hill to take advantage of the evening light as the sun sets. We will talk about some techniques for capturing the warm colors of the sunset, as well as other options for sunset shooting. With some luck we may even encounter some wildlife along the way. Bring your camera and other photography equipment and dress for the weather.

Don Tredinnick, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist