

2024 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

Schedule of Events May 31 - June 2

Friday Pre-Seminar Activity

Friday, May 31, 2024: 9 AM-12 PM

Great Race Against Shrubs and Shade (G.R.A.S.S.)

Help us on one of the largest land restoration days in the state, at the Reese Homestead. The address of the project site is **22133 Larpenteur Memorial Road, Turin, IA 51040**.

Think energy and impact! Work alongside INHF's land stewardship interns and staff, the Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and others to cut and clear invasive brush to help the hillside prairies thrive.

This event is dependent on volunteers like you. Bring loppers if you have a pair (some will also be supplied), water bottle, sturdy boots or shoes, hat, gloves, safety glasses, and sunscreen.

Friday Evening Events

Friday, May 31, 2024 | 4-10 PM

For our indoor events this evening, please come to:

West Monona High School
1314 15th Street
Onawa, IA 51040

The address for our outdoor seminar site is:

Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area
178th St. & Oak Ave
Castana, IA
(On Google Maps, type in "Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Campsite")

3-4 PM Doors Open for Drop Offs and Set Up

Items for the silent auction can be dropped off and exhibits/vendors can set up booths.

4-6 PM General Admittance

Public can enter and view silent auction items, exhibits, and vendor booths.

6-8:45 PM Children's Programs

6-7 PM: **Incredible Journey** - Sunday Ford

7-7:45 PM: **Children's Session** - Amy McDermott

7:45-8:45 PM: **Animals of the Prairie** - Chuck Hopp

7:45-8:45 PM: **Citizen Science Activities** - Northwest Iowa Group Sierra Club

6 PM Welcoming Words

Welcome to this year's seminar! Thank you for joining us and for your continued support!

6:05-7:15 PM Loess Hills Organizations Updates

6:05-6:15 PM: **Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area and G.R.A.S.S.** - Doug Chafa

6:15-6:25 PM: **Loess Hills Alliance** - Rich Pope

6:25-6:35 PM: **Loess Hills State Forest** - Jeff Seago

6:35-6:45 PM: **Golden Hills RC&D** - Lance Brisbois

6:45-6:55 PM: **The Nature Conservancy** - Matt Jones

6:55-7:05 PM: **Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation** - Kody Wohlers

7:05-7:15 PM: **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** - Nick Baumgarten

7:15-7:45 PM Break - Check out our silent auction items, exhibits, and vendor booths.

7:45-8:45 PM Keynote: Personal Perspective: A Relationship with the Hills

- Anna Stoylich, Dr. Tom Rosburg, Doug Chafa, Katherine Koskovich

In a round table discussion with Doug Chafa, Dr. Tom Rosberg, and Katherine Koskovich, Anna will facilitate a conversation about their personal experiences with the Loess Hills. Come learn about why each of them are called to the hills and what their responses are.

8:50 PM Ending Announcements & Adjourn

Parents, please collect your children from our children's programming at this time.

9-11 PM Campground Activities

- 9-11 PM - **Campfire**: Join us at the campsite for nighttime activities, music, & s'mores! (S'mores materials provided)
- 9-11 PM - **Calling to the Hills** - Anna Buckardt Thomas, Ed, Mark, and Lee Brogie, Doug Chafa

11 PM Campsite Quiet Hours Begin

LHPS offerings resume on Saturday morning at 6 AM.

Saturday Events

Saturday Field Sessions & Events

Saturday, June 1, 2024 | 6 AM-10 PM

The address for our outdoor seminar site is:

Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area

178th St. & Oak Ave
Castana, IA
(On Google Maps, type in "Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Campsite")

For our indoor events this evening, please come to:
West Monona High School
1314 15th Street
Onawa, IA 51040

6-7 AM Birding Walk for All Ages - Mark, Ed, and Lee Brogie

Meet at the campground parking lot for a short bird walk. Some binoculars are provided, personal binoculars welcome.

7-8 AM Yoga - Theresa Dehn

Enjoy a morning yoga class in the heart of the Loess Hills.

7-8 AM Breakfast

Free Will Donation. Provided in part by Graceful Grind Coffeehouse. Menu information available under the Meals tab

8:15-10:10 AM Breakout Session 1

- **Bird Tour by Auto** - Sessions 1 & 2 (with option to return to camp at 10:15 AM) - Ed, Mark, & Lee Brogie [short walk/driving, hands on, all ages]
- **Woody Plants for Beginners** - Brian Hazlett [short walk, all ages]
- **Organic Painting** - Katherine Koskovich [Camp, all ages (Young Children should be accompanied by an adult), Hands on]
- **Nature Awareness & the Art of Mentoring** - Chuck Hopp [campsite & short walk, all ages/kid-friendly, hands on]
- **Prairie Photography** - Don Poggensee [short walk, hands on, children over 12 & adults]
- **Meditative Stitching on the Prairie** - Karen Grimes - [Camp, adult and children over 12, hands on]
- **Community Science in Iowa** - Stephanie Shepard and Anita Westphal (Camp, Older Students and Adults)
- **Loess Hills Habitats and Birds: How Does Management Impact Species Composition?** - Anna Buckardt Thomas and Doug Chafa (Long walk, hands on, all ages)
- **Private lands Protection and Management in the Loess Hills** - Kody Wohlers and Megan Schmidt
- **In the Woods** - Matt Mason - (Older students and Adults, Camp)
- **What is Rewilding and How Could It be Done in the Loess Hills?** - David Hoferer - (Camp, Older Students and Adults)

10:15 AM - 12:10 PM Breakout Session 2

- **Auto Bird Tour** - Sessions 1 & 2 (with option to return to camp at 10:15AM) - Ed, Mark, & Lee Brogie [drive/short walk, hands on, all ages]

- **Prairie reconstruction within Iowa's corn and soybean fields: how to achieve positive outcomes for the environment & the economy** - Tim Youngquist - (Camp, Adults and older students)
- **Nature Scavenger Hunt for Kids** - Dr. Tom Rosburg & Averie Miller [short walk, hands on, all ages]
- **Who's Your Neighbor? A Plant's-Eye View of the Prairie** - Deb Lewis [short walk, hands on, youth/older students & adults]
- **Digital Images** - Don Poggensee [campsite, youth/older students & adults]
- **Primitive Hunting Tools: Atlatl** - Shayne Bennett [campsite, hands on, youth/older students & adults]
- **Mann Country School Experience** - Judy Ehlers [drive/short walk, hands on] NOTE: Presenter will lead caravan from seminar site.
- **Iowa Bumble Bee Atlas Field Training** - Stephanie Shepard and Bee Miller (Camp, Older Students and Adults)
- **Insect Expedition** - Anita Westphal - (Short walk, All Ages, Hands On)
- **Nature Explorers** - Sunday Ford - (short walk, all ages, hands on) (Kid Friendly)
- **Writing Down the Outdoors** - Matt Mason - (short walk, adults and older students, hands on)
- **Restorative Recreation: exploring intersections between Nature Deficit Disorder, Nature Prescription, Avocation, and Creation Care to Human and Ecosystem Health** - Patrick Swanson - (Camp, Older students and Adults)
- **Interrelationships in the Loess Hills** - Anna Stoysich - (all ages, a short walk, hands on)

12:10-1:10 PM Lunch

Provided by Lidderdale Country Store Catering

1:15-4 PM Breakout Session 3

- **Kayaking and Fishing in the Loess Hills** (Madigan Pond) - Andrea Porter, Katie Hoepfner, IA DNR Seasonal Officer and/or Josh Schaben [all ages, drive and short walk, hands on]
- **Introduction to Archery** - Butch Bowman [camp, youth, older students and adults, hands on]
- Half Session 1:15PM-2:45PM **Hog Confinements and Human Health** - Larry Stone [Camp, Older students and Adults]
- Half Session 1:15PM-2:45PM **Writing in the Spirit of Iowa's Naturalists** - Amie Adams - [short walk, adults and older students]
- Half Session 1:15PM-2:45PM **Who's There?** - Connie Betts - [Camp, All Ages, Hands On, Kid Friendly]
- Half Session 2:45PM-4PM **Insect Safari** - Kari Sandage and Intern [short walk, all ages, hands on, Kid Friendly]
- Half Session 1:15PM-2:45PM **Flintnapping** - Mark Andersen [Camp, Older students and Adults (Demonstration only)]
- Half Session 2:45PM-4PM **Atlatls** - Mark Andersen [Camp, Older students and Adults, Hands on]

- **The Hidden Past of the South Jordan Cemetery** (Drive to cemetery) - Judy Ehlers and Seth Brooks [drive, short walk, older students and adults] Presenter will lead caravan from Seminar site
- **Prairie Flora of the Loess Hills** - Dr. Tom Rosburg [long walk, older students and adults, hands on]
- **Tracking of migratory birds using wireless and computer technology (MOTUS)** - Anna Buckardt Thomas, and Glenn Pollock [drive to Blue Lake, all ages, hands on]
- **We are the Buffalo and the Buffalo are Us!** - Renee Sans Souci - (Camp, all ages, hands on)

4:15 PM Travel for Dinner

Dinner at the West Monona High School

4:30-6 PM Dinner & Doors Open for General Admittance

Dinner provided by Lidderdale Country Store. Take time to view exhibits and vendor booths and to bid on items in our silent auction to support LHPS.

6-8:30 PM Children's Programs

6-6:45 PM: **Children's Session** - Cheryl Buntsma

6:45-7:30 PM: **Children's Session** - Connie Betts

7:30-8:20 PM: **Animals of the Prairie** - Chuck Hopp

7:30-8:20 PM: **Citizen Science Activities** - Northwest Iowa Group Sierra Club

6 PM Welcome

6:05-6:45 PM On Common Ground - Brian Hazlett and John Price

By convening artists, writers, and naturalists to share space and stories, "On Common Ground" intends to promote the stewardship of Iowa's Loess Hills by fostering greater awareness of and appreciation for this exceptional natural landscape through print and digital media while exemplifying how place-based experience invigorates collaboration among the Arts, Humanities, and Sciences.

6:45-7:15 PM Break

Final Bidding on Silent Auction Items (Auction Ends at 7:10PM), Visit Exhibits, Vendor Tables, and Restrooms

7:15-8:15 PM Keynote: This Land is their Land - Dr. Chris Jones

Join Dr. Chris Jones for a presentation with a focus on water quality within the context of Iowa's historical agriculture production systems, and how the state can get better outcomes going forward.

8:15 PM Closing Remarks and Thank You

Parents, please collect your children from our children's programming at this time.

9 PM Campground Activities - Chuck Hopp and Shayne Bennet

- 9-11 PM - **Campfire**: Join us at the campsite for nighttime activities, music, & s'mores! (S'mores materials provided)
- 9-10 PM **Geocaching** - Cheryl Bunstma
- 9:30 PM **Star Gazing** - Omaha Astronomical Society
Observe the night sky away from light pollution!

11 PM Campsite Quiet Hours Begin

LHPS offerings will resume on Sunday at 6 AM.

Sunday Schedule

Sunday Field Sessions & Events

Sunday, June 2, 2024 | 6 AM-12 PM

The address for our outdoor seminar site is:

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178th St. & Oak Ave

Castana, IA

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7-8 AM Yoga - Theresa Dehn

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7-8 AM Breakfast

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8:15-10:10 AM Breakout Session 4

- **Bike Tour of the Loess Hills** - Lance Brisbois [bike ride, older students and adults, hands on]
- **Collecting, Documenting and Pressing Plants for Biology and Art** - Rich Pope and Deb Lewis [camp, older students and adults, hands on]
- **Making Friends with Sedges** - Dr. Tom Rosburg [Walk, Adults and older students]
- **Nests and Nestlings, Fledglings and Foundlings – The Hidden Treasures of Avian Reproduction and Architecture** - Marlene and Bruce Ehresman [Camp, All Ages]
- **Slope, Rise, Smoke, Wise: A Reading of New Work by Loess Hills Writers** - Kelly Madigan and Others [Camp, Older Students and Adults]
- **Hiking off-trail in the Loess Hills** - Seth Brooks [Long Hike, hands on, Adults and older students]

- **Creepy Crawly Critter Exploration** - Andrea Porter [Short Walk, Hands On, All Ages, Kid Friendly]

10:30-11:30 AM S.O.A.R. Raptor Program - Kay Neumann

Join Kay at this year's S.O.A.R. Raptor Program and meet her birds, learn bird-of-prey behavior, and learn about some of the raptors that call the Loess Hills home. S.O.A.R. will only be bringing education birds for their program this year, so a raptor release is not scheduled to occur.

11:30-11:45AM End of Seminar Programming

Final Thank you and Ending Announcements