

8th ANNUAL SAND HILLS DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE
“A Sea of Grass: Revisited”
Ainsworth High School, 520 E. 2nd St., Ainsworth, Nebraska
Thursday, July 9, 2009

Presenters:

- **“Like a Golden Hackberry Leaf: Mari Sandoz and her description of the Plains” – Sarah Polak - Director of the Mari Sandoz Center, CSC**
- **“Sand Hills Stability: A Grasslands Legacy” - Dr. David Wedin, School of Natural Resources, UN-L**
- **“Nebraska Medicine of the 1800’s” – Dr. Richard Fruehling – Family Practice Physician**
- **“Early Bone Hunters Explore the Niobrara: The Hayden(1857) and Marsh(1871) Expeditions” – Dr. Mike Voorhies – Professor of Paleontology Emeritus**
- **“American Indian/Native American Use Of Prairie Plants” - Phyllis Stone - Elder of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and a Sun Dancer** (courtesy of the Nebraska Humanities Council)

Breakout sessions, exhibitors, vendors, continental breakfast and a catered lunch are included in the full day registration fee. Information below gives optional choices and the schedule of fees. Informative tours are available on Wednesday and Friday to those registered for the Thursday conference.

COLLEGE CREDIT OFFERED

One hour senior/graduate credit in education is also offered, at an additional fee, by Wayne State College. For more information on college credit, contact Wayne State College, 1111 Main St., Wayne, NE 68787; phone 1-800-228-9972 or e-mail the continuing education department, demoste1@wsc.edu

“Sand Hills Discovery Experience” 2009 Information

Thursday, July 9, 2009 at Ainsworth High School, 520 East 2nd Street

8:00-8:45 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast (Use south door)

Fee: \$40 (early registration-\$35) per person.

Students under 18 may attend this event free of charge if accompanying an adult with paid registration.

8:45-9:00 - Opening of conference

9:00 – 12:00 - Presentations

12:00 – 1:00 - Lunch (included)

1:00 – 4:30 - Presentations continue

Vendors and exhibitors will be on site until 5:00 p.m.

Pre and Post Conference Tours and Workshops

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

1. Fossil Dig

8:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Fee \$10.00

This tour will visit a 6.6 million year old fossil dig. Shane Tucker and staff will assist participants to work the dig. Tour is limited to 16 participants. Repeats Friday.

2. Nature Conservancy

1:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m.

Fee \$7.00

Jim Luchsinger will discuss the impact of domestic vs. wild animal grazing on the grasses of the Sand Hills. The tour will include a look at a bison Herd. Tracy Nelson will offer an afternoon of separate fun activities for the kids.

3. Nebraska Native Americans (for educators)

2:00-4:00 p.m.

No Fee

Will be held in the Ainsworth

Conference Center Meeting Room

Kathy French will present a 'hands on' session featuring the four Native tribes of Nebraska – Omaha, Winnebago, Ponca and Santee Sioux. Participate in activities created by the tribes to introduce aspects of their culture. This session is recommended for anyone working with elementary age youth.

Thursday, July 9, 2009

4. Dutch Oven Cooking Workshop

6:00

Held at Barb Lamb's house in rural Ainsworth (directions will be given).

Fee \$13.00 for adults

\$5.00 for age 12 and under

Debra McKim will discuss the history of Dutch ovens, care/maintenance, and cooking techniques. A pulled pork dinner with all the trimmings and dessert is included.

Friday, July 10, 2009

5. Fossil Dig

8:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Fee \$10.00

This tour will visit a 6.6 million year old fossil dig. Shane Tucker and staff will assist participants to work the dig. Tour is limited to 16 participants.

6. UFO Experience

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fee \$20.00

Float down the North Loup River in an Unidentified Floating Object (i.e. stock tank and lawn chairs) while appreciating the beauty of the Sand Hills. A no-host lunch will be available at Uncle Buck's in Brewster afterwards. Individuals may provide their own transportation for a \$5 reduction in the fee. Tour is limited to 30 participants.

7. Sand Hills Lake Tour

8:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Fee \$7.00

Take an escorted scenic drive through the Sand Hills to visit Willow Lake, Moon Lake, Long Lake, and others. Stops will include information on the flora and fauna at each site.

General Information: These tours are held in conjunction with the Sand Hills Discovery Experience. **All tours will leave from the north entrance of the Ainsworth Conference Center, east Highway 20 and Ash Street.** Returning times are approximate. Plan to bring necessary out-of-doors items, such as sunscreen, bug spray, sunglasses, hats, comfortable, sturdy shoes and a water bottle. Tours are limited to registered conference attendees. Tours are limited in size and will be filled on first come, first serve basis. Transportation provided except where noted.

A block of rooms has been reserved until July 1st at the Ainsworth Rodeway Inn, 888-757-1050 (toll free) and at the Ainsworth Super 8 Motel, phone 800-800-8000. For other lodging or general information, call the North Central Development Center, 402-387-2740 (866-387-2740 toll free), or log onto www.ainsworthlinks.com/shde or www.ainsworthchamber.com.

SAND HILLS DISCOVERY REGISTRATION FORM (Required for each address)

Name/s _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

St _____

Zip _____

Phone/s _____

Email _____

Pre-registration requested by July 1, 2009

Number adults attending _____ @ \$40 each (\$35.00 registration before 07/01/09) \$ _____

Number students* attending _____ with adult

Number adults attending _____ @ \$20 each for 1/2 day conference (lunch not included) \$ _____

Number attending Tour #1 _____ @ \$10 each adult = \$ _____
(Fossil Dig)
_____ @ free student rate

Number attending Tour #2 _____ @ \$7 each adult = \$ _____
(Nature Conservancy)
_____ @ free student rate

Number attending wksp #3 _____ adult(s)
(Native Americans)
_____ student(s)

Number attending wksp #4 _____ @ \$13 each adult = \$ _____
(Dutch Oven Cooking)
_____ @ \$5 student rate = \$ _____

Number attending Tour #5 _____ @ \$10 each adult = \$ _____
(Fossil Dig)
_____ @ free student rate

Number attending Tour #6 _____ @ \$20 per person = \$ _____
(UFO Experience)
_____ @ \$15 if providing own transportation \$ _____

Number attending Tour #7 _____ @ \$7 each adult = \$ _____
(Sand Hills Lake Tour)
_____ @ free student rate

Total fees \$ _____

* Students under 18 may attend the Thursday events free of charge (except wksp #4) if accompanying an adult with paid registration.

Make checks payable to Sand Hills Discovery Foundation and mail to P.O Box 444, Ainsworth, NE 69210.

Printing compliments of the North Central Nebraska RC&D Council, Bassett, NE.