

Sand Hills Discovery Experience



“Ashes in the Sand Hills”

July 7-9, 2010

*Ainsworth High School
520 E. 2nd St., Ainsworth, NE*

*9th Annual Conference
Coordinated by
Sand Hills Discovery Foundation
www.sandhillsdiscovery.org*

*Chairman
Barbara Lamb*

*Conference Co-Chairs
Carolyn Hall, Marilyn Williams & Linda Alberts*

The Sand Hills Discovery Foundation welcomes you to the 9th annual Sand Hills Discovery Experience. This year's theme is "Ashes in the Sand Hills." The Foundation also welcomes you to take guided tours of the Sand Hills area. Vendors and educational exhibits are available to enhance your experience.

- 8:00-8:45 Registration and exhibit/vendor viewing in the high school commons and hallways. Continental breakfast.
- 8:45-9:00 Conference opens in the Learning Center with the presentation of the colors by the **Ainsworth Junior American Legion**, invocation by **Pastor Don Letelier of Wood Lake Union Church**, and introductory remarks by **Graig Kinzie**, president of the Ainsworth Chamber of Commerce.
- 9:00-9:50 ***"Yellowstone Hotspot: Ash-Fall Tephra in the Ogallala Group of the Great Plains."***
Dr. Robert F. Diffendal, Jr., Professor Emeritus, School of Natural Resources, UN-L.
- 9:50-10:20 Break time and snacks.
- 10:20-11:10 ***"A Climatic Perspective of the Sand Hills Region."***
Al Dutcher, Nebraska State Climatologist.
- 11:15-12:05 ***"Life in the Past Lane: Discoveries from the Rick Irwin Site."***
Shane Tucker, Nebraska Highway Paleontologist.
- 12:10- 1:00 Lunch in school cafeteria (included with full day registration fee).
- 12:45 - 1:15 **Kitchen Band.** Enjoy the musical talents of this group of local musicians.
- 1:30-2:20 ***"Ashes to Ashes – They all Fall Down."***
Dr. Stan Lewis, Professor of Paleobiology and Zoology, St. Cloud State University at St. Cloud (retired).
- 2:25-3:05 **Break-out Sessions**
Session 1 – Shane Tucker – Fossil Identification
Session 2 – Rick Otto –Fossil Preservation By a Supervolcanic Eruption
Session 3 – Al Dutcher and Gerry Osborn – This Year's Weather and its Impact on the Growing Season and Harvest
- 3:05-3:35 Time to check out Vendors and Exhibitors in the Commons area and adjoining hallways and the Ainsworth Schools Native Plants Exhibit outside on south side of the school.
- 3:40-4:30 ***"Rocky Mountain Headwaters of the Platte River."***
Dr. Will A. Locke, Professor Emeritus of Teacher Education, Hastings College.
- 4:30-5:00 Final visit to exhibits and vendors.**

EXHIBITORS and VENDORS: Plains Trading Company, Ainsworth Art Guild, Schroder's Rock Shop, NCDC Biz Kidz, Ainsworth Chamber of Commerce, UN-L Museum, NE Travel and Tourism.

Pre and Post Conference Tours and Workshops

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

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. Prescribed Burn Sites in the Niobrara Valley

1:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m.
Fee \$7.00

Al Steuter will lead this tour of prescribed burn sites in the Niobrara Valley. During the tour, activities for children and youth will be held at the Nature Conservancy headquarters.

3. Shoebox Science (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 University of Nebraska State Museum's Shoebox Science kits. We will dive into a wide variety of kits from butterflies to dinosaurs and ancient people. See how these resources can enhance your teaching. Sometimes your units just need a few more hands on opportunities!

Thursday, July 8, 2010

4. Dutch Oven Cooking Workshop

6:00 p.m.

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

Fee \$20.00 for adults

\$10.00 for age 12 and under

Debra McKim will discuss the history of Dutch ovens, care/maintenance, and cooking techniques. A delicious dutch oven dinner with all the trimmings and dessert is included. The workshop is limited to 50 participants.

Friday, July 9, 2010

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. Ashfall Fossil Beds

7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fee \$20.00

This will be an escorted tour through the fossil beds and the new Hubbard Rhino Barn. Afterwards, a no-host lunch will be available at nearby Green Gables Restaurant. Individuals may provide their own transportation for a \$10 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.

Prepare for Your Sand Hills Discovery Experience Tour: Bring water/beverage; Bug/tick spray; Sun block; Comfortable shoes/clothes, cap/hat. Be prepared for a "rough ride". Some tours require some walking.

General Information: These tours require conference registration in addition to cost of the tours. All tours will leave from the north entrance of the Ainsworth Conference Center, east Highway 20 and Ash Street. Return times are approximate. Tours are limited in size and will be filled on first come, first serve basis. Transportation provided except where noted.

The Sand Hills Discovery Foundation is not responsible for any mishaps during the conference or on the guided tours.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The **North Central Nebraska RC&D**, a 13 county program under the US Department of Agriculture, headquartered in Bassett, NE, does the printing and copying for the Sand Hills Experience Conference. They have also assisted in publicizing the conference and have authorized the Sand Hills Experience Conference as an educational outreach program from their office.

The **Ainsworth Public Schools** has once again offered the use of their facilities for this conference.

The **North Central Development Center** and the **Ainsworth Senior Center** furnishes the meeting place for the Sand Hills Discovery Foundation.

The **Ainsworth Chamber of Commerce** assists in registration and answering phone calls.

Cobb Chevrolet assists with transportation for the tours.

The **City of Ainsworth** furnishes the parking area for tour departures and a meeting room for an educational session.

Wayne State College offers the college credit course option for this conference.

We especially want to thank our presenters and tour leaders who represent a variety of institutions. They, of course, are the backbone to providing such a quality experience for all of the participants. Representatives are from: **University of Nebraska at Lincoln, St. Cloud State University, Hastings College, University of Nebraska State Museum, Ashfall Fossil Beds, and the Nature Conservancy.**

But most importantly, we wish to thank you, the participants at the 9th annual Sand Hills Discovery Experience.

Please reserve July 13-15, 2011 for the 10th annual Sand Hills Discovery Experience. The theme will be "Sand Hills Lakes, Rivers, and Streams."

www.sandhillsdiscovery.org

