

# Sandhills Discovery Foundation



## Explore and Discover the Sandhills

**Thursday, July 12, 2018**

**Ainsworth High School**

**520 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

**Ainsworth, Nebraska**

**\*\*\*\* New This Year! Full Day of Activities for young people aged 12-18!**

Escape Room at the Museum...Nature Studies with the Niobrara Council...Fossils with Shane Tucker...and More!! Continental Breakfast and lunch included.

\*\*Free to youth who register with a paid adult or \$10 if unaccompanied-must register.

### **Presenters:**

- **Sue Lackey – The Sandhills: What’s Beneath the Sand?**
- **Jim Griffin – The Union Pacific Railroad’s Impact on the Sandhills**
- **Walter Schacht – Drought in the Sandhills**
- **Loren Pospisil – The Oregon Trail through the Sandhills**

### **Break-out Sessions:**

- **Al Steuter – Controlled Burns to Manage Invasive Species**
- **Shane Tucker – Fossils, Sand Dunes**
- **Jim Griffin – North Platte Canteen**
- **Sue Lackey- Water in the Sandhills**
- **Walter Schacht – Unusual Prairie Plants**

### **17<sup>th</sup> Annual “Sandhills Discovery Experience” Schedule**

8:00-8:45am - Registration and continental breakfast

Fee: \$40 (Students under 18 may attend 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 with full day registration)

1:00-4:30 - Presentations continue.

Exhibitors, vendors, continental breakfast and a catered lunch are included in the full day registration fee. Informative tours are available on Wednesday and Friday to those registered for the Thursday conference.

### **More information at [www.sandhillsdiscovery.org](http://www.sandhillsdiscovery.org)**

For lodging or general information, call the Carolyn Hall- 402-822-0439 or 402-684-3417 or Linda Alberts- 402-273-4347 or 402-760-0163.

# Pre and Post Conference Tours

**Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

## 1. Fossil Dig

9:00am – 12:00pm

Fee \$15.00

\*Meet at the Rock County Fairgrounds in Bassett at 8:45am for carpooling.

This tour will visit a 6.6 million year old fossil dig north of Bassett. Shane Tucker, UN-L Highway Salvage Paleontologist, will assist participants to work the dig. Tour is limited to 16 participants per session.

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## 2. Northeast Research and Extension Center

1:30pm – 4:00pm

Fee \$20.00

\* Meet at the research center.

Walt Schacht, Dave Wedin and Jace Stott will lead us on a visit to UNL's Research Center south of Long Pine. They have been conducting research on the effects of blowouts on the Sandhills for several years. We will view the areas they are studying and learn about the results and implications of their research.

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## 3. Eastern Red Cedar Tree Infestation and Removal

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Fee \$10.00

\* Meet at the Ainsworth Conference Center North parking lot at 2:00 pm for carpooling.

Carolyn Hall will discuss the impact of Eastern Red Cedars on the Sandhills. She will show us areas where the trees are invading the prairie and compare that to areas where they are being mechanically removed.

**Thursday, July 12, 2018**

## 4. Dinner and learn about Plant Recovery after the Niobrara Valley Fire.

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Fee \$25.00

\*\*Meet at Joe and Betty Nelson's home near Long Pine. Directions will be available at the conference.

Enjoy a catered dinner while Amanda Hefner discusses plant recovery in the Niobrara Valley after the devastating fire during the summer of 2012.

**Friday, July 13, 2018**

## 5. Fossil Dig

9:00am – 12:00pm

Fee \$15.00

\*Meet at the Rock County Fairgrounds n Bassett at 8:45am for carpooling.

This tour will visit a 6.6 million year old fossil dig north of Bassett. Shane Tucker, UNL Highway Salvage Paleontologist, will assist participants to work the dig. Tour is limited to 16 participants per session.

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## 6. Scenic Niobrara Valley

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Fee \$20.00

\*Meet at the Ainsworth Conference Center North parking lot for carpooling.

Enjoy a scenic drive to the Nature Conservancy north of Johnstown. View the fire recovery area and the Niobrara "chute" while crossing the Norden Bridge. We will visit Smith Falls State Park (requires a park sticker). The tour will conclude in Valentine with a stop at Fort Niobrara, lunch (on your own) and a visit to the National Park Center.

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**General Information:** Tours are held in conjunction with the Sandhills Discovery Experience and are limited to registered conference attendees. **As transportation is not provided, carpooling is encouraged.** Return times are approximate. Plan to bring necessary outdoors items, such as sunscreen, bug spray, sunglasses, hats, comfortable, sturdy shoes and a water bottle. Some tours are limited in size and will be filled on first come, first served basis.

# SANDHILLS DISCOVERY REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Pre-registration requested by July 1, 2018***

Number adults attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number students\*\* attending \_\_\_\_\_ with adult Student Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number adults attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 each for ½ day conference (Lunch not included) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full Day Youth Activities \_\_\_\_\_ @ free with paid adult  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 if unaccompanied \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending Tour #1 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 each adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Wed. Fossil Dig)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ Free student rate

Number attending Tour #2 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 each adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Research Center)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ Free student rate

Number attending Tour #3 \_\_\_\_\_ @ 10 each adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cedar Tree Tour)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ Free student rate

Number attending Tour #4 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 each adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Plant recovery and dinner)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 student rate

Number attending Tour #5 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 each adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Fri. Fossil Dig)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ Free student rate

Number attending Tour #6 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 each adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Niobrara valley tour)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ Free student rate

**Total fees** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Students under 18 may attend the all events free of charge (except tour #4) when accompanying an adult with paid registration.

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**Make checks payable to Sandhills Discovery Foundation and mail to PO Box 444, Ainsworth, NE 69210.**