



Notes from the Dells

October - December 2018



Note From The Director

A busy fall full of school programs is upon us. The sounds of kids' voices ringing through the woods at Severson Dells reminds us of the importance of our work. Kids (and adults) need to unplug and connect with nature. For school children, this is a time to engage in learning in a way they can't in the classroom. It is a way for them to see ecology in action, to hug a tree, and experience the joy of being in nature.

As the temperature drops, we are gearing up for a fall and winter full of programs: from the beloved Luminaria event to the new Porcupine Quillwork workshop, Homeschool programs and Scout programs. We look forward to seeing you out for a program or even just a hike.

For those feeling adventurous this winter, we have an amazing opportunity to explore the Boundary Waters in February by snowshoe, cross-country ski and/or dogsled with experienced guides from Wilderness Inquiry, a professional guide company based in Minneapolis.

I can't wait to see you out at Severson Dells this season!

Ann Wasser
Director

Severson Dells Annual Benefit Breakfast



Every fall, a wonderfully generous group of people comes together to support Severson Dells Nature Center and our mission of connecting people to nature through education and research. This feel-good morning highlights the wonderful programs and the many people involved with Severson Dells. The breakfast is also an opportunity to see how your contributions positively impact the community and how you can contribute to the future success of Severson Dells.

This fall we have an incredible opportunity to host the breakfast at The Pavilion at Orchard Ridge Farms on Thursday, October 25th from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. For those who have the time, staff and volunteers will be leading hikes through the orchard and woods behind the property after the breakfast.

If you would like to attend this fundraising event, or host a table for the event, please contact us at 815-335-2915. Thank you so much to our wonderful community of support!!

Calendar of Events

Severson Dells Conservation Crew – Volunteer Workdays in Ecological Restoration

Second Saturday and Fourth Monday of
each month, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Saturday, October 13
- Monday, October 22
- Saturday, November 10
- Monday, November 26
- Saturday, December 8

(Note that there will be no workday on December 24 due to the Christmas Eve holiday.)



You can make a pivotal difference in the quality of our natural areas! Our woodlands, grasslands, and stream corridors need our help: invasive species threaten the integrity and functionality of these areas; our response is vegetation management. Join the Severson Dells Conservation Crew! Working alongside fellow volunteers to remove invasive species from the property, you'll experience the satisfaction of participating in the management of the natural areas you love. Weather permitting, we may make a cheerful fire of the brush that we cut. Dress for the weather (think layers) and expect to get dirty. Let Greg Rajskey know to expect you: gregr@seversondells.org or 815-335-2915. Please take a few minutes to complete a volunteer application at www.seversondells.com/volunteer/. Participation by youth under the age of 18 requires parental waiver signed by adult.

Yoga at The Dells

First Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

- October 2
- November 6
- December 4

(Ages: for adults and accompanied adolescents)

Enjoy an evening of traditional yoga, both relaxing and invigorating, punctuated with periods of relaxation and brief, guided meditation. If the weather is sufficiently mild, we may practice on the lawn; otherwise, we'll be in the classroom. Bring a yoga mat and drinking water. Register at www.seversondells.com/natural-connections or call 815-335-2915.

Fee Schedule

Single Session: \$10 (members) \$15 (nonmembers)
Series of Three: \$25 (members) \$36 (nonmembers)



Native Harvest: Seed Collection and Dispersal

October 2, 2018: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

(All ages)

Seeds and fruits of native plants come in a wide assortment of sizes and shapes, reflecting a variety of dispersal mechanisms.

Discover the beauty and functionality of these nuggets of nature that hold the promise of future plant communities. We'll begin with a classroom presentation before taking to the field for a seed-collection exercise, followed by a demonstration and discussion at our nearby seed-processing facility. Dress appropriately to be outdoors and be prepared to be off trail on uneven terrain. This is a free program, but space is limited, so please register in advance.

www.seversondells.com/events/seedcollectiondispersal or 815-335-2915.



Twilight Ramble

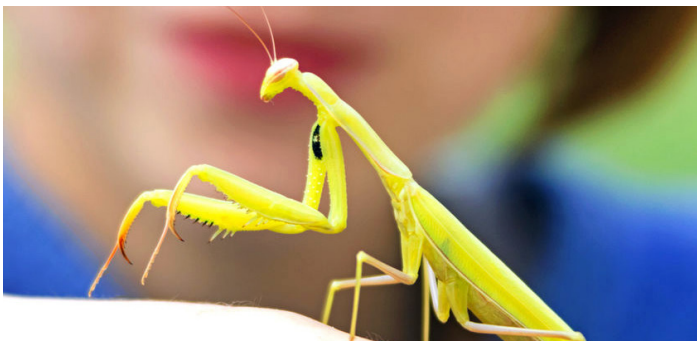
October 3, 2018: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Kieselberg Forest Preserve
5801 Swanson Road, Roscoe, IL 61073
(All ages)



As evening descends, we'll enjoy a twilight ramble through the prairies and woodlands of Kieselberg Forest Preserve. This site has benefitted from recent restoration efforts as a result of a grant received in support of improving habitat for the federally listed Rusty-patched Bumble Bee. The sun will set around 6:30 p.m., so we will finish our hike in the dark. (Save your flashlight for emergency use; our eyes will grow accustomed to the dark.) **Free program**; all ages are welcome. Please register in advance so that we can be prepared for the turnout. www.seversondells.com/events/twilighthike-keiselbergfp or 815-335-2915.

Scouting Skills: Bugs for Brownies

October 13, 2018: 10:00 AM – 12:00PM

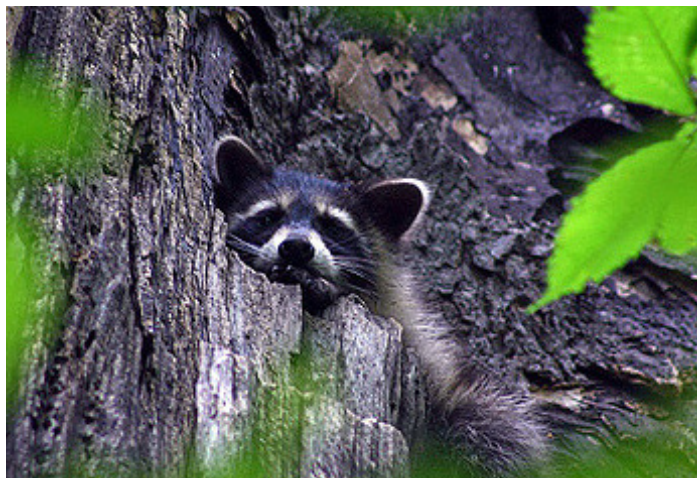


Armed with sweep nets, hand lenses, jars and pooters, we take to the field and woods in search of local insects. We review what makes an insect an insect, then learn the basic characteristics of several insect families. Ideal for individual scouts who are looking to gain additional skills. Space is limited.

Fee: \$5/scout. Registration Deadline: October 10, by 4:00 PM. Register online at www.seversondells.com/scout-programs/ or call 815-335-2915.

Twilight Ramble

October 17, 2018: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Severson Dells Forest Preserve
8786 Montague Road, Rockford, IL 61102
(All ages)



Experience the advent of evening through the wooded trails of Severson Dells. Awaken your senses to the sounds and scents of twilight. With the sun setting shortly after six o'clock, our eyes become gradually accustomed to the darkening night. (Save your flashlight for emergency use.) **Free program**; all ages are welcome. Please register in advance so that we can be prepared for the turnout. www.seversondells.com/events/twilightramble10-17-18 or 815-335-2915.

Home School Program – Outdoor Skills

October 18, 2018: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Fall is such a great time to be outdoors. Nature's bounty has provided us with terrific supplies to help us get ready for



winter, and learning some of the outdoor skills that use these supplies is a great way to connect with nature and our past. We'll learn some ways to use acorns, how to make cordage, and even how to build a shelter in case of emergencies. Appropriate for ages 8+.

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2018 by 4:00 PM. Register online at www.seversondells.com/homeschool-programs/ or call 815-335-2915.

Fee: Home School Programs \$10/student/class or for a package deal (per trimester - \$25/student/3 classes; for the school year (9 months) - \$75/student/school year).

Porcupine Quillwork

October 20, 2018: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Before the arrival of Europeans in North America, many of the indigenous people used the porcupine quills to decorate their belongings. In the Northeast, quills were worked into birch bark, creating many decorative boxes and containers. Further westward, on the plains, where birch trees did not grow, dyed quills were “embroidered” onto leather to decorate clothing, horse gear, bags for pipes, sheaths for knives, and hair pieces. Once Europeans arrived and offered beads in their trade goods, the use of quills rapidly faded – beads are so much easier to use! Today there are very few artists who still use the old methods to decorate bark or leather. Join us to learn the art of birch bark decoration and create a small medallion to take home. If you have a small awl, please bring it with you. Feel free to bring a snack or lunch. Length of program depends on the pace of the participants, but we will conclude by 2:00pm at the latest.

Fee: \$25/member; \$35/non-member. Register online at www.seversondells.com/events/porcupinequillwork or call 815-335-2915.



Journaling Club

October 21, 2018: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Fall is in the air for this month's Journaling Club. Bring your journal and journaling supplies and we will explore the seasonal changes across the habitats at Severson Dells. Register at www.seversondells.com/nature-journal-club or call 815-335-2915

Fee: \$5/member; \$8/non-member

Science Saturday: Oaktober Fest

October 27, 2018: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



It's a fun-filled day focused on the Oak Tree! Discover how oaks shaped the Midwest and how people and wildlife learned to use them. Learn to identify both the trees and their acorns; help plant acorns to grow our oak savannas; make some fun acorn toys to take home; discover how our ancestors used acorns for food and dyes. And if we are very lucky, Professor Albus Quercus from Dellwarts may put in an appearance! Fun for the whole family. **Free.**

Why Does My Hip or Knee Hurt?

October 28, 2018: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Join us for an afternoon with Dr. Mike Chmell, orthopedic surgeon from Ortho Illinois, as he discusses the common causes of knee and hip pain and what you can



do to maintain an active lifestyle. We will go for a brief hike after the presentation. **Free.** Light Snacks will be provided. Please register at www.seversondells.com/events/keepactive-drchmell or call 815-335-2915.

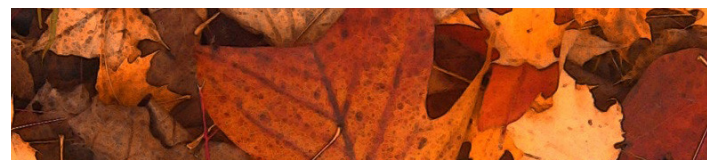
Community Drum Circle

November 3, 2018: 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

(All ages)



Gather around the fireplace at the Nature Center's screened porch in shared rhythm with other drummers. Community hand drumming has been found to yield significant health benefits, such as boosting the immune system, lowering blood pressure, reducing anxiety, even promoting physical and emotional healing. If you can, please bring a hand drum or other rhythm instrument; if not, we'll have some extras to share. No experience necessary; all ages welcome. This is a **free program** (donations gratefully accepted), but our capacity is limited, so please register in advance. www.seversondells.com/events/drumcircle-11-3-18 or 815-335-2915.



Scouting Skills: Basketry for Boy Scout Basketry Badge

November 10, 2018: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Basket-weaving is a handy skill for any outdoors enthusiast to have. Knowing how to make a quick container while you are outdoors can be useful when berries are in season, while the same skills can yield you a nifty cattail leaf sun visor on a really hot summer day!

Fee: \$10/scout; bring a snack or lunch.

Registration deadline: November 1, 2018 by 4:00PM. Register online at www.seversondells.com/scout-programs/ or call 815-335-2915.



Night Hike

November 14, 2018: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

(All ages)



Explore the trails of Severson Dells after dark, guided by a staff naturalist. Open your senses to experience nature under cover of darkness. Exercise your night vision, adjusting to the darkness and reawakening other sense perceptions. To that end, we discourage the use of flashlights on the trail (although, of course, you may bring one along in case of need). **Free program;** all ages are welcome. Please register in advance so that we can be prepared for the turnout. www.seversondells.com/events/nighthike-nov14 or 815-335-2915.

Home School Program: Animals Prepare for Winter

November 15, 2018: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

As the cold and dark of winter close in on us, we pull out our sweaters and coats and turn up the heat in our houses. But what do the birds, insects and other animals do? We'll discuss hibernation, migration and adaptations for the animals that stay, and we'll explore outdoors for signs of what our local wildlife are doing to get ready for winter.

Registration Deadline: November 12, 2018 by 4:00 PM. Register online at www.seversondells.com/homeschool-programs/ or call 815-335-2915.

Fee: Home School Programs \$10/student/class or for a package deal (per trimester - \$25/student/3 classes; for the school year (9 months) - \$75/student/school year).

Nature Journal Club

November 18, 2018: 1:00 – 3:00 PM



Join us for a lovely fall afternoon of journaling at Severson Dells. We will utilize different observation and journaling methods to capture the seasonal activity. **Fee:** \$5/member; \$8/non-member. Register online at www.seversondells.com/nature-journal-club or call 815-335-2915.

Scouting Skills: Primitive Camper for Cadettes

December 1, 2018: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Every Girl Scout should know how to “survive” in the woods if necessary. Join us to learn how to build a waterproof shelter, how to make cordage and tie knots, and how to get fire by rubbing two sticks together. **Fee:** \$10/scout; bring a snack or lunch. Registration deadline: November 27, 2018 by 4:00PM. Register online at www.seversondells.com/scout-programs/ or call 815-335-2915.



Luminaria Walk

December 7th & 8th, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Friday Evening Music - Kantorei

Saturday Evening Music - Espinosa & Coffey



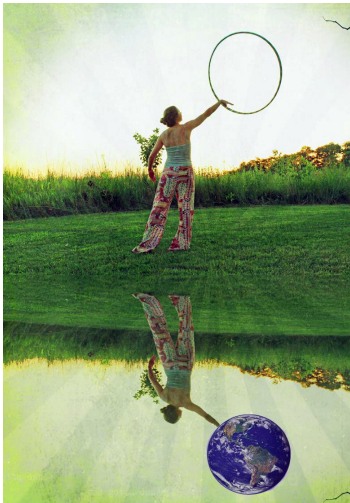
Join us for a seasonal favorite at Severson Dells. Stroll a candle-lit trail, take a horse drawn wagon ride through the prairie and enjoy live music and hot beverages in the nature center, as we celebrate the beauty of nature in winter.

All items in the gift shop will be 10% off. For members, this will be in addition to your current store discount.

Reconnecting through Deep Ecology

December 15, 2018: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

(Adults)



Deep Ecology describes a philosophical approach to understanding our role in nature, recognizing that all components of any ecosystem have equal standing as members of the greater community. Taking a “systems approach” to our perception of nature, we meet other organisms as peers, partners, and playmates. To reach such

an understanding, we often have to face our grief and sorrow at the state of the world and the part we play in damaging the environment. Only then can we heal and go forward, seeing with new eyes. This interactive session, requiring deep personal work, is based on Joanna Macy’s Work that Reconnects, taking us through gratitude, pain, perception, and progress. Fee: \$25 members; \$35 nonmembers

Advance registration required. www.seversondells.com/natural-connections or 815-335-2915.

Nature Journal Club

December 16, 2018: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

As the Winter Solstice approaches, the prelude of winter is upon us. What changes might we observe during this last journaling session of the year? Bring your journal, journaling supplies and be prepared to be out in the cold as we utilize our observation skills to see what the onset of winter brings. Fee: \$5/member; \$8/non-member.

Register online at www.seversondells.com/nature-journal-club or call 815-335-2915.

Home School Program: Predator Prey Palooza

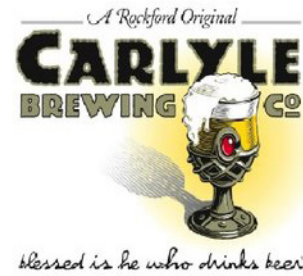
December 20, 2018: 9:30AM – 11:30AM

What is a predator? What is prey? Can you tell just by looking at a skull? Do you think you could survive as a predator or a prey animal? We use lots of hands-on fun and games in this up-close look at one of the basic lessons of life: who eats whom! Register by December 13, 2018 by 4:00PM at www.seversondells.com/homeschool-programs/ or call 815-335-2915. Home School Programs \$10/student/class or for a package deal (per trimester - \$25/student/3 classes; for the school year (9 months) - \$75/student/school year).



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Severson Dells at the Artale First Friday Wine Tasting in July and the Drinks for the Dells event at Carlyle Brewing Company in August.



A big thank you to all of the sponsors and donors that made the Drinks for the Dells event a success! Carlyle Brewing Company, Manpower, Advanced Chimney Systems, Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, Rockford Art Deli, Beef-a-Roo, Fleet Feet Rockford, Abreo, Jackson's Urban Retreat, The Eclectic Jewel, Mary's Market, Rockford Central Plastics, Burpee Museum of Natural History, Countryside Meats and Deli, Eickman's Processing, Sold on Toni, Rockford Ice Hogs, Kegel's Bike Shop, Wired Cafe, Salamone's North and Salamone's Cherry Valley.



In September, Severson Dells and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County hosted the second Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt. This event would not have been possible without sponsorship and donations from Northern Illinois Service Company, Rocktown Adventures, Prairie Street Brewhouse, Rareform, Klehm Arboretum, Rockford Art Deli, The Field Museum, The Discovery Center, and Chocolate by Daniel.



Boundary Waters Winter Adventure

February 5-9, 2019

Enjoy the splendor of winter in the North Woods while sampling some of the many activities it has to offer. Dogsled across frozen lakes. Cross-country ski through snow-covered pine forests. Snowshoe under the stars. Enjoy the benefits of a wood-fired Finnish sauna, followed by a refreshing dip in the lake. Relax at night by a cozy fire in the lodge recounting the day's adventures.

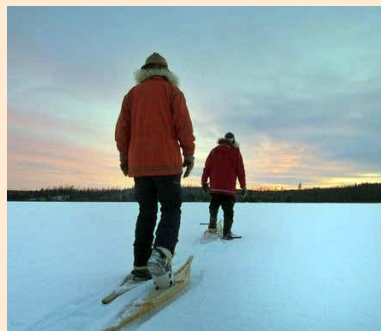
DAY 1: Depart Severson Dells by 9am and head to Duluth, Minnesota. We will spend the afternoon/early evening with The Duluth Experience and enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the Arts Community, Restaurants and Breweries of Duluth and get a chance to get to know each other before heading up to the Boundary Waters the next morning.



DAY 2: We will depart Duluth mid-morning to arrive at Camp Menogyn near Bearskin Lake in the Boundary Waters Conservation Area in late afternoon. To reach the lodge we hike about a mile across the frozen lake. Upon arrival, we'll have time to settle into our accommodations before enjoying dinner. Afterwards, gather around the wood burning stove for introductions to dogsledding and learning how to dress for the weather.

DAY 3: After breakfast, everyone breaks into groups for half- or full-day activities. Options include dogsledding, hiking to Caribou Rock, snowshoeing down the Back Trail, cross-country skiing to Rose Falls, or trying your luck ice fishing (don't forget your license). Enjoy dinner with the group before experiencing the stillness of a Northwoods winter evening. Sleep under the stars in a quinzee (snow shelter) tonight, if you'd like!

DAY 4: If interested, rise early to assist the mushers with feeding and caring for the dogs before enjoying a warm breakfast. Try a new adventure or develop a recently learned skill as you decide between half- or full-day activities. A relaxing afternoon by the lodge's wood-burning stove is always an option, too! Enjoy one last dinner and then brave the sauna and a polar plunge in the lake, if you dare.



DAY 5: Early risers can enjoy one last ski or snowshoe outing before breakfast. Afterwards, pack and transfer personal gear back across the lake for the trip home. We will then hop in the vans and head back to Rockford.

Travel, Terrain, Etc...

TERRAIN/ROUTE: Participants ski, snowshoe, and sled over lakes and through the woods. The frozen lakes provide level and open terrain. Portage trails through the woods can be hilly. The Boundary Waters offers a wide range of route options from easy to very difficult, perfect for a beginner or expert.

TYPE OF TRAVEL/DISTANCE: Participants use cross-country skis, snowshoes, dogsleds, and pulk sleds. Pulk sleds are one-person sleds, powered by another individual, used for transportation. An average day consists of 2-6 hours of activity, depending on weather conditions. Dogsledding is extremely dependent on weather, snow conditions, and the dogs. You can expect at least a 15-minute ride, but if conditions are right plan on a much longer experience. Travel distances vary from 3-8 miles per day. No previous experience is needed to participate on this trip.

WEATHER: Temperatures in the winter months range from -40 F to +40 F. With proper gear and clothing you can stay very comfortable.

Register by November 15th at www.seversondells.com/field-trips

\$1,100 members • \$1,300 non-members

All travel, lodging, food and beverages (alcoholic & non-alcoholic) are included in the cost of the trip. All snowshoes, skis and sleds provided by Wilderness Inquiry.

Please contact Ann Wasser with any questions or for more details- ann@seversondells.org or 815-335-2915.

Winters Trees

by Krishna Kanth



I believe there is a particular welcome gesture in nature that announces another winter into the world. And if there is, it ought to be the nose-stinging coldness in the wind, a presence that makes breathing a painful chore. But like with all the challenges of life, you have to take it in, which is the only way to live a life of value. Winter season, to me, starts this way, with the chilling breeze preaching a stoic lecture on the struggles of life that are worthy of being undertaken. Every morning when I leave the comfort of my home to go to work, chill invades me wholly upon the opening of the front door. Listening to the click as the door shuts behind me, a surge of nostalgia fills my heart, momentarily reminding me of the warmth of the indoors, a comfort for which I have to wait till another evening, and work my way all through the day. Thus begin my mornings on any given weekday in the winters, with a tender fight between laziness and living.

As I walk along the pavement towards the tram-stop, I glance at the trees lined along the side of the bikers' path, standing tall and stout. I see them slipping, with each passing day, into a calm

slumber, like saints starting upon their meditation. As winter creeps upon the world, their leaves shed the green vigour little by little. Soon, as time for those leaves to depart from their shelters approaches, they adorn a yellow dryness upon themselves. And like that, one day they fall from their homes and become a carpet of nature for us to walk on. The trees are thus left barren and naked, and an aura of gloom reigns over them, covering all the signs of life from their branches for the rest of the season.

The look of these barren trees fills my heart with myriad emotions of dullness, as if the dreams of my life are at crossroads, as if they are lingering amid a confusion between abandonment and accomplishment. To make matters worse, the bright blue sky is replaced by a grey sadness, and daylight dims away from the world, as if the sun has gotten tired of us.

This is when the reality of winter is fully realized in my mind.

In this season, my insides are wired differently for the span of three cold months. All those multiple layers of clothing constrain me in many ways and make me feel uneasy at times, especially when commuting. But it's your responsibility towards yourself to be warm in a cold, stark world. When I think of it, it surprises me how true this is with the responsibilities of life itself. As you spend off your time year after year, and enter into the next seasons of your life, you grow more responsible towards everything that matters. Winter only mirrors this process, this cycle of life and its progress.

Daylight in winter seems to be too shy to present itself, and doesn't really light up the sky until at least past 9 o'clock. But I can't afford to wait for the sky to wish me a good morning. Hence, I wake myself up before the sun even opens his eyes to this side of the world, and walk out into the day and live it, or at least I try to.

But I still feel a strong presence of inactivity all around me. Nothing seems to be moving, all feels still and stagnant, as if the night doesn't want to advance itself into a new day. The world seems so quiet in the winter, and I never yet clearly understood why. Perhaps it has to do with that feeling of stagnancy and slumber in the air. There seems to be an unshakable silence all around, which is sometimes soothing, and at other times, dejecting. Maybe this is nature's way of telling us to explore the voices of our own hearts amid this hovering calmness of the season.

And then there is snow — that cold cotton tenderness falling out of the thin air above our heads... The place where I'm presently living, Den Haag in The Netherlands, experiences snowfall only rarely, which is exactly what makes its arrival so special. It turns the city almost festive, especially in the eyes of children, and in mine. There is a mysterious bliss hidden in those moments that make you a child again, and a rare snowfall is surely one of them; at least to me it is.

But there is more to the season than just the feeling of gloom. As the year makes its way to an end, the city adorns a new glitter for the upcoming occasion of Christmas and the ever blissful arrival of a new year. The city centre and all the shopping outlets around it put on a new shine that greets the shoppers and passers-by with a big festive cheer. I come across the beautiful sight of tall and elegant Christmas trees, decorated with colourful light-bulbs, gift wrappings and stars, installed outside many restaurant complexes, shopping malls and film theatres. As the festival day gets nearer, people in offices go on long family vacations, giving themselves some of the best time of the year. It's always refreshing to see the world go around joyously, bearing nothing in their minds, almost as if there is no worry in the life of man.

If only we can live every day of our lives as we do on a festival day! Maybe that is what the season of winter is all about – freezing us on the outside with all that cold but also filling us with a desire for warmth and a feeling of well being inside our hearts.

As December progresses to January, slowly, days start to get longer again. A glint of golden sunshine stays visible upon the evening sky even when the clock is ticking itself to 06:00. And for some unknown reason, looking at this still bright evening sky fills me with hope.

Originally published on www.naturewriting.com/winter-trees/ on January 15, 2018.



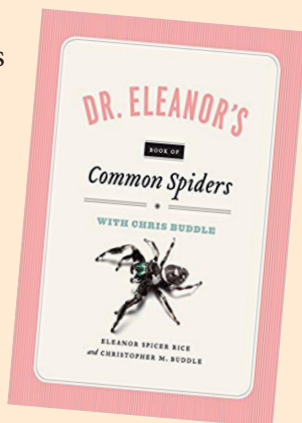
Book Nook: Natural History

Books Worth a Read

Dr. Eleanor's Book of Common Spiders

CHRISTOPHER M. BUDDLE AND ELEANOR SPICER RICE

Spiders have a problem, and it's us. Despite their magnificent talents for crafting webs, capturing mosquitoes, and camouflage, for millennia arachnophobia has hampered our ability to appreciate these eight-legged and -eyed marvels.



No longer! In this witty, accessible, and beautifully illustrated guide, Christopher M. Buddle and Eleanor Spicer Rice metamorphose creepy-crawly revulsion into spider wonder. Emerging from ambitious citizen science project Your Wild Life (an initiative based at North Carolina State University), *Dr. Eleanor's Book of Common Spiders* provides an eye-opening arachnological overview of the natural history of species most noted by project participants, showcasing some of the fascinating spiders found in our attics and tents, front lawns and forests—and even introducing us to spiders that fish. Exploring species from the tiny (but gymnastic) zebra jumping spider to the naturally shy and woefully misunderstood black widow, this guide will be a tremendous resource for teachers, students, and scientists alike. But more than this, it will transform the way we perceive the environment around us by deepening our understanding of its littlest inhabitants, inspiring all of us to find our inner naturalist, get outside, and crawl across the dirt—magnifying glass in hand. [I love it! Must get a copy!!!]

Extreme Conservation: Life at the Edges of the Water

JOEL BERGER

On the Tibetan Plateau, there are wild yaks with blood cells thinner than those of horses' by half, enabling the endangered yaks to survive at 40 below zero and in the lowest oxygen levels of the mountaintops. But climate change is causing the snow patterns here to shift, and with the snows, the entire ecosystem. Food and water are vaporizing in this warming environment, and these beasts of ice and thin air are extraordinarily ill-equipped for the change. A journey into some of the most forbidding landscapes on earth, Joel Berger's *Extreme Conservation* is an eye-opening, steely look at what it takes for animals like these to live at the edges of existence. But more than this, it is a revealing exploration of how climate change and people are affecting even the most far-flung niches of our planet.



Berger's quest to understand these creatures' struggles takes him to some of the most remote corners and peaks of the globe: across Arctic tundra and the frozen Chukchi Sea to study muskoxen, into the Bhutanese Himalayas to follow the rarely sighted takin, and through the Gobi Desert to track the proboscis-swinging saiga.

Known as much for his rigorous, scientific methods of developing solutions to conservation challenges as for his penchant for donning moose and polar bear costumes to understand the mindsets of his subjects more closely, Berger is a guide par excellence. He is a scientist and storyteller who has made his life working with desert nomads, in zones that typically require Sherpas and oxygen canisters. Recounting animals as charismatic as their landscapes are extreme, Berger's unforgettable tale carries us with humor and expertise to the ends of the earth and back. But as his adventures show, the more adapted a species has become to its particular ecological niche, the more devastating climate change can be. Life at the extremes is more challenging than ever, and the need for action, for solutions, has never been greater.

If you have any recent science, nature or natural history book recommendations that you would like to share with the community, please send them to Ann Wasser at ann@seversondells.org or call 815-335-2915

Thank You Volunteers!

The Severson Dells staff would like to say a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who make it possible for this organization to be successful. We are so grateful to have volunteers who support our education programs, restoration work days, help at the front desk, collect data as citizen scientists and last, but not least, act as board members. Without their generous commitment to Severson Dells, we would not be able to have the impact in this community that we do.

THANK YOU!

Strategic Plan

The Severson Dells Board and Staff are happy to announce the release of the new Strategic Plan. This plan will help focus our efforts over the next five years to be the best we can be for the community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at (815) 335-2915 or email ann@seversondells.org or board@seversondells.org.

SEVERSON DELLS
NATURE CENTER



STRATEGIC PLAN
2018-2023



MEMORIALS

Joseph Altamore, Jone Bennett,
Phillip Bennett, Mary Blackmore's Birthday,
Darlene Carlson, Larry Craglione,
Dorothy Cwynar,
Denise & Dan Delanty's 30th Wedding
Anniversary, Rena Demarco,
James E. Ditsworth, Santos F. Escamilla,
Lucy Frisella, Elizabeth Getty, John M. Girardin,
Lowell T. Hagaman, Ann Halsted,
Neva Elise Holdmann, Fred and Betty Kalivoda,
Mary A. Keating, Maria F. Konopka,
Rose Korsky, Donald Kueng, Dennis Leaf,
Albert F. Liberatori, Jr., Marie A. Maggio,
Janice Mason, Diane Massee,
Sandra L. McCullough, Roberta Mink,
Luisa Moctezuma, Theodore Paratore,
Marian Perrecone, William Pielak, Daryl Poci,
Juan Anaya Rebolledo, Lydia Reola,
Louis Ricotta, Mary Ann Rondone,
Salvador Sciortino, Marie A. Sherman,
Katherine Spera, James Tibbett, Sr.,
Lon E. Tryggstad, Rosalie Vascellaro,
Walter Wyzujak, Rose Mary Zammuto



Become a Member of "Friends of Severson Dells" or give an additional gift

Members receive:

- Discount at Severson Dells' Gift Shop
- Reduced admissions to Severson Dells programs
- Members-only programs at Severson Dells
- Early Summer Camp registration
- Check-out privileges at Severson Dells Library
- "Notes From the Dells" quarterly newsletter with calendar of programs and special events
- free admission to participating Association of Nature Center Administrators member nature centers around the country

Annual Membership:

- ___ Individual \$40
- ___ Family \$65
- ___ Sponsor \$125
- ___ Benefactor \$300
- ___ Sustaining \$600
- ___ Patron \$1000

Become a member online at

www.seversondells.org/become-a-member/

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to support the mission of SDNC
with a gift of _____ at this time.

*Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.
Please consult your tax professional.*

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Name Severson Dells Nature Center in your will
or bequest. You will help us raise the next
generation of earth stewards. Contact your
attorney or financial advisor for advice.

Severson Dells Activities: 815-335-2915
Cut out and post where you keep track of your family's activities!

October 2018

- 02 Native Harvest: Seed Collection and Dispersal 1:00 PM-4:00 PM.
- 02 Yoga at The Dells 6 PM-7:30 PM
- 03 Twilight Ramble at Kieselburg Forest Preserve 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
- 06 Leopold Shack, Farm and Foundation Trip 7:00 AM-6:00 PM
- 13 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
- 13 Scouting Skills: Bugs for Brownies 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- 17 Twilight Ramble at Severson Dells Forest Preserve 5:30 PM-7:00 PM
- 18 Home School Program-Outdoor Skills 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
- 20 Home School Program-Porcupine Quillwork 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- 21 Nature Journaling Club 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
- 22 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
- 25 Annual Breakfast at The Pavilion at Orchard Ridge Farms 7:30 AM-8:30 AM
- 27 Science Saturday: Oaktober Fest 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- 28 Why Does My Hip or Knee Hurt? 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

November 2018

- 03 Community Drum Circle 5:00 PM-6:30 PM
- 06 Yoga at The Dells 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
- 10 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9:00 PM-12:00 PM
- 10 Scouting Skills: Basketry for Boy Scout Basketry Badge 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- 14 Night Hike at Severson Dells Forest Preserve 5:30 PM-7:00 PM
- 15 Home School Program-Animals Prepare for Winter 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
- 18 Nature Journaling Club 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
- 26 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

December 2018

- 01 Scouting Skills: Primitive Camper for Cadettes 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- 04 Yoga at The Dells 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
- 07 Luminaria Walk 6:00 PM-9:00 PM
- 08 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9:00 PM-12:00 PM
- 08 Luminaria Walk 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM
- 15 Reconnecting through Deep Ecology 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
- 16 Nature Journaling Club 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
- 20 Home School Program-Predator Prey Palooza 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Boundary Waters Winter Adventure- February 5-9, 2019



NOTES FROM THE DELLS

Severson Dells Nature Center
8786 Montague Road
Rockford, IL 61102-9713

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rockford, IL 61125
Permit No. 513

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CONTACT INFO

Telephone: 1-815-335-2915
Fax: 1-815-335-2471
www.seversondells.org
e-mail: ann@seversondells.org

Building Hours

Monday - Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Grounds open daily Sunrise to Sunset

Severson Dells Nature Center Staff

Ann Wasser - Director
Nancy Bleile - Administrative Assistant
Ellen Rathbone - Nature Educator
Greg Rajskey - Naturalist / Educator



Severson Dells Nature Center
is a cooperative effort with the
Forest Preserves of Winnebago
County.

Severson Dells Nature Center and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, will provide accommodations for those individuals with special needs. *(Please notify us in advance of your needs that may require special staffing.)*

Our Mission

To link people to nature through education and research, in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin area. We promote awareness of the natural world, fostering respect, enjoyment, and preservation now and in the future.



2018 Severson Dells Nature Center Board Members

President - Jake Loescher
Vice President - Daniel Huntley
Secretary - Denise Delanty
Treasurer - Dan Zeigler

Jack Armstrong, Joe Hemlock, Janet Johnson,
James Marshall, Patty Oliveri, Hans Rupert,
Toni Vander Heyden, Steve Vee, Lenae Weichel