

2018 AOTP Hiking Tours and Presentations

- 10:00 am to 11:15 am – **Birding Hike with Heather Herakovich at Clear Creek Knolls.**
Moderate. Explore on and off trail to search for grassland birds and learn how we study them. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 10:15 am to 11:30 am – **Prairie Hike with Mike Crowe at Thelma Carpenter Prairie.**
Moderate. Hike off trail on original prairie hills, search for amazing blue gentians! Good for older kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 10:30 am to 11:15 am – **Kids' Butterfly Walk with Jan Grainger around the AOTP Site.**
Easy. Take nets and hunt for butterflies. Meet at the Children's Tent.
- 10:30 am to 11 am – **Rainfall Simulator Demo with Caroline Wade, Illinois TNC Director of Agriculture.** The Rainfall Simulator provides a visual demonstration of how storm water moves over soil. Meet at the trailer.
- 10:45 am to 12:30 pm – **Prairie Hike with Al and Mary Meier at Dot and Doug Wade Prairie.** Moderate. Hike off trail up hills through remnants and restorations. Good for kids. Limited to one truckload. May be cancelled if bison are in the area. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 11:00 am to 12:50 pm – **Prairie and Photography Hike with Mike Adolph and Charles Larry at Thelma Carpenter Prairie.** Moderate. Walk off-trail to learn about the history, successes, and challenges of this dry prairie and work with Charles to get some great photos. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 11:15 am to 12:00 pm – **Bison Tales Program with Brian "Fox" Ellis.** Across the vast prairies, the Native people have long had a deep relationship with Tatanka, the bison, and it is best expressed in their legends and folklore. Storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis will share stories, both true and tall, mixed with songs and science about these mighty spirits of the plains. Meet in the Presentations Tent.
- 11:30 am to 12:15 pm – **Prairie Hike with Kirk Hallowell around the AOTP Site.** Moderate. Walk a loop from the festival site off-trail through prairie. This hike will feature a discussion of the work that volunteers do at Nachusa. Find your place on the prairie! Start at the Hiking Tours Tent.
- 11:45 am to 1:20 pm – **Prairie Hike with Bernie Buchholz at Gobbler Ridge.** Moderate. Hike prairie plantings and a relic knob; moderate exertion with tall vegetation and uneven ground; 0.5 - 0.75 miles. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 12 pm to 12:45 pm – **Seeing the Prairie Through Native Eyes Hike with Brian "Fox" Ellis around the AOTP Site.** Moderate. Join this guided hike through time as we explore the ethnobotany, the Native uses of plants. We will explore the ways our indigenous fore bearers interacted with the prairie ecosystem and learn some of the medicinal qualities of plants. Good for kids. Start by the Presentations Tent.

- 12:15 pm to 1:35 pm – **Butterfly Hike with John Ayres at Thelma Carpenter Prairie.** Moderately strenuous; Hike on and off trail in open areas with hills, searching for regal fritillaries and other butterflies, stopping often to capture whatever appears, identify, and release them. Limited to one truckload. Good for kids. Start at the Tours Table. Transportation out and back.
- 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm – **Live Birds of Prey Program by Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education.** Learn about peregrine falcons, barred owls, screech owls, American kestrels, and red tail hawks. Meet in the Presentations Tent.
- 12:45 pm to 2:20 pm – **Prairie Hike with Mike Carr at Big Jump Prairie.** Moderate to Strenuous. Hike off-trail through dense vegetation at times as well as up and down hills through rolling prairie and along a creek. We will see restoration in progress along the creek and a hillside remnant prairie. We will also look at the difficult process of removing woody brush resprouts from reclaimed savanna. Children over 12 years old welcome. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – **Prairie Hike with Joe Richardson at Hook Larson Prairie.** Moderate on-trail hike, viewing different habitat ranging from high, dry mesic to low, wet mesic prairie restorations and remnant prairie knobs. Depending on dress of participants, we may make short excursions off trail. Limited to one truckload. May be cancelled if bison are in the area. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm – **Savanna Hike with Kevin Kaltenbach at Tellabs.** Moderate, Two-mile hike, mostly on trails, out to the wetlands and back through oak woodlands and prairie plantings. Will you see the rare, red-headed woodpeckers or spy a wild turkey? Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm – **Kids' Butterfly Walk with Mike Adolph around the AOTP Site.** Easy. Take nets and hunt for butterflies. Meet at the Children's Tent.
- 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm – **Prairie Tales Program with Brian "Fox" Ellis.** Explore the natural history of this diverse ecosystem through stories and songs. Pioneer history and ecology blend in this celebration of one of America's most diverse and magnificent ecosystems. Through the adventures of a seed, journey through the four seasons with the plants and animals that call the prairie home. Learn of the struggles and successes to restore the prairie to America's heartland. Meet in the Presentations Tent.
- 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm – **Science on the Prairie Hike with Sheryl Hosler at Clear Creek Knolls.** Moderate. Take a look at some of the study plots used by researchers at Nachusa, with a chance to ask one of those researchers all your questions! Sheryl will talk about experimental designs, methods, and important research focus areas., including burned versus unburned sites, research grids, and coyote exclosures. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 2:15 pm to 3:50 pm – **Blanding's Turtles Hike with Richard King at Tellabs Wetland.** Moderate. Learn what is being done to save these rare turtles. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.

- 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm – **Seeing the Prairie Through Pioneering Eyes Hike with Brian “Fox” Ellis around the AOTP Site.** Moderate. More than food and forage, the prairie provided a wide range of cultural materials for the first pioneers. Medicinal and edible plants, soils and big picture ecology will be explored in this participatory hike. Good for kids. Start by the Presentations Tent.
- 2:45 pm to 4:05 pm – **Savanna Hike with Mark Jordan at Tellabs.** Moderate. Hike in woodlands and prairie with some gentle climbing to the top of a sandstone bluff. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm – **Rainfall Simulator Demo with Caroline Wade, Illinois TNC Director of Agriculture.** The Rainfall Simulator provides a visual demonstration of how storm water moves over soil. Meet at the trailer.
- 3:00 pm to 4:35 pm – **Dragonflies and Wildflowers Hike with Cindy Crosby at Clear Creek Knolls.** Moderate. See beautiful fall blooming wildflowers and any late season dragonflies and damselflies, plus enjoy a view of Nachusa from atop Fame Flower Knob. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. – **Prairie Hike with Dick Gambrel around the AOTP Site.** Moderate. Walk a loop from the festival site off-trail through prairie and learn about what we do at Nachusa Grasslands. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent.
- 3:30 to 4:45 pm – **Woodland Hike with Josh Clark at Stone Barn Savanna.** Moderate. Hike through a woodland on trails. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 3:45 pm to 4:55 pm – **Bison Corral Tour with Damian Considine.** Easy. See our state-of-the-art corral, where we round up the bison once a year for a vet check. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.