

2019 AOTP Hiking Tours and Presentations

- 10:15 am to 11:30 am – **Photography Hike with Charles Larry at Stone Barn Savanna.**
Easy. View and photograph rock formations, plants, and wildlife. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 10:30 am to 11:45 am – **Prairie Gentian Hike with Mike Crowe at Thelma Carpenter Prairie.** Moderate. Hike off trail on original prairie hills and search for amazing blue gentians! Good for older kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 10:45 am to 11:30 am – **Kids' Butterfly Walk with Jan Grainger around the AOTP Site.**
Easy. Take nets and hunt for butterflies among wildflowers. Meet at the Discovery Tent.
- 11:00 am to 12:15 pm – **Bison Unit Restoration Challenges Hike with Al and Mary Meier at Dot and Doug Wade Prairie.** Moderate. Hike off trail up hills through remnants and restorations, observing bison wallows and paths. 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.
- 11:15 am to 12:00 pm – **Prince Maximilian – Touring the Wilderness of North America Program with Brian “Fox” Ellis.** Join the Prince of Wied, Maximilian, as he takes you on a tour of North America as he saw it in 1832-34. Prince Maximilian will escort the audience on an adventure across the prairie to the Great Falls of the Missouri River. Travel with this intrepid explorer to meet America’s best scientific minds, explore the West in the wake of Lewis and Clark, and participate in traditional American Indian drumming songs. The audience will be immersed in the cultures and customs of the First Americans, including encounters with Black Hawk and Four Bears. Storyteller and author Brian “Fox” Ellis steps into the shoes of Prince Maximilian, allowing the audience to step back in time. Much of the text for this performance comes directly from the Prince’s recently transcribed and translated journals. Fox brings a small museum of American Indian artifacts including drums, buckskin, buffalo robes, and peace medals. The backdrop includes the distinctive landscapes of the West, portraits of American Indians, and the scenes from everyday life painted by Karl Bodmer. Meet in the Presentations Tent.
- 11:45 pm to 1:00 pm – **Butterfly Hike with John Ayres at Thelma Carpenter Prairie.**
Moderate. 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 Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 12 pm to 12:45 pm – **Hiking with the Prince Hike with Brian “Fox” Ellis around the AOTP Site.** Easy. Maximilian’s Sunflower and a MAP turtle are just two of more than 70 species the prince discovered in his journey across the prairies of America. Join him as we ramble across the prairie landscape and he regales you with the tales of his discoveries. Good for kids. Start by the Presentations Tent.
- 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm – **Botanizing on Fame Flower Knob Hike with Bernie Buchholz.**
Moderate. Tour a restored remnant and plantings. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.

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- 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 2:15 pm – **Sandstone Bluffs, Oaks, and Grasses Hike with Mark Jordan at Tellabs Savanna.** Moderate. Visit the Tellabs woodlands, sandstone bluffs, savannas and prairies. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm – **Wildlife Hike with Kevin Kaltenbach at Tellabs Savanna.** 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.
- 1:15 pm to 2:45 p.m. – **Science on the Prairie Hike with Elizabeth Bach at Clear Creek Knolls and the Visitor Center.** Moderate. Visit examples of scientific research at Nachusa Grasslands. We will view part of the Northern Illinois University experiment, which includes an area that fences out coyotes. Then we'll hike down to Clear Creek stream and discuss citizen science stream monitoring and mosquito research. The tour will include a stop at the fire plots near the Visitor Center. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm – **Adventures in Nature – Ecological Tales That Teach Scientific Literacy through Story-Telling and Song Program with Brian “Fox” Ellis.** Fox has created these tales with the help of a dragonfly, a burr oak tree, and a mountain lion. This performance brings the water cycle and food web to life through the personal narrative, including “The Web at Dragonfly Pond,” Fox’s award-winning book published by Dawn Publications. This family-friendly program includes a mix of true stories, poetry, folklore, songs, and audience participation, blending scientific inquiry and literacy with high adventure! Meet in the Presentations Tent.
- 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm – **Grasslands 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.
- 2:15 pm to 3:30 pm – **Blanding’s Turtles Hike with Jess Fliginger at Tellabs Wetland.** Moderate. Learn what is being done to save these rare turtles. Good for older kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm – **A Mini-Bio-Blitz Hike with Brian “Fox” Ellis around the AOTP Site.** Easy. With field guides in hand, binoculars and magnifying glasses, butterfly nets and sweep nets we will see how many species we can find and identify, learning basic ID skills that will enrich our every trip into the wild. Good for kids. Start by the Presentations Tent.

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- 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm – **Early Restoration Worksite Hike with Mike Carr at Orland Prairie.** Easy. Hike around the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Community Stewardship Challenge Grant Program site through newly cleared areas of dense brush. See how new native plants are moving into the bare ground. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm – **Frogs of Nachusa Grasslands Hike with Paul Swanson at Tellabs Ponds.** Moderate. We will learn about frog monitoring as we explore ephemeral ponds and the surrounding area in the Tellabs unit. Good for kids. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent. Transportation out and back.
- 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm – **The Joys of Volunteering Hike with Kirk Hallowell around the AOTP Site.** Moderate. Learn how you can experience the joy and satisfaction of volunteering at Nachusa. This walking tour from the site will include a discussion of the many ways you can contribute to the effort to restore Illinois prairie. Start at the Hiking Tours Tent.