

A Pottawattamie County Almanac (Overview)



Mar: Introduction & Loess Hills Overview / Aldo Leopold's Legacy / **M**other **N**ature's **C**alendar (**MNC**) / Nature Journaling / Nature's March Madness: Migration "**Geese Return**" by Aldo Leopold (**A.L.**)

April: **MNC** / The Mighty Bur Oak / Woodland Wildflower Watch / Nature Journaling / "**Bur Oak**" by **A.L.**
Marj Garabrandt (Associate Professor Emeritus IWCC...botany & plant taxonomy expertise)

May: **MNC** / Morels, Fungi & Lichens / Least Terns & Piping Plovers / "**Back From The Argentine**" by **A.L.**
Mary Bomberger Brown (UNL Research Assistant Professor...Director of Tern & Plover Conservation Partnership)

June: **MNC** / Loess Hills Limnology: biotic & abiotic components of a freshwater ecosystem. / Invasive species / "**The Alder Fork – A Fish Idyl**" by **A. L.**

July: **MNC** / Prairie vs. Woodland: A quadrant study in biodiversity / Using a dichotomous key / "**Prairie Birthday**" by **A.L.**
Chad Graeve

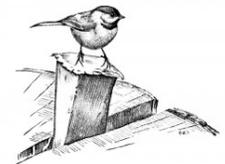
Aug: **MNC** / A Chorus of Insects / Arthropod ramble / Monarch Migration & Tagging / "**The Green Pasture**" by **A.L.**



Sept: **MNC** / Ornithology 101: Bird Identification / Fontenelle Forest Raptor Recovery (**Hawk release?**) / "**The Choral Copse**" by **A.L.**
Denise Lewis (Fontenelle Forest Raptor Recovery)

Oct: **MNC** / Autumn Splendor: Why the Color Change? / The Cycle of Life: Photosynthesis & Cellular Respiration / Fall Nature Photography / "**Red Lantern**" by **A.L.**
Don Poggensee (Professional Photographer Wind Rider Images....Ida Grove, IA)

Nov: **MNC** / Waste Not & Want Not: Nature's Recyclers / "**Odyssey**" by **A.L.**
"**A Mighty Fortress**" by **A.L.**



Dec: **MNC** / Jane Goodall's "**10 Trusts**" / Winter bird feeding / Secret Language of Snow/Animal Adaptations / Sig Olson & Rachel Carson: The Power of Wonder / "**Home Range**" by **A.L.**

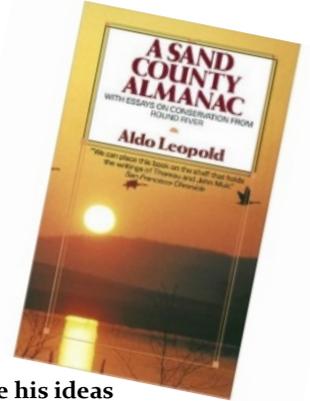


A Pottawattamie County Almanac

Free Introductory Class

(@2 hours)

- Introduction of myself and others in attendance
- Course overview
- Classes inspired by *A Sand County Almanac* (ASCA) by Aldo Leopold
 - Who was Leopold?
 - How many of you have read ASCA?
 - Much of today's ecological understanding is rooting in ASCA & Leopold.
 - Show short power point of Aldo Leopold.
- Quote of the Day: (All sessions will begin with a Leopold quotation). We will integrate his ideas throughout the duration of the coursework.
 - *"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."*
- ASCA...February: "This Good Oak".
 - *There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace."*
 - Read selected paragraphs from the book to the participants.
- Mother Nature's Calendar for February. (We will incorporate a MNC for each month of the PCA identifying the natural events that occur during the passing of each calendar page.)
- Short ramble on nature trail:
 - Sensory hike; what do you see, hear, smell, feel, etc. / animal & plant evidence etc.
 - Journaling discussion (write and sketch)
 - What is phenology? Why is it important?
- Leopold's legacy is carried on by so many naturalists, scientists and conservationists. We will take time to share a few of these remarkable individuals along the way including Sigurd Olson, Rachel Carson, Jane Goodall to name a few.)
 - Sylvan Runkel
 - Short power point on who he was and his legacy
 - Sylvans' song. (play tape of him singing?)
 - End by singing my re-write of John Denver's "I Guess He'd Rather Be In Colorado" ("I Guess He'd Rather Be in Western Iowa").
 - *"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."*



– Marcel Proust
French novelist

Reminder: If you sign up for any or all of the classes, please dress appropriately for weather and weather changes, good walking shoes, journal, water container etc.

