



Nature Programs

Certified Interpretive Guide Training

Feb 12 & 19: Anita Purves Nature Center

Feb 26 & Mar 4: Museum of the Grand Prairie, Mahomet

8:30am-5pm each day

Age 16 and up

The Urbana Park District and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, in partnership with the National Association for Interpretation, are offering a professional certification course for individuals who may be delivering programs or having public contact at interpretive sites. The 32-hour course includes:

- History and principles of interpretation
- Making your programs purposeful, enjoyable, relevant, organized, and thematic
- Presentation and communication skills
- Workbook, and CIG course textbook

Registration and fees available online at

http://www.interpnet.com/nai/nai/_certification/CIG_Workshops/CIG-2016-02-IL.aspx

For more information contact Stacey Clementz at sclementz@ccfpd.org or 217-896-2455.

Project Learning Tree®:

Teaching "Out of the Box"

Wednesdays, March 30, April 6 and April 13

6-8pm each day

Anita Purves Nature Center

Fee: \$55 Includes PLT® Activity Guide and resources

Facilitators: Savannah Donovan, Urbana Park District & Stacey Clementz, Champaign County Forest Preserve District

This workshop is for adult leaders of scouts, 4H, homeschoolers and other children in grades K-6.

- Learn how to use local educational loan boxes to develop high-quality environmental education activities on a tight budget.
- Take home a guide with 96 activities that you can adapt to fit your needs.

Project Learning Tree® is a collection of award winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education activity guides and is a program of the American Forest Foundation. This is a collaborative training between the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and the Urbana Park District.

Cost	Deadline	Code
\$55R/NR	Mar 16	3695

Butterflies, Bees & Blooms: Identifying Pollinators and Their Plants

Monday, April 18

6:30-8pm

Anita Purves Nature Center

Age 15 and Up

Learn how to identify common butterfly and bee pollinators in your yard and the plants they need to survive. Join local entomologist and wildflower aficionado John Marlin to explore which bees are buzzing and which are becoming rare. Then, butterfly experts Dr. Michael Jeffords and Susan Post (authors of *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Illinois*) will introduce some of the fantastic creatures we call butterflies. Copies of their field guide will be for sale at the nature center's Audubon Nature Shop after the presentation.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$3R/\$5NR	Apr 4	\$4R/\$6NR	Apr 16	3696



Organic Gardens: Community Gardening in Meadowbrook Park

Growing Season: Mar 6-Nov 6, 2016
Age 18 and up

Garden at the oldest local organic community gardens! Since 1975, the Meadowbrook Organic Garden program has supported healthy bodies and a healthy community. We provide space, water, hoses and wheelbarrows. You supply tools, plants, labor, and optional fencing. A garden supervisor can assist with questions or concerns. Garden plots are rented in "as is" condition, and participation is at your own risk.

This is a community garden and interaction with the general public is expected and encouraged. For more information, call 217-384-4062 or read the garden manual at

www.urbanaparks.org/parks/meadowbrook-park/

To Register for a Garden Plot

- Register by calling 217-367-1544 or completing the registration form on page 63. Online registration is not available.
- In addition to the plot rental fee, gardeners pay a \$30 deposit. The deposit is returned at the end of the growing season if the gardener abides by the Urbana Park District's published guidelines. Returning gardeners in good standing earn a discounted deposit.
- New gardeners must attend a Garden Meeting at the Anita Purves Nature Center where garden plot selection will take place. You must register and pay for the garden at least two days prior to attending a meeting.

Day	Date	Time	Register meeting/plot by
Tue	Feb 16	7-8pm	Feb 13
Sat	Mar 5	1-2pm	Mar 3
Thu	Mar 24	7-8pm	Mar 22
Wed	Apr 13	5:30-6:30pm	Apr 11
Sat	Apr 30	10-11am	Apr 28
Tue	May 17	7-8pm	May 14

Plot Size	Cost	Code
Raised Plot 11'x3'	\$20R/\$30NR	3694
Half Plot 17'x15'	\$30R/\$45NR	3692
Full Plot 17'x30'	\$50R/\$75NR	3691

Raised plot are ADA accessible



The Nature of Watercolors—Basic Watercolor Techniques

Saturday, April 2 from 1-3:30pm

Anita Purves Nature Center

Adults (age 15 and up)

Program leader: Cora Hays, Biological Illustrator

Watercolors are a wonderful tool for illustrating the natural world. With a little direction, they can capture the most subtle spring hues. Watercolors are a fluid medium that may seem to defy precise control. However, they are often used to great effect in scientific illustrations. Knowing the right materials and techniques to use can make this medium do most of the work for you. This class will offer a basic introduction to watercolor painting and explore its applications for botanical and biological illustration. Supplies will be provided. No prior experience necessary. Space is limited!

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$18R/\$27NR	Mar 19	\$20R/\$30NR	Mar 26	3710

Team Building Facilitation

Monday, Feb 8

6-9pm

Anita Purves Nature Center

Age 18 and Up

Explore fun ways to build a team or just get along with people you work with. Gain tools to challenge your group and get them cooperating! We will play and learn "ground initiatives" that require little to no supplies. Take home an activity booklet.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$10R/\$12NR	Jan 25	\$12R/\$15NR	Feb 1	3752

FREE! School Tour Volunteer

Orientation

Monday, March 28

9am-12pm

Anita Purves Nature Center

Age 18 and up

Hone your natural history knowledge and leadership skills, and make a difference to more than 3,000 children who visit the nature center each year. Share the excitement of teaching while exploring Busey Woods and Meadowbrook Prairie. Volunteers learn to guide many fun and easy nature activities as they lead tours at these sites. To be a volunteer, you must be available on a weekday morning or afternoon. Register at least two days before the orientation, or arrange an alternate orientation time by calling 217-384-4062.



Outdoor Teaching Introduction Series

Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 18 and Up

A sense of wonder and the kid at heart will be the theme for this workshop series for the curious. Explore the natural world and discover fun and engaging ways to share what we know with all ages. These hands-on workshops are largely outdoors so be ready to play, explore and get dirty! They are geared toward folks wanting to be outdoor nature leaders – perfect for new educators, homeschool parents and camp, scout and afterschool leaders. It is also for those who just want to renew their outdoor/nature activity repertoire. To make these workshops more affordable for educators, resident and nonresident fees are the same.



Nature Hikes 101

Monday, March 28
6-8:30pm

We will look under logs, peek into ponds, discover fun ways to remember and identify birds, and explore ways to connect kids with learning. You will take home a ready to use tricks-of-the-trade pack as well as a renewed sense of awe.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$20R/NR	Mar 14	\$25R/NR	Mar 21	3749

Night Hiking

Monday, April 11
6-8:30pm

Explore the woods at night time and build on your nature activity collection. Our senses will be tested as we demonstrate night vision adaptations, explore the world through touch like raccoons, and hone our listening skills for nocturnal creatures.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$12R/NR	Mar 28	\$15R/NR	Apr 4	3750

Focus on Reflection

Monday, April 25
6-8:30pm

Discover activities that help students gain a sense of connection to nature. We will go on a solo hike, try different journaling techniques and make a sound map.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$12R/NR	Apr 11	\$15R/NR	Apr 18	3751

Save money and sign up for the entire three-workshop series!

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$40R/NR	Mar 14	\$50R/NR	Mar 21	3932

Come Visit Live Animals!



Come meet snakes, turtles and owls at the Anita Purves Nature Center and learn how you can “Adopt an Education Animal”. If you adopt an animal by January 29, you’ll receive an invitation to our exclusive Animal Adoption Party on Friday, February 5. For an up-close visit with the screech owls, see Owl Prowl below.



Owl Prowl

*Saturday, January 30
7-9pm*

Anita Purves Nature Center

Age 6 and up (under 15 with a registered adult)

Explore Busey Woods at night in search of owls with Illinois Natural History Survey Avian Specialist Tara Beveroth. Start with a native Illinois owls multimedia presentation. Then head outside to hopefully hear them call. After the hike, meet the Anita Purves Nature Center’s resident screech owls and warm up with hot cocoa. Fees for this hike support the care of the nature center’s education animals. **Dress for wet, cold and slippery conditions.** Hikes are on non-paved or boardwalk trails. Please no strollers.

Date	EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
Jan 30	\$7R/\$11NR	Jan 16	\$9R/\$14NR	Jan 23	3697

Prices are per person

FREE! Nature Center Pre-K Fridays

*Drop in Fridays from 9am-12pm
Jan 22-Feb 26*

Anita Purves Nature Center

Kids age 6 and under and their families can visit to discover self-guided activities just for little naturalists. Cure cabin fever by getting outdoors — even in the middle of winter. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Hiking Tykes

*Fridays
10-11am*

*Busey Woods & Crystal Lake Park
Ages 3-6 with adult*

Take your tyke on a trek to experience hands-on nature. A guide will lead themed trail activities and ensure safe exploration. Hikes will be on dirt, grass and boardwalk trails; please come prepared. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Indoor exploration will be planned if necessary.

Date	EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
Apr 1	\$6R/\$9NR	Mar 18	\$7R/\$11NR	Mar 25	3700
Apr 8	\$6R/\$9NR	Mar 25	\$7R/\$11NR	Apr 1	3701
Apr 15	\$6R/\$9NR	Apr 1	\$7R/\$11NR	Apr 8	3702
Apr 22	\$6R/\$9NR	Apr 8	\$7R/\$11NR	Apr 15	3703
All Programs	\$22R/\$33NR	Mar 18	\$24R/\$36NR	Mar 25	3699

Single class drop-in rate: \$8R/\$12NR per child; arrive by 9:45am to register

Adopt an Education Animal

The nature center’s education animals help to demonstrate the variety of wildlife living in Illinois. Your financial contribution or “adoption” helps provide animals the care and the food they need. For more information, please call 217-384-4062 and ask for an adoption brochure. Or download one from the bottom of the Anita Purves Nature Center page at:

www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/



Come See What's Free!

FREE! The Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 13

9am-4pm

Guided hikes at 10am and 3pm

Anita Purves Nature Center

All ages (under 15 with adult)

Help with bird conservation by counting birds. Anyone can participate—count for as little or as long as you wish! Record the birds you see through the windowed Wildlife Observation Room and during guided hikes. Instruction in bird identification will be provided. Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars if you have them or borrow a pair at the nature center. Free activity stations will also be available. To learn more about this annual four-day-long nationwide event, visit gbbc.birdcount.org/.

FREE! Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Sundays, Mar 6-May 29

7:30-9am

Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot

All ages (under 15 with adult)

Birding is an adventure for the whole family. Walk along with a Champaign County Audubon Society leader early on Sunday mornings to search for birds in Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. Learn basic bird watching and identification techniques. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them or borrow one from the Anita Purves Nature Center with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 (pick up M-Sa 9am-4pm).

FREE! Woodcock Walk

Wednesday, March 23

7-8pm

Meadowbrook Interpretive Center

All ages (under 15 with adult)

Discover the secret life of the bird with the upside-down brain when you take a free guided twilight stroll with Champaign County Audubon Society members. Find out why this bird has so many other intriguing names like Labrador Twister, Pop-eyed Shot Dodger and Mud Snipe. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them.

We will hike through muddy and non-paved surfaces. Please, no strollers. Call 217-384-4062 by March 21 if you plan on attending.

FREE! EarthCare Expo & Nature Hike

Saturday, April 23

Nature Hike, 1-2pm

EarthCare Expo from 2-4pm

Anita Purves Nature Center

Celebrate Earth Day as you meet Earth-friendly folks and engage with hands-on displays and activities for all ages. Co-sponsored by the Urbana Park District, Faith in Place and C/U Interfaith Alliance, the event will feature displays and reports from Faith in Place partners in and around Champaign and Urbana. Before the Expo, enjoy a guided nature hike through Busey Woods; call 217-384-4062 with questions. No pre-registration is required. For more information, visit www.faithinplace.org and click on Events.



Natural Areas

Our goal for these natural areas is to restore areas characteristic of Illinois' most diverse habitats. Restoration includes planting and seeding native plants, removing nuisance plants, and conducting prescribed burns to encourage healthy growth. Learn more about each of these areas at:

www.urbanaparks.org/parks/natural-areas/

Natural areas are open sunrise to sunset. Naturalists are available, and classes are designed for all age groups and interests. To inquire about programs and services, call the Anita Purves Nature Center at 217-384-4062. Visit page 14 for information.

Help us maintain these natural areas by not collecting items, walking pets or cycling.

Meadowbrook Prairie

Prairie was the dominant natural feature of Illinois before the settlers arrived. Since 1978, the Urbana Park District and countless volunteers have worked to re-create approximately 80 acres of Illinois native landscape. Visit this park in south Urbana, along Windsor Road and Race Street, and explore and enjoy a part of Illinois' natural history that has all but disappeared.

Commissioners Grove & Wetland in Weaver Park

With help from volunteers, the Urbana Park District is restoring a variety of ecosystems at this quietly emerging park. Located south of the intersection of Main Street and Smith Road, this 60-acre park contains

- An in-progress 5-acre woodland/savanna restoration
- Newly-established 35 acres planted with prairie
- Native grasses
- An award-winning watershed management wetland

Perkins Road Wet Prairie

With help from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation 2000 program, the district is restoring 35 acres behind the dog park. Once restored, the park will include prairie and wetland environments for wildlife observation, environmental education programs and recreation. For a sneak peek at this developing natural area, attend a Stewardship Saturday.

Busey Woods

Busey Woods is a 59-acre bottomland oak-hickory forest. It is located at the north end of Crystal Lake Park with an entrance just west of the Anita Purves Nature Center. The C-U Optimist Club sponsors management of Busey Woods.

The Urbana Park District is tackling some large improvement projects in a few of our natural areas. To find out more about what is planned and what is taking place now, please visit www.urbanaparks.org/projects/

Stewardship Saturdays

Dress for the weather and lend a hand while learning about local natural areas. During Stewardship Saturdays, volunteers assist with

- Invasive plant removal;
- Trail improvements and clean-up;
- Native plant seed harvest and/or planting

Tools, gloves, instruction and refreshments are provided.

Stewardship Saturday workdays are recommended for children 8 years and older, however accommodations for younger participants may be available with enough advance notice. All children under 16 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Large groups are welcome. Scouts and groups with children should call well in advance to make arrangements to help - an alternate workday may be required as some stewardship activities are not suit for children.

Let us know you will be attending by calling 217-384-4062 in advance.

For Busey Woods

- Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center

For Meadowbrook Park

- Meet at the Race Street parking lot south of Windsor Road

For Weaver Park

- Pull off at the intersection of Main Street and Smith Road

For Perkins Road Wet Prairie

- Meet at the Urbana Dog Park parking lot on Perkins Road, 1/2 mile east of Cunningham Avenue

Date	Time	Location
Jan 23	9-11 am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3 pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
Feb 13	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
Feb 27	9-11 am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
Mar 12	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
Mar 26	9-11 am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
Apr 9	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
Apr 23 (Boneyard Creek Clean-up day)	9-11 am	Crystal Lake Park Saline Creek (meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center)
May 14	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park