

Eagle River Nature Center
32750 Eagle River Road
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-2108 www.ernc.org

November-December 2018

Winter Building Hours:
Fridays-Sundays, 10am – 5pm
Groups by appointment



Friday, November 2, 7pm

Astronomy Series: AURORA BOREALIS

Colin Tyler Bogucki, photographer and assistant manager of the Nature Center, will show photos he's taken over the years of the northern lights.

Saturday, November 3, 11am-1pm "Open House"

Jr. Naturalist Program: MAKING BIRD FEEDERS

Make a bird feeder to take home, learn how to feed winter birds responsibly, and get recipes for homemade suet. *Bring an empty 2L soda bottle if you have one.*

Sunday, November 4, 2pm

HYPOTHERMIA

Deb Ajango of *Wilderness Medical Associates* will cover the wilderness first aid skills you need to prevent, detect, and treat hypothermia in the field.

Wednesday, November 7, 10:30am

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

FANTASTIC BEASTS: A Study of Adaptation

Discover how creatures—both real and mythical—might be adapted to their environments, then create your own beast to share! *For K-3rd graders.*

Saturday, November 10, 2pm

All Ages Program: BATS OF ALASKA

Marian Snively of the *AK Department of Fish and Game* discusses Alaskan bats and other facts about these often misunderstood creatures of the night, and learn about white-nose syndrome.

Sunday, November 11, 2pm

AVALANCHE RESCUE

While volunteers were digging out a deeply buried avalanche victim from an earlier avalanche at Seattle Creek in 2008, a new avalanche buried a skier. Learn about avalanche response and this amazing rescue from **Dean Knapp** of the *Alaska Mountain Rescue Group* who served as Operations Group leader.

Saturday, November 17, 11am-2pm

Special Workshop (\$45 fee, registration required)

GROW YOUR OWN MUSHROOMS

Mycologist **Christin Anderson** guides you through inoculating a substrate and growing your own oyster mushrooms at home. All materials included. Register at www.ernc.org.

Sunday, November 18, 2pm

AVALANCHE AWARENESS

Join AAA certified avalanche instructor **Blaine Smith** for an overview of avalanche awareness, weather, terrain, snow pack and decision-making.

Tuesday, November 20, 1-3pm

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Discover how the food we eat impacts the world around us by making a "climate change pizza". Try some unlikely ingredients and walk away feeling hopeful about the future and choices we can make to make the world a better place. *For 3rd-6th graders.* Registration at www.ernc.org.

Saturday, November 24, 2-3pm

All Ages: LIVE BIRD CELEBRATION

The **Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation Center** will showcase a red-tailed hawk and a great grey owl. Stop by anytime between 2-3pm and visit with the birds and their caretakers. Donations to Alaska WildBird welcome.

Sunday, November 25, 2pm

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL TO TANZANIA

Tanzania is home to the world's largest population of free-ranging mega fauna, such as is found in the Serengeti. Professor **Cindy Johnson** of *Gustavus College* has lived and taught in Tanzania, and will share photos and stories about this amazing country, wildlife, ecosystem and tribes, especially the Maasai and Hadzabe.

Wednesday, November 28, 10:30am or 1pm
Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)
GEOLOGY ROCKS

What can fossils and rocks tell us about the earth's past? Study plate tectonics, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and of course, Alaska's dinosaurs, and find out why Geology rocks! *For K-6th graders. Details and registration at www.ernc.org.*

Saturday, December 1, 2pm
All Ages Program: WINTER BIRDS 101

Naturalist and volunteer **Liza Sanden** will cover the basics of winter bird identification. *We hope this might entice you to join the **Eagle River-Chugiak Christmas Bird Count** on December 30, 2018.*

Sunday, December 2, 2pm

All Ages Program
DECK THE HALLS: Christmas Plant Folklore
Have you ever wondered why we kiss under the mistletoe? Or why poinsettias are associated with Christmas? And what is frankincense and myrrh anyway? **Cindy Johnson** explores holiday plants and the folklore behind them.

Thursday, December 6, 1-3pm
Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)
SNOW STUDIES

Take a close look at snowflakes and learn about how rain/hail/snow are formed in the atmosphere. We'll study the phase changes of water, learn about avalanches, and go snowshoeing, weather permitting. *For K-6th. Register at www.ernc.org.*

Friday, December 7, 7pm
Astronomy Series: GALAXY CLUSTERS
Omega Smith, Manager of the **UAA Planetarium**, will discuss the evolution of the biggest structure in the Universe, galaxy clusters.

Saturday, December 8, 2pm
All Ages Program: SKIJORING WITH YOUR DOG
A volunteer from the **Anchorage Skijor Club** will discuss equipment and training, as well as the best places to skijor and competition opportunities.

Sunday, December 9, 2pm
ALASKA WILDLIFE DETECTIVE
Pathologist **Dr. Kathy Burek Huntington** will present some of her cases from around Alaska, trying to figure out why wild animals die. Some of it is like CSI Wildlife -- looking for suspects, figuring out mysterious deaths -- other times, it's trying to understand how climate change might be affecting wildlife health. Photos are not toned down, so be prepared to see it "like it is".

Saturday, December 15, 2-4pm "Open House"
All Ages Craft Program: LANTERN MAKING
Make your own lantern for next weekend's lantern walk. Come anytime between 2-4pm and bring an empty ½-gallon cardboard milk carton if you have one; all other materials provided.

Sunday, December 16, 2pm
Armchair Travel/ All Ages Program
WALKING THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
The "Way of Saint James" or "Pilgrimage of Compostela" is a network of trails leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. Pilgrims have walked the camino since the Middle Ages. **Kalene Morris, Danielle O'Neill and Lisa Williams** each walked different sections and will share their experiences.

Friday, December 21, 3-5pm "Open House"
Jr. Naturalist Program: ICE LANTERNS
Learn how to make an ice lantern and take home a truly "cool" holiday decoration. Help us set out ice lanterns to light up the Nature Center trails for the Winter Solstice tonight.

Friday, December 21, anytime between 5-8pm
Special Event: WINTER SOLSTICE LIGHTS
The Rodak Trail will be lit up with ice lanterns. Enjoy the magic on a quiet evening walk. *The Nature Center building will be open until 7pm.*

Saturday, December 22, 6-8pm "Open House"
Special Event: LANTERN CELEBRATION
The Nature Center invites you to our annual lantern celebration. Bring your own lantern or borrow one of ours. Dress for being outdoors, and follow the lantern-lit path to the big bonfire and fire jugglers between 6 and 8pm. *The Nature Center building will be open until 8pm. Parking is limited. Please do not park on Eagle River Road at the NO PARKING signs.*

Sunday, December 30, 2018
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Help gather data for Audubon's Annual Winter Bird Count for Eagle River/Chugiak. You can cover a pre-determined area or even do it at your own bird feeder. *Contact coordinator at hawkowl68@gmail.com for details or to volunteer. Volunteers meet at Jitters at 9am for instructions and assignments, and then re-group at 4pm for a potluck and data summary.*

WINTER HOLIDAYS
The building will be closed from **December 24, 2018 to January 3, 2019.**
Trails are always open.