

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

Early Spring 2018 Programs

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



Friday, February 23, 7pm

Special Event, All Ages (\$7 online, \$10 at door)

COYOTE GETS A CADILLAC

Sure to delight all ages, storyteller **Susan Strauss** tells stories of the wily trickster & sacred fool/hero of Native American myths. *Tickets at www.ernc.org. Children in K-6th can earn Jr. Naturalist points.*

Saturday, February 24

The Nature Center will close at 2pm to prepare for our special event tonight. Trails are always open.

Saturday, February 24, 5-9pm

Special Fundraiser Event (\$100) MEMBERS ONLY

NIGHT WITH THE STARS

Join us for an evening of fine dining, beer and wine. Renowned storyteller **Susan Strauss** presents *Cosmic & Earthly Traditional Stories of Animals*.

Sunday, February 25, 2pm

All Ages Program: SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIPS

You've heard of about predator-prey relationships, but do you know about the numerous cooperative partnerships in nature? Naturalist **Beth Baker** discusses nature's symbiotic/mutualistic relationships.

Friday, March 2, 6:45pm

All Ages Guided Walk (Registration required)

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENING OWL WALK

Join volunteer **Liza Sanden** on a 2-mile walk along the Albert Loop to listen for owls -- children need to be able to remain quiet. *Register at www.ernc.org.*

Friday, March 2, 7pm

Astronomy Series: LAGRANGE POINTS

Lagrange points are gravitationally stable regions of outer space. ASD teacher **Ivan Hodes** will give a non-technical discussion of the physics behind them; natural objects located there in our solar system; current and upcoming space missions making use of Lagrange points; as well as fictional and speculative uses. *Students ages 10 and up can earn Jr. Astronomer certificate. Astronomy Series returns in October.*

Saturday, March 3, 2pm

All Ages: IN SEARCH OF THE WATER OUZEL

The only truly aquatic songbird, the American dipper or water ouzel likes to hang around the viewing decks on the Rodak Trail (3/4 mile walk). Join naturalist **Samantha Russell** to investigate this intrepid bird that spends its winters on the icy shores of our pond.

Saturday, March 3, 7pm

OWL TALK AND WALK (Registration required)

Birder and owl enthusiast **Enric Fernandez** presents a slide show about Alaskan owls (open to all), followed by a guided walk (register at www.ernc.org).

Sunday, March 4, 10am-4pm

Workshop (\$50, Registration required)

BEGINNING SPOON MAKING

Carving wooden spoons is a fun and functional traditional craft. Instructor **Tony Perelli** starts with safety and technique development and then guides you from splitting a birch log with a froe to carving a spoon with axe and knives. All materials and tools provided, but bring your own carving knives if you have them. Teens are welcome if registered along with a parent or guardian. *Register at www.ernc.org.*

Sunday, March 4, 2-4pm "Open House"

OPEN HOUSE AT PARADISE HAVEN CABIN

Join volunteer **Stacy Flagg** departing at 1pm, or hike out on your own and stop by the cabin (1.25 miles from the Nature Center) anytime between 2-4pm to visit and warm up with some hot drinks.

Friday, March 9, 2-4pm

Children's Workshop (\$25; Registration required)

PAINTING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS FOR KIDS

Paint the Northern Lights that illuminate our night sky! Artist **David Pettibone** guides kids ages 8 & up through basic painting techniques. Follow along in an easy and fun step by step process. Acrylic paints and supplies included. Register at www.ernc.org.

Saturday, March 10, 2-4pm “Open House”

Jr. Naturalist Program: IDITAROD FOR KIDS

Do you enjoy the Iditarod Race but can't make it to Nome? Stop by the classroom yurt for some hands-on activities related to gear, canine and human first aid, as well as food provisions for the trail.

Sunday, March 11, 2pm

Armchair Travel/ All Ages Program

KENYA & GREENBELT MOVEMENT

Gerard Hertel will talk about Kenya's people, animals, and forests, as well the history of the Greenbelt Movement that was started by environmental political activist and Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai. *Sit back and relax by the wood stove while vicariously visiting faraway lands: each Armchair Travel program focuses on a different travel destination.*

Special Hours for SPRING BREAK:

*The Nature Center building will be open 10am-5pm from **Wed, March 14 to Sun, March 18, 2018.***

Wednesday, March 14, 2pm

Jr. Naturalist Program (Registration required)

STARTING A FIRE

Fire is a tool, not a toy. Children ages 8-12 will learn about fire safety and practice starting a fire using flint and steel. *Register at www.ernc.org.*

Thursday, March 15, 12:30-4:30pm

Teen Workshop (\$15; Registration required)

OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR TEENS

Spend a fun day practicing skills such as starting fires, shelters, snowshoeing, and more. We will also discuss preparedness and put together a basic kit for the back-country. *Register at www.ernc.org.*

Friday, March 16, 11am

Guided Hike for Families with Preschoolers

LITTLE EXPLORERS: Join us for a short walk to explore nature at the pace of a preschooler. Bring a snack or lunch to eat with new friends afterwards.

Friday, March 16, 2-4pm “Open House”

Jr. Naturalist Program: “GROSS” ANATOMY

Have you ever dissected an owl pellet? Here's your chance: come to the classroom yurt between 2-4pm to reassemble the skeleton of a rodent or whatever the owl had for dinner – it's gross fun!

Saturday, March 17, 2pm

Jr. Naturalist Program: THE MAGIC OF GREEN

It's Saint Patrick's Day and people like to wear green, but why do plants wear green? Let's explore the science of photosynthesis. We'll learn how to make a small “bottle garden” or terrarium, and then head outside to see if Mother Nature is waking up from her winter slumber.

Sunday, March 18, 11am-1pm

Workshop (\$40, 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, March 18, 2pm

MORELS: MUSHROOMS OF SPRING

Mycologist **Christin Anderson** talks about the choice mushrooms of spring: how to tell real morels from false morels, and where to find them.

Friday, March 23, 11am

LITTLE EXPLORERS See March 16 for description.

Saturday, March 24, 2pm

Jr. Naturalist Program: PLANT DEFENSES

How do plants avoid getting eaten? Discover defense strategies by designing your own warrior plant!

Saturday, March 24, 8pm-1am

Workshop (\$75; Registration required)

NIGHTTIME & AURORA PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographer **Colin Tyler Bogucki** will teach how to properly expose the night sky using a digital SLR camera, and how to stay informed on solar activity. Bring camera gear, tripod, headlamp, and warm clothes. *Register at www.ernc.org.*

Sunday, March 25, 11am-4pm

Workshop (\$85; Registration required)

DYEING FIBERS WITH NATURAL DYES

Several natural dyes have provided reliable lightfast and washfast colors for ages, including indigo, madder, cochineal, and weld. **Elissa Meyers** teaches the basics of dyeing fiber. Leave the workshop with swatches of silk/wool/cotton and a shibori-resist silk scarf. *Register at www.ernc.org.*

Friday, March 30, 11am

LITTLE EXPLORERS See March 16 for description.

Saturday, March 31, 2-4pm “Open House”

Jr. Naturalist Program: EGGS-PLORATION

Come to the classroom yurt to explore what animals lay eggs, the anatomy of a chicken egg, and much more.

Sunday, April 1

EASTER SUNDAY Building Closed

Trails are always open.

HEADS UP:

May 12: Wilderness Safety Challenge (\$25)

June 5,6,7: Youth Wilderness First Aid/CPR

Certification Workshop. Cost is \$225. *For more information and registration, see www.ernc.org*