



# The Listening Post

A Seasonal Newsletter of Emily Oaks Nature Center

Winter 2012

## Nature Outings for Adults

**Pre-registration is requested.  
Call (847) 677-7001 for  
registration information.**

### Snowshoe Ramble

Explore Lakewood Forest Preserve in winter, snowshoeing or hiking as conditions permit, and visit the historic Lake County Museum to view the intriguing displays. Snowshoes, museum admissions and van transportation are provided. Lunch at a local restaurant is not included in the fee.



Saturday, 1/28 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Fee: \$34 res/\$43 non-res  
Class #: 441852-01

### Winter Outing to Starved Rock State Park

Starved Rock is a winter wonderland with frozen waterfalls, sandstone bluffs and bald eagles feeding in the Illinois River! Spend the day hiking the trails and enjoying the sights. Brunch served in the Starved Rock Lodge and transportation by van are provided.

Sunday, 1/15 7 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Fee: \$48 res/\$60 non-res  
Class #: 441851-01

### Winter Ramble & Brunch

Join us for a hike at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve and brunch at Seasons of Long Grove. Our ramble concludes at nearby Reed-Turner Woodland. Dress for the weather, and wear warm, comfortable winter boots. Lunch is included in the trip fee.

Sunday, 3/18 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Fee: \$45 res/\$56 non-res  
Class #: 441853-01

*See [www.SkokieParks.org](http://www.SkokieParks.org) for information on the Chicago Botanic Garden trip and other classes!*

### Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Trip Sunday-Saturday, August 12-18 (6:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.)

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of northern Minnesota is an area set aside for canoe campers who want to experience the mystery, solitude, and rugged beauty of true wilderness. Hundreds of lakes and miles of forested shoreline are home to moose, bear, eagles, otters and wolves. Our trip includes five days of canoeing. We'll set up tents in primitive campsites each night, cook meals over a camp stove and portage gear around waterfalls and rapids. Tents, sleeping bags, canoes, cook gear and food will be provided. Bunk house lodging and showers before and after the canoe trip, as well as transportation by van, are included. An orientation meeting will be scheduled for July. Deposit fee is required prior to July 1.

Fee: \$599 Deposit: \$100 Class #: 641753-01

## Winter Chilly Fest and Chili Dinner



Feb. 11 & 12



4-8 p.m.



Emily Oaks Nature Center  
4650 Brummel Street  
Skokie IL 60076  
(847) 674-1500, ext. 2500

# Winter Chilly Fest and Chili Dinner

*Old-fashioned Winter Fun & Food*



- Winter Hay Rides
- Lights & Music
- Snow & Ice Games
- Ice Carving  
Demonstration
- Wildlife Treat Trees
- Outdoor Ice Skating\*
- Campfire & S'Mores
- Food for Sale



## Indoor Chili Dinner

Reserve By Feb. 10

\$9/person

\$7/child under 10 years

Reserve After Feb. 10

\$11/person

\$9/child under 10 years

## Event Admissions

\$5/person

FREE with Chili Dinner

**February 11 & 12**  
4-8 p.m.

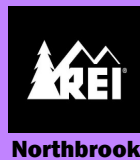
Call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500



\*weather permitting



Thank You  
to our generous  
Winter Chilly Fest  
sponsors!



## Scoutin' Around for Homeschoolers

Explore the natural world, learn new skills, and have fun outdoors! Activities change weekly and include outdoor skills, like snowshoeing, and concept-based topics, such as owl pellets and the equinox. A part of each class is held outside. Participants receive resource pages to encourage further exploration at home. Call Emily Oaks for information about individual class content and fees.

Tuesdays, 1/10-3/13  
1:15-3:15 p.m.

Ages: 6-7

Fee: \$88 res/\$110 non-res  
Class #: 446031-20

Ages: 8-10

Fee: \$92 res/\$115 non-res  
Class #: 446032-20



# FREE

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# Winter Fireside Programs

Recommended for ages 4 and up, Winter Fireside Programs are held indoors in front of a fire in the Program Room, with some activities taking place outdoors. Snacks are provided. Fee is \$5 per person, unless noted.

*Children must be accompanied by a paying adult.  
Pre-registration is requested.*



## Groundhog Day Party

Discover what Groundhog Day is all about when you meet our guest of honor, a five-foot tall groundhog! Learn what it means when the groundhog sees its shadow, and hear about its life. Our groundhog may invite you outdoors to visit its home, so dress for the weather. Then make your own groundhog shadow puppet and enjoy hot chocolate indoors.



**January 29 (Sun.)**  
2-3:30 p.m.  
Class #: 442177-01



## Celebrity Animal Awards

Come honor the best animal performances and outstanding shows of nature at this star-studded event. Awards include Best Costumes, Best Original Song and Best Dramatic Scene. We're rolling out the red carpet for the festivities!

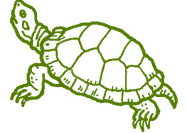
**February 25 (Sat.)**  
6:30-8 p.m.  
Class #: 442072-01



## Turtle Tales

Come listen to a variety of entertaining Turtle Tales from around the world and across the ages. Hear humorous, intriguing and interactive accounts of reptilian adventures as you sip hot cocoa by the fireplace, then make a turtle shell craft to take home.

**March 10 (Sat.)**  
6:30-8 p.m.  
Class #: 442172-01



## Winter Tapestry of Color

Hear the entertaining story about a snowflake that thought winter was just a world of white. Then head outside to discover a tapestry of color in the woodland! We'll warm up with hot cocoa indoors and weave a variety of colors on our own winter landscape. Come dressed for outdoor adventure!

**March 18 (Sun.)**  
1-2:30 p.m.  
Class #: 442170-01



## CLASSES FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

### Snowprint Detectives — Parent & Child

Unravel the mysteries of footprints in the snow! Discover the tracks animals make, where they were going, and what they did along the way. See where a fox chased a mouse and squirrels found buried food! Practice following prints, then use rubber prints to make your own trails on paper and receive a Snow Print Handbook for future sleuthing. Ages 5-7.

Saturday, 1/14 1-2:30 p.m.  
Fee: \$10 res/\$13 non-res  
Class #: 442831-01



### Recycled Paper Valentines

Using a mixture made from blended paper scraps, you'll create a dozen recycled paper valentines. Personalize your paper with special colors, shapes and textures for one-of-a-kind cards! Ages 6-10.

Saturday, 2/4 1-3 p.m.  
Fee: \$16 res/\$20 non-res  
Class #: 443032-03



### Sticky Mittens Smorgasbord!

Prepare three different campfire desserts while enjoying the beauty of a winter afternoon. In the style of a progressive dinner, you'll walk from shelter to shelter, warming up by the fire and snacking on Strawberry Shortcake S'mores and Toasted Taffy Apples. Sticky Mittens are guaranteed! Children must be accompanied by a registered adult, and fee is per person. Ages 3 and up.

Sunday, 1/22 1-2 p.m.  
Fee: \$6 res/\$8 non-res  
Class #: 441171-01



Click on "Program Guides" at [www.SkokieParks.org](http://www.SkokieParks.org) for information about other classes for kids, like President's Day Nature Museum Trip and Chill Out Fireside!

### Worm Composting for Families

Vermicomposting is composting food waste using worms, nature's recyclers. Discover how worm composting produces a nutrient-rich soil amendment from kitchen scraps. See our worm bin, and make your own worm bin to take home. Fee is per family.

Sunday, 3/11 2-3:30 p.m.  
Fee: \$29 res/\$36 non-res  
Class #: 442371-01



### Winter Slumber Party

Games, stories and adventure are all part of the winter camp-in! Bundle up for nighttime explorations and a campfire outdoors. Then we'll roll out our sleeping bags in tents pitched indoors. Saturday evening snacks and breakfast on Sunday are provided. A supply list will be emailed. Ages 8-11.

Sat.-Sun., 3/3-3/4  
7 p.m.-10:30 a.m.  
Fee: \$29 res/\$36 non-res  
Class #: 441932-01



# Nature Classes for Adults

Pre-registration is requested.  
Call (847) 677-7001 for  
registration information.

## Scout Leader S.O.S.

Feel empowered to be an effective and creative scout leader. At this workshop, you will hone your leadership skills and discover outdoor experiences for scouts available in your community, including Emily Oaks. Receive ready-to-use resources for completing badge requirements at all levels of scouting. Please wear comfortable clothing, and plan to spend some time outdoors.

Tuesdays, 1/24 7-8 p.m.  
Fee: \$7 res/\$10 non-res  
Class #: 445351-01



## Composting with Worms

Get the compost you have always wanted without the backbreaking work, and put those red wigglers to work on recycling your food waste. Check out the Nature Center's worm bin and make your own bin to take home. Fee includes bin and starter worms.

Monday, 3/12 7-9 p.m.  
Fee: \$29 res/\$36 non-res  
Class #: 442352-01

## Growing Culinary Herbs

Grow your own fresh, organic herbs and spices on a sunny windowsill, in a bright corner of your garden, or in a container on your balcony, patio or deck. Pot culinary herb plants during class and get a jump on the growing season. No prior gardening experience required. Participants will receive four potted herbs to take home.

Wednesday, 3/7 7-8:30 p.m.  
Fee: \$20 res/\$25 non-res  
Class #: 442460-01

## Green Your Pet

Explore environmentally preferable ways to care for your pets. Topics include waste solutions, bedding, hygiene, toys, food and treats. Our tips will positively impact your relationship with your pet and help reduce your impact on the planet. Participants will be provided with a resource packet and sample products.

Wednesday, 2/29 7-8:30 p.m.  
Fee: \$14 res/\$18 non-res  
Class #: 443758-01

## Mittens from a Sweater

Learn how to repurpose worn-out sweaters into warm mittens! Reusing an old sweater, you'll make one set of mittens during this class and receive information on making a matching hat. Some hand-sewing experience is helpful but not required. Please bring an old sweater.



Tuesday, 1/31 7-8:30 p.m.  
Fee: \$10 res/\$13 non-res  
Class #: 444752-01

## TOT CLASSES



## Join Us for Winter Fun!

There is still room in many seasonal tot classes, and your participation is welcomed! Contact

Emily Oaks to inquire about registering for any of these programs.

## Nature Fun & Frolic

*Ages 2 with Parent*  
Mondays, 10-11 a.m.  
Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.  
Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.

## Young Explorers

*Age 3 with Parent*  
Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. OR  
1:30-2:30 p.m.  
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

## Nature Warblers

*Ages 2-4 with Parent*  
Sundays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## Nature Neighbors

*Ages 4-5*  
Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Tuesdays, 1:15-3:15 p.m.  
Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays, 1:15-3:15 p.m.



## Fireside Storytime

*Ages 3-5 with Parent*  
Saturday, 2/18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

## Sundown Snowshoe & Campfire

Come for a winter walk during sunset at Emily Oaks! After an introduction to snowshoeing, we'll explore the trails as the sun goes down and gather around a campfire where we'll enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate. Snowshoes are provided.

Saturday, 1/21 4-5:30 p.m. Snowdate: 2/4  
Fee: \$10 res/\$12 non-res Class #: 441252-01

## RITUALS

Artwork by: Danhka Zomaya, Mimi Peterson and Catherine Cajandig

January 6-March 3

Reception: Friday, January 6  
from 7-9 p.m.

Sculpture, assemblage and painting  
inspired by nature's rituals.

