

2024 Community Partner Summer Events

Durham Museum

Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom

July 13 – October 6, All Day

The Durham Museum is teaming up with [Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom](#) to showcase the history of a show that pioneered nature and wildlife programming and continues to educate viewers today.

Since its network television premier in 1963, *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* has been one of the most loved and respected wildlife programs in television history. The show took viewers to the far corners of the world and studied wild animals in their natural habitats. Hosts Marlin Perkins, Jim Fowler and Peter Gros wrestled anacondas, swam with sharks and were chased by a herd of elephants. They provided a look at an often unseen animal world and emphasized the importance of conservation while creating family-friendly entertainment.

Featuring video, photos and objects related to the show, the exhibit highlights the origins of the television program, stories from behind-the-scenes and the work being done today to inspire the next generation of conservationists.

Curious By Nature at The Durham

July 24 & July 31, 11am – 2pm

As a child, Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE had a natural love — and curiosity — for animals and the outdoors. She never outgrew that curiosity and encourages us all to hold onto it. Foster your child's natural curiosity in the world around them with fun family-friendly activities at **Curious by Nature**, and explore our featured summer exhibit, [Becoming Jane: The Evolution of Dr. Jane Goodall](#).

Take part in Tales for Tots – 11am-Noon

Join us at the Platform for a read-aloud picture book followed by recycled material crafts.

Learn about Conservation – 11am – Noon

Channel your inner Dr. Goodall and make a pledge to be a champion for conservation! Engage with a local organization involved in nature conservation, enjoy a themed activity and discover ways your family can support conservation efforts. July 24 – Lauritzen Gardens; July 31 – Keep Omaha Beautiful

Learn about Wildlife – 1-2PM

Dr. Goodall teaches us that we each have a responsibility to the natural world. Each week be introduced to an animal from around the world with Wildlife Encounters, learn about their native habitat, natural behaviors and what we can do to help the animals we share this planet with.

Durham Museum cont..

A Midsummer Night at The Durham Museum

July 26, 6pm

Kings and queens. Lovers and sprites. Our next 21-and-over event is sure to sweep thee away to an enchanted realm of unexpected mischief, love and laughter. Enjoy an evening of theatrical delight, drinks, history and more at **A Midsummer Night at The Durham Museum** on Friday, July 26, 6-10PM.

Watch as performers with [Old School Shakespeare Omaha](#) turn the museum's Swanson Gallery into their stage for an interactive rendition of one of Shakespeare's most beloved works, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Must be 21 or older to attend! *\$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. UNMC employees who call Sydney Holmes, 402.444.5071 x 521 directly, can receive tickets at the member rate.*

Paxton & Gallagher Company: Local, Values, National Research

Now – September 1, All Day

From humble beginnings in Pleasant Grove, Iowa, Benjamin Gallagher ventured into the grocery industry at a young age. After the Union Pacific Railroad was completed, he saw great value in setting up shop near a railroad center and Omaha seemed the perfect stop. He partnered with William A. Paxton, Sr. in 1879 and their business, Paxton & Gallagher Company, grew into an impressive wholesale organization. The company developed several brands internally, including P and G, Yellowstone, KAMO, PAGOMA and the memorable Butter-Nut®. They grew into one of the largest wholesale corporations in the nation and their success stemmed from their belief that, "Honest value is the best policy." The business remained within the Gallagher family until it was sold in 1958.

River City History Tour: Downtown Omaha Walking Tour

July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, 10-11:30am

Join us select Saturdays between May-October for a walking tour of historic downtown Omaha! Each tour begins at 10AM at The Durham Museum and proceeds to the Old Market where you'll enjoy visiting locations ranging from the sites of speakeasys to the well-known Old Market Passageway. Hear the stories of important early Omahans such as political boss Tom Dennison and early pioneers Rachel and William Snowden, before wrapping up at the Downtown Farmer's Market or heading back to the museum to enjoy our current exhibitions.

Walking tours cost \$20 for museum members and \$25 for non-members and last approximately 90 minutes. Comfortable walking shoes and a water bottle are highly recommended. In case of inclement weather, guests will be notified and granted a full refund. Register [here](#).

River City History Tours: Omaha & The Presidents, Part II

July 30, Oct. 20, 1-3pm

2024 marks an election season, and The Durham Museum is excited to present a new two-part tour focusing on American presidents and their influence on Omaha and the wider region. As guests will learn, Omaha has played a role in shaping the world's most powerful office and those who have held it. **Part II:** Omaha's rise to prominence in the 20th century was marked by contradiction. Periods of incredible industry and creativity were coupled with stark divisions and deadly riots. Throughout it all, FDR brought his Fireside Chats to the Omaha household and Eisenhower built interstates through the city. Join us on a journey from Taft to Ford as we explore the paradoxes of Omaha in the 1900s and how the presidency, and the nation more widely, mirrored and shaped the local community. [Register here](#).

Durham Museum cont..

Root Beer Float Day 2024

August 3, All Day

Mark your calendar for one of our favorite holidays, Root Beer Float Day, which takes place Saturday, August 3! Stop by The Durham Museum to enjoy a free 8 oz. Root Beer Float (while supplies last) at our old-fashioned Soda Fountain and celebrate with one of our signature sweet treats. Plus, Dr. Oxygen will be on hand for some sweet science demonstrations from 1-2PM. Guests will also have a chance to participate in themed activities, including crafts and a root beer ring toss. Regular Museum admission applies. Free for members!

River City History Tour: Omaha's Parks and Boulevards

August 3, September 29, 1-3pm

Did you know that Omaha developed a beautiful parks and boulevard system beginning in the late 1800s? In fact, much of this system remains today linking popular parks like Elmwood and Hanscom with gorgeous tree-lined streets such as Happy Hollow and Lincoln Boulevard. The "Parks and Boulevards" tour will take you along the beautiful path these developers laid out so many years ago. \$30 members; \$35 non-members. Register [here](#).

Conservation Conversations: with Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and The Nature Conservancy

August 8, September 19, 5-7:30pm

From the rainforests of South America to the jungles of Africa, efforts to preserve our natural world continue. But did you know important steps in wildlife conservation are also being made here in our backyard? The Durham Museum is proud to present Conservation Conversations, a compelling and inspiring speaking and social series that looks at the work being done close to home to make our world a better place for wildlife and people.

August 8 Presentation

Join Dr. Herrick, Vice President of Conservation and Science at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, and moderator John Cougher, Nebraska State Director at The Nature Conservancy for a conversation about the extensive efforts being made at one of the world's most accomplished zoos to protect and save endangered wildlife.

September 19 Presentation

Join acclaimed photographer and Nebraska native Michael Forsberg, and moderator Amy Sandeen, outreach and special events manager at the Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center for a conversation with Forsberg as he shares his lifelong journey following North America's cranes up and down the Central Flyway and the everchanging water resources of the region.

River City History Tour: Remember the Ladies! The Women of Early Omaha

August 17, September 8, 1-3pm

Hop on a tour with us in honor of the founding ladies of Omaha. This tour will introduce you to a few of Omaha's first women, from factory workers and business owners to religious leaders and activists, who contributed to the growth and success of Omaha today. Destinations on this tour will include driving through Omaha's previous "Red Light District," the Paxton Hotel, Saint Cecilia's Cathedral, and so much more! \$30 members, \$35 non-members. Register [here](#).

Fontenelle Forest

Military Families Get In Free

Now – September 2, 2024

In appreciation for your service, Fontenelle Forest is offering all active military and up to five family members receive FREE daily admission to Fontenelle Forest now through Sept. 2, in partnership with the 2024 Blue Star Museum Program. The program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Just check-in at our Visitor Services desk with your active military ID.

Yoga at the Forest

July 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29, 9-10am

Discover tranquility amidst the trees during Yoga at the Forest each Sunday! Each Vinyasa-style yoga class will incorporate a blend of mindful movement and breath work, all guided by experienced instructors. Whether you're a seasoned yogi or new to the practice, our inclusive classes cater to all levels, fostering a supportive community where everyone can thrive.

Session will take place at the Nature Center, either outside on the lower plaza or inside the Forest Room. PLEASE NOTE: Yoga mats are not provided. If you don't have a yoga mat, we suggest bringing an alternative such as a thick towel or blanket to provide some cushioning and grip during your practice. This program is intended for ages 16 and older. \$5 for members; \$25 for non-members. [Register here.](#)

Habitat Hikes

July 28, August 25, September 29, 2-4pm

Explore Nebraska's prairies, wetlands and forests at Fontenelle Forest's Habitat Hikes! Join our naturalist educators on a guided hike through these different habitats and learn about each of these unique ecosystems! Habitat Hikes will be held monthly, as we visit different locations and discover habitat changes each season. Free for members; \$15 for non-members. [More information and to register.](#)

Raptor Talk

August 4, 11:30am-12pm

Join us in the Raptor Woodland Refuge to learn about Eagles with Raptor Care Specialist, Eli Kinsey. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members.

Pathways Through Nature

August 8, 6:30-8pm

Creeping, crawling, fluttering, flying; insects come in all shapes and sizes and have adapted to a variety of environments. Learn about some of the bugs that you can potentially find in your own backyard. Attendees will also create an insect themed art piece. \$10 for members; \$18 for non-members. [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Full Moon Hike

August 16, September 20, 8-10pm

How is the Forest different after the sun goes down? How does the full moon affect nocturnal animals? Come find out on our guided Full Moon Hike! The program will include an educational discussion of the nocturnal animals around the Forest and a brief talk into the lore of full moons. The guided hike will proceed after the discussion. Please join us after the hike for s'mores around the bonfire! \$15 for members, \$25 for non-members. [Must register.](#)

Fontenelle Forest cont...

Family Butterfly Walk

[August 10, 10am-12pm](#); [September 10. 1-2:30pm](#)

Bring the family and go in search of beautiful butterflies at Neale Woods! This will be a guided walk at an easy pace on trails with easy to moderate terrain led by long-time volunteer and nature enthusiast, Bob Fuchs. We will explore areas where butterflies are likely to be found and will try to catch and release some. Please wear bug spray, bring a water bottle, and wear appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather, including good walking shoes. \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. Must register in advance.

Perseids Meteor Shower Viewing Event

August 12, 8:30-10:30pm

Come experience the thrill of watching the Perseids Meteor shower. This annual meteor shower is renowned for producing some of the brightest shooting stars. Our event will begin with a brief evening hike on dirt-packed trails through the prairie and forest. Then as night falls, we will stargaze together and watch for shooting stars while learning about meteor showers and general astronomy from our seasoned volunteer, Bob Fuchs.

This event will run from 8:30-10:30 PM. Make sure to dress appropriately for the weather, wear good walking shoes, and bring a water bottle. Please bring a folding chair to sit on while stargazing and be ready to hike a short distance on easy to moderate terrain with your chair to our meteor shower viewing area. \$5 for members; \$15 for non-members. Register [here](#).

Sunset Hike

August 23, September 6, 7:30-9pm

Are you worn out after a busy work week? Grab your coworkers and come wind down during our Sunset Hike! This hike will explore the gravel and dirt trails near the Nature Center then head to the third loop of the Boardwalk to watch the sunset over the Missouri River. This program will include an hour and a half naturalist-guided hike though easy to moderate terrain of the Forest. Trekking poles will be available on a first come, first serve basis. \$10 for members; \$18 for non-members. Register [here](#).

Stargazing Events at Neale Woods

August 24, 8:30-10:30pm

Can you find Canis Major in the night sky? What about Orion? Gemini? Forget the Big Dipper and head out to Neale Woods Nature Reserve to enjoy some constellations! We are partnering with the Omaha Astronomical Society to bring you four Stargazing Events that include a brief night hike followed by viewing constellations and stars with scopes. Please feel free to bring a lawn chair to sit while stargazing. Please be prepared to carry your lawn chair(s) to our stargazing location. *\$15 for members; \$25 for non-members.* [Register here](#).

Mudpies

August 27, August 29; Sept. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26; 9:30-11am

Mudpies is a structured program for children ages 3-5 that encourages exploration of nature and interaction between a child and their caregiver. Each week, a natural science topic is explored through crafts, outdoor exploration, songs, stories, hikes and more! \$8 per child for members; \$8 + daily admission for non-members. Learn more [here](#).

Fontenelle Forest cont...

September Birding Walk

September 8, 2-3:30pm

Join us as we send off the fall migrants! Warblers, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, and more are getting ready to fly south for the year! We'll be on the lookout for these species and more as we stroll some easy-to-moderate trails of Fontenelle Forest.

Whether you're a new or experienced birder, you'll enjoy the expert guidance of our Naturalist Educators as they lead you along the trails. Bring your binoculars, or borrow one of ours on a first-come, first-served basis. Pack a water bottle and wear a good pair of walking shoes! \$10 members; \$18 for non-members. [Register here.](#)

Community Science Day

September 14, 10am-12pm

Many folks are familiar with the beautiful monarch butterfly, but how much do you really know about them? Migratory monarch butterflies, the subspecies we are used to seeing in the US, were officially listed as an endangered species last year – here's what you can do to help! Join us for a morning of butterfly tagging at the Neale Woods prairie, where you will learn how to get involved in national conservation efforts. Naturalist educators will explain the background of the [Monarch Watch](#) tagging project and show participants how to safely catch and tag butterflies. Participants can take a set of tags home after the program to continue protecting these iconic butterflies in their own communities!

This program is geared toward adults and families with science-minded children (older elementary and over) due to the upper-level concepts and activities we will be engaging with. We will be catching and releasing live monarch butterflies during this program. Parents and guardians are responsible for any children in their care. \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. [Register.](#)

Family Wild Days

September 14, 10am-1pm

It's time to GO WILD at Camp Brewster! Have you ever dreamed of joining your kids for a day of summer camp? Or wanted to trek the trails at Camp Brewster? Join us for the brand new Family Wild Days hosted at the beautiful and newly renovated Camp Brewster Lodge!

Our educators are excited to facilitate some family-friendly competitions (slingshots anyone?) and crafts! We will also take a hike on one of the private trails of Camp Brewster and finish with a scavenger hunt for a take-home prize! Before you go, sit down by the fire for a camp-style lunch: hot dogs and smores! If you have a food sensitivity, please provide your own snacks. A waiver must be completed for each family member before participating in activities. \$20 for members; \$28 for non-members. [Click here to register.](#)

Backyard Habitats

September 15, 29, 12-1pm

Do you look at your backyard or nearby greenspace, and wonder if it could serve a higher purpose? Do you wish you had the know-how to turn that green wall of shrubs into a pollinator paradise? Do you want to learn about savanna and prairie restoration? Join Fontenelle Forest Biologist, Kayla Johnson, at Fontenelle Forest's Backyard Habitat series to for inspiration, guidance and practical tips to help you create a vibrant and thriving native plant garden! \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. [Register.](#)

Lauritzen Gardens

StoryWalk®: "Baby Animals in Nests"

July 25-31, 9am-5pm

Take a stroll through the arboretum and discover the many ways plants move. Following along with the story "Plants Can't Sit Still" by Rebecca E. Hirsch and Mia Posada, your family can take part in some fun activities. Whether it's a sunflower, a Venus flytrap, or an exotic plant like an exploding cucumber, this fascinating book shows just how excitingly active plants really are. StoryWalk® combines the love of reading with healthy, fun activities that fit the theme of the story to exercise your brain and body. Included with paid admission.

Garden Games

Now-September 2, 9am-5pm

It's GAME TIME and we invite you to come play with us! Bring the whole family to Lauritzen Gardens for a game-filled, summer adventure. Rediscover classic games, made new by a beautiful natural setting, and spend time having FUN playing in the outdoors. From croquet, to card games and from I-SPY® to giant chess, compete with your family and friends, connect with nature, boost your gaming skills, and make memories together in YOUR public garden! Included with paid garden admission or membership.

Glee Handbell Choir of Japan

July 26, 11am

Join us for a special performance by Glee Handbell Choir from Meiji Gakuin Higashimurayama High School in Tokyo, Japan. With a repertoire of classical and modern pieces, the choir is recognized as a leading handbell choir in Japan and is stopping in Omaha on a multi-week tour of the US. Included with paid garden admission. Free for members.

Tempo of Twilight

July 30, August 13, August 27,

We can't think of a better way to spend a summer evening than listening to live music in the garden! This outdoor concert series brings a spectacular lineup of local entertainment to the garden for a harmonious blend of music and nature. Free with paid garden admission. Free for members.

- **July 30:** Doors & Windows
- **August 13:** Xperience
- **August 27:** R-Style

StoryWalk®: "Nothing Scares Spider!"

August 1 – September 15, 9am-5pm

There's NOTHING to be scared of . . . or is there? Take a stroll through the arboretum and go on an adventure with the fearless Spider and her friends. Following along with the story "Nothing Scares Spider" by S. Marendaz, your family will encounter fearsome fish, hungry birds, and hairy beasts and can take part in some fun activities. StoryWalk® combines the love of reading with healthy, fun activities that fit the theme of the story to exercise your brain and body. Included with paid admission.

Leashes at Lauritzen

August 5, August 12, September 2, September 9, 5-8pm

Dogs love going on an adventure- make your next night out with your four-legged friend an evening garden stroll during Leashes at Lauritzen. These events are enjoyable nights for dogs to walk the trails, meet other dogs, to take photos among the flowers and foliage, and meet other dog lovers. Please note that, with the exception of service dogs, dogs are only allowed in the garden during Leashes at Lauritzen events. Included with paid garden admission. Free for garden members.

Lauritzen Gardens cont....

Tai Chi and Qigong

August 6, 8-9am

Take time for yourself. Take care of yourself. Breathe... Join Michelle Cooper for the mindful movements of Tai Chi and Qigong- focusing on decreasing tension, improving flexibility/strength, better balance/body awareness, mental focus, and calming the nervous system. This class takes place in standing, with no floor work, and no mat is required. This class is appropriate for all levels. No previous experience is required. [Register.](#)

Croquet Days

August 10, 10am-2pm

Join Brian Brigham, founder of the Omaha Croquet Club, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to learn the rules of croquet, get some hands-on instruction, and participate in a short croquet match. Included with membership or paid garden admission. No reservations required!

Game Day with our Family Plays Games

August 10, 10am-4pm

Curious about modern board games? Want to try a game that's new to you? Our Family Plays Games will share a FUN and diverse board game library and will have teachers onsite to guide you on the rules of play and to help match you to games that best suit your interests. Don't miss this afternoon of fun and friendly competition, where we will build community through gaming in the garden! Included with paid garden admission or membership.

Yoga in the Garden

August 14, 21, 25, 28; September 4, 11, 6-7pm

Breathe, get grounded, and enjoy gentle balancing & stretching movement in this Hatha Yoga class that honors the seasons. Take the time to unwind and treat your senses to the beauty of Lauritzen Gardens — a wonderful mid-week break for body, mind, and spirit. All levels and everybody welcome. \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members. [Register.](#)

Read and Grow: Reading on the Railroad

August 15, 10-11:30am

Join Omaha Public Library in the garden for stories that celebrate plants, insects, gardens and more, and discover the joys of nature, movement, music, and literature. Storytime will be outside as weather allows. Programs are geared towards preschool aged children, but all ages are welcome. Free.

All-European Show and Shine

September 8, 12-3pm

See fine European cars and motorcycles stages against a lush background. Included with paid garden admission or membership.

Read and Grow: In my Pond

August 15, 10-11:30am

Join Omaha Public Library in the garden for stories that celebrate plants, insects, gardens and more, and discover the joys of nature, movement, music, and literature. Storytime will be outside as weather allows. Programs are geared towards preschool aged children, but all ages are welcome. Free.

Omaha Children's Museum

Power Up

Now – January 5, 2025, All Day

Explore 5 practices that can supercharge your well-being – Physical Activity, emotional health, nutrition, relationships, and creative expression. Power Up teaches kids that they have the power to create a happy and healthy life!

Kenya's Kids

Kenya's Kids magically transports visitors into the lives of children living in Kenya today. The environments created in the exhibit space are designed to bring that experience to life and encourage children to not just learn about, but also participate in a new culture.

Chase & Skye's Back to School Bash

August 2-4

Get ready for the new school year with Chase and Skye! More information coming soon, [here](#). Regular museum admission or membership.

Puss in Boots Presents: Shrektemberfest

September 20-22

Shrek and friends are stopping by the museum! More information coming soon, [here](#). Regular museum admission or membership.

Omaha Community Playhouse

Jersey Boys

September 13-October 13, varies days and times

Tony Award®-winner for Best Musical, *Jersey Boys* is the jukebox sensation that takes you behind-the-scenes of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons—their rise, tough times, personal clashes and the ultimate triumph of a group of friends whose music became symbolic of a generation. With greatest hits such as “Sherry,” “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” “Walk Like a Man” and “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You,” don’t miss the regional premiere of this international musical phenomenon. Tickets on sale July 30, [here](#).

The Rose Theater

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

September 6-22, varies days and times

See Jeff Kinney’s popular character take center stage as Greg’s cartoon diary (or is it a journal?) becomes a hilarious and heartfelt musical.

School can be tough. Really tough. Being the middle child can be even tougher. As Greg embarks on a quest to become popular, we meet quirky classmates Patty, Chirag, and Fregley, among many others. Standing beside him through all of this is Greg’s best friend Rowley. Will Greg’s plans to become popular lead him to sacrifice his one true friend? Can anyone avoid the dreaded Cheese Touch? Grab a hall pass and don’t be late for this hilarious musical adventure! From \$32. [Tickets here](#).