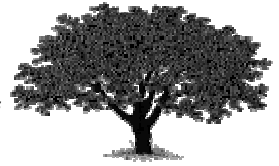


Help Protect A Beautiful Stand of Red Oak Woodland Here In Lincoln

Friends of Wilderness Park is seeking to protect a beautiful native red oak forest which is growing adjacent to the east side of Wilderness Park south of Warlick Boulevard and north of Densmore Park. Experts in Botany and Forestry, including Dr. Robert Kaul of the University of Nebraska and Rich Lodes of the Nebraska Department of Forestry, have said that the grove of red oaks found there is quite rare and is one of very few found growing naturally west of the Missouri River. It is considered in near-pristine biological condition free of invasive non-native species and probably also contains a state champion red oak tree. If it were incorporated as part of Wilderness Park, it would be one of the prime areas in the park biologically. Part of the area is in the Salt Creek floodplain. Preservation of flood storage capacity of this area protects the lowland urbanized areas of Lincoln downstream from this property. The undeveloped nature of the property also acts to slow down the erosion process and filters out sediment and lawn chemicals from entering Salt Creek. It also is part of the important Salt Creek riparian corridor providing a connected wildlife habitat corridor. On April 2nd, the Nebraska Environmental Trust announced that it was granting an award of \$44,110 toward the purchase of the smaller 6.5 acre parcel of the forest which is directly adjacent to Wilderness Park. Friends of Wilderness Park is still asking for donations to help cover its \$1500 pledge toward the purchase of that parcel. This pledge was made as part of the NE Environmental Trust grant proposal. So far, \$655 in donations has been sent toward that goal. We thank those of you who have sent money and urge the rest of you to help out.

MATCH A MEMBER'S PLEDGE: A member has come forward and said that she would donate \$50.00 toward the red oak forest fund if 10 more people would do the same. Fifty dollars is something many of us can afford. Please help out. Send your donation to the Red Oak Forest fund in care of Mary Roseberry-Brown, 1423 F Street, Lincoln, NE 68508



But What About The Kids?

More and more research shows the importance of arranging children's surroundings so that they are in contact with nature. Although most kindergartners in the United States are spending more time in their seats, learning to read and write before first grade, a growing number of German kindergartners are going back to their roots in the "children's garden." Germany has about 700 forest kindergartens, where students spend their days among the trees, singing songs, building fires and exercising their imaginations.

Opportunities do exist here in Lincoln to encourage children's involvement with nature:

- One such opportunity is the weeklong summer Wilderness Nature Camp held in Wilderness Park. Every child who has gone loves this camp. Contact Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department for more registration information.
- Another such opportunity is the Lincoln Safari Program in which families visit several nature sites. Last year, more than 20,000 people participated. Get your 2009 packet at Lincoln Public Libraries or the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Take your 2008 books with you. First timers may sign up at www.lincolnsafari.com. Wilderness Park is one of the sites which people visit.
- Another opportunity will be our Friends of Wilderness Park Bird Identification Walk Saturday, May 9th at 8:00 a.m.

Finke Gardens and Nursery Class Schedule

Cultivating gardening success begins with learning more about plants and how they grow. The staff at Finke Gardens joins some of the region's best plant professionals to bring you this comprehensive program. All classes are held in the Finke Gardens classroom. Most do not require pre-registration and are free unless otherwise noted. Please call Finke Gardens and Nursery at 466-1995 if you have any questions.

April 18, 10 a.m. Color Camp. Kim Todd, UNL Professor of Agronomy and Horticulture.

Think of this as boot camp for color fitness. Make color work for you in your garden by training your eye to choose the best combinations. This will be a two hour, hands-on workshop where we review basic principles of color, then work with Kim, Mark Canney, Luann Finke and Jenika Johnson, our color drill sergeants, to customize plans for your annual and perennial favorites. An optional activity (fee-based) will be the opportunity to pot up a hanging basket using the color choices you've learned about in the first half of the class.

April 18, 2 p.m. Mother's Day Surprise.

Here's the opportunity to team up with a child to plant a special May Day basket or Mother's Day gift. Each child/adult team will select flowers to pot up a colorful 12 inch hanging basket. The brightly colored basket, soil and plants are included in the registration fee, and Finke Gardens will grow the creation for your mom until the special day. Limited registration so please call the store for details.

April 21. The April 21 Rain Barrels class has sold out. Another class has been added **May 30 at 10 a.m.**

Here is your opportunity to make and take home a rain barrel. Once you learn to make one, it's easy to make more and continue capturing rain water from your roof to use to water your garden. Pre-registration is required along with a fee of \$50, which includes materials to make one rain barrel. Green Partner: City of Lincoln Water Conservation.

April 25. 23rd Annual Spring Affair at State Fair Park.

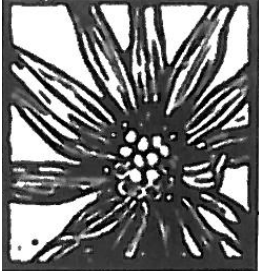
New for the 2009 season is "**First Monday for First Time Gardeners**", a series of classes for vegetable gardeners. The series will be lead by Ryan Luckey, who loves to grow vegetables in his home garden.

May 4, 7 p.m. Gardening Basics: Fruiting Vegetables – tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash & cucumbers. Don't rush the planting of these warm season vegetables until after the danger of frost (May 10th). Ryan will review planting techniques and important considerations for success.

June 4, 7 p.m. Gardening Basics: Knowing the Challenges Ahead - pest problems & their solutions.

July 6, 7 p.m. Gardening Basics: Planting Fall Gardens - often overlooked vegetable garden season that can provide produce well into October

August 3, 7 p.m. Gardening Basics: Preserving the Flavor - ideas for using the bounty of your garden.

<p style="text-align: center;">Earthday Helpers Needed</p> <p>FWP could use some help at our exhibit table at the two Earth Day Festivals which we will be participating in. One will be on Sunday afternoon, April 19th, near the UNL campus and the other one will be Friday during the day on April 24th on the UNL campus. Please call Mary at 477-8282 if you can help.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Congratulations</p> <p>To Friends of Wilderness Park board member, Foster Collins, who received the Wachiska Audubon Society's Earthkeeper Award on April 8th. We appreciate the work he puts in helping to protect Wilderness Park as well as other environmental activities in Lincoln. Thank You Foster!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wilderness Park Spring Cleanup Day Saturday, April 25</p> <p>8:30 - Noon. Meet at Day Camp parking lot near 1st and Park Blvd to receive work area assignments. Register before April 22 through the Pioneers Park Nature Center (441-7895) and enjoy free pizza and pop.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter Folders Needed</p> <p>Would you like to meet some interesting people and help a very worthy cause? FWP needs people to help out folding our newsletter for April and May. Call Mary at 477-8282 for more information.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Proudly independent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lee BOOKSELLERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lincoln's own bookstore since 1979.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Edgewood Center 5500 S. 56th Street (402) 420-1919 (402) 489-2770 info@leebooksellers.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FINKE Gardens & Nursery</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>500 N 66th Street Lincoln NE 402.466.1995 402.466.2110 (fax) finkegardens.com</p> <p>Open 9 to 5 Monday - Saturday Closed Sunday</p> </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Got Plants?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Get Plants!</i></p>

Plant Sale Orders Due May 5

Plant Sale Orders Due May 5

Membership Application—Friends of

Wilderness Park

Annual Dues

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Office Phone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Student/Senior \$5 _____

Individual \$10 _____

Family/Household \$15 _____

Sustainer \$25 _____

Motivator \$50 _____

Benefactor \$100 _____

Patron \$500 _____

Plant Sale Orders Due May 5

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Friends of Wilderness Park

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Lincoln, NE 68501-1171

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**FWP Plant Sale
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