

Campus rec offers outdoor adventure

By Mick Dyer
Senior Reporter

Within each mild-mannered, industrious and scholarly University of Nebraska-Lincoln student lurks a potential outdoor adventurer.

And Bruce Rischar, graduate assistant in the outdoor recreation program, would like to tap that potential this summer.

"The entire summer is dedicated to the beginning outdoorsman," Rischar said. "We're trying to cater to beginners."

What he is talking about is exposing students to the challenges, thrills and fun of the outdoors.

The UNL Office of Campus Recreation still has space available on nine exciting summer trips from their 14th annual outdoor adventures series. The trips range from canoeing and backpacking to bicycling.

The Repackin' River canoe trip, May 20-22, features canoeing the scenic stretch of river from Harlan County Reservoir to Riverton. Sign-up deadline is May 10, and the limit is

18 people. Student cost is \$50.

The Canyonlands Backpacking trip, May 27-June 5, features day-hikes and wilderness backpacking in Arches and Canyonlands National Parks in south-central Utah. Beginning and experienced backpackers can enjoy Indian ruins, rock paintings, petroglyphs and breath-taking desert scenery. Sign-up deadline is May 10, and the trip is limited to 12 people. Student cost is \$225.

The Basic Rock Climbing Seminar, June 8-12, features training in the basics of rock climbing at Palisades State Park, South Dakota. Sign-up deadline is June 7, and the trip is limited to 16 people. Student cost is \$55.

The Stromsburg Bicycle Tour, June 17-19, features a bicycle journey to Stromsburg's annual Swedish festival. Sign-up deadline is June 7, and the trip is limited to 18 people. Student cost is \$40.

The "Fun" and Baseball in Kansas City trip, June 18, features transportation, passports to Worlds of Fun or

Oceans of Fun and tickets to the Angels vs. Royals baseball game. Sign-up deadline is June 3, and the trip is limited to 39 people. Student cost is \$40.

The Upper Niobrara River Canoe Trip, June 24-26, features canoeing the less-crowded, more-challenging and scenic stretch of the Niobrara River from south of Nenzel to south of Crookston. Sign-up deadline is June 14, and the trip is limited to 16 people. Student cost is \$50.

The family Canoe/Camping on the Niobrara River Trip, July 8-10, features canoeing and camping for the whole family. There's no age minimums for children if accompanied by a parent. Sign-up deadline is June 28, and the trip is limited to 16 people. Student cost is \$50; second family member at \$45; third at \$40; and each additional family member at \$35.

The Whitewater Rafting on the Green River in Utah Trip, July 16-25, features rafting through Desolation Canyon on one of America's premier whitewater rivers. Sign-up deadline

is July 19, and the trip is limited to 10 people. Student cost is \$245.

The Dismal River Canoe Trip, July 29-31, features canoeing this beautiful, forested spring-fed river in the Nebraska Sandhills. Sign-up deadline is July 19, and the trip is limited to 16 people. Student cost is \$50.

All transportation, equipment and food for the trips are provided by campus recreation. All the student needs to bring are their clothes, Rischar said.

For the student on a budget, these trips are a bargain, he said. Since the campus recreation office is a non-profit organization, it can offer these trips at about half the price of a commercial travel agency, Rischar said.

Another point about these trips is they are led by trained UNL students who are interested in the outdoors. The trips have had excellent safety records, Rischar said.

Rischar said that these trips are popular. He recommends signing up early.

"Quite a few students take advantage of these services each year," he said.

There are many reasons for their popularity, he said. They are an inexpensive way to gain valuable outdoors experience, he said.

"These trips are a good way to get the experience needed for more advanced outdoor experiences offered through campus rec," Rischar said. "We teach basic camping and canoeing skills as well as respect for the environment."

Another reason for their popularity is their emphasis on fitness, he said.

"We try to put out a good healthy lifestyles attitude," Rischar said.

Probably the biggest reason for their popularity is feeling of reverence for nature that they instill.

"The Niobrara is a botanical jewel," Rischar said. "There is nowhere in the world quite like it."

"People come back from these trips with a sense of satisfaction," Rischar said.

Opening day at zoo continues tradition

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

Sunday, opening day at the Folsom Children's Zoo and Botanical Gardens, was a cloudy, windy, cool harbinger of summer.

Amid an ocean of brightly-colored shorts, parents dragged weary tots through the zoo, and vice versa.

Taking the kids to the zoo has been a tradition in Lincoln for 23 years. Located on 8 1/2 acres leased from the city of Lincoln, it is one of about 14 private zoos in the nation.

"The newest attractions are the European white storks," said Mike Bowling, business manager at the zoo. Also new is a 300-gallon, salt-water aquarium that hasn't been fully stocked yet.

Going from winter homes to summer places isn't too hard for many of the animals.

"They all stay here," Bowling said, except for the horses and goats that go to the farm.

Bowling said the most popular attraction is the C.P. Huntington Iron Horse Railroad, the small red train that takes sight-seers around the zoo. The train is a replica of an 1863 model.

arrived plants leave the paths a little bit naked.

But still, the zoo has the bright, friendly faces of the workers.

The Critter Encounter Area is a hands-on, close-up experience for children and adults. Taffy, a 2-year-old angora rabbit, is petted by children barely older than it. Leroy, a huge, albino rat with red, bulbous eyes, is friendly and likes the attention, despite being every homeowner's nightmare.

Also on display, but safely encased in a glass tank, is a Haitian tarantula.

Past the playful North American otters and the wallabies from Australia that look something like shrunken kangaroos, are the monkeys. Two Japanese macaque play in a cage. There are benches outside for tired zoo-goers to sit and watch the monkeys' antics. However, the monkeys seem more interested in watching the humans.

Beside the brightly-colored, but slightly maniacal-looking "Crooked House" are the pony-rides and the farm animals.

The goats have kids, too. These draw a lot of "oohs," "ahs," and "Look at the baby goats, Frankie."



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Above: UNL student David Gibbers holds an albino rat while a zoo volunteer looks on. Below: Dave Rogers takes a shot inside the petting stables with son Nathan backing him up.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Please don't feed the animals people

On Aug. 20, the zoo will have a large celebration commemorating the 25th anniversary of the train.

Among the animals, Ben the Bear is the biggest attraction, Bowling said.

Ben, a Kodiak bear, now is known for his vandal-enhanced sign proclaiming "Please don't feed the animals people."

Not everything is quite in place at the Children's Zoo. In the second week of May, more than 7,000 annual plants will arrive for the Botanical Gardens, Bowling said.

The zoo seems like it's just stretching after a long winter's nap. The animals are a little shy, unused to so many people. Leaves and dirt haven't been completely cleaned up yet, and of course, the not-yet-

The Animal Kingdom Building is one of the best parts of the zoo. Brightly-colored tropical birds, the leonine Tamarine monkeys and the scary giant constrictors evoke a range of emotions.

Zooville Square, the shopping emporium with an Old West theme, is in the southwest corner of the zoo. It reportedly has excellent food.

The zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. In June, July and August, Thursday hours are extended to 8 p.m.

Admission prices are \$2.75 for adults, \$1 for children ages 2 to 11, and free for children under 2.

Train rides and pony rides are \$1.