

# The W.R.E.N.

Wapsi River Environmental News

Summer 2002

Wapsi River Environmental Education Center

## Wapsi Center Happenings

by Bob Bryant, Director

### School Attendance Record Set

Approximately 6,726 students, teachers and parents participated in 113 field trips this school year. This was a 31% increase over last year's record of 5,143. We had an increase in the number of half-day field trips involving the lower grade levels.

We had a very busy fall, and there was an increase in winter field trips. As usual, spring is our busiest time. May is the most popular month for field trips and days filled up very fast. If you would like to schedule a field trip next school year, do it as far in advance as possible. And don't forget – *the Wapsi River Center is a place for all seasons.*

### Wapsi River Corridor Surveys

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is funding natural area inventories on 7 sites along the Wapsipinicon River this summer. Plant, mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian surveys are being conducted on selected sites. Six of the sites are publicly owned (4 county, 2 state) and one is private.



The Wapsi River Center and Sherman Park (directly across the Wapsi River from the Center) are two of the sites, which will be fully inventoried. Matricary fern (daisy-leaved moonwort), an endangered species in Iowa, was found in Sherman Park.

### Michael Petersen Will Complete AmeriCorps Program In August

Hello, everyone. The last time I wrote a hello to you was one year ago to introduce myself as being the new AmeriCorps naturalist. Now I'm saying good-bye. My 1,700 hours of service is going to be finished in August. This past year has been a very rewarding experience. The amount of knowledge I've collected, experienced and gained is immeasurable. It has also given me the push I needed to find a career for myself, being a naturalist. A year ago, I wasn't sure how it was going to turn out, but looking back, I loved it. I've learned how to create and deliver programs, care for display animals, conduct natural area inventories, how a nature center is fun, and overcome my fear of public speaking – just to name some of

many. I also hope to give my appreciation and thanks to the mentors and friends that have helped me this past year. Thank you. I'm looking forward to the future as being a naturalist.

### WRC Will Participate In AmeriCorps Program Again

A coalition of county conservation boards in eastern Iowa has been awarded an AmeriCorps grant through the Corporation for National Service and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. The eleven counties in the Eastern Iowa Conservation Alliance (EICA) will enroll 15 members over 12 months, starting September 1, 2002.

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, engages more than 40,000 Americans in community-based service each year. Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with local and national organizations. Others serve in AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).



Members of the EICA AmeriCorps team will be involved in a variety of environmental projects including: restoring native prairie, managing public forests, leading environmental education programs and developing volunteer projects. Members will serve in a specific county, but will come together for group projects once a month at rotating program sites.

Full-time AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, health insurance, student loan deferment and receive a \$4,725 education award, upon completion of hours, to help finance college or to pay back student loans.

Each county will be responsible for recruiting and selecting its own members. AmeriCorps members must be at least 17 years of age. The Scott County Conservation Board's AmeriCorps member will serve as a naturalist at the Wapsi River Center. For more information about the AmeriCorps program, contact Bob Bryant at (563) 843-2855.

### "The W.R.E.N." Is Shorter

Due to the busy spring with school field trips, we had only enough time to put together an eight-page newsletter instead of the usual 12 pages.

# WILDLIFE PROFILE ~ THE PADDLEFISH

by Greg Wolf, Naturalist

Do you believe that we have a species of fish that is a living fossil and lives in the Mississippi River? The paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) is that ancient fish and one of North America's largest freshwater fish. The first fossil records date back 300-400 million years (this is about 50 million years before the first dinosaurs). Twenty-two states have this unusual fish within their borders and Iowa is included. The paddlefish has influenced commercial fishing and roe production (caviar). However, it gains most of its attention by its strange and unusual appearance.



The paddlefish (nicknamed the spoonfish, freshwater whale, boneless cat or spoonbill cat) can

reach lengths of five to six feet and weight up to sixty pounds or more. The largest paddlefish on record was caught in Iowa and weighed 198 pounds. The larger fish generally are females. Most of the nicknames come from the paddle-like snout (the rostrum) which is one-third the body length. The rostrum can detect weak electrical fields and suggests that the paddlefish uses it as an electrosensory "antenna" to detect its small prey. The food source for this fish is zooplankton and insect larvae. They gather the plankton by straining the water with gill arches that have gill rakers attached to them, making the paddlefish an efficient filter feeder.

The genus "*Polyodon*" is Greek for "many tooth", referring to the numerous long gill rakers, and the species "*spathula*" is Latin for "spatula" or "blade". Fish belonging to this genus have a skeleton made out of cartilage, except for a small amount of bone in the jaw. Only one other species is related to the paddlefish. *Psephurus gladius* is an ancient fish found in the Yangtze Valley in China. Paddlefish have bluish-gray skin, without scales except for a patch on the upper lobe of the tail fin, which fades to a light color underneath. The outer appearance is very sharklike, with the tail fin deeply forked, a prolonged gill cover and higher dorsal fin.



Paddlefish can be found in large streams, rivers and impoundments within the Mississippi River Basin and adjacent Gulf Coast drainage. Paddlefish are very mobile and are known to travel 2,000 miles in a river

system, but normally travel about 300 miles. They prefer open water, tailwaters below dams and low current areas like side channels, backwaters and oxbows.

During the breeding season (April and May), the female will migrate to spawning areas which are high-flowing, flooded gravel bars. Temperature of the water is still on the chilly side

at 55-60 degrees F. Research has indicated that most males will mature at age six or seven, while females take longer to mature. When females mature, they will produce about 7,500 eggs per pound of body weight. The best results for hatching happens on clean-swept gravel beds where siltation is low and aeration is high. Eggs will hatch in seven days or less in temperatures between 65-70 degrees F. The larvae will be swept downstream into pool areas.

In some of the paddlefish's native waters, numbers have fallen or disappeared altogether. Scientists believe that overharvesting, sedimentation and river modifications such as the lock and dam system have created these low numbers. On a world look, sturgeon stocks have fallen, making the demand for paddlefish eggs increase. The caviar produced by these two species is similar in taste. Commercial fishermen harvest about 100,000 pounds annually in the upper Mississippi River, between St. Louis and the Iowa-Minnesota state line. This figure represents slightly less than one percent of the total commercial food-fish harvest. Sport angling for paddlefish has recently become popular, particularly in tailwater areas in the Mississippi River. Paddlefish meat is said to have a taste similar to salmon or swordfish. Due to illegal poaching of paddlefish for the international caviar trade, in 1992, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was able to add the paddlefish to the United Nations' Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This states that if any person or company wants to import or export paddlefish meat or eggs, they must possess a CITES permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A female weighing forty pounds will give 4 to 6 pounds of roe, which can bring a price somewhere around \$150 on the retail market. Considering a female paddlefish must be sacrificed to meet the demand, the CITES permit requirement will help in protect this species.



The paddlefish is a prehistoric fish that has been around for millions of years. It can never be mistaken for anything else in the water with its elongated snout and sharklike appearance. There still needs to be more research on the paddlefish so it can be protected from overharvesting. I would like to finish with a quote that says it all.

"There is still so much to learn about our nation's rivers; about the ancient survivors who inhabited these waters long before dinosaurs roamed the earth.... prehistoric relics cloaked in the secrets of an enigmatic past. We marvel at the sheer thought of their existence, and wonder at the possibility there may be more." ©1993 Betty Wills

# PLANT PROFILE ~ THE AMERICAN LOTUS

by Michael Granger, Naturalist

Let me introduce you to a spectacular plant which can be found in this region: the American or yellow lotus, *Nelumbo lutea*. One only has to see the plant's enormous round leaves, its giant flower blossoms, or its strange-looking seedpods, to realize how unique the plant is.



The plant belongs to the water lily family, *Nymphaeaceae* (some references separate it from the lilies and place it in the lotus family, *Nelumbaceae*). There are only two species of lotus in the world; the American lotus, *Nelumbo lutea*, is native in the eastern half of the United States, and the sacred lotus, *Nelumbo*

*nucifera*, is found in Eastern Asia, Northern Australia and Egypt. The only difference between the two is the color of their blossoms (the American lotus having yellow blossoms and the sacred lotus having pink blossoms).

In Iowa, the American lotus is found mainly among the backwaters of the Mississippi and Missouri River Valleys, but it also has been introduced into ponds and lakes. The plant thrives in calm freshwater up to 8 feet deep. The plant's thick rhizomes (tuberous roots) hold fast to the muddy bottom. The rhizomes spread rapidly, providing support for new leaves and flowering stalks, which poke through the water's surface and may extend several feet above the water.

The leaves of the American lotus are blue-green and up to 2 feet in diameter. Each leaf is a round circle with a stem attached in the center. The leaves do not have a cleft or notch in them, which differentiates them from the water lilies. Leaf veins run from the center of the leaf outward, dividing once or twice as they reach towards the leaf's edge. When young, the leaves will float on the water's surface but soon extend above on strong stalks as the plant matures. When mature, the leaves have a depression in the center, giving each leaf a "dish-like" appearance.

Perhaps the most captivating part of the American lotus is its amazing blossoms, which are seen July through August. The flowers are up to 8 inches across, and would cover a dinner plate. Up to 25 or more yellow sepals and petals are arranged around the flower's center. The center of the flower contains a seed-producing structure known as the receptacle. The receptacle starts out as a small, yellow cone with many seeds embedded on its upper surface. As the flower opens, the receptacle will turn green and swell to 5 inches across.

Eventually, the sepals and petals will drop, and the receptacle will turn woody and brown. A mature receptacle contains 25-30 acorn-like seeds, which are ½ inch long. As the plant breaks

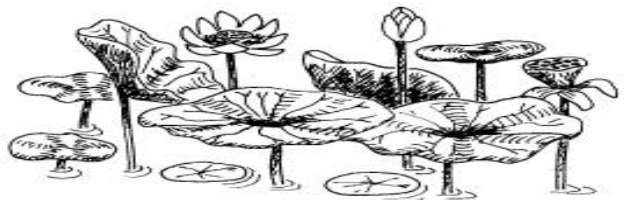
down, the dried seedpod floats away, carrying and dispersing seeds in new areas.

Another interesting fact about the lotus is that the seeds have a very protective seed coat. The seeds can remain alive for a very long time. American lotus seeds have been germinated after 200 years of dormancy. The sacred lotus has been started from 400-year-old seeds, making it the recordholder for the longest-living seeds of any flowering plant.

Due to its large leaves and blossoms, it is no wonder that the lotus has been important to many cultures. The ancient Egyptians believed the sacred lotus contained secrets of the Gods, represented creation, preservation, and ultimate beauty. The blossoms also symbolized the sun and were placed as offerings on their altars of worship. Many tribes of Native American Indians harvested the American lotus for a food source. The large rhizome (tuberous root) was boiled or roasted, having a sweet-potato-like flavor. The Native Americans would also cut the tubers and dry them for storage. The dried tubers were used throughout the winter by soaking them in water and adding them as a supplement to meat, corn or beans. Immature lotus seeds were eaten raw or sometimes cooked. Their taste is said to be very similar to chestnuts. When the seeds were fully developed, they were cracked, roasted and then eaten like nuts or ground into flour.


Many animals also benefit from the American lotus. Waterfowl, such as mallards and wood ducks, eat the seeds. In fact, the plant is known in some parts as "duck acorn". Beavers and muskrats enjoy eating the tubers, which are full of starch. Finally, the plant's large leaves provide shade and shelter for young waterfowl, songbirds and fish.

This summer I hope that you have a chance to see the American lotus. You may find it in a number of areas along the Mississippi River. My favorite spot to view the American lotus is the Princeton Refuge, which is located north of Princeton, Iowa. The lotus colony seems to stretch as far as the eye can see. With each breeze, the large leaves flap back and forth in the wind. Across the colony, new flowers are emerging and blooming yellow, with a color that would brighten anyone's day. Here and there are the remains of dried-up seedpods. Most of the pods have dropped their seeds and have fulfilled their mission. If you search long enough, you just might find a pod containing seeds – each seed destined one day to produce the giant green leaves and huge yellow blossoms of the American lotus.



## June

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday Night at the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Family nature-theme movies will be shown. Popcorn is free of charge to guests in the pavilion.

**21<sup>st</sup> ~ Menke Open House ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Dusk ~**  
 Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory, for a tour of the summer sky. Please call (563) 333-6141 on the day of the event to find out if the weather conditions will permit viewing.

**24<sup>th</sup> ~ Canoeing 101 ~ 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Beginners, canoeing is a great sport that everyone can enjoy. Join us for this A-to-Z class. Participants will learn the canoe safety rules, various paddle strokes, canoe style choices, how to right a tipped canoe (yep, we're gonna tip them) and will sample some freeze-dried wilderness food. We will also be taking a canoe trip through backwater wetlands, the Wapsi and Mississippi Rivers, complete with portages and obstacles. Bring a sack lunch, a change of clothes (or two!) and be ready to participate with gusto. Call (563) 847-7202 to reserve your spot for this free canoe class.

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Kids' Fishing Tournament ~ 5:30 - 8:30 P.M. ~ Malone Lake** ~ Kids, ages twelve and under, are invited to test their angling skills. Sunfish are thick in the 10-acre lake, with bass, bullheads and catfish in good numbers. Plaques will be awarded for the greatest weight of fish in two age groups, ages 10-12 and ages 9 and under. There will also be door prizes. Registration starts at 5:30 P.M., with fishing from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.; weigh-in and casting contest will follow.

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Bats and Bathhouse-Building Workshop ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Eden Valley Nature Center** ~ Come to the Eden Valley Nature Center to explore the fascinating bats of our area and help to protect them. Participants will learn about bat habitats, characteristics and why these animals are so important for the ecosystem. Building a bathhouse and learning where to install it will round out the day. Pre-registration is required, (563) 847-7202.

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Iowa Furbearers ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park, Gate 5** ~ Iowa furbearers played an important role in the early settlement of Iowa and continue to play a major role in the state's economy. Join Mike Granger as participants learn first-hand about the history of Iowa's fur industry, the life histories of Iowa's furbearers and the conservation practices surrounding them.



July

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Spelunking ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ Mud & bats & rocks! Oh, my!! Old clothes, flashlight and pre-registration are a must. Call (563) 847-7202 to reserve your hard hat! We will meet at Eden Valley Nature Center.



## SUMMER

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Fern Hike ~ 9:30 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Bob Bryant will share his knowledge of these interesting plants on an easy stroll through the Wapsi River Center. A variety of ferns can be found here, including maidenhair, interrupted, lady, Christmas and walking ferns.

**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Beginning Digital Nature Photography ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Digital cameras are not just for the usual family, landscape and vacation photos. They can also be used for nature photography. Nature photography with a digital camera is not quite as simple as with a standard 35mm single lens reflex camera, but has advantages over the standard point and shoot camera. Bob Bryant will share his experiences taking nature photos with a digital camera. Items covered will be: digital camera's advantages and disadvantages, camera types, megapixel size, accessories, image resolution and compression, exposure, closeup photography, tips and tricks. Pre-registration is required, limit of 10 participants. To register, call the Wapsi River Center at (563) 843-2855. Feel free to bring your camera and any prints, or digital photos on a disk.



**12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Free Canoeing Weekend ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Take a canoe out for a spin during this free canoe weekend. The Mississippi backwaters provide an excellent opportunity to see the abundance of wildlife the area has to offer. Canoes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and must be used in the Rock Creek Marina & Campground area.

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Campfire Celebration ~ 8:00 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ Join Naturalist Greg Wolf as he fills the night air with the sounds of laughter and music. Relax and have fun singing and telling stories as you settle around a roaring campfire! This event is geared toward the whole family.

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday Night at the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Popcorn is free of charge to guests in the pavilion.

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park** ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky.

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Nature Journaling ~ 10:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Experience natural wonders in a whole new way by keeping a nature journal. Learn how a variety of art supplies, techniques and methods can be used to enrich your trips into the field and strengthen your powers of observation. Participants will receive materials



# EVENTS



to get started with nature journaling. Cost for the workshop is \$4.00. This workshop is geared towards adults and youngsters 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Pre-registration is required, (563) 843-2855.

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday Night at the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ Popcorn is free of charge to guests at the Nature Center's outdoor screen.

**26<sup>th</sup> ~ Menke Open House ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Dusk** ~ Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory, for a tour of the summer sky. Please call (563) 333-6141 on the day of the event to find out if the weather conditions will permit viewing.

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Beginning Birding Workshop ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Nahant Marsh** ~ Nahant Marsh will be the site for this exciting look at the world of birds. Bird identification, backyard birds, birdcall identification, birds of prey and bird photography are just some of the classes being conducted during this special workshop. Nahant Marsh can be found by taking Interstate 280 south to Highway 22 east, then turn off on Wapello Avenue. The entrance to the marsh is on the east side of the road. Pre-registration is required, by calling (563) 323-5196.



**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Campfire Celebration ~ 8:00 P.M. ~ Thomson Causeway** ~ Join Naturalist Greg Wolf as he fills the night air with the sounds of laughter and music. Relax and have fun singing and telling stories as you settle around a roaring campfire! This event is geared toward the whole family. Thomson Causeway is located on the west edge of Thomson, Illinois, along the Mississippi River.

**28<sup>th</sup> ~ Olde St. Anne's Wedding Reunion ~ 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ Couples married at St. Anne's Church, at its current location and original location in rural Long Grove, are invited to a reunion. Registration will be at 9:00 A.M., with a marriage renewal service at 10:30 A.M., and luncheon at 11:45 A.M. There will be prize giveaways and entertainment throughout the afternoon. Admission is FREE! For further information, contact Tara Youngers at (563) 285-9903.



**30<sup>th</sup> ~ Limestone Prairie Walk ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Manikowski Prairie** ~ Join Clinton County's prairie expert, Walt Wickham, for a tour of Iowa's largest limestone prairie remnant. The large summer wildflowers, like the purple coneflower, blazing star and yellow coneflower, should be in full bloom. The prairie is located 2

miles north of Goose Lake on County Road Z34, then ½ mile east on gravel.

**31<sup>st</sup> ~ Wapsi River Canoeing ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Sherman Park** ~ This trip will cover 5.5 miles of the Wapsipinicon River from Syracuse Wildlife Area to Sherman Park. Call (563) 847-7202 to reserve a free canoe.

## August

**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park** ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky.



**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Mississippi River Cleanup ~ 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.** ~ Join Chad Pegracke in his continuing efforts to rid the Mississippi River of trash. Chad is famous throughout the area as a river activist. Watch the local media for more details. For more information, go to [www.cleanrivers.com](http://www.cleanrivers.com) or call (309) 496-9848.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday Night at the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ Popcorn is free of charge to guests at the Nature Center's outdoor screen.

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Wapsi River Canoeing ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Take a twelve-mile excursion from Walter's Landing, near McCausland, on the Wapsipinicon River to Rock Creek Marina & Campground on the Mississippi River. Call (563) 847-7202 for free canoe reservations.

**16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Advanced Hunter Safety Education Course ~ 6:00 P.M. (Friday) - 4:00 P.M. (Sunday) ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Standard hunter safety courses are 10 hours long, with about five of those hours spent in the outdoors using various shooting equipment. In this event, we will go far beyond the basics. In addition to all of the hunter education standards, we will be teaching advanced shooting techniques, bowhunter safety, trapping, waterfowl, turkey & raccoon hunting, dog training, caring for game in the field, first aid, wildlife ID, calling and a whole lot more!

All these activities will allow participants to actually take part and do, not just listen to speakers or watch films. The course is open to kids, age 11-16, whether or not they have received the Hunter Education Certificates already. Cost per student is \$20.00, primarily for meals. Pheasants Forever and Whitetails Unlimited will be providing monetary support to cover the cost of lodging (at the Wapsi River Center's dormitory), ammunition and targets for the participants. Overnight chaperons will be provided by Pheasants Forever and YHEC (Youth Hunter Education Challenge). Space is limited to 40 kids, so sign up early by calling (563) 847-7202.



**16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Free Canoeing Weekend ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground**

~ Take a canoe out for a spin during this free canoe weekend. The Mississippi backwaters provide an excellent opportunity to see the abundance of wildlife the area has to offer. Canoes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and must be used in the Rock Creek Marina & Campground area.



**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday Night at the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground**

~ Popcorn is free of charge to guests in the pavilion.

**22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Wapsi River Canoeing ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Sherman Park**

~ This trip will cover 5.5 miles of the Wapsipinicon River from Syracuse Wildlife Area to Sherman Park. Call (563) 847-7202 to reserve a free canoe.



**23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Menke Open House ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Dusk** ~ Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory, for a tour of the

summer sky. Please call (563) 333-6141 the day of the event to find out if the weather conditions will permit viewing.

## September

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Village Fall Festival ~ 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ Come and enjoy that old-fashioned, fall-harvest, festival atmosphere at the Village! “The Friends” of the Village, dressed in period dress, will demonstrate crafts, sell their wares and share the fruits of the harvest. Come spend the day and enjoy the food and music. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. Any questions, contact Tara Youngers at (563) 285-9903.

**7<sup>th</sup> ~ Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park** ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky.



---

# Young Pioneers Day Camp

## Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village

---

**June 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Ecology Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~** Learn about the land, water and wildlife. An exploratory visit to the Maquoketa Caves will be included. Activities will include nature crafts, plants and wildlife identification, recycling and our role with nature.

**June 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Nature Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~** This is one week where you can actually camp out under the stars for one night! Nature crafts, hikes, learn plant and animal identification and take a trip to the Wapsi River Center.



**July 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Wild West Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~** Spend the week learning what life was like as a cowpoke. We will visit a horse farm where you can learn how to ride a horse.

**July 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Native American Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~** Come and discover the art of Native American sign language and take a canoe ride at West Lake Park! We will visit the Hauberg Indian Museum and create Native American crafts such as a mandella and a dream catcher.

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Laura Ingalls Wilder Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~** Learn what life was like in the pioneer days. Experience how Laura Ingalls lived by spending time in an 1800s cabin and a one-room school. Enjoy crafts such as soapmaking, candle dipping and much more.

**July 29<sup>th</sup> - August 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Frontier Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~** Enjoy a week doing what the pioneers did in the 1800s Enjoy a hayrack ride, frontier cooking, pioneer games and much more. A trip to the amazing corn maze in Princeton, Iowa, will also take place.



**August 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Mark Twain Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~** Spend the week learning what life was like for Mark Twain. We will visit a lock and dam along the Mississippi River and enjoy paddleboating at West Lake Park. Activities will include making animal track casts, fishing, soapcarving and much more!

**Attention:** These day camps are geared for children 6-11 years of age. Contact Tara Youngers at (563) 285-9903 for registration information.

**Answers to Kids' Corner ~ Garden & Bird Riddles:** 1-Iris, 2-Daffodil, 3-Queen Anne's lace, 4-Boxwood, 5-Aster, 6-Hyacinth 7-Rose, 8-Balsam, 9-Bedding plants, 10-Blueberries, 11-Juncos, 12-Robin, 13-Oriole, 14-Scarlet tanager, 15-Kingfisher, 16-Hummingbird, 17-Sandpiper, 18-Chimney swift, 19-Flycatcher, 20-Grosbeak.



## Kids' Corner ~ Garden & Bird Riddles

\* Riddles courtesy of Birds & Blooms, spring 2001, magazine \*



Whether you're an avid birder or gardener, this issue's kids' corner is for you. Below you'll find a few clever riddles whose answers are common plant or bird names. A challenge awaits you, so enlist the help of a friend. If you need help, the answers are found at the end of calendar of events page.

### Garden Riddles

1. Sends a yearly tax notice
2. Crazy pickle
3. Royal tatting
4. Sparring shrub
5. He wanted her answer, so he ...
6. A friendly greeting to Cynthia
7. Tired of sitting, she ...
8. Someone lonely may ...
9. Sleeping flowers
10. Depressed fruit

### Bird Riddles

11. Inner tubes with leaks
12. How a thief makes a living
13. A favorite sandwich cookie
14. Prom queen with a bright red dress
15. The ultimate angler
16. Bird that sings with closed bill
17. Kilted musician on the beach
18. Santa makes his way up and down the ...
19. Plays the outfield
20. Pinocchio's best known for his ...

### *In Appreciation of Your Support of the Wapsi River Center*

Rebecca, Bridget & Nicole Birks	
Marilyn Davis	Karin Petersen
Jeanne Bryant	Warren Wiese
Arnold Christian	Lisa Raabe
Justin Levetzow	Glenn Drowns
The LeRoy Sowl Family	
Dave & Connie Huber	Caroline Harmison
Paul Revere's Pizza	Filmore Elementary
Clinton High School	Hillcrest Elementary
Joe Kint, Pleasant Valley Jr. High	

### LeRoy Sowl - in memoriam

Mary Lou Petersen	Barry Kleppe
Stanislaus & Anne Stryjewski	
Sandra Miller-Sohr	Erma Wiszmann
Vern & Lenore Durkee	
Joyce Marinaccio	Jean Norton
Dennis & Janet Chapman	
Gertrude Johnson	Carol Rogers
Dan & K.J. Rebarcak	
Maxine Harder	Nanette DeLeon
Richard & Suzanne Muller	
Jerry & Dottie Wala	Milo & Mila Smith
Ivan & Dorothy Paulson	
Keith & Judy Thess	Mr. & Mrs. Jirus

### *Living Green... by Renne Lietz, Assumption High School Science Teacher*

Ah, summertime! Sunshine, baseball games, picnics! (Mosquitos?) Summer tends to be busy and full of fun, and a time to enjoy nature, but we also need to take time to think about our environment.

With a busy schedule, we often tend to take shortcuts such as paper plates, cups and napkins. Those kinds of paper products are strictly one-time use and can't even be recycled. According to the Worldwatch Institute, global paper use has grown more than sixfold since 1950. One-fifth of all wood harvested in the world ends up in paper. It takes as much power to produce a ton of paper as a ton of steel, and paper production uses more water per ton than any other product in the world!

So, what are the summer alternatives? You will save money and our precious resources by creating a "picnic pack". Buy a mesh bag (\$3.99 at the discount stores), pack some colorful plastic plates, some "real" silverware, plastic glasses, cloth napkins and some cloth dish towels, maybe even a small vinyl tablecloth. When you get back from your picnic, it may be a little messy, but those few minutes of cleanup will save a lot of natural resources.



**WAPSI RIVER E. E. CENTER**  
**31555 52ND AVENUE**  
**DIXON, IA 52745**  
**Tel: (563) 843-2855**  
**Fax: (563) 843-2845**

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801  
PERMIT NO. 204



The Wapsi River Environmental Education Center is a joint project between the Scott and Clinton County Conservation Boards. "The W.R.E.N." is published quarterly by the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and the Scott County Conservation Board.

**Scott County Conservation Board**

**Members:**

Fred J. Lorenzen	Rich Mohr
Leone Bredbeck	Gene Weis
Carol Fennelly	

**Director:**

Roger Kean

**Phone Numbers**

Wapsi River Environmental Education Center  
(563) 843-2855

Scott County Conservation Board  
(563) 328-3281

Clinton County Conservation Board  
(563) 847-7202

**Wapsi River Environmental Education Center Staff**

**Scott County:**

Bob Bryant, Director/Naturalist  
Mike Granger, Naturalist  
Lisa Gerwulf, Assistant Naturalist

**Clinton County:**

Mark Roberts, E. E. Coordinator  
Greg Wolf, Interpretative Naturalist

**Mailing List**

If you would like to receive "The W.R.E.N." free of charge, please send a post card to the Wapsi River E. E. Center at the address above.

The Scott County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes they have been subject to discrimination, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Scott County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240.