

The W.R.E.N.

Wapsi River Environmental News

Summer 2005

Scott County Conservation Board's Environmental Education Newsletter

www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/wapsi.html

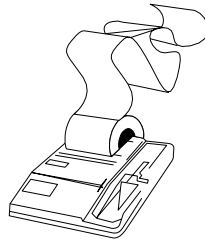
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Wapsi Center Happenings

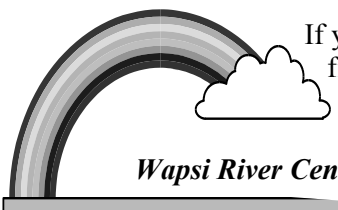
by Bob Bryant, Director

Field trip numbers decline, but attendance was as expected

Approximately 6,013 students, teachers and parents participated in 84 field trips this school year. Even though there were 8 less field trips this year compared to last year, the attendance numbers were as expected. This was due to an increase in the average attendance per field trip. A large part of the decrease in attendance was due to the two large schools which have their school's ecology day every other year. We had fewer field trips last fall and winter, but the number of spring field trips was comparable to past years.



May continued to be the most popular month for field trips, and days filled up very fast. We had four schools which we weren't able to accommodate because their school schedule and free days didn't match. The Valley Shelter program, from Davenport, was discontinued in March due to budget cuts. They took 11 school field trips annually to the Wapsi Center and started visiting the Wapsi Center in May of 1999. The relationship between their students, staff and the WRC staff will be missed more than the lost attendance and field trip numbers.



If you would like to schedule a field trip next year, schedule as far in advance as possible. And don't forget----*The*

Wapsi River Center is a place for all seasons.

Owl's Nest Dormitory to get large deck

Last fall, a building contractor poured the concrete support piers for the dormitory's new deck. The contractor also is the contractor who built the new beach house at West Lake Park. The beach house is completed now, and he will be building the deck this summer. The 74 ft. X 42 ft. deck will be attached to the back side of the dorm and have a raised stage.



EDIWILD 2005 Teachers' Workshop "Life in the Tall Grass"

The EDIWILD (Educators in the Wild) Workshop (June 13-16) was sponsored by the following partnerships: Wapsi River Center, Scott and Clinton County Conservation Boards, Nahant Marsh Education Field Station, Iowa DNR, Clinton County Pheasants Forever and River Action, Inc. The workshop used an interdisciplinary approach to facilitate the incorporation of environmental education into the school curriculum. This year's theme was the tall grass prairie. Through field trips and presentations by prairie enthusiasts, participants learned about Iowa and Illinois prairie heritage.

Forty-one teachers and educators completed the workshop, which included Project Wild training. Two hours of staff development or graduate credit were available through Area Education Agency 9 and Drake University. The workshop is an annual event and will be offered again next year.



Plant Profile " Strawberry

by Renae Hanson, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Oh, such sweet memories of my childhood, literally! Recently, my family and I went camping at the Palisade's Campground near Savanna, Illinois. Our campsite was located at the edge of the woods and next to a small creek. My son and I took a walk along the edge of the woods to see what kind of flowers had bloomed there. We saw sweet cicely, daisy fleabane, violets, lots of poison ivy, and I even found a shooting star flower (which is a rare sight around this area). What really brought back memories was the creeping plant I found growing close to the ground. It looked so familiar. It all came flashing back, (*Fragaria virginiana/vesca*) wild strawberries! I knelt down to take a good look and sure enough, there were berries on it. Unfortunately they weren't ripe yet, they were still pale pink.

The reason it brought back such sweet memories is because when I was a small child we had wild strawberries growing in our very own back yard. I lived in a small valley town, located in Nebraska near the Little Blue River. This river had flooded many times before I was born and a few times after. This made the soil slightly sandy, which makes for an excellent place for wild strawberries to grow. Once we realized it, we boxed the strawberries off with 2x4s, and every year after, they spread and produced more strawberries than the year before. I remember checking the plants daily, waiting for the delicious taste of the first ripe berry. Oh, how sweet they were.



Wild strawberries are quite different from those we buy at farmers' markets or grocery stores. The fruit from a wild strawberry plant is much smaller, and tastes much sweeter and juicier. The

inside is the same beautiful red as the outside. If you've ever tasted one, then you know what I'm talking about. They tend to be quite fragile, and bruise easily, so transporting them can be difficult. It is best to use the fruit immediately.

Homegrown and commercially grown strawberries are bred to be larger than wild strawberries, making the taste and color less intense. The larger strawberries tend to lose color as you reach the center of the fruit. Commercially grown strawberries do not bruise as easily, making them easier to transport and sell.

Where do you find wild strawberries? Wild strawberries are low, ground creeping plants that thrive in partially sandy soil. They also can be found near roads, along streams, abandoned fields and in woodlands. They bloom and produce fruit in the months of



April, May and early June. Each plant will have 3 to 5 white flowers, which have 5 petals. It will also have 3-toothed leaflets.

The wild strawberry had, and still has more uses than simply being a delicious snack. The fruit is not the only usable part of the plant. The leaves are used to make tea. When the plant is in bloom, the best tea can be made from these leaves; however, this could harm the plant, causing it to produce fewer berries in the future. It is best to pick the leaves after the fruit season. These leaves should be used promptly before they begin to wilt or soften because toxins build up once this occurs. To be safe, dry them indoors, in the shade, for about two weeks, until they crumble apart. The toxins will have disappeared. Store them in an airtight bag or jar, and enjoy a cup of tea.

Native Americans smashed the strawberries, making a paste, which they used to remove tartar and clean their teeth, believing it helped with toothaches, also. They used wild strawberry juices as an astringent for open and inflamed sores, which often showed healing improvement. They also believed that the wild strawberry was useful for colds. This is possibly quite true, since the wild strawberry contains more vitamin C per gram than oranges.

Gently smashing down and spreading out the strawberries very thin on a sheet of wax paper, cookie sheet, dehydrator or flat clean surface, and allowing some time to dry out, makes for a great fruit snack when cut into squares. If you enjoy making jams and jellies, try finding some wild strawberries.

The juices from the wild strawberry have been known to be a good antioxidant for facial blemishes, also. Personally, I would rather eat them than wash with them, or just simply enjoy the memories I have of wild strawberries.

Wildlife Profile ~ Fireflies

by Jessica Steines, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Fireflies or lightning bugs belong to the order of *Coleoptera* which includes 300,000 beetle members. Breaking the order *Coleoptera* down further, the firefly belongs to the *Lampyridae* family of 1,500 species worldwide, while there are only 136 species in North America. Fireflies have an exoskeleton, six legs and the three body parts required to be an insect, which include the head, thorax and abdomen. Though the firefly exoskeleton is soft-bodied, the legs are jointed, the thorax extends to hide the head with two antennae and compound eyes. The firefly also undergoes a complete metamorphosis of egg, larva, pupa and adult. So, fireflies are not flies and lightning bugs are not bugs. Flies are in the order *Diptera* and only have one pair of wings, where fireflies have two pairs of wings or none at all. True bugs are in the order *Hemiptera* and often include economic pests such as bed bugs and cockroaches. What really makes the fireflies stand out from the rest of the insect world is its ability to illuminate – a gift known as bioluminescence.

Bio...what? Well, this is the same thing deep sea creatures use to lure prey and warn predators in the murky ocean. It is an efficient light that gives off about 100% of the energy produced. In comparison, a household light bulb gives off 10% of the energy as light and 90% as heat. The brightness of a single firefly is 1/40 of a candlepower. To be able to bioluminate, you need two rare chemicals called luciferin and luciferase, along with oxygen and adenosine triphosphate (ATP). Luciferin is the lighting substrate, luciferase is the enzyme catalyst that is never consumed, oxygen is the fuel, and the ATP, a substance found in all living cells, converts to energy and mixes everything together. When luciferin changes chemically, the electron drops an energy level in the molecule to give off a photon of light. No one really knows how the fireflies are able to manipulate the light flashes, but it is their light of communication.

The main reason behind “lighting” is to attract a mate. The male will fly in the air and flash in his species code. The female, while on the ground, will immediately flash the reciprocating code. This tells the male there is a receptive female, which is pretty good since there can be as many as 50 males for every female. Different species have different codes to reduce the chances of attracting another species. Codes are unique temporally and spatially. The time of night, height in air, flight patterns

and light patterns are important. Just the light patterns can vary with duration, intensity, color and frequency of occurrence. Though there are the different codes to reduce confusion between species, some females will copy another female species code to lure an unsuspecting male for a cannibalistic meal. A reason for this “aggressive mimicry” is the ability to obtain the “bad taste” toxins that the prey has that the aggressor does not have. Another reason to give off light is to warn predators that they do not taste good and should be left alone. The last reason is to warn fellow fireflies of danger. It is said when fireflies are distressed their light increases in intensity and frequency. Not only is the light helpful for the fireflies, it has proven useful to humans.

Today, the firefly is helping with many important issues involving the lives of humans, animals and the possibility of life on Mars. By injecting luciferin and luciferase from a firefly, it can detect energy problems in human cells. It can even give different reactions between normal and cancerous cells. This technique is used to study heart disease, muscular dystrophy, urological problems, antibiotic testing and hypothermia of swine. There are even detectors that test for bacteria contamination of milk, food or water. Proven to be the most sensitive ATP detector, these two rare chemicals have been used by the U.S. space program to detect life on Mars.

Unfortunately, scientists have not been able to synthetically make luciferin and luciferase. If they could make these synthetic chemicals, it would be amazing what could be done. Just the technology of light and energy would change forever. Who knew an insect with a light could be so important to possibly our future human existence? F.Y.I. There is so much information that I could not possible fit it all into this article. So, I encourage you to research these amazing insects to find out more.



In Appreciation of Your Support of the Wapsi River Center

*Paul S.
Darren Speth
Jim Varcho
Jeanne Bryant
Willis Huff
Dottie Wala
Ingrid Bogdanowicz
Christina Groen
Dave Huber
Jerry Springer
Henry Sobaski
Carol Rogers*

*Eliza Ross
Jim Ross
Breanna Ross
Julie Ross
Jerry Wala
Rich Dixon
Judy Petersen
Heathy McGinnis
Greg Houseal
Carl Gerwulf
Bill Robbins
Carla Dacon*

*Erma Wiszmann
Laurie Hopkins
Hillcrest Elementary
~ 3rd Grade
Francis Willard
~ 4th Grade
Orion Middle School
~ 7th Grade
Girl Scout Service
Unit 42
St. Paul Lutheran
Church, Clinton*

Kids' Corner

Fireflies have many different genus (first) names. Below is a list of Latin names and their meanings:

- *Microphotus* ~ small light
- *Macrolampis* ~ big light
- *Microdiphot* ~ small paired lights
- *Pyrogaster* ~ fire stomach
- *Pyropyga* ~ fire rump

You can create your own swarm of edible fireflies with the following no-bake recipe. Before you start, read all the instructions, make sure you have all the ingredients, and ask for permission to use the stove. Happy cooking!



Bright Fireflies

~ courtesy of the Great American Cookie Collection

Ingredients:

- 2/3 c. semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/3 c. sour cream
- 1 c. finely crushed chocolate wafers
(about 22 whole wafers)
- 12 yellow gumdrops
- 1 tube (4.25 oz.) white decorator icing
- Assorted color small fruit sliced
- Small blue and red candy decors
- Black licorice shoelace

Preparation time: 30 minutes plus chilling

Yield: about 1 dozen

How To:

1. In a large saucepan set over medium heat, heat chocolate chips and sour cream; stir until smooth. Remove from heat and stir in chocolate wafer crumbs. Pour mixture into a bowl. Cover and refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.
2. Roll dough into 12, walnut-size balls. Roll between palms to form an oblong shape. Press a yellow gumdrop into one end for "tail".
3. Using white decorator icing, attach 2 fruit slices (same color) onto each "body" for "wings".
4. Using additional icing, attach blue decors for "eyes" and red decors for "nose".
5. Trim licorice lace into 2-inch pieces. Using icing, attach trimmed licorice pieces for "antennae". Let fireflies stand until icing is set, about 1 hour.

Hellos & Goodbyes

Renaë Hanson:

I am an AmeriCorps naturalist who joined the Wapsi staff in April. I graduated college in 1999 from Upper Iowa University in Fayette with a degree in conservation. My intensions were to become a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer.

So you see, becoming a naturalist was never my first choice. However, now that I am, I'm finding it very rewarding. I continually get to use my education, as well as learn more as I go. I've found that old saying, "If you don't use it, you'll lose it," to be quite true. It took some time, but I am finally getting to use it.

So, come see us at the Wapsi River Center! Enjoy the opportunity to explore and have some fun learning about the environment and Iowa.

Adam Gimm:

Hi, I'm a recent graduate of Iowa Wesleyan College, where I was a proud member of Phi Delta Theta, and have earned a degree in biology.

I've had an internship here at the Wapsi River Center since January, which lead to a position with United Neighbors AmeriCorps. I can say this is one of the best jobs I have ever had. I have developed a strong bend toward herpetology and hope to continue in that field in the future.

Cruises on the Blue Heron

Sunset Cruise ~ 7:00 P.M. Rock Creek Marina & Campground

Take an hour and a half Eco Cruise on the Mississippi River. Cruisers will learn about wildlife, commercial use, navigation and recreational use of the big river.

Call (563) 259-1876 for reservations; costs are \$6/adult & \$3/child under 16.

**July ~ 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
August ~ 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
September ~ 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th**

On September 22 & 29, cruise will leave at 6:00 P.M.

Lock & Dam #13 Cruise ~ 6:00 P.M. 9th Ave. Boat Ramp, Clinton

Take an hour and a half Eco Cruise on the Mississippi River. Cruisers will learn about commercial navigation and recreational use of the lock & dam system and the river, see the dam up close and we will lock through if possible. Call (563) 259-1876 for reservations; costs are \$6/adult & \$3/child under 16.

**July ~ 11th & 25th
August ~ 8th & 22nd
September ~ 19th**

Fun Cruise ~ 6:00 P.M. Rock Creek Marina & Campground

Rangers will take people, first-come, first-served, on free 45-minute river rides leaving every-hour-on-the-hour until 8:00 P.M. Just for fun and enjoyment of the river.

Donations gladly accepted.

**July ~ 9th
August ~ 6th**

Moonlight Cruise ~ 9:00 P.M. Rock Creek Marina & Campground

Take a slow cruise on the moonlit river. Call (563) 259-1876 for reservations; costs are \$6/adult & \$3/child under 16.

**July ~ 21st
August ~ 18th**

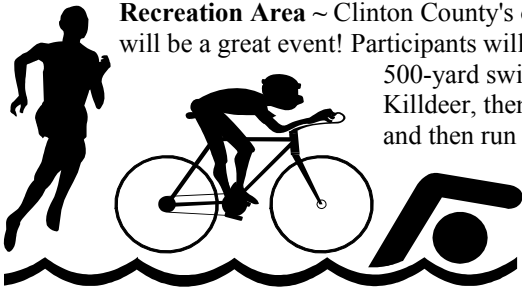


July

9th ~ Crossroads Triathlon ~ 7:30 A.M. ~ Killdeer

Recreation Area ~ Clinton County's only triathlon will be a great event! Participants will start with a 500-yard swim in Lake Killdeer, then bike 15 miles, and then run 3.1 miles.

Contact race organizers at (563) 349-1136 or visit



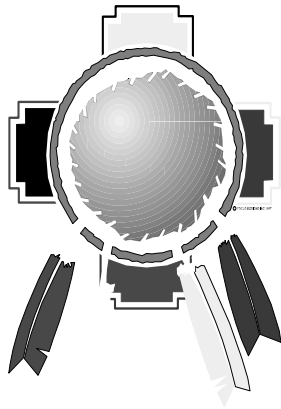
www.topshelfraceproductions.com.

9th ~ Fern Hike ~ 9:30 A.M. ~ Wildcat Den State Park ~

Bob Bryant will share his knowledge of these interesting plants on a hike through Wildcat Den State Park. A variety of ferns can be found here, including maidenhair, Goldie's, lady, Christmas and walking ferns. Participants are asked to meet at the Pine Creek Mill's parking lot. Wildcat Den State Park is located north of Hwy 22 between Montpelier and Fairport.

11th - 15th ~ Native American Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Daily ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Visit the Hauberg Indian Museum, discover Indian sign language, make an Apache scroll and dreamcatcher, plus many other crafts. Also take a canoe ride at West Lake Park (life jackets provided)! This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Call (563) 328-3283 for registration information.

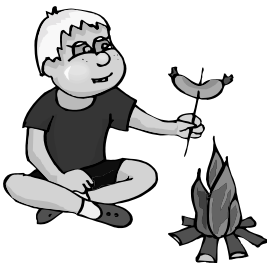


12th ~ Trumpeter Swan Restoration ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ Visit and be informed concerning the efforts of many to return the largest of North America's waterfowl to the wild.

15th ~ Frog Survey ~ 9:00 P.M. ~ Nahant Marsh Field Station ~ We will again enjoy our star vocalists of the evening: the frogs and toads of Nahant Marsh! Meet at the educational center. Please call Jody Patterson at (563) 323-5196 or e-mail her at Patterson@putnam.org in advance to register or for details. Bring insect repellent and boots.

16th ~ Campfire Cooking ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center

~ Spend an afternoon around an open fire learning to prepare delicious food in the great outdoors. Participants are asked to meet at the ring-of-pines. Be sure to bring a place setting and an appetite. Pre-registration is required by July 11 ~ (563) 328-3286. Program fee is \$3.



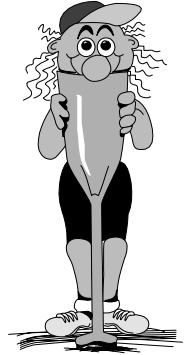
Summer

18th - 22nd ~ Laura Ingalls Wilder Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00

P.M. Daily ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Learn what life was like for Laura Ingalls. Experience how she lived by spending time in an 1830s cabin and a one-room schoolhouse. Enjoy making crafts such as soap decorating, candle dipping and much more. This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Call (563) 328-3283 for registration information.

20th ~ Backwater Float #2 ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ 9th

Ave. Boat Ramp, Clinton ~ Let's try this again! The second in our continuing trek along the eastern edge of Clinton County. We'll meet here, then carpool to Bulger's Hollow Recreation Area for a 6.6 mile canoe float down the Mississippi Backwaters back to Clinton. We'll visit sandbars and islands along the way. Call (563) 847-7202 to register.



20th - 22nd ~ Pollution Safari! ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Daily

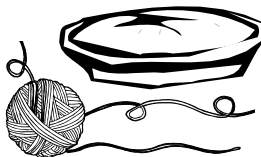
~ Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency (Wed), Soaring Eagle Nature Center (Thur) & Rock Creek Marina & Campground (Fri) ~ Clinton County students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are invited to spend three, fun-filled days learning about our environment and how to take care of pollution. Each day will be filled with tours and activities. Each student needs to bring a sack lunch. Questions about the program can be directed to Laura Liegois at (563) 243-4749. To register (deadline is July 8), call the Clinton County Conservation Board at (563) 847-7202. There is a \$10 registration fee for this program.



23rd ~ Clinton County EnviroKids ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground ~ Join a Clinton County naturalist on-board the Blue Heron for an Eco Cruise. Meet at 9:00 A.M. in the screened-in pavilion. This program is limited to 25 students. There is a \$2/person charge. All students will be given a life jacket and will be required to wear it while on the boat. Call (563) 847-7202 to register. Deadline for registration: July 15.

23rd ~ Homemade Birdfeeder Workshop ~ 10:00 A.M. ~

Wapsi River Center ~ Learn to make simple, inexpensive birdfeeders using materials found around the house (ex. pie pans, butter tubs, string). Program fee is \$2/person. Call Renae Hanson at (563) 328-3286 to register before July 20.



Activities

23rd ~ Backwater Float #3 ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ 4th Ave. Boat Ramp, Camanche ~ The third in our continuing trek along the eastern edge of Clinton County. We'll meet here, then carpool to Clinton's 9th Ave. boat ramp for a 6.9 mile canoe float down the Mississippi Backwaters back to Camanche through Beaver Island. Call (563) 847-7202 to register.

23rd ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground ~ Good times aboard this ½-hour, ranger-guided hayride around the park. Continuous rides offered until dusk.

25th - 29th ~ Frontier Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Daily ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Enjoy a week doing what the pioneers did in the 1800s. Enjoy many activities such as a wagon ride, frontier cooking, pioneer games and much more. This week, we will visit the Niabi Zoo and learn about animals. This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Call (563) 328-3283 for registration information.



27th ~ Backwater Float #4 ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground ~ The last in our trek along the eastern edge of Clinton County. We'll meet here, then carpool to Camanche's 4th Ave. boat ramp for a 5.5 mile canoe float down the Mississippi Backwaters back to Rock Creek. Call (563) 847-7202 to register.

29th ~ For Goodness Snakes ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~ Snakes, snakes, snakes! Learn more about snakes, local and some not so local. Have the opportunity to see 10 species of live Iowa snakes with naturalist Greg Wolf. Participants are asked to meet at the nature center.

30th ~ Beginning Camping Skills ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join AmeriCorps naturalist Adam Gimm as he teaches participants how to build a fire, where to pitch a tent, what gear is needed, what kind of wild plants are available to use, what kind of food to bring and how to take care of it.



30th ~ Menke Open House ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi River Center ~ 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.



31st ~ Village Alive! ~ 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ See the village come alive as "The Friends" of the village reenact life as it was on the 1890s Iowa prairie. Enjoy folk art demonstrations throughout the day. Admission is FREE! For further information, call (563) 328-3283.

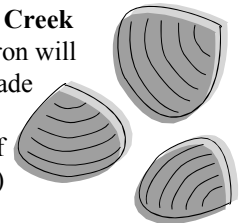
August

1st - 5th ~ Mark Twain Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Daily ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Explore and learn what life was like for Mark Twain. Enjoy paddleboating at West Lake Park and a tour of Lock & Dam 15 on the Mississippi River. Hike trails, carve soap and much more! This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Call (563) 328-3283 for registration information.



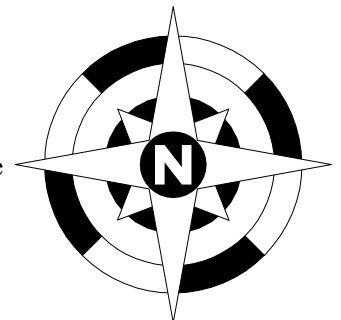
2nd ~ Spelunking ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~ Mud & bats & rocks! Oh, my!! Old clothes, flashlight and pre-registration are a must. Call (563) 847-7202 to reserve your hard hat! We will meet at the nature center.

3rd ~ Mussel Cruise ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground ~ The Blue Heron will take participants out to learn about and wade for freshwater mussels. Freshwater mussels are the most endangered group of animals on earth; find out why. Call (563) 847-7202 to sign up.

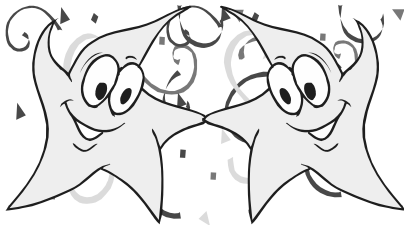


6th ~ Nahant Marsh Workday ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Nahant Marsh ~ Participants are asked to meet at the picnic tables in front of the Nahant Marsh Educational Center. Come with lots of energy and be prepared to spruce up this natural area. Contact Jody Patterson for more information at (563) 323-5196. Nahant Marsh is located off Interstate 280, following Hwy. 22 to Wapello Ave. (toward Davenport) and then turning left before the railroad tracks.

6th ~ Which Way Did They Go? ~ 1:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Mother Nature's math comes to life in this exciting, hands-on, beginners look into the world of orienteering. Join naturalist Lisa Gerwulf for an afternoon of getting lost – comfortably! Participants will learn how to use a compass to navigate their way through different courses, use a map and compass together to find specific locations, as well as dabble in the more modern approach to orienteering – GPS. Pre-registration is required by calling (563) 328-3286 by August 3.

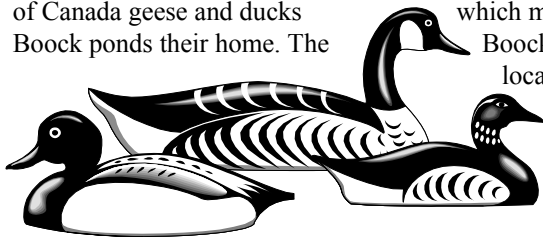


13th ~ Clinton County EnviroKids ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ The Clinton County Conservation Board will feature items that are located at the Soaring Eagle Nature Center: *Animal Encounter* ~ kids will learn about and handle our live snakes and raptors, *Make a Birdfeeder* ~ kids will make a peanut feeder to take home with them and *Wild Hike* ~ explore hidden spots off the beaten path looking for bones, fossils and cool rocks. Call (563) 847-7202 to register. Deadline for registration: August 5.

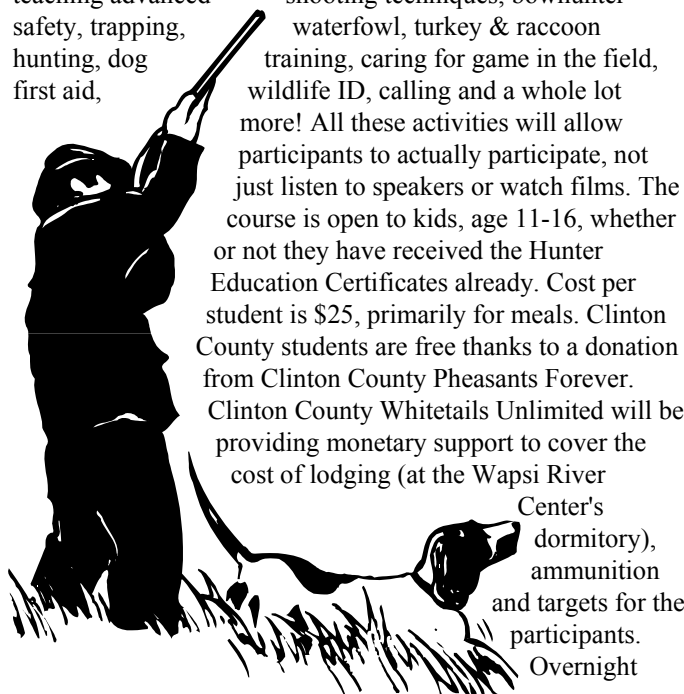


13th ~ Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky.

16th ~ Trumpeter Swan Open House ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Boock Farm ~ Join the Clinton County Conservation naturalists for a quiet evening of waterfowl watching at Bob Boock's Nature's Acres Wildlife Refuge. Observe this year's five trumpeter swan cygnets. This will also be a chance to observe the dozens of Canada geese and ducks which make the Boock ponds their home. The Boock farm is located 2 miles north of Wheatland on County Road Y32.



19th - 21st ~ Hunter Safety Education Camp ~ 6:00 P.M. (Fri) - 4:00 P.M. (Sun) ~ 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, hunting, dog first aid, waterfowl, turkey & raccoon training, caring for game in the field, wildlife ID, calling and a whole lot more! All these activities will allow participants to actually participate, 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 \$25, primarily for meals. Clinton County students are free thanks to a donation from Clinton County Pheasants Forever. Clinton County 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 participants' parents. Space is limited to 40 kids, so sign up early by calling (563) 847-7202.

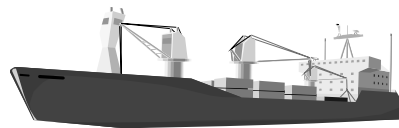
20th ~ Wapsi River Canoe Float ~ 2:00 P.M. ~ McCausland Boat Landing ~ We will meet at this river access and car pool to Allen's Grove Park for a 15-mile afternoon and evening float on the Wapsi. This is a lot of river for a novice, so think twice if you haven't floated this long of a distance before. Bring campfire goodies for a sandbar meal. Call (563) 847-7202 to register and reserve equipment.

20th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground ~ Good times aboard this 1/2-hour, ranger-guided hayride around the park. Continuous rides offered until dusk.



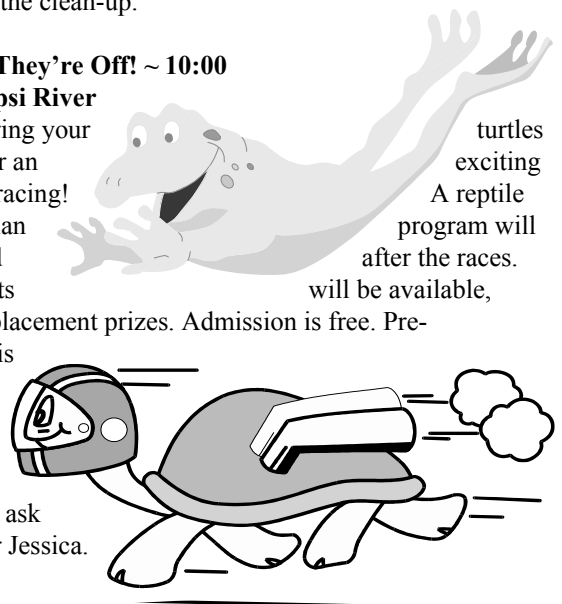
23rd ~ 2005 Project AWARE Review ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ River clean up started with Chad Pregracke on the Mississippi and has spread to other environmentally active groups. Come share an evening with some of those who worked to clean up the Little Sioux River this spring during Iowa's Project Aware. They will describe their experiences through pictures, DVD and stories.

27th ~ River Relief ~ 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. ~ Clinton Riverfront ~ Join Chad Pregracke 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 or call (309) 496-9848.

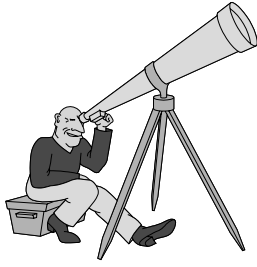


27th ~ Clinton County EnviroKids ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Clinton Riverfront ~ Get your old clothes and shoes on and help clean up the Mississippi River. Chad Pregracke and the Living Lands and Waters crew will be here in Clinton County again. Parents are welcome to attend and help! Lunch will be served after the clean-up.

27th ~ And They're Off! ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Bring your turtles and frogs for an exciting morning of racing! A reptile program will be presented after the races. Refreshments will be available, along with placement prizes. Admission is free. Pre-registration is required by calling (563) 328-3286 by August 19 - ask for Renae or Jessica.

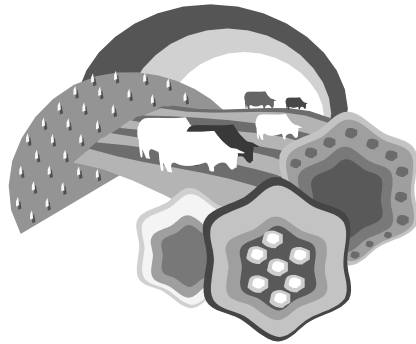


September



3rd ~ Menke Open House ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi River Center ~ 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.

4th & 5th ~ Village Fall Festival ~ 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Daily ~ 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, call (563) 328-3283.



10th ~ Clinton County EnviroKids ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Outdoor Living Classroom, DeWitt ~ This program is by the Iowa State University Clinton County Extension. The outdoor living classroom is at the Clinton County fairgrounds in DeWitt. Call (563) 847-7202 to register. Deadline for registration: September 2.



10th ~ Microscopic World ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Mike Granger, Wapsi River Center naturalist, for a microscopic discovery of the aquatic world. The Osprey Aquatic Lab is the location where participants will collect their own samples and learn how to observe them under a microscope.



10th & 11th ~ Overnight Canoe Float ~ 9:00 A.M. ~ Walnut Grove Park, Toronto ~ Participants will canoe from Walnut Grove Park to Allen's Grove. Experienced canoeists only, please. This 26-mile float trip will be like no other this season. Participants will need to provide everything they need for meals (cooking and food), drinks and camping gear with them in their canoes! We will camp out on a sandbar and rough it, continuing on the next day to Allen's Grove. We did a similar trip last year, and people have asked to bring it back. Be careful what you wish for! Call (563) 847-7202 to sign up by September 2.



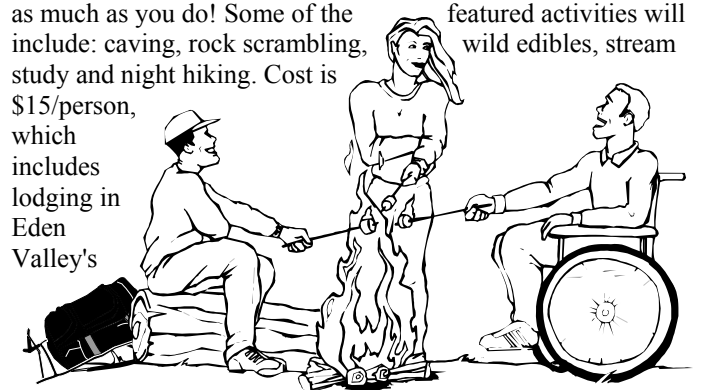
15th ~ Monarch Tagging ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Soaring Eagle

Nature Center ~ The monarch migration is in full swing and so is a national tagging program. The Clinton County Conservation Board tagged almost 200 monarchs last year before the insects headed to Mexico for the winter. Come learn the ins and outs of tagging.



15th ~ Full-Moon Night Hike ~ 7:30 P.M. ~ Mockridge Preserve ~ Join a naturalist for a moonlit walk through this unique area. We will try owl calling, search for turkeys and seek some late wildflowers. Take Y44 north of Calamus, then take 215th Street west to 160th Avenue and turn north. Mockridge is ¼-mile on the left.

17th & 18th ~ Adult Summer Camp ~ 2:00 P.M. (Sat) - 11:00 A.M. (Sun) ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~ Create your own camp memories and make some new friends who love the outdoors as much as you do! Some of the featured activities will include: caving, rock scrambling, wild edibles, stream study and night hiking. Cost is \$15/person, which includes lodging in Eden Valley's



Bunkhouse (sleeps 12); tenting is also an option. Meals will be included. Pre-registration is required; call (563) 847-7202. Adults only, please.

24th ~ Clinton County EnviroKids ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Clinton County Extension, DeWitt ~ Come and find out about organic gardening. This will be a hands-on activity by the Iowa State University Clinton County Extension. Call (563) 847-7202 to register. Deadline for registration: September 16.



October

1st ~ Fourteenth Annual Ecology Day ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Mark your calendars and come join us for a wonderful learning experience for the whole family. The Quad City Astronomical Society will also hold its annual Eastern Iowa Star Party on this date and invites the public to join them for a celestial celebration. Further details will appear in the fall issue of *The W.R.E.N.*

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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.

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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.

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