

The W.R.E.N.

Wapsi River Environmental News

Fall 2009

Scott County Conservation Board's Environmental Education Newsletter

www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/wapsi.php

The Wapsi River Center is owned, managed and operated by the Scott County Conservation Board with programming and development assistance from the Clinton County Conservation Board.

Wapsi Center Happenings

by Dave Murcia, Director

Great Horned Owl at Wapsi Center!

The Wapsi River Center now has a **new inhabitant** – the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*). The new bird of prey comes to the Center from the Macbride Raptor Project of the University of Iowa located at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



After being found in a nest from a fallen tree, tree trimmers brought the owl to the Macbride Raptor Project when they were not able to care for it. Macbride then assessed the health of the bird and started care, finding it had been imprinted to humans.

An imprinted bird is a

bird that no longer associates with others of its species and relies solely on human contact and care for its survival. Though the owl is a flight risk (it can fly and has no injuries) the owl no longer has the ability to survive in its natural habitat and will now serve as wonderful educational specimen for years to come!

The great horned owl is the most widespread owl in North America and possibly the most powerful. This monogamous, nocturnal bird nests early (in winter) while protecting its nest aggressively and preys mainly on mammals and other vertebrates. The owl can be seen at the Eagle View Eco Center on Saturdays from 12:30 - 4:30 P.M.

Wapsi River Center Receives Award

The Wapsi Center has been **recognized** and **awarded \$5,000** as a **Community Renewal Agency** by the National Recreation and Park Association to continue our efforts in the **"Take Me Fishing"** program including recreational boating (canoe/kayaking/water safety) and fishing. Local



schools and other groups are encouraged to call for more information as programming offers trained staff and include instruction, equipment and lots of fun!

Wapsi Center December Deer Hunt

Scott County Park and the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center are once again designated as a Special Deer Management Zone by the IA DNR and special deer licenses will be issued for antlerless deer only. These hunts are proving to be effective management techniques to help control the deer population, promote hunter education and ethics, and high quality hunting opportunities.

The Wapsi River Center hunt will allow 12 hunters during the first shot-gun season from December 5-9 and will be able to harvest 20 antlerless deer. Additional info is available by contacting either site or by going online at www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation. ***The Wapsi River Center will be closed to the public during the hunt.***

QC Enviro-kids Summer Program Made a Splash!

The first year of the Enviro-kids summer program was a success with a total of 134 kids and 52 adults attending five outdoor events throughout the summer. Activities included: fishing/water safety, canoeing/kayaking, a GPS scavenger hunt, creek stomping and a family campout at the Wapsi Center! Local environmental educational sponsors included: iLivehere, Nahant Marsh Educational Field Center, Davenport Parks & Recreation, Partners of Scott County Watersheds, Freight House Farmer's Market and Miss Effie's, and the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center. These agencies sought to engage kids in grades 3rd - 5th in outdoor activities as a path to environmental education. Please look forward to next year and visit www.ilivehereqc.org to learn more!

Wapsi Projects

Many projects have been planned and completed this summer some of which include resource and facility management projects. The **amphitheater** that once served as Camp Minneyata's chapel is now one step closer to restoration after having a new roof installed. Some benches were removed to



increase accessibility. Electricity, a new cement slab and stained glass artwork are also part of the restoration. This unique facility, nestled among the pines, offers a place for groups to go enjoy the natural surroundings.

A low impact water trail access (canoe and kayak) is nearing completion including the first phase of water access steps and signage. This access

is part of the **Bends and Beaches: Iowa DNR Lower Wapsi River Water Trails** (www.iowadnr.com/watertrails/index)

and was initiated by our partner agency the Clinton County Conservation Board.



The Redtail Lodge had a new roof installed and amenity upgrades will include a new grill/fire ring. The Eagle View Eco Center had a roof repair this summer as the result of a large oak falling onto the west wing of the Center. It caused

only minimal water damage thanks to the quick response of Wapsi Center and West Lake Park maintenance staff!

Thanks to the efforts of Brian Keck (Troop 82), four firewood storage sheds were installed at the Kestrel Cabin, Pine Ring, Elm and Vincent. A greatly appreciated Eagle Scout project!

Programs of the Wapsi River Center

Attendance for the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009) was approximately 25,129. One hundred and seven field trips and 276 public presentations contributed to these numbers. If you would like to **schedule a field trip**, we encourage educators to schedule as far in advance as possible and taking an active role. School programs are not scheduled for Mondays so that staff may work on administration and resource management. Please visit our website to view/download our field trip planner.

Bald Eagle Viewing

Our national symbol will start arriving in November, along with migrant waterfowl. The stretch of the Wapsipinicon River below the Center supports dozens of eagles in the night roost. The best viewing will be at the Center from December through early March, one to two hours before dusk. During Center hours, scopes are available to view the birds along with other wintering songbirds, so come out and enjoy our **national symbol** "up close"! Be sure to visit us during Bald Eagle Days this January at the QCCA.

In Appreciation of Your Support of the Wapsi River Center

Barbara & Phillip Horras
Jean Wistedt
Connie & Dave Huber
Bill Robbins
Dottie & Jerry Wala
KJ Rebarcak
Ingrid Bogdanowicz
Carol Rogers
Erma Wiszman
Brian Keck & Troop 82

Volunteers Needed at Bald Eagle Days!!

The Quad City Bald Eagle Days at the Q.C.C.A. Expo Center has become a popular event. So popular, that they have added a Friday night timeslot! This is the official call for volunteers to help run the Wapsi River Center booth. Below is a list of times, how many individuals and what day your assistance is needed. Call (563) 328-3286 to volunteer.

Friday, January 8

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.	2 people
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.	2 people

Saturday, January 9

9:30 - 11:00 A.M.	1 person
11 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	2 people
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	2 people
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.	2 people
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.	2 people

Sunday, January 10

9:30 - 11:00 A.M.	1 person
11 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	2 people
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	2 people
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.	2 people

Hellos and Goodbyes

Katie van der Linden: I am one of the two new AmeriCorps naturalists for the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center. I grew up in the small town of Belmond up in north central Iowa. I graduated from Simpson College this past May with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science. After graduation, I moved to DeWitt where I currently reside.

My passions are herpetology (the study of amphibians and reptiles) and mammalogy (the study of mammals). It has been a wonderful first few weeks at the Wapsi Center getting to know everyone and all the animals. I spent the past summer as the naturalist intern at Clinton County Conservation, I can never thank them enough for all the valuable experience they gave me. I am very excited to put all this experience to work and to be part of the team here at the Wapsi Center!

Amy Newman: Greetings, fellow W.R.E.N. readers! I have joined the team at the Wapsi Center as a new member of AmeriCorps. I am due to graduate in December 2009 from Western Illinois University-Quad

Cities majoring in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration with a minor in History.

As a child, I always had a passion for the outdoors. My best memories as a youngster included going to Girl Scout camp, vacations to Grand Marais, Michigan and hunting for fossils along the Illinois River with my younger brother. My great-grandmother was in the Peace Corps and worked at Hot Springs National Park and my great-grandfather was a taxidermist and worked for the Field Museum in Chicago for forty-five years. My family's influence on me transitioned into a deep appreciation for the outdoors; in addition to understanding the importance of stewardship.

While interning at Nahant Marsh this summer, I was able to take the lessons I'm learning at school and put them into practice. The internship allowed me to be close to nature and serve the community through educational and recreational programs. This resulted in meeting Mary and Cassie, who served as Wapsi Center AmeriCorps members for the past two years. I was able to learn about AmeriCorps and knew that this was the prospect I had been waiting for. Throughout my life, I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunities to connect with nature. My goal now is to offer that same service to others.

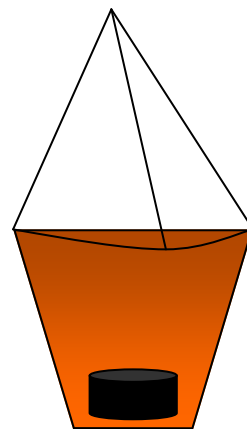


Kids' Corner ~ Micrometeorites

How many of you have seen a shooting star? A shooting star is actually a meteor, which is a piece of rock or metal from deep space. Most of them are no larger than a golf ball. As they enter the atmosphere, they usually burn up. It has been estimated that 30,000 tons of material actually land on the earth's surface each year. A landing meteor is known as a meteorite. However, most of the material is lost in the ocean or in unpopulated areas.

This issue of the Kids' Corner will illustrate how to collect "micrometeorites". All you need is a strong magnet and a microscope. Simply tie a string onto the magnet and run it over the surface of the ground. Then look at the surface of the magnet for small, round nodules. When viewed under a microscope, they will appear to have pits in them. Below is a diagram of a simple meteorite "detector". Take a small, paper cup and tie three stings onto the rim. Place a magnet inside the cup and "Vowala!" your detector is ready.

Places to look are parks, sandbars, sidewalks and parking lots (especially in the cracks) and even your own backyard. Mike Granger has had the best luck on sandbars. Happy micrometeorite hunting!



Plant Profile ~ Spotted Horsemint

by Amy Newman, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Recently, I went on a hike in the Buena Vista Wildlife Area and came across a unique, perennial wildflower called spotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*); which is sometimes referred to as spotted bee balm.

It is native to the plains and tends to grow in sand dunes, prairies and dry fields. This flower prefers to be in sunny, dry conditions and will survive well in areas that suffer from droughts. On the other hand, it can survive for a few years in moist soils. It is distributed from Vermont to southeastern Minnesota, south to Florida and Texas, but missing from most of West Virginia.



It stands 1-3 feet tall with narrow, medium-green, paired leaves. The $\frac{3}{4}$ - to 1-inch long flower is very aromatic and the corollas (upper petals of the flower) are yellow with purple spots. They also have a square stem; indicating its membership to the mint family. The middle and upper portion of the stem consists of whorls (three or more organs arranged in a circle around the same axis) of flowers which bloom July through October. When in bloom, the whorl characteristic makes the spotted horsemint stand out amongst other prairie plants. The petals soon wither away leaving only leafy lilac and light-green bracts which stay attractive for the remainder of the season. The flower has a taproot system and reproduces by reseeding itself.

The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract honeybees, bumblebees, miner bees and plasterer bees. In addition, butterflies also visit the flowers

for nectar, including the endangered karner blue. Some insects that feed on the flowers, foliage or stems of the spotted horsemint include the caterpillar of the pyralid moth, gray marvel moth and false Japanese beetle. The oregano-scented flora is repulsive to mammalian herbivores and seldom consumed by them.

Medicinally, horsemints were used in making tea due to its ability to soothe diuretic and stomach ailments. The Meskwaki tribe used the plant to treat colds by grinding it into a powder and then sniffing it up the nostrils to relieve a headache. Other Native American tribes used the wildflower to treat colds and fevers because it caused excessive sweating which would rid the body of toxins. In the 1800s, essential oils from spotted horsemint were applied to increase blood circulation for treatment of rheumatism, headaches and menstrual aches. In addition, the essential oils provide a source of thymol, which is an effective fungicide and bactericide and also used to expel hookworms. Unfortunately, if the oil is applied too generously or for too long, it can cause a painful blister. As a result, thymol is manufactured synthetically in modern times.

For wild edible enthusiasts, the dried leaves of spotted horsemint can be used as a substitute for oregano. It can also be brewed as a tea by hanging the plant upside down in a brown paper bag for a week or two until the leaves are dry. The dried leaves can then be placed into tea bags and infused in hot water. Caution is recommended and expert advice should be sought to insure proper proportion preparation. The flower heads, when dried, can be used in a variety of crafts and make attractive floral arrangements. The next time you are by a sand prairie take the time to search out and admire this amazing Iowa native – the spotted horsemint.



Wildlife Profile ~ Western Harvest Mouse

by Katie van der Linden, AmeriCorps Naturalist

For the fall wildlife profile, I chose a little mammal that is near and dear to my heart – the western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*). The scientific name is fitting, since *Reithrodontomys* means grooved-toothed mouse and *megalotis* means large ear. The western harvest mouse is certainly a charismatic creature with their big eyes and ears.



I have encountered this little rodent on a number of occasions when trapping for small mammals in mammalogy class and as an intern for Clinton

County Conservation. Although common throughout Iowa, this little “guy” (4-6 inches from nose to tail) isn’t the uninvited guest in your house. The western harvest mouse is found in prairies, grassy roadsides, fence rows, fields and is especially fond of areas near water.

Their fur is brown to reddish brown on their back, and their belly, feet and underside of their tail are white. There appear to be no obvious color differences between males and females. Western harvest mice can easily be confused with deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) or white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) that are similar in appearance. However, harvest mice all have grooved incisors, whereas deer mice and white-footed mice have plain incisors. This is also true for the house mouse which can be confused with the harvest mouse. House mice lack grooved incisors as well as the whitish belly of harvest mice, deer mice and



white-footed mice. I would not recommend picking up any wild mice to check their front teeth for grooves; as this usually results in a painful bite. Plus, rodents can carry many diseases!

The western harvest mouse is well known for its unique foraging habit. The mouse climbs up the stems of plants to reach the ripened seeds. They will also eat fruits, insects, flowers and leaves when available. When releasing one female from a trap last spring, my mammalogy professor Dr. Ryan Rehmeier and I, placed her on a prairie grass stem where she proceeded to climb to the top and sit there. I snapped the resulting picture.



The harvest mouse builds its nest above the ground in weeds, bushes, or grasses. The average litter size is between three and five with seven litters annually. The western harvest mouse is active at both day and night; however, they prefer to scurry about after dusk. They are active all year round, and with fall upon us, they are especially busy climbing the stalks to gather seeds before winter.

So, next time you are enjoying the outdoors and see a mouse scurry past your foot or climb up a stem; take a closer look because it may be our friend the western harvest mouse.

October



10th ~ Wapsipinicon River Float ~ 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (approximate return time) ~ Wapsi River Center access to Allen's Grove Park ~ Join us for this rescheduled 10-mile canoe trip down one of the last wildly scenic and free-flowing rivers left in Iowa. Participants are required to have canoe experience and must register by Thursday, October



8 as there is a limited number of spaces by calling (563) 328-3286 with names, phone number of where you may be reached on morning of float and life jacket size(s) if needed (less than 50 lbs., 50-90 lbs., or over 90 lbs.). Participants may bring their own life jackets provided they are

Coast Guard approved. Each canoe holds a maximum of: 2 adults/1 youth, 1 adult/2 youths or 2 adults/2 small youths. Please meet at Allen's Grove Landing 4.5 miles north of Donahue, Iowa. Participants must bring adequate water, sunscreen, appropriate clothing (clothes & footwear that can get wet/dirty) and a sack lunch. This float is weather and river dependant and we will provide canoes, paddles, life jackets and cooler for lunches. For more info on Iowa DNR water trails visit www.iowadnr.gov/watertrails/index.

17th ~ Trout Release ~ 10:30 A.M. ~ West Lake Park ~ Rainbow trout will be stocked at West Lake Park's Lake-of-the-Hills boat ramp (Gate 1). Be prepared with your tackle, fishing license and trout fee because these 10-12 inch fish will be ready to catch immediately. All IA DNR regulations apply, so for information on fishing rules, see the 2009 Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet.

17th ~ Eighteenth Annual Ecology Day ~ 1:00 - 9:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Bring the whole family, invite a friend and plan to attend this family-oriented event (see special ad for details). Call to register (563) 328-3286.



17th ~ Eastern Iowa Star Party ~ 9:00 - 10:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ The Quad City Astronomical Society hosts this annual event at the Monsignor Menke Astronomical Observatory. They

Autumn



invite the public to join them for this celestial celebration.

24th ~ Big World of Little Mammals ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come survey the small mammals of the Wapsi Center by checking live traps with AmeriCorps naturalist Katie van der Linden. Discover tiny inhabitants you may have never seen before.



24th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Director Dave Murcia in learning about native birds of prey. Our newest inhabitant, a great horned owl, will be included in this program along with an eastern screech owl and the most common of our falcons, the American kestrel.



29th ~ Creatures of the Darkness Hike ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Learn how to make the most of your night vision, then take a festive and spooky stroll through Jack-o-

Lantern Woods. Along the way, participants will become better acquainted with creatures that go bump in the night. Participants are asked to meet at Redtail Lodge, and reminded to dress according to the weather conditions.

November

7th ~ Totally Trees ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come learn about our local trees on this fall hike. Learn to identify trees by looking at seeds, leaves and bark. To warm your spirits, enjoy some hot apple cider after the hike.

7th ~ Green Gifts ~ 1:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Lisa Gerwulf, Wapsi Center naturalist, for an afternoon of creative creations.

Events



The whole idea behind green gifts is saving money and getting the whole family involved in creating those unique, homemade gifts. Green gift ideas will come from some unlikely sources including: the recycle bin, trash can, remodeling project leftovers, closet, attic, basement, garage and many others. Participants will have the opportunity to view several different ideas, as well as create some make-and-take projects of their own. Whether you're an avid crafter, recycler, or just someone looking for a unique gift, this is the program for finding that perfect project! Pre-registration is required by calling (563) 328-3286, no later than November 5.



19th ~ Recycled Bird Feeders ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Fall is a great time to get set up for winter feeding. Milk jugs, cartons and pop bottles will be magically transformed into useful feeders. Types of seeds, common winter inhabitants and homemade bird treats will be discussed. Participants are asked to bring clean milk jugs (paper or plastic) or 20 oz. to 2-liter pop bottles, and reserve your spot by November 17 by calling (563) 328-3286.

28th ~ Woodland Creations ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come and learn how twigs, bark, seeds and leaves can be used to create miniature figurines. Make people, animals or whatever your creative spirit can come up with. Please call to register your family by November 26; (563) 328-3286.

29th ~ Christmas in the Village ~ Noon - 5:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village



~ Enjoy the buildings beautifully decorated for the holidays. Visit with Santa Claus, make-and-take crafts, refreshments and much more

fun. Admission is free! Please bring non-perishable food items to help supply the North Scott Food Pantry.

December



5th - 9th ~ Deer Hunt ~ A reminder that the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center will be closed to the public during this scheduled deer hunt.

10th ~ The Madagascar Experience ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ AmeriCorps naturalist, Katie van der Linden will share her three week experience in Madagascar through photos. Amazing lemurs, chameleons and boa constrictors were a few of the natural highlights. This isn't like any *DreamWorks* movie you've ever seen!

12th ~ Cross Country Ski Clinic ~ 9:30 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Director Dave Murcia at Redtail Lodge and learn the basics of cross country skiing. The program will give a beginner the basics including safety, techniques, equipment and practical use of skis/boots. This program is weather dependant, please register by December 9 at (563) 328-3286 to reserve equipment at no cost!



12th ~ Natural Ornaments ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Decorate your home this year with ornaments made from natural materials. Participants will collect a variety of natural items and learn how to create some festive decorations for your home. Fun for the whole family! Pre-register by December 10; (563) 328-3286.

January

8th - 10th ~ Quad Cities Bald Eagle Days ~ This huge, annual event showcasing our national symbol – the American bald eagle, also involves various wildlife artists, information booths and various live animal presentations. The event is held at the QCCA Expo Center at 2621 4th Avenue, Rock Island, from 4:00 - 8:00 P.M. on Friday, January 8, 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 9 and 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, January 10. Come see us at the Wapsi River Center's booth.

Wapsi River Environmental Education Center

Keeping it Green ~ Sustainability in the Here & Now!

18th Annual Ecology Day

Saturday, October 17th, 2009 ~ 1:00 - 10:00 P.M.

1:00 - 2:00 P.M. ~ Renewable Rain ~ Join a representative from River Action to learn 6 simple things to do to save our water ways. Participants will learn the benefits of using a rain barrel and how to use one in your own backyard.

2:00 - 3:00 P.M. ~ “Hands On” Paper Making ~ Join Paula Mullin, Education Specialist at the Davenport Recycling Center, for a lesson on paper making. Create beautiful works of art to take home or send to a friend.

3:00 - 4:00 P.M. ~ The MillionTrees Project ~ Join Denise Mitten, Program Coordinator from Living Lands & Waters to learn about tree identification, collection, storage and how to start seedlings. Learn how The MillionTrees Project assists Chad Pregracke’s river clean up efforts as well as plant a seed to take home!

4:00 - 5:00 P.M. ~ Solar Cooking Demonstration ~ Join Brian Ritter, Naturalist at the Nahant Marsh Educational Field Station and Mike Granger, Wapsi River Center Naturalist, for a lesson on solar cooking. See how easy it is to prepare excellent dishes via energy harnessed from the sun!

5:00 - 6:00 P.M. ~ Supper ~ Join us for a fall harvest meal provided and funded by the Friends of the Wapsi Center, Inc. For this delicious dinner, donations are welcome!

6:00 - 9:00 P.M. ~ Rhythmic Recyclables & Wilderness Music ~ Learn how to harness the musical quality of everyday items with Lisa Gerwulf, Wapsi River Center Naturalist. Participants will create different musical instruments using only recycled items. Then tryout your “green” musical skills with the talented guitarist Chuck Jacobsen, Clinton County Conservation Naturalist, as he introduces participants to “Wilderness Music” from artists John Denver, Charles McGuire and others.

9:00 - 10:00 P.M. ~ Eastern Iowa Star Party ~ The Quad City Astronomical Society hosts this annual event at the Monsignor Menke Astronomical Observatory. They invite the public to join them for this celestial celebration.

Fearless & Furry

by Lisa Gerwulf, Assistant Naturalist

Squirrels are my favorite mammal. They are fearless! Have you ever watched a squirrel make its way along the top of a picket fence with a stealthy feline in hot pursuit? Or listened to the concussive chatter directed at a mystified canine; while cracking a staccato rhythm with their tail? Or better yet, noticed a peculiar shadow on the roadway and looked up to see a squirrel nimbly making its way along a high voltage power line – unscathed?

In college, I had the opportunity to watch squirrel behavior firsthand; while conducting a research project to determine if squirrels were colorblind. I had found a journal article with all sorts of holes in the research procedure. Things like two different food biscuits for each color, a rectangular tray, non-optimal observance of feeding behavior, and so on. So, with a circular tray in hand to ensure uniform accessibility to red- and blue-tinted saltine crackers (squirrels love salt) and observing during their optimum foraging time, I had a good start to the project. In case you're wondering, in South Dakota, in November, the latter can be rather chilling. My research took place in a city park that boasted an abundance of furry daredevils considering the inhabiting trees were mature oaks rising at least 60-80 feet in the air. Even if they didn't venture down to ground level to try out my red and blue salty offerings, they were entertaining to watch.

Especially one morning after an ice storm had come in the night before. These daredevils were now not only scaling 80-foot oaks, but ice-covered 80-foot oaks! Have

I mentioned that squirrels are fearless? In the still silence of early morning, the "ticka-ticka-ticka" of their built-in cleats could be heard from all corners of the park. To my bone-chilling delight, slip-sliding scurrying and surefooted scampering ensued. Only one didn't traverse the mile-high, park-wide highway of intertwining, ice-encrusted limbs successfully. After shaking the frost from his fur, his plunge was rewarded by the selection of a red-tinted saltine.

At the conclusion of the project, it did not (unfortunately) successfully show if squirrels were indeed colorblind – red and blue tied. But it did give me an appreciation for the fearlessness of squirrels.

I saw a painting this summer depicting a passage (2 Timothy 1:7) about fear. It was of a horse, a stallion, coming up short from a fearless gallop; with mane and tail whipping and nostrils flared. The power the painting emitted was palpable!

It got me thinking. Squirrels are fearless, too. The oaks they inhabit are a powerful symbol of towering strength. It takes "love" to rear a family in these nosebleed recesses. Can you image the fateful day when the youngsters look out, from the security of the tree with squinty-eyed wonder at the world and tentatively sniff the air knowing instinctively they have to venture – out there? Only a creature possessing a strong mind could partake of these first, uncertain steps – 80 feet in the air!

So, let me ask, "Have you walked fearlessly, lately?"



The Friends of the Wapsi Center, Inc. Seeks New Members

The purpose of the Friends of the Wapsi Center, Inc., is to support the ongoing activities of the Wapsi River Center. We do this by volunteering to help with school groups, interpretive activities throughout the year, donating maintenance skills and in hosting the Eagle View Eco Center. We operate a gift shop housed at the Eco Center which offers a wide variety of items ranging from books and other educational materials to home decorating items.



As a tax-exempt organization, we can raise funds which the Wapsi River Center uses for special projects and environmental education

material purchases. The Friends Group also pitches in to help with special events like the Volunteer Workdays, Ecology Day, Bald Eagle Days and various workshops.

The Friends are an enthusiastic group of citizens just like you. Will you join us? You are invited to attend our monthly meeting on the third Thursday at 7:00 P.M. The Eagle View Eco Center is the site for meetings during the months of March thru October, and Gander Mountain is the site for meetings November thru February. Drop-ins are welcome! Call the Wapsi Center for more information, (563) 328-3286. Join by sending the form below to: Carol Rogers, Treasurer ~ 1103 E. Garfield ~ Davenport, IA 52803.

YES! I want to join the Friends' Group. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ \$ 5.00 newsletter
_____ \$15.00 contributing member
_____ \$25.00 supporting member

WAPSI RIVER E. E. CENTER
31555 52ND AVENUE
DIXON, IA 52745
Tel: (563) 328-3286
Fax: (563) 843-2845



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **Eagle View Eco Center Hours ~ Saturdays ~ 12:30 - 4:30 P.M.** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

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John "Skip" O'Donnell
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Gene Weis

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Roger Kean



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Mike Granger, Naturalist
Lisa Gerwulf, Assistant Naturalist
Amy Newman, AmeriCorps Naturalist
Katie van der Linden, AmeriCorps Naturalist
LeRoy Haeffner, Caretaker

Clinton County:

Mark Roberts, E. E. Coordinator
Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist
Jessica Steines, Interpretative Naturalist

Mailing List

If you would like to receive "The W.R.E.N." and do not have internet access, 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.