

The W.R.E.N.

Wapsi River Environmental News

Summer 2011

Scott County Conservation Board's Environmental Education Newsletter

www.scottcountyjowa.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

Quad City Enviro-Kids Summer Program

Join local environmental education agencies in our 3rd summer program year geared towards getting kids outdoors while learning about the environment! Activities still scheduled for the summer include: storm water service, and farm to farmer's market! Please call 563-468-4218 or visit www.ilivehereqc.org to register or for more info. All activities are weather dependent.

Programs of the Wapsi River Center

During the 2010-2011 season, 60 school field trips with 3,947 students, teachers, parents and grandparents were conducted at the Wapsi River Center. Forty-three field trips with 1,881 in attendance were conducted at various satellite areas. The Wapsi River Center facilitated 162 public presentations with 926 in attendance. Various satellite areas hosted 58 public programs with 3,731 in attendance. The Wapsi River Center has again engaged **over 2000 youth and families** in support of recreational boating, fishing, aquatic education and environmental conservation during this 2010/2011 grant year!



TAKE ME FISHING

Boating and Fishing Foundation to engage youth

Through the **National Park and Recreation Association**, the Scott County Conservation Board has been recognized and awarded funding from the **Recreational**

and families with particular emphasis on aquatic education and conservation through water recreational opportunities.

Field Trips

If you would like to schedule a field trip, please schedule as far in advance as possible and visit our website to view/download our **Field Trip Planner**. School programs are not scheduled for Mondays so that staff may work on administration and resource management. And don't forget-----**The Wapsi River Center is a place for all seasons**. We would like to see more schools take fall and winter field trips. This would allow more schools to visit the Wapsi River Center.



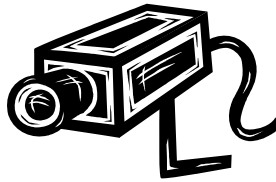
EDIWILD 2011 -Where the Wild Woods Are

This year's EDILWILD workshop (educators in the wild) was received well and reached **31** educators in an effort to discover Iowa's woodlands. Participants were exposed to: identification, management, flora/fauna, invasives, soils, orienteering/GPS, native cultures, history, Project Learning Tree, air cycles, the Lorax curriculum, local sites, and good food (thanks Lisa, Carl, and Mary!).

This interdisciplinary workshop allows educators to learn how we as naturalists, teach about our natural resources. Both graduate credit as well as relicensure is available. Please contact the office at 563-328-3286 with questions for next year's workshop!

Facebook is Here!

Hey all you Facebookers, check out our conservation page at: <http://www.facebook.com/scottcountyconservation> to see what is happening at our sites, news, scheduled events, and even wildlife! Don't forget as well, we now have two webcams at the Wapsi Center, one on the great horned owl, and one on the wild bird feeder: <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/webcams.php>.



QC Garlic Mustard Pull 2011 Results!

Scott County Conservation Board along with other local partner agencies pulled garlic mustard on May 7th and included sites in both Iowa and Illinois. The **West Lake Park crew pulled 14 bags** of the invasive woodland plant. Please consider joining next year's event and thank you to all the volunteers!

Annual Hunter Safety Camp a Huge Success at Wapsi Center!

by Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator, Clinton County Conservation

Standard hunter safety courses are 10 hours long. In this annual event, we go far beyond the basics. In addition to all of the hunter education standards, we teach advanced topics as well. Classes included: Hunter Ethics, Game Laws, Raccoon Hunting, Wildlife ID, Trap Shooting Shotguns, .22 Rifles, Muzzleloaders, Archery, Safety Trail, Wildlife Management, Survival, Predator Calling, Dog Training, Sporting Clays, Bowhunter Safety, Turkey

Hunting, GPS/Geocaching and kids take the Hunter Education Test. These activities allow students to actually participate, not just listen to speakers or watch films. The course is open to kids, age 11-16 and don't need to have received their Hunter Education Certificates prior to the Camp. Students are limited to attending only one year so other students can go next time. Many of the kids would attend every year if they could, it is so much fun! An actual cost per student is \$50-& \$60 per student for dorm stay, meals, ammunition, targets, and other expenses. Thanks to donations from **Clinton County Pheasants Forever** (\$500), **Scott County Pheasants Forever** (\$500) and **Clinton Area Whitetails Unlimited** (\$200), plus donations from **Clinton County Conservation**, students needed only to pay \$20 each. This makes a big difference to many families. Overnight chaperones are parents of the children participating and instruction is provided by many volunteer certified Iowa Hunter Safety Instructors.

This year 34 kids attended the three day/two night camp spanning 44.5 hours. Some highlights included instruction in sporting clays from **Arrowhead Hunting Club** expert Dan Mullin, calling coyotes around the campfire with **DNR Game Warden, Luke Webinger**, a very realistic virtual reality video hunt and chasing hound dogs through the nighttime forest, treeing raccoons. In all there were 67 separate presentations by 20 different instructors.

Hunter Safety Camp was the brain child of Loren and Ellen Zaruba, Chief Hunter Education Instructors for Clinton County, and myself. We wanted to create a "next level" experience for kids beyond the basic course. The Camp has been very successful over the years. There have been many changes as the camp has evolved and new ideas pop up, but one objective has always been clear from day one, a safe, fun and educational "University of Hunter Safety".

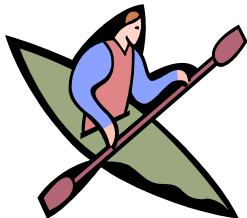


JULY

16th ~ Watershed Festival ~ 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. ~ Freight House Farmer's Market (421 River Drive ~ Davenport) ~ Come to this free, family friendly event to learn about water, protecting water quality and the Mississippi River through song, dance, interactive demonstrations, displays and activities. There will be a rain barrel and compost bin auction. The Wapsi River Center will present a "LIVE" Birds of Prey Demonstration. To find more information about this event, go to www.cityofdavenportiowa.com.



18th – 22nd ~ Young Pioneers Day Camp ~ 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Daily ~ Laura Ingalls Wilder Week ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Learn what life was like for Laura Ingalls. Visit the grist mill at Wild Cat Den State Park. Experience how she lived by spending time in an 1830's cabin and a one-room schoolhouse. Enjoy making crafts, take hikes and much more. This day camp is geared for children 6–11 years of age. Call (563) 328-3283 for registration information.



20th ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park ~ Pride Lake ~ Come learn kayaking basics and tour around Pride Lake at Scott County Park. Pre-registration is required by calling (563) 328-3286.

21st ~ Wapsi River Center Friends Meeting ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join us to learn about the latest news and happenings at the Wapsi River Center.

23rd ~ QC Envirokids ~ Storm Water Service ~ 9:00 to Noon ~ Wessel Park, 26th and Oak Street in Bettendorf, IA ~ Be the solution to Water Pollution! Partake in a storm water scavenger hunt, plant a rain garden and mark storm drains. For more information call (563) 468-4218 or visit www.ilivehereqc.org.

25th – 29th ~ Young Pioneers Day Camp ~ 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Daily ~ Frontier Week ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Enjoy a week doing what the Pioneer's did in the 1800's. Enjoy many activities such as a wagon ride, rope making, frontier cooking, pioneer games and much more.

SUMMER

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.

30th ~ QC Envirokids ~ Farm to Farmer's Market ~ 9:00 A.M. to Noon ~ Freight House Farmer's Market, 421 West River Drive, Davenport, Come learn about the importance of locally grown produce. Then travel to Miss Effie's Farm near Donahue to see how foods at the Farmer's Market are produced. Bussing will be available on a first come, first serve basis. For more information call (563) 468-4218 or visit www.ilivehereqc.org.



AUGUST

1st – 5th ~ Young Pioneers Day Camp ~ 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Daily ~ Mark Twain Week ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Explore and learn what life was like for Samuel Clemens aka Mark Twain. Enjoy paddle-boating at West Lake Park and a tour at Lock & Dam15 on the Mississippi. Hike trails and do many crafts and activities! Go fishing at Scott County Park Pride Lake. This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Call (563) 328-3283 for more information.

3rd ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park ~ Lake of the Hills (Gate # 1) ~ Come learn kayaking basics and tour around the Lake of the Hills at West Lake Park. Pre-registration is required by calling (563) 328-3286

13th ~ Xstream Cleanup ~ West Lake Park ~ 8:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. ~ West Lake Park ~ Come join local stewards as West Lake Park is cleaned of its invasive species! Xstream Cleanup is a Quad City-wide cleanup of creeks, drainage ways and sections of the Mississippi and Rock Rivers. To learn more, visit www.xstreamcleanup.org.



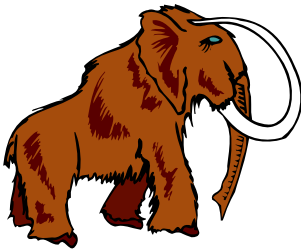
EVENTS

17th ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park ~ Pride Lake ~ Come learn kayaking basics and tour around the Pride Lake. Pre-registration is required by calling (563) 328-3286

18th ~ Wapsi River Center Friends Meeting ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join us to learn about the latest news and happenings at the Wapsi River Center.

20th ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory for a tour of the night sky. Please call (563) 333-6141 on the day of this event to find out if weather conditions will permit viewing.

27th ~ Hunting The Woolly Mammoth ~ 11:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come join our naturalist as we explore how the people of the ice age would have hunted the mega fauna of their time. You will get the opportunity to throw an atlatl and test your skills at bringing down a giant beast. Registration required call by Thursday the 25th



27th ~ Solar Cooking 101 ~

1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come learn how to use the sun to cook food. Learn about the history of solar cookers, styles and see how easy it is to prepare food with a solar oven. Call to register for this “hands on class” (563) 328-3286.

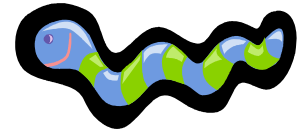
31st ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park ~ Lake of the Hills (Gate # 1) ~ Come learn kayaking basics and tour around the Lake of the Hills at West Lake Park. Pre-registration is required by calling (563) 328-3286

SEPTEMBER

10th ~ Volunteer Stewardship Work Day ~ 9:00 A.M. to Noon ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join staff in a project to enhance the grounds/facilities. Please bring gloves, water bottles and your smiles. Please call to signup (563)328-3286.



15th ~ Vermicomposting ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ This is a popular program for all ages. Come meet the creatures who do most of the work to make your garden grow and then make your very own bin with worms. If you choose to make a bin they are \$10 each. Please register by calling (563) 874-7202.



15th ~ Wapsi River Center Friends Meeting ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join us to learn about the latest news and happenings at the Wapsi River Center.

17th ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory for a tour of the night sky. Please call (563) 333-6141 on the day of this event to find out if weather conditions will permit viewing.

24th ~ Everything Cattail ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come learn about those amazing cattails including how the Native Americans utilized them, how they can be a source of food and what you can make from them. Call to register for this “hands on class” (563) 328-3286.

30th - October 2nd ~ 6th Annual Lower Wapsi River Cleanup ~ Jungletown Access to Walnut Grove Access ~ Please join us again to help beautify the Wapsipinicon River. Registration forms for the 2011 Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup from the Jungletown Access to the Walnut Grove Access can be found on line at www.lowerwapsicleanup.org. For more information contact Melisa Jacobsen at coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org.



OCTOBER

1st ~ Eastern Iowa Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come join representatives from the Quad Cities Astronomical Society and astronomy clubs from all over the Midwest to view the heavens above. Primitive camping is available for \$12 a tent. For more information go to www.qcas.org.

1st ~ Twentieth Annual Wapsi River Fall Ecology Day ~ 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Bring the whole family, invite a friend and plan to attend this nature – oriented event. This year’s them is “Outdoor Adventures” and will include a Wapsi River float, conditions permitting. See more details in our fall newsletter.

PLANT PROFILE: SPIDERWORT

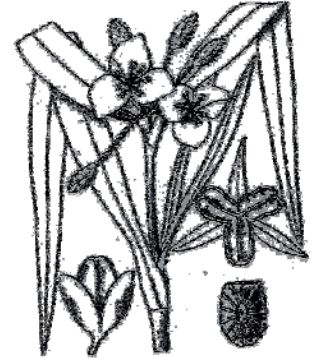
BY MIKE GRANGER, NATURALIST

Let me introduce you to a very common plant growing along the gravel roadways in the northern portion of Scott County. Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*, grows in a wide range of environments and conditions including low woods and bottomlands. The Spiderwort belongs to the Commelinaceae family which includes the Asiatic Dayflower, *Commelina communis* (also known as Wandering Jew). The range of spiderwort involves the eastern half of the United States from Wisconsin south to the eastern half of Texas. It can be found throughout the south eastern 2/3rds of the state of Iowa. The plant is not found north of the Great Lakes region. The plant is a primitive monocot. Monocots are plants which have a single embryonic leaf within the seed coat where as, a "Dicot" has two embryonic leaves. Monocots include grasses, irises, lilies, cattails and palms, while, dicots include many flowering plants and all local tree species. The chart below sums up the differences between monocots and dicots.



The plant is weakly stemmed. Leaves originate from a sheath that is wrapped around the stem. Grass like leaf blades are strongly keeled. The leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf may be up to an inch wide and 18 inches long. The plant may grow 30 inches in height.

Spiderworts bear flowers in clusters on the ends of each stem. Flowers open at dawn and fade away by mid-afternoon. Each flower has three oval petals which measure 1/4 to 3/4 inches in length. Six golden stamens arise from the center of the flower. A flower may be an inch across. It is said that a flower lasts but a single day, and will deteriorate fairly quickly in the hot summer sun. Typically the flowers will close up in direct sunlight. If a person touches one of the petals during the hottest part of the day they will shrivel and turn into a jelly like fluid which trickles down the plant like a teardrop, which has given the plant some localized nicknames such as Job's tears, or widow tears.



The name spiderwort comes, from the thought that it could be used to cure spider bites, or the name may have originated by looking at the glistening hairs on the sepals and buds. These minute hairs resemble spider webs giving the entire blossom a spider nest-like appearance. The word "wort" is an old English word for plant. Native American, utilized the spiderwort as pot herbs, adding them to various stew-like creations.





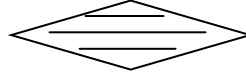

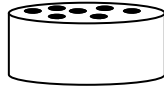

It is also grown as a garden plant for landscaping borders. It prefers moist soils and light shade. The plant is very easy to grow. I transplanted some this year by simply digging up a clump and replanting it. It seems to be doing quite well. The plant is known for its hardiness and continual flower production for many weeks. It would make a striking border along a walkway, and may grow up to 2-3 feet in height.

The plant would do well in containers and also raised beds. Upon studying spiderwort I have developed a new appreciation for this amazing monocot and hope to continue to grow them at home.



Monocots

Dicots

<p><u>Single Cotyledon</u> (embryonic leaflike structure)</p>	<p><u>Two Cotyledons</u> (embryonic leaflike structures)</p>
<p>Example: Corn</p> 	<p>Example: Pea or Bean</p> 
<p><u>Floral parts occur in three's or multiples thereof.</u></p>	<p><u>Floral parts occur in fours or fives, or multiples thereof.</u></p>
	
<p><u>Leaf veins usually are parallel.</u></p>	<p><u>Leaf veins usually are netlike.</u></p>
	
<p><u>Bundles of vascular tissues are distributed throughout ground tissue of stem.</u></p>	<p><u>Bundles of vascular tissues are positioned in bundles arranged in a ring within stem.</u></p>
	

ANIMAL PROFILE: THE SIX-SPOTTED FISHING SPIDER

BY AARON ASKELSON, SEASONAL NATURALIST

My spidey senses were tingling as I waded through the soupy water of our pond. Mike and I were removing some of the cattails before they overran the pond. It is a thankless job but somebody has to do it. Waste deep in water my immediate concern was the snapping turtle that we had spotted earlier in the week. I gingerly stepped on the slimy bottom



hoping for the best for my exposed toes. Reaching for a large cattail plant I realized we were not alone. My hand came within inches of the largest Six Spotted Fishing Spider that I had ever seen. I took a step back and reconsidered this

whole idea of pulling cattails in a pond that has spiders that big. The spider was about three inches across from leg to leg. I informed Mike of my find and he came over to investigate. On seeing the spider he bravely got out of the water and encouraged me to try to catch it. Since we had not seen one this big I figured it was worth a try. We got a bucket and I was able to slip it under it. As the bucket filled with water the spider slid in. We had to share our find with the rest of the staff. We were not sure if the spider was capable of biting us so we were not wild about handling it. After taking some photos for evidence we returned the spider to its habitat.

The six-spotted fishing spider (*Dolomedes triton*) likes slow moving water like ponds, streams and backwaters. This spider is hard to miss, it has a greenish-brown body with two slivery-white stripes on the front section or cephalothorax of its body, and 12 white spots on its rear section (abdomen). On the under side of the abdomen, it has 6 black spots hence the name. It normally feasts on small insects but has been known to go after small fish and tadpoles. The females of the species are larger than the male as with most spiders. These spiders need no web to catch their prey. We have observed the females carrying their egg sac across water. These egg sacs are produced between June and September. They will often carry their egg sacs until the spiderlings have

hatched. The six spotted fishing spider can be found from the Rockies all the way to the East coast.

This spider can do some amazing things that others wish they could. It has the ability to trap an air bubble by its abdomen and carry it with it as it travels under water. Then when it needs oxygen it simply uses the air bubble allowing it to stay underwater for longer periods of time. Its cool abilities do not stop there, they also can walk and run on water. Using the surface tension of the water they can also “row” across the top of the water using two of their legs like oars. The fishing spider can also jump out of the water to pounce on unsuspecting prey or to avoid being the prey of a small mouth bass. I think one of the more interesting talents that the six spotted fishing spider has in its bag of tricks is when it uses surface tension to walk underwater upside down. Walking under water upside down, now you have to like that! So next time that you are out in a wetland keep your eyes peeled for one of these crazy arachnids which are fun to watch.

SPIDER ANATOMY 101

abdomen - the belly, also called the opisthosoma. It contains the guts, heart, reproductive organs, and silk glands.

cephalothorax - the fused head and thorax, also called the prosoma. It contains the brain, jaws, eyes, stomach, and leg attachments.

eyes - tiny eyes (also called ocelli) that can only detect light and dark - they are located on top of the spider's cephalothorax. Most species of spiders have 8 eyes, but other species have 12, 6, 4, 2 or no eyes.

jaws - also called chelicera, they are located below the eyes. The jaws are tipped with fangs that can inject poison

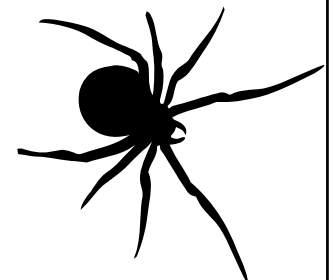
leg - spiders have 8 legs. Each leg is made of seven segments

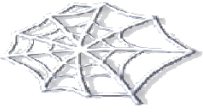
and has 2 or 3 tiny claws at the tip. If a leg is lost, it will grow back.

pedicel - the spider's waist - it connects the cephalothorax and the abdomen.

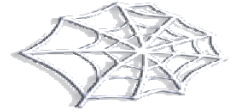
pedipalps - also called palps, these two sensory feelers look like very short legs attached to the front of the spider - they taste food.

spinnerets - where the spider's silk is released - they are located at the tip of the abdomen.



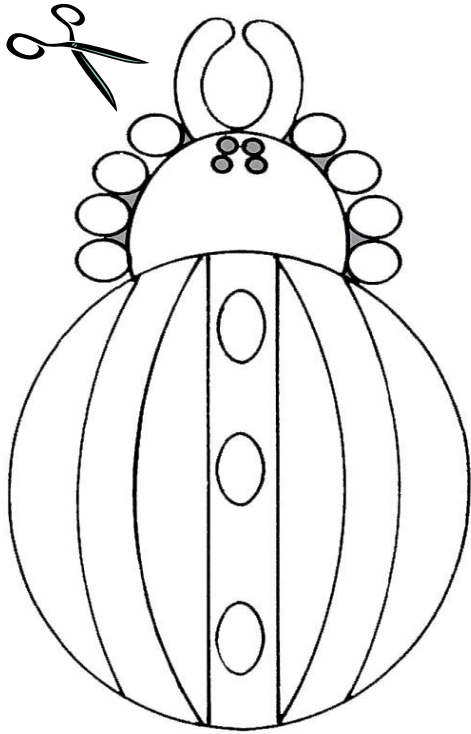


SPIDERY GOODNESS!!!



Adapted from “Ranger Rick’s NatureScope: Wild and Crafty”

Spiders often are feared but upon closer inspection they are very beneficial creatures and play important roles in many ecosystems. This spidery craft can help you learn more about these amazing creatures.



Materials: Paper, glue or tape, scissors, yarn (18 inches), and a drinking straw

Trace and cut out the spider body below, and decorate.

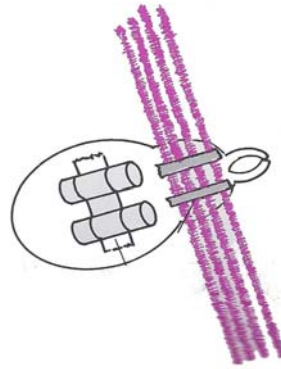
Glue or tape 4 pipe cleaners and 1/2 inch pieces of straw on the back as shown.

Tie two 18 inch pieces of string onto a stick or a pencil about four inches apart.

Thread the yarn ends through the straws.

Attach the pencil to a wall or door frame.

To make the spider climb, gently tug on each string alternatively. By lessening the tension the spider will gently slide back down to the bottom.



GOOD BYE BY AMY NEWMAN

As the month of July begins, I end my two year journey here at the Wapsi River Center. In the past two years I have learned and experienced so much. My journey here began as an AmeriCorps naturalist where I served a term of 1,700 hours of service. During this time, I was able to gain experience in animal husbandry, paddle sports, plant and animal identification, and my favorite--learning to implement prescribed fires! After my term of service, I happily accepted a seasonal naturalist position here at the Wapsi. My adventures here are sure to be remembered for a life-time. Over this time, I have gained even more respect for mother earth and was able to share my passion with a diverse audience. In my experience, the benefits of nature can be seen in the eyes of an engaged child; and I think that is what is so amazing about being a naturalist. I am so thankful and appreciative to the staff at the Wapsi for their support and guidance.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE WAPSI RIVER CENTER!

- C.R. Hanna Elementary Shool
- Orion Elementary
- Warren Wiese
- Mary Johnson
- Lucia Dryanski
- Bill Robbins
- Bill Collett
- Clinton Community School District
(Soar to Success Program)
- Cedar County Conservation Board
- Clinton County Conservation Board
- Clare and Lizzie Murcia
- Nahant Marsh
- Bob Bryant
- Brian Ritter

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~~~~~ EAGLE VIEW ECO CENTER HOURS ~ Saturdays ~12:30 - 4:30 P.M. ~~~~~

**“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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