

The W.R.E.N.

Wapsi River Environmental News

Fall 2012

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 & Scott County News

by Dave Murcia, Wapsi River Center Director

New Sign Welcomes Visitors

Lisa Gerwulf, Assistant Naturalist, took some time before the fall field trip season was underway, to create a new sign for the Eagle View Eco Center.



Menke Observatory Gets Make-Over

Thanks goes out to the St. Ambrose University maintenance crew who gave a much needed make-over to the observatory this summer. Amazing what a little elbow grease and paint can do!



Bald Eagle Viewing

Bald eagles will start arriving in November along with migrant waterfowl. The stretch of the Wapsi 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. Don't forget to visit the other live raptors housed in the Eagle View Eco Center, too!

Stewards Refresh the Workday

With the **support of 9 volunteers**, the fall volunteer workday was another success in refreshing the Center and its grounds. Volunteers from the public (Helen and George) and our own Friends of the Wapsi Center stewards (Lucia, Bill, Carol, Erma, Jerry, Ingrid and K.J.) helped to freshen up the Owl's Nest Dormitory by pruning, weeding and re-mulching the landscape plantings. Invasive species were removed from the prairie and the stewards also gave the Eagle View Eco Center's windows a fall cleaning! In all, a total of **22 hours were completed** during the morning and all enjoyed a lunch hosted by the *Friends of the Wapsi Center* in appreciation of all their hard work. We thank all who participated!



Summer Field Trips

This summer's youth education days totaled 22 with 777 in attendance. Several of the days were hosted at the Wapsi River Center with many at various satellite areas within the county.

Fall and Winter School Field Trips

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 projects. *You may download our field trip planner from our website to better plan a trip!*

October Trout Release

In cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR), the Scott County Conservation Board will release **2000 rainbow trout** on October 20, at 10:30 A.M. at Lake of the Hills (Gate 1), West Lake Park. This

trout release is unique in that it is one of only a few urban lake releases in the state. The event this fall is a promotional event and numerous prizes will be

provided. Outdoor educators from the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and members of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, Quad City Chapter (www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com) will be providing seminars starting at 9:30 A.M. and the IADNR (www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/TroutFishing.aspx) staff will be available to field questions as well.



Lake of the Hills is unique in that the cold water species (trout) can find suitable cold water and survive throughout the summer. Trout in the lake range from 1-8 pounds. The lake has been managed by SCCB staff to include habitat structures like building foundations, brush piles and stumps to promote both reproduction and cover. Please visit the following website to **view/print a structure and contour map**: www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/activities.php?activity=fishing. Stay tuned for further event information as planning is being finalized.

SOP 2012 Keeps Splashing



The Scott County Conservation Board has successfully reached over **701 paddlers** in support of the **SOP 2012** (www.sop2012.org)

Mississippi River Connections Collaborative campaign thus far! Participants have been instructed in water

safety, equipment use, techniques, and stewardship throughout the season. Beginners or experienced paddlers are welcome to learn more about this low-impact, healthy recreation – and don't forget about the photo contest. Join us to paddle into the fall.



In a year where the drought rules the headlines, the specter of flooding on the Cedar River is not hard to remember. Wet or dry, when it comes to living in the watershed of the river – **we're all in this watershed together.**

Twenty-three Iowa county conservation boards within the Cedar River watershed are launching a campaign to emphasize the benefit of wild lands for holding water during floods and for cleaning water all the time. "We're all in this watershed together" is a message to urban, suburban and rural residents – about a million people living in the watershed area – about what everyone can do for the watershed.

County conservation board staff are offering presentations to adult groups in the watershed, and creating other opportunities to display and highlight the topic. If you'd like to **host a presentation**, please contact Dave Murcia, Director of the Wapsi River Center, at (563) 328-3286.

Watch for messages on TV and radio, as well as a series of monthly articles in local newspapers that will contain information about flooding and actions to help manage water better in the future. In addition, counties will be installing road signs that draw attention to land that falls within the watershed, or marks the outer boundaries of the watershed.

Everyone within the watershed pays when flooding occurs. Even if you were "high and dry" in 2008, (and we're all dry now) **everything you do on your land makes an impact on your watershed community and your downstream neighbors.** Your county conservation board invites you to learn more about living in the Cedar River watershed at: cedarriverwatershedproject.wordpress.com.

Conservation is on Facebook!

Visit us on Facebook to view current and past activities, share program ideas, or just keep us in mind for your next outdoor adventure! Please "friend us" at: www.facebook.com/scottcountyconservation. Don't forget, visit our webcams, too: www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/webcams.php.

Hellos & Goodbyes

In Appreciation of Your Support of the Wapsi River Center

Don Bardole
Mary Johnson
George & Helen Bentrott
Ingrid Bogdanowicz
Bill Robbins
Lucia Dryanski
Jerry Wala
K.J. Rebarcak
Erma Wiszmann
Carol Rogers
Jim & Julie Ross
Connie & Dave Huber
Nahant Marsh
SAU Maintenance Crew
Macbride Raptor Project

My name is Caitlin Roeder, and I am the new seasonal assistant naturalist at the Wapsi River Center. Originally a Bettendorf native, I graduated from Bettendorf High School. In May 2012, I graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology.

I love reptiles – especially snakes! Currently, I am working on taming the garter snake here at the Center, so we can include him in educational programs. I live with my mom, Sarah, and my pet ball python, Athena. I am excited to be working with the Scott County Conservation Board. In Iowa, there are so many opportunities to learn about the natural world, and I look forward to sharing my knowledge with the public.



Through the Eyes of a Naturalist by Lisa Gerwulf, Assistant Naturalist

Weeds are truly in the eye of the beholder. This became apparent to me as I found myself on my hands and knees pulling various plants from the disturbed ground of the ditch running alongside the road where I live. Earlier this spring, construction was done to improve drainage and re-crown the road. Later this summer, further drainage improvements were to take place. Therefore, the various plant species dumped into the ditch from the first round of improvements were allowed to “grow at will”.

As fall quickly approaches, it appears that the second phase of improvements is delayed. It was also becoming apparent that my neighbors may not appreciate the natural aesthetics the ditch offered. However, I was no more than two minutes into the task when I found myself, not in a patch of weeds that one might expect upon first glance, but rather a wild garden.

There was velvet leaf (nature’s ready-made toilet paper) just on the verge of blooming bright, yellow-orange flowers. A sedge with an amazingly distinct, triangular-shaped stem. An uncommon occurrence considering the excessively sandy soil my town is known for. Then, my nose began to detect the slight aroma of garlic, but thankfully it wasn’t garlic mustard – a nasty (albeit tasty)

herbaceous pest. A couple other wild edibles made an appearance; plantain and lamb’s quarter (also known as goosefoot or pigweed). Three, beautiful pokeweed shrubs were also in residence and were sporting vibrant pink stems and purple berries. As I pondered the connection between the ink made from pokeweed berries and our country’s legislative history, my task began to slow.

I was about halfway through the ditch and it appeared an environmental education opportunity was beginning to formulate. I considered leaving distinct groupings of plants and identifying them with signs. Hopefully, apprising people of their non-weed-like attributes. Considering this stretch of road is part of the new Mississippi River Bike Trail, I felt it was quite an ingenious opportunity to educate the public.

Feeling quite pleased with my altered plan of action, I decided to take a break and went to the mailbox to find the quarterly bulletin put out by the city. After perusing various topics, my eye settled on a brief but highly impactful blurb. With the erratic growth of most lawns in and around the various construction sites, the city found it necessary to reinforce the fact that a fine would be issued if lawns exceeded a length of 8 inches. Oops! So much for my brilliant plan of preservation...





Autumn

October

13th ~ Twenty-First Annual Wapsi River Ecology Day ~ 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Bring the whole family, invite a friend, and plan to attend this special event. This year's theme is "Footsteps into Iowa's Past". Learn about Iowa's history through fossils and artifacts. See more details in our special ad following the calendar of events.



13th ~ Eastern Iowa Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Menke Observatory, 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. On this night only, the star party is open to the general public for an unforgettable nighttime show, weather permitting. For more information, visit www.qcas.org.

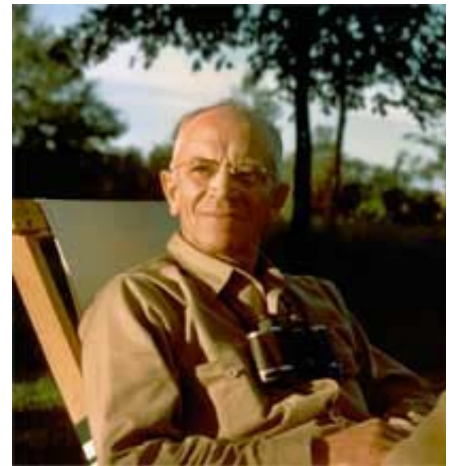
18th ~ Hunter Education Class ~ 6:00 - 10:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park (Old Nature Center) ~ Scott County Park Rangers will be teaching a Hunter Education Online Field



Day at the old nature center. Participants must be 16 years old or older and have completed the online hunter safety training at www.HunterExam.com or

www.hunter-ed.com/Iowa; participants must bring voucher to class. This is a review class with no firing. Please call (563) 328-3282 to register.

18th ~ Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Bettendorf Library ~ Please join Dave Murcia, Director of Wapsi River Center, as he introduces the film, Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time, as part of a series of events called Building Common Ground: Discussions of Community, Civility and Compassion. Green Fire is the first full-length documentary film about the 20th Century conservationist Aldo Leopold who is a native Iowan. The purpose of this series is to engage the public in contemplation and discussion of the importance of community, civility and compassion in their daily lives.



18th ~ Friends of the Wapsi River Center, Inc. Meeting ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join us at the Eagle View Eco Center to learn about current events, happenings and volunteer opportunities at the Wapsi River Center.

20th ~ Trout Release ~ 10:30 A.M. ~ West Lake Park ~ Please join the members of Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Scott County Conservation Board, Wapsi River Environmental

Events



Education Center, Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, and volunteers to release 2,000 rainbow trout at Lake of the Hills, Gate #1. Participants may stop by from 9:30 - 10:30 A.M. to learn about fish, habitats, identification, and ask questions. Participants may fish, if properly licensed

and have appropriate gear, for tagged fish to win many excellent prizes!!!

20th ~ Toasty Toes Workshop ~ 1:00 - 3:00

P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Converting a pile of outgrown or underutilized t-shirts into colorful, cozy rugs has never been easier; especially with the help of a most unique loom – a hula hoop! Each participant needs to bring about a dozen T-shirts (boy's size L or equivalent (men's/women's

size S or girl's size L/XL) work well, but other sizes can be adapted) and a pair of sharp, fabric scissors. If you have access to a quilting tool called a rotary



cutter, consider bringing it with the mat and ruler. Looms will be provided. This program is ideal for beginning weavers, and would appeal to families, scout groups as well as individuals. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is appreciated by calling (563) 328-3286.

27th ~ Polar Plunge ~ 10:00 A.M. - 3:00

P.M. ~ Lake of the Hills Beach (West Lake Park, Gate #1) ~ This event features a cold start and a warm ending as plungers run into the lake from beach access to raise money for Special Olympics, Iowa. Get your team together (costumes optional) and create an experience full of memories as you go "freezin' for a reason". For more information, contact Lindsay Eastin at (877) 267-0134 or visit www.firstgiving.com/soiowa.



29th ~ Creepy Crawlies ~ 4:30 P.M. ~

Eldridge Library ~ Bugs, worms and spiders – Oh my! Get up-close and personal with some of the creepy crawlies often associate with Halloween. Join Mike Granger, Wapsi River Center Naturalist as he talks about the myths and misconceptions around these misunderstood creatures. Contact librarian Christine Garrow at (563) 285-4794, to register.

November

3rd ~ Fall Leaf Hike ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Mike

Granger, Naturalist, on a fall hike to discover autumn leaves in the Wapsi Center's woodland. Learn how to identify leaves by color, shape, texture, venation and edges. Please call (563) 328-3286 to register.



3rd ~ Natural Charcoal Art ~ 11:00 A.M. ~

Wapsi River Center ~ Have you ever wanted to make your own drawing charcoal? Well, now you can! Join Aaron Askelson, Seasonal Assistant Naturalist, to learn how to create our own charcoal and put it to the test by drawing your own autumn picture. Please bring paper and B.Y.O.M. – Bring Your Own Mug. Please call (563) 328-3286 to register.

3rd ~ Mega Fauna of Iowa ~ Noon ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come learn about the giants that



roamed Iowa and their mysterious disappearance during the end of the Ice Age. Caitlin Roeder, Seasonal Assistant Naturalist, will enlighten you with tales of giant sloths, beavers, and mastodons that were known to exist within the state. Family fun

for everyone! Please call (563) 328-3286 to register.

10th ~ Hunter Education Class ~ 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park (Old Nature Center) ~ Scott County Park Rangers

will be teaching a Hunter Education Online Field Day at the old nature center. Participants must be 16 years old or older and have completed the online hunter safety training at www.HunterExam.com or www.hunter-ed.com/Iowa; participants must bring voucher to class. This is a review class with no firing. Participants will need to bring a sack lunch and beverage. Please call (563) 328-3282 to register.



10th ~ Bird Watching ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Scout Park, LeClaire

~ Come join Wapsi Naturalists at Scout Park in LeClaire to do some birding. Learn how to

identify some of our local feathered friends; both residents and migrants. Please meet at the park located on the corner of North 2nd and Oak Streets in LeClaire, Iowa and consider bringing a pair of binoculars.

15th ~ Friends of the Wapsi River Center, Inc. Meeting ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Gander Mountain ~ Join us at the Gander Mountain store

in Davenport to learn about current events, happenings and volunteer opportunities at the Wapsi River Center.

17th ~ Hunter Education Class ~ 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park (Old Nature Center) ~ Scott County Park Rangers

will be teaching a Hunter Education Online Field Day at the old nature center. Participants must be 16 years old or older and have completed the online hunter safety training at www.HunterExam.com or www.hunter-ed.com/Iowa; participants must bring voucher to class. This is a review class with no firing. Participants will need to bring a sack lunch and beverage. Please call (563) 328-3282 to register.

25th ~ Christmas at the Village ~ 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Begin your holidays early with

a historic walk through the beautifully decorated village; complete with Friends of the Village in period costume. While there, enjoy craft demonstrations and sales, letters to Santa in the telegraph office, refreshments at the soda fountain, holiday music, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Admission is free!



21st Annual Wapsi River Ecology Day

“Footsteps Into Iowa’s Past”

Saturday, October 13, 2012

10:00 to 11:45 A.M. ~ Native Skills ~ Come learn a variety of native skills including: rope making, cattail toys or baskets and hunt our version of the wild Mastodon using early hunting techniques.



12:00 to 1:00 P.M. ~ Lunch at the Ring-of-Pines ~ Please bring your lunch. A grill and roasting sticks will be provided for grilling.

1:00 to 2:45 P.M. ~ Iowa’s Fossil Past ~ Join members of the University of Iowa’s “Geo-Science” Department to learn about fossilized creatures found in the ancient oceans that once covered the state. Participants are invited and encouraged to bring their fossil finds for identification.



3:00 to 4:45 P.M. ~ Prehistoric Indian Cultures in Iowa ~ Bernie Peeters, Vice-president of the Quad City Archeological Society, will present a slide show and discussion of the lifestyles, artifacts and culture of Iowa's Native Peoples. Participants are invited and encourage to bring any artifacts they might possess for identification.



7:00 to 9:00 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.



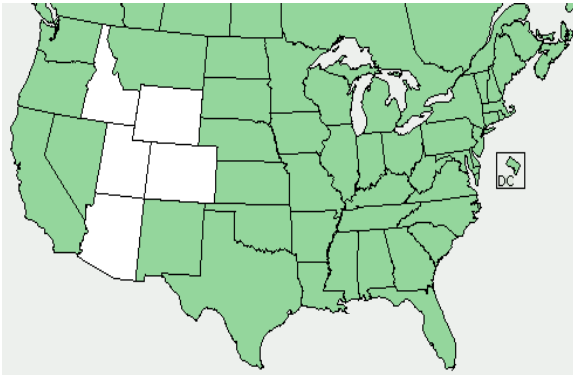
Please call to register for this action-packed day!!!

(563) 328-3286

Plant Profile ~ Evening Primrose

by Michael Granger, Naturalist

Throughout the open fields and spaces of Scott County a showy flower has turned many areas into a showcase of brilliant yellow color. Some fields I have seen are covered with yellow blossoms. The evening primrose, *Oenothera biennis*, blooms in late June through October. The evening primrose has some other common names including suncups or sundrops referring to the brilliant yellow blossoms. The evening primrose is found throughout much of North America, extending even into all Canadian provinces.



This biennial herb will blossom the second season of growth. Flowers are arranged in spikes around the stem. The flower has 4 petals, notched at the edge, giving a heart-shaped appearance. Each blossom measures 2½ inches in diameter. The stigma (seed producing portion of the flower) splits into four tips at the end forming an “X” pattern. This is very distinctive of the 125 species of primrose found throughout North and South America. Each flower has 8 stamens (pollen-bearing portion of the blossom). Each plant will grow according to moisture availability and sun exposure. The plant can grow from 1 foot tall to 6 foot tall! Leaves are alternate, simple, hairy, toothed and spear-shaped. Leaves at the base of a plant can be 6 inches long; then tapering in length as they near the top of the plant.



One interesting fact about the evening primrose is that it is vespertine. Meaning it is a flower that opens or

blooms in the evening. (Most of you are familiar with the term nocturnal; which refers to fauna/animals.) The blooms take advantage of nocturnal insects, such as moths, which are highly attracted to primrose. After pollination, seeds develop within capsules in late summer to fall. These capsules are arranged on the top of the stems. The capsules will dry and release seeds to distribute them. On a recent outing, the Wapsi Center Staff went to a field of primrose to investigate the plants. Some of the plants had 20 or more seed capsules. Many of the flowers had withered in the hot sun. Late fall insects had eaten many of the leaves, leaving the plants somewhat “skeletonized” in appearance.

In the wild, the evening primrose is a primary colonizer quickly taking over disturbed ground, open fields and waste places. The plant can be somewhat invasive, but its vespertine qualities mean that it will eventually be out competed by other species. This is due to the fact that most common and abundant pollinators are active during the daytime rather than nighttime.



Young roots can be eaten like a vegetable (with a peppery flavor), or the shoots can be eaten in a salad. Poultices containing evening primrose were at one time used to ease bruises and speed wound healing. Seeds of the evening primrose are gathered and pressed for oil; which, is used for topical dry skin treatments. Scientific studies in the 1980s revealed that the oil contains GLA – gamma-linoleic acid. This unsaturated fatty acid assists in the production of hormone-like substances within the body. The oil is known to be used internally for eczema, acne, brittle nails, arthritis, coronary artery disease, multiple sclerosis and alcohol-related liver damage.

The next time you are in the countryside this fall, see if you can find the evening primrose. There may be yellow flowers yet, and definitely you will find some dried seedpods. Remember also that these amazing plants will bloom at night, so a night investigation may be more rewarding.

Wildlife Profile ~ Alligator Snapping Turtle

by Caitlin Roeder, Seasonal Assistant Naturalist

When I was little, I remember coming home with a strange creature. I knew it was a turtle of some kind, but it was unlike any I had ever seen before. It was still a baby, small enough to fit in a strawberry carton. The turtle was dark colored with ridges on its back. I had seen sea turtles in National Geographic that had ridges down their backs, but this turtle didn't come from the sea. So, I sat and observed the turtle until my grandma came home. "That thing has got to go!" she said, "It's a snapping turtle. It will take your finger right off." I had been hoping to keep the turtle as a pet, but we talked it over for a while and decided it was better to release it back into the wild. We walked down to the duck pond and let it go. That was the last I had seen of that strange kind of turtle until I came to work at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center.



The alligator snapping turtle, *Macrolemys temmincki*, looks like something from the age of the dinosaurs. The turtle has three, boney ridges of plates on the top of its shell (carapace) and an extra row of plates, called scutes, on its sides. The bottom of the shell (plastron) is small and cross-shaped. The back edge of the shell has triangular scutes, giving it a serrated appearance. (A similar species is the common snapping turtle, but it lacks the shell ridges.) The turtle is dark olive or brown in color and may have algae growing on its shell for camouflage. The turtle's head is angular with hooked jaws, giving it a

menacing look. Males are large, with shells up to 26 inches and weighing up to 175 pounds; making alligator snapping turtles some of the largest freshwater turtles in the world. Females are smaller, averaging up to 50 pounds.

Alligator snapping turtles spend most of their lives in the water. They can be found in waterways from northern Florida to southern Michigan and across the eastern United States. The Mississippi and Missouri Rivers



form the western borders for this turtle's range; and is considered endangered in Iowa.

The turtle's hunting strategy is to lay in wait, camouflaged by rocks and plants. They have a small flap of skin on their tongue which looks like a worm. The alligator snapping turtle then goes "fishing"; sitting with its mouth open for an unsuspecting fish to come along. These turtles feed on fish, worms and other invertebrates in the water.

Female alligator snapping turtles come on land from April to June to lay eggs. Nests can have between 10 and 50 eggs. Hatchlings are small, about one and a half inches. They are fully capable of swimming as soon as they are hatched.

The adults have no natural predators, other than humans. These turtles can become caught in fishing nets and have been harvested for meat and the pet trade. Because of their temperaments, size and weight, alligator snapping turtles are best left undisturbed. But, if you want to see one up-close and personal, come check out the one residing at the Eagle View Eco Center.

Naming of the Wapsipinicon

by Aaron Askelson, Seasonal Assistant Naturalist

In my opinion, floating the Wapsipinicon River in a canoe or kayak is one of the most enjoyable things a person can do. The meandering route the river takes can be very soothing. When the river is low, one needs to follow the channel on the inside bends of the river the best they can, or they might be dragging their boat across one of the many sandbars. This happened a few times on our last overnight float.

We had planned ahead by only taking single person kayaks because we knew the water levels were really low. Finding the channel (by the light of the moon) also made for a few extra portages, but the night sky was so amazing. The moon was over half full and it provided adequate light to navigate as we made slow progress down the river toward the Wapsi Center. Seeing the lights of the campers across the river at Sherman Park lifted our weary sprits and tired arms. We knew that we had found our resting spot. It was only one small jaunt up the hill where an inviting fire and delectable s'mores awaited. The next morning we traveled from the Wapsi Center to Allan's Grove which proved to be more relaxing than the previous days float.

While travelling down the river, it's hard not to think about all the other people who travelled down it, as well as its tributaries, over the past thousands of years. These waterways were used by many groups to move trade items efficiently and quickly. For thousands of years, the canoe was the main form of transportation on these rivers. These waterways provided vital networks for the Native Americans. With all this commerce travelling up and down the rivers, many stories were sure to have been exchanged between the people that inhabited the neighboring lands.

The naming of the Wapsipinicon River has several legends surrounding it, and I would like to tell you about one of them I have learned. The most common version that I have encountered involves two young Native Americans that had fallen in love even though they belonged to warring tribes. The young maiden's name was Pinicon and the young warrior's name was Wapsi. Their forbidden love was not well received by

the female's father who was the chief of one of the tribes. The young lady and brave would often meet by the river at a secret spot away from their tribes, and on these visits their love for each other grew. It was decided that one day they would run away together. Time passed, and pressure for the young maiden to marry grew. The chief's daughter was under close watch because he was well aware of her encounters with the young brave. While he was away, she made plans for her escape with her lover. They met at their rendezvous point and began their escape. Soon they were being pursued because someone had tipped off the chief. With great haste they ran to the river. Seeing that their escape was destined to fail, and not wanting to live apart, they both leapt off a bluff overlooking the river. There they drowned in the swirling waters not wanting to live apart, but choosing to die together. So, from that day forward, the chief always referred to the river as the Wapsipinicon River. There are several versions of this story. One even has a scorned suitor shooting the young warrior while they tried to escape in a canoe.

With so many different versions floating around, the origins of the name are certainly not definitive. There is also the translation of the word itself; which could mean Swan Apple, White Potato, Duck Potato and Swan Potato depending on which Native American dialect is deciphered. These were based on the arrowhead plant that the Native Americans harvested along the banks of the river. It develops a starchy tuber underwater that was dug up and prepared much like a potato.

So, next time you are floating down or driving over this beautiful river, take a moment to reflect on the many travelers who have passed by its banks, and the rich history it possesses.



Kids' Column ~ Autumn Word Search



Y M V R A L N S E Z A Y N H Q
P J I C E O E N U I L V C A Y
X S O G S B I A P O S M H Y E
B R I A R H O O V C K A C R L
N O E R S A C T A E R L B I L
N S N N C U T R C V S L E D O
E W U F N L E I E O E A A E W
K S O R I C E S O P R B U E E
A Q O R R R T R I N A T T E G
R C B O B F E R R X U O I G N
R E W O L F N U S I T O F A A
N O V E M B E R X Y U F U I R
S E P T E M B E R S M Q L L O
N I K P M U P E H I N D S O N
E L P P A S C E N I C O R F Z



ACORN
APPLE
AUTUMN
BEAUTIFUL
BONFIRE
BROWN
CORNUCOPIA

CRISP
FOLIAGE
FOOTBALL
HARVEST
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
MIGRATION

NOVEMBER
OCTOBER
ORANGE
PUMPKIN
RAKE
RIPE
SCARECROW

SCENIC
SEASON
SEPTEMBER
SQUIRREL
SUNFLOWER
SUNSHINE
YELLOW



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

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For All Seasons

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

The W.R.E.N. (Wapsi River Environmental News) is published quarterly by the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and the Scott County Conservation Board.

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Caitlin Roeder, Seasonal Assistant Naturalist
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Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist
Jessica Steines, Interpretative Naturalist
Jill Schmidt, 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.