

# The W.R.E.N.

Wapsi River Environmental News

FALL 2014

Scott County Conservation Board's Environmental Education Newsletter

[www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/wapsi.php](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/wapsi.php)

The Wapsi River Center is owned, managed and operated by the Scott County Conservation Board.

## Wapsi Happenings

By: Director, Dave Murcia

### Invasion....of an Ash Tree Near You!

Do you happen to have an ash tree? Do you enjoy our natural resources including forests, parks, and backyards? If you do, please take note of the latest invader of our trees- the **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**.

This Asian beetle was first discovered in Michigan in 2002 and thought to have been transported in manmade shipping materials. Since then, it has invaded 18 states including Iowa where in 2010 it was **confirmed in Allamakee County**. Now it has been **found in 12 Iowa counties** and the **Scott County Conservation Board** has taken a proactive stand in passing a resolution to help prevent the spread.

The resolution, in accordance with State and Federal guidelines, **PROHIBITS IMPORTATION OF FIREWOOD ONTO ANY PROPERTIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SCOTT COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FROM OUTSIDE OF SCOTT COUNTY** unless the wood meets State of Iowa and USDA firewood label requirements.

The insect's life cycle depends on ash tree species including green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*F. americana*), and black ash (*F. nigra*). The metallic, emerald green beetle emerges as a half-inch adult, mates, and lays eggs on ash trees. These eggs develop as larvae that do the most damage by feeding through the ash tree's cambial layer, into phloem layers, and disrupting water and nutrient transportation.



GREEN ASH LEAF

Symptoms of infestation may include: woodpecker feeding (jagged holes covering feeding galleries), D-shaped exit holes on branches and trucks from beetles, frass-filled tunnels present when bark is removed exposing the serpentine feeding tunnels, wilting foliage with canopy thinning, and epicormic or root sprouting associated with dead branches.

If you would like more information about this latest threat to our native ash tree population, please consider attending the Ecology Day **Emerald Ash Borer program at 1:00 pm on October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Wapsi River Center's Eagle View Eco Center** or visit: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/emeraldashborer.html>.

### 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!**



## Wapsi Center Awarded Grant

A big thank you to our **Scott County Health Department** and our **Community Transformation Consultant Christina McDonough** who coordinated a Iowa Community Transformation Grant award for the Center. The grant was awarded in an effort to promote tobacco-free living, active & healthy eating, clinical preventative services, and a safe & healthy environment. Particular to our site, the grant funded a 4-place kayak rack and Trail Emergency Access System (TEAS)



markers in support of worksite wellness. These were “*made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*”, so please come visit and enjoy a healthy outdoor experience at the Wapsi!

## Xstream Clean-up 2014 Results

West Lake Park had another successful clean-up thanks to about 74 volunteers including West High students and staff, Mississippi One volunteers, Scouts, and many families. Wapsi staff led the site goals of cleaning all four lake shores and clearing invasive plant species within the watershed. Our site contributed nine bags of trash and cleared about two acres of autumn olive and honeysuckle shrubs. A total of 1060 volunteers worked three hours at the 40 sites held throughout the bi-state area, collecting

25,740

pounds of trash! You may see photos at: <https://www.facebook.com/xstreamcleanup>. Thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers for their commitment to our resources.



## New Conservation Bat Houses

The Wapsi has added four new bat houses as another conservation management tool thanks to two Scott Community College student projects. **Randy and Ben Ford** chose the Wapsi Center as a site to build four new bat houses as part of their Environmental Science class project. The project took the Ford's about 48 hours to build and install and were installed last month along the

tree line near the prairie. The project was timely since the Wapsi Center was identified as the host site of a **Bat Acoustic Detection Workshop**.



## Wapsi Chosen as Bat Conservation Training Site

In June, the Center was host site for a USFWS bat acoustic detection workshop. The training hosted in part by **River Bend Wildland Stewards**, aimed to educate and train professionals to use, deploy, collect data, and interpret zero-crossing and full-spectrum bat detectors. The training used both acoustic recordings (full-spectrum bat detectors) and capture techniques (mist nets/harp traps) to survey seven locations. The diverse habitat found at the Wapsi Center offered very good opportunities to encounter any of the nine known species that occur in Iowa. Results of the single night capture effort and the four nights of acoustic recording identified the presence of eight species of bats: big brown, little brown, silver-haired, red, hoary, northern myotis, evening, and tri-colored.



Thank you to the **USFWS** and the **River Bend Wildland Stewards** for bringing the workshop to the Center, **USFWS biologist Amber Schorg** workshop coordinator, and **J.D. Chenger and J.D. Tyburec** for conducting the training.

## Wapsi is Habitat Certified by NWF

The Wapsi River Environmental Education Center has recently acquired **Wildlife Habitat Certification** from the National Wildlife Federation! In order to be eligible for certification, a wildlife habitat must provide food, water, shelter and a place to raise young. The 225 acres of preserved land along a mile stretch of the Wapsipinicon River does all that and more! To find out if your backyard qualifies as a Certified Wildlife Habitat, please visit [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).



# Meet the newest members to the Education Animal Family at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center!

By: Becky Horton, Seasonal Assistant Naturalist

## Speckled Kingsnake Lampropeltis getula holbrook



The Speckled Kingsnake is threatened in Iowa. It is more common throughout much of its more southern range. They are a medium sized snake growing to lengths of 36-48 inches long. The background color of the snake is a shiny black color and there is a white to yellow spot in the center of most of the scales, giving it a speckled look. In young individuals, such as our snake, the light spots form crossbars along the back. The belly is a yellow color with some irregular or rectangular black markings. They are usually found in prairies, open grassland, fields, pastures, woodlands, and some stream valleys and blufflands. These snakes are king because they not only eat other snakes, but they also can eat venomous snakes! They are immune to the venom! We received our juvenile Speckled Kingsnake from Davenport Parks and Recreation.

## Eastern Tiger Salamander Ambystoma tigrinum

The Eastern Tiger Salamander is very common in Iowa. They are one of the largest terrestrial salamanders in the United States. They can typically grow 6-8 inches but can reach a maximum of 14 inches long. They are green, gray, or black



with yellow blotches across the body. They have large protruding eyes and long tails. Eastern Tiger Salamanders spend most of their time in prairies, pastures, forests and only return to the water to breed. They are an indicator species meaning that if you see salamander larva in the water, then that water supply is clean! Even though these salamanders are large and abundant, they are one of the most secretive. They spend a majority of their time underground in burrows. They usually only come above ground during humid nights or to migrate during heavy spring or fall rains. We received our Eastern Tiger Salamander from Davenport Parks and Recreation.

## Eastern Screech Owl Megascops asio

The Eastern Screech Owl is a common bird in Iowa. It is one of the smallest owls in our area. They are a short, stocky bird, with a large head, short tail, and pointed ear tufts. There are two phases of Eastern Screech Owls, the red phase and the gray phase. Our owl is an intermediate phase, or a mix of the two phases. He has some gray and some red in his feathers giving him a brown color. The call of an Eastern Screech Owl is a high pitched trill.



They are nocturnal birds, so you will only hear their call at night. These birds are found in trees in neighborhoods, city parks, farmland, or wooded areas. Tree cavities and nest boxes are essential for this bird to make a home. He is with us because he has a humerus bone fracture and can no longer fly well.

**If you have any questions or would like to see our 3 new education animals, feel free to visit us anytime! We are open 8:00-4:30 Monday – Friday and 12:30-4:30 on Saturday!**

# PLANT PROFILE: Blue Vervain

## By Naturalist, Michael Granger

After a warm growing season, many plants are blooming throughout the state of Iowa, before the cold weather hits. Many travelers are in for a great wild flower show while sneaking in that late summer or fall family vacation. White, yellow, orange, pink and purple blossoms are covering road ditches and open fields. One flower I have been seeing recently stands above the others, Blue Vervain, *Verbena hastata*,



Photo: Michael Granger

which can grow up to five foot tall, with minute blue to violet colored flowers. Blue vervain belongs to the genus *Verbena* (family *Verbenaceae*) which contains 250 species of herbaceous or semi-woody flowering plants. Many of these are colorful, attractive plants which are used in landscaping and botanical plantings. Flowers are minute and born in heads, clusters or spikes and are known for their aromatic qualities.

Blue vervain often grows along road ditches here in Scott County. The most notable identifying feature of the plant is the cluster of flower spikes, containing small purple flowers. The plant prefers full sun or partial shade, and moist or wet soil. Many road ditches provide both of these conditions. As with many plants within this genus, Blue vervain has square stems which are red or green in color. Many botanists would argue that some of these plants belong in the mint family, *Labiatae*, the plants of which are well known for having square stems. Leaves are lance-shaped, 6 inches long by 1 inch wide. Leaves are opposite in arrangement. The leaves are also distinctively irregularly toothed or serrated.

Blue vervain blooms mid to late summer, for about a month and a half. Flowers occur on cluster of several spikes measuring up to five inches long.

Flowers are only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch in size and begin at the bottom of each spike. As the season progresses this ring of blooms move up each individual spike. Pollinators include many species of bee, flies, butterflies, and wasps. Seeds are consumed by some well-known birds such as the Northern Cardinal, Song sparrow, Field sparrow and the Dark-eyed- junco during the winter months.

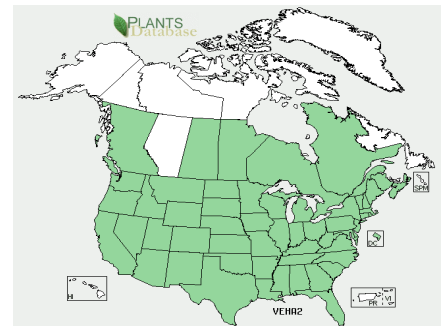
Blue vervain is common throughout the United States and lower parts of Canada. It is the only species which has

purple blossoms. In *The Complete Medicinal Herbal*, there is a good historical description on the uses of *Verbena* species (Penelope, 1993).

The Romans claimed

these plants were sacred and used the plant to purify homes and temples. A tea or infusion was made from the plant to help insomnia and cure nervous tension. The tea will also help encourage sweating during a fever, and boost the immune system. A poultice can be made to apply to insect bites, sprains and bruises. Many of these practices may seem a bit outdated for today's modern medicine but many plants are historically significant in many treatments and practices.

When traveling through the country I love to see many of the different colored blooms, and Blue Vervain is no exception. Its purple flower spikes seem to reach towards the sky, and one must take the time to investigate its blossoms up close. The flower's delicacies have to be experienced firsthand to give this species justice. Happy traveling!!!



# ANIMAL PROFILE: The Mosquito

## By Naturalist, Emily Santiago

*Bzzzz. Ouch! \*Slap self and scratch\** We are all familiar with that scenario. The first thing that probably popped into your mind is: “Mosquito”, and that’s exactly what this article is about! You know what they look like, and how annoying they can be, but do you know why they bother us, how they find us, and how different insect repellents work to keep these bugs away? Let me explain.

Mosquitoes are insects that have been around for over 30 million years. Like butterflies, mosquitoes go through a complete metamorphosis. Their four-stage life cycle starts as an **egg** in stagnant water along with 39-399 of their brothers’ and sisters’ eggs. When they hatch in about a week, they are now wriggling **larvae** that feed on tiny bits of organic matter (or each other!), and breathe air through tubes which they poke out of the surface of the water as they hang upside down like bats on the ceiling. Larvae molt, or shed

their exoskeletons, four times as they grow, and after the fourth molt, they graduate to tumbling **pupae**. They now have two breathing siphons on their back that they use as they

also hang near the water’s surface. They don’t eat anything at this stage. After a few days, their skin splits like the hulk’s t-shirt and an **adult** emerges. They’ve got a lot of other animals to annoy and not a lot of time to do it because the adults only live for a few weeks.

Now, how do they find us? They have had 30 million years to perfect techniques to track their prey. They use an arsenal of sensors to locate their next victim: Chemical sensors, visual sensors, and heat sensors. Chemical sensors allow mosquitoes to detect carbon dioxide and lactic acid up to 100 feet away. These gases are given off by mammals and birds as part of normal breathing. There are also certain chemicals in sweat that mosquitoes seem to favor. Their visual sensors are just two compound eyes. If you are wearing a color that contrasts with the background, and especially if you are moving around, the mosquito can see you and zero in. Heat sensors help mosquitoes find warm blooded individuals, and it works very well if they are close enough to the target.



What do they want? Basically adult mosquitoes have four things on their mind: Find a mate, mate, feed and repeat. Male mosquitoes have short mouth parts and only feed on plant nectar. Females are the ones that bite us and feed on our blood using their proboscis, the long pointy mouth part. They must feed on blood before they lay their eggs. Her saliva contains anticoagulants that prevent your blood from clotting and allow her to fill up her abdomen. After she has bitten you and goes on her merry way, some saliva stays in the wound and that is what evokes an immune response within your body making you itch until your body successfully breaks down all of the saliva proteins.



There are 2,700 species of mosquito in the world. Thank your lucky stars that there are only 13 species of mosquito throughout the United States. Different species have different behaviors, life spans, and carry different diseases such as Malaria, Yellow Fever, Encephalitis (or West Nile Virus), and Dengue Fever. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cannot survive in mosquitoes, therefore cannot be transmitted from one person to another through mosquito bites.

How do insect repellents work and which is the best one to use? DEET is a man-made chemical in many insect repellents and has been proven to do the trick. Scientists aren’t quite sure how it works. It could either cover you in a smell that is completely revolting to a mosquito or it blocks certain sensory receptors, confusing the mini-beast. Although the EPA has concluded that insect repellents containing DEET do not present a health concern, there has been a surge of DEET free, all natural insect repellents as the health conscious community continues to grow. There are several options out there and besides the benefit of them being chemical free, they actually don’t smell too bad either. I personally use Repel Natural Insect Repellent and I love it! There are recipes online you can make at home, too. I encourage you to do your own research and find what will work for you and your family. Also, look into installing a bat box in your back yard. A single little brown bat can eat 4,000 mosquitoes in one night!

# AUGUST

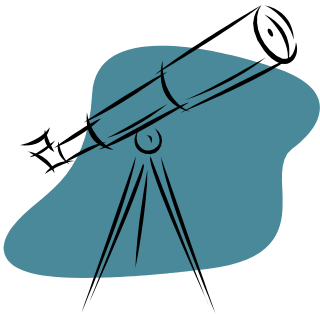
**31<sup>st</sup> & September 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Fall Festival ~ 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (each day) ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village (Scott County Park) ~** Enjoy the fall harvest at Pioneer Village. Period dressed "Friends of the Village" demonstrate crafts of the old days and also sell their wares. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children 5 -12 years old, and children under 5 are free. Please call 9563)328-3283 for more details.



# SEPTEMBER

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 - 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.

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Menke Open House ~ Dusk ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory ~ 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.

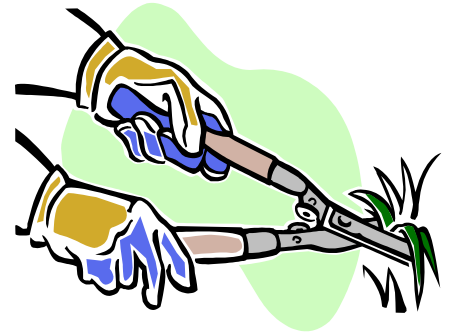


**18<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi River Center, Inc. Meeting ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~** Join us at the Eagle View Eco

# AUTUMN

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

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Volunteer Workday ~ 9:00 – Noon ~Wapsi River Center ~** Come join the Wapsi team for some fall beautification projects. Mulching, weeding and landscaping are some of the duties on board. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the Friends of the Wapsi Center, Inc. Please call to sign up your family or group (563) 328-3286.



**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Citizen Science: The Not-So-Great Migration ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~** Join Naturalist, Emily Santiago, to learn about what kinds of hardships some of our local migratory animals are facing. From birds to butterflies, learn how you can become a citizen scientist and contribute to the broad area of science! During this program, participants will have the opportunity to

participate in data collection for Project Monarch Health and Monarch Watch. The Wapsi original board game "Migratory

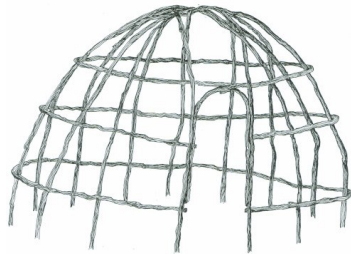


# EVENTS

Mayhem” will also be available for participants to play. Family fun for everyone! Please call to pre-register (563) 328-3286.

## OCTOBER

**4<sup>th</sup> ~ Twenty-Third Annual Wapsi River Fall Ecology Day ~ 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Bring the whole family for a fun filled day of activities. Our theme this year is “Woodland Wonders”. Lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Wapsi Center Inc. For more details see our special add following the calendar of events. Please pre-register by calling (563) 328-3286.



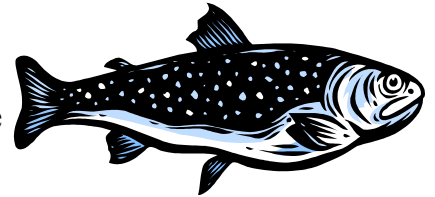
**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Village Harvest Moon Song & Dance Fest ~ 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ Bring the family out for a fun afternoon at the Village. Experience

100 years of rural American music and dance demonstrations. Admission is \$5 for adults and 3 dollars for children. Please call the Village for more details (563) 328 -3283.



**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Fall Trout Release ~ 10:30 A.M. ~ West Lake Park** ~ Please join the members of Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Scott County Conservation Board, to release rainbow trout at Lake of the Hills, Gate #1.

Participants may fish if, properly licensed and have appropriate gear.



**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Fall Leaf Hike ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Enjoy a fall stroll at the Wapsi River Center to explore our local trees. Learn how to identify trees by their leaves, bark, seeds, nuts and fruits. Bring the family for this informative jaunt through the woods. Call (563) 328-3286 to register.

**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi River Center, Inc. Meeting ~ 6:00 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.

**18<sup>th</sup> ~ Natural Basketry ~ 10:00 A.M. to Noon ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Join Naturalist Michael Granger for a lesson on basketry.



Primitive baskets are fun to make with natural materials such as willow, cattails, and bark. Please call ahead to reserve your spot today (563)328-3286.

**18<sup>th</sup> ~ Natural Art Class ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Bring your inner artist out in this program! Learn how to make your own art supplies out of materials found in nature and at home, from paper to paint. Then, make some art!

Beginner and experienced artists are welcome! *The “earth” without art is just “eh”*. Please call to pre register for this Fun class (563) 328-3286.



**25<sup>th</sup> ~ Halloween Hike ~ 5:00 – 10:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Come to the Wapsi Center for an educational hike to learn about nocturnal creatures. Learn about the human eye, and how nighttime animals can see much better than humans, and then take a stroll through the woods to discover some of these



amazing nocturnal creatures!!! At 5:00 P.M. we will provide a fire for roasting (please bring your own meal to cook). After the hike we will be serving hot chocolate and snacks. BYOM "Bring your own Mug" Please call to pre-register (563)328-3286.

## NOVEMBER

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ Birds of Prey ~1:00 P.M. ~ Hurstville Interpretive Center** ~ Join Wapsi River Center Director Dave Murcia, for a Birds of Prey program at Hurstville Interpretive Center in Jackson County,

Iowa. The weekend program will include a presentation on raptor habitats, biology, human impacts, and live education raptors.

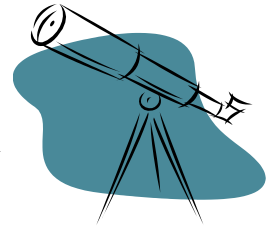
Please visit our Jackson county Conservation partner

website for more info at: <http://www.jacksonccb.com/> or <http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jackson.aspx> .



**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Veteran's Day** ~ Conservation Board Park offices in Scott County will be closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Star Gazing ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Menke Observatory (Wapsi River Center)** ~ Join Naturalist Michael Granger for a lesson on the night sky. Learn how ancient cultures used the stars in their every day lives, then take a tour of constellations. Please call the day of the event to check on weather conditions (563) 328-3286.



**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi River Center, Inc. Meeting ~ 6:00 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.

**27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Thanksgiving** ~ Conservation Board Park offices in Scott County will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Thanksgiving** ~ The Eagle View Eco-Center at the Wapsi River Center will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving weekend.

**30<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas at the Village ~ Noon - 4:00 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 General Store, refreshments at the soda fountain, holiday music, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Admission is free with a donation of nonperishable goods for the North Scott Food Pantry.





# KID'S CORNER

By Becky Horton

If plants want to move, they can't just get up and relocate. Instead, they spread their seeds to move around. If the seeds just fell from the parent plant and rooted itself under the parent plant, it would compete for soil, sunlight, water, and space. Therefore, the seeds use various ways to move away from the parent plant. The 3 most common ways for spreading seeds is wind, water, and animals (including humans).

Two other ways of spreading seeds include "explosions", and fire. An example of seed dispersal by explosion is a plant called the Touch-Me-Not, a.k.a. Jewelweed.

In the fall, the seed pods on this plant only open when touched, and when they open, they explode, spreading their seeds. Examples of seed dispersal by fire are the Jack Pine and the Lodgepole Pine. The pine cones on both of these trees won't open to release its seeds unless a critical temperature is reached.







Spotted Jewelweed



Jack Pine

Wind, water, and animals are more common ways of spreading seeds. Below, there is the name of a plant and a picture of its seed. Your job is to identify if that seed is spread by wind, water, or animals (including humans). Good luck!

Name	Picture	Answer	Name	Picture	Answer
1. Dandelion			6. Lotus		
2. Oak Tree			7. Milk Weed		
3. Maple Tree			8. Blackberry		
4. Poison Ivy			9. Common Burdock		
5. Coconut			10. Cattail		

**Randy & Ben Ford      THANK YOU!      Nahant Marsh**  
**Davenport Park & Rec.      American Canoe Association**  
**Wapsi Center Friends Group      St. Ambrose University**  
**S.O.A.R.      Kyle Moeller      Clinton County Conservation Board**  
**Christina McDonough: Scott County Health Department**  
**River Bend Wildland Stewards, GEMTC      USFWS**

# GOOD BYE ASHLEY

Over the past year working as a Part-time Seasonal Naturalist here at the Wapsi, I have learned so much and have had some truly wonderful experiences. Dave, Mike, Emily, Becky, and Leroy have been a treasure trove of experience that is truly priceless.

Some of my most fond memories were participating in the IAN Conference, coming up with creative ideas for the animal's enclosures, and working with all of our critters! I am especially going



to miss "Howie the Great Horned Owl" and the snappers! Not to mention creating exhibits for fairs and the nature center. The feeling I got when I completed my Rocks and Minerals of Iowa exhibit was so fulfilling I cannot

wait to create others in the future! Plus... LEARNING IS FUN! Doing research on new topics and then sharing that information with visitors just makes the kid in me giddy with excitement!

The Wapsi will always hold a special place in my heart as I continue my Environmental Education journey at Northern Illinois Universities Lorado Taft Field Campus. There I will be working with mainly Chicagoland students and corporate groups doing environmental education and outdoor adventure activities. I am thrilled for this opportunity and cannot wait for it to begin! Thankfully it is not too horribly far away so I can visit again and see what's going on at good ol Wapsi. Later Gater,

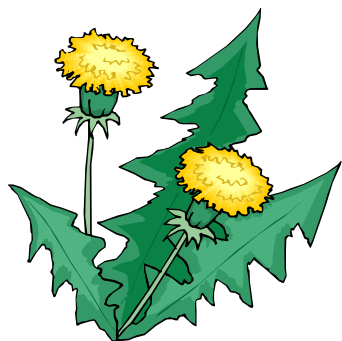
Ashley  
VanSpeybroeck



## WEED BE GONE!

During the summer months families enjoy many activities including fishing, boating, swimming and family vacations. Many also enjoy spending time working in their yards landscaping and making their own green space "just right" for cookouts and entertaining guests. A yard that provides an escape from the workweek is very sought after, and will provide family memories that will last for generations.

The latest concoction may help to make your yard weed free is simple and surprisingly effective. Simply put the following in a hand held pump sprayer: 1 Gallon of Vinegar, 2 Cups of Epsom Salt, and 1/4 cup of the original blue Dawn dish soap. Shake the ingredients up to ensure a good final solution. This homemade weed killer is simple yet surprisingly effective and you may notice results within hours. It is very useful for killing plants on drives, and walkways but be careful for it will kill any and all plants.



## Wilderness Camp!

Wapsi River EE staff partnered with Nahant Marsh and EICC to plan two weeklong Wilderness Skills Camps in July for kids ages 7-10 and 11-14, and they both were a success! As the name suggests, the kids learned survival skills such as primitive shelter and fire building, archery, edible and medicinal plant identification, canoeing and more! Around 25 children participated in each camp, which took place at Nahant Marsh, West Lake Park and at the Wapsi River EE Center throughout the weeks. A HUGE thank you to the Friends of Nahant Marsh for graciously providing delicious, nutritious meals and to the Friends of the Wapsi and Nahant Marsh with two anonymous donors, for sponsoring scholarships for of 6 children to attend the camp free of charge!



**23rd Annual  
Wapsi River Center  
FALL ECOLOGY DAY  
Saturday, October 4, 2014  
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**This year's theme is WOODLAND WONDERS! Events and programs suite all ages. Family fun for everyone. Please call to sign your family up for this fun filled day (563-328-3286).**

**9:00 A.M. to Noon ~ Woodland Wickiups ~** By using poles, lashings, and Cattails come help us build and learn how our Native Americans created these amazing living structures. Duties will suite all ages including pounding holes, string cutting, lashing poles, covering and decorating.



**12:00 – 1:00 ~ L U N C H ~** Lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Wapsi Center Inc. Please bring a dish to share. Donations are welcome.



**1:00 – 2:00 ~ EAB, Coming to an Ash tree near you! ~** Do you have an ash tree? If so, you may want to learn the ABC's of this invasive insect now known to be in several Iowa counties! The presentation will cover history, identification, biology, and current efforts to stop the spread.

**2:00 – 3:00 ~ Paper Making ~** Come learn how to recycle and make your own paper, and then decorate your creation with natural objects.



**3:00 – 4:00 ~ Woodland Tree Hike ~** Explore the Wapsi River woodlands with naturalist Mike Granger to learn about our native trees and how to identify them from leaves, buds and seeds.

**4:00 – 5:00 ~ Woodland Creatures ~** come explore the world of woodland creatures found at the Wapsi River Center. The woods provide all of these animals with food and shelter and learn how they live and thrive in a woodland ecosystems.



**WAPSI RIVER E. E. CENTER**  
**31555 52ND AVENUE**  
**DIXON, IA 52745**  
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