

# ***The W.R.E.N.***

***Wapsi River Environmental News***

***SUMMER 2017***

***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**

### **Spring Events 2017**

It was a busy and well attended spring season with 35 public programs including: **paddling, Earth Day Volunteer Stewardship Workday & Climate Change program, Paint by Nature, Wildflower Hike, Bat House Workshop, Wild Edibles & Archery programs, Pollinator Workshop**, and our **Annual Friends of the Wapsi Center** meeting! We also presented for 31 school experiences including Pre-K, elementary, middle, and high school! As a regional environmental education center, we were scheduled by schools in Scott, Clinton, Cedar counties of Iowa, and Rock Island and Henry counties of Illinois.



*Pollinator Workshop- **Friend** Joy Sheeley & insect hotel builders, by Wapsi staff*

### **Annual Friends Meeting**

Our annual meeting recognized the efforts of our valuable volunteers and took place at the **renovated Lake View shelter** in West Lake Park. At this meeting, many members were recognized for the outstanding skills, knowledge, and abilities they brought to the Center and the wide variety of programs they support.

A total of **649 hours** were volunteered by all, including **582 hours** by the **Friends of the Wapsi Center** at an enormous value of \$15,674.10 of support! The following *members* specifically recognized were:

**Jim Ross** for most Saturdays hosted, **Carol Rogers** for most meetings attended as well as long standing member and Treasurer, **Erma Wiszmann** for long standing member and Secretary, **Tom Schwake** for most hours volunteered, and **Joy Sheeley** for **Friend of the Year!** On behalf of the Wapsi River Center Director and staff, the Scott County Conservation Board, and Scott County, we are grateful and appreciate your continued support! **Go Team Wapsi!**



## Naturalist Completes Leadership Summit

Our own **Emily Santiago** completed the **Scott County Leadership Summit** this past spring and was recognized at the quarterly employee recognition ceremony in June. Scott County is committed to current and future leaders and promotes leadership development through continuing education, instructing, volunteering/committee involvement, and reading. Emily is part of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Summit graduating class. Good work Emily!

## Earth Day Stewardship Workday



*Naturalist Emily Santiago and helping hands, by Wapsi staff*

Spring workday this year was a success due to 16 **volunteers** including our own **Friends of the Wapsi Center** members! The day included planting, mulching, and watering all new pollinator and wildlife plantings for a total of 48 volunteer hours! Also added to the event was a program on **global change** presented by Ray Wolf of the NOAA/NWS. A big thank you to our **Friends group** for hosting refreshments for the volunteers!

## Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout candidate **Lucas Walsh** of troop 6 of Davenport, Iowa has completed his Leopold bench project that included **13 new benches** at the Center. Lucas planned, raised funds, constructed, and installed the benches at Red Tail Lodge and along the main trail. The benches will be well used by rental guests, program participants, and visitors. Thank you!



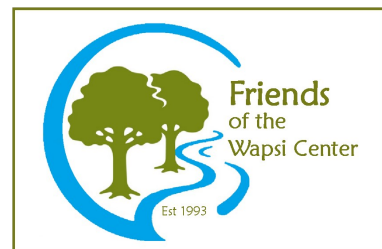
**“BECOME A WAPSI RIVER CENTER FRIENDS MEMBER TODAY!”**

**[www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/Wapsi-friends](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/Wapsi-friends)**

The Friends of the Wapsi Center, Inc. organized in 1993, is a citizens' support group dedicated to encouraging the public use and enjoyment of the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and to the preservation of the Center's natural resources for present and future generations. Please contact the Wapsi River Center for more information (563) 328-3286.

**YES! I want to join the Friends' Group.**

**Enclosed is my contribution to the Friends of the Wapsi Center.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 newsletter  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 contributing member  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 supporting member  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND MEMBERSHIP FORM TO:**

~~~Friends of the Wapsi "Treasurer"~~~

31555 52nd AVENUE, DIXON, IOWA 52745

Contributions to the Friends are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

# MAKING A PAPER BOAT

Here is a great activity for the kiddos. If you can fold a paper airplane than you can make a paper boat. Start with a single piece of paper 8 1/2 by 11 inches (standard size).

Step 1: Fold the paper so the long edges meet each other.

Step 2: Next open and fold the long edges to the center.

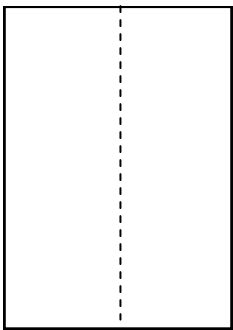
Step 3: Now fold the four corners to the center line.

Step 4: Fold the 4 angles to the center line

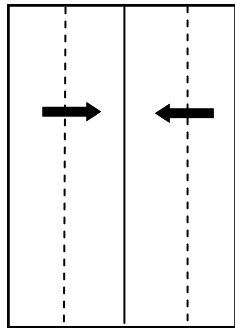
Step 5: Fold each outside edge to the center line.

Step 6: Fold the boat in half.

Step 7: Starting at one end carefully turn the boat inside out using by placing your thumbs on the inner folds of the boat and opening it out.



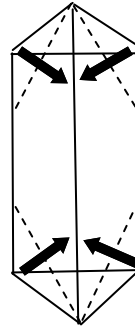
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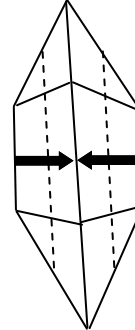
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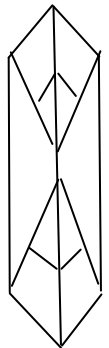
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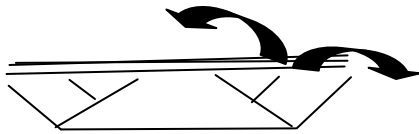
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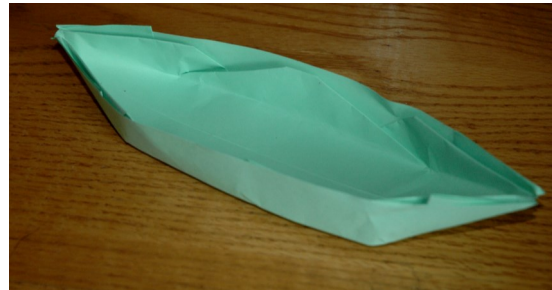
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## THANK YOU!

*Friends of the Wapsi Center*  
Heather Ballou of ATECC  
Nahant Marsh  
Dr. Mitchell ~ St. Ambrose  
University  
The Quad Cities Astronomical  
Society

USFWS  
Orion Elementary (IL)  
Girl Scouts of America Troop 8504  
Hillcrest Elementary (IL)  
Eagle Scout candidate Lucas Walsh  
Red Fern Farm  
Putnam Museum &  
Victoria Edwards



# PLANT PROFILE: Eastern Cottonwood Tree

by Naturalist Michael J. Granger

On a recent outing along the river, while waiting for a hungry fish to chomp my worm, the wind picked up and I noticed small and large pieces of fluffy, cotton like seeds floating through the air. What started as a few became many, and it was like being in a magical dream with these small floating seeds, floating across the sky above me. The seed source became readily apparent as I looked where the seeds were coming from. I spied an incredibly large tree whose tallest branches towered above the surrounding tree canopy. On its top branches were leaves that wiggled to and fro, and appeared to be waving at me as if to say a friendly “Hello there, are the fish biting?”

Let me introduce to you the largest tree species found east of the Rocky Mountains, the Eastern Cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*. The tree is in the genus *populus*, which belongs to the willow family, *Salicaceae*. The word *populus* refers to Roman Empire, where poplar trees were commonly planted around public and meeting spaces.

The sheer size of mature cottonwood trees can be quite spectacular, reaching a diameter of 5 feet or more. Mature trees can grow up to 65 to 130 feet tall! Eastern Cottonwood trees are very fond of water and thus are found along and around Iowa’s rivers, streams, ponds and lakes. Plenty of these trees can be viewed right along the Mississippi river watershed.

Cottonwood trees have large triangular shaped leaves, which are coarsely toothed and arranged alternately along thick greyish-yellow twigs and branches. The leaf base is flat without teeth. Large leaves may measure 4 inches long and 4 inches wide. The petiole or “leaf stem” on cottonwood leaves is as long as the leaf itself. Leaf stems are flattened so the

slightest breeze will make each leaf wiggle as if to say “Hello!”

The cottonwood is “dioecious” meaning that a tree is either

male or female, with the female releasing a barrage of seeds after pollination. Each seed has cottony strands, which will float easily on the slightest breeze. Cottonwood seeds may travel a substantial distance from its source.

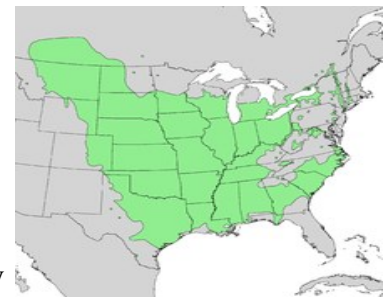
Seeds germinate quickly on bare ground, with full sun, and a reliable water source. Riverbanks and waterways provide all of these necessities. A cottonwood tree in a suitable environment commonly grows 5 to 10 feet in a year and trees along the Mississippi have grown 10 to 15 feet each year.

Cottonwood trees can also be recognized by their characteristic bark. The bark at the base of the tree is deeply furrowed and each row of bark may be several inches wide. As you look up towards the top of the tree the bark becomes almost smooth and light grey at the uppermost branches. Trees may have a straight trunk or may be branched, especially on larger mature trees.

Cottonwood trees shed their twigs regularly and old curved cottonwood twigs are easy to find under a large tree. A fresh twig will have large pointed greenish yellow buds which are sticky when touched. If you find an older cottonwood twig, you can test it by breaking the twig apart near its growth rings. These appear as light rings around the twig where it began new growth. If you break it just right you will see a “star shape” inside the broken twig, telling you that it is from a cottonwood. This is a fun activity with a group of students to see who can find the best star.

The wood of the cottonwood warps easily and its lumber is hard to season. Because of this, its commercial use is limited, but it is occasionally used in making plywood, and other wood pulp products such as particle furniture.

In conclusion, the Eastern Cottonwood is the largest, fastest growing tree in our region. They grow to spectacular sizes and diameters. Look for these giants along Iowa’s watersheds, see if its leaves are saying hello and finally, see if you can find a tree this summer that is releasing its seeds on the wind!



Eastern Cottonwood Range



Cottonwood leaves and seeds  
Nature.mdc.mo.gov

# ANIMAL PROFILE: Spotted Ladybird Beetle

by Seasonal Naturalist Becky Horton

When looking at our pollinator garden at the Wapsi River Center, we often see a lot of bugs. Some of these bugs are friends, and some are foes. One of our friendly bugs is the Spotted Lady Beetle, *Coleomegilla maculata*. This native insect also goes by the names Pink Spotted Lady Beetle or Twelve-spotted Lady Beetle. This insect is very important to have in our vegetable or flower gardens. It preys on many insects, especially aphids and other sap feeders, which are foes to our gardens.

The adult spotted lady beetle is pink to red in color with 6 black spots on each wing cover, or elytron. The pronotum, or body part between the head and wings, is pink or yellow with two large triangular black spots. The head is black with a pink or red triangular marking. The adults have a teardrop or oval shaped body with 6 legs and 2 antennae. The larva of the spotted lady beetle looks like a miniature alligator with 6



12 Spotted lady beetle



Larvae

legs that is dark brown with orange markings. The range of this insect is the Eastern half of the United States from Wisconsin down to Louisiana and Georgia. They are usually found in moist habitats near or in crop fields.

Unlike most lady beetles, the spotted lady beetle not only eats aphids, but also pollen. Plant pollen can constitute up to 50% of their diet. They usually eat only pollen during the first part of spring. Once they get their protein rich head start with early flowering plant pollen, they spread out to feed on aphids. Adult lady beetles can consume 50 aphids per day and the larvae kill 10-25 aphids per day. This number can add up to as many as 5,000 aphids in a spotted lady beetle's lifetime! To keep the spotted lady beetle in your flower garden or crop field, make sure you have an early spring blooming flower in your garden or dandelions near your crop field to fulfill the hungry needs of the emerging spotted lady beetles.

Another lady beetle that can be confused with our native spotted lady beetle is the Asian lady beetle, *Harmonia axyridis*. Other names for this lady beetle include the Halloween lady beetle, multicolored Asian lady beetle, and Japanese lady beetle. The Asian lady beetle was brought over to the United States from eastern Asia in 1916 and again in 1964-1965 and was released in California to help control pecan aphids. They were again released in biological control programs from 1978-1982 in Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington. With these releases, these

Asian lady beetle populations did not become established. Then in 1988, a population of Asian lady beetles was found in Louisiana. This population has spread throughout most of the United States.

This lady beetle looks similar to our native spotted lady beetle. The Asian lady beetle is slightly larger and rounder. It ranges in color from orange to yellow to red or even black. The easiest way to identify this lady beetle is the prominent black 'M'-shaped marking behind its head. It may have several spots or no spots at all. The Asian lady beetle feeds on aphids found in trees and also in fields and gardens. They are an important predator of soybean aphids. An easy way to tell apart our native spotted lady beetle from the Asian lady beetle is our native friend only overwinters outside and will not enter buildings. The Asian lady beetles will overwinter inside buildings.



They will crawl into cracks and gaps around windows, doors, roof lines, and other openings. They do not reproduce indoors, infest wood, destroy fabrics, or eat our food.

Asian lady beetle

All lady beetles have a defense property called reflex bleeding. This is a process where they secrete a strong-smelling yellowish liquid from the joints in their legs. With the Asian lady beetle, this liquid can stain our clothes and other indoor textiles during the winter months.

Next time you are at your vegetable or flower garden, make sure to look for the beneficial spotted lady beetle. With their population in decline, it is always a joy to find them in gardens and fields.

Information by: <http://bugguide.net>, <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu>, and [www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/multicolored-asian-lady-beetles/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/multicolored-asian-lady-beetles/).



# SUMMER EVENTS

## JULY

**4<sup>th</sup> ~ Conservation Board offices will be closed in observance of the Holiday.**

**7<sup>th</sup> ~ Birds of Prey ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park, Park Terrace Campground Office area (Gate 5) ~** Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and join Director Dave Murcia for a program on native raptors. This presentation will include raptor ecology, biology, habitats, and **live birds of prey** including a falcon and owls.

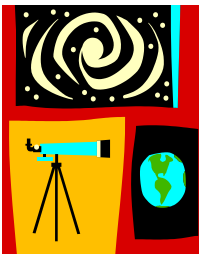
**12<sup>th</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park, Gate 1, Lake of the Hills Boat Ramp ~** Join Director/Naturalist Dave Murcia for an adventure with kayaks. Whether you are a beginner or regular kayaker, come out to learn basics. Program includes all equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of Lake of the Hills. You may bring your own vessel/PFD, though it must comply with IADNR regulations.

**Reminder-** this program is determined by weather and site conditions, weight capacity loads are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress appropriately, bring water, and call to register for a seat at (563) 328-3286.



**14<sup>th</sup> ~ Birds of Prey ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Bald Eagle Campground Area ~** Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and join Director Dave Murcia for a program on native raptors. This presentation will include raptor ecology, biology, habitats, and **live birds of prey** including a falcon and owls.

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Menke Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Dusk ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory ~** Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory for a tour of the night sky. Call (563) 333-6141 on the day of the event for a recorded message confirming whether the star party will take place or must be cancelled due to stormy weather. If the weather is merely cloudy, *the star party will still take place* with a tour of the observatory and an opportunity for questions and answers with local astronomers.



**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Pride Lake ~** Join Director/Naturalist Dave Murcia for an adventure with kayaks. Whether you are a beginner or regular kayaker, come out to learn basics. Program includes all

equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of Pride Lake. You may bring your own vessel/PFD, though it must comply with IADNR regulations.

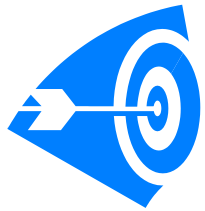
**Reminder-** this program is determined by weather and site conditions, weight capacity loads are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress appropriately, bring water, and call to register for a seat at (563) 328-3286.



**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~** Come join the Friends of the Wapsi Center to learn about current happenings and volunteer opportunities. Please call if you are interested in attending (563) 328-3286.

**21<sup>st</sup> ~ Lower Wapsipinicon River Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Landowner and Partner Informational Workshop ~ 8:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~** See special add following calendar of events.

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Archery Basics ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~** Join Seasonal Naturalist Becky Horton and learn how to use a bow and arrow in this informative and fun hands-on class. You'll learn safety and proper archery techniques according to National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) guidelines. Children must be in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above to participate. Please call to pre-register (563) 328-3286.



**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Paint-By-Nature: Birds of Prey ~ 1:00 PM ~ Wapsi River Center ~** In this kid-friendly class that blends nature and art, learn all there is to know about Iowa's birds of prey and meet **LIVE raptor ambassadors**. Then, enjoy some lemonade while we paint a themed picture on canvas in a guided, step-by-step experience. \$5/canvas. Call (563) 328-3286 to pre-register.

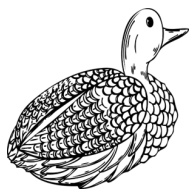
## AUGUST

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ Watershed Fur Bearers, Channel Cat Water Taxi ~ 9:00-10:45 A.M. ~ Celebration Pier Channel Cat Landing, 2951 E. River Dr, Moline, IL.** Join Naturalist Emily Santiago for a presentation on mammals featuring pelts of native animals found in our watersheds. Headsets are provided to all Channel Cat Talk attendees for each session so you can clearly hear the presentations! Channel Cat Talks are \$14.00 per person.



**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Watershed Fur Bearers, Channel Cat Water Taxi ~ 9:00-10:45 A.M. ~ Celebration Pier Channel Cat Landing, 2951 E. River Dr, Moline, IL.** Join Naturalist Emily Santiago for a presentation on mammals featuring pelts of native animals found in our watersheds. Headsets are provided to all Channel Cat Talk attendees for each session so you can clearly hear the presentations! Channel Cat Talks are \$14.00 per person.

**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Cattail Duck Decoy Workshop ~ 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Come learn some cattail biology and then create a “decorative” native American duck “decoy” out of cattails. Please call to pre-register for this adult oriented workshop. There is a workshop fee of \$5 per decoy, and space is limited to 10. Please sign up for this adult workshop by calling (563) 328-3286.



**7<sup>th</sup> ~ Sturgeon Full Moon Float ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Pride Lake** ~ Join Director/Naturalist Dave Murcia for an adventure with kayaks. Whether you are a beginner or regular kayaker, come out to learn basics. Program includes all equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of Pride Lake. You may bring your own vessel/PFD, though it must comply with IADNR regulations including lighting. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. **Reminder-** this program is determined by weather and site conditions, weight capacity loads are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress appropriately, bring water, and call to register for a seat at (563) 328-3286.



**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park, Gate 1, Lake of the Hills Boat Ramp** ~ Join Director/Naturalist Dave Murcia for an adventure with kayaks. Whether you are a beginner or regular kayaker, come out to learn basics. Program includes all equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of Lake of the Hills. You may bring your own vessel/PFD, though it must comply with IADNR regulations. **Reminder-** this program is determined by weather and site conditions, weight capacity loads are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress appropriately, bring water, and call to register for a seat at (563) 328-3286.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Birds of Prey ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park, Lake View Shelter (Gate 1)** ~ Bring your family and join Director Dave Murcia for a program on native raptors. This presentation will include raptor ecology, biology, habitats, and **live birds of prey** including a falcon and owls

**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Birds of Prey ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Buffalo Bill Shelter** ~ Bring your family and join Director Dave Murcia for a program on native raptors. This presentation will include raptor ecology, biology, habitats, and **live birds of prey** including a falcon and owls.



**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Pride Lake** ~ Join Director/Naturalist Dave Murcia for an adventure with kayaks. Whether you are a beginner or regular kayaker, come out to learn basics. Program includes all equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of Pride Lake. You may bring your own vessel/PFD, though it must comply with IADNR regulations. **Reminder-** this program is determined by weather and site conditions, weight

capacity loads are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress appropriately, bring water, and call to register for a seat at (563) 328-3286.

**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Come join the Friends of the Wapsi Center to learn about current happenings and volunteer opportunities. Please call if you are interested in attending (563) 328-3286.

**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Wild Edible Workshop ~ 10:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Join Seasonal Naturalist Becky Horton to learn about the many wild edibles in your own neck of the woods. We will focus on identifying plants, foraging basics, and preparing wild edibles. We will take a hike outdoors to identify and harvest some of the summer wild edibles available during this time. At the end of the program, you will get to sample some wild flavors! Please call to pre-register (563) 328-3286.



**26<sup>th</sup> ~ Paint-By-Nature: Monarchs ~ 1:00 PM ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ In this kid-friendly class that blends nature and art, learn about the amazing monarch butterfly life cycle and catch and release monarchs to tag them before they fly to their overwintering site in Mexico! Then, enjoy lemonade while we paint a themed picture on canvas in a guided, step-by-step experience. \$5/canvas. Call (563) 328-3286 to pre-register.



## SEPTEMBER

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ Birds of Prey ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Buffalo Bill Shelter** ~ Bring your family and join Director Dave Murcia for a program on native raptors. This presentation will include raptor ecology, biology, habitats, and **live birds of prey** including a falcon and owls.

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Pioneer Village Labor Day Weekend Festival ~ 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Daily) ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ Come celebrate the Labor Day weekend at Pioneer Village. Event features blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, music, kid's games & crafts, food & ice cream for sale, and Wild West shoot-outs. Family fun for all ages! (\$2.00 adults, \$1.00 children, under 5 free). For more information please call (563) 328-3281.

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**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Pride Lake** ~ Join Director/Naturalist Dave Murcia for an

adventure with kayaks. Whether you are a beginner or regular kayaker, come out to learn basics. Program includes all equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of Pride Lake. You may bring your own vessel/PFD, though it must comply with IADNR regulations. **Reminder-** this program is determined by weather and site conditions, weight capacity loads are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress appropriately, bring water, and call to register for a seat at (563) 328-3286.

**8<sup>th</sup> ~ Birds of Prey ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park, Rolling Hills Shelter (Gate 1)** ~ Bring your family and join Director Dave Murcia for a program on native raptors. This presentation will include raptor ecology, biology, habitats, and **live birds of prey** including a falcon and owls.

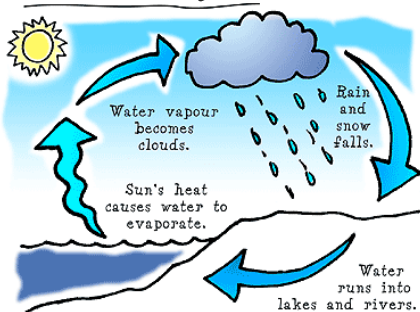
**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Monarch Butterfly Workshop ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Join Seasonal Naturalist Becky Horton for a workshop on monarch butterflies! During this program, participants will learn about monarch butterflies and why their population is declining. We will help the monarchs by making seed bombs which you will take home with you at the end of the program. We will



also take a hike to the prairie and catch monarch butterflies to collect data for Project Monarch Health and Monarch Watch. It will be family fun for everyone! Please call to pre-register (563) 328-3286.

**9<sup>th</sup> ~ River Hydrology ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ The hydrologic cycle is the driving force in weather. Forecasters at the *National Weather Service* are constantly observing ongoing trends in this cycle to forecast your daily weather as well as river levels locally, and across the country. Knowing what the river levels are and how they are expected to change is important for people who recreate near and on the rivers.

The Water Cycle:



and drought. There will also be an interactive flood model available for attendees to visualize how water moves through watersheds and how human involvement in the landscape impacts the overland flow of water. Please call if you plan to attend (563) 328-3286.

**Jessica Brooks** from the *National Weather Service* in the Quad Cities will present on the hydrologic cycle, how the NWS forecasts river levels, where to look for information on river levels and forecasts, as well as, provide information on flooding

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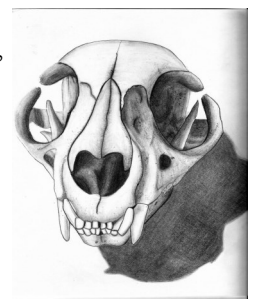
**21<sup>st</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Come join the Friends of the Wapsi Center to learn about current happenings and volunteer opportunities. Please call if you are interested in attending (563) 328-3286.

**23<sup>rd</sup> ~ World Rivers Day Float ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Syracuse Landing to Sherman Park** ~ Join the Wapsi River Team and explore the Wapsipinicon River by kayak, to celebrate and honor our sacred waters. Participants must be 16 years of age and accompanied by an adult. We will meet at Sherman Park and please bring the following items: sunscreen, insect repellent, comfortable clothes, sturdy shoes, water bottle, waterproof container with snacks/lunch. Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs are limited to the first 12 people so call to register a seat at (563) 328-3286. **Reminder-** this program is determined by weather and site conditions, weight capacity loads are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem.

**23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Menke Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory for a tour of the night sky. Call (563) 333-6141 on the day of the event for a recorded message confirming whether the star party will take place or must be cancelled due to stormy weather. If the weather is merely cloudy, *the star party will still take place* with a tour of the observatory and an opportunity for questions and answers with local astronomers.



**30<sup>th</sup> ~ Paint-By-Nature: Skulls and Teeth ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ In this kid-friendly class that blends nature and art, learn how to identify animal skulls and find out what else you can tell about an animal just by looking at its bones. Then, enjoy lemonade while we paint a themed picture on canvas in a guided, step-by-step experience. \$5/canvas. Call (563) 328-3286 to pre-register.



# Lower Wapsipinicon River

## Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

### Landowner and Partner Informational Workshop

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**WHEN:** Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 /  
8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** Wapsi River Center and  
Site Location

**WHY:** Education and Stewardship  
concerning the Eastern Massasauga  
Rattlesnake

The Scott County Conservation Board, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will be hosting an informational workshop covering the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*). The snake was listed as threatened in September of 2016 and efforts are underway to engage local landowners, as well as conservation organizations and agencies in the Lower Wapsipinicon River area. Please join us to learn about Eastern Massasauga ecology and life history, sites in Iowa that are being managed for the snake, and what you can do to help Eastern Massasauga and other wildlife in your area. **Refreshments and lunch provided!**

#### **Presentations by:**

- Terry VanDeWalle, Senior Ecologist with Stantec
- Dale Maxson, Eastern Iowa Land Steward with the Nature Conservancy
- Andrew DiAllesandro, Private Lands Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Registration begins  
@ 8:30 A.M.**

**Presentations from  
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

**Habitat site tour from  
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

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**Please RSVP by July 14<sup>th</sup> by calling:**

**Andrew DiAllesandro  
(309) 757-5800, Ext 210**

**[andrew.diallesandro@fws.gov](mailto:andrew.diallesandro@fws.gov)**

**or Dave Murcia  
(563) 328-3286**

**[dave.murcia@scottcountyiowa.com](mailto:dave.murcia@scottcountyiowa.com)**



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



The W.R.E.N. “Wapsi River Environmental Newsletter”, is published quarterly by the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and the Scott County Conservation Board.”

**Mailing List:** To receive a copy of the WREN free of charge, please send a postcard to the address above.

**The WREN may also be found online at** <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/wapsi/wren>.

## **Scott County Conservation Board**

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|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Rich Mohr             | Doug Grenier |
| John “Skip” O’Donnell | Beth McAleer |
| Carol Fennelly        |              |

Director:

Roger Kean

## **Phone Numbers**

Wapsi River Environmental Education Center  
(563) 328-3286

Scott County Conservation Board  
(563) 328-3280

## **Wapsi River Environmental Education Center Staff**

Scott County:

Dave Murcia, Director/Naturalist  
Mike Granger, Naturalist  
Emily Santiago, Naturalist  
Becky Horton, Seasonal Assistant Naturalist  
Sean Santiago, Resident Caretaker

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