

The W.R.E.N.

Wapsi River Environmental News

SUMMER 2021

Scott County Conservation Board's Environmental Education Newsletter

www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/wapsi



www.facebook.com/scottcountyconservation

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

Wapsi Happenings

By: Director, Dave Murcia



Freedom in Nature, Native Iowa

*"There are some who can live without **wild things**, and some who cannot"* Aldo Leopold

One year later, we are here, standing strong. One year later, we are making the choices for wellness, using the freedom of nature to heal.

In the May edition of the **National Recreation and Parks Magazine**, it is again identified how essential our park system is to our wellness and freedoms. *"In the midst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a racial justice movement, growing economic pressures, health crisis and devastating impacts of climate change, park and recreation professionals are continuing to serve their communities by maintaining essential infrastructure and providing innovative and vital programming. They also stepped into new roles to protect, strengthen and heal their communities."*

Keep nature in your life, visit our natural areas, stay grounded, connected, and take the challenge and liberty of using nature to heal. Take the Wapsi challenge and sign up for an experience!

Eagle View Eco Center Open

Thanks to our hosting ***Friends of the Wapsi River Center members***, summer hours at this time include Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Please call (563)328-3286 to confirm availability the day before any planned Saturday visit. Visitors may explore the Eco Center and its displays and educational animals. Please also check out our **WREN** or website for future programs.



Annual Friends Meeting

Our annual meeting recognized outstanding skills, knowledge, and abilities that members brought to the Center and the wide variety of programs they support.

A total of **442 hours** were volunteered by all, including **298.75 hours** by the *Friends of the Wapsi Center* at a value of **\$12,615** of support! The following members specifically recognized were:

Susan McPeters as Volunteer of the Year, Lucia Dryanski for most support of programs and projects, and Jim Ross for most meetings attended. 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!**



Volunteer of the Year Susan McPeters

Satre Memorial Fund Received

The Wapsi Center is grateful for the kind memorial fund in Mike Satre's name, which was donated to the *Friends of the Wapsi Center*. His mother Patricia Satre writes, " " The funds will support a project(s) at the Center that will continue Mike's interest and love of nature through our education program. On behalf of the Wapsi staff and the SCCB, we thank you Mike Satre family!

Earth Day Stewardship Workday

Spring workday this year was a success due to 19 volunteers including our own *Friends of the Wapsi Center* members! The day included: invasive



Friends and volunteers removing invasive species

species removal on the prairie, spring butterfly garden preparation, and preparation for the Bryant Memorial Butterfly Garden, for a total of 57 volunteer hours!

Spring Events 2021

It was another busy spring season with over **60** public programs including: **Channel Cat Talks on Raptors, Bats 101 Workshop, archery, kayaking, Earth Day Volunteer Stewardship, Wildflower Hike, Wild Edibles programs, Pollinator Workshop**, and our **Annual *Friends of the Wapsi Center* meeting!** We also presented for 68 school experiences including Pre-K, elementary, 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.

Bryant Memorial Butterfly Garden

In memory of Jeannie Bryant, Bob Bryant, former Director of the Wapsi River Center, has kindly accepted an offer to plant a butterfly garden at the new education building. Jeannie enjoyed butterflies, and Bob thought the project was fitting to plant such a garden in a place that both of them spent years at. Bob, along with Master Gardeners and volunteers, have planned and planted dozens of butterfly friendly plants- all



Bob Bryant, Master Gardeners & Volunteers



Bryant Memorial Butterfly Garden

native to Iowa! Next time you are visiting, please check out the butterfly garden located in the southeastern corner of the new education building being renovated. **Thank you Bob Bryant and family** for your kind contribution in memory of Jeannie. The garden will surely bring beauty and education to all who visit, for years to come.

SUMMER EVENTS

July

5th ~ Holiday ~ All county offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

8th ~ Youth Birding Days ~ 10:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come join a guided hike to learn about the diversity of birds native to Iowa! ID Guides and binoculars are provided. This event will count for hours and several activities for the Iowa Young Birders Summer Program. Youth who participate can earn prizes at the end of summer or have their name entered into a raffle for a brand new pair of binoculars. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-



3286.

9th Canoe Experience ~ 1:30 – 3:30 P.M. ~ Scott County Park (Pride Lake) ~ Join the Wapsi River Center staff for an adventure with canoes. Program includes all equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of Pride Lake. Dress according to weather conditions and bring water. Reminder- this program is determined by weather and site conditions. Registration is limited and required by calling (563) 328-3286.

10th ~ Summer Pollinator Hike ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come explore our native prairie to learn about pollinators and the plants that support them! This family friendly event will teach kids about our many pollinators and their importance with games and activities. Parents can learn about plants they can add to their yard or garden to help pollinators at home. Registration is limited and required by calling (563) 328-3286.



10th ~ Menke Open House (In Person or Virtually) ~ St. Ambrose University is hosting a star party at

Menke Observatory, located at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center - Dixon, Iowa. This event is free and open to the public. Visitors may come on site or log on for a zoom link at the AmbroseAstro Facebook page. On the day of the event, the same number may be called for a recorded message that will either confirm the event or report a cancellation. For more information, contact Robert Mitchell at MitchellRobertC@sau.edu or (563)333-6141.

14th ~ Scott County Conservation Board Meeting ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park & Virtually ~ The Scott County Conservation Board meets monthly at the West Lake Park Headquarters office (Gate 3) 14910 110th Ave, Davenport, Iowa 52804. Please call if interested in attending (563)328-3280.

15th ~ Youth Birding Days ~ 8:00 - 10:00 A.M. ~ Crow Creek Park (Bettendorf) ~ Come join

a guided hike to learn about the diversity of birds native to Iowa! ID Guides and binoculars are provided. This event will count for hours and several activities for the Iowa Young Birders Summer Program. Youth who participate can earn prizes at the end of summer or have their name entered into a raffle for a brand new pair of binoculars. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.

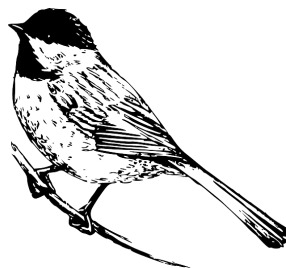


15th ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center & Virtually ~ Come learn about the current happenings at the Wapsi River Center. Please call if you are interested in attending (563)328-3286.

22nd ~ Youth Birding Days ~ 8:00 – 10:00 A.M. ~ Scott County Park ~ Come join a guided hike to

learn about the diversity of birds native to Iowa! ID Guides and binoculars are provided. This event will count for hours and several activities for the Iowa Young Birders Summer Program. Youth who participate can earn prizes at the end of

summer or have their name entered into a raffle for a brand new pair of binoculars. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.



24th ~ Summer Pollinator Hike ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come explore our native prairie to learn about pollinators and the plants that support them! This family friendly event will teach kids about our many pollinators and their importance with games and activities. Parents can learn about plants they can add to their yard or garden to help pollinators at home. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.

24th – Summer Wild Edible workshop ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Naturalist Becky Baugh to learn about the many wild edibles in your own neck of the woods. We will focus on foraging basics, foraging safety, identifying plants, and preparing wild edibles. We will take a hike outdoors to identify some of the summer wild edibles available during this time. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.



24th ~ All About Bees ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Come learn about Iowa's amazing bees! This program will touch on benefits they provide and products they make. We will make three trial products using ingredients made by bees! This program costs **\$10 per person** (payable by cash or check at the program). Space is limited and registration is required by calling (563)328-3286.

29th ~ Youth Birding Days ~ 8:00 - 10:00 A.M. ~ Credit Island Park (Davenport) ~ Come join a guided hike to learn about the diversity of birds native to Iowa! ID Guides and binoculars are provided. This event will count for hours and several activities for the Iowa Young Birders Summer Program. Youth who participate can earn prizes at the end of summer



or have their name entered into a raffle for a brand new pair of binoculars. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.

30th ~ Kayak Experience ~ 10:00 A.M. – Noon ~ Scott County Park (Pride Lake) ~ Join the Wapsi River Center staff for an adventure with kayaks. 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 for kayaks are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress according to weather conditions and bring water. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.

August

7th ~ Terrific Terrariums ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join Naturalist Michael Granger

for a hands on lesson on terrariums. Learn how you can build your own miniature ecosystem in a clear closed container. Please bring a larger glass or plastic clear container. We will provide the soil and plants to decorate. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.



10th ~ Kayak Experience ~ 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park (Pride Lake) ~ Join the Wapsi River Center staff for an adventure with kayaks. 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 for kayaks are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress according to weather conditions and bring water. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.

11th ~ Scott County Conservation Board Meeting ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park & Virtually ~ The Scott County Conservation Board meets monthly at the West Lake Park Headquarters office (Gate 3) 14910 110th Ave, Davenport, Iowa 52804. Please call if interested in attending (563)328-3280.

12th ~ Canoe Experience ~ 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park (Pride Lake) ~ Join the Wapsi River Center staff for an adventure with canoes. Program includes all equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of Pride Lake. Reminder- this program is determined by weather and site conditions. Dress according to weather conditions and bring water. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.



14th ~ Paint By Nature ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Enjoy nature in a creative way at this family friendly program! Join



Naturalist Paige on our beautiful prairie to learn about some local Iowa butterflies. Then create a fun painting with guided step-by-step instructions. All supplies provided. **\$5/canvas** (payable by cash or check at the program). Registration is

limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.

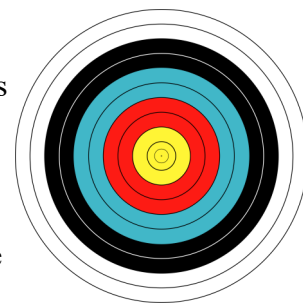
14th ~ Menke Open House (In Person or Virtually)

~ St. Ambrose University is hosting a star party at Menke Observatory, located at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center - Dixon, Iowa. This event is free and open to the public. Visitors may come on site or log on for a zoom link at the AmbroseAstro Facebook page. On the day of the event, the same number may be called for a recorded message that will either confirm the event or report a cancellation. For more information, contact Robert Mitchell at MitchellRobertC@sau.edu or (563)333-6141.



19th ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center & Virtually ~ Come learn about the current happenings at the Wapsi River Center. Please call if you are interested in attending (563)328-3286.

21st ~ Archery Basics ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Learn how to use a bow and arrow in this informative and fun hands-on class. You will learn safety and proper archery techniques according to National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) guidelines. Children must be in the 4th grade and above and accompanied by an adult to participate. Adults are welcome to participate as well! This program is free and weather permitting. Park in Parking Lot A and meet at the observatory. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.



September

1st ~ Kayak Experience ~ 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park (Pride Lake) ~ Join the Wapsi River Center staff for an adventure with kayaks. 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 for kayaks are 250-300 lbs./solo and 425-475 lbs./tandem. Dress according to weather conditions and bring water. Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.



5th & 6th ~ Pioneer Village Labor Day Weekend Festival ~ 11:00 A.M. - 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)328-3283.

6th ~ HOLIDAY ~ All county offices will be closed in observance of the Holiday.

9th ~ Grounded In Nature (Adults only) ~ 5:30

P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ During this electronics-free program we will focus on getting in touch with nature and the health benefits associated



with it. We will practice meditation, nature bathing, and yoga with Angela Meyer. This program will be adults only. We will be active during the program so please dress comfortably and bring your own yoga mat or blanket and a water bottle. This program costs **\$5**

per person (payable by cash or check at the program). Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.

11th ~ Monarch Migration Fun Run ~ 9:00 A.M. –

Noon ~ Wapsi River Center ~ The 1st Annual Monarch Migration Fun Run will benefit the *Friends of the Wapsi Center*. This **self-timed 3-mile trail run** will take you through the upland and bottomland forests and the prairies of the Wapsi River Center. There will be 2 waves, 9:00 A.M and 10:30 A.M. Check-in for the first wave starts at 8:00 A.M. The check-in table and the run start/finish will be on our main prairie near the

observatory. Registration costs **\$25 per person**. Adults and children are welcome!

Registration includes a t-shirt and refreshments! Registration closes September 10th.

Registration must be done by **August 20th, 2021** to be guaranteed a t-shirt. If trail conditions are not favorable, the run will be moved to September 18, 2021. Registration must be done online, stay tuned for registration information. Call (563)328-3286 for more details or questions.



11th ~ Third Annual Monarch Festival ~ 1:00 P.M.

– 4:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ Join the Wapsi River Center staff and the *Friends of the Wapsi Center* as we celebrate Monarch Butterflies during this festival. Throughout the day, we will have family-friendly activities such as butterfly crafts, seed ball making, photo booths, and education stations.



This event is **FREE** and fun for the entire family. (Rain Date: September 18th) Registration is limited and required by calling (563)328-3286.

16th ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 6:30

P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center & Virtually ~ Come learn about the current happenings at the Wapsi River Center. Please call if you are interested in attending (563)328-3286.

23rd ~ Grounded in Nature ~ 4:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi

River Center ~ During this electronics-free program we will focus on getting in touch with nature and the health benefits associated with it. We will practice meditation, nature bathing, and yoga (provided by Yoga for Peace, LLC and the Friends of the Wapsi Center). This program will be family-oriented. We will be active during the program so please dress comfortably and bring your own yoga mat or blanket and a water bottle. This program costs **\$5 per person** (payable by cash or check at the program).

Registration is limited and required by calling (563) 328-3286.

25th ~ World Rivers Day ~ World Rivers Day Float ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Syracuse Wildlife Area Boat Access

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/launch at Syracuse Landing, and please consider bringing the following items: sunscreen, insect repellent, comfortable clothes, sturdy shoes, water bottle, waterproof container with snacks/lunch. You may bring your own vessel/PFD, though it must comply with IADNR regulations. Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs are limited so call to register for 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, participants are responsible for transportation between launch and take-out sites.

SAVE THE DATE:

WAPSI RIVER CENTER

FALL ECOLOGY DAY

Saturday, October 2nd, 2021

FIRST ANNUAL MONARCH MIGRATION FUN RUN

Saturday, September 11, 2021(Rain Date: Sept. 18th)

~ Wapsi River Center~ 9:00 A.M. to Noon ~

The 1st Annual Monarch Migration Fun Run will benefit the *Friends of the Wapsi Center*. This **self-timed 3-mile trail run** will take you through the upland and bottomland forests and the prairies of the Wapsi River Center. There will be 2 waves, 9:00 A.M and 10:30 A.M. Check-in for the first wave starts at 8:00 A.M. The check-in table and the run start/finish will be on our main prairie near the observatory. Registration costs **\$25 per person**. Adults and children are welcome! Registration includes a t-shirt and refreshments! Registration closes September 10th. Registration must be done by **August 20th, 2021** to be guaranteed a t-shirt. If trail conditions are not favorable, the run will be moved to September 18, 2021. Registration must be done online, stay tuned for registration information. Call (563)328-3286 for more details or questions.



THIRD ANNUAL MONARCH FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 11, 2021(Rain Date: Sept. 18th)

~ Wapsi River Center~ 1:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.~

Join us for an exciting event in celebration of the Monarch Butterfly. This free, family-oriented event has a variety of activities happening throughout the day including butterfly crafts, seed ball making, photo booths, and education stations. Please call (563)328-3286 to register your

(12:45 P.M. ~ Bryant Memorial Butterfly Garden Dedication)

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. ~ Monarch Butterfly Presentation

Learn about the natural history and life cycle of the monarch butterfly and the different programs you can get involved with to help out the monarch population.

2:15 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. ~ Prairie Hike & Butterfly Catching

Take a naturalist lead hike to the prairie to identify butterflies, look at milkweed, and catch monarch butterflies!



3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. ~ Monarch Tagging, Testing, & Releasing

Learn how to participate in Monarch Watch and Project Monarch Health by tagging, testing, and releasing monarch butterflies that we catch on the prairie.

PLANT PROFILE: RATTLESNAKE MASTER

By Iowa 4-H AmeriCorps Environmental Educator, Parker Hill



Rattlesnake Master Range map

As our prairies and grasslands come into full bloom in summer we will begin to see a diverse pallet of colorful wildflowers. Amongst the vibrant colors is a dull, odd shaped flowering plant with an equally odd name:

Rattlesnake Master. This plant serves an important role in prairie

ecosystems and is culturally significant to the native inhabitants of central North America, including those of present day Scott County.

Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) is identified by its many dense, ball-shaped flowering heads, or inflorescences. A single plant can have up to 20 inflorescences that grow in umbels, where several flower stalks originate from a common point on the plant's stems. Each inflorescence contains many small, whitish green flowers as well as white bracts (modified leaves) that stick out sharply between flowers to give it a rough, prickly appearance and feel. Flowers will begin to bloom in June or July and

continue into September. The leaves are long, narrow, sharp-tipped, and fibrous. They grow in a rosette around the base of the plant, and strongly resemble those of the Yucca plant, hence the Latin name *yuccifolium*,

meaning "Yucca-like leaves."

Because the leaves are flat and durable they are used in they are of weaving baskets and sandals by Native American groups. The plant typically grows to



Rattlesnake Master
Inflorescences



Rattlesnake Master leaves (left)
compared to Yucca leaves (right)



be 4-5' tall and has a long taproot with a dense, fibrous rootstalk that is well adapted to dry conditions. Rattlesnake Master is a member of the carrot family (Apiaceae). The leaves contain many of the same oils and compounds as carrots, parsley, and parsnip, and will produce a similar smell when crushed.

The roots of Rattlesnake Master can be used to treat some medical conditions. Roots are either pounded into a powder, chewed, or steeped in a tea. It is known to be a diuretic, help to relieve fevers, and help with upset stomachs. The common name of the plant comes from the practice of some Native Americans who use its roots and sap as a treatment for snake bites. Notable among these are the Meskwaki of eastern Iowa. While there is little to no evidence for the efficacy of the plant in treating snakebites, the belief in its effectiveness may be enough to elicit a response by the brain to relieve some symptoms of pain or discomfort, similar to a placebo.

Rattlesnake Master is an important plant for a variety of insects. It serves as the host plant for the Rattlesnake Master Borer Moth, whose caterpillars feed solely on the stems and roots of the plant. This species now consists of few isolated populations in fragmented prairies where Rattlesnake Master is abundant. Caterpillars of the Black Swallowtail Butterfly feed on the leaves of this plant and other members of the carrot family. It produces large quantities of nectar that feeds many different butterflies, bees, and predatory wasps. Predatory wasps can be beneficial in garden and landscape settings as they mitigate damage by a number of different pest species such as aphids. A wide variety of bees and soldier beetles collect the pollen of Rattlesnake Master to feed themselves and their larva. For these reasons in addition to the plant's hardiness and drought resistance, Rattlesnake Master is well liked for native prairie plantings. It is also becoming increasingly appreciated as an ornamental and in gardens because of the beneficial insects it attracts.



Rattlesnake Master

ANIMAL PROFILE: GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

By Naturalist Michael J. Granger



The Great Crested Flycatcher:
birdwatch.org

While leading a group down our wooded trail in search of birds, we were able to see several birds moving about the forest growth. Many birds like to pick around for bugs in the understory, while some are higher up in the canopy. Often identification is tricky unless seen through binoculars, or if you are familiar with the bird's vocalizations. Recently we spotted one of the more showy birds that can be seen during the summer months in eastern Iowa woodlands the Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*.

The Great Crested Flycatcher is an amazing bird which inhabits woodlands and prefers dwelling high up in the forest canopy. It belongs to the group a group of birds called the Tyrant flycatchers, family *Tyrannidae*. Birds belonging to the group have large heads, broad shoulders, narrow bodies and long tails. The group includes common bird groups such as kingbirds, phoebes, and pewees. The Great Crested Flycatcher is a showy bird, about the size of an American Robin. The bird has a brownish gray head, black eye, black bill, gray throat, gray wings and a striking lemon yellow colored belly. The crest is not always displayed.

The Call of the Great Crested Flycatcher is very distinctive. Males will sing a three-part song composed of two short whistles: a *wheerreep* followed by a higher-pitched *whee*, and a soft low *churr*. This song is meant to be heard by a mate at short distances, indicating periods of low disturbance and stress typically intensifying just before dawn.

The Great Crested Flycatcher are sit and wait predators, who perch high in deciduous trees in the summer. Their main food base consists of larger insects and spiders. Butterflies, moths, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, and even bees and wasps. They are also known to eat some fruits and berries, when in

season. Hunting tactics involve perching and observing the surrounding foliage or open areas. When potential prey items are spotted, the bird will dive and catch their prey, many times right out of the air, and return to the same perch to feed. Another technique is to hover above leaves or flowering plants picking off insects or berries while flying.

Preferred breeding habitat occurs in deciduous forests or mixed woodlands. Often they can be seen along wooded edges perching high up on dead tree branches. They prefer open canopy areas and can be seen near recently cleared open forest areas. These birds are cavity nesters searching for holes in dead trees. An abandoned woodpecker nest is an ideal nest site. They are known to use nest boxes if placed in their habitat. Nest material includes a mass of twigs, leaves, hair, feathers, bark, and even trash items. Snakeskins are commonly found in their nesting materials. One theory is that shed snake skins are used to frighten away would be predators.

The Great Crested Flycatcher is known to be monogamous and pairs will migrate and nest for consecutive years during their life span. After nest building, four to eight eggs are laid in the nest cavity and the parents will incubate them for 2 weeks. Upon hatching the young will spend another 2 weeks in the nest before fledging. Both parents will feed the young by catching insects, but the female takes the leading role.

In fall the Great Crested Flycatcher begins its migration to overwintering grounds in Florida, Mexico, South America and the Philippines. Upon the arrival of spring, Great Crested Flycatchers begin their northern migration to breeding grounds.

Next time you are out along a woodland trail this summer keep your eyes open, look high in the tree canopy and you just might get to see the Great Crested Flycatcher!

- Summer Range
- Passing Range
- Winter Range



HELLO VALENTINE!

Hello! My name is Valentine Chenus, and I just finished my first year at Iowa State University studying Environmental Science and Performing Arts. I started my AmeriCorps position at the Wapsi River Center during early May and will continue to work here until late August. I grew up in Davenport and was homeschooled, so I spent a lot of time visiting nature centers like the Wapsi River Center and generally enjoying the outdoors. This instilled a love for nature in me at a young age. In high school, my biology class and a fantastic opportunity to attend the Upper Mississippi River

Conference inspired me to pursue an education in Environmental Science. I am incredibly excited for this opportunity to get to work with all the staff here at the Wapsi River Center and look forward to everything I will learn.



HELLO GRANT!

Hello! My name is Grant Ericksen and I am the 2021 Iowa STEM Teacher Externship Candidate assigned the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center. I will be working here for the summer before I return to my classroom at Pleasant View Elementary School. I was born and raised in Sioux City and graduated from East High School in 1991. I then went to study at the University of Northern Iowa where I received my BA in elementary education. After graduating I worked in the Davenport school district for 3 years as a classroom teacher. In 2000 I accepted a job in the Pleasant Valley school district as a third through sixth grade science teacher and have spent the



last 20+ years encouraging young minds to explore the world in which they live through hands on science experiences. I am very excited for the opportunity to work with the Wapsi River Center team! I hope my experience here will provide me with further knowledge and skills that I can take with me back to my science classroom and share with my students.

THANKYOU!

Friends of the Wapsi Center
Iowa 4H AmeriCorps
IADNR Kayak School
Scott County Library System (Eldridge)
Partners of Scott County Watersheds
Quad Cities Women Outdoor Club
Iowa American Water
Riverdale (IL) Elementary
Hagen Homeschool
Bob Bryant
Steve Owings
Justin Baugh
Hannah Back
Connie Schmitz and grandkids

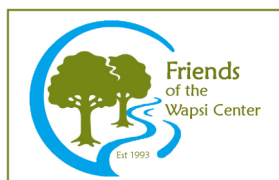
Lizzie Murcia
Linda Puls
Connie and Dave Huber
Adriana McBride
Al Bieg
Caroline Kimple
Angela Meyer
Allyson Knanishu
Mike Satre Family
Flenker Homeschool
Hagen Homeschool



← →
"BECOME A WAPSI RIVER CENTER FRIENDS MEMBER TODAY!"

www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/Wapsi-friends

 www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheWapsiCenter



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 WOULD LIKE TO BE A FRIENDS MEMBER:

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

**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.

## **Scott County Conservation Board**

Members:

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 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

## **Education Center Staff**

Dave Murcia, Director/Naturalist

Mike Granger, Naturalist

Becky Baugh, Naturalist

Paige Owings, Assistant Seasonal Naturalist

Brandi Turner, Resident Caretaker

Parker Hill, Iowa 4-H AmeriCorps Member

Valentine Chenus, Iowa 4-H AmeriCorps Member

## **Wapsi River Environmental**

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