

# The W.R.E.N.

Wapsi River Environmental News

SUMMER 2023

Scott County Conservation Board's Environmental Education Newsletter

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

[www.facebook.com/scottcountyconservation](https://www.facebook.com/scottcountyconservation)

<https://www.instagram.com/scottcountyconservation>

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

## Wapsi Happenings

By: Director, Dave Murcia



FRIENDS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR  
SUSAN MCPETERS (LEFT) DIRECTOR  
DAVE MURCIA (MIDDLE) & NATURALIST  
BECKY BAUGH (RIGHT)

### 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 **640 hours** were volunteered by all, including **558.75 hours** by the *Friends of the Wapsi Center* at a value of **\$20,352.00** of support! Current membership includes 39 members with seven new members this year! The following *members*

specifically recognized were:

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



NEW BRIDGE: "TROUP 43" DAVENPROT, IOWA

### Eagle Scout Candidate Builds Bridge

Troop 43 Eagle Scout candidate Addison Bailey has completed his project at the Wapsi River Center along Woodland Trail. Addison planned and installed the main footbridge on Woodland Trail that crosses the ravine at the bottom of the trail, allowing

for best crossing for hikers. The old bridge was taken down due to age and this challenge project was accepted by Addison who, along with Troop 43, did a great job replacing it. Thank you Bailey and Troop 43! The bridge project was also supported in kind by donations from Manager Kevin Jacobs of *Spahn & Rose Lumber* in DeWitt, Iowa - Thank you!



“SPRING CLEANING” AT THE WAPSI RIVER CENTER

## Earth Day Stewardship Workday

Thirty stewards braved the Spring workday this year including our own *Friends of the Wapsi Center* members! The day included: vegetable and fruit gardening, brush clearing and invasive species removal at the Eagle View Eco Center, office, and Red Tail

Lodge along with spring butterfly garden preparation, for a total of 90 volunteer hours!

## Spring Events 2023

It was another busy spring season with over 41 public presentations and over 836 participants including: **Channel Cat Talks on Raptors, Bats 101 Workshop, kayaking, Earth Day Volunteer Stewardship, Wildflower Hike, Wild Edibles programs, Pollinator Workshop, Leave No Trace**, and our **Annual *Friends of the Wapsi Center* meeting!** We also presented 31 school experience days including Pre-K, elementary, and high school! As a regional environmental education center, we have presented to schools in Scott, Clinton, Cedar counties of Iowa, and Rock Island and Henry counties of Illinois.

## Wapsi Updates

As Spring blooms, so does updates at the Center including: the **Bryant** memorial butterfly garden is looking wonderful, the Woodland Trail bridge has been replaced (see this edition for details), the **Menke Observatory** continues to expand and improve (thank you **St. Ambrose University** and the **QC Astronomical Society**), and the new education center is shining bright as last phase of flooring is installed. Keep tuned in for the announcement of the opening of the new education center in the near future.

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# THANKYOU!

*Friends of the Wapsi Center*

Matt Willis & Scott County Park Maintenance

Susan Laures- Pioneer Village Coordinator

Kelly McKay:

(BioEco Research and Monitoring Center)

Iowa 4H AmeriCorps

IADNR Fish Iowa

Partners of Scott County Watersheds

St. Ambrose University

QC Astronomical Society

Davenport Eastern Ave Library

Addison Bailey & Troop 43

Champs Trophy & Awards

Michael & Hedy Hustedde

Jeff and Julia Mussack & Family

Putnam Museum

Camp Liberty

Emma Jacobs

River Action

Leave No Trace

Linda Puls

Walter Lysell

Carol Rogers



# HELLO!

I am Leigh Stoecker from Morrison, Illinois. I am a current Southern Illinois University

student studying Geography and Sustainability, graduating in December of this year with my bachelor's degree. Growing up in Northwestern Illinois I experienced nature from my own front door but never had the opportunity to share it with the public until the last three years. Having previously served as an AmeriCorps 4-H Outreach Environmental Educator for Clinton County Conservation in 2020 & 2021 I found my passion for serving the community and spreading natural resource knowledge to those who sought it. The environment is an important natural system that deserves to be protected and that starts with educating the public in sustainable practices with wildlife, water resources, forestry, and all the endless cycles that allow us to live on our Earth. I believe everyone, young and old has a chance to change the world and the destructive

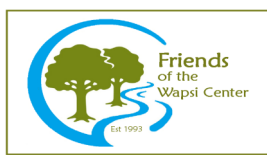
processes we have enacted on our natural resources. Working for Scott County Conservation I know that my knowledge and passion for the environment will reach a vast group of people eager to learn and change the world. In the future I hope to continue to serve my local communities by providing environmental and sustainable education to underserved groups as well as maintaining wildlife and conservation areas. Come meet me at public events in SCC parks this summer where we can paddle watercraft, hold snakes and turtles, and learn about native wildflowers of Iowa. Get outside and enjoy our environment with Scott County Conservation.



Hello! I'm Katherine Roseman and I am an AmeriCorps member serving as an Iowa 4H Outreach and Environmental Educator for the Wapsi River Center. This is my first term with AmeriCorps and it's been really exciting! I have just completed my freshman year at Northwest Missouri State University pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation as well as Marine Biology. My time at the Wapsi so far has been an immersive experience and a perfect introduction to the field of environmental education. I'm super excited to begin my wildlife career!

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

[www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/Wapsi-friends](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/Wapsi-friends)  
[www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheWapsiCenter](https://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  
Contributions to the Friends are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

# SUMMER EVENTS

Attention participants: Registration has changed! Starting in July the Wapsi River Center will move to online registration. **Unless otherwise noted**, registration for our programs can be completed by visiting: <https://web2.myvscloud.com/wbwsc/iascottctywt.wsc/splash.html> and clicking on **Public Programs**. If you have any questions during the registration process, please call the Wapsi River Center at (563)328-3286.

## JULY

4<sup>th</sup> ~ **HOLIDAY** ~ County offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

5<sup>th</sup> ~ *Find Your Voice*, Summer Reading Program ~ **Bettendorf Public Library** ~ 1:30 P.M. ~ Join Wapsi River Center Director Dave Murcia, The Lorax, and friends, in finding your voice..... As the Lorax would say, "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." In this program you will learn about different local wildlife, meet



threatened, endangered, and extirpated species, and how you can "speak for the trees" and all creatures without a voice of their own.

5<sup>th</sup> ~ **Macro Invertebrate ID Workshop** ~ 5:00 to 7:30 P.M. ~ **Nahant Marsh** ~ Benthic macroinvertebrates (a.k.a. water bugs) can be great biological indicators of water quality! Join us to learn about these organisms and how to catch and identify them. Participants will enjoy refreshments during an



**Partners of Scott  
County Watersheds**

introduction presentation, then practice catching and identifying organisms from the marsh! While it's not required, we encourage workshop participants to attend the Summer Snapshot on Saturday, July 15th to put these new identification skills to work! Volunteers are needed to collect chemical and biological water quality data. Register and learn more by visiting [partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org](http://partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org) or call (563)336-3378.

6<sup>th</sup> ~ **Kayak Experience** ~ 10:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M. ~ **West Lake Park (Lake of the Hills) (Gate #1)** Join the Wapsi River staff for an adventure with kayaks. Program includes all equipment use, covers safety, techniques, and taking a tour of West 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 appropriately, bring water.

8<sup>th</sup> ~ **DIY Flower Coaster Workshop** ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ **Wapsi River Center** ~ Join *Friends of the Wapsi Center* member Susan McPeters in making DIY flower coasters using native spring wildflowers and ceramic tiles. This activity is for all ages. While the coasters are drying, participants will go on a naturalist led prairie wildflower hike. Each kit includes 2 coasters. The cost is \$5/kit, payable by cash or check at the program to the *Friends of the Wapsi Center*.



12<sup>th</sup> ~ **Scott County Conservation Board Meeting** ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ **West Lake Park (Gate # 3)** ~ The Scott County Conservation Board normally meets the second Wednesday of every month at the West Lake Park Headquarters office, 14910 110th Ave, Davenport, Iowa 52804. The public and press are encouraged to participate. Please call (563)328-3281 for more information.

15<sup>th</sup> ~ **Menke Star Party (QCAS)** ~ **Dusk** ~ **Monsignor Menke Observatory** ~ Join representatives from the Quad Cities Astronomical Society for a tour of the night sky. Please check [www.qcastro.org](http://www.qcastro.org) or the Quad Cities Astronomical

Society Facebook page on the day of the event to find out if weather conditions will permit viewing.

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi River Center Meeting ~ 6:00 P. M. ~ [Wapsi River Center & Virtually](#) ~**

Learn about the current happenings at the Wapsi River Center. This meeting will be virtual and in-person. Please call for more information (563)328-3286.

**21<sup>st</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 10:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Pride Lake ~**

Join the Wapsi River 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 appropriately, bring water.



**22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Menke Star Party (St. Ambrose) ~ Dusk ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory ~**

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.

**28<sup>th</sup> ~ Birds of Prey ~ 1:30 to 2:30 P.M. ~ River Valley District Library (Port Byron, IL) ~**

Join River Valley District Library and the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center for an educational and exciting program all about the birds of prey that can be found in your area! Come meet some amazing birds at RVDL! Call the library for more information at (309)523-3440.

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Family Survivor Camp ~ 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. ~**

**Wapsi River Center** ~ Join Wapsi naturalists for a lesson on outdoor survival. Orienteering, fire starting, and shelter building are just some of the activities at this family friendly



camp. Participants are asked to bring a lunch, drink and their own refreshments (a fire will be available during lunch for roasting).

## AUGUST

**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 10:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M. ~ Scott County Park, Pride Lake ~**

Join the Wapsi River 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 appropriately, bring water.

**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Health and Home Workshop ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~**

Come learn to become more sustainable by creating your own health and home products made with natural ingredients. We will make oatmeal soap and cleaning vinegar. We will also learn about upcycling and reducing your footprint on the planet! The program costs \$8/person for supplies. Program will lease bring a glass mason jar 8 oz or larger to make cleaning vinegar. Online registration is required for this event.

**8<sup>th</sup> ~ Lions, Badgers, and Hares, Oh My! ~ 5:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~**

Explore Iowa wildlife through furs, tracks, and habitat identification. Make your own animal track stamp and leave your mark at the Wapsi Environmental Education Center!



**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Scott County Conservation Board Meeting ~ 3:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park (Gate # 3) ~**

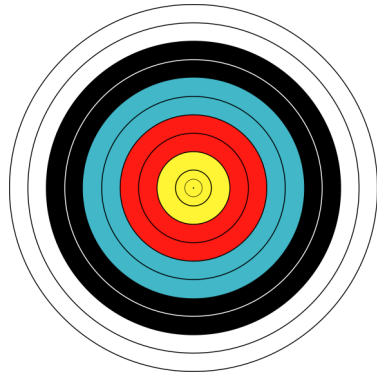
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**12<sup>th</sup> ~ Archery Basics ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Learn how to use a bow and arrow in this fun, informative, and free hands-on class! Children must be in the 4th grade or above to participate and accompanied by an adult. Adults are welcome to participate as well! Park in Parking Lot A and meet at the Observatory.



**12<sup>th</sup> ~ Summer Wild Edible Workshop ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Come 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 then take a hike outdoors to identify some of the summer wild edibles available during this time. At the end of the program, you will get to sample some wild flavors!

**12<sup>th</sup> ~ Menke Star Party (QCAS) ~ Dusk ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory** ~ Join representatives from the Quad Cities Astronomical Society for a tour of the night sky. Please check [www.qcastro.org](http://www.qcastro.org) or the Quad Cities Astronomical Society Facebook page on the day of the event to find out if weather conditions will permit viewing.

**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Homeschool Days ~ 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Once a month the Wapsi River EE Center will be hosting a day just for homeschoolers! Join us for themed programming led by our Naturalists! The goal of this series is to immerse children in the natural world and help them experience seasonal phenomena in a hands-on way. Most appropriate for K-8th grades, though all ages welcome.



Suggested cash donation of \$1/student. Please come prepared for the weather because much of the planned programming will take place outdoors. Please bring a lunch. Registration is online now!! Registration opens the first of each month.

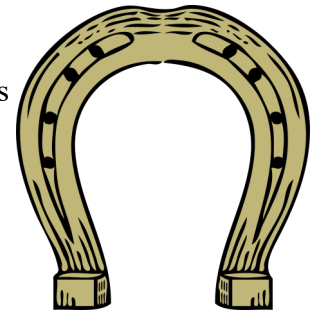
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## SEPTEMBER

**4<sup>th</sup> ~ HOLIDAY** ~ County offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 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, Family fun for all ages! (\$2.00 adults, \$1.00 children, under 5 free). For more information please call (563)328-3283.



**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Kayak Experience ~ 10:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M. ~ West Lake Park (Lake of the Hills) (Gate #1)** ~ Join the Wapsi River 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 appropriately, bring water.



**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Third Annual Monarch Migration Fun Run ~ 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Monarch Migration Fun Run will benefit the *Friends of the Wapsi Center*. This self-



timed 5k trail run will take you through the upland and bottomland forests and the prairies of the Wapsi River Center. There will be one wave starting at 9:00 A.M. This run goes till 11:00 A.M. giving you plenty of time to walk or run the trails! Check-in for the run starts at 8:00 A.M. The check-in

table and run start/finish will be on our main prairie near the observatory. Registration costs **\$25 for children ages 16 and under and \$30 for everyone else**. Registration includes a t-shirt and refreshments. Registration closes at 7:30 A.M. on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Registration must be done by **August 20, 2023** to be guaranteed a t-shirt. If trail conditions are not favorable, the run will be cancelled and your registration fee will be considered a donation. **Registration must be done online by going to: <http://getmeregistered.com/MonarchMigrationFunRun>.**

**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Fifth Annual Monarch Festival ~ 11:00 A.M. – 2:30 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. The Friends of the



Wapsi Center will provide a taco bar for lunch from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. There will be a monarch presentation at 11:00 A.M. followed by activities including butterfly crafts, seed ball making, photo booths, a story corner, education stations, and monarch

butterfly catching, tagging, testing, and releasing from 12:00 to



2:30 P.M. This event is FREE and fun for the entire family. Freewill cash donations are welcomed for the *Friends of the Wapsi Center*.

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The goal of this series is to immerse children in the natural world and help them experience seasonal phenomena in a hands-on way. Most appropriate for K-8th grades, though all ages welcome.

Suggested cash donation of \$1/student. Please come prepared for the weather because much of the planned programming will take place outdoors. Please bring a lunch. Registration is online now!! Registration opens the first of each month.



**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Paint By Nature ~ 2:00 P.M. ~** Enjoy nature in a creative way at this family- friendly program! Join Naturalist Paige to create a nature themed painting with guided step-by-step instructions. All supplies will be provided. Program costs \$5/canvas. If weather allows, the class will take place outdoors, so please come prepared.



# ANIMAL PROFILE: CENTRAL NEWT

By Naturalist Paige Owings

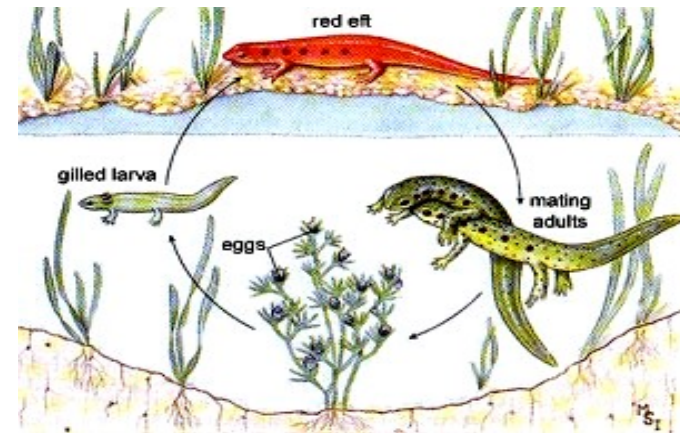
Let me introduce you to a new friend: the Central Newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens*! These interesting little critters are fascinating amphibians—read on to learn more!

Newts have long tails, rounded heads and four small legs of equal length. Their backs are a brownish to olive green and their undersides are shimmery orange-yellow with black specks. They have large eyes that are often orange with slit-like pupils. Adults get to be about 2-4 inches in length. Male tails are wider from top to bottom and slightly more ruffled looking; female tails are narrower, sleeker, and more solid in appearance.

As amphibians, newts undergo metamorphosis. Their life cycle is extra interesting as it alternates between terrestrial and aquatic stages. The adults are aquatic and lay eggs in the water. When they hatch, larva are also aquatic and look similar to tadpoles but they have very obvious frilled gills (like an axolotl!)



Central Newt: Dorsal and Ventral Surfaces:  
Photo Wapsi River Education Center



Central Newt Life Cycle;  
[Animalspot.net/newt](http://Animalspot.net/newt)

As the larva develop, they transform into a terrestrial juvenile stage called an *eft*. Efts live on land for anywhere from a few months to a few years before completing metamorphosis and returning to water as an aquatic adult to breed. The adults have an added cool feature: if their pond dries up, they can convert back to a terrestrial form! Their skin will roughen and darken slightly to aid in camouflage.

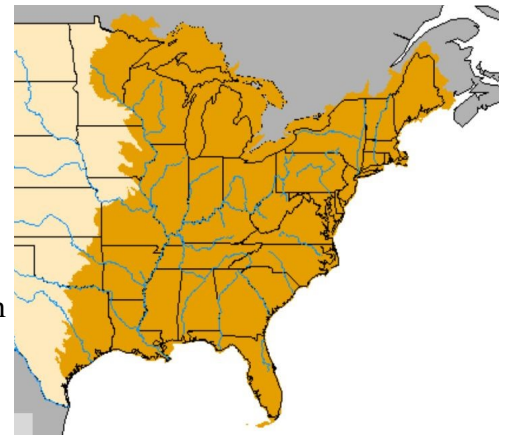
Another cool thing about newts: Their skin contains specific toxins to deter predators, especially in the eft stage. If you see a newt, it is not recommended to handle it as the toxins *could* affect people, too. This is part of the reason for the bright yellow coloration—it is called warning coloration and it lets predators know to stay away.

Newts require very specific habitats to live and breed—they must have semi-permanent woodland pools with lots of invertebrates to eat and NO fish to eat them. When they are efts they need leaf litter to overwinter. This terrestrial stage helps them survive poor conditions and also spread their DNA to different ponds, which is a vital survival strategy.

Central newts are threatened in Iowa, however; populations across the United States and Canada seem to be doing better than Iowa's population and the species as a whole may be showing positive growth! It is hard to say for sure at this point because large-scale species assessments take a long time.

Make sure to do your part to help newts! What can you do? Glad you asked!

Habitat loss is one reason they are struggling in our state. You can leave the



Central Newt Range Map; United States Geological Survey

leaves to ensure safe overwintering spots in forests. Do not introduce fish into fish-less ponds as you could be introducing a predator! (not to mention breaking laws) Do not collect newts as pets if you see them! Also remember to practice all Leave No Trace Principles to help keep their remaining habitat as pristine as possible. The newts thank you! 😊



# PLANT PROFILE: CATNIP

by Naturalist Michael Granger

Let me introduce to you another great plant that is well known, Catnip, *Nepeta cataria*. Most people that have had cats as pets might be familiar with the plant. Catnip has several other common names such as catmint, catwort, or catswort. Catnip belongs to the mint family *Labiatae*, which is known for its aromatic members, especially the mints and balms. Plants within the mint group are characterized by square stems, paired and simple leaves, and two-lipped open-mouthed tubular flowers. It is believed that their oils and scents are deterrents to insects and other plant eating animals. Members of this family include ancient spices which are commonly used in cooking and food preparation, such as, thyme, marjoram, oregano, basil, sage, rosemary, and savory. Other members of the mint family that are often seen in butterfly gardens include spearmint, mountain mint, bergamot, lavender, sage, and beebalm.

Catnip is actually a non-native species to North America. It originates from Africa, Europe and Asia. Catnip is naturalized in many parts of the world. This means that it can be found on many continents even though it is not native. Catnip usually is found growing in disturbed areas. such as roadsides, field edges, along streams or waste ground.

Catnip may grow 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Catnip is in the mint family, having prominent square stems. Catnip leaves are triangular up to 3 inches in length. Catnip leaves are opposite and arise from 1 inch petioles (stems). The leaf edge has coarse teeth. The leaves appear fuzzy or hairy, ovate in shape with rounded toothed edge. When feeling the plant the leaves have a velvety feel.

Catnip blooms late spring to early fall. Flowers in the mint family arise at the top of the plant and are arranged in a whorl around the stem. Each flower is

1/3 of an inch long. The individual bilabiate (two-lipped) flowers, typical of the mint family, are white with pale purple or pink spotting on the lower lip. The small upper lip has two lobes, while the lower lip has three lobes, with a larger middle lobe with a frilly outer edge. Bees of all types, wasps and flies, as well as many different types of butterflies, visit the nectar-laden flowers.

Flowers are replaced by seed capsules, each containing four smooth, ovoid nutlets. Seed-eating birds, such as goldfinches may visit the plants. This plant reseeds readily, and may become a nuisance in some areas. If planted in a garden, plants may need to be thinned or managed to reduce spreading.

Catnip grows best in full sun and average, well-drained soil, but survives in partial shade and thrives in poor soils. Soil moisture and fertility levels greatly influence plant size. Once established, this plant is fairly drought tolerant. Pinching as the plants are growing up in the spring will help develop a more dense, well-shaped plant if grown as an ornamental. Usually catnip is not seen often in butterfly gardens, because of the lack of showiness.

Catnip is well known for its attractiveness to felines. It is estimated that roughly two-thirds of cats are attracted to catnip. Catnip has an oil in it called "nepetalactone." When cats smell it, special cells called receptors are activated which sense something called "pheromones"

Cats love catnip because it makes them feel good. As your cat licks and rubs on the herb, the release of nepetalactone sets off a euphoric reaction. Dried catnip is readily sold at any pet store or anywhere pet supplies or food are available.

Next time you are out and about see if you might locate some catnip, a highly aromatic, square stem member of the mint family, *Labiatae*.



Catnip Illustration: Wikipedia

Catnip : Wapsi River Center

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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

**Mailing List:** Receive a copy of the WREN free of charge by sending a postcard to the address above.

### **Scott County Conservation Board**

Members:

Rich Mohr	Doug Grenier
John “Skip” O’Donnell	Beth McAleer
Amy Murphy	

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**

Dave Murcia, Director/Naturalist  
Mike Granger, Naturalist  
Becky Baugh, Naturalist  
Paige Owings, Assistant Seasonal Naturalist  
Christine Hultquist, Resident Caretaker  
Leigh Stoecker & Katie Roseman, Iowa 4-H  
AmeriCorps Environmental Education Members



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