



The WREN



OCTOBER 2026

WAPSI HAPPENINGS

As we move into the fall season, we encourage you to stop and enjoy the beauty it brings! Wapsi River Center staff are continuing to offer programming to help relish time in the great outdoors and enjoy the wonders of fall.

Facility Updates

It's bittersweet to report that long-standing Redtail Lodge has been taken down due to age. A new shelter is planned to better serve our park explorers.

Fall Field Trip Season

Field trips are underway! We hold programming both on and offsite, so please remember to contact us before visiting to ensure someone is available to assist you in your visit.



Save the Date- Fall Ecology Day

Fall Ecology Day will be held on November 14. The theme will be Art in Nature and several naturalists will host related programs. Stay tuned for more details.

Fungarium Display Now Open

On loan from the Prairie States Mushroom Club, the Fungarium display can be viewed in Lorenzen Hall through the month of November. It shows mushrooms and other fungi that can be found in the area.

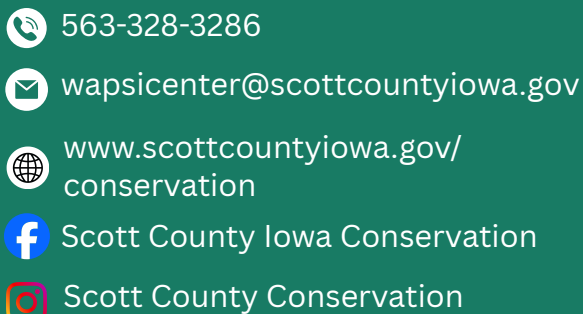


Friends of the Wapsi Center

Our dedicated team of volunteers is always seeking new members! Contact the Wapsi River Center for more information.



Information



Conservation Board Members:

Doug Grenier – Chair
Richard Mohr – Vice-Chair
Amy Murphy – Secretary
Mark Phipps
Diane Lindaman

Roger A. Kean - Executive Director
Nathan Unsworth - Deputy Director

Wapsi River Center Staff:

Dave Murcia - Director
Mike Granger - Naturalist
Becky Baugh - Naturalist
Paige Owings - Assistant Naturalist
Brendan O'Brien - Assistant Naturalist
Sam Miller - Caretaker

Scott County Conservation Board - 563-328-3280

Mailing List: To receive a free hard copy of The WREN, contact us using the information above.

Wapsi River Environmental Education Center

31555 52nd Ave Dixon, IA 52745



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2026



Attention visitors: Unless otherwise noted, programs will take place at the Wapsi River Center and **registration** can be completed by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/yk4z632w> or scan the QR Code. Please note that you will need to create an account. If you have questions, please call the Wapsi River Center at (563)328-3286.

3RD AND 17TH ~ CLAY WORKSHOP ~10 AM

Join Missy from We are the Clay Studio for a free two-part workshop! During Part 1, you will create a ceramic piece imprinted with natural textures and shapes. You'll glaze it during Part 2!



10TH ~ MENKE OPEN HOUSE ~ DUSK

Join astronomers from the QCAS and St. Ambrose University for a lesson on the night sky. Please call Dr. Mitchell (SAU) for current sky conditions the day of the event (563)333-6141. Rain date 10/24

14TH ~ HOMESCHOOL DAY ~ 10 AM

Wapsi Naturalists invite homeschool families to come together for our monthly programming! Programming is most appropriate for K-8th grades, though all ages are welcome. Programming is seasonally themed: this month's theme will be fall foraging/harvesting.

Registration is required for ALL attendees, including parents. \$3/person.



14TH ~ CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING ~ 3 PM

At 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.

15TH ~ VIRTUAL FRIENDS MEETING ~ 6 PM

Zoom meeting. Learn about the current happenings at the Wapsi River Center. This meeting will be held virtual via Zoom, and is open to the public. Please call for more information (563)328-3286.

17TH ~ ZOMBIE ARCHERY ~ 1 PM

Learn how to use a bow and arrow in this FREE Halloween-themed hands-on class. You'll learn safety and proper archery techniques according to NASP guidelines. Children must be at least 9 years old to participate and accompanied by an adult. Adults are welcome to participate as well! Your target will be Zombies!



17TH ~ THE GREAT PUMPKIN ATLATL HUNT ~ 3 PM

Join Naturalist Mike for a chance to hunt with an atlatl, a primitive hunting weapon originally used to hunt mastodon and bison. Large cardboard pumpkins and real pumpkins will be set out as targets. Fun for the whole family and outdoor enthusiasts alike! Want to grill out? See the next event for details.

17TH ~ HALLOWEEN HIKE ~ 6:30 PM

Starting at **5 PM**, there will be an open fire for grilling. If you want to bring your own food items, we will provide the fire and roasting sticks! Then, join Naturalist Mike for an educational hike to learn about mysterious and misunderstood animals beginning at 6:30 PM with a spooky scavenger hunt afterwards. Please bring a flashlight! Family fun for everyone.



19TH ~ WHEP INFORMATIONAL MEETING ~ 6 PM

Are you interested in Iowa Wildlife? Join us for an informational meeting on WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Education Program). This is a hands-on environmental education program intended to teach youth (grades 4-12) about wildlife identification and the best management practices to support native wildlife. Hosted by Scott and Clinton County Conservations and Scott County Extension and Outreach 4-H. Call for details.