



The WREN



NOVEMBER 2026

WAPSI HAPPENINGS

We are well into the fall season, and noticing the phenomena that autumn brings! With the rainy September we had, we found many mushrooms throughout the month of October. The leaves are changing color and falling, the mammals are harvesting to prepare for winter, and the invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians are slowly disappearing for the winter months.

If you plan to visit the Wapsi River Center during November and December, you may notice areas of the prairie burned or mowed. We manage our prairies through prescribed fire and mowing to suppress the woody invasive species and promote the native plant diversity.

The 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

The Guardians of the Prairie and Forest generously gave a donation towards new picnic tables and the Quad Cities Women's Outdoor Club are assisting in building them!

Fungarium Display

On loan from the Prairie States Mushroom Club, the Fungarium display can be viewed in Lorenzen Hall through the end of this month. It shows quality Iowa mushroom species and other fungi.



Friends of the Wapsi Center

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



Information

- 563-328-3286
- wapsicenter@scottcountyia.gov
- www.scottcountyia.gov/conservation
- Scott County Iowa Conservation
- Scott County Conservation

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/Naturalist
Mike Granger - Naturalist
Becky Baugh - Naturalist
Paige Owings - Assistant Naturalist
Brendan O'Brien - Assistant Naturalist
Sam Miller - Caretaker
Rhiannon Crews - Green Iowa AmeriCorps

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

November 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 above. Please note that you will need to create an account. If you have questions, please call the Wapsi River Center at (563)328-3286.

10TH ~ CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING ~ 3 PM

At West Lake Park (Gate # 3). The Scott County Conservation Board meets once a month at West Lake Park Headquarters office: 14910 110th Ave, Davenport, Iowa 52804. Public and press are encouraged to participate. Please call (563)328-3281 for more information.

11TH ~ HOLIDAY - VETERANS DAY

County offices are closed in observance of the Holiday.

12TH ~ WHEP MONTHLY MEETING & LESSON ~ 5:30 PM

At the Eco Center at Rock Creek, Camanche, IA. Learn about the Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP). We will discuss wetland habitats and the animals that live there. You must be a 4-H member to participate. Please call 563-328-3286 with questions.

14TH ~ IOWA MUSHROOM ID & FORAY ~ 10 AM

Join Naturalist Becky to learn about native Iowa mushrooms. We will learn about fungus life cycles, how to identify mushrooms, which seasons mushrooms grow, and making arts and crafts using mushrooms. Then we will go on a fall mushroom foray hike. This is a free program. Online registration is required. This program is a part of our Fall Ecology Day.



14TH ~ PAINT-BY-NATURE ~ 1 PM

Join Naturalist Paige for a fun lesson on fall phenomena followed by a step-by-step painting. This event is family-friendly! All ages and abilities are welcome to come learn and paint. There is a program fee of \$5/canvas. Online registration is required for all painters. This program is part of our Fall Ecology Day.



14TH ~ HARVEST WREATH WORKSHOP ~ 3 PM

Join Naturalist Mike for a lesson on wreath making. Participants will create a grapevine base and then decorate it with seeds, pods, corn husks, and cobs. Wreath kits are \$5 each. Participants may bring items to decorate and/or share. Online registration is required. This program is part of our Fall Ecology Day.

14TH ~ MENKE OPEN HOUSE ~ DUSK

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

18TH ~ 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. This month's theme will be Harry Potter. Registration is required for ALL attendees, including parents. \$3/person. Registration opens on the 1st of each month.

19TH ~ 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.

26TH AND 27TH ~ HOLIDAY - THANKSGIVING

County offices are closed in observance of the Holiday.

29TH ~ PIONEER VILLAGE CHRISTMAS WALK ~ 12PM

At Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village. Bring the whole family for a celebration at Pioneer Village from 12PM - 4PM. See Santa and enjoy cookies and hot drinks for sale in the Soda Shop. Play some great pioneer crafts and games, while listening to music in the church. Admission is a non-perishable food donation.