



The Heron

*Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
Volume 43 Number 2 September - November, 2020*

A New Chapter in Clinton County Conservation

By Phil Visser, Executive Director

Clinton County Conservation would like to introduce our new Executive Director, Phil Visser! Phil started with Clinton County Conservation on July 1st 2020. We are excited to have him as our newest addition to our conservation team!

I have always had a love for the outdoors and a passion for public land management. I grew up near Lake Red Rock, just southeast of Des Moines, Iowa. Having the Des Moines river so close by, I was able to spend time hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, and exploring the outdoors throughout my childhood. Even though my family did not have a large farm with vast acres to play on, I always had access to the public areas near my home. I went to school at Utah State University, and while I was there, I was able to learn much more about public land management and all the work that goes into making sure these areas are the best they can be. I was also blessed with the opportunity to work as a seasonal employee for the Marion County Conservation Board, where I learned more about how to properly care for camping areas, trails, and wildlife areas.



Upon graduating college, I was able to work for the Appanoose County Conservation Board. There I learned about the dynamic relationships between government organizations and how we can work together to promote conservation. I was also able to learn how to mesh environmental conservation with the community.

I believe it is so important to remember that conservation is about people. While we are working to protect and preserve parks, wild areas and the many plant and animal species that inhabit them, we do so for the benefit of the people of Clinton County and our visitors. These public areas provide many benefits for communities and individuals. It has been shown that spending time in nature can lead to better relationships and an improved sense of well-being. For me, there is something almost therapeutic about being in nature. I always return with a better outlook on life. During these difficult and uncertain times, getting outdoors can help ease our stress. These areas can also provide an opportunity to spend time with friends and family, all while maintaining a safe social distance.

During my time exploring Clinton County, I have been amazed to see the natural beauty of the area. The Mississippi river is breathtaking and provides great opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. We also have the Wapsipinicon River, where people can go fishing, canoeing, or kayaking. There are also plenty of areas to go hiking, camping, have a picnic, or participate in other recreational opportunities. We are also blessed to have plenty of public wildlife areas that are home to many of Iowa's plant and animal species. We have wetlands, prairies, and forests all within a short drive, or in some places a short walk. If you are unsure of where all of these areas can be found, please see the map on the back of this newsletter.

I am looking forward to meeting more people and learning more from the area. I have already had the opportunity to meet many dedicated and hardworking individuals who are committed to Clinton County Conservation. I can see that a lot of work has already been done, and I am looking forward to building on what has been accomplished. But more than anything else, I look forward to seeing everyone outside enjoying nature—from a safe social distance.





When the Outdoors Saved Us All

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

Uncertainty, pandemic, covid-19, coronavirus, trying times...these words have become like a broken record to the world in the last five months. The questions and never-ending life changes that we've all been facing is wearing on the mind and soul. The unknowns have become our every day life that have forced us to "go-with-the flow" the best way we know how. All of our daily routines were flipped upside down and we found ourselves looking for safety, comfort, freedom and maybe even a little bit of fun. That is where the outdoors saved us all.

As people became more familiar with the "dos and don'ts" of living through a pandemic, their urge to find ways to be together grew strong. Although our normal gatherings were frowned upon, we quickly found that being outside was a way to escape the crazy, in more ways than one. We found solitude, peace and our inner explorers. For some this was a road less traveled, a path that sparked interest and maybe even a little fear. For others it was always a desire but the lack of time prevented them from investigating their interests but this is one thing they found they now had...time.

Like all of you, this spring was very different for us at Clinton County Conservation. What normally would be a revolving door of school field trips through April and May turned into a search of ways to continue to reach people and encourage them to spend time in nature. We did just that. Through Facebook we began to highlight our public lands to our followers and the response was outstanding. Parking lots were full of vehicles that hauled families and friends to the outdoors. Providing information about these places is all it took to encourage people to get out and explore. After all, space is what was required to stay healthy and our public hiking trails, wildlife areas and campgrounds provided just that.

When our early summer camps were cancelled in June, it was important for us to come up with a safe way for these children to still get their camp experience. That's when the *Family Camp* evolved.



Enjoying a canoe ride with their parents on the backwaters during a Family Camp at Rock Creek.

We spent many days in June, July and even August with families at many of our parks. I found that many of the families that chose to take part in this program were people who didn't spend a lot of time outside normally and they were very grateful for the opportunity to take their children outdoors and explore in a safe way. Parents who found themselves in unfamiliar territory could lean on the expertise of the Naturalist to guide them on a canoe paddle on the backwaters of the Mississippi River or while adventuring into a cave. It allowed the parent to relax some and enjoy themselves in maybe a way they hadn't been able to before.



As we enter the fall not knowing if we will be involved in yet another field trip season, we would like to continue to offer the *Family Camp* as options for families who use virtual learning for their children. We often fulfill science and natural history curriculum requirements during classroom programming during the winter months, along with physical education. Activities such as archery, GPS (geocaching), canoeing, kayaking, Blue Heron rides, animal encounters, hiking, caving and pond study are examples of programming that have been popular this year. The *Camp* also provides time away from the screen-learning and provides a more hands-on experience that can be enjoyed as a family.

If you are interested in participating in this type of program, please contact Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202 or via email at jschmidt@clintoncounty-ia.gov. You can also reach out to us via Facebook. The details for the Camp are outlined below. We want you to know the outdoors will continue to be here for you and your family!

Program: *Family Camp*
Where: A county park or wildlife area of your choice
What: A variety of activities are available depending on your family's interests.
Cost: \$50/family for 4 hours





Welcoming a New AmeriCorp Member

By Cassidy Stoecker, AmeriCorps Naturalist



My name is Cassidy Stoecker and I have the pleasure of serving as the AmeriCorp Naturalist for Clinton County Conservation in the AmeriCorps 4-H Environmental Education Program. Beginning my service at the end of May, I have been able to work alongside the naturalists at many of our sites, learning new

skills to use later in life. With the unexpected turn of events with the global pandemic many things have changed but being able to have the chance to work with children and teach them about nature has not.

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs whose goal is to improve lives through civic engagement. The 4-H Environmental Education Program is a partnership between AmeriCorps, 4-H and Iowa State University Extension Outreach.

Through this opportunity I want to provide the communities in Clinton County with environmental education and the practical use of natural resources in our area. Education is an important part of stepping into nature and to be able to educate the public on the animals and plants in Iowa has been a fulfilling part of my job this summer. I want to be able to show citizens that nature is a whole other world that we must provide for, in order to take from it.

To begin that education purpose we must start young, and through this AmeriCorps program and Clinton County Conservation I have been able to provide useful

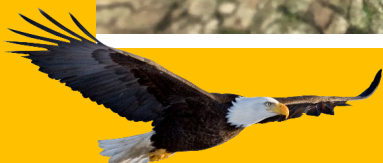


information for the youth in our communities. Although apprehension has taken a toll on much of our summer camps there has been times where I was still able to show nature to children. Bringing our Birds of Prey to elementary schools, learning river-craft basics on the Rock Creek, and being at our nature centers at Eden Valley and Rock Creek Eco Center are just some of the opportunities I've had to instill environmental education in children.

Even past childhood, there is an importance to show that nature is a vast world at our fingertips to later generations. With the other naturalists I have had the pleasure of doing the *Family Camps*, an alternative to summer camps that were previously cancelled. Taking patrons of all ages to our sites to teach them about the natural world around us has been an important part of my summer. The adults ask just as many questions as the children do! It shows that they have an appreciation for nature and care to know about the things around them.

Through some of the programs I have taught, I have met wonderful children who have told me they enjoyed their time learning alongside me, saying they want to come again. That is what is most important when doing my job. From teaching pond study Saturday mornings at Rock Creek I have seen the same wonder-struck look in each kid's eyes as they explore the world in their very own backyard. Watching children as they interact with our animals on exhibit, I find that their engagement is just as important as their presence.

My time at Clinton County Conservation as a naturalist has brought me so much joy and has made me want to pursue my Environmental Science major even more. With my term coming to an end in November, I hope to be able to continue my purpose with the county until then and perhaps even after I have completed my service. I look forward to seeing you around at our Clinton County sites!



“Alouette, gentile Alouette...”

by Mark Roberts, Interpretive Naturalist

In earlier issues of “*The Heron*,” I wrote articles looking back into my own history here with Clinton County Conservation. I have decided to make a series of my top eleven (now twelve) “Greatest Hits.”

6. Voyageur Canoes ~ A couple of years back, Chuck Jacobsen and I were having a brainstorm session on new ideas. We came up with the wild idea of having voyageur canoes. These super canoes could hold multiple persons and could carry a lot of trade goods as well. I found a manufacturer near Vancouver, Canada and contact them about sizes and pricing.

I then wrote a grant to the Clinton County Development Association and was awarded enough money for two 29-foot, Kevlar canoes with a birch bark paint scheme, life jackets and paddles! Each canoe could hold up to 14 passengers; perfect for an average 5th grade class.

The boats have been all we imagined them to be. They are a perfect addition to our program in several ways.

1. They are sized just-right for a classroom of students.
2. They look and feel like historical French trader canoes, but made from tough, light, modern materials. We dubbed them *the Marquette and the Joliet*. This bit of history comes alive when you dip your paddle.
3. They are a terrific team building tool. Since everyone must work together to get to where they want to go and with two canoes, races seem to be mandatory. A little competition proves what team works the best together!



4. The canoes work great for younger students. Four adults can take out 10 Kindergarteners, on the water, in life jackets. A wonderful first experience.
5. They work very well for teaching paddling skills. The instructors are in the boat with the kids rather than having only on-shore instruction then sending them out in a standard canoe with only another student.
6. Lastly, they look cool! Kids (and adults) can't wait to get in and try the boats out!

Participants might even get a little music and a French lesson thrown in for good measure. The Voyageurs would often sing through the days of paddling to pass the time and to keep in rhythm. Group singing has a unifying effect.

One of the favorites was the song “Alouette.” We know



this song from grammar school even if we do not know what the French words were that we were singing. It is a horrifying song about plucking all the feathers from a lark because it's early morning singing woke them up!

Through the course of the song they proceed to pluck the beak, eyes, neck, wings, back, legs, tail and finally the feet!

French version	English Translation
Alouette, gentile Alouette,	Lark, nice lark
Alouette, je te plumerai.	Lark, I will pluck you.
Je te plumerai la tete.	I will pluck your head.

6 1/2. Building Better Birders ~ For the past four summers I have been offering Building Better Birders Cruises onboard the Blue Heron. We have been doing two per month, June-October with special guest speaker, Kelly McKay. Kelly is a world-class birder and is great at bring in birds close so people can really get a good view and is really good about teaching people how to identify birds in the field visually and by their songs.

To make a long story short, Kelly and I came up with a proposal to have him offer 100 workshops between September 1st, 2020 and February 28th, 2022.

The workshops would consist of up to 20 hours of bird ID hikes, power points and Birding research presentations.



County Conservation Departments from all over the state were contacted and 25 were selected to participate. Each county will hold four workshops over the grant period.

We then applied for funding from Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection-Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP). On June 24th of this year we were approved for a record-setting \$75,000 grant! Partners include: BioEco Research and Monitoring Center, Hampton, Il., Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport, Clinton County Pheasants Forever, Blevins Wild Bird Shop and Art Gallery, Davenport and Clinton County Conservation.

Clinton County's first event will be on September 25th and 26th, 2020.





Fall Family Fun in Clinton County



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we as educators want you to know we are trying our best to provide opportunities for you and your families to explore the outdoors in a safe manner. With that being said, we are asking for your understanding if programs are changed, postponed or even cancelled because the risk outweigh the benefits. We will be sure to keep you informed of any such changes if they arise and refund options will be available if a payment was received for the program. Stay safe, stay healthy and we hope to see you soon!

September Events

Note on all Cruises. Sign-up for each cruise will begin one week before each trip. Check the forecast, gather your friends and sign-up! 563-259-1876. Note: The Blue Heron does not go out if winds are 20+ MPH, lightning is (or is forecasted) within 10 miles or the river stage is 17+ feet (Camanche river gauge).

2nd ~ Building Better Birders Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ World-class birder, Kelly McKay, will lead this free class for people wanting to improve their birding skills. Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

3rd ~ Guided Nature Hike ~ 11 AM ~ Westbrook City Park, DeWitt ~ Take a hike with a Naturalist along the trails of this local park every other Thursday until Oct. 15th.

3rd ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance.

4th ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We are opening our Archery Range in the basement of the Eco Center for public use. The event will include both safety and practical instruction. Participants must use our equipment and will be under the watchful eye of a range master. Children (9+) must be accompanied by an adult.



8th ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

9th ~ Building Better Birders Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek

10th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

11th ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

13th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 9-11 AM

13th ~ Turtle Sunday ~ Rock Creek

- ~ 12:30 PM ~ Turtle Talk with live animals
- ~ 1:30 PM ~ Turtle Races
- ~ 2:30 PM ~ Turtle Craft

16th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 5:30 PM ~ Malone Park ~ Providing new experiences in nature for children helps build an appreciation for the outdoors at a young age that they may carry on throughout their life. We have worms, poles and tackle...let's just catch the fish! Experience and

licenses are not required unless you plan on doing the fishing yourself. We will teach you how to encourage your angler even if you're not an angler yourself. This is a free event and open to the public.



16th ~ Vermicomposting 101 ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Check out how to start your own redworm composting bin to recycle your food waste instead of it being wasted in a landfill. You will then be rewarded with rich, naturally fertilized soil to feed your plants at home. Come see CCCB's set-up and help start-up our new bin! Everyone that wants to, will be able to make and take a quart start-up kit (with some live worms!) along with printed tricks of the trade.

17th ~ Nature Stories ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Every Thursday September - December 17th (except Thanksgiving), dress for the weather because we will be offering an outdoor nature classroom. We will meet at the Eco Tourism Center, from there we will find a comfy place at the park to read an illustrated children's book then we offer free outdoor play in the space the naturalist chooses. There will be a theme/activity but the sole purpose is to get children active in the outdoors. Guardians must be present. Please call/text 563-212-0955 if you plan on attending.

17th ~ Early Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 5PM ~ Rock Creek

17th ~ Music Cruise ~ 6:30PM ~ Rock Creek ~ A cruise on the backwaters of the Mississippi with music.

18th ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

18th ~ The Mighty Monarch ~ 1:00 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Small but mighty, the monarch migrates thousands of miles every fall to its wintering grounds in Mexico. With all the struggles they face along the way, monarch numbers are down and researchers strive to save them with the help of the public tagging and documenting their movements. Join in the fun by learning about the butterflies and tagging some monarchs (if we can catch some) for release!

19th ~ Enabled Hunting Starts ~ Ringneck Marsh ~ Call Mark at 563-847-7202 for information on this opportunity for people with disabilities. 12 hunting seasons available.

20th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 & 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ We will be offering naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat. Enjoy the last great weekend of official summer! Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot a week before the event.

20th ~ Eden Valley Sunday Funday

~ 9-11 AM ~ Nature Center Open

~ 11:15 AM ~ Tube the Bear ~ Old fashioned fun of taking a tire tube down Bear Creek. We will meet at the playground to check out tubes, pfd's and sign waivers.

~ 1 PM ~ Naturalist Guided Hike ~ Meet at the playground for a hike with a Naturalist.



22nd ~ Open Range ~ Air Rifles ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~
We are opening our Air Rifle Range in the basement of the Eco Center for public use. The event will include both safety and practical instruction. Participants must use our equipment and will be under the watchful eye of a range master. Children (9+) must be accompanied by an adult.

22nd ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6PM ~ Rock Creek ~
Be a part of what makes Rock Creek great!

23rd ~ Creating an Angler ~ 5:30 PM ~ Malone Park ~
See description on September 16th.

24th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

25th ~ The Mighty Monarch ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~
Join in the fun by learning about the butterflies and tagging some monarchs (if we can catch some) for release!

25th ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

25th ~ Iowa Raptors ~ 6 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~
Join Kelly McKay for an evening all about birds of prey to warm us up for "Hawk Watch"!

~ **6 PM ~ Introduction to the Raptors of Iowa**

~ **8 PM ~ Animal Encounter** ~ Featuring our live education raptors, a red-tailed hawk and a barred owl!

~ **8:30 PM ~ Owl Prowl** ~ We will explore the woods near the center calling our nocturnal raptors!

25th ~ Equinox Community Fire ~ 7:30 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~
We'll have s'mores and music as we say farewell to the last days of summer.

26th ~ Third Annual Hawk Watch ~ 8 AM - 4 PM ~ Eagle Point Park, Clinton ~
Join our Hawk Watchers as we attempt to count every migrating bird of prey passing by the North-end Mississippi Overlook at Eagle Point. Special Guest, Biologist Kelly McKay is spearheading the watch through the Building Better Birders Program. We will have scopes set up and binoculars to lend.

26th ~ Public Open House, Jens-Wendt Observatory ~ Dusk (6:30 PM) ~ Sherman Park, North Entrance ~
www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/

27th ~ Eden Valley Sunday Funday ~ 9-11 AM ~ Nature Center Open

~ **11:15 AM ~ Naturalist Guided Hike** ~ Meet at the playground to explore the park with a Naturalist.

~ **1 PM ~ Archery** ~ Try or brush-up on this fun skill with our temporary range that will be set up in the electric campground.



27th ~ GPS Scavenger Hunt ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~
Let's explore the park GPS style! There will be a small GPS course set up throughout the park. We will gather at the patio for some basic instruction on how to use a GPS before heading out into the park on a scavenger hunt. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

29th ~ Princeton Beach Cruise ~ 5:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~
Join us for a special trip south to the Princeton/Cordova area. We will make a stop on Princeton Beach on Steamboat Island to explore both in and out of the water!

29th ~ After Dark Backwater Cruise ~ 7:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~
This will be a slow cruise along the backwaters to hear the night sounds and sights of the Mississippi. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance.

October Events

1st ~ Fall Color Eco Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

2nd ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

6th ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

7th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 5:30 PM ~ Malone Park ~
See description for this program in September.

8th ~ Fall Color Eco Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

9th ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

10th ~ Thirty-ninth Annual Bluegrass & Old-time Music Gathering ~ Noon—7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~
The stage shows begin at Noon in the main campground. Once you attend, you will never want to miss it again! Call Mary McAndrew 563-343-7002 info. FREE!



11th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 9-11 AM

11th ~ Blue Heron Eco Cruise ~ 12:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

11th ~ Animal Encounter ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek ~
Naturalist will be your guide to show you the various animals of the Nature Gallery.

14th ~ Painting Class with "Fresh Paint" ~ 6 PM ~ \$35 ~ Rock Creek ~
This 2-hour event includes step-by-step painting instructions on two wine glasses or beer mugs with *Fresh Paint by Christine Boeve*. Autumn themed & all materials provided. Space is limited, register at www.mycountyparks.com.

15th ~ Music on the Mississippi Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek ~
Local talents entertain with a variety of acoustic music.

18th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 9-11 AM

Halloween Weekend at Rock Creek!

Adults must accompany children during activities. All activities originate at the Eco Tourism Center.

Friday the 16th

~ **Decorate Your Campsite** ~ Get into the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Halloween. We will be awarding prizes for the most creative Halloween campsites.

~ **Open Archery Range ~ 5 PM**

~ **Frightening Family Movie Night**

~ **7-9 PM** ~ Come in your pj's and bring your favorite blanket for a Halloween family-friendly movie on the patio. Concessions will be available for some favorite movie treats. *Cash only please, plan accordingly.*





Saturday the 17th ~ Enjoy a seasonal lunch special and some Halloween treats!

~ **Creatures of the Night ~ 10:30 AM**
Furry or slimy, many animals make their appearance at night! Meet

some of these mysterious animals and learn what makes them so amazing!

~ **Spooktacular Crafts ~ 1 PM** Creepy crawly crafts will be provided for people of all ages under the deck.

~ **Pumpkin Carving ~ 2 PM** ~ Come carve your pumpkin at the Eco Center!

We will supply the carving tools, stencils and a place to make a mess! Bring your own pumpkin!

~ **Trick or Treat! ~ 5-6 PM** ~ We invite all our camper ghouls and goblins to trick or treat the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy.

~ **Lighted Hayrack Ride ~ 6 PM** ~ Join us aboard our hayrack as we drive through the campground looking at the decorated campsites. Adults must accompany children.

~ **Lighted Blue Heron Rides ~ 6 PM** ~ Take a lighted cruise on the backwaters. Adults must accompany children.



Sunday the 18th

~ **Creepy Crawlies Pond Study ~ 12:30 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ See what creatures lurk in the swampy backwaters of Mississippi River!

~ **Animal Encounter ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Get up-close to the coldblooded creatures of Nature Gallery.

17th ~ Public Open House, Jens-Wendt Observatory ~ Dusk (6:00 PM) ~ Sherman Park, North Entrance

20th ~ Open Range ~ Air Rifles ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

22nd ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek



24th ~ Fall Fest ~ 4:30 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center, Clinton ~ Rack rides, pumpkin carving, music, a roasting fire, spooky hike and more make this great fun for the family.

25th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 9-11 AM

25th ~ Blue Heron Eco Cruise ~ 12:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

25th ~ GPS Scavenger Hunt ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek

27th ~ Building Better Birders Field Eco Cruise ~ 7 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

27th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Be a part of what makes Rock Creek great!

29th ~ Blue Moon Hike ~ 7:30 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ A cool, after dark adventure into the moonlit woods to a warming fire on the Wapsi riverside.

29th ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Thursday night season finale!

29th ~ After Dark Backwater Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This will be a slow cruise along the backwaters to

hear the night sounds and sights of the Mississippi. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance.

November Events

7th ~ Building Better Birders Field Eco Cruise ~ 7 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

7th ~ Bald Eagle Eco Cruise ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This will be the public's last opportunity this year to take a Mississippi Eco Cruise on the Blue Heron Pontoon Boat. The American bald eagles will start to congregate along the Mississippi for the winter and we hope to see several of the birds during the cruise. Call 563-259-1876 to register.

10th ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

14th ~ Public Open House, Jens-Wendt Observatory ~ Dusk (4:30 PM) ~ Sherman Park, North Entrance

24th ~ Open Range ~ Air Rifles ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek.

24th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Be a part of what makes Rock Creek great!

30th ~ Beaver Moon Hike ~ 7:30 PM ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~

We'll hike the Bear Creek trail and back at the center we'll have a fire and/or music.



December Events

1st ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

8th ~ Open Range ~ Air Rifles ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

12th ~ Public Open House, Jens-Wendt Observatory ~ Dusk (4 PM) ~ Sherman Park, North Entrance

22nd ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Be a part of what makes Rock Creek great!

2021 January Sneak Peak

9th ~ Eagle Watch ~ 8:30 AM ~ Clinton Community College ~ Stop by our booth and say "Hi" to the critters and our naturalists. Learn how Clinton County Conservation might make an outing more fun.

23rd ~ Winter Sports Clinic ~ 10 AM ~ Emma Young Park, Clinton ~ After a brief introduction, skis, snowshoes and private lessons will be available till 2 PM while supplies last.

Clinton County Conservation would like to CONGRATULATE Fishing Has No Boundaries, Eastern Iowa Chapter for receiving the Clinton County Development Association Grant! We are excited for the new park upgrades at both Rock Creek Marina & Campground and Lake Malone! These upgrades will provide more fishing opportunities for everyone to enjoy! Thank you for all you do!





Clinton County Conservation
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 2308 255th Street
 Grand Mound, Iowa 52751
 Phone: 563-847-7202
 Email: conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov
 Web: www.mycountyparks.com

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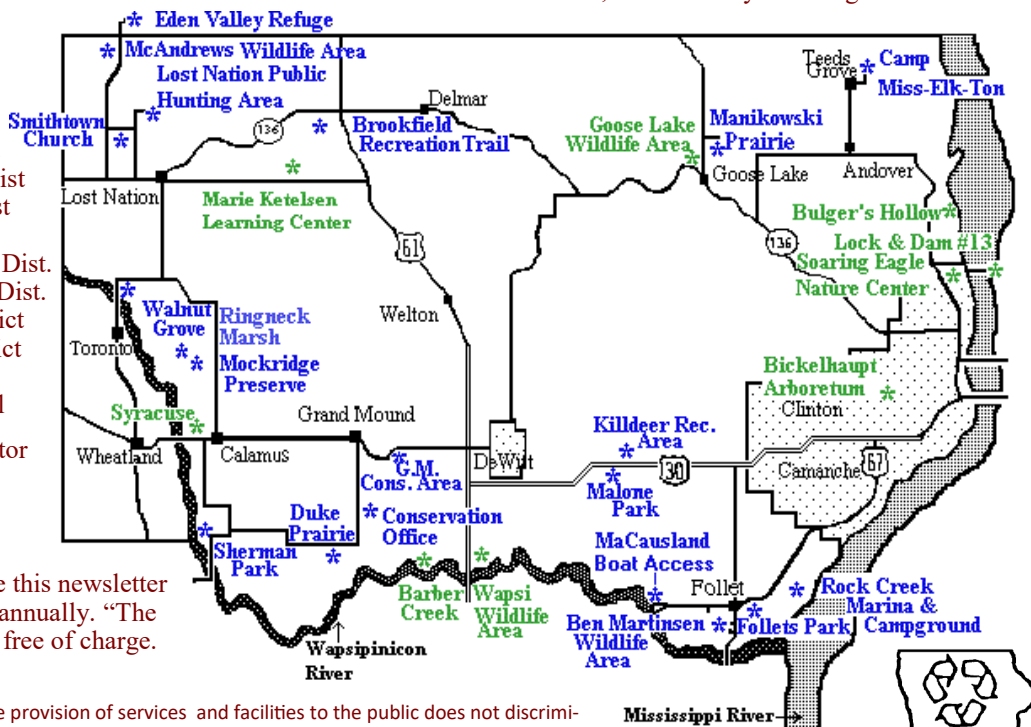
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MAILING LIST

Clinton County residents may receive this newsletter at home, free. Others are charged \$5 annually. "The Heron" is on our website or emailed, free of charge.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Clinton County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board regularly meets the second Tuesday of the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, this date may be changed.



The Clinton County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subject to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Clinton C.C.B. or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

