

In The Field

Teacher's Conservation Education Newsletter
Brought to you by Clinton County Conservation
Fall Semester ~ 2014



A Local Field Trip, for FREE!

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

As the school year gets on its way, the Environmental Education staff are rearing for field trip season! Many teachers are often surprised by the fact that we offer free field trips to all schools within Clinton County. We realize that as teachers, you have a limited amount of field trips allotted during a school year. You just need to decide what time of year is best for you and your students.

We offer field trips throughout all seasons, fall, winter and spring. The Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek Marina and Campground, just outside of Camanche can accommodate trips in all seasons. It has plenty of space indoors to escape a variety of weather conditions as well as the many outdoor activities provided on site. Canoeing, hiking, archery and pond study are popular choices for outdoor activities in the fall and spring. Not to mention the famous Blue Heron Eco Cruises we provide on the Mississippi River. In the winter, we provide cross-country skiing, animal tracking and at times ice skating for our students.

Eden Valley Refuge located outside of Lost Nation is best suited for fall and spring field trips as is the Soaring Eagle Nature Center in Clinton. Both have a nature center to explore with hiking trails and a variety of activities that can be done, at either locations. Lake Malone, located just south of DeWitt has proven to be an excellent site for field

trips as well. Fishing, canoeing, pond study, and GPS are just a few programs that are popular at this site. Sherman Park, located in the southwest corner of the county is one of our hidden gems. With recent upgrades including a shower house with plumbing for flush toilets, this park has a lot to offer. Located on the Wapsipinicon River, one of the highlights would be canoeing. There are also hiking trails, restored prairie and wooded areas as well as great geology opportunities with small caves to explore.



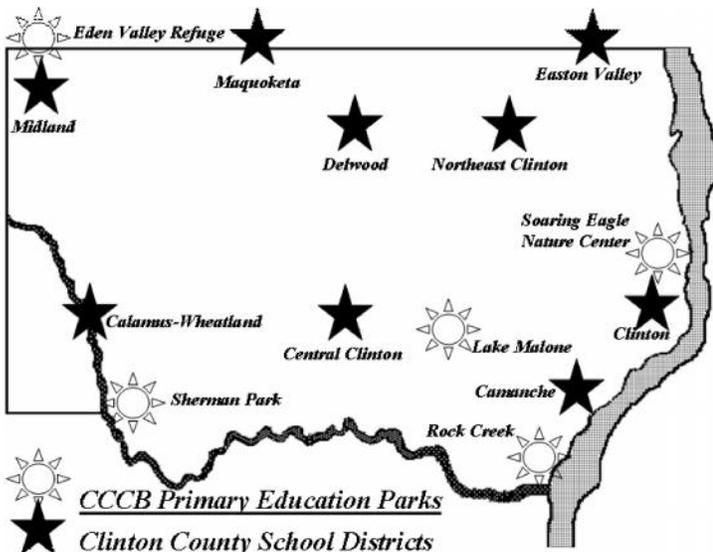
Although there is a small fee, we also accommodate out-of-county schools and already have a number of them that utilize our programming, especially at Rock Creek. Please contact us for more information on pricing and scheduling.

The important thing at this time is to remember days are limited. We encourage teachers to change it up and experience field trips at different times of the school year! We also encourage you to book as far in advance as you can, teachers often contact us too late and preferred dates are not available, especially in the spring.

To set up your next field trip to Rock Creek (including the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center and Blue Heron Eco Cruises), Eden Valley Refuge, Sherman Park or the Soaring Eagle Nature Center, please contact Conservation Education Coordinator Mark Roberts or Interpretive Naturalists Chuck Jacobsen, Jessica Steines or Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202. We would be happy to help guide you through your schedule and prepare you for your fun day outdoors!

You can also email us to schedule a field trip:

~ Mark Roberts - mroberts@clintoncounty-ia.gov
~ Chuck Jacobsen - cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov
~ Jessica Steines - jsteines@clintoncounty-ia.gov
~ Jill Schmidt - jschmidt@clintoncounty-ia.gov



maintenance staff helped remodel many of the buildings on the property including the aquatics lab and finish work in the interior of both the Eco Center and Redtail Lodge. They also converted the old swimming pool into a frog pond (along with trucks and drivers from Clinton County Secondary Roads) so kids could catch aquatic insects and amphibians for hands-on learning.

The CCCB supplied many of the displays, animals and equipment used everyday at the Center. Live raptors and reptiles, mastodon fossils and many mounted animals, a team building course, AV equipment and folding tables, cross country skis, snowshoes and canoes and more.

As the Wapsi Center goes forward, the contributions that the Clinton CCB made in the last two decades will continue to benefit the program. Our role, while officially ending on June 30th, 2014, will continue to serve groups from the area in receiving quality conservation education services

through the Wapsi River Center.

Traditionally, several Clinton County schools make regular visits to the Wapsi Center. In the past, Clinton County schools scheduled through our naturalists. Going forward the Center will be completely in the hands of Scott County. If your class wants to go on a field trip to the Wapsi Center, contact them directly at 563-328-3286 or email at MGranger@SCOTTCOUNTYIOWA.com. If you are interested in switching your field trip to another location in Clinton County, contact us at conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov.

Wapsi River Center Totals 1992-2014

- Over 3,000 Events
- Over 20,000 Presentations
- Over 150,000 in Attendance
- Over 1/2 Million Contact Hours with Students and Public

The Ultimate Experience in Outdoor/Science Education

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretive Naturalist

The Clinton County Conservation Education Staff visits classrooms across the county. Our knowledge of the natural world and the live animals, artifacts and other media we use have been proven to capture the interests of students. Our presentations are free to all Clinton County residents and our team is ready to serve. Multiple classrooms in the Clinton District have chosen to use the following format and presentations that we feel create the ultimate experience for exposing our youth to the science of nature. We thought others would find them equally useful.

They are beginning their year with a fall field trip to our Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek Park near Camanche. These trips generally include a tour of the center, live animal demonstration, hike and an eco-cruise on the Blue Heron. From November through March we come into their classrooms monthly with presentations that strengthen their science curriculum. Then in the spring they return to one of several outdoor venues such as Soaring Eagle Nature Center. The Center's 1938 horse barn serves as an indoor refuge with two classrooms (loft and main floor) and Flannery School serves as another. Our presentations usually include insects, reptiles and amphibians, a hike and a visit to the one-room schoolhouse with games in its yard.



Its your classroom however and we are only too happy to aid you in whatever way you feel best. The in-school presentations most often requested are as follows.

- ◆ **Turtles**
- ◆ **Owls**
- ◆ **Turkeys**
- ◆ **Snakes**
- ◆ **First Scientists** (sorting living and non-living groups)
- ◆ **Life** (all kinds of organisms)
- ◆ **Plants**
- ◆ **Animals**
- ◆ **The Water Cycle**
- ◆ **Vertebrates/Invertebrates** (classifying animals),
- ◆ **Reason for the Season**
- ◆ **Animal Defense** (defensive adaptations of animals),
- ◆ **Reuse/Reduce/Recycle**
- ◆ **Dirt Made My Lunch** (components of soil)
- ◆ **The Water Cycle** (states of matter, weather)
- ◆ **Things Green & Growing** (plant kingdom demonstrating pollination, seed production and distribution, germination and development)
- ◆ **Growth and Metamorphosis** (life cycles)
- ◆ **Survival** (investigate habitats)
- ◆ **Our Iowa** (Iowa's past)
- ◆ **Geology Rocks** (Earth's past and the rock cycle)
- ◆ **Fossils** (including making a mould from a real fossil)
- ◆ **Weather**
- ◆ **Energy and the Sun**
- ◆ **Iowa Landforms** (our distinct landforms and their formation)
- ◆ **Endangered and Extinct**
- ◆ **STARLAB and Stellarium**
- ◆ **Sound and Hearing in Nature**
- ◆ **Light and Sight in Nature**
- ◆ **First Nations** (story of the first nations to live in Iowa).