



The Heron

Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
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Nature Gallery at Rock Creek Taking Shape

by Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator

We have been working much of this past winter on our nature displays at both Eden Valley Nature Center and inside the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek. Eden Valley Nature Center is complete and ready for folks to see starting on the Season Opener, April 25th. At Rock Creek, it is another story. The Nature Gallery has remained an unfinished space for the last three years, but several new displays are expected to be open by Memorial Day Weekend, if all goes according to plan.

Turtle Island. This huge centerpiece to the room has been promised by our new exhibit company, McCullough Creative of Dubuque, to be completed and functional by early May. The display will feature a floodplain forest scene with native forest plants and wildlife species depicted. The WOW factor for this display is the live turtle tank. The tank will hold hundreds of gallons of water and will have many species of our native turtles, plus some backwater fish species as well. It will be cool, but the best part will be the clear tunnel that kids can crawl through, beneath the water, to get a very unique view of the reptiles and fish.

Mussel Beach Touch Tank. I became aware the National Mississippi River Aquarium in Dubuque was looking to sell a very interesting aquarium. They had a 16-foot, S-shaped touch tank. A touch tank is low to the ground and shallow to allow visitors to reach into the water to touch specimens. Our new tank needed a lot of rehab to the acrylic and a whole new pump system. Rangers Brad and Ryan repaired the system so the water actually flows like the big river herself. To start with, we are planning on having river mussels, sunfish and tadpoles collected during our field trips! Our local chapter of Whitetails Unlimited provided the funds to purchase and rehab the tank display.



Mussel Beach Touch Tank

Giant Cottonwood "Wolf" Tree. A wolf tree is an unusually large tree which dominates the surrounding environment because of its size. Wolf trees tend to have a very large crown and to be heavily branched. They are also usu-

ally older than the surrounding trees, although this is not always the case. Standing like sentinels, towering above other tree species, cottonwoods are the preferred nesting and roosting sites for bald eagles. We wanted to give visitors a feel for the giants of the floodplain by building a replica inside our Nature Gallery. The tree is loosely patterned after a legendary giant in the Grand Mound vicinity that was measured at over 103 feet in height and almost 9 feet in diameter. A grant from the Curtis Armstrong Foundation plus monies from the Clinton County Conservation Foundation and the Friends of Rock Creek is paying for the tree. Our park rangers and naturalists have also put a lot of elbow grease into the project, both physically and creatively. It is all coming together under the direction of Rock Island artist, Susan Holgersson. She is going way above and beyond the call to make our Gallery look terrific. Susan is the artist who painted the 360 degree mural on the Gallery's walls. Our indoor giant will be hollow so kids can go inside the tree and climb up the inside! With learning stations along the climb and a knot hole 10 feet above the room, children will get a birds-eye view!

Doing Less with Less. Ironically, as we are finally getting up to full speed, we are faced with unexpected budget cuts. Looking at our calendar of events and as you visit our parks and wildlife areas this summer, you may not notice too much of a change. However, more added fees for events will crop up in this and future newsletters. Perhaps the most notable is the cutback in Blue Heron cruises for the public. We have had to scale back the popular Thursday evening Sunset Cruise dates to half of what we did last year and the Saturday morning Early Bird Cruises have all but disappeared. We did add the "Millin' Around" cruises out of Clinton in July and August (see schedule) thanks again to a grant from the Curtis Armstrong Foundation. We have decreased campground events and have asked that folks going along on our paddling adventures rent their canoes and kayaks from Rock Creek. You may also have noticed that this newsletter is only eight pages and is printed in black & white. In recent years we were putting out twelve pages and at least partially in color. Every little bit helps.

We hope for understanding as we move forward through what promises to be a difficult two to three years, budget-wise. Our staff is committed to our program and we will continue to prioritize for conservation. If you are able to donate to our education program, the Conservation Foundation is equipped to accept and manage any gifts.

A Packed Calendar

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist



As the colder months pass us by, the sounds, smells and sights of spring surround us and we begin to plan our summer months. As a naturalist, we study our calendar, planning out the next three months to the best of our abilities. How many events can we fit in during our peak season and what are those programs going to be? Although our budget has been cut for this upcoming year, we have set our priorities and as we plan for the summer months, we focus on what we feel is important, the people. As a mother, I try to balance my work calendar with my personal calendar and try to provide the most exciting summer filled with new experiences for my family. When I combine the two...it's a packed calendar.

Summer camps are one of my favorite events to do. The three-day camps allow us time to get to know local kids and share all of the fun-to-be-found outdoors with them. Some kids have had very little experiences scooping out tadpoles, crayfish and dragonfly larvae with nets or paddling a canoe on the backwaters of the Mississippi River. That is why we do the camps - to provide the kids with these opportunities. We run five summer camps. Two sessions for children ages 6-8 years old, two sessions for children ages 9-11 and one overnight canoe session for children ages 12-14. Cost for each camp is \$45 and that covers materials and equipment used as well as one lunch out of the three days. To register for summer camps you must vis-

it the website www.mycountyparks.com and go to Clinton County, Rock Creek Marina & Campground and search events within the dates of the camps. The deadline to register is June 1st.

Last year, flooding forced us to move our summer camps from Rock Creek to Malone Park just east of DeWitt. Though there were details that needed to be tweaked in the already set schedule, these camps turned out to be some of the most fun we've had. The new area provided us with different opportunities as well as some new kids from the west side of the county. All in all, we had great results from the move. Because of that, this year we are providing two, one-day camps at Malone, one for each age range. "A Day At the Beach" will be August 5th, for kids 6-8 years old and August 19th for the older kids, 9-11 years old. Cost for these day camps is \$15 and that covers materials, equipment and a campfire cookout for lunch! Registration for these day camps will also be on the website, www.mycountyparks.com, deadline for registration is July 31st.

What does your calendar look like? Have you planned your vacation for the summer? Have you double checked that your night meetings don't interfere with your child's baseball game? Or better yet, is there a county park you want to explore? Whatever your calendar looks like, be sure to plug us into it. Your kids will thank you!

Super Hero Adaptations

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist

This year's library summer reading theme is heroes, so we thought it would be fun to highlight a couple animals as super heroes with their super hero tools they use to survive. In school they teach us that these super hero tools are called adaptations. These presentations are fun with our beaver and bald eagle costumes we use to highlight what makes these animals truly super heroes.



Beavers are North America's largest rodent. Along with their webbed feet they have a paddle-like tail that acts as a rudder when swimming, a kickstand when sitting, a counter balance when moving building materials, a heat regulator and an alarm system when danger is present by slapping it down on the water surface before diving underwater. Staying underwater for up to 15 minutes is easy for them because they have built in goggles with their clear eyelids and automatic closing nostrils. And when they finally come up for air they don't have that pesky problem of water in their ears because their ears automatically close too! Beavers keep their fur waterproof and scented by a special oil called castoreum that the beaver combs through its fur with its second toenail on its back foot. Some describe the scent to smell similar to black licorice.

They are also nature's engineers, by manipulating the land to not only benefit themselves, but also to create habitat for other plants and animals to live. By building a dam, it turns

the stream or river into a pond. If chopping down full grown trees with your teeth and moving them isn't super hero material, I don't know what is!

Bald eagles are super heroes in a different way. With their 6- to 7.5-foot wingspan, they can fly at 35 to 44 miles per hour, but when diving down to catch that fish just below the water's surface, it can speed up to 100 miles per hour. It is amazing to think that something that large only weighs 7 to 14 pounds with females weighing 25% more than the males. So now when you see a large eagle, say she and not he! But, no matter how much they weigh, they can lift and carry items up to half of its body weight. Eagles are able to carry heavy items due to the ratcheting affect created by its tendons and tendon sheaths in their talons, allowing them to maintain its grip on things without a lot of muscle fatigue while exerting 1,000 pounds of pressure in each foot. To get their prey, they have to use super hero eyesight as well.

It is amazing to think of all of adaptations that make animals like super heroes in their own right. We are excited to do presentations for the area libraries this summer. If you would like to attend, look in the Events Section of this newsletter.



The Shores of Clinton County

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist

Nearly three-quarters of Clinton County is surrounded by water. From Toronto in the northwest corner of the county, the Wapsipinicon, which meanders south, then turns east along our southern border for over 50 miles. Starting near Sabula, the mighty Mississippi churns 31 miles south to just past Rock Creek where the two rivers mingle. We want to paddle it all! 2015 will be a banner year in our efforts to enlighten area residents and visitors in respects to our water resources, their adjacent lands, their past and present uses and condition. Here's a quick look at some of the fun.

In March we offered a paddling day at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center (MRETC) to present proper planning, safety and ethics on our waters. These are important skills for the safe and legal use of our streams and their amenities. Now we plan to put these to practice. Registered participants will be sent a gear checklist, float plan and extended forecast for each trip, one week in advance of its date.

The first of these trips occurred in the quiet backwaters of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge (UMWFR) on April 18th. Participants met at the MRETC in Rock Creek, checked in and were ready to depart at 10 AM. We moved as a group to the put-in below the US 67 crossing of Rock Creek. Following the creek's channel through exotic locals such as The Tubes and Pond Lilly Lake, we then turned west to Tyler Lake, Sodus Slough and Shaft Creek, a trip of about five miles. We finished around 1:30 PM, just in time to settle in for some music at the Riverside Jam.

On June 8th we will meet at Bulgers Hollow Public Use Area. Participants should be checked in and ready to car pool to Sabula by 9 AM. We will meet a group organized by Jackson County Conservation at our put-in at South Lake. Paddling out of Lower Sabula Lake into Hubble Slough, we'll pass into Dark Slough moving along high bluffs of Ordovician limestone (439 - 510 million years old) and enter the Elk River area. We'll explore the mouth of Elk River and continue down to Bird Island and into Gomer's Lake, then Bulgers Hollow. We will have traveled about nine miles and hope to finish by 4 PM.

The paddle craft and some of the group will spend the night at Bulgers and be ready to continue on down to Clinton on June 9th. Participants will need to be ready to launch by 9 AM. This will be an interesting morning. We will cross Pool 13 near the river's widest spot, then travel south to Lock and Dam 13. The Lock Master will be contacted with hopes of locking our group through. Paddling along Riverfront Drive and slipping into Beaver Channel, we'll hold to the right bank. After 10 miles of paddling and pausing here and there, we hope to arrive at the Beaver Channel Access in Clinton by 4 PM.

We will pick-up the trek on June 29th and paddle through the heart of Beaver Island, the largest island on the Mississippi. We'll meet at Rock Creek for this and be prepared to car pool to Clinton by 9 AM. At the south end of the island we will make a choice to cross over to Marais D'Osier Slough or continue along the Iowa shoreline past Ca-



manche and into Swan Slough. We will enter Hansen Slough for the final push to Rock Creek around 4 PM. Participants may opt to camp at the park as the expedition will continue on from there in the morning.

Our final day on the Mississippi will be June 30th. Participants should be ready to launch from Rock Creek by 9 AM. We will proceed downstream into Steamboat Slough with some exploration of several side channels that lead back into the interior, slipping into Grant Slough for the final mile of our trip and landing at the Princeton Public Use Area access.

It's been fun, but we're not done! Now it's on to the Wapsipinicon when, on July 17th, we will become part of the Lower Wapsipinicon River Clean-up Project. We will meet at Walnut Grove Park near Toronto to check in and be ready to depart by 8 AM. Our put-in is at the Oxford Mills Access where we will begin clearing trash of all kinds from the stream's bottom and banks. Support crews will aid us from landings along the way and we will land at Walnut Grove Park after traveling 11 miles. Camping is provided free and catered meals are available by registering with the Lower Wapsi River Clean-up Project on their website.

July 18th we will meet again at Walnut Grove being ready to go by 8 AM and continue cleaning up the river until the off load at Syracuse Wildlife Area access. At this point, we will continue leisurely on downstream to Sherman Park. The clean-up is celebrating its tenth year and there will be activities back at Walnut Grove for those who'd like to stay on a bit.

We'll continue on with trips in August and October to complete our mission to paddle the entire Clinton County shoreline. You must register for these trips by calling 563-259-1876 at least 8 days before the event. There is a \$15/boat/day fee for use of Clinton County equipment. You are welcome to bring your own equipment, but must adhere to the trip's regulations. See you on the river!



Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center

Let us help you with your next gathering!
Wedding receptions, graduations, family
reunions or a birthday party; we are here to help.

Community Hall Rental

*Rental Hours: 7 am-10 pm
*Seating for up to 200
*Use your favorite caterer or self-cater
*\$250 per day or \$50 per hr. + \$100 deposit
*Tables, Chairs, and AV equip. included

3942 291st St. Camanche, IA
563-259-1876

Family Fun in Nature!

May!

2nd ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

7th ~ Music in the Loft ~ 7 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ 3923 N 3rd St, Clinton ~ Come enjoy an evening of home spun music in the loft of the center's 1938 barn. Local talents are invited to offer up their favorites in coffee house style. So bring yourself and yours, your instrument if you have one and add your voice or just sit back and enjoy. It's musical fun for the whole family.



9th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

16th ~ Choose to Care ~ 9 AM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Lend a hand at your local, privately-run nature center lovingly known as the Nature Barn. Its buildings and grounds are maintained through the efforts of volunteers and serve as a unique venue for area schools and groups out for some relaxation, recreation or nature study. Call 563-357-0759 and let us know you are joining us.

16th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

16th ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come enjoy an afternoon of some home-spun music at the Mississippi River Eco-tourism Center. Area musicians and vocalists are invited to bring their instruments and talents to blend as others gather to listen, sing along and sometimes dance. It is truly enjoyable for all.

May 22nd - 25th ~ Memorial Day Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Join us for a fun-filled holiday weekend. Reservable campsites and cabins are available online at www.mycountyparks.com.

- ◆ **Saturday ~ Eco Center Fun ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us in the Eco-tourism Center for a nature activity, then go out and explore our park and enjoy nature.
- ◆ **Sunday ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us on a relaxing ride through our campground. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



23rd ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

26th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Friends is a group of citizens dedicated to improving the park and its facilities for visitors with the promotion of the site through volunteering and planning events. New members and guests are welcome!

30th ~ Garage Sale Day ~ 8 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ It's time to clean out the closets. All registered campers are invited to have a garage sale at their campsite. Please stop or call the camp store at 563-259-1876 for rules and to register your sale.

30th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

30th ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers/park visitors.

30th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Starts at dusk (must be clear skies) in Sherman Park, at the north parking lot. View the skies through a 20-inch telescope. Courtesy of the Quad City Astronomical Society, www.qcas.org

June!

1st ~ Deadline for Registration for Summer Camps ~ There are 5 different camps for kids ages 6-14. See further down for details. Register at www.mycountyparks.com/county/Clinton/Events.aspx.



4th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Most Thursday evenings through October, we will be offering naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat on the Mississippi River. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

5th-7th ~ Free Fishing Weekend ~ Iowa residents may fish and possess fish without a DNR fishing license.

6th ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries Event ~ 8 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Clinton County Conservation will be hosting the 2nd Annual Fishing Has No Boundaries event. This event will provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities on and along the Mississippi River. For more information regarding this event, please contact Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202.



6th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

8th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ Bulgers Hollow, 3 miles north of Clinton off Highway 67 ~ See article on page 3 for details.

9th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM-4 PM ~ Bulgers Hollow ~ See article on page 3 for details.

9th - 11th ~ Creature Camp ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Children ages 6-8 years of age will enjoy a camp with a "Wild Kratts" kind of twist! Learn about different wildlife that inhabit Iowa and their unique ways of life! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Deadline for registration is June 1st.



9th & 13th ~ Standard Iowa Hunter Safety Course ~ 6 PM-9 PM (Tues.) & 8 AM-4 PM (Sat.) ~ Clinton Izaak Walton League ~ Sign up at <http://reservations1.usdirect.com/IowaWeb/>

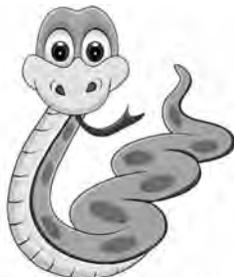
12th - 14th ~ Customer Appreciation Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ We want to thank the visitors to our park and will have some fun things planned this weekend.

THANK YOU!!!



- ◆ **Saturday ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a seat.
- ◆ **Saturday ~ For Goodness Snakes ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ At the picnic tables below the Eco Center deck, you can come to meet some of Iowa's resident snakes. You can sit as close or as far away as you like but make sure you bring a camera for photo ops.
- ◆ **Sunday ~ Food Specials and Drawing for Prizes ~ Rock Creek** ~ We will have prize drawings and food specials throughout the day. Stop in the camp store and sign up to win.

12th ~ For Goodness Snakes ~ 6:30 PM @ Eden Valley & 8 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ Near the playground you can come to meet some of Iowa's resident snakes. Bring your camp chairs to sit as close or as far away as you like and cameras for photo ops.



13th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

13th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 4 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.

16th - 18th ~ Creature Camp ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek Campground ~ *Children ages 6-8 years of age* will enjoy a camp with a "Wild Kratts" kind of twist! Learn about different wildlife that inhabit Iowa and their unique ways of life! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Deadline for registration is June 1st.

18th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 for your free seat.

18th ~ Bat Stream Hayride ~ 9 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Meet at the Eco Center to ride our hay wagon out to where the bats stream across the road towards their nightly feeding grounds on the backwaters of the Mississippi.



19th - 21st ~ Father's Day Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Take your Dad and spend some quality time camping.

- ◆ **Saturday ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a seat.
- ◆ **Saturday ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Enjoy a refreshing drink and an afternoon of home-spun music at the Mississippi River Eco-tourism Center. Area musicians and vocalists are invited to bring their instruments and talents to blend as others gather to listen, sing along and sometimes dance. It is truly enjoyable for all.



- ◆ **Saturday ~ Movie Night ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us in the Eco-tourism Center for a camping-themed movie. Snacks will be available for purchase in the camp store. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

20th ~ Campground Flea Market ~ 8 AM-3 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Shop & sell throughout the campground. The staff will be selling brats & burgers. Call Chip at 563-357-4134 for information.

20th ~ Choose to Care ~ 9 AM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ Lend a hand at your local, privately run nature center lovingly known as the Nature Barn. Call 563-357-0759 and let us know you are joining us.

20th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

23rd - 25th ~ Child vs. Wild Camp ~ 9:30 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ *Children ages 9-11 years of age* will take a walk on the wild side by testing their outdoor skills - orienteering, paddling, swimming, fishing and camping! Learn what it takes to survive in the wild while spending time on the Mississippi River! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Deadline for registration is June 1st.



23rd ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Friends is a group of citizens dedicated to improving the park and its facilities for visitors with the promotion of the site through volunteering and planning events. New members and guests are welcome!

26th ~ Evening Canoe Float ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve your spot. Cost is \$15 per canoe.

27th ~ Eco Center Fun ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join us in the Eco-tourism Center for a nature activity, then go out and explore our park and enjoy nature.

27th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

27th ~ Saturday ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a seat.

27th ~ Tube the Bear ~ 1 PM ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~ Meet the naturalist at the modern campground. Parents must sign a permission slip and participants will be issued a PFD and a tube. Move upstream and find a safe spot to reach the creek and splish splash your way back to the naturalist.



27th ~ Fish Boil ~ 4-7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Let us heat up our kitchen while you relax and enjoy your weekend. We will serve you a generous portion of fish, vegetables and all the fixings. Adults \$10, children \$7.

27th ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers/park visitors.

28th ~ Build-A-Fishing Rod ~ 8 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local rod builder, Garry Land, will be on hand to help you build your very own, unique fishing rod for only \$30. Space is very limited so register today by calling 56-847-7202. The class will be all day, approximate end time will be 4 PM, depending on skill level, it may take longer. The rods will dry over night and be ready for pick up the next morning.

29th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ See article on page 3 for details.

30th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ See article on page 3 for details.

30th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 2 PM ~ Wheatland Library ~ There will be plenty to see and touch to experience first-hand the super hero adaptations of birds of prey.

July!

3rd - 5th ~ Fourth of July Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Grab your family and friends and camp with us this holiday weekend. Reservable campsites and cabins are available at www.mycountyparks.com/county/clinton.



- ◆ **Saturday Hay Rack Rides ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Join us on a relaxing ride through our campground. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- ◆ **Sunday ~ Eco Center Crafts ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~** Join us in the camp store for a story and make/take it craft.

4th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

7th - 9th ~ Child vs. Wild Camp ~ 9:30 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Children ages 9-11 years of age will take a walk on the wild side by testing their outdoor skills - orienteering, paddling, swimming, fishing and camping! Learn what it takes to survive in the wild while spending time on the Mississippi River! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Registration deadline June 1st.

7th, 11th - 12th ~ Hunter Safety Camp ~ 7-10 PM (Tues.) & 8 AM (Sat.)-3:30 PM (Sun.) ~ Grace Lutheran Camp, DeWitt ~ In addition to all of the hunter education standards, we will be teaching advanced shooting techniques, bowhunter safety, trapping, waterfowl, turkey & raccoon hunting, dog training, caring for game in the field, first aid, wildlife ID, calling and a whole lot more! The course is open to kids, ages 11-16. They don't need to have their Hunter Education Certificates already. Cost per student is \$25 for dorm stay, meals, ammo and targets thanks to donations from Pheasants Forever, Mississippi Valley Sportsmen and Whitetails Unlimited, Clinton County Conservation & the Grand Mound Sportsmen's Club. Overnight chaperones will be provided by participants' parents. Space is limited to 50 kids, so sign up early by calling 563-847-7202.



11th ~ Millin' Around ~ 11:45 AM-4:30 PM ~ Sawmill Museum, Clinton ~ Starting July 11, every Saturday in July & August will be a one-of-a-kind community event. Tour the Sawmill Museum, the Fulton Windmill and the Mississippi on the Blue Heron, all for FREE. Arrive at the Sawmill at noon, buses will take you to the Windmill and the dock. Only 72 spots are available per weekend, register in advance by going to CVB's online calendar, <http://www.thesawmillmuseum.org/milling-around.html>



11th ~ Lunch Cookout ~ Noon-2PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We will be grilling out. Come into the camp cafe and let us cook lunch for you.

11th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

11th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 4 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.

14th ~ The Beaver, Nature's Engineer ~ 2 PM ~ Wheatland Library ~ Join naturalist Jessica Steines as you unravel the skills behind the American Beaver! Take a close look at beaver adaptations and what makes these amazing rodents such crafty wetland heroes! This is a free public program.

16th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 1 PM ~ DeWitt Community Center ~ There will be plenty to see and touch to experience first hand the super hero adaptations of birds of prey.

17th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ Walnut Grove ~ See article on page 3 for details.

17th ~ Calls of the Wild ~ 7 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~ Come learn about the art of animal communications, the reasons why and when they can be heard. Test your wildlife identification skills by sound alone! This is a free public program.

16th - 18th ~ Tenth Annual Lower Wapsi River Cleanup Project ~ Rock Creek ~ Here's some fun for a hot, summer weekend. Slip on a PFD and jump in one of our paddle craft (while supplies last) to aid in this annual canoe-based volunteer river cleanup. Catered meals are available and free camping provided. LWRCP 2015 will cover the Wapsi between Olin and Wheatland. Base camp will be at Walnut Grove County Park in Toronto. For more information go to www.lwrcp.org.



18th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ Walnut Grove ~ See article on page 3 for details.

18th ~ Millin' Around ~ 11:45 AM-4:30 PM ~ Sawmill ~ <http://business.clintoniowatourism.com/events/calendarcatid/3>

18th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

18th ~ Sprinkler Fun ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come beat the summer heat during our wet and wild weekend with a sprinkler and some old-fashioned fun.

21st ~ Kanoë Kids Camp #5 ~ 9:30 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek Campground ~ 22nd-23rd ~ 9:30 AM-Overnight ~ Wapsipinicon River ~ Children ages 12-14 years of age will explore by canoe! This three-day, one night canoe exploration will teach you the basics of paddling and take you down the Wapsipinicon River exploring sandbars along the way! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Deadline for registration is June 1st.

22nd ~ The Beaver, Nature's Engineer ~ 11:15 AM ~ Camanche Library ~ Join Naturalist Jill Schmidt as you unravel the skills behind the American Beaver!

23rd ~ The Beaver, Nature's Engineer ~ 1 PM ~ DeWitt Community Center ~ Join Naturalist Jill Schmidt as you unravel the skills behind the American Beaver!

23rd ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

24th - 26th ~ Christmas in July Weekend ~ Rock Creek

◆ **Friday ~ Decorate Sites ~ Rock Creek** ~ Get yourself and your camping neighbors in the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Christmas in July. We will have site judging Saturday night. Prizes will be awarded.

◆ **Saturday ~ Lighted Hayrides ~ 8 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us aboard our wagon as we treat you to a lighted ride through our campground. We will be able to view the decorated campsites while singing Christmas songs. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

◆ **Saturday ~ Christmas Movie ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Let's get into the holiday spirit with a Christmas movie. Join us in the Eco-tourism Center for a Christmas-themed movie. Snacks will be available for purchase in the camp store. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

25th ~ Millin' Around ~ 11:45 AM-4:30 PM ~ Sawmill ~ <http://business.clintoniowatourism.com/events/calendarcatgid/3>

25th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

28th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Friends is a group of citizens dedicated to improving the park and its facilities for visitors with the promotion of the site through volunteering and planning events. New members and guests are welcome!

29th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Starts at dusk (must be clear skies) in Sherman Park at the north parking lot. View the skies through a 20-inch telescope. Courtesy of the Quad City Astronomical Society, www.qcas.org



31st ~ Turtle Races ~ 6:30 PM @ Eden Valley and 8 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ Near the playground you can come to meet some of Iowa's turtles, then race them for fun.



August Sneak Peek!

1st ~ Clinton County EnviroKids ~ 10 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Grades 3-5 (younger children if accompanied by an adult). We won't be able to do our traditional cruises this year, but we will be paddling canoes, kayaks and paddle boats plus collecting water critters and making S'mores around the campfire. One-time \$5 entry fee for EnviroKids. Sign-up with Judie Petersen, 563-357-6932. Call Judie or watch the local media for other EnviroKids events around the area.

EnviroKids

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th ~ Millin' Around ~ 11:45 AM-4:30 PM ~ Sawmill ~ <http://business.clintoniowatourism.com/events/calendarcatgid/3>

1st ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

1st ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers/park visitors.

5th & 19th ~ A Day At the Beach ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Malone Park ~ These one-day camps are for children ages 6-8 years old. We will explore Malone Park throughout the day by land and water! Cost for the camp is \$15 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Registration deadline is July 31st.



6th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

8th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

10th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ Sherman Park ~ See article on page 3 for details.

11th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ Allen's Grove Park, Donahue ~ See article on page 3 for details.

14th ~ Night Hike ~ 8 PM ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~ Join the naturalist for a hike into the dark and hear stories of long ago written in the night sky.

October Sneak Peek!

3rd ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ Gambрил Access, Old Hwy. 61, South of DeWitt ~ See article on page 3 for details.

4th ~ Shores of Clinton County Paddle ~ 9 AM ~ McCausland Access ~ See article on page 3 for details.

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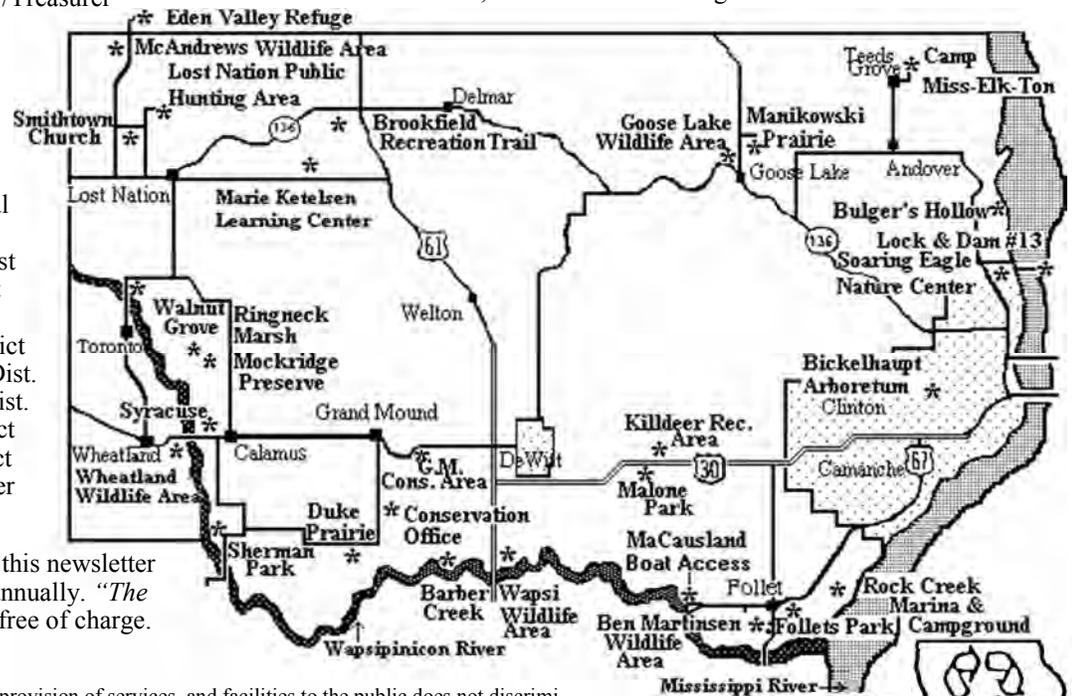
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MAILING LIST

Clinton County addresses can 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 meets the second Tuesday the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, this date can 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.

