



Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek ~ Open for Business!!!

by Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator

While technically the new Eco Tourism Center opened last spring, this fall will be the first field trip season where field days can actually be planned in and around the building. It has been over six years in the making. Planning, fundraising and over a year of construction has resulted in a great new venue for Conservation Education in Clinton County. All the displays have not been constructed due to ongoing fundraising, but that has not stopped us from using the building. For the first time since conducting field trips at Rock Creek (over 17 years) we have inside options for activities!

Community/Large Classroom. This room has seating for up to 200 and can serve as a spot to conduct many kinds of activities such as Bats of Iowa, Furbearers, Birds of Prey, Reptiles and Amphibians, Geology Rocks, Wilderness Music, Into Winter, Monarchs, and introductions to outside activities like Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing. It also makes a perfect lunchroom, especially during colder months and rainy days. The room makes it possible to switch gears quickly from outside to indoors if rain showers pop up during the day. In the past, a short rain event often meant the end of the field day.

Theater/Small Classroom. With seating for up to 30, this room is perfect for small group breakout sessions for crafts, presentations, experiments and audio-visual experiences such as PowerPoint, videos and the Stellarium Space Simulator. The room has no windows so we can show stunning visual images from bird life to the planets of our solar system.

Nature Gallery. When completed, this room will be our main showplace. We will have displays on river forests, riverbanks, migratory birds and a crawl through turtle

tank where kids can crawl under swimming turtles and see through clear tunnel walls. The Gallery will also feature a replica cottonwood tree for students to explore inside and out. We currently have several mounted specimens including Iowa's largest ever-recorded whitetail deer, live snakes, turtles and salamanders and a view of our 8,000 gallon aquarium.

8,000 Gallon Aquarium. Without a doubt, this huge freshwater river aquarium, complete with live Mississippi River fish, is the centerpiece for the entire building. It can be viewed from both the Nature Gallery and the Camp Store. The tank is 18 feet long, 10 feet wide and 7 feet tall. The tank is tranquil and the fish are beautiful to watch. The tank also serves as a teaching tool for Iowa Fish & Fishing, discussion of water quality issues and dove-tails in with our display in the adjacent Camp Store.

Camp Store. There is only one place you can see all of Iowa's State Record fish and that is our Camp Store. "Swimming" near the ceiling, students can marvel at the wide variety of fish life Iowa's rivers and lakes support. They also learn about which fish belong to which family, which habitats each fish prefers and how big they can actually get. See 35 different record fish replicas from a 107-pound paddlefish and 84-pound flathead catfish down to a bluegill bigger than a child's face!

Deck. The building has a huge deck on the south side of the building providing another neat venue for all types of talks. It has a great view 18 feet above the river along with outside seating in a defined space.

Handicapped Accessible. The entire building is accessible for wheelchairs and it makes it easier for people who have



Birds of Prey in the Nature Gallery



8,000 Gallon River Aquarium



State Record Fish Collection

walking disabilities to be an integral part of the fun.

Land Down Under Picnic Area. We often start our day out here with some orientation and organization. Under the raised building is also a perfect spot for classes to have lunch and lessons. The sheltered spot seats over 100 at picnic tables with the advantage of being outside. We also don't have to worry about spills too much since the lime floor soaks up any liquids and a few scattered chips is just no big deal.

Indoor Archery/Atlatl/Slingshot/Air Rifle Range: Another under the building use is a large concrete bunker that we use as a storm shelter. It does double duty as our indoor shooting range. Students can try out primitive hunting tools in a safe environment under close supervision. By the way, this pairs well with our new fire starting and shelter building survival activities. Again, the indoor setting works well as protection against the wind, sun or rain. We have all the equipment ready to use except for the air rifles which will be ready soon.

Blue Heron Eco Cruises. Our 26-passenger pontoon boat provides access to the beauty, wildlife and adventure of the Mississippi River. With low water levels this fall we can make a stop at "Mussel Beach" and walk the sand looking for animal tracks and signs as well as washed up shells. We can also wade the shallows feeling for live mussels with our toes! Another favorite stop is to search for cool rocks. The rounded river rocks come in many shapes, sizes and colors and are mixed up with river sand. Students learn about birds, turtles, fish, navigation, recreation uses and industry in our area of the river.

Other Popular Educational Tools. We have many activities and equipment we use in our program. Students have hands-on opportunities to learn to use and practice with the equipment. We have: 14 canoes, 10 kayaks, 2 paddleboats, 25 GPS units with a geocaching course, various team building apparatuses and challenges, 25 pond study nets, a nature trail and a disc golf course at nearby Follett Park (1/2 mile by bus).

The Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center is a great place to visit on a field trip. Our experienced Naturalist staff of four have a combined 70 years of experience teaching kids in the outdoors. The Education Program at Rock Creek is varied and limited only by the imagination. If you are looking

for activities not mentioned here, give us a call and we will try to accommodate your needs. The best dates for this fall, winter and spring are going to fill fast. Get the ball rolling with an email or phone call today! Field trips are free to local schools and we have a Bus Scholarship Program to make field trips more affordable for schools (*see back page*).

The Center also makes a great meeting site for teacher in-service and PTO meetings.



West Third of the Deck



28-Point Buck, Iowa's Largest Ever!



Indoor Archery Range



Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, Handicap Access Ramp, North View



Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, South View

Hello! From the New Interpretive Naturalist

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

I have been informed by my co-workers that until another naturalist is hired I will continue to be the “newbie,” so as of May 29th, 2012, I am the new Naturalist at Clinton County Conservation. I may be new to this area in Iowa, but I am not a stranger to this great state. I grew up on the backwaters of the Maquoketa river in Manchester, Iowa. Like most nature-loving people, I was the child that spent endless hours down at the creek, catching critters and coming home as muddy as possible. As I grew older, the time by the creek became less and less, but my interest in the outdoors continued because of my grandfather, Bill Bishop. He was always there to spark my interest about fishing, birds and the beauty of the outdoors.

I attended Iowa State University in hopes to become a veterinarian. I knew I loved animals and I thought that was the best route for me to take, but I quickly learned that there were better things out there. I took a class on interpretation of natural resources and fell in love with the idea of teaching about the outdoors. I declared my major Animal Ecology with an emphasis in Interpretation of Natural Resources.

I enjoyed the next three years studying ecology, the relationship between organisms and their environment. My classes included dendrology (trees), ornithology (birds), herpetology (reptiles and amphibians), fisheries and land management to mention a few. As part of my education, my professors encouraged me to gain as much professional and personal experiences as I could. I spent my summers interning at many places including Story County Conservation where I worked as a summer Naturalist in Ames, Blank Park Zoo where I led summer day camps for children of all ages in Des Moines, and the Forest Service where I worked as a Shipboard Interpreter on the Alaskan Marine Highway system in southeast Alaska.

Since graduation in 2002, I have continued my passion for the outdoors working seasonal jobs at several different interpretive centers. Trees For Tomorrow, a natural resource specialty school was where I spent most of my time. Working two summers and one nine-month position, I gained both classroom and field-based teaching skills. I worked with students from across Wisconsin and northern Illinois and gained knowledge of forestry, wildlife, water quality and soils as well as many new outdoor skills. I also gained experience at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells where I worked as an Environmental Educator and my first full-time job was for McHenry County Conservation District in northern Illinois. I was there five months when I got the call that there was a job opening at Trees For Tomorrow. I applied, was offered the position and back north I went. I spent the last seven years of my life living in the north woods of Wisconsin. I have been surrounded by trees and fresh water lakes. I enjoyed my time up there so much, the memories I have of cross country skiing in the thick hemlock forest and hiking and canoeing in Sylvania Wilderness Area will be with me forever.

I met my husband in Eagle River, Wisconsin and we now have a beautiful two-year-old daughter, Sylvie. As time passed my desire to return to Iowa became stronger and stronger. I wanted Sylvie to grow up closer to her cousins and I missed my family. We decided that we were ready for a change and I began the search for a job in Iowa.



Daughter, Sylvie with mom, Jill.

It took a year of searching for that perfect job. I was ecstatic to hear that I was given the opportunity to move back home and work for a county conservation board. I believe that educating the public about the natural world has positive outcomes and I am excited to be a part of that.

I am thoroughly enjoying country living. Because the move was so far, we decided to live at the residence of the Syracuse Wildlife Area until we establish ourselves in a community and decide where the best place is for us to live. I spend my evenings walking the path of the wildlife area with my daughter and dogs, discovering the wildflowers and birds along the way. We like to wade across the creek and skip rocks across the water. It really has been a nice transition.

The summer has been a busy one, filled with many new learning experiences. I have enjoyed the Blue Heron Pontoon Cruises considerably and I thoroughly enjoy working with the youth camps that we offer. I have also had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the area childcare centers, which has been a real joy. As the daylight becomes less and less, I am looking forward to my first field trip season with the Clinton County Conservation. As we are preparing our schedule for the next couple of months, the days are being filled with local school groups booking their field trip with our staff. I look forward to meeting the teachers that have been very supportive of our program and becoming familiar with the hundreds of students in our local area.

What I am most excited about is the opportunity to learn about a new area. As a naturalist, you are constantly learning about the area around you, Mother Nature is not an easy subject to learn, it is constantly evolving and when you put yourself in a new area, the world around is different. The wildlife, tree and plant species and the ecosystem of the Mississippi River we encounter in Eastern Iowa are all things that intrigue me and I want to experience it all. To become a student once more, studying the area around me, and then in turn, share that knowledge with the people who have been living here for a long time.

As we move forward, I feel that I have a lot to offer this organization. I have a lot of experience working with the public and am confident in my ability to learn the area along with the many things Clinton County has to offer. I hope to bring some new ideas to this well-established group and provide some fresh input on the programs that are currently being offered. I'm looking forward to utilizing the many parks and natural pieces of land Clinton County has and to provide opportunities for the public to explore these areas as well. I am happy to be establishing myself in such a great part of Iowa and to be given the opportunity to continue my growth as a Naturalist. I believe we are a connection between the people and the land, it is our job to keep that connection alive!

What We Do For You

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist



The Conservation EE 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 their classmates and our team is ready to serve.

We feel a separation of two years between similar presentations might serve your students best. Its your classroom however and we are very willing to aid you in whatever way you feel best. The presentations most often requested are found here amongst others and are as follows.

Pre-school ~ introduction to different groups of animals with a hands-on approach using live animals, models and artifacts.

- **Amphibians**
- **Turtles**
- **Snakes**
- **Mammals**
- **Birds**, we also narrow this down to include Turkeys, Owls, etc.
- **Tails!**, discover how tails help with an animals everyday life.



Kindergarten

- **First Scientists**, sorting living things, artifacts, man-made and stone items into living and non-living groups.
- **Life**, a look at the groups of living things using live specimens, models and artifacts.
- **Plants**, an investigation into things green and growing using live specimens, models and artifacts.
- **Animals**, a look at things that ingest for nourishment and energy using live specimens, models and artifacts.
- **The Water Cycle**, we'll demonstrate the states of matter, weather and how water moves through our world.

First Grade

- **Vertebrates/Invertebrates**, an exercise in classifying live animals and artifacts into these groups.
- **Reason for the Season**, a study of the Earth and its Sun using demonstrations, projected images and a live view of the sun.
- **Animal Defense**, study the defensive adaptations of animal physiology and behavior using live animals and artifacts.
- **Reuse/Reduce/Recycle**, the Enviro-cape will demonstrate how our world becomes polluted and what we can do to prevent/repair the damage.
- **Dirt Made My Lunch**, presenter eats what seems to be dirt but students realize or learn the soil is crackers and pudding. An imaginary hamburger is dissected and traced to the soil. Students create edible soil.



Second Grade

- **The Water Cycle**, we'll demonstrate the states of matter, weather and how water moves through our world.
- **Things Green & Growing**, a look into the plant kingdom demonstrating pollination, seed production and distribution, germination and development through seed dissection, art project and artifacts.
- **Growth and Metamorphosis**, we examine life cycles of

several groups of animals using live animals, replicas and animal artifacts.

- **Survival**, investigate habitat essentials and environments using live animals, artifacts and projected images.
- **Our Iowa**, revisit Iowa's past and what led it to become our nation's most changed landscape using maps, the Enviro-cape and live animals.

Third Grade

- **Geology Rocks**, an investigation into Earth's past and the rock cycle using demonstrations and our collection of rocks and minerals.
- **Fossils**, students are shown various fossil types using fossils, replicas and creating their own from plaster by making a mold from a real fossil.
- **Weather**, classrooms may check out our weather station, view projected images of clouds and storms and create their own wind gauge.
- **Natures Defenses**, study the defensive adaptations of animal physiology and behavior using live animals, projected images and artifacts.
- **Energy and the Sun**, discover how energy is created and reaches the Earth using projected images, the Stellarium program and by viewing the actual sun as a projected image.



Fourth Grade

- **The Water Cycle**, we'll demonstrate the states of matter, weather and how water moves through our world.
- **Endangered and Extinct**, using live animals and artifacts we describe the status of animals and our role as humans.
- **STARLAB & Stellarium**, using projected images students view our Earth, solar system and the universe.
- **Sound and Hearing in Nature**, students will visit the human ear and those of other animals using an enlarged model of the human ear, live animals and instruments.
- **Light and Sight in Nature**, students visit the human eye and those of other animals using an enlarged model of the human eye, live animals and a sight demonstration .

Fifth Grade

- **Geology Rocks**, an investigation into Earth's past and the rock cycle using demonstrations and our collection of rocks and minerals.
- **Fossils**, students are shown various fossil types using fossils, replicas and creating their own from plaster by making a mold from a real fossil.
- **Weather**, classrooms may check out our weather station, view projected images of clouds and storms and create their own wind gauge.
- **Natures Defenses**, study the defensive adaptations of animal physiology and behavior using live animals, projected images and artifacts.
- **Energy and the Sun**, discover how energy is created and reaches the Earth using projected images, the Stellarium program and by viewing the actual sun as a projected image.
- **First Nations**, hear the story of the first nations and settlers to live in Iowa and their connection to the land using maps, artifacts and projected images.



The Best of Both Worlds!

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

With a new building comes new opportunities. This school year we are proud to announce that our Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center will be open for field trips throughout the winter! With ample space both inside and out, we are encouraging teachers from across the area to utilize this amazing resource located in their own community, as much as possible.

Many people shy away from field trips during the cold months but winter can be a time where students and teachers need that extra boost of an off-site field trip and Rock Creek is the best place to do that. Equipped to hold up to 200 students, our community room is perfect for field trip days where you can have both indoor and outdoor activities. The room can be set up with tables or theater style to accommodate many of our programs as well as lunch time for a large group. The room also is equipped with a simple kitchenette with a refrigerator to store lunches and beverages if need be.



The theater room is available for break-out sessions, videos and PowerPoint presentations.

Sample Schedule:

9:00 AM Arrive. 9:15 Begin one hour rotations.
9:15 AM Rotation #1
10:15 AM Rotation #2
11:15 AM Sack Lunch in Community Room
11:45 AM Rotation #3
12:45 PM Rotation #4
1:45 PM Clean-up, Pack-up, Load Bus, 2 PM Depart

Lower Elementary Field Trip

Group 1 - Stories in the Snow

This is an indoor PowerPoint program that defines four tracking groups of wildlife. It discusses wildlife physical adaptations as well as winter adaptations.

Group 2 - Snowshoeing

Students will wear a pair of snowshoes to use throughout the park as they are searching for winter signs of wildlife. Students will need outdoor clothing including winter boots. A winter hike could be substituted if there is no snow.

Group 3 - Into Winter

In this indoor program, students will discuss how animals adapt to winter and how that relates to humans using animal pelts and artifacts.

Group 4 - Scent Tracking

This is an outdoor activity that allows students to learn about predator and prey relationships in the winter. Students will duplicate how a deer leave behind scents and coyotes use their sense of smell to "hunt" the deer. Students will need winter clothing including boots.

Upper Elementary and Beyond

Group 1 & 2 - Human Survival Skills

This is a two hour class divided into an indoor and outdoor portions. The students will learn about what a survival situation is and what it takes to survive. Concepts such as hypothermia, frost bite and basic needs of life are discussed. The students are then given a team challenge to build a fire and boil water in order to "survive!"

Group 3 - Cross Country Skiing

Students will learn the fundamentals of cross country



The large Community Room perfect for indoor activities and lunch.

In addition to the community room; the nature gallery, camp store area and the theater are available as well, allowing us to take a large group and divide them into smaller groups, making for a more hands-on environment. Similar to our already active fall and spring field trip season, having the capabilities to rotate groups through several activities works best with large groups. It is our goal to mix the indoor activities with the outdoor activities. This type of schedule will encourage students to spend some time outdoors in the winter, while providing physical education in short bursts.

Here are two examples of winter field trip schedules for two different age groups at Rock Creek. These schedules will accommodate approximately 80 students that would be split into four equal groups. They do a great job combining the indoor and outdoor elements all touching on different components of winter. All schedules are flexible with group size, time allotted, and choice of topics. Both use the same basic time schedule with different activities.

skiing while cruising through the park on their own skis. A winter hike could be substituted in the event there is no snow.

Group 4 - *Furbearers of Iowa*

Students will take a close look at the many mammals of Iowa during this indoor program.

In addition to the programs we already have in place, we encourage teachers to share their curriculum with us so we can better serve your classroom needs. We welcome any ideas that our teachers may have and we will try our best to incorporate those ideas into a field trip. If you have any questions regarding your options, contact us for further information. Here's to a wonderful winter season filled with field trips at the Center!



Calamus-Wheatland 5th Grade cross country skiing at Wapsi River Center

Continuing Education

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist



The Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and the Conservation Education staff here believe it is important to continue to learn. As you know, nothing is static. As informal educators, we are not regulated to brush up on our

skills or keep up on new and upcoming educational legislation. As an organization, IAN believes in educating the public on environmental stewardship through knowledge and awareness, therefore we feel it is important in keeping up to date. This last month I had the opportunity to go to a seminar on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and informal education. I jumped at the chance because I was interested in how we could help formal educators with their science curriculum. My expectations were that I would be brought up to speed with Iowa Core knowing it has to be implemented into the schools by 2014, instead we discussed the

NGSS which is currently under review and a draft will be released this

fall. With Iowa being a "lead state" of 26, it is a main player in development, reviewing and possibly implementing these new science standards! At the seminar we learned what the NGSS is, why it is important, the advantages, how to read the document and how to implement into informal education to continue to provide excellent and useful services to the schools by complimenting your curriculum. With the AEA focusing on literacy and math standards until full implementation of the Iowa Core in the 2013-2014 school year for K-8th grade, we would like to help with the science aspect. As naturalists, we tend to focus on science, but a lot of our programming bridges disciplines of physical education, music, social studies, math and literacy. If anyone would like to



discuss how we can help meet Iowa Core standards and if adopted, NGSS, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to serve.



Iowa Association of Naturalists Fall Workshop at Rock Creek

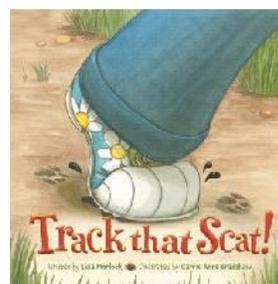
Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) Fall Workshop is being held at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center Wednesday, November 7th - Friday, November 9th.



Not just for naturalists, IAN workshops have valuable information for area educators and can be an essential networking tool for students wanting a career in natural resources (college scholarship available). Included in the workshop fee is membership to IAN. For full-time students, membership fee is \$10, for all others it is \$20. Members receive "The Web" newsletter, via email along with access to the listserve. New IAN members can be paired with a mentor who will help the new member become familiar with the organization as well as other opportunities (workshop scholarships).

Wednesday, November 7th is a pre-workshop day with a tour of interpretive sites of the Clinton area. From 5:30 - 7:30 PM (free dinner included) there will be an overview of the conservation education strategy to discuss better integration of conservation education into formal education at the Center.

Thursday, November 8th, is a full day from 9 AM - 4:30 PM and Friday, November 9th, 9AM - noon with general and concurrent sessions. The sessions range from experiences of a local birding expert to Alignment of Conservation Education to Core Curriculums, Blue Heron Eco Cruises, Soil Science, Author Lisa Morlock of Track that Scat! and E Literacy presented by Iowa Conservation Education Council.



As of right now, the registration form along with dates, times, description of topics, speakers and (nominal) fees are not finalized but if you are interested, please contact us or check the website, www.iowanaturalists.org, to find out more.

Teacher of the Semester ~ Camanche Elementary's Lisa Clarke

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist

Twice a year, the naturalists get together and nominate an area teacher with the honor of "Teacher of the Semester" from the Clinton County Conservation Foundation. With that title, a \$50 award to be used for Conservation Education in the classroom. We chose Lisa because of her commitment she has shown with the Conservation program. Lisa has attended three EdiWild's (a teacher's workshop we co-sponsor), sets up monthly (November - March) 3rd grade "Enviro Classes" and a new annual field trip to Rock Creek Marina & Campground and the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center including Eco Cruises for all the 3rd grade classes.

Lisa's first experience with Clinton County Conservation was through Clinton Community School Districts 21st Century after-school program. Naturalist, Chuck Jacobsen, would come to present, always being impressed with the quality of the programs. I first met Lisa when she participated in the summer teacher's workshop. We talked about all the different activities and field trip sites that Clinton County Conservation offers and she was really excited by all the possibilities. She could see that the Conservation Education staff could add real-life science experiences to her students education and from that brainstorming session, great things have grown!

We are happy to recognize Lisa Clarke as our "Teacher of the Semester" for Fall 2012. She started a great relationship between us and her school. She is always enthusiastic about new ideas that we come up with and really has been a conservation ambassador to other teachers in the Camanche School District and throughout the community.

Jessica-

What do I say?! What an honor! My first experience with Clinton County Conservation was through Clinton Community School District's 21st Century program. Chuck Jacobsen had an Enviro Club for the after-school program. I was SO impressed with the quality of the program. He showed up on-time, brought everything with him, and the program was free! In 2005, I accepted a 3rd grade position in Camanche and that summer I took an EdiWild Teacher's Workshop offered by Clinton and Scott County Conservations through AEA9. What an experience that was! I enjoyed this class so much that I took other EdiWild courses over the next two summers.

The programs that we choose for our 3rd graders link well with their science curriculum and support what they are learning. These lessons are also very hands-on and students really like this. Students so look forward to Enviro Club and are very excited when they see it on their schedule. Students really look forward to seeing the live animals that the naturalists bring. One of my classes talked me into holding a snake... I did it, but I don't think

I'll be doing that anytime soon! The 3rd grade students at Camanche have now experienced Enviro Class for 5 years. I can't believe it's been that long! As a team we choose which classroom programs we would like our students to experience and I set up those dates. Last year the 3rd graders took an end-of-the-year Eco Cruise on the Blue Heron Pontoon Boat and toured the new education center. They so enjoyed it that we've decided to make Rock Creek our field trip destination this year!

Jessica - I hope this is what you're looking for... I truly feel that your crew of naturalists is the best at providing a quality, informational and hands-on experience for our students! Providing some students with an experience that they would not be able to see or do...

Thanks again for all that you and the other naturalists do for us!

Lisa

Lisa Clarke

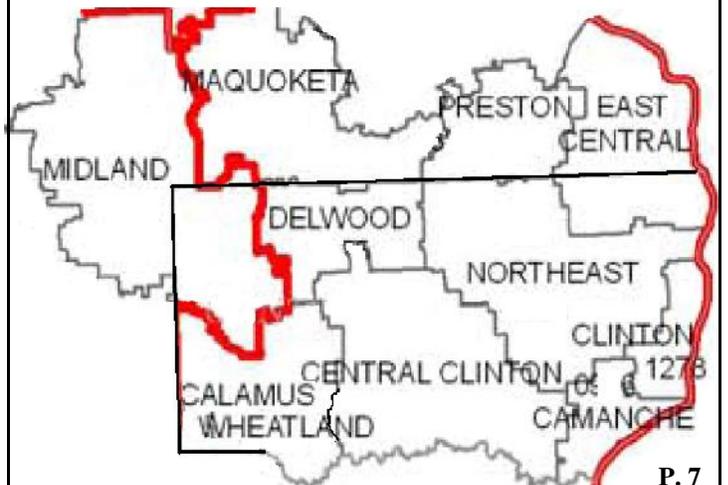
3rd Grade
Teacher

Camanche
Elementary
School



School Districts that are eligible for FREE field trips and Bus Scholarships to Clinton County Conservation Sites.

Midland, Maquoketa, Preston, East Central, Delwood, Northeast, Cal-Wheat, Central Clinton, Camanche and Clinton.



Field Trip Bus Scholarship Program

The Clinton County Conservation Foundation is committed to assisting schools in taking field trips to nature centers and parks of the Clinton County Conservation Board, resulting in a scholarship to help defray busing costs for Clinton County Schools. We hope that schools will help us stretch the money as far as possible by packing the buses full and taking as few buses as possible. School districts with significant coverage in Clinton County are eligible, including Calamus-Wheatland, Central, Northeast, Clinton, Delwood, Camanche, Midland, Maquoketa, Preston and East Central School Districts plus St. Joseph's, Prince of Peace and Unity Christian Parochial Schools. Keep in mind funds are limited and will be given out based on the order on which each request is received. Requests will receive scholarships until the fund is exhausted.



The Scholarship amount is \$2 per mile per bus, round trip with a minimum award of \$20 and a maximum award of \$100 per bus per field trip.

Field Trip Bus Scholarship Reimbursement Request Form

Date of field trip _____

School _____ Teacher(s) _____

Classes _____ Field trip destination _____ Number of buses _____ Number of students _____

Contact information (name, phone, email) _____

What percentage of busing costs for this trip is the scholarship covering? _____

Would this field trip have happened without the this scholarship assistance? _____

Make reimbursement check out to: _____ Attention: _____

Internal use only: Round trip miles, school to park _____ Scholarship award \$ _____ Date received _____

Mail form to: Clinton County Conservation Foundation, PO Box 68, Grand Mound, Iowa 52751

Monarchs In Your Classroom

Late summer and early fall is great time of year to learn about insects, migration, lifecycles and adaptations using monarch butterflies. Right now, these beautiful creatures are making their annual migration to Mexico. We recently received our "tags" to help the University of Kansas with their ongoing scientific studies of monarchs. This is how it works. Call to schedule, we then come to your class, usually with live monarchs in various lifecycle stages, give a short presentation, record specifics of the butterflies, tag, then release them outside with your students. It is truly a special event!



Set Up Your Field Trip Today!

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, Soaring Eagles Nature Center or the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center, please contact conservation education coordinator Mark Roberts or interpretive naturalists Chuck Jacobsen, Jessica Steines or Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202.

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



You can find out more about us on www.clintoncounty-ia.gov, www.mycountyparks.com and on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com).