



The Heron

*Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
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The Precedent Has Been Set

Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist



On June 7th, 2014, Clinton County Conservation hosted the first ever *Fishing Has No Boundaries* event at Rock Creek Marina & Campground. Holding our breath all spring for the flood waters to recede, the conditions could not have been much better. The water had gone down, the sun was out and the docks were in, ready for

the added boat traffic we were expecting for the day. The park was at its finest thanks to our rangers and seasonal employees and we were ready to host the approximate one hundred people who would be arriving for the event.

A precedent has been set for this event! *The Eastern Iowa Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries* was proud to host 30 anglers with disabilities for a day of fishing and fellowship. Anglers took to the water around 8 AM. In addition to the 13 boats and captains that took participants on the Mississippi River, we had several anglers who fished from shore near the Eco Center. Each participant was matched up with a buddy, one of the 50 plus volunteers who had come out for the event, for assistance, but more importantly to be able to share the joy of catching a fish with someone! After three hours of fishing, participants enjoyed a home-cooked meal amongst new friends and were given a participation medal for attending the event.



Although the fishing was not at its best, many new memories were made. Clinton County Conservation and the Eastern Iowa Chapter of FHNB plans to partner again next year for a second annual fishing event. This nation-wide, nonprofit organization provides an opportunity for persons with disabilities to enjoy a favorite pastime activity, fishing. Next year, we hope to increase the participation for the event as well as the number of captains willing to donate their time, boats and knowledge with our anglers. We want to thank all those who were involved, staff, volunteers, the chapter's board members, participants and captains; without you we could not have had such a successful event!



Meet the Intern

by Ashley Gillman, Intern Naturalist



My name is Ashley Gillman and I am Clinton County Conservation's Naturalist Intern for the summer.

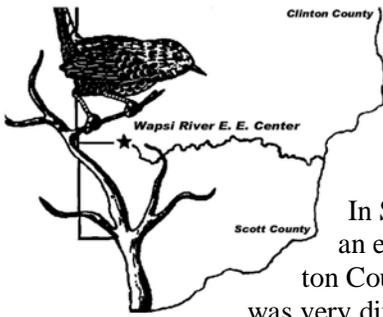
I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and moved to Rock Island, IL about eight years ago. I attended Black Hawk College, having received my Associates in Elementary Education and graduated from St. Ambrose University this May with a Bachelor's in Biology. During my last semester, I interned at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center. That experience really inspired me to work toward becoming a naturalist.

I have been working with Clinton County since May and will continue through mid-July. I have learned so much

since I started and am excited to have more new experiences and fine tune what I have learned. So far I have led groups of all ages in presentations like reptiles and amphibians, pond study, canoeing, hiking, nature games and GPS. I also have observed or helped with many more. I have been driving the Blue Heron pontoon boat, hosting cruises for various groups with some help from the other naturalists. With a little more practice I will be ready for my own Eco Cruise in July!

Working with the naturalists at Clinton County Conservation has really helped me to grow into the career and reinforced my hopes of becoming a naturalist. I have enjoyed every minute I have been working here and I will be sad to see it end.





End of an Era ~ Clinton CCB Leaves its Partnership at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center

by Mark Roberts, Environmental Education Coordinator

In September 1992, I started an exciting new job with Clinton County Conservation. The job was very different than what I was used to. One of the oddest twists I (and the Board) would have to get used to, was a new cooperative agreement between the Clinton and Scott County Conservation Boards at a fledgling park, formerly a scout camp. The 225-acre patch of land would become a park entirely devoted to conservation education, named the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center.

The Boy Scouts began acquiring the land in the 1920s and named the area Camp Minneyata, meaning “beside happy waters.” Fundraising to purchase from the scouts began in 1990. Even though the property was not fully paid for until 1995, we started with education anyway. The Quad City Conservation Alliance and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation finalized purchase of the property from the Illowa Boy Scouts and turned title over to Scott County in early ‘95. The agreement between the two CCBs helped convince many Clinton County groups, like the Clinton County Gaming Association and Clinton County Pheasants Forever, to assist in purchasing the property.

In those early days, I was the only naturalist for Clinton County, while Bob Bryant would fill that role for Scott County, along with serving as Director of the Wapsi Center. CCCB Executive Director, Al Griffiths, cautioned me about my role in the new Center. It was just a fact that Scott County is so much bigger than Clinton County that the sheer number of groups from the Quad Cities could monopolize all of my time. There was a real need to preserve the identity of Clinton CCB’s Conservation Education Program. The program had been in existence since the early 1970s and had a long history prior to the Wapsi Center.

With only two naturalists between the counties, the cooperative relationship was very beneficial in those early days. As the years progressed, both counties added staff as schools discovered us and the program blossomed.

The Clinton CCB program continued to grow over the years. Blue Heron Eco Cruises were started out of Rock Creek in 2002. The Board added an agreement with the Soaring Eagle Nature Society to perform educational

events and field trips at the Nature Barn in Clinton in 2003. Most recently, the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center opened two years ago.

Twenty-two years later, Clinton CCB employs 4 full-time naturalists and Scott CCB is ready to add a third full-time naturalist along with their seasonal naturalists. As time has gone on, the two programs needed each other less and less. Coupled with the exponential growth of the program at Rock Creek, the split became inevitable.

I am proud of the CCCB’s role in building a great program at the Wapsi Center. In addition, the hundreds of field trips and public events my staff and I have been a part of, our 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. The list goes on and on.

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, will continue to serve groups from the area in receiving quality conservation education services through the Wapsi River Center.

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

Come Turtle Tracking

Amazing things happen right in our “backyard” and most people are unaware. Now, you can be a part of an amazing opportunity of radio tracking the threatened ornate box turtle on Wednesday, August 20th (see calendar of events).

Within this last year, researchers gathered 23 eggs from the wild, took them to the Lincoln Park Zoo where 20 eggs hatched, cared for them over the winter, and just released back into the wild. Currently at Lost Mound (approx. 4000 ac.) there are only 25 ornates, with the goal to increase that to 100 by next year.



USFWS biologist, Jeramie Strickland with an ornate box turtle.

Critter Catching

by Ashley Gillman, Interpretive Naturalist Intern

Grab your nets and head to the water! Pond Study can be done in almost any fresh water system and you'd be surprised to find just how many different critters are living in our lakes, ponds, streams and rivers. Pond study is exciting for people of all ages and you never know what discovery might be made each time. Everything from eggs and insects to bullfrogs and turtles can be found in the water right off shore.

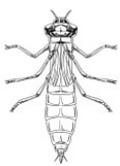


During a Spring field trip to Lake Malone, this boy landed a snapping turtle.

Each animal has different needs so depending on the season and the type of body of water you're studying, the outcome can be very different. Because of these different needs that must be met in the environment, the types of critters found in each body of water can tell you a lot about the health of that fresh water system too!

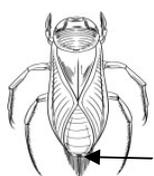
If an ecosystem is too altered it can have lasting effects on the ability of an aquatic animal to live in that location. Finding a wide variety of critters in a system often means that the system is meeting the needs of these animals and the environment is probably healthy. The diversity or variety of life is also important because they form the base of the food chain for many other animals. For example, insects are food for fish and fish are food for larger fish, reptiles, mammals, people and more. The overall health of an environment can be largely dependent on the animals found there and the different roles they play in their environment.

Some of the critters you can catch include:



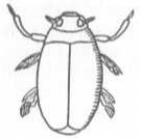
Dragonfly Nymph: This is a teenage dragonfly that lives in the water and breaths through gills. It has plugged pores along its sides and when it sheds its exoskeleton, they open so it can breath air.

Damselfly Nymph: Similar to the dragonfly nymph, the damsel fly also breathes through gills. The three tails are actually the gills. When it emerges from its exoskeleton, it has to wait for its wings to dry before flying.



Giant water bug: These can grow to be more than two inches long and are considered the largest true bugs. It can also eat insects and small aquatic animals three times larger than itself. Breathing is through the abdomen's tip.

Whirligig Beetle: This beetle moves in wild patterns across the surface of the water and will dive if disturbed. They prefer to swim but can also fly. When threatened they give off a smell similar to apple seeds.



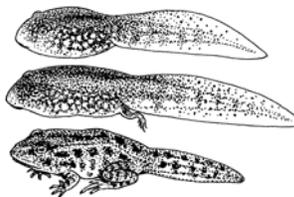
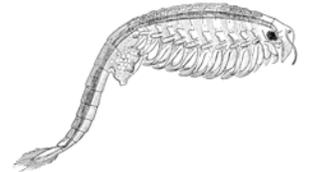
Water Scorpion: They use their long double tail as a snorkel. They stick the tip of the tail to the surface of the water and hang upside down so they can breath and hunt at the same time.

Sow bugs: Also called isopods, these arthropods have gills on their bellies. Their eyes are very sensitive to light so they are usually active at night. The dark also helps them avoid predators.



Caddisfly larva: These larva build intricate cases out of plant materials or stones. These cases offer protection and travel with them while they hunt. When they are about to change to an adult, they seal themselves inside the case.

Fairy Shrimp: These tiny crustaceans swim on their backs and their legs make wave-like movements. They do this to collect floating foods like algae and tiny animals. They are so transparent that their color typically reflects the color of the food available.



Tadpoles: These juvenile amphibians can grow up to be frogs, toads or salamanders. They breath through gills which they lose once their transformation into adults is complete.

Clinton County has many locations for pond study and each is a little different. Listed are just a few examples of what can be found in each location.

Rock Creek Marina & Campground:

In this river habitat you can often find snails, fairy shrimp, leeches, midge fly larva, sow bugs, scuds, crayfish, minnows, tadpoles, turtles and snakes.

Lake Malone:

At the pond you can often find whirligig beetles, dragonfly nymphs, snails, backswimmers, boatman, giant water bugs, and lots of toads and frogs.

Bear Creek at Eden Valley:

In Bear Creek's stream habitat you can find caddisfly larva, crane fly larva, stonefly larva, water striders, turtles, snakes and fish.

CCCB's Big Summer Fun! ~ Events Calendar

July

3rd ~ 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 ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Come tour the varied exhibits of this gem of a nature center. Native American, early settlement and natural artifacts fill the center and the live animal exhibits are always a hit with the youth. We have a new live honey bee hive display!

Rock Creek Fourth of July Weekend

- **4th ~ Free Canoes ~ 8AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~** Our canoes will be available free of charge to get you out on the water. Stop in the camp store and check out a canoe to enjoy a wet time on the river.
- **5th ~ Old Glory Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~** A naturalist-guided eco cruise aboard the Red, White & Blue Heron pontoon boat on the Mississippi River. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.
- **5th ~ USA! GPS Word Search ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Are you ready for a word search challenge? Learn the basics of using a GPS to search Rock Creek campground for your words that will solve a patriotic puzzle. Adults must accompany children under 12.
- **5th ~ Movie Night ~ 6 pm ~ Rock Creek ~** Join us in the theater room of the Eco Center for a family-friendly movie. Popcorn, candy and drinks will be available for purchase in the camp store.

10th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

10th ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Enjoy an evening of home-spun music beneath the waxing Moon aboard the Blue Heron Eco Cruise Boat. The cruise is free of charge. For reservations call 563-259-1876.



11th ~ Sun Catchers ~ 7:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ There are so many ways to enjoy the sun's rays. Grab a stick and come join us in making beautiful beaded sun catchers!

12th ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley

12th ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers and park visitors.

Rock Creek Wet & Wild Weekend

- **11th ~ Half Price Canoes ~ 4-6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Our canoes will be available for ½ price to get you out on the water. Stop in the camp store and check out a canoe to enjoy a wet time on the river.

Happy July 4th!



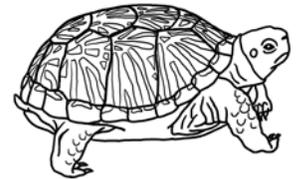
- **11th ~ Fish Boil(\$ ~ 4-7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Let us heat up our kitchen while you relax and enjoy your weekend. We will serve you a generous portion of fish, vegetables and all the fixings. Adults \$10, Children \$7.
- **12th ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** In honor *Wet & Wild Weekend*, we will stop by a sandbar for a bit of splashing and wading.
- **12th ~ Sparkling Waters Sun Catchers ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** There are so many ways to enjoy the sun's rays. Grab a stick and join us in making beautiful beaded sun catchers inspired by sunlight through water!
- **12th ~ Sprinkler ~ 3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Come beat the summer heat and kick off our *Wet & Wild Weekend* with a sprinkler and some old-fashioned fun.

14th ~ A Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Preschoolers and their parents can enjoy a free nature-related story followed by a craft or nature activity.

17th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

18th ~ Dinner(\$ ~ 4-7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Too tired to cook, let us make dinner for you. Dinner will be served in the camp store along the shores of the beautiful backwaters of the Mississippi. Call the camp store to find out our dinner special at 563-259-1876.

18th ~ Turtle Talk ~ 7:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Bring your camp chairs or blankets to meet some of Iowa's turtles! Check out the cool adaptations turtles have to help them survive in the wild!



19th ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

19th ~ Crafts ~ 9-10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join us in the camp store for a story and a make it and take it craft.

19th ~ Paddling Fun! ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join us for some canoe and kayak fun! Warm up with a few paddling pointers before you try your skills out with a slalom course, races and games. BEWARE, you will likely not leave dry!

19th ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley

19th ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come enjoy an afternoon of home-spun music at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. Area musicians are invited to bring their instruments and talents to blend as others gather to listen, sing along and sometimes dance.

19th ~ Hayrides ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.

22nd ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center ~ No dues! New members welcome!

24th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

26th ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley

Rock Creek Christmas in July Weekend

- **25th & 26th ~ Toy Drive ~ Rock Creek** ~ We want to pay it forward so we will be hosting a toy drive today. Bring in a new unwrapped toy and we will give you a coupon for 1 hr. free canoe rental. The gifts will be given to local families in need this Christmas. All gifts will stay local.
- **25th ~ 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.
- **25th ~ Christmas Eve Canoe Float ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Santa travels after dark, and so will we! We'll launch at 8:30 so come a few minutes early to register and choose your craft. While supplies last, we'll equip you with a boat, paddles, PFD's, whistle and a boat-light or bring your own flashlight and bug spray We will lead you through the darkness of the Mississippi backwaters on this Christmas Eve. Our equipment is limited and is first-come, first-served. Each canoeing child will receive a fun toy!
- **25th ~ 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 on Saturday night with prizes being awarded.
- **26th ~ Christmas Fun Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Each cruising child will receive a fun toy! Call 563-259-1876 to reserve your free seat.
- **26th ~ 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.



26th ~ Tubin' the Bear ~ 1-3 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Here's some fun for a hot, summer afternoon. Slip on a PFD and grab one of our recycled inner tubes for a fun splash down Bear Creek. A ¼ mile stretch of the creek will be designated and the end clearly marked. You will be required to wear a PFD so bring your own for greater comfort. When you've finished, simply return your PFD and tube or jump in again if there isn't anyone waiting.



26th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Starts at dusk (must be clear skies) in Sherman Park, park in the north parking lot. View the skies through a 20-inch telescope. Courtesy of the Quad City Astronomical Society, www.qcas.org

27th ~ Eagle's Club Catfish Tournament ~ 7 AM-1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ email: charles.davis7@mchsi.com

30th ~ Campfire Cooking Creations ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come and make a kid-friendly supper, complete

with main course and dessert.

31st ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

August

1st ~ Eco-day ~ 1-5 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The CCCB and the Soil & Water Conservation District are teaming up. The event will feature Conservation Station Semi Truck, Iowa Learning Farms; Iowa State University Insect Zoo; Rainfall Simulator, NRCS, Blue Heron Eco Cruises, CCCB; Aquatic Insect Catching, ISU; Free Canoeing & Kayaking, CCCB. If you have any questions please call Jeanne Rogis, SWCD at 563-249-3193.

1st ~ Tomahawks & Atlatls ~ 7:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ We will have our targets, throwing spears and tomahawks in the main campground for park goers.

1st ~ Dinner\$ ~ 4-7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Too tired to cook, let us make dinner for you. Dinner will be served in the camp store along the shores of the beautiful backwaters of the Mississippi. Call the camp store to find out our dinner special at 563-259-1876.

2nd ~ Crossroads Triathlon ~ 7:30 AM ~ Killdeer Recreation Area ~ Clinton County's only triathlon will be a great event! Participants will start with a 500-yard swim in Lake Killdeer, then bike 15 miles and then run 3.1 miles. Contact race organizers www.crossroadstriathlon.com

2nd ~ Free Canoes ~ 8 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Our canoes will be available free of charge to get you out on the water. Stop in the camp store and check out a canoe to enjoy a wet time on the river.

2nd ~ Clinton County Area EnviroKids ~ 10 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Grades 3-5 (younger children if accompanied by an adult). Hop aboard the Blue Heron Pontoon Boat at Rock Creek for a cruise and activities at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. One-time \$5 entry fee for EnviroKids. Sign-up with Judie Petersen, 563-357-6932.

2nd ~ Nuclear Fishing ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Jeremiah Haas, Fisheries Biologist with Exelon Corporation's Quad City Nuclear Power Generation Station, will make a fascinating presentation detailing the walleye, mussel and other species propagation and stocking program through the plant. Following the presentation, Jeremiah will demonstrate the electroshocking boat he uses to survey and collect brood stock fish on the river.

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

2nd ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers and park visitors.



3rd ~ Gateway Area Tour ~ 1 PM-5:30 PM ~ Sawmill Museum, Clinton ~ Discover our Mississippi River. Sign up at by email at director@thesawmillmuseum.org or 563-242-0343 or today to experience three Gateway attractions for FREE thanks to the Curtis-Armstrong Foundation. You will tour the following sites:

- *Fulton Windmill & Cultural Center*: Explore the windmill and discover the Dutch roots of Fulton
- *Blue Heron Eco Cruise*: Explore the Mississippi River and Lock & Dam #13. If possible we will lock through.
- *The Sawmill Museum*: The river provided the logs needed to make Clinton a lumber capital. Live vintage sawing will occur with each tour.

Meet at The Sawmill Museum at 2231 Grant Street Clinton, Iowa at 12:45pm. Parking is available in lots. You will be assigned a group number, and each group will go through all three sites. Each site visit will last 1 hour and 15 minutes. Transportation will be provided to bus guests from The Sawmill Museum to the Fulton Windmill .

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

7th ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Enjoy an evening of home-spun music beneath the waxing Moon aboard the Blue Heron Eco Cruise Boat. The cruise is free of charge. For reservations, call 563-259-1876.

8th ~ Creek Stomp'n! ~ 7:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Wear an old pair of shoes and let's explore Bear Creek! Nets, buckets and I.D. books will be provided as we catch some critters, look for fossils and check out the banks of this amazing creek. Be prepared to get wet!



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

Rock Creek Back-to-School Blues Weekend

One more Summer Celebration before it's back to school.

- **8th ~ 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.
- **8th ~ Half Price Canoes** ~ 4-6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Our canoes will be available for ½ price to get you on the water. Stop in the camp store to enjoy a wet time!
- **9th ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise** ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek
- **9th ~ Nature Scavenger Hunt** ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come discover the amazing things the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center has to offer by exploring in and around the building in an adventurous scavenger hunt! You will need your walking shoes as you venture out on your own searching for your clues and answers hidden in the center and throughout the campground!
- **9th ~ Hayrides** ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join us aboard a wagon for a leisurely ride around our park.

12th ~ A Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Preschoolers and their parents can enjoy a free nature-related story followed by a craft or nature activity.

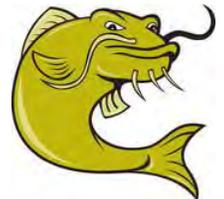
14th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

15th ~ Minnow Races ~ 7:30 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~ Meet at the shelter for some friendly competitive minnow races.

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

Rock Creek Catfish Classic Weekend

- **16th ~ Minnow Races ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Meet under the deck of the Eco Center to possibly catch, then race your own minnow. Don't worry, if you can not catch one, we will supply you with a racer.
- **15th ~ Dinner(\$)** ~ 4-7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Too tired to cook, let us make dinner for you. Dinner will be served in the camp store along the shores of the beautiful backwaters of the Mississippi. Call the camp store to find out our dinner special at 563-259-1876.
- **16th ~ Annual Rock Creek Catfish Classic ~ 7 AM-1 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ The Clinton County Conservation Foundation is hosting this tournament to raise funds to help finish the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center displays at Rock Creek. Costs are \$50/boat and \$10 for the Big Fish Pot. Prize money is to be determined by the number of entries with a minimum 70 percent payout guaranteed to the top 3 boats. There are door prizes for all contestants. Check-in will begin at 6 AM and weigh-in at 1 PM sharp. Up to a limit of 10 channel cats, at a 12" minimum length, will be weighed per entry. Sign-up and rules at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events.aspx
- **16th ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**
- **16th ~ Riverside Jam** ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come enjoy 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.
- **16th ~ Movie Night ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us in the theater room of the Eco Center for a family-friendly movie. Popcorn, candy and drinks will be available for purchase in the camp store.
- **17th ~ Bonnie's Scenic Fishing Tournament ~ 6 AM-12 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ email: seiler837@gmail.com



20th ~ Box Turtle Tracking ~ 8-10 AM ~ Thomson Prairie, IL ~ Jeramie Strickland, USFWS Biologist will be



there to show us how to use radio telemetry to track the imperiled ornate box turtles. Parking is limited so we need to carpool, please call 847-7202. We will meet at the Conservation's Headquarters, Grand Mound, 7 AM, Office Max, Clinton, at 7:30 AM and at Schafer's Fisheries Market, Fulton, IL at 7:55 AM.

21st ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

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

23rd ~ **Hayrack Rides ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley** ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.

Missi-pinicon River Cleanup Weekend

Where the *Mississippi and Wapsipinicon Rivers meet.*

- **22nd - 24th ~ 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. This is a family-oriented event that will cleanup the last 10 miles of the Wapsi and some of the Mississippi backwaters near Rock Creek. Catered meals are available and free camping provided. For more information go to www.lwrcp.org.
- **23rd ~ Great Mississippi River Cleanup ~ 9 AM - Noon ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join local folks in this motor-boat-based volunteer river cleanup. If you don't have a boat, hop aboard the Blue Heron or jump in one of our canoes. The Great Mississippi River Cleanup (GMRC) was initiated by Living Lands & Waters (LL&W) to inspire communities to host an annual cleanup event. After four very successful years cleaning up primarily the Upper Mississippi River, we have now expanded our cleanup efforts to the full length of the river! From the Minnesota Headwaters, to the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana, volunteers participate by cleaning up the Mighty Mississippi and taking action that produces results, not rhetoric! Sign up at www.livinglandsandwaters.org then hit the GRMC (Great Mississippi River Cleanup) icon.
- **23rd ~ Last Fish Boil(\$)** of the 2014 Season ~ 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.
- **23rd ~ Hayrides ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us aboard a wagon for a leisurely ride around our park. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

26th ~ **Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek**

28th ~ **Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

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

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

Rock Creek Labor Day Weekend

Mom & Dad work hard, they deserve some family fun!

- **29th ~ Dinner(\$)** ~ 4-7 PM ~ **Rock Creek** ~ Too tired to cook, let us make dinner for you. Dinner will be

served in the camp store along the shores of the beautiful backwaters of the Mississippi. Call the camp store to find out our dinner special at 563-259-1876.

- **29th ~ Free Canoes ~ 4-6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Our canoes will be available free of charge to get you out on the water. Stop in the camp store and check out a canoe to enjoy a wet time on the river.
- **30th ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot on the last Saturday morning cruise of the year.
- **30th ~ Crafts ~ 9-10 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us in the camp store for a story and a make it & take it craft.
- **30th ~ Mississippi Mussel Cruise ~ 12:30 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Come try your skill at polly-wogging the shallows of the mighty river. Freshwater mussels are fascinating creatures and hunting them is pretty cool business on a hot summer day. Call 563-259-1876.
- **31st ~ Hayrides ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us aboard a wagon for a leisurely ride around our park. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



29th ~ **Marshmallows & Music ~ 8 PM ~ Eden Valley** ~ Come enjoy an evening of home spun music by the fireside at the stone ring in front of the nature center. Area musicians and vocalists are invited to bring their instruments and talents to blend as others gather to munch a marshmallow, listen, sing along and sometimes dance.

September Sneak Peek

4th ~ **Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek**

4th ~ **Moonlight & Music ~ 7:30 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Enjoy an evening of home spun music beneath the waxing Moon aboard the Blue Heron Eco-cruise Boat. The cruise is free of charge. Make reservations, call 563-259-1876.

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

11th ~ **Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek**

13th ~ **Youth Outdoor Skills Day ~ 9 AM - 2:30 PM ~ Clinton Izaak Walton League** ~ Looking for a way to open your child's eyes to a life of adventure in the great outdoors and gain experience with a variety of outdoor skills? We have just the thing! Clinton County kids, ages 11-17, will learn about safety and skills at various stations staffed by various Conservation Organizations such as *Whitetails Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Harvester Bass Club, Wild Turkey Federation, Clinton Ike's and Clinton County Conservation*. All stations will involve hands-on activities designed to give kids practical experience while keeping safety at the forefront. Parents and younger siblings are encouraged to attend. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Each participant will be charged a non-refundable \$10 fee and receive a T-shirt. Call 563-242-6939 to sign-up.

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

Clinton County Conservation
P.O. Box 68
Grand Mound, Iowa 52751
Phone: 563-847-7202
Email: conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov
www.clintoncounty-ia.gov
www.mycountyparks.com

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*2013 Clinton Community Attraction
 Blue Heron Eco Cruises*



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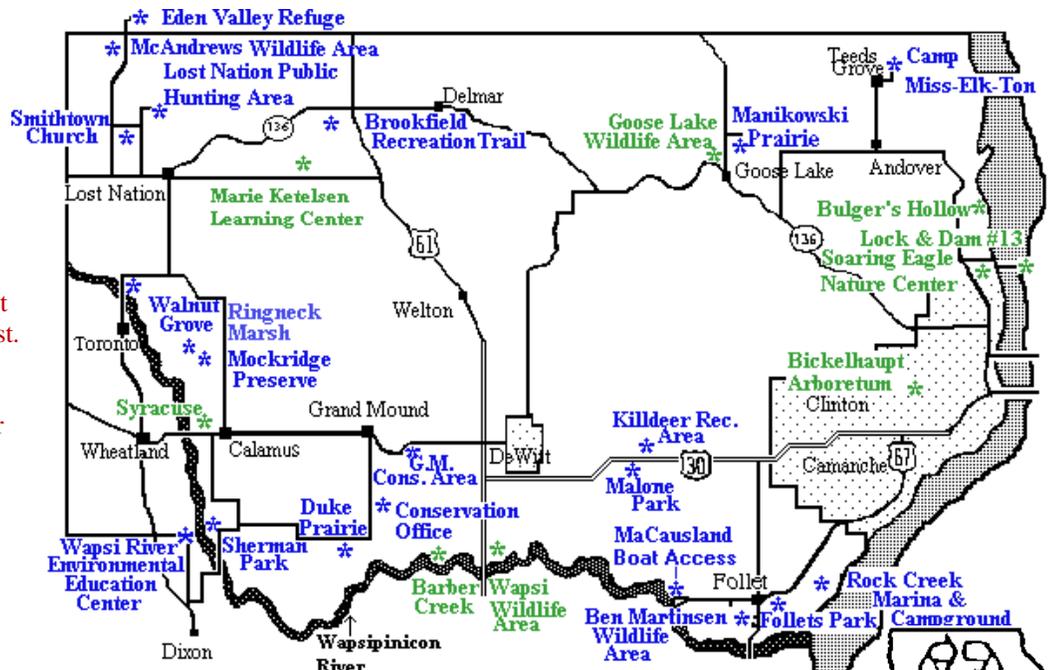
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 Dave Schneden, Maintenance, West Dist.
 Brad Taylor, Park Officer, East District
 Ryan Waltz, Park Ranger, East District
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 Darin Voss, Natural Resource Tech
 Robert Schaefer, Maintenance, Central

MAILING LIST

Clinton County addresses are 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.

