



The Heron

*Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
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2013 Radish Award Recipient

First-hand Learning: CCCB educates, entertains and fosters exploration

by Jean Eggemeyer, excerpt from Jan. 2013 edition of Radish Magazine. Read entire article at radishmagazine.com

On scores of warm days last year, groups of school children excitedly boarded the Blue Heron pontoon boat docked on the backwaters of the Mississippi River at the Rock Creek Marina just south of Camanche, Iowa. The boat, operated by the Clinton County Conservation Board (CCCB), headed out for more than 160 cruises in 2012 to provide passengers a unique, up-close look at the natural and man-made river environment.

"It's really a wonderful, engaging program for kids," says Kristi Lueders, second-grade teacher at Whittier Elementary School in Clinton who takes her classes on a five-hour Blue Heron trip each spring. "Even though our town is right on the river, many of the kids have never been on it."

Piloted by naturalist guides, the Blue Heron explores the Mississippi and its backwaters, sloughs and banks from May into late fall. In many cases the excursions are free of charge. In operation since the fall of 2002, the CCCB's eco-cruises serve hundreds of school children, as well as outdoor groups, tourists and the general public. The boat holds up to 26 passengers at a time.

"We encourage people to get into close study of the wildlife we encounter," says Chuck Jacobsen, interpretive naturalist with the CCCB, a department of Clinton County, Iowa, government.

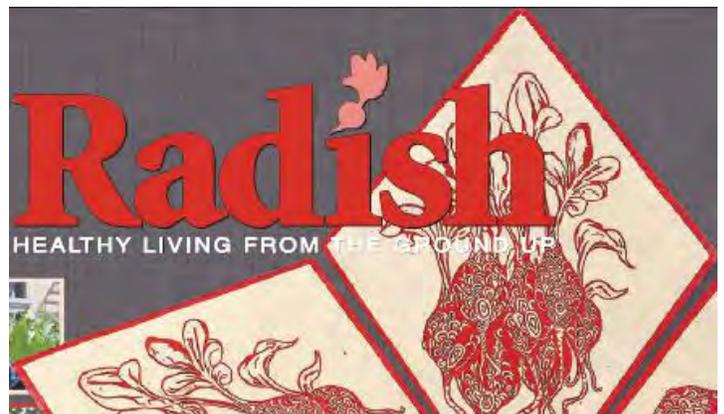
Depending on the season, passengers will see bald eagles, peregrine falcons, osprey, reptiles, turtles, fish, plants and other wonders of the river. The boat lands on some tours to allow riders to hunt for rocks and shells and search for animal tracks.

"It's interesting how the tour really fits in with our curriculum," adds Lueders. "The things we see and experience tie directly in with our social studies and science lessons and objectives."

For more than six years the Clinton County Conservation Foundation, partner to the CCCB, has been raising funds for an environmental education center, securing hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants and donations from more than 160 businesses and individuals. As a result, visitors can now enjoy an impressive new addition to the CCCB's resources before or after boarding the Blue Heron: the Mis-

issippi River Eco Tourism Center, located near the Blue Heron dock.

Developed by a small group of staff and board members with a vision for a premier ecotourism destination, the center opened in April of 2012. "There are times that I find it hard to believe that we were able to accomplish such a monumental task," says Walt Wickham, CCCB executive director. "But we have a great board, a great foundation, fantastic staff and some terrific volunteers who all made it possible."



The 8,400-square-foot, fully-handicapped-accessible facility is designed to encourage learning about the biological diversity in and around the Mississippi River. The structure includes an 8,000-gallon aquarium filled with fish species found in the river; a 30-person classroom/theater; a large community room available for public use; and a huge deck that overlooks the river 18 feet below.

"We've had a phenomenal, positive response from the public since opening," says Mark Roberts, CCCB environmental education coordinator. More than 150,000 people visited the center and the Rock Creek Marina and Campground complex in 2012, and that number is expected to rise as word spreads.

"One benefit of the center is that it provides a large, indoor venue to host school groups," explains Jacobsen. "That way, weather doesn't get in the way of continuing to educate and entertain our visitors." First-hand learning is what we do best," sums up Roberts.

March 9th Wildlife Photography Workshop: A Sharing

by Brian Tugana, Photographer and Workshop Coordinator

On March 9th, at the new Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek Marina and Campground, a Wildlife Photography workshop will be held 11AM-3PM.

The workshop is entitled ~ *Wildlife Photography: A Sharing*. A diverse group of seven presenters with a range of knowledge have been recruited to share information and experience. This event is intended to provide useful tips to a broad range of photographers ranging from beginners to advanced.

The workshop is free, however, for the sake of planning for support materials, please call Clinton County Conservation at 563-847-7202 to ensure that handout material will be available for you.

Speakers

1. “The Grass Isn’t Always Greener”

Julie Malake can teach us all that we don’t have to travel to the four corners of the earth to capture some outstanding photographs. She has made a detailed photographic study of a gem in our midst—the Nahant Marsh. Her work has resulted in a photographic book on the topic. Julie is a model for all, demonstrating that a rich array of subjects to photograph abound in this region.



Large photos from this 2012 Valley Bank calendar will be displayed at the workshop.

2. “From Good to Great”

Stan Bousson has over a lifetime of taking pictures gained recognition as one of the deans of wildlife photography in the Midwest. Stan will share tips and suggestions that his years of work have brought. Stan has achieved the unique and admirable experience of having images published in National Geographic. Focused persistence can lead to excellence.

3. “Lessons from the Birdman of Augustana”

Steve Hager is a Professor of Biology at Augustana College. He has done extensive research on bird behavior and has published extensively on the topic. Steve will share information about bird behavior that can be useful when we hit the field intending to get some great bird shots. Learning about your photographic prey can pay dividends.

4. “Composition-a Stepping-Stone to Quality Photos”

Robyn Smith has a Master in Fine Arts from the University of Iowa. She is an artist, painter and teacher with extensive experience, mainly on the college level. Robyn is an Instructor of Fine Arts at Clinton Community College. She will illustrate how knowledge of the critical elements of composition can lead to more

exceptional pictures no matter what the subject.

5. “Wildlife-Up Close and Personal”

Paul Riewerts is a highly accomplished photographer with contest success and gallery showings under his belt. He had two wonderful macro photos in the 2012 Valley Bank calendar. Paul will talk about the tools and techniques required to take photos of the wildlife that is often ignored and is readily found within arm’s length.



6. “Here Comes The Judge”

Bill Delp has been a professional photographer since 1978. In addition to operating a very successful studio, Bill has developed a great reputation as judge of photography contests dating back twenty years. He regularly judges wildlife photography contests for the Fish and Wildlife Service. He will talk about things that a judge looks for in contest photos. We can all grow through the competitive challenge of contest participation. Bill will help us to put our best foot forward in future.

7. “Wildlife Photography—Fields of Opportunity”

Brian Tugana has been successful in the wildlife contest setting. His pictures are found in commercial settings in the region and in private residences throughout the country. He is the founder and editor of the Valley Bank Calendar Project. He will share tips he has garnered and will talk about the interesting paths that wildlife photography have opened up for him.



Quad Cities Times’ photo of Brian Tugana

Tentative Schedule

11AM - 12:15 PM ~ Speakers 1-3

12:15 PM - 1 PM ~ Lunch

(available for purchase at store)

1 PM - 3 PM ~ Speakers 4-7



Clinton County Conservation and Friends of Rock Creek would like to thank all of the speakers for their time and expertise. Especially for Brian Tugana for his coordination of the event and Valley Bank’s sponsorship.

A Familiar Flight

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

Over the last few months, I have been enjoying my time reconnecting with Iowa's wildlife. As I work more and more with the public, I hear stories of animals that are commonly found and others maybe more scarce. When given the opportunity to spot any of the abundant animals that roam Iowa's land I am excited to share my encounters with co-workers, students and anyone who will listen.

Being an animal lover, I am privileged to live on the boundary of Syracuse Wildlife Area and travel the black top to and from Wheatland on a daily basis. This course has provided me with ample wildlife viewing opportunities. One animal in particular I find myself skimming the landscape for on a daily basis, is the ring-necked pheasant. One day I saw twenty-two pheasants just outside of Wheatland. I couldn't believe it! I pulled over to show my two-year-old these beautiful birds. At first she thought it was a chicken, but soon caught on to the name pheasant.

I have heard from many that the pheasant population has been decreasing for several years. There are many things that contribute to a population decreasing. For one, the harsh winters and wet springs have played their role on the numbers making it difficult for hens to enter mating season healthy and for chicks to survive the cool, damp springs. Another contribution to a decreasing population is habitat loss. Where I have spotted pheasants has always been where there is tall grass habitat close by. They not only provide protection from predators, but from the cold elements of winter.

Although not native to Iowa, I have always thought the pheasant was a great symbol of this state. To me, it combines many government natural resource agencies and represents nature's "complete circle" of how one thing can



affect another. Pheasant populations depend on so many things, weather (obviously out of our control), land management, education and hunting management. When all of these things work together, you get a growing population.

The other night I pulled out of our office south of Grand Mound and spotted eight pheasants flying from our tall grass plot over the road to the field just south. Once again I was given the opportunity to sit and watch these amazing birds forage for food. I found it difficult to spot the well camouflaged hens as they scurried around but enjoyed viewing the brilliant colors of the roosters. This winter, for the most part, has been mild, providing the population with some much needed time to recuperate and for that I am thankful.

Many people strongly believe the population is on its way up and others believe it is still struggling and it may be. What I do know is that when given the chance to spot a pheasant I take it in as long as I can. Because, to me, this bird tells a story of Iowa's natural resources, the past, the present, and hopefully, the future.

Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center



Winter Hours

Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun
8 AM-4 PM

- *Camping and Cabin Rentals
- *X-country ski, snowshoe, ice skates, weather permitting
- *Banquet Hall/Meeting Rental
- *Hot Food
- *Cold Soft Drinks
- *Fishing bait

Reservations can be
made online at
mycountyparks.com

Rock Creek
Marina and Campground
563-259-1876

Conservation Tidbits

Sherman Park Showerhouse. The new showerhouse and modern restroom at Sherman's campground will be finished and open by the start of the camping season.

Hudson Alfred Schmidt. Congratulations to Clinton County Conservation Naturalist, Jill Schmidt, her husband, Jeff and big sister Sylvie, on the birth of their baby boy! Hudson was born 10:39 am Wednesday, February, 6th.

Arbor Day. April 26th, did you know that Arbor Day is the only federal holiday that looks to the future? Planting a tree shows faith in that future!

360° Mural Nears Completion. Artist Susan Holgersson is almost done. Check out the great job she is doing at the Eco Tourism Center.

Wetlands & Turtle Display. Work begins on new wetland/turtle display at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. The Nature Gallery is starting to transform!

Events Calendar ~ Free Family Fun in the Outdoors!

March

Cross-country Skiing and Snowshoeing ~ As weather conditions allow, check the local media for cross-country skiing and snowshoe outings throughout the winter. For those with e-mail addresses, write [cjacobson@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov) and place yourself on our **new** "Adventurers" list. Adventurers will receive a short message whenever last-minute snow events are planned.

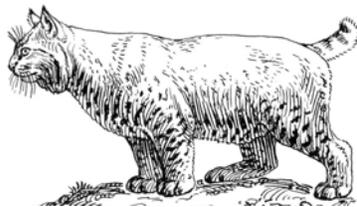


2nd ~ Hunter Education Class ~ 9 AM-1 PM ~ Scott County Park (Old Nature Center) ~ Scott County Park Rangers will be teaching a Hunter Education Online Field Day at the old nature center. Participants must be at least 16 years old and have completed the online hunter safety training at www.hunter-ed.com/Iowa; participants must bring voucher to class. Participants will need to bring a sack lunch. Please call 563-328-3282 to register.

2nd ~ Camanche Ducks Unlimited Dinner ~ 5 PM ~ Imperial Lanes, Camanche ~ Single \$40, Couple \$60, Youth \$20. Contact Chris Marsh 563-321-1670 for tickets.

2nd ~ Maple Syruping Demonstration ~ 1 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Join Tom Greene as he discusses the history and procedure of tapping trees for syrup. Call 563-328-3286.

6th ~ Pouncing Bobcats ~ 2 PM ~ Children's Discovery Center, Clinton ~ This is a hands-on presentation, for K-3rd graders and is all about bobcats.



7th ~ Music in the Loft ~ 7 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music. Participants with musical talents are invited to bring their instruments along for this "coffee house" style jam. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are welcomed.

8th ~ Pouncing Bobcats ~ 10 AM ~ Children's Discovery Center, Clinton ~ This is a hands-on presentation, for kids aged 3-5 and is all about bobcats.

9th ~ Wildlife Photography Workshop ~ 11 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Read the article on page 2 *Wildlife Photography: A Sharing* for more information.



9th ~ Wild Turkey Federation Banquet ~ 6 PM ~ Millennium Ballroom, Goose Lake ~ Help raise funds for turkey habitat and public hunting. Call Mike House at 563-357-9251 for tickets.

10th ~ Youth Hunter Education Challenge - Open Try-outs ~ 1 PM ~ Wapsi Valley Izaak Walton League, DeWitt ~ Y.H.E.C. is a weekend-long event that takes place each June. The event is held at Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola. Youth compete in 8 events, learn about the outdoors and have fun with other young people that have similar interests. The events include four shooting events (archery, muzzleloader, shotgun and small-bore rifle) and four non-shooting events (wildlife id, orienteering, hunter safety trail and a written exam). Clinton County youth compete in teams of five. There are two age categories, Junior (ages 12-14) and Senior (ages 15-18). Limited spots are available and youth must be able to make most of the practices. YHEC practice schedule at the Wapsi Ikes on Sundays, 1-4 PM: March 10th & 24th, April 7th & 21st, May 5th & 19th and June 2nd with competition on June 7th-9th.

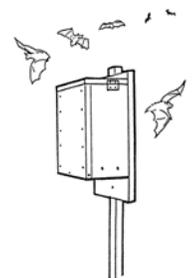


11th ~ Furbearers of Iowa ~ 5 PM ~ Calamus Public Library ~ Furs, skins & skulls!

16th ~ First Annual Veterans and Active Duty Military Pheasant Hunt ~ 8 AM-4 PM ~ Beckridge Hunting Preserve, Sabula, Iowa ~ See page 7 for details.

16th ~ Pancake Breakfast ~ 8-11 AM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Be the guest of the Eagle Point Nature Society for this annual event. A free-will donation will get you all the fresh pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs you like. The center hosts school children from Iowa and Illinois as well as offering family oriented family events, nature trails and a nationally recognized dog park. All of this is made possible through your tax deductible donations. A maple syruping demonstration will be on-going throughout the morning.

16th ~ Bird & Bat Box Building ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Order your kit today and we'll set you on your way to assembling it with all the assistance, plans and hardware you'll need to finish it. We'll even help with tips on placing the box and creating a friendly habitat for your yard. Call 563-847-7202 by *March 8th* and choose from songbird (\$5), wood duck (\$20), falcon (\$20), owl (\$20), small or large bat box (\$10-\$20) designs.



16th ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center ~ This "coffee house" style music event offers local talents and center guests an opportunity to gather together for a variety of music in a casual setting. Step up and lead or just play or sing along. Sit and listen or get up and dance. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are always welcomed.

23rd ~ Spring Pheasant Festival ~ 5 PM ~ Wheatland Community Center ~ The Clinton County Chapter of Pheasants Forever is planning a night of fun & fund-raising. They will have games, door prizes, auction and a pork dinner. Tickets are \$10. People need not be members to attend. Call Brad Taylor 563-357-0465 for tickets.

26th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center ~ New members welcome!

30th ~ Kite Flying 101 ~ 10 AM ~ Wapsi Center ~ "Up, up and away!" Nothing can make your spirits soar like building and flying your very own kite. Using sticks, string, paper and glue, create a traditional diamond bow kite. After construction, participants will go outside for a test flight. Pre-register by March 22nd, 563-328-3286. \$1 per kite.



Friends of Rock Creek

April

2nd ~ Woodcocks & Whippoorwills ~ 7:30 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ Some of the most memorable and anxiously awaited sights and sounds of spring are those demonstrated by these seldom heard and seen birds. Once you've witnessed their antics your spring wont be complete without them. You can sit by a warm fire after a short presentation and watch the woodcock sky dance while listening whippoorwill calls. Or get up on your feet and attempt a close encounter of the wild kind. The terrain can be rough but the rewards are entertaining.

4th ~ Music in the Loft ~ 7 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ See description from March 7th.

6th ~ Whitetail Workshop ~ 10:30 AM-3:30 PM ~ Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, Rock Creek ~

Antler Show & Antler Scoring: Bring in antlers and mounts for scoring and display, smaller racks scored by unofficial scorers, larger racks score by officials.



Trail Cam Photo Contest: Print off (5"x7" at least) your best trail cam photo in a for-fun contest. Three categories: Antlered Deer, Antlerless Deer and Other Wildlife.

Local Taxidermists, Great Food, Much More!

Seminars in Community Room:

~ 11 AM ~ "Whitetail: Treasure, Trophy or Trouble? A History Deer in Iowa" Larry Stone, Author, Photographer & former Outdoor Writer for Des Moines Register
~ 1 PM ~ "State of the Herd Address" Tom Litchfield, Iowa DNR Chief Deer Biologist
~ 2 PM ~ "Special Deer Hunts for Youth & Physically Challenged Hunters at the Lost Mound Unit, Savanna IL." Alan Anderson, Lost Mound Site Manager & Ed Britton, Savanna District Manager

16th & 20th ~ Hunter Education Course ~ 7-9:30 PM (Tue.) & 8 AM -4 PM (Sat.) ~ Wapsi Valley Ikes, DeWitt ~ Visit www.iowadnr.gov/training for required sign-up.



18th ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 7 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ New members welcome!

20th ~ Choose to Care ~ 9 AM-Noon ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Care-givers help with a variety of projects both indoors and out. There is something to meet everyone's talents and abilities. Come and join in the fun and community spirit. Give us a call so we know to expect you and can set you on your way to something fulfilling. Call Chuck at 563-847-7202.

20th ~ Sprouting Greens ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Calling all little green thumbs! Earth Day is around the corner, join Naturalist Jill Schmidt as you learn fun ways to "go green" and create your own mini-gardens! Participants will plant their own seeds to take home! This event is designed for children 6 years + and is free. Participation is limited, please call 563-847-7202 to register today!



20th ~ Spring Refuge Float ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We'll paddle the gentle backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife & Fish Refuge. Meet at the paddle craft racks near the Mississippi River Eco-tourism Center and sign in for an easy afternoon of family fun on the water. There is no fee for this beginner level event but you must pre-register by calling 563-847-7202 before Friday, April 19th.

20th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Opener ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ The Nature Center will be open from 1-4 PM on Saturdays, now through October. Take a short naturalist guided wildflower hike at 1:30 to explore the spring colors. As always, we are looking for volunteers to open the Nature Center on Saturdays. No experience is necessary. Call 563-847-7202 for information.



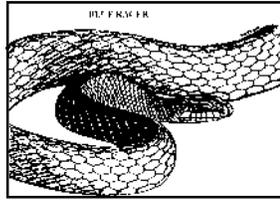
20th ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center ~ See description from March 16th.

22nd ~ Earth Day Celebration ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ To kick off the event, we will have a Seedling Swap where you can bring volunteer seedlings from an unwanted place and see if it can find a new home with someone else. Next there will be a fun Dirty Sock Contest for car exhaust. Prizes will be given to the dirtiest and cleanest car exhaust. Last but not least there will a garbage/landmark Scavenger Hunt to help clean up the park while exploring.



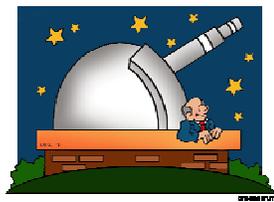
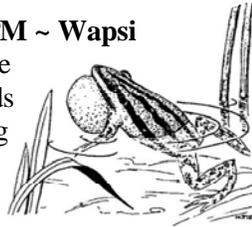
23rd ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center ~ New members welcome!

27th ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ The Nature Center will be open by volunteer hosts. The center features live local reptiles, rocks & minerals, Iowa habitats & artifacts.



27th ~ Spring Work Day ~ 9 AM-Noon ~ Wapsi Center ~ Join the Friends of the Wapsi Center for some spring cleaning and tidying. There will be jobs to suit all ability levels. Enjoy light snacks and refreshments compliments of the Friends of the Wapsi Center. Please call to register your family, 563-328-3286.

27th ~ Moonlight Frog Chorus ~ 7 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Experience the sounds of the season, in search of the frogs and toads which inhabit the Wapsi Center. Bring a flashlight & waterproof footwear. Call to register, 563-328-3286.



27th ~ Public Open House, Jens-Wendt Observatory ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north entrance to explore the night sky. Clear skies required, check www.qcas.org.

Save the Date

May 2nd ~ Blue Heron Eco Cruises Begin ~ Weekly Sunset Cruises start Thursday, May 2nd. Weekly Early-bird Cruises start Saturday, June 1st. Call 563-259-1876.



June 4th-6th & 11th-13th ~ 3-day Summer Camp ~ Sign up for these wildly popular summer camps for kids ages 6-9 at www.mycountyparks.com/county/Clinton/Events.aspx Keyword: Youth Camps.

June 21st-23rd ~ Hunter Safety Camp ~ Wapsi Center ~ For youth under 16. The best and most complete hunter education experience in our area! To register now, please call 563-847-7202.



June 24th-27th ~ "Ghosts of the Prairie" EdiWild Teachers Workshop ~ Call the Wapsi Center at 563-328-3286 for information and registration.

July 9th-11th & 16th-18th ~ 3-day Summer Camp ~ Sign up for these wildly popular summer camps for kids ages 9-12 at www.mycountyparks.com/county/Clinton/Events.aspx Keyword: Youth Camps

July 23rd-25th ~ 3-day Middle School Camp ~ Sign up at www.mycountyparks.com/county/Clinton/Events.aspx

New Invasive Species Appearing in Iowa

by Brad Freidhof, Naturalist, Johnson County Conservation, with permission.

A new invasive species, the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), will be joining the hoards of boxelder bugs and multicolored Asian lady beetles that collect on our homes and outbuildings each fall.

This new invader is approximately 5/8 inch long. It is aptly named for the color pattern (marmorated, meaning marble-like or speckled) on its shield-like back, and for how it smells if it's threatened or squished. Similar to other invasive species, the BMSB originated from Asia and will have negative impacts on environments across the United States as the population ranges expand.

The BMSB was first detected in the United States in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in September 1998. It is suspected that this invader was introduced to the U.S. in a packing crate or packing material. The emerald ash borer, another recent invasive species, is thought to have entered the in a similar fashion. Once these insects are introduced, the lack of predators and the expansive new range allows the populations to expand quickly.

The BMSB was found in Cedar Rapids in 2010 and has since been located in Scott and Johnson Counties. The spread of these populations is of great concern to corn and soybean producers, as well as orchard owners, who could

see millions of dollars in crop damage from these insects. Along with crop damage these insects could incur, they will also be a nuisance to all homeowners. In the fall, as the weather begins to cool, these insects move toward overwintering sites. Typically BMSB tend to congregate on homes and buildings seeking cracks and crevasses to call home.



The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is poised to become a tremendous pest for farmers and gardeners, within the next few years, as their population grows.

Specialists from Iowa State University, along with Iowa and U.S. Departments of Agriculture are tracking the presence of this invasive insect in the state. Please be on the lookout and report any suspicious stink bugs to the Iowa State University Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinic at <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/pidc/>. Reports can also be made by emailing digital images to insects@iastate.edu.

At Times We Shine

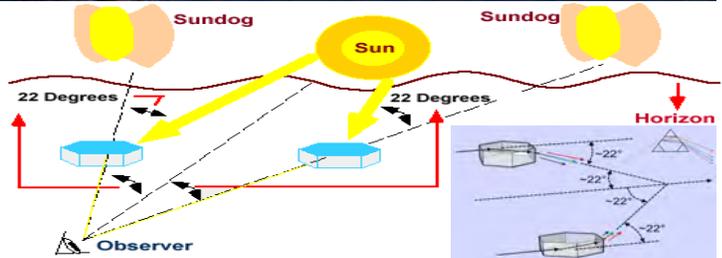
by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist

I'm certain we all hit the doldrums from time to time. We face troubles of personal, financial, social and political natures. Our lives are sometimes disappointing, falling far short of our dreams. I myself can scarcely stand to drive down the road without feeling our landscape is beyond repair. But then there are mornings when I'm heading for a day among our youth, our hope, that the weight lifts some.

It was on just such a day that the forces of nature also provided me some spiritual up-lifting. The sun rose into the sky and offered me a rare display of celestial beauty. That big orange ball I was accustomed to seeing instead grew out of the southeastern horizon as a brilliant diamond framed on either side by sun dogs, which grew longer as the light became stronger.

I was presenting to first graders about the Sun that morning and had already been thinking of how to work the fact that the wood I had placed in the stove to heat our home was actually the energy of the sun stored by an oak in its wood. I slid to a stop, pulled my camera from its bag and snapped a picture. As I continued into town the urge to stop and take more photos was almost irresistible.

Winter is hard on our mental health, coupled with the often poor condition of the natural world, can be devastating.



It's times like these when we absolutely need to get out into our earth and under that brilliant fiery star of ours, the sun.

Above: Sundogs form as sunlight is refracted by horizontally oriented hexagonal plate-like ice crystals, with diameters larger than 30 micrometers and appear at 22 degree angles off the direct source of light.

1ST Annual Veterans and Active Duty Military Pheasant Hunt

Our goal is to give back to our military men, women and veterans and thank them for all they have done by providing a fun day of camaraderie and pheasant hunting. Open to all veterans, active duty, retired and reserve military men and women in our area. This day is meant to bring together those who serve and to honor them.

- Veterans hunt for free
- Half day pheasant hunt (8 AM-11 AM & 1 PM-4 PM)
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided
- Hunting licenses and ammunition will be provided

The hunt will be held at *Beckridge Hunting Preserve*, 613th Ave., Sabula, IA on March 16th, 2013.

Email David Crockett at crockettdavid@bfusa.com or call 563-246-2229 to register. We have room for 80 hunters this year. Any beyond that will have first chance next year.

to contribute:	
<input type="radio"/> Chick.....\$ 25	<input type="radio"/> Gold.....\$250
<input type="radio"/> Hen\$ 50	<input type="radio"/> Platinum.....\$500
<input type="radio"/> Rooster.....\$100	<input type="radio"/> Other....\$ _____
Please make checks payable to: <i>Pheasants Forever Veterans Hunt</i>	
Mail to: Brad Taylor, 3942 291 st St. Camanche, IA 52730	



Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center ~ Nature Photo Contest

Purpose: To highlight the beauty and recreational activities at Rock Creek Marina & Campground and Mississippi River Backwater Area.

Photographers may submit photos in any of 4 categories and two age groups (Adult and Youth).

1. People at Rock Creek
2. Wildlife
3. Scenery/Landscape
4. Macro/Close-ups



One winner will be selected from each category and age bracket. The winning photos will be printed and framed for display by July 4th in the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center for the remainder 2013 camping season. Each winner will receive a \$20 Rock Creek Gift Certificate.

Submission Guidelines

1. Only digital submissions in JPEG format.
2. Only pictures taken in Rock Creek Marina & Campground or the Mississippi within 3 miles.
3. Black & white or color are welcome.
4. Include the completed registration form with photos.
5. Submit your entries no later than Saturday, June, 15th.

You may email conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov or drop off submissions at Rock Creek. Call 563-847-7202 for official registration or stop by at Rock Creek.

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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Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Gloria Friederichsen, Grand Mound, President
 Kim Rixen, Clinton, Vice President
 Jeff Beckwith, Clinton, Secretary/Treasurer
 Jim Haring, Clinton
 Judie Petersen, Goose Lake

STAFF

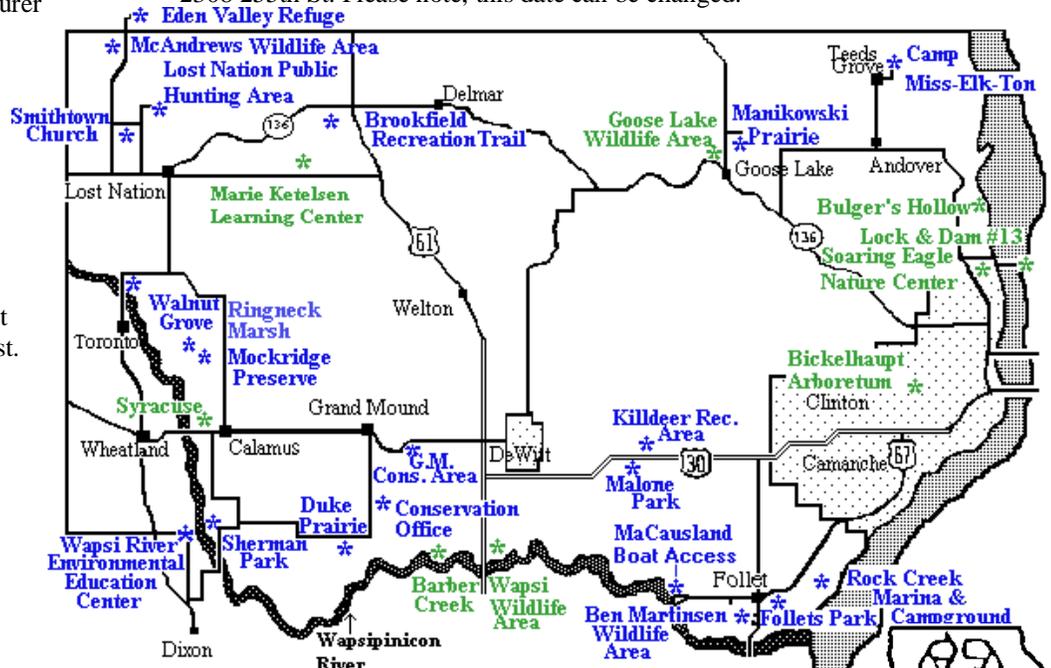
Walt Wickham, Executive Director
 Karen Brix, Administrative Assistant
 Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator
 Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretive Naturalist
 Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist
 Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist
 Chip Brown, Park Officer, West District
 Dave Schneden, Maintenance, West Dist.
 Brad Taylor, Park Officer, East District
 Ryan Waltz, Park Ranger, East District
 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.

