

The Heron

*Quarterly Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
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Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center ~ Open for Business!

by Walt Wickham, Executive Director and Brad Taylor, Park Officer, East District

Rock Creek is already a great place to bring the family and this summer it's going to be even better! We are happy to announce that the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center will soon be open to the public! If you have been a regular reader of *The Heron* you already know that the new facility has a lot to offer. There is literally something for everyone. Included is a new camp store/cafe, a nature gallery, a community room and a small theater/classroom. It will be a great place to come and learn about our Mississippi River and a great place to start your own Mississippi River adventure!

The camp store/cafe is scheduled to open April 13th and will officially kick off the camping season at Rock Creek. As in the past, the camp store/cafe will still be the place for campers to register when they arrive at the park, get bait, fishing licenses, fishing and camping supplies, and enjoy a quick snack or a hearty meal. Various gifts and souvenirs like Eco Center t-shirts will also be for sale. This summer, back by popular demand, is our famous Rock Creek fish boil! During the past few years, while the new Eco Center was being constructed, we have been working out of a temporary store and just did not have room to do a fish boil. Our first boil of the 2012 season will be on Saturday, May 27. Why not come out on Memorial Day weekend and see how good it is for yourself? The fish is smothered in butter and comes with potatoes, coleslaw and all the fixings. It really is delicious! The popular meal is served buffet style beginning at 5 PM. Fish boils are scheduled every other weekend throughout the summer. Other dinner specials, such as, grilled hamburgers or tacos, will be held on the alternating Saturday.

Another exciting feature of the new Eco Center is the Community Room. This spacious hall will seat up to 200 people theater style or up to 150 people using 8-foot banquet style tables. This room will be used for public programs and large school groups and will also be available to rent by the public. Rental rates are \$250/day or \$50/hour. A \$100 security deposit is required. What a great place for your family get together, wedding reception, company picnic, club meeting or other event. For more information, or to reserve the community hall, please contact the Eco Center staff at 563-259-1876. Information on the hall rental will also be available soon on our website, <http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton.aspx>.

A smaller classroom/theater will be used for

class presentations, Saturday night movies and is also available to rent for your private meeting or get together. Contact the Rock Creek staff for more info.

Of course, the main focus of the building will be the nature gallery. Between the nature gallery and the camp store is an 8,000 gallon aquarium filled with many of the fish species found in the Mississippi River. The aquarium will be viewable from the dining room or the nature gallery. Displays that are planned for the nature gallery have not yet been completed, so the room may seem a little sparse at first. But please be patient. We have some great interpretive displays in the works that we hope to have completed by this coming winter. In the meantime, we will fill the space with some of our existing displays as well as some that we will borrow from other nature centers. Other displays, such as replicas of many of the state record fish, will be on display throughout the building.

If you are looking for something to do this summer, there will be a variety of entertaining and educational events at Rock Creek in conjunction with the Eco Center. Regularly scheduled events include hayrack rides and Blue Heron Eco Cruises. Sunset Cruises will be held every Thursday evening and Saturday morning the *NEW* Early Bird Cruises will be offered from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Want to try your hand at canoeing or kayaking? One Saturday a month, canoes and kayaks will be available, free of charge, from 8 AM to noon so that you can see if this great outdoor activity is for you. And for the icing on the cake, our own Naturalists will be at the Eco Center every Saturday afternoon to present a wide variety of public programs. Everything from live birds of prey and snakes of Iowa to beginning canoeing and archery are offered. For a schedule of all the activities, please see the Calendar of Events, pages 6-10, in this issue of *The Heron*.

The new Eco Center will be a great asset to Clinton County Conservation and the community. We would encourage everyone to stop out and see all that the new building and Rock Creek has to offer. Stay for the day, a weekend or a week. Camping reservations can be made online at <http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton.aspx>, but book early if you have a specific weekend in mind. If you have any questions about Rock Creek or the new Eco Center, we would encourage you to stop by or call us at 563-259-1876.



What a Winter!

by Darin Voss, Natural Resource Technician

This winter has been a different change of pace from the last few that we have endured here in eastern Iowa. Listening to meteorologist predictions, I thought we would be in for long, cold, harsh days. On the contrary, it turned out to be the fourth warmest winter on record. Typically, I enjoy winter with the accompanied activities, but a season like this one was welcomed by many! After the severity of last year's weather, it was a much needed break, especially for wildlife.

There is no question that the last several winters have been extremely hard on wildlife. Most of us know that pheasant numbers are down drastically compared to the last couple of years. We had long winters with record amounts of snowfall, followed by above average rainfall during the nesting and brooding periods. It is obvious that there are other contributing factors, like less suitable habitat, but I feel that the weather has had a huge impact. Survival rates should be much greater in 2012 with the mild temperatures, low snowfall amounts and an early spring. What we need now is average rainfall for the spring and summer seasons and we should see the pheasant populations increase for the first time in recent history. But, pheasants are not the only ones who have suffered.

Deer populations have also dropped significantly the past few years. There are several factors that have contributed to the decline in deer numbers including the increased harvest of does over the past several years. However, there is little doubt that the harsh winters of the past have also played a role in their decline.

Now that spring is here, it is time to start thinking about planting food plots and habitat, not just for next year, but for years to come. Do not forget the importance of food plots and adequate cover. And it is essential that we do not forget the lessons that Mother Nature gives us. We may be coming out of an incredibly mild winter, but who knows what next winter may bring?

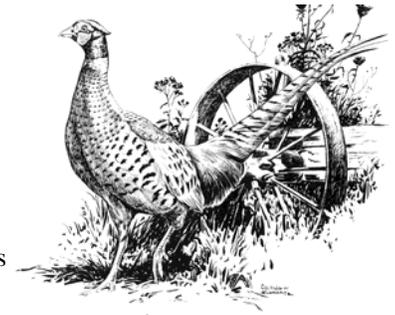
Once again, Clinton County Conservation will have food plot seed to distribute, free of charge. The only stipulation is that this seed can only be used as wildlife plots for food and cover. It may NOT be used for any other purpose. We were able to get a good supply of Roundup Ready® corn and grain sorghum, with a limited supply of soybeans and sunflowers. The delivery date of the seed is expected to be in early April. Anyone interested must call the office (563-847-7202) to reserve the amount of seed you need for this year's food plots. This seed was made possible by the generous donation from the Clinton County Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

Don't just stop with the food plots! It is also critical to provide adequate long-term habitat cover. We continue to lease out two no-till drills for \$10/acre. These drills are designed to handle native grass and wildflower seed which provide good cover once established. These drills are also capable of planting small grains, cool season grasses and legumes. If you are interested in leasing our drills, be sure to call the conservation office at 563-847-7202.



We also loan out ATV-adapted equipment, free of charge, for installing smaller plots. However, if you are interested in having food plots and/or habitat areas incorporated onto your property, but don't have the means to install it, as a resource technician, I am able to implement custom plantings for a fee.

The mild winter of 2011-2012 was a moral-booster for us, but it was critical for many wildlife species to begin a population rebound. We cannot foresee the future. For this reason, we must continue to do our part in providing food plots and areas of habitat cover to insure good survival rates of the wildlife we enjoy.



Rooms for Rent

www.mycountyparks.com unless phone number is listed.

Our cabins in both Eden Valley and Rock Creek and selected campsites at Rock Creek can now be reserved by going to www.mycountyparks.com. When you get there just click counties to highlight Clinton County, then Facilities. Scroll down through the following options and proceed to "check out".

Rock Creek

- **Wood Duck Cabin** ~ Log cabin, sleeps 6, \$50/night. Electricity, futon, table/chairs, small fridge, microwave, sink, water, heat/AC, sleeping loft, 1/2 bath (toilet/sink). Picnic table and fire ring outside.
- **Camping Cabins** ~ 6 small cabins, sleep 4 each, \$35/night. Electricity, heat/AC, small refrigerator and microwave. Fire pit and picnic table outside each cabin.
- **Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center** 563-259-1876
 - Community Room** ~ 2,652 sq. ft., Seating for 150. Kitchenette for family gatherings.
 - Community Room** ~ \$250/day or \$50/hour
 - Meeting Room** ~ 484 sq. ft., Seating for 20+. Kitchenette for family gatherings.
 - Meeting Room** ~ \$100/day or \$25/hour
- **Campsites** ~ There are 10 campsites that can be reserved.

Eden Valley

- **Bunkhouse** ~ Rustic pack-in cabin, sleeps 12, \$50/night. Electricity, small refrigerator, hot plate, wood burning stove and firewood is available.
- **Camping Cabins** ~ 2 small cabins, sleep 4 each, \$35/night. Electricity, heat/AC, small refrigerator and microwave. Fire pit and picnic table outside each cabin.
- **Campsites** ~ 2 pack-in campsites that can be reserved.

Picnic Shelters Call 563-847-7202.

- \$15 to reserve, or first-come, first-served for free, at Eden Valley Refuge, Rock Creek, Sherman, Walnut Grove, Malone and Follett Parks.

Camp Miss-Elk-Ton Lodge Call 563-847-7202.

- 770 sq. ft. lodge with stove, refrigerator and fireplace on 39 secluded acres on the Elk River. \$3/person, organized youth groups only.

Disease Has Killed Over 6 Million!

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist

Sounds like “the plague”. No, not the bubonic plague of the middle ages that killed over 100 million people. Thankfully it is not humans dying of some mysterious disease we can not get a handle on. I am writing about bats and white-nose syndrome (WNS). Even though you have breathed a sigh of relief, we are not going to be left untouched. Luckily it cannot be transferred from bat to human, but we have, and will continue to be, affected.

A short six years ago, in 2006, several dead, white powder covered, hibernating bats were found in an upstate New York cave. In 2008 it was seen again where bats hibernate. The white covering was then documented as a fungus called *Geomyces destructans*, commonly known as white-nose syndrome. This is an aggressive fungus that is found covering the skin membranes, mostly the wings and face, of bats. It is believed that this fungus irritates the bat during hibernation, causing the bat to awaken more often and fly around in midwinter, burning off precious fat reserves and either freezing or starving to death. Scientists do not know much about the fungus, mostly that it is a cold-loving fungus and it eats away the skin. The origin is unknown. They do not know if it is a newly-identified fungus that has just been introduced or has always been around that is now affecting bats in some weakened state. Recently, the fungus has also been found in 12 European countries but does not seem to affect the mortality of bats. The fungus is a genetically-close relative of the common *Geomyces*, a group fungus that is found in soil, water and air. However, that it does not look like other *Geomyces* fungi under the microscope. Scientists are not sure how the fungus is spread from cave to cave since bats rarely make it out alive. It is thought to be spread by human cavers carrying spores on their shoes, clothes and equipment. Because of the rarity of disease-related, mass mortality in bats and the distance between WNS outbreak sites, which are too far, in part, for a bat to have traveled between.

The fungus seems to be radiating from where it was first discovered in New York, and is now found in 16 states and 4 Canadian provinces. The closest cases to Iowa have been found in Missouri, as far south as Tennessee and as far west as Oklahoma. It has had a 97 percent mortality rate in some areas. Affected bat species include the federally endangered Indiana myotis and gray myotis along with the little brown myotis, northern myotis, tricolored bat, eastern small-footed myotis, cave myotis, southeastern myotis and big brown bat. Also, the federally endangered Virginia big-eared bat has been suspected of the white-nose syndrome but has not been confirmed. Out of these ten species of bats, five call Iowa home! According to the USGS, 25 of the 47 U.S. bat species hibernate in caves and mines and thus could be affected by WNS in the future.

In 2009, the Fish and Wildlife Service closed thousands of caves and mines in 33 states in hopes to slow down the spread of this deadly fungus. That same year, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources closed caves around the state, including local Maquoketa Caves. This year, some state legislators are working with the DNR to re-open the caves this summer. The area saw a huge economic hit with the number of visitors dropping dramatically since 2009. It was routine for 200,000 people a year to visit the Caves prior to the

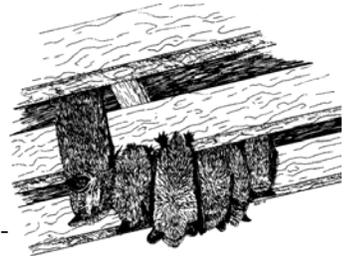
shutdown. Last year, it dropped to 40,000. The Caves are scheduled to open April 15th to October 1st, allowing the bats to hibernate without human disturbance during the winter months. Cavers wanting to explore the caves will have to make arrangements with the park ranger to go through a screening to prevent the fungus from entering the cave. At this time, the fungus has not been found there, but the policy will change if it is ever discovered. Even for us at Clinton County Conservation, bats are a local ecotourism attraction at our campgrounds.

All of Iowa’s bats are top, nocturnal predators of insects. Bats save the agricultural industry millions of dollars a year with their insect-eating habits which help to reduce pests. In a single summer, a colony of 150 big brown bats can eat enough adult cucumber beetles to prevent the laying of eggs that could result in 33 million rootworm larvae, according to a study cited by Bat Conservation International. One million bats can eat nearly 700 tons of insects per year, including mosquitoes that carry human diseases and agricultural pests that damage crops. More insect swarms equal higher food prices. Crops are not only in Iowa terms of corn and soybeans, but also trees and other cash crops from other states. Last year in the journal *Science*, relying on the lower mortality rate projected in 2009 of 1,000,000 bats dead from WNS, it is estimated that 1,320 metric tons of insect pests were not eaten because of the decline in bats. Substitute that 1 million by 6 million dead bats from WNS and impacts are sizeable. Not to mention our comfort, a bat eats over 1,000 mosquito-sized insects in 1 hour or in other words a total of its weight in insects per night. Also, bat guano (feces) is used with crop fertilization. Even guano is part of a cave’s ecosystem and its absence would affect the web of life. Ecologically speaking, the effects of white-nose syndrome will be never ending.

As of January 2012, Bat Conservation International director Nina Fascione stated, "Extinctions are a real and imminent threat across North America. If WNS continues to take such a huge toll, the environmental and economic costs will be enormous." Unfortunately scientists do not have good pre-WNS numbers because bat numbers were so numerous and common. Like the little brown myotis and big brown bats in our attics and barns, they were not a concern until now where we are witnessing a potential extinction event. Many have likened it to the extinction of the passenger pigeon (extinct in wild, year 1900) or the almost extinction of bison (year 1884). But instead of it being one kind of animal, it is an entire group, of animals that impact us intimately.

I enjoy bats. I teach about them regularly, visit them in a cave occasionally, learn about their plight nearly every conference I attend (don’t even get me started on wind turbines) and like to watch. In fact, one was seen flying around at my birthday campfire earlier in March! I get calls regularly about bats in houses. As much as I dislike those calls, I would hate to not have them at all due to an extinction event. So no, this “plague” is not dangerous to humans directly, but it will effecting us from now on.

Please report unusual bat behavior or deaths during winter or early spring. Email Daryl.Howell@dnr.iowa.gov.



Early Historic Peoples of Iowa ~ 1650 to 1803

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist

The earliest historical records show several groups of people residing in, or seasonally using, portions of what would become Iowa. These included the Ioway, Oto, Omaha, perhaps the Missouri, the Yankton and Santee Sioux. These groups were essentially sedentary, but elements of their populations made wide-ranging seasonal forays for hunting and warfare. By 1650, Euro-American competition for alliances, trade and disease drastically changed the relationships among Indian groups. Native populations held their territory by strength and treaty. Their warring against each other was greatly exasperated by the Euro-American westward expansion. Tribal populations would decline and white dispossession of traditional territories became common. In Iowa, the tribes mentioned above gave way to Great Lakes groups including the Sauk, Mesquakie, Winnebago and Pottawatomi. The best known of these groups today are the Mesquakie.

In 1673, Father Marquette teamed with Louis Joliet, five other Frenchmen and two native guides. This small party of men set off, to document, for French interests, a largely unknown territory from the Great Lakes region to the Gulf of Mexico. They traveled in two bark canoes paddling across Lake Michigan to present-day Green Bay, then up the Fox River to what is now Portage, Wisconsin. From there they portaged over-land to the Wisconsin River. At this point their guides became anxious, warning of fierce peoples and great beasts that inhabited the country ahead. When the French wouldn't listen, their two native guides deserted them for fear of what lay ahead. At this time they were passing through land occupied by the Mesquakie peoples who had recently moved there from Michigan to escape the presence of the growing European settlements, along with the disease and aggression that accompanied them. The expedition continued down the Wisconsin River until they came to the Mississippi on June 17th and became the first Europeans to set eyes on what would become Iowa.

The land west of the Mississippi was home to several groups of people with ties to the Oneota culture, mainly the Ioway and Oto. One Ioway village along the Upper Iowa River was very large. The people were poor, their greatest wealth consisting of hides and red stone calumets indicating that they manufactured and traded calumet (peace) pipes. The French explorers were spooked by the stories of their guides and were reluctant to even set foot on the Mississippi River's western bank but followed it downstream at times sleeping off-shore in their canoes. Time soon overcame their fears and, somewhere near the mouth of a large river, the group landed. Finding some human tracks they followed a trail to their first meeting with a native group. The village was some miles inland and though the Illinois people were at first startled, the meeting quickly became peaceful. Their chief-tain Moingwena, by whose name the Des Moines River is named, gave them a calumet, which would later save their lives. The explorers pushed on, meeting several other native groups farther south including the Quapaw, who at first feared and were ready to kill the Frenchmen, but were comforted by the site of the calumet. Marquette and Joliet's journey was curtailed when the Quapaw warned them that



Examples of Calumet Pipes

Spanish colonials were just downstream. On their return trip they followed what would become the Illinois River. Along this route they found that the Illinois people they had met west of the big river had moved from that camp to the neighborhood of present day Peoria, Illinois.

The Ioway were a tribe of the Siouan tongue which moved around a great deal but mainly within the boundaries of what would become Iowa. Historians use the name Iowa from Ayuhwa, the Dakota name which signifies "sleepy ones." Pahoja was their own name, meaning "gray snow." But others say that Ioway is their own name. They were also called Nadouessioux Maskoutens in the Algonkin tongue meaning "Dakota of the Prairies." Pashóhan was their Pawnee name and they were called Waótc' by the Winnebago people.

The Sioux believe that when their ancestors first came to the falls of St. Anthony, the Ioway occupied the country about the mouth of Minnesota River while the Cheyenne lived higher up on the same stream. One village, called the Wolf Village, appears in historical writings. By this time, the Ioway had moved west near the Okoboji Lakes and probably extended into southwestern Minnesota to the neighborhood of the Red Pipestone Quarry and the Big Sioux River. The move may have been forced by conflicts with the Dakota peoples, their neighbors to the north who were in turn pressured by the Ojibwa to their north who had the French on their heels. From there, the Ioway moved to the mouth of the Platte River and later to the headwaters of Little Platte River in Missouri.

In 1700, the Frenchman Le Sueur built Fort L'Huillier at the confluence of the Blue and Minnesota Rivers. Le Sueur tried to persuade the Ioway to encamp near the fort because they were "industrious and accustomed to cultivate the earth." His messengers, sent to invite the Ioway, found that they had moved to the Missouri River near the Omaha homelands. Le Sueur was informed by the Dakota that the Blue Earth River belonged to themselves, the Ioway and Oto, who lived farther off. The fort was then vacated shortly after.

In the early 1700s, French pressure forced the Mesquakie into Illinois where a man named Iperville noted that the strength of the Ioway people had dwindled to about 300 "good men." By 1718, the Mesquakies considered the Iowa territory their homeland. In 1760, the Ioway moved east and came to live along the Mississippi between the Iowa and Des Moines Rivers. Their principal town was on the Des Moines River and by 1760 the total Ioway population was 1,100. The following year, the Ioway had returned to live on the east banks of the Missouri above the Oto who camped on the west side of the river and below the Omaha. It was in 1762 that the Iowa territory came under Spanish rule. The Mesquakie allowed Julian Dubuque to mine for lead in what they considered their territory. By this time it was reported that the Ioway had a population of around 1,200. The land changed hands quickly, first to the French and then the United States in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The following year, President Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory. They traveled up the Missouri River meeting with the Oto and Missouri tribes, but missing the Ioway who had again moved east.

AmeriCorps Work at Eden Valley

by Amanda Gaines, Media Representative for NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)

With hardhats, safety goggles and a slew of other gear in hand, a crew of 11 young “professional volunteers” arrived with vigor Monday morning, March 19th at Eden Valley Refuge. Their mission, as they put it, is “to get things done.”

The group are members of AmeriCorps NCCC, a community service program that employs 18 to 24 year olds and sends them out to local areas to help on a wide array of service projects. They are spending half of March at Eden Valley, roofing and sprucing up a shower house, re-siding two cabins and dismantling and rebuilding the broken swinging bridge on a nature trail in the back valley. All projects will be completed when we leave at the end of our two weeks at Eden Valley.

The team, none of whom had ever been to Iowa prior to this experience, spent time earlier this month at John Henry Weber Park in Jackson County where they cleared out invasive honeysuckle bush and built the foundations for an archery trail. They finished their work in less than a week, putting them ahead of schedule and offering a good example of their ability to truly get things done.

Members of the team hail from all over the country, but are based in Vinton, Iowa. Only one calls the Midwest home -- the team leader is from Kansas City, Kansas -- while the remaining 10 Corps Members left their lives on the east (New York) and west (California) coasts to join the NCCC program.

The program sends them out on six to eight week projects, which they refer to as “spikes,” in the areas of environmental stewardship, infrastructure improvement, energy conservation, urban and rural development and disaster relief. The team’s projects in Jackson and Clinton Counties fall under the category of environmental work.

After completing their work in Iowa, the team will head to Minnesota to work on more environmental projects at YMCA camps in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.



Lost Grove Lake, Princeton

The Lost Grove Lake Dam has been built to within 12-15 feet of completion. Construction was halted in late summer 2011 to allow the earthen dam to settle for 30 days as is required to reduce the level of soil moisture, but the dam was still retaining too much moisture.

It was allowed to settle for another 30 days, but moisture levels were still too high, so the dam was allowed to settle over the winter to reduce the risk of bulge failure. Crews will begin working when the moisture content has reached acceptable levels. The expected completion date is this summer.

The fish habitat, shoreline access and rip-rap are done. The boat ramp, parking lot and fishing trail portion of the project will be advertised for bid in March, the bid opening will be in April, NRC approval will happen in May and construction will begin thereafter. The projected completion date for this phase of the project is August 15th.

Bluegill and red-ear sunfish will be stocked in October if a 6-8 feet deep pool has been impounded, followed by largemouth bass, channel catfish and walleye in June 2013.

Fishing is available nearby in the 220th Causeway Impoundment, which is the 27 acres of water located west of 220th Avenue. It has been stocked with bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish since 2006. In recent years, anglers have reported nice catches of all of these species.

The Sawmill Museum

The Sawmill Museum in Clinton, Iowa, is poised to become a nationally significant cultural, historic and environmental learning center. Envisioned as a world-class, interactive museum experience highlighting the dynamic history and culture of Clinton, Iowa, and the surrounding region, visitors are able to explore and better understand the importance of forests and wood products in our lives.

Telling a balanced story of the lumber and forestry industries’ past, The Sawmill Museum provides a setting for dialogue between government, industry, environmental groups and private citizens about our shared future.

We are a non-profit organization and fundraising efforts are an integral part of our success. Generous donations moved the museum from concept to reality and built the foundation for an interactive educational experience for all visitors. Join us to continue the evolution of the museum! Support The Sawmill Museum!

From the 1850s to 1890s, Clinton was “The Lumber Capital of the World,” out-producing all other lumber centers and major cities, including St. Paul and St. Louis. The lumber industry in Clinton peaked in 1892, producing over 195 million board feet of lumber, enough to build about 25,000 houses, businesses and barns.



Springtime Family Fun!

April

5th ~ 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 and all are encouraged to sing, tap their toe, slap their knee or just listen. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are always welcomed.

9th ~ Nighttime Prairie Burn ~ 8 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ (April 11th is rain/wind date) ~ Darin Voss, Clinton County's Natural Resource Technician, will torch the dry prairie grasses during this educational program. Along with a spectacular show, Darin will explain the how, why and when of prairie burns. Soaring Eagle is located on the north end of Clinton, on the south edge of Eagle Point Park. Call 563-847-7202 for information.

12th ~ Woodcock Watch ~ 7:30 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ Watch the dynamic display of the American woodcock at Sherman Park's north entrance. This is our 27th year watching the woodcocks' courtship "Skydance", and they usually give a good show. Walking over rough terrain may be involved.

14th ~ 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 16 years old or older and have completed the online hunter safety training at www.HunterExam.com or www.hunter-ed.com/Iowa; participants must bring voucher to class. This is a review class with no firing. Participants will need to bring a sack lunch and beverage. Please call 563-328-3282 to register.



14th ~ Wildflower Hike ~ 10 AM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Spring has sprung early in the woodlands of the Wapsi River Center! Join naturalist Mike Granger for a hike to identify some spectacular botanical sights like rue anemone, hepatica, Dutchman's breeches, Jacob's ladder, spring beauty, dog tooth violet

and many more. Consider bringing a camera to capture these woodland wildflowers at their "springiest".

14th ~ No Time on Her Hands ~ 1 PM ~ Sawmill Museum, Clinton ~ Master wood carver, Carol Leavey, returns to demonstrate basic wood carving techniques for beginning wood carvers. If you have always wished to learn, this is the time to start. For ages 14 and up only. Call 563-242-0343 for information.

17th & 21st ~ 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.

19th ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 7 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Join us at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center to learn about current events, happenings and volunteer opportunities at the Center.

21st ~ Volunteer Work Day ~ 9 AM-Noon ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Volunteers work on a variety of projects both in and outdoors. Some of the work is heavy, while other opportunities are light work. Come be a part of the transformation from a local nature center and dog park to a regional destination.

21st ~ Earth Day Expo/Quad Cities Earth Week Fair ~ 10 AM - 4 PM ~ QCCA Expo Center ~ The Quad Cities Earth Week Coalition is hosting its 9th annual Earth Week Fair at the QCCA Expo Center in Rock Island, IL. This event is free to the public and will feature over 60 booths offering hands-on activities, demonstrations, make-and-take crafts, literature, videos, quizzes and other interactive projects. For more information: www.qcearthweek.org or contact Erin Robinson-Vorac at 563-388-1403 or evorac@wastecom.com.

21st ~ A Tisket, A Tasket, A Recycled Basket! ~ 11 AM ~ Sawmill Museum, Clinton ~ Celebrate Earth Day by learning a new skill. We're going to make baskets out of recycled paper. Easy to do and fun for all ages. Call 563-242-0343 for information.

21st ~ 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 wildflower hike on your own 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.

22nd ~ Celebrate Earth Day ~ Find your personal way to show the earth you care.

27th ~ Whip-poor-will Night Hike ~ 8:30 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ Experience the calls of the many interesting creatures of the night including the whip-poor-will and learn their mysteries. A naturalist will lead you through the winding, hopefully moonlit trails of the park from its upland areas to the banks of the Wapsipinicon River.

28th ~ Arbor Day/Earth Day ~ 10 AM ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum ~ We are combining two important Earth-friendly days into one event. A short program on the importance of trees and the proper planting of trees. Call 563-242-0343 for more information.

28th ~ Lost Lakes Paddle Event ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come explore the wilderness of the Upper Mississippi Fish & Wildlife Refuge. Our paddle-craft equipment will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, by your Clinton County Conservation Department. A naturalist will lead you through the twists and turns of this wildlife-filled backwater area. Meet the group at the newly built Eco-tourism Center. Participation is limited, so call 563-847-7202 and register today.



28th ~ 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.

28th ~ 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. Check www.qcas.org for last minute sky conditions.

29th ~ Arbor Day ~ Did you know that Arbor Day is the only federal holiday that looks to the future? Planting a tree shows faith in that future! It's also a great way to commemorate a birth, death, anniversary or other special event.

May

3rd ~ 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 and all are encouraged to sing, tap their toe, slap their knee or just listen. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are always welcomed.



5th ~ Bread and Butter ~ 11 AM ~ Sawmill Museum, Clinton ~ Learn how to make bread and butter by hand! Call 563-242-0343 for information.

5th ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley

10th ~ Spring Prairie Hayrack Ride ~ 7 PM ~ Manikowski Prairie ~ Join Natural Resource Technician Darin Voss and Naturalist Mark Roberts to see a carpet of beautiful pale pink and purple hues of shooting stars, as well as bird's foot violet and hoary puccoon. This limestone prairie provides an excellent opportunity to explore part of Iowa's heritage. We will also look at wetland developments and prairie restoration efforts. Meet at Manikowski Prairie's south entrance, behind Northeast High School. Turn north off Highway 136 onto 370th Avenue.

12th ~ Bark Painting ~ 11 AM ~ Sawmill Museum, Clinton ~ Paint or stencil a picture to celebrate spring. Call 563-242-0343 for information.

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

17th ~ Friends of Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 7 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Come join us to learn about volunteer opportunities.

19th ~ Volunteer Workday ~ 9 AM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Call 563-357-0759 to lend a hand.

19th ~ Mud Creek Kayak Exploration ~ 10 AM ~ Allen's Grove Park ~ Join Wapsi River Center naturalists to explore Mud Creek and backwaters of the Wapsipinicon River. Participants must be 12 years of age (accompanied by an adult) or older.



Space is limited to 12 individuals. Allen's Grove is located 4 miles north of Donahue, Iowa, on County Road Y52. Please call 563-328-3286 to reserve your spot by May 17.

19th ~ Saturday at the Arb ~ 10 AM ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum ~ Create a miniature Fairy Garden. Pre-registration required, call the Arboretum at 563-242-4771.

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

19th ~ Captain Philip Suiter, River Pilot ~ 1 PM ~ Sawmill Museum, Clinton ~ Hear the exciting adventures of Philip Suiter, a river pilot from LeClaire as told by his grandson, Steve Suiter. Call 563-242-0343 for information.

19th ~ Public Star Party, Menke Observatory ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi Center ~ A moonless night, perfect for viewing deep-sky objects like star clusters, nebulae and galaxies. But planets will also be prominent, with Venus visible to the west for an hour or so after twilight, Mars higher in the southwest and Saturn visible most of

the night to the south. Call 563-333-6141 on the day of the event to find out if the weather conditions will permit viewing. If the weather is merely cloudy, the star party will still take place with a tour of the observatory.

24th ~ Sunset Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Every Thursday evening 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 spot.

25th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 6 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~ Relax at the shelter to meet some of Iowa's resident raptors. It will be a fun presentation with mounts, hands-on visuals and live birds! Bring your cameras.

25th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 8 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Bring your camp chairs or blankets to the outdoor movie screen to meet some of Iowa's resident raptors. It will be a fun presentation with mounts, hands-on visuals and live birds! Afterwards we will try to call to some owls. Bring your cameras.

26th ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Every Saturday morning through Labor Day, 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 spot.



26th ~ Plant Sale ~ 10 AM-1 PM ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum ~ Second annual plant sale will feature some unusual perennials, wild flowers, annuals, trees and dwarf conifers. Something for everyone! Call the Arboretum at 563-242-4771.

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

26th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Relax and meet some of Iowa's resident raptors. It will be a fun presentation with mounts, hands-on visuals and live birds! Bring your cameras.

26th ~ Fish Boil ~ 5-8 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ It's back and better than ever! Enjoy a Door County-style fish boil dinner with all the trimmings.

26th ~ Public Open House, Jens-Wendt Observatory ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky. Star parties are dependent on the weather. To confirm a party will be held, check www.qcas.org after 4 PM on the day of the party.

27th ~ Free Canoeing ~ 8 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Rock Creek's 10 canoes will be available to use, free of charge, in the Mississippi River backwaters surrounding the park.

31st ~ Insect Safari ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ This is a hands-on nature class designed for children 3-5 years of age while accompanied by an adult. For the hour, we will read a story, find out what makes these six-legged creatures special and then use bug catching kits to find some outdoor friends. Be prepared with outdoor clothing, sunscreen and bug repellent.

31st ~ Sunset Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

31st ~ Music in the Moonlight ~ 9 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come enjoy an evening of home spun music beneath the waxing "Budding Moon" aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat. Make your reservation early by calling 563-259-1876.

June

1st ~ Registration Deadline for Nature Camps ~ Clinton CCB Headquarters, Grand Mound ~ Send payment along with the completed registration form (Page 11) by the end of day.

1st- 3rd ~ Free Fishing Days ~ Let's go fishing! During these three days, Iowa residents may fish and possess fish (within legal limits) without a fishing license.

1st ~ Beginning Archery ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ We will have targets and a backstop erected along with Genesis compound bows near the Nature Center for anyone interested in quick lessons and practice. Please do not bring your own equipment.

2nd ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

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

2nd ~ Beginning Archery ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We will have our targets and backstop erected along with our Genesis compound bows in the basement of the new Eco Tourism Center for anyone interested in quick lessons and practice. Please do not bring your own equipment.

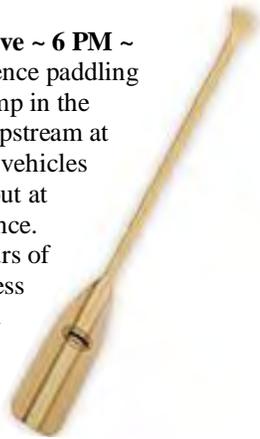


2nd ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Good times aboard this hayrack ride. An adult must accompany children.

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.

7th ~ Sunset Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

8th ~ Wapsi River Float ~ Walnut Grove ~ 6 PM ~ This trip is geared for those with experience paddling in current. We will gather at the boat ramp in the park and car-pool to the put-in 4 miles upstream at Massillon Park at 6 PM sharp. As many vehicles as possible will be returned to the take-out at Walnut Grove and the float will commence. The sun will set at 8 PM giving us 2 hours of light to complete the trip averaging no less than 2 MPH. The county equipment will be loaded and a fire built to provide a gathering place for stories and music. Participation is limited so call 563-847-7202 and register today.



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

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

9th ~ Ready! Set! Paddle!!! ~ Rock Creek ~ 1 PM ~ This event is designed for beginners as part of the Presidents "Americans Go Outdoors" initiative and the US Fish and Wildlife Services "Summer of Paddling". Spend the afternoon learning the basics of canoeing; safety equipment, trip planning, packing, car-topping and trailering, boat loading, basic strokes, communication, navigation, rescue and survival techniques. Then join the naturalist at 7 PM for a quiet evening float into the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge. County paddling gear

will be available on a first come, first served basis. Participation is limited so call 563-847-7202 and register today.

9th ~ Fish Boil ~ 5-8 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ It's back and better than ever! Enjoy a Door County-style fish boil dinner with all the trimmings.

9th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Good times aboard this hayrack ride. An adult must accompany children.



10th ~ Faire Frolic ~ 2 PM ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum ~ A Children's Performance in collaboration with Clinton Arts Players Theater and Dance Makers Studio. Pre-registration for performers, call the Arb at 563-242-4771.

12th-15th ~ Kindergarten - 2nd Grade Nature Camp ~ 9 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ See article on page 11 for details. June 1st is the registration deadline.

12th ~ Arts at the Arb: Travis Hosette Sings Santana ~ 7 PM ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum ~ Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the outdoor performance. Call the Arb at 563-242-4771 (Rain date June 14th).

14th ~ Sunset Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

15th & 16th ~ Overnight Canoe Adventure ~ 4:30 PM (Fri)-2 PM (Sat) ~ Syracuse Landing to Allen's Grove ~ Join Wapsi River Center naturalists to explore the Wapsipinicon River via canoe. Individuals will meet at the Wapsi River Center on Friday, float Syracuse to Sherman, stay overnight at the Owl's Nest Dormitory (\$7 per person), and then canoe from Sherman Park to Allen's Grove on Saturday morning. Please call for more details and to reserve your space 563-328-3286.

15th ~ Goodness Snakes ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Bring your camp chairs or blankets to the campfire ring by the nature center and meet 10 different snakes that call Iowa home. It will be a fun presentation with hands-on visuals and live snakes! Bring your cameras.



16th ~ Free paddling ~ 8 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Rock

Creek's canoes and kayaks will be available to use free of charge in the Mississippi River backwaters surrounding the park.

16th ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

16th ~ Volunteer Workday ~ 9 AM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Call 563-357-0759 to lend a hand.

16th ~ Goodness Snakes ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Relax and meet 10 different snakes that call Iowa home. It will be a fun presentation with hands-on visuals and live snakes! Bring your cameras.

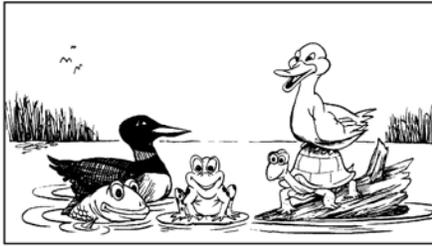
16th ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley

18th ~ Secondary School Wilderness Outings Orientation ~ Rock Creek ~ 6-9 PM ~ See article on page 11 for details. June 1st is the registration deadline.

More June

21st ~ Water Wonders ~ 10 AM ~ Rock

Creek ~ This is a hands on nature class designed for children 3 - 5 years of age while accompanied by an adult.



For the hour we will read a story, use nets to scoop out wonderful water creatures and sort them out into simple categories. Be prepared with outdoor clothing, sunscreen and bug repellent.

21st ~ Friends of Wapsi Center, Inc. Annual Meeting ~ 6 PM ~

Rock Creek ~ Come join us for the Friends' annual meeting. We will provide entrée and drinks, please bring tableware and a dish to share. After the meal and meeting, join us for a cruise (limited seating) on the Blue Heron Pontoon boat at 7 PM with Clinton County Naturalist. Call 563-328-3286 to register.

21st ~ Sunset Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

22nd-24th ~ Hunter Safety Camp ~ 7 PM (Fri.)-5 PM (Sun.) ~ Wapsi Center

Standard hunter safety courses are 10 hours long. In this event, we will go far beyond the basics. In addition to all of the hunter education standards, we will be teaching advanced shooting techniques, bowhunter safety, trapping, waterfowl, turkey & raccoon hunting, dog training, caring for game in the field, first aid, wildlife ID, calling and a whole lot more! All these activities will allow students to actually participate, not just listen to speakers or watch films. The course is open to kids, ages 11-16. They don't need to have received the Hunter Education Certificates already. Cost per student is \$20 for dorm stay, meals, ammo and targets thanks to donations from Clinton County Pheasants Forever (\$500), Scott County Pheasants Forever (\$250), Mississippi Valley Sportsmen Chapter of Waterfowl USA (\$250) and Clinton Area Whitetails Unlimited (\$500) plus donations from Clinton CCB & Grand Mound Sportsmen's Club. Overnight chaperones will be provided by participants' parents. Space is limited to 50 kids, so sign up early by calling 563-847-7202.

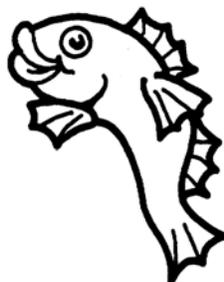


23rd ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

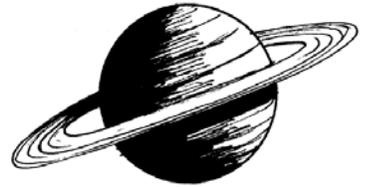
23rd ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley

23rd ~ Fish Boil ~ 5-8 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Enjoy a Door County-style fish boil dinner with all the trimmings.

23rd ~ 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.



23rd ~ Public Star Party, Menke Observatory ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi Center ~ Mars and Saturn are the brightest planets tonight, easily visible to the southwest. Venus is lost in the Sun's glare now, but you might have a chance to see Mercury very low in the west just after sunset. And these three planets will be joined by a crescent moon to the west. The moon will set a couple hours after sunset, leaving the rest of the evening easily dark enough for deep-sky objects. Call 563-333-6141 on the day of the event to find out if the weather conditions will permit viewing. If the weather is merely cloudy, the star party will still take place with a tour of the observatory.



25th-28th ~ EDIWILD 2012 ~ Educators in the Wild ~ Environmental Stewardship: Living the Golden Rule ~ This is a 4-day workshop to facilitate the incorporation of environmental education into the school curriculum. Participants will attend informational sessions at different local sites for further learning experiences. The course will use an interdisciplinary approach of teaching, emphasize environmental stewardship and focus primarily on natural resources and current management practices.

If you are interested and would like to register, contact the Wapsi Center at 563-328-3286. A brochure will be sent to you which includes a registration form, daily activities and locations, plus other details.

26th - 29th ~ EnviroKids Day Camp (3rd - 5th Grades) ~ 9 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ See article on page 11 for details. June 1st is the registration deadline.

28th ~ Sunset Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve.

29th ~ Nature Hike ~ 9 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Join us for a naturalist-guided hike into the back valley.

30th ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve.

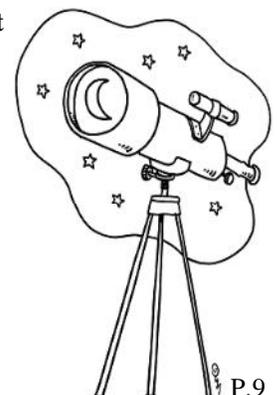
30th ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley

30th ~ Backwater Canoe Float ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Take a naturalist-guided trip into the backwater slough near the park. Call 563-847-7202 to reserve a canoe or kayak.

30th ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ In the theater room at the Eco Tourism Center we will show family movies for campers and park visitors.

30th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Good times aboard this hayrack ride. An adult must accompany children.

30th ~ Public Open House, Jens-Wendt Observatory ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky. Star parties are dependent on the weather. To confirm a party will be held, check www.qcas.org after 4 PM.



30th ~ Bus Trip ~ Trudi's Cherry Hill Farm, Anderson Japanese Gardens, Nichols Conservatory ~ 563-242-4771.

July

Summer Sneak Peak ~ more events to come in the summer newsletter, July 1st.

3rd ~ Full Moon Float ~ 9 PM ~ Rock Creek

~ Join our naturalist for this peaceful, family oriented trip through the quiet backwaters of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge. Paddling gear is free. Persons using their own gear must be equipped with legal running lights; a center 360 degree white light, flash light and whistle. Meet at the new Mississippi River Eco-tourism Center. Participation is limited. Call 563-847-7202 to register.

5th ~ Sunset Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.



7th ~ **Second Annual Stream Stomp ~ Various Locations Across the County** ~ This is a citizen clean-up effort lead by volunteers and assisted by several local organizations. Plans are being made and you can help. Contact the project coordinator Melisa Jacobsen at 309-737-9016 for the date and more information.

7th ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.



7th ~ **Fish Boil ~ 5-8 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Enjoy a Door County-style fish boil dinner with all the trimmings.

10th ~ **Arts at the Arb: String Quartet ~ 7 PM ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum** ~ Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the outdoor concert performance. Call the Arb at 563-242-4771 (Rain date July 12th).

12th ~ **Sunset Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

14th ~ **Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a spot.

14th ~ **Second Annual Lumberjack Festival ~ Noon-10 PM ~ Sawmill Museum, Clinton** ~ This will be a top-notch lumberjack event! Competitions: Underhand Chop, Standing Block Chop, Single Buck, Spring Board, Hot Saw, Axe Throw, Jack & Jill Cross. Call 563-242-0343 or www.thesawmillmuseum.org.

17th-19th ~ **Middle School Wilderness Trip ~ Noon ~ Sherman Park** ~ See article on page 11 for details. June 1st is the registration deadline.

23rd-27th ~ **High School Wilderness Outing ~ Mississippi River Eco-tourism Center ~ 8 AM** ~ See article on page 11 for details. June 1st is the registration deadline.



Tribute to Brad, my Buddy

by Jacob Stearns, Rock Creek Kid

Brad is the Ranger.

Brad always wears a hat.

He's an Iowa State fan!

Brad also says jolly-jumping jokes.

He is as cool as a clown.

Brad is an expert hunter.

Brad is also a funny fisherman.

Brainy Brad is a dashing driver.

When we're together we feel golly good.

We are both insanely interesting.

When were together at the campground we work and have fun.

We like to goof around when we are together.

He's the best ranger in the world!

Rock Creek Rangers, past & present, with the Stearns boys.

From Left; Brad Taylor, Joshua Stearns, Ryan Waltz, Jacob Stearns & Eric Wright (now with the Iowa DNR).



2012 Clinton County Area EnviroKids



This is a series of events for kids in 3rd to 5th grades, younger kids are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Clinton CCB partners with several other agencies on this award-winning program. All events are 9 AM-Noon unless otherwise noted. Direct questions to Judie Petersen, 563-357-6932. There is a one time \$5 registration fee that covers all of the events.

June 16th ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center, Clinton ~ Hosted by Eagle Point Nature Society & the Clinton County Master Gardeners.

June 23rd ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum ~ Hosted by the Horticulturalists at the Arb.

June 26th - 29th ~ EnviroKids Day Camp ~ 9 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ see earlier description in Calendar.

July 13th ~ LumberKings "Going Green" Night ~ 6 PM ~ Ashford University Field, Clinton ~ EnviroKids will be given special treatment. Check-in at the park is 6 PM the game stats at 7 PM. Hosted by the LumberKings and the Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency.

July 14th ~ Clinton Area Solid Waste Agency ~ Learn about where trash goes and recycling.

August 4th ~ Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center ~ They will have some great activities lined up!

August 11th ~ LyondellBasell ~ See how plastic is made and do some fun experiments!

August 25th ~ Clinton Izaak Walton League ~ Enjoy fishing, canoeing and hayride. Lunch will be provided by the Ikes.

September 15th ~ Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, Rock Creek ~ Hop aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat at Rock Creek for a cruise and more!

Youth Camps Thrive

by Chuck Jacobsen & Jessica Steines, Interpretative Naturalists

The last four years, your Clinton County Conservation Education staff has been working at developing a youth summer program. Last summer we believe we may have really struck a spark. The parents of returning campers were beaming with enthusiasm after spending the previous evening listening to their children chatter about the fun they had at camp. We even provide the food!

Our staff sees the coming summer as a cool breeze with the addition of our new Eco-center. Not only will we have the forested flood plain and river to keep us cool on those ninety degrees plus days, but also we can now escape under and into the air-conditioned center for relief from heat or rain if need be. Don't get us wrong, our campers will be outdoors as much as possible, it is just nice to have options!

Our camps are the stepping stones of familiarity with the out-of-doors from early childhood to young adults. The kindergarteners to 2nd graders will experience nature through collecting, games and crafts. The 3rd through 5th graders then move up to the more physical and mental challenges of staying outdoors for more extended visits with canoeing, fishing and hiking with GPS. The secondary students are provided with backpack, tent, cooking and eating gear. Then we will go into a local wilderness for them to showcase strengths and overcome weaknesses, all the while leaving no-trace of their passing. The 6th through 8th grade students will not only be backpacking, but also canoeing and completing a



Princeton Beach during K-2 Camp, 2011!

service project. The high school age group will be going farther from home on a 5-day backpacking adventure! Call 563-847-7202 for more detailed information.

Please help us by spreading the word to family and friends and feel free to copy and distribute the registration form below. If minimum registrations are not met by June 1st, camps may be canceled and your checks returned (checks will not be processed until June 2nd). After registration, we will send you medical forms, a detailed schedule and provisions provided and needed.

Please detach and send along with payment to Clinton CCB, ATTN: Jessica Steines, PO Box 68, Grand Mound, IA, 52751.

2011-2012 School age	Dates of Camps	Location	Cost	Circle days participating	# of Children	Name(s)
K - 2 nd grade	June 12-June 15 9AM-3PM	Rock Creek Campground	\$10/day	T W Th F All T W Th F All		
3 rd - 5 th grade	June 26-June 29 9AM-3PM	Rock Creek Campground	\$10/day	T W Th F All T W Th F All		
6 th - 8 th grade	June 18 (6-9PM) Orientation July 17 (12PM)- July 19 (12PM)	Rock Creek Campground Sherman Park	\$40	All Days Required		
9 th - 12 th grade	June 18 (6-9PM) Orientation July 23 (8AM)- July 27 (12PM)	Rock Creek Campground Yellow River State Forest, IA	\$200	All Days Required		

Name of Guardian (Please Print)

Signature

Address, City, State, Zip

Email

Phone #

Please send separate checks, per child, per camp. Make payment to Clinton County Conservation Foundation. Payment is due June 1st with registration, there is a \$10 late fee per child, per camp after this date. Non-refundable after June 1st.

Office Use Only: Date Received _____ Amount enclosed _____ Check #(s) _____ P.11

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

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Green Heron ~ Little Cousin to the Great Blue

CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION

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

STAFF

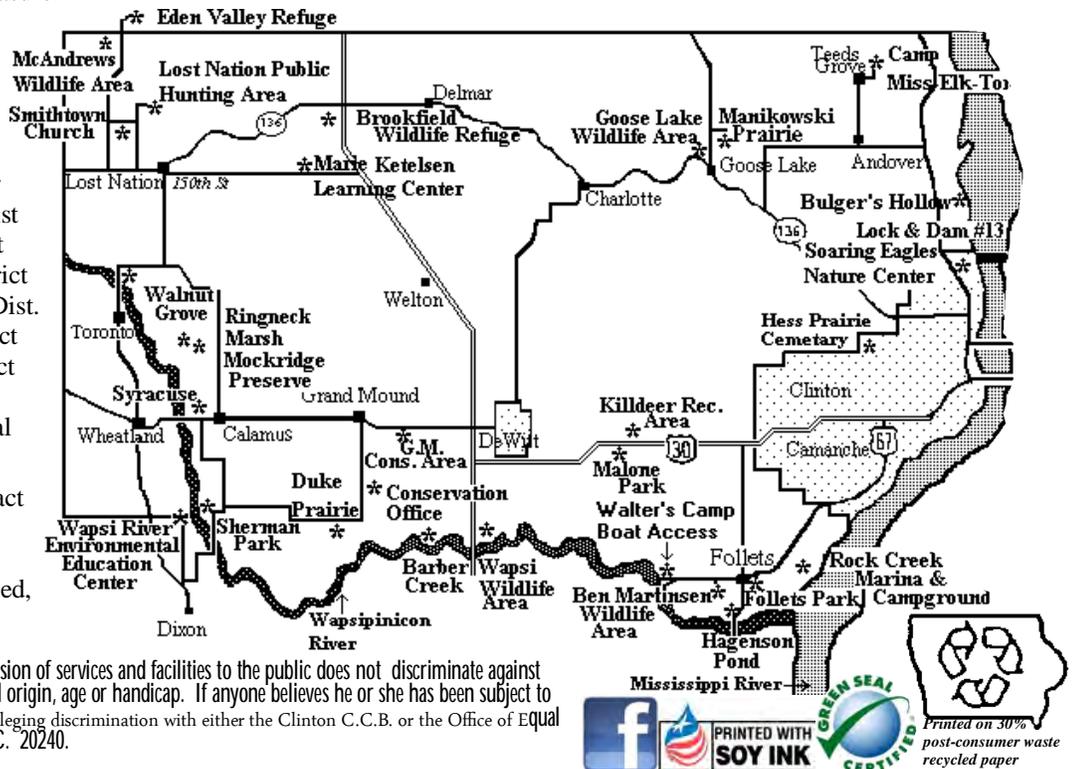
Walt Wickham, Executive Director
 Karen Brix, Administrative Assistant
 Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator
 Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretive Naturalist
 Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist
 Chip Brown, Park Officer, West District
 Dave Schneden, Maintenance, West Dist.
 Brad Taylor, Park Officer, East District
 Ryan Waltz, Park Ranger, East District
 Darin Voss, Natural Resource Tech
 Robert Schaefer, Maintenance, Central

MAILING LIST

If you'd like to get "The Heron" contact the CCCB. It is mailed to County addresses free. Others are charged \$5 annually or 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.

