

The Heron

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Dirt is Going to Fly! ~ Eco Tourism Center Construction Begins

by Walt Wickham, Executive Director

If you have been following the progress of the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, you probably know that many people have been working long and hard to make this dream a reality. Well, I can now report that the dream is finally coming true! On January 6th, 2011, dirt will fly at Rock Creek Marina & Campground! It is on that day that ground breaking ceremonies will be held for the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. I still find it hard to believe that we will finally be starting construction on the new facility. After many years of planning and fund-raising for the project, it looks like we are finally going to start building.

At December's meeting, the Conservation Board voted to award the construction contract to Clinton Engineering with the low bid of \$1,708,000. I think most of us involved are still in shock that we actually were to the point of opening bids. We've been anticipating this day for a long time. The awarding of the bid is contingent upon approval of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). This is due to the fact that we will be using funds from a Scenic Byway grant to fund much of the project. The Scenic Byway grants are a federal grant that is administered by the IDOT. Approval by the IDOT is expected to be received sometime soon.

Additional funding for the construction of the facility has come from many generous local sponsors. Some of our largest donors include the 3M Corporation, LyondellBasell, James Durgin, Walmart and the Clinton County Community Development Association. All contributors to the project will be recognized on a donor display at the center.

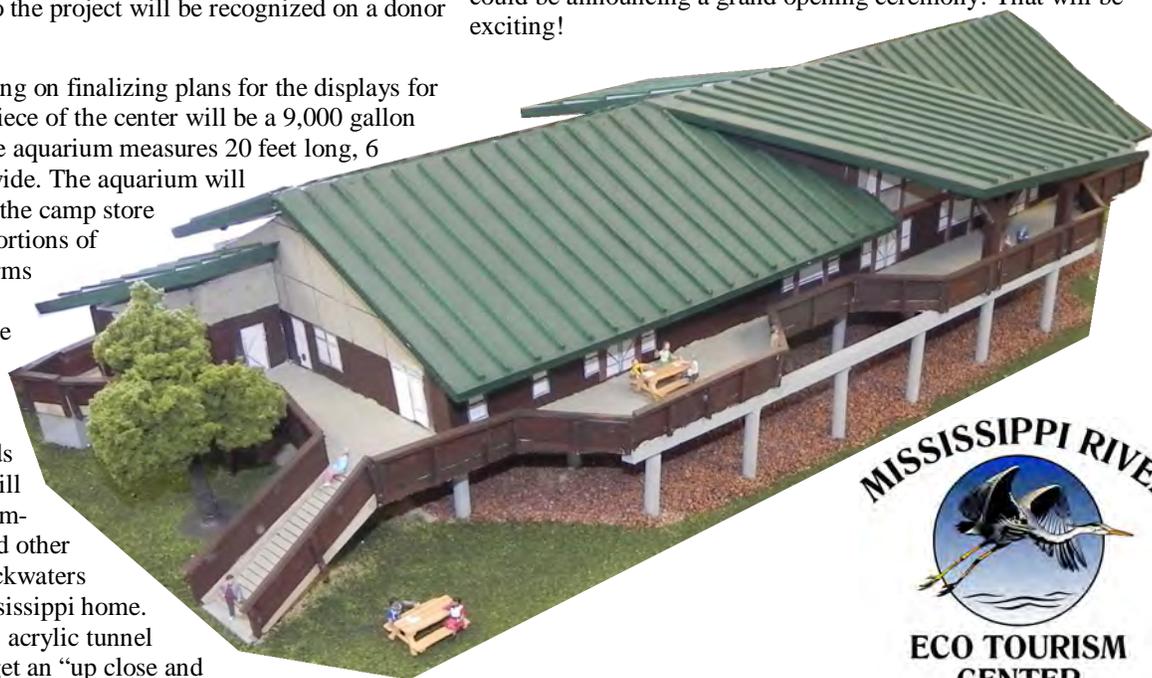
We are currently working on finalizing plans for the displays for the center. The centerpiece of the center will be a 9,000 gallon aquarium. This massive aquarium measures 20 feet long, 6 feet high, and 10 feet wide. The aquarium will be viewable from both the camp store and the nature center portions of the building since it forms the dividing wall between the two. It will be stocked with Mississippi River fish species. We are also planning on a large wetlands display. This display will highlight the reptiles, amphibians, waterfowl and other species that call the backwaters and sloughs of the Mississippi home. A crawl-through, clear, acrylic tunnel will allow children to get an "up close and

personal" view of the wetland inhabitants. Other displays include the river-bottom forest creatures, migratory birds and fresh water mussels of the Mississippi River.

The Eco Center will also be home to a large collection of replicas of Iowa state record fish species, including the largest large-mouth bass to the biggest flathead catfish and fish species in between. These replicas will give visitors a vivid impression of just how large our aquatic friends can grow. It will be the only place in Iowa that you can see such a vast collection!

So how much is all of this going to cost, you ask? Preliminary estimates are \$250,000 for the aquarium and an additional \$250,000 for the various displays. While we have raised all the funds necessary for construction of the building, we are still short on funds for displays, furnishings and equipment and other miscellaneous items. So if you haven't already contributed to the Eco Center, there is still time. Donations can be made to the Clinton County Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 68, Grand Mound, Iowa 52751. All donations are tax deductible. If you have already contributed, we would like to give you a big "thank you" for helping us to get this far on the project.

Come on down to Rock Creek on January 6th and help us celebrate this exciting milestone in the building of your Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. If all goes well, by this time next year I could be announcing a grand opening ceremony! That will be exciting!



MISSISSIPPI RIVER

ECO TOURISM
CENTER

Chip Brown—A Conservation Hero

adapted from *Conservation Heroes Magazine* ~ Winter 2010-11,
Iowa Trust for Local Conservation

On April 1, 2009, paper work was signed to bring a 160-acre parcel called the *Ringneck Marsh Wildlife Area* near Calamus, Iowa into the WRP (Wetland Reserve) program. Chip Brown lead the fundraising effort to collect \$175,000 from outside sources including grants from the Iowa Habitat Stamp Grant and Pheasants Forever's "Build a Wildlife Area" Fund. Chip and his wife, Kathy, took money out of their own savings to put towards this project so that this parcel of land could become public hunting grounds for all to use. He spent countless hours at meetings of many habitat organizations in the surrounding area including *Pheasants Forever*, *Whitetails Unlimited*, *Grand Mound Sportsman's Club* and *Waterfowl USA*. Dollar by dollar he raised enough money to purchase this valuable piece of Iowa land to protect for future generations. The marsh is currently being expanded to 260 acres, again with Chip's leadership. Chip also helped a great deal with the *McAndrews Wildlife Area* a few years ago and raised funds to build a large wetland in *Lost Nation Public Hunting Area* affectionately call "Lake Brown" by his co-workers.

Chip's future plans for *Ringneck Marsh* include a raised wildlife viewing platform, a handicapped accessible hunting blind for a waterfowler's version of a *Purple Heart Hunt*, a trumpeter swan release this spring and the annual *Waterfowl Watch* (See calendar).

He is an active Pheasants Forever, Wild Turkey Federation and Whitetails Unlimited supporter. His friends say, "He does these things not because he is getting paid or because someone tells him to, it's because he wants to and feels strongly enough about it to get it done." The Iowa Trust for Local Conservation awarded Chip with a \$250 professional development cash award to further his ongoing professional development as a County Park Officer.

Build a Legacy for the Future

Volunteering takes up our time, energy, and sometimes, money. It can be hard work. It can find us doing and seeing new things, which can be challenging and even a little scary. The world is not a perfect place, and many people, animals, special places, and communities need help.

State and local governments and professional staff try to meet everyone's needs, but it is impossible for them to do it all. This is why people become volunteers; because they can make a difference where someone or something needs help.

People who become volunteers usually lead richer, happier, and more satisfying lives than those who don't volunteer. Ask a County Conservation Board or staff member today what you can do to help create a better environment in your local county park or wildlife area.



Eden Valley gets a New Mural

by Aaron Askelson, Intern Naturalist

As the finishing touches are being applied to the new mural at the Eden Valley Nature Center it seems like a good time to reflect on my internship at Clinton County Conservation. For the most part of the months of November and December I have been working on a mural that will compliment an existing display and mural. Mark Roberts had approached me about this project as a way to improve the Nature Center and extend my internship. I jumped on the opportunity, it combines two of my passions, the natural world and art. After some brainstorming sessions about what kinds of plants and animals we wanted to include I started doing some sketching and we put up new drywall.

Then the fun part began; doing the painting for the mural. It has been a challenge because it is the largest thing I have ever painted (there is over 162 sq. feet to paint on). There are many details in this large mural that I hope people will enjoy. Many of the bird species that are in the Clinton County area are represented along with many of the woodland and wetland flora. When the Nature Center opens again in April, I hope that everyone enjoys the new mural. I know that I have certainly enjoyed creating it. If you



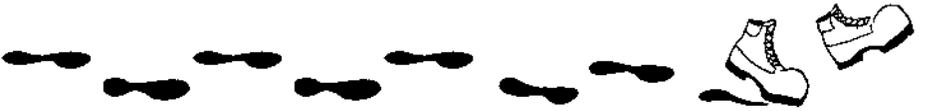
Aaron's new artwork will compliment EVNC's wetland diorama.

can't wait, come to the *Winter Open House* on March 5th (see calendar).

This has been an incredible internship that has taught me a lot about the hard work it takes to become a successful naturalist. Clinton County Conservation is one of the few elite conservation education programs in the state and it has been an honor and privilege to work with the education staff

Rock Creek in Wintertime

by Ryan Waltz, Park Ranger, East District



Here at Rock Creek we always have something in the works. Wintertime doesn't seem to lighten the load on us. It just gives us a chance to do some of the projects we are not able to get to in the summer.

One of the many things we work on every winter is docks. They are always needing some sort of repair whether it is new deck boards or building metal ones. The building of docks is going to slow down though; almost all the docks are now metal. Over the past several years we have been purchasing aluminum docks to replace the houseboat docks. Otherwise we have been building steel docks. We have two more houseboat docks to be replaced yet. After that the production of docks will come to a close, at least for now.

There are always things that come up that are unexpected. This year, the flooding of the Wapsi River took a toll on our metal docks. Pressure from the current pushing against the docks and the rented boat slips caused brackets to get bent and the structure of the dock to get damaged. Many of the docks were ripped out and floated down the river.

Docks are always creating work for us. If the water is going to come up significantly then we have to put extensions on the pipes. When the water starts to recede, we make sure the docks are sliding back down the pipes properly to avoid binding and hanging up. Of course there is the yearly process of putting them in and taking them out of the water. Back in 1996, we built all new wooden docks for the main portion of the marina. Well, we came up with the bright idea to leave the docks in the water for the winter. This was before we were familiar with the extreme power of Wapsi River. To make a long story short, the Wapsi flooded and the ice hadn't gone out yet. It proceeded to take the ice out and the new docks we had built went with it. We spent the

next week retrieving docks that were scattered along the Mississippi River from Rock Creek to Lock and Dam #14. It seems that Mother Nature is always throwing us a curve when we think we have a good handle on things.

The Wood Duck Cabin is getting insulation and carsing applied to the ceiling to make it more appealing to the public. This also will make it more efficient to heat in the winter and provide air conditioning in the summer for our patrons. If things work out right, we will also put a new floor surface in the cabin to make it easier to clean. A porch light will be added to allow much needed lighting outside the cabin. Insulation in the floor, a cabinet under the sink and skirting around the bottom on the outside will be added.

Another project in the mix; the shower house is going to get a fresh coat of paint on the floor and in the showers. This may delay the shower house getting open right away when it warms up but it will be a refreshed look when it opens in the spring. There are always the normal maintenance items that take time too like repair of picnic tables, site posts and fire rings. Splitting firewood for the campers next spring is always a chore. The Jon boats, canoes, kayaks and paddle boats need TLC before spring as well.

Wintertime always treats us to a lot of snow. Ice fishermen like to stop by for the good fishing that occurs on the backwaters of the Mississippi River. We clear the snow from the roads and parking areas so folks that want to go ice fishing or enjoy taking a drive through won't need a 4-wheel drive vehicle to enjoy it.

No matter what time of the year it is, Rock Creek is a fun place to go. Whether it is boating, fishing or camping in the summer or ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the winter, come down and see what we have to offer.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis Fairmaire*, is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan, near Detroit, in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. Emerald ash borer has since moved as far west as Iowa.

Since its discovery, EAB has:

- Killed tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in surrounding states.
- Caused the USDA to enforce quarantines (Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri among others) and fines to prevent potentially infested ash wood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs. EAB was confirmed in Iowa earlier this year.
- Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

Why is NOT moving firewood important?

Firewood can transport many invasive insect pests including the emerald ash borer. The movement of infested firewood has

proven to be the source of many infestations throughout the United States. In Iowa, our motto is *Buy Local & Burn Local!*

Clinton County Conservation Policy prohibits the importation of firewood from Illinois and other states under the federal Emerald Ash Borer quarantine on all its lands. All firewood entering our parks must carry a label similar to the one below, whether you bought it from a store, individual or agency, as required by the U.S.D.A.



Clinton County FIREWOOD

Packaged & Distributed by
Clinton County Conservation Board
2308 255th Street, Grand Mound, IA 52751
563-847-7202

Harvested in Clinton County, Iowa ~
\$5 per bundle ~ 2011 Growing Season
Save Our Trees! Don't Transport Firewood
Buy Local & Burn It Where You Buy It

Wildlife Profile ~ Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist



This year I went shotgun hunting for deer, it was just my second time ever doing so. Since I am new to the hunting game, I comply with the strategy of sitting and waiting, a tried and true method for our area. Well as you know, we had fresh snow and it was beautiful. Even so, you get tired of sitting there, especially if no deer are coming by. So I found myself looking for the smallest movement or sound to occupy my time, while waiting for my prize. I saw trumpeter swans, bald eagles, black-capped chickadees, dark-eyed juncos, squirrels and crows, but the most common animal I heard and saw was the blue jay. With its noisy calls, I began to wonder what they were squawking at. Later that day, a single blue jay came to perch on the tree I was sitting under. I was pleased that something had come to take my mind off of the lack of deer I was seeing. So I looked at it closely and it looked at me closer, getting about five feet away. I thought that was pretty cool though I knew I would pay for such a close look. It then went to a nearby tree to tell all who was close enough to hear that something was out of place under that tree. Low and behold I did see a doe a little while later and she was skeptical the whole time, letting out a couple of snorts, then hopped a fence and took off running, leaving me with nothing to hunt.

Other times, some of the neatest things I have seen in nature have been when I went to where the tight family of jays were conversing. For instance the only time I have really noticed owls perched during the day has been when a blue jay family has spotted it and mobs it till it flies away. Another time, I heard a blue jay ruckus outside at the bird feeders. Looking outside I saw a blue jay flock in the tree while a Cooper's hawk was standing on a male cardinal on the white snow-covered ground. When the hawk had enough, it flew away with its meal leaving only a couple brilliant red feathers. That day I truly had a birdfeeder for all types of birds. Then this year, I enjoyed seeing a blue jay family visiting my yard's black oak to reap the benefits of this mast producing year by eating the acorns.



For as common as these birds are with their rock star looks and attitude, they are not fully understood.

Blue jays are part of the *corvidae* family that includes other jays, crows, ravens and magpies. This is a very intelligent group of birds that are known for their loud voice and commanding presence. Blue jays are found in southern Canada and into the United States everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains. Their range is even expanding into Oregon and British Columbia due to the popularity of bird feeding and urbanization, resulting in hybridization with the Stellar's jay found there. They are found preferring the edge in all forest types especially if there are oaks around but will also be found in urban areas where bird feeding is occurring. They love acorns, where they can pick up five in their mouth to go and cache, to eat later. In a single autumn a blue jay can cache 3,000 to 5,000 acorns. This fact credits them with spreading oak trees after the last ice age. Along with acorns, they will also eat grain, insects, dead or injured small vertebrates, eggs, other nuts and seeds from trees, shrubs or off the ground.

These birds are fairly large songbirds about the size of a dove. The males and females are similar in size and appearance. They have a blue crest that exhibits their mood. If straight up like a

mohawk, the jay is agitated. When it is relaxed and feeding, its crest is almost nonexistent. Its bill is black and heavy. The black bridle framing its face and across its eye has many variations that may aid in blue jays recognizing individuals. The blue feathers on the blue jay are not really blue but brown. The blue is produced by the scattering of light through modified cells on the surface of the feather barbs. The underside is white or gray. These birds also fly with slow steady beats with their rounded wings and long tail feathers with white corners.

Many people think that the blue jay is a big bully. At first glance they are. Many times you may see them coming in like gang busters, scaring other birds from the feeder by their flock size, noise making or even using a mimic call sounding like a red-tailed or red-shouldered hawk. If you continue to observe, the birds that scatter only go a short distance and come right back in to feed. In fact some studies have shown that other birds like woodpeckers, grackles and gray squirrels bully the blue jay! If you asked me,



these birds might not only be protecting their tight family, but also other birds by showing them where a predator is hiding and sending out the alarm. Another not so nice blue jay rumor is that blue jays kill other bird's nestlings or eggs. But through extensive studies it has been shown that only 1% had evidence of this in their stomach where most of their diet consisted of insects and nuts.

I am starting to think these guys are just misunderstood! Blue jays form a tight bond with their partner and mate for life which can be around 15 years. They choose a sturdy spot in a crotch of a tree 10 to 25 feet in the air. The male gathers the live twigs (which can be tough to obtain) to make the frame of the nest. Then he will search far and wide for fine roots from up-turned soil so the female can line the nest. The female then lays 2 to 7 light blue to brown with darker brown spots, 1-inch long eggs. Then only the female incubates for 17 days while the male provides the food for the female and nestlings until they are 8 to 12 days old. Afterwards the female shares the responsibility, but still the male does most of the providing. The nestlings will fledge when they are 17 to 21 days old but the parents may still provide for them up to 2 months, depending on parental style.

The reason the blue jay is not fully understood is its migration mystery. Sometimes a bird may migrate, while other years it may not. There are individuals that never migrate throughout the range. It has been estimated that only 20% of the blue jay population migrate at all. Anyway, there does not seem to be a rhythm or rhyme on when, where or age of bird. For now, it will remain a mystery.

I don't know about you, but I am glad that these songbirds decorate Iowa's landscape with their beauty and song for us to enjoy and wonder about.

Oh, you may be wondering did I get a deer while I was gawking at anything that came by. Yes, I did! It was my first ever successful hunt. What makes hunting great is not just harvesting an animal, but the whole outdoor experience leading up to the big event.

Public Hunting Land ~ What's it to Ya?

by Darin Voss, Natural Resource Technician

Earlier this fall, I was walking down a wooded trail in a Clinton County public hunting area. It became apparent to me that I should write an article on the importance of wildlife areas. It was the opening weekend of early duck season and my brother Devin decided that he would travel down from northeast Iowa to spend some quality duck hunting time with me. I always enjoy having company, especially when it's for a hunting season. The only downfall is that I feel a little extra pressure to have success when someone has traveled quite a distance for the hunt. The hunt to us isn't just about the numbers harvested or limits filled, but more about the quality of the hunt itself.

While planning where to duck hunt opening day I had some considerations to keep in mind. I didn't have access to any private land and I really didn't want to fight the overwhelming crowd on the marsh. It suddenly occurred to me that we should utilize a local county conservation hunting area. I remembered earlier in the summer that wood ducks were using the site and thought that we should give it a try.

Opening morning finally comes around and it's time to head to the hunting area. I decided that we should arrive early and take a little nap in the vehicle so that we would be sure to get the spot I had scouted. It turned out that we were unchallenged in getting to the place that I wanted to hunt. We patiently waited until legal shooting light and just enjoyed the sounds and shadows of the early morning. The first few minutes of the season were a little slow; but soon the wood ducks started flying into the pond and within five minutes my brother hollered "I'm done". He was referring to having his limit of three wood ducks. At that point I already had two and should have had my third, but I must admit I'm not as good of a shot as he is.

At this point we noticed a storm building off to the west. When I met up with my brother, who was on the other side of the pond, he had a big grin on his face and asked, "Is that it"? I think he was still a little surprised that it only took him a few minutes to limit out on woodies. I still had one wood duck to go, so I sat for a short while to see if I could get that last one. Like I stated earlier, hunting is not about filling limits to me, but once my brother limited out the whole sibling rivalry thing kicked in. A couple minutes had passed before I had one fly right at me and I missed. After that, I knew I had to swallow my pride, pack up and head for the vehicle. We had a ten-minute walk ahead of us and the storm was beginning to roll in. Needless to say we got a little wet before we made it back to the vehicle, but that just made the hunt all the more memorable! I have done a lot of hunting with my brother, but to-date that hunt has to rank right up there with being the most enjoyable.

It occurred to me as we were walking out of the hunting area just how important public hunting areas are to me as well as so many other people. Unfortunately not everyone feels the same way! In the short while that I have been the Natural Resource Tech for the county I have heard many negative comments regarding public hunting areas. Comments have ranged from "you can't have any success on public hunting areas" to "nobody uses them anyway". The most often voiced concern that I hear is that the county is taking land off the tax rolls. I would like to talk briefly on each one of these concerns.



Let's start with hunting success. Try convincing my brother Devin, or many of the other hunters, that utilize these areas that you can't bag game on public hunting areas! After spending ample time on the hunting areas myself and visiting with others who have, I know for a fact that you can be very successful! It is important that you do your homework before you hunt any area. Your success rate can be increased dramatically if you put forth the effort to scout which areas are being used by the different species. Scouting will also help you locate areas which may not be as pressured by other hunters.

The next comment that is puzzling to me is that the public hunting areas are not used. During the hunting seasons it is very rare that there is not at least one vehicle parked in the lot of a hunting area in the county. I have seen more than a dozen vehicles parked at a time outside of the hunting areas. In recent years it has become more and more difficult to gain access to hunt private land. When I was growing up it seemed relatively easy to get permission to hunt on private land. Most of the time it just took a knock on the door, a handshake and a short visit with the farmer. Today the farming operations have grown so large that it can become a wild goose chase just to locate the farmer who runs the land. Many times, after finally tracking down that landowner, you learn that the hunting rights have been given or leased to somebody else. Another trend that has become more common in recent years is the purchasing of land for recreational use. Wealthy landowners typically purchase the land solely for their own hunting use. With increased land prices it is difficult for average people to purchase land for hunting. Without public areas, many hunters would have to give up the pastime.

The last topic that I'm going to touch on is the concern that land has been taken off the tax roll. This could become a whole separate article if I'm not careful, so I'll try to keep it brief. Many of the hunting areas that are owned by Clinton County had reduced taxes or were exempt prior to them being purchased due to the different farm programs that the land was already in. It is true that there are some dollars that are no longer going in as county taxes. However, looking at the big picture, these dollars are minimal when you look at the revenue that is being brought into the county because of the hunting areas. It is estimated by the Iowa DNR that every acre of public hunting land generates \$400 per year to the local economy. In our county that is 2 million dollars on 5,000 acres! That doesn't include the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge's 8,000 acres bordering the county.

I realize that not everyone is going to share the same opinions on this topic. Realize that the majority of the year, nobody is hunting on these lands. They are places for rearing young. Also, the vast majority of creatures living in public hunting areas are not even game species! If nothing else is taken from this article, I hope that light was shed on why public hunting areas are important. I hope that a few concerns of the public hunting areas were eased. These wildlife areas essential to help keep an American tradition alive. That is what public hunting is to me!

Wintertime Fun Activities

January

Cross-country Skiing and Snowshoeing ~ As weather conditions allow, check the local media for cross-country skiing and snowshoe outings throughout the winter. Or, for those with e-mail addresses, write clintonccb@yahoo.com and place yourself on our handy adventurers' list. Adventurers will receive a short message whenever last-minute snow events are planned.

5th ~ OWLS Outing (Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls) ~ Winter Birds ~ 1 PM - 2 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ A Naturalist will present on bird behavior, feeds and feeding and demonstrate how people can participate in national bird counts. Attendees may create a feeder or nest box to keep for decoration or the birds. We will save time for socializing and refreshments. We will lead a short birding hike at 2 PM if weather allows.

What is OWLS? The Clinton County Conservation and Eagle Point Nature Society invites folks to its monthly series of programs for OWLS. (Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls) at the Soaring Eagle Nature Center, 3923 N. 3rd St., Clinton, Iowa beginning at 1 PM. A sweet treat will be provided. For information about the O.W.L.S. program, contact at 563-847-7202.

6th ~ Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center Groundbreaking Ceremony ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Winter isn't the best time to start construction but we can't wait! Join us for a ceremony featuring school children from every school district in the county. We are gonna have cake and eat it too!

6th ~ Eagle Point Nature Society's Annual Meeting ~ 6 PM - 8 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ This event celebrates another year of educational, recreational, historical and cultural offerings to the Gateway Area. Area school districts have for decades benefited from the close local and professional interpretation of curriculum sensitive natural themes. Outdoor activities are held regularly for the public and the relatively new Prairie Pastures Dog Park draws many visitors daily. The emergence of the Nature Barn and Flannery Country School as a Silos and Smokestacks (National Parks Service) site is very exciting. Members and prospective members are welcome. RSVP by calling Chuck at 563-357-0759.

7th - 9th ~ Quad Cities Bald Eagle

Days ~ QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island ~ Celebrate the return of the Bald Eagle. Enjoy more than 100 display and information booths. The event is 4 PM-8 PM Friday, 10 AM-8 PM on Saturday and 10 AM-5 PM on Sunday. Come visit us at the Wapsi Center display.

8th ~ Christmas Tree Recycling Drive / Fundraiser for DeWitt Boy Scout Troop 29/Venture Crew 77 ~ Support the scouts! Support the environment! Suggested donation per tree: \$15 - \$25. Collection area: Cities of DeWitt, Grand Mound, Welton, and Low Moor (other pickups available by appointment). Please place your personal check, made out to Troop 29, in an envelope, attach it to the bottom of your tree and place the tree at the curb

Who Doesn't Love Snow-Days?

by 9 AM on Saturday, January 8th. Please do not place cash in the envelope. All proceeds from the drive will remain with the local scouts, providing ongoing programs and helping the participating scouts earn funds to pay for high adventure trips. See the Scout website at www.dewittscouts.org or call 563-212-5683.

Christmas Tree-cycling ~ Killdeer

Recreation Area ~ Looking for an environmentally-sound fate for your Christmas tree? Drop it off at Killdeer Recreation Area, Hwy. 30 east of DeWitt or Clinton County Conservation office, south of Grand Mound and the Scouts will use it for fish habitat! Please, no wire, bases or flocked trees.



8th ~ The 27th Annual Bald Eagle Watch ~ 9 AM - 2 PM ~ Clinton Community College ~ Speakers, exhibits and parking will be at the college. Courtesy transportation will be provided by MTA from the college to the viewing site at Lock & Dam #13 from 8:30 AM-3:30 PM. Participants should dress for the weather and bring binoculars.

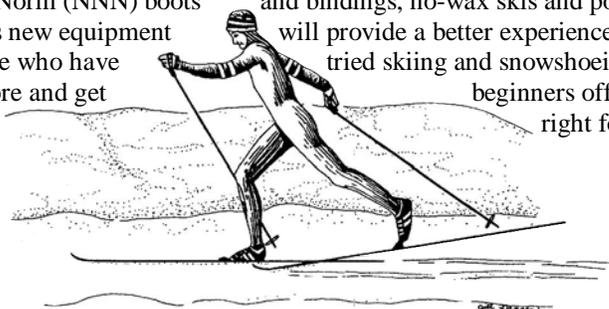
- Outdoor viewing: Lock & Dam 13, 8:30-3:30
- Free bus service from college to outdoor viewing area.
- Live Bird and Nature Programs: Clinton Community College, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM
- Exhibits: Clinton Comm. College, 9 AM to 2:30 PM
- For more information call the Thomson Ranger office: 815-259-3628.

12th ~ Nature Tails ~ 2 PM ~ Children's Discovery Center ~ This nature activity is for elementary school-aged children to learn how tails help animals in nature. There will be a story, live animals, real furs and mounts along with a craft and snack. The Children's Discovery Center is located at 332 8th Avenue South in Clinton, near Hy-Vee. This event is free of charge.

14th ~ Nature Tails ~ 10:30 AM ~ Children's Discovery Center ~ This nature activity is for three to five year-olds to learn about textures, opposites, shapes and uses of animal tails using live animals and furs. There will also be a story, craft and snack too! This event is free of charge.

15th ~ 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.

15th ~ Cross Country Ski Clinic ~ 1 PM - 4 PM ~ Emma Young Park, Clinton ~ Join naturalists for this introduction to the outdoor winter sports of cross-country. A new feature this year is the updated equipment provided free, including New Nordic Norm (NNN) boots and bindings, no-wax skis and poles. This new equipment will provide a better experience to those who have tried skiing and snowshoeing before and get beginners off on the right foot.



19th ~ Full Moon Ski/Snowshoe ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Come explore the wilderness of the Upper Mississippi Fish & Wildlife Refuge on a pair of cross-country skis or snowshoes provided free, on a first-come, first-served basis, by your Clinton County Conservation Department. A naturalist will lead a trail ski or individuals may enjoy the park's trail system on their own.

The camp store will be heated and flush toilets available for participants. We may even build a warming fire outdoors if the weather allows.

20th ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 7 PM ~ Gander Mountain, Davenport ~ Learn how you can get involved!



22nd ~ Snowshoe Tracking ~ 10 AM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Come explore the wintery wilderness at the Wapsi Center via snowshoe. Learn about the history of snowshoes and then search for animal tracks and signs. Winter family fun for everyone! Please call to reserve equipment 563-328-3286.

29th ~ Eighth Annual Ice Fishing Tournament ~ 7 AM ~ Pool 14, Lost Grove Lake & Rock Creek Area ~ Entry fee is \$20 per person with 2-person teams. Pre-registration & entry fee must be made to Princeton Outdoor Adventures by Jan. 28th, at www.princetonoutdooradventures.com or call 563-289-5445.

29th ~ Snowmobile Radar Run ~ 10 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Eastern Iowa Sno-riders snowmobile club will once again hold this annual event on the backwater ice at Rock Creek Marina, ice permitting. Anyone is welcome to race their snowmobile against a radar gun. Donations accepted per run, with all proceeds going to the Spina Bifida Foundation of Iowa. The club also holds a wheelie contest. Hot food, drinks and snacks will be available for purchase on-site. Spectators are welcome. Call Ron Benhart at 563-529-5703 for more information.



29th & 30th ~ LeClaire Bald Eagle Watch ~ Mississippi Valley Welcome Center ~ Please join for the annual Eagle Watch event. Participants will learn about our national symbol with outdoor viewing opportunities on the river at Lock & Dam 14 as well as indoor presentations about raptors in general. This free event will include 3 live birds of prey! Presentation times are Saturday, 10 AM, 11 AM & Noon and Sunday, 1, 2 & 3 PM. The Mississippi Valley Welcome Center is located next to I-80, LeClaire, Iowa. Call 563-322-3911 for more information.

29th ~ Recycled Card Crafts ~ 2 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Did you know that during the holiday season we generate 5 million tons of trash? Recycling is the key! By attending this fun afternoon program, participants will learn to make gift boxes, decorative tags, ornaments and much more from recycled holiday cards. Scissors, glue, rulers and pencils will be provided; participants need only to bring cards. Pre-registration is required, call 563-328-3286.

February

2nd ~ OWLS Outing (Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls) ~ Ground Hogs and other Iowa Furbearers ~ 1 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Celebrate Ground Hog Day with a Clinton County interpretive naturalist who will present on mammal types and behavior. If weather allows, a short animal tracking hike may demonstrate how these traces can tell the story of survival in the wild. We will reserve time for socializing and refreshments.

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 welcome.



5th ~ Winter Fun Day ~ Wapsi Center ~ Come for a fun-filled day of winter activities. This is an event the whole family can enjoy, so plan to come out and discover winter at its best. BYOM ~ Bring your own mug.

- **9 AM ~ Cross-country Ski Clinic** ~ Learn the basics of cross-country skiing. Participants will learn about proper skiing techniques, safety and equipment. Participants may bring their own equipment.
- **12:30 PM ~ Snowshoe Nature Hike** ~ Join us on this excursion into the Wapsi Center's woodlands. We will be making our own tracks, looking for signs of life in the still winter woods.
- **2 PM ~ Winter Bird Feeding** ~ Learn how to identify winter birds. Get some tips on how to attract and feed our feathered friends.
- **3 PM ~ Wonderful Owls** ~ Learn how to identify owls in Iowa and those that reside at the Wapsi Center. Amazing, nocturnal adaptations make these birds incredible hunters. We will also do eagle viewing, if the birds come to roost.
- **4:30 PM ~ 4th Annual Chili Cook-off** ~ The Friends of the Wapsi Center will be hosting this annual competition. Please bring your best chili creation to share, and possibly win the coveted chili cup!!! Please bring your own table setting.
- **5:30 PM ~ Frostbite Star Party** ~



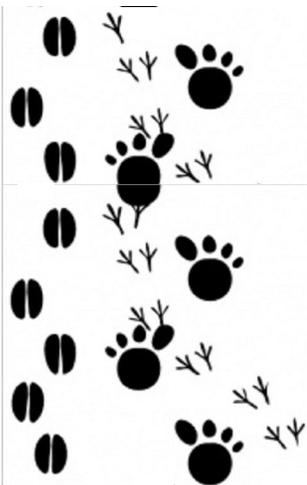
Winter is a great time for astronomy. The sky is never clearer than on cold, winter nights. The winter constellations center around Orion, the Great Hunter. In the sword hanging from Orion's Belt, one can find the Orion Nebula, which is one of the most spectacular objects to be seen through a telescope. Park in lot A.



5th ~ Folk Concert ~ 7 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ As the finale for Winter Fun Day, we invite you to relax and enjoy an evening of acoustical guitar and vocal offerings of the music of Paul Simon, Peter Mayer, John Denver, John Prine and several others as rendered by local talents. You may participate by using one of our simple percussion instruments, bringing your own, singing along, slapping your knee or just being a quiet listener.

9th ~ Footprints in the Snow ~ 2 PM ~ Children's Discovery Center ~ This nature activity is for elementary school-aged children to play a tracking game using real furs to see and touch, along with a story, craft and snack. This event is free.

11th ~ Footprints in the Snow ~ 10:30 AM ~ Children's Discovery Center ~ This nature activity is for three to five year-olds, to learn to follow a route using animal tracks to lead them to real furs, to see and touch, along with a story, craft and snack. This event is free.



12th ~ Whitetails Unlimited Banquet ~ 5:30 PM ~ Millennium Ballroom, Goose Lake ~ Help provide public hunting, wildlife habitat and support the future of the hunting tradition. Also see the largest trophy deer display in the county. Children are encouraged to attend and each will receive a special prize. Call Mark for tickets at 563-659-2422.



17th ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 7 PM ~ Gander Mountain, Davenport ~ Learn how you can get involved!

18th ~ Full Moon Ski/Snowshoe ~ 6 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ We will be laying down tracks on specially designated trails for snowshoes and skiers. A naturalist will lead a group on snowshoes into the depths of the night and investigate points of interest. Equipment will be available, first-come, first-served.

26th ~ Girls' Day Out ~ 10AM - 4PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ Women 10 and up (10-17 year olds must be with a female chaperone) are invited to attend this fun forest foray. There will be activities including, but not limited to, a bird feeding program and viewing and constructing a birdhouse (\$5 to \$30 depending on type). Weather permitting, we will be cross country skiing and snowshoeing otherwise we will be geocaching and hiking. You will need to pack a sack lunch and there is a \$5/person fee. Please call 563-847-7202 to register.

26th ~ Maple-Syruping Demonstration ~ 1 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Join Tom Greene as he discusses the history and procedure of tapping trees for syrup. Handouts and where to find tapping equipment will be provided to participants. Please call 563-328-3286, if you are interested in attending.



26th ~ Mississippi Flyway Chapter of Waterfowl USA Banquet ~ 5:30 PM ~ Buck's Barn, Thomson, IL. ~ Local Buck\$ for Local Ducks! The chapter recently donated to help Clinton County Conservation purchase Ringneck Marsh. Also the chapter has a shallow water wetland fund that helps landowners with the cost of developing wetlands and is active in artificial nesting with many wood duck houses and goose floats in area backwaters. Call Ron Kaufman at 309-887-4390.

March

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 welcome.

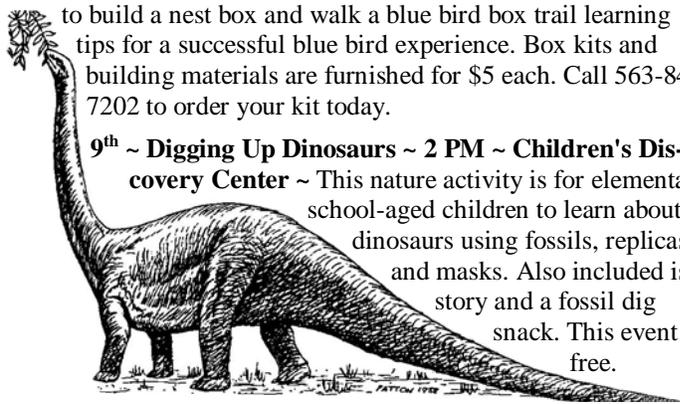
5th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Winter Open House ~ 1-5 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Join us for some winter fun!

- **1 PM-3 PM ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open** ~ Stop by to see our many displays. We will have hot cocoa and cookies for park goers at the nature center.
- **1 PM-3 PM ~ Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing** ~ If we have snow, we will have some of our cross-country skis & snowshoes available within the park.
- **3 PM-5 PM ~ Owling, Birding & Winter Tracking Hike** ~ Take a naturalist-led hike into the back valley looking for animal tracks and signs, predator calling, birding and owling.

5th ~ Maple-Syruping Demonstration ~ 1 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Join Tom Greene as he discusses the history and procedure of tapping trees for syrup. Handouts and where to find tapping equipment will be provided to participants. Please call 563-328-3286, if you are interested in attending.

9th ~ OWLS Outing (Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls) ~ Building Backyards for Blue Birds ~ 1 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ The Eastern Blue Bird will be making its return in early spring and for those who love beautifully colored things, this bird's return is a welcome one. Come learn the history and habits of this fascinating and endearing little creature and how you can invite their presence at your residence. Participants will have the opportunity to build a nest box and walk a blue bird box trail learning tips for a successful blue bird experience. Box kits and building materials are furnished for \$5 each. Call 563-847-7202 to order your kit today.

9th ~ Digging Up Dinosaurs ~ 2 PM ~ Children's Discovery Center ~ This nature activity is for elementary school-aged children to learn about dinosaurs using fossils, replicas and masks. Also included is a story and a fossil dig snack. This event is free.



10th ~ Birdhouse Workshop ~ 6:30 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ You can build your own bluebird, wren, kestrel or wood duck nest box from a kit to provide for wildlife in your world. You will also learn about the correct placement and maintenance of the boxes. The kits will be available for a small fee to cover materials. Fees are \$5 for a wren or bluebird and \$25 for wood duck box. Call 563-847-7202 before March 7th to order your kits.

11th ~ Digging Up Dinosaurs ~ 10:30 AM ~ Children's Discovery Center ~ This nature activity is for three to five year-olds to learn about dinosaurs with fossils, replicas and masks. Also included is a story and a fossil dig snack. This event is free.

12th ~ Wild Turkey Federation Banquet ~ 6 PM ~ Millennium Ballroom, Goose Lake ~ Help raise funds for turkey habitat and public hunting. Call Craig at 563-249-3261 for tickets.

17th ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting ~ 7 PM ~ Gander Mountain, Davenport ~ Learn how you can get involved!

18th ~ Full Moon Ski/Snowshoe ~ 6 PM - 9 PM ~ Mockridge Preserve ~ If we have late snow, we will be laying down tracks with specially designated trails for snowshoes and skiers. A naturalist will lead a group on snowshoes into the depths of the nighttime woods. Equipment will be available first-come, first-served.

19th ~ Pancake Breakfast ~ 8-11 AM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ Join fellow conservationists in support of Clinton's nature center locally known as *The Nature Barn*. A free-will donation at the door will treat you to hot cakes, sausage links, scrambled eggs, milk, juice and a hot drink (coffee, cocoa or apple cider). The center is located south of Eagle Point City Park and serves a large area bringing in classrooms from Clinton, DeWitt, Long Grove, Princeton and others. Public outreach programs are also staged often at the center so your donation will serve a wide range of people.



19th ~ Cross-Country Ski / Snowshoe ~ 1 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ If we have late snow we invite you to explore the wilderness of the park on a pair of cross-country skis or snowshoes provided free by Clinton County Conservation. A naturalist will lead a trail ski or individuals may enjoy the park's trail system on their own. The basement level and toilet facility of Sherman House will be open and the wood stove lit for participants. We may even build a warming fire outdoors if the weather allows.

19th ~ Recycled Stitches ~ 2 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~ Come join Naturalist Lisa Gerwulf as she shows you how to create a versatile "shopping" bag with recycled shopping bags. Participants create plastic "yarn" out of recycled shopping/grocery bags. Then you'll see how to create a lightweight, durable bag using simple knitting and crocheting techniques. You don't have to be a knitting or crocheting expert to enjoy this program. Each participant should bring 5 plastic shopping/grocery bags and a pair of sharp scissors. If you have access to a quilting tool called a rotary cutter and mat, bring them. Call 563-328-2386 for pre-registration.

26th ~ Spring Pheasant Festival ~ 5 PM ~ Wheatland Community Center ~ The Clinton County Chapter of Pheasants Forever is planning a family night of fun at the Wheatland Community Center. They will have games, door prizes, an auction and a pork dinner. Cost is \$10, people need not be members to attend. Call Brad Taylor 563-357-0465 for tickets.



31st ~ Waterfowl Watch and Trumpeter Swan Release ~ 6 PM ~ Ringneck Marsh Wildlife Area ~ The marsh is a resting and feeding point along the spring migration route for many species of ducks and geese. We should have a pair of trumpeter swans to release into the wild at the marsh as well. With luck we will also



hope to see and hear rarer species like sandhill cranes and wild trumpeter swans. Ringneck Marsh can be found by traveling north from Calamus on Y44 and following the signs west starting at 215th Street to 150th Ave. We will have binoculars and spotting scopes set up.

April

1st ~ Egg-citing Eggs ~ 10:30 AM ~ Children's Discovery Center ~ This nature activity is for three to five year-olds to learn about animals that lay eggs! There will be real eggs and live animals along with a book and snack. This event is free.

5th ~ Woodcock Watch ~ 7:30 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ Watch the dynamic display of the American woodcock at Sherman Park's north entrance. This is our 26th year watching the woodcocks' courtship "Skydance", and they usually give a good show. Walking over rough terrain may be involved.

6th ~ Egg-citing Eggs ~ 2 PM ~ Children's Discovery Center ~ This nature activity is for elementary school-aged children to learn about animals that lay eggs! There will be real eggs and live animals along with a book and snack. This event is free.

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 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 welcome.

16th ~ Volunteer Workday ~ 9 AM - 12 PM ~ 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.

16th ~ Quad Cities Earth Week Fair ~ Earth Day Expo ~ 10 AM - 4 PM ~ QCCA Expo Center ~ The Quad Cities Earth Week Coalition is hosting its 8th 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, contact Erin Robinson at 563-386-9575.



16th ~ Rock Creek Water Trail Float ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ More and more paddlers are discovering the beauty of the Mississippi and Wapsipinicon Rivers through the newly developed water trails that provide direction and access to these gems. Add to that the interpretive skills of a professional naturalist and you have what it takes for a fun and educational afternoon of recreation on the water. Clinton County Conservation's fleet of canoes, and kayaks will be available, first-come, first-served for those who need them. Call 563-847-7202 to reserve your spot.

Animals, Animals, Animals!

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist

I once heard a highly educated School District Superintendent say “We don’t need nature, we have Science”. Well if we should know anything about “nature” it should be that the natural world has supplied us with everything necessary for our sustenance and more. This includes the fuels we rely on daily to life-saving medications. Since we have much to learn about the subject, we can’t be sure of where the next benefits are coming from. Maybe that spider you squished, holds the secret for curing cancer. We’ve been doing a lot with area schools concerning the animal kingdom and maybe we all could use a refresher on just what animals are, how great their diversity and how important their presence is and may yet be, to us.

Animals are a large group of mostly multi-cellular organisms whose reproductive cells have a membrane-enclosed nucleus. Science refers to them as being eukaryotes, which is Greek for “good nut”. This separates them from bacteria and most protists. They are separated from plants and fungi because they lack rigid cell walls. Most animals have bodies made of different types of tissue, except for sponges and microscopic Placozoa (flat animals). These include muscles, skin, organs, skeleton, nerve tissues and usually an internal digestive system. All animals are able to move about at some point in their development.



Model of an Animal Cell

It was Aristotle who first divided the living world into animal and plant kingdoms. Carolus Linnaeus followed him with the first hierarchical (according to complexity) classification. Since then, through the aid of genetic testing, biologists have begun emphasizing evolutionary relationships. For instance, microscopic protozoa were originally considered animals because they move, but are now treated separately due to their origins. While we’re on the subject, whether you trust in the scientific or the creationists view of our origins it takes just that, trust or faith, since neither has been, and may never be, absolutely proven.

Nearly all animals use some form of sexual reproduction and have specialized reproductive cells, which fuse to form zygotes, which then develop into new individuals. A zygote first develops into a hollow ball called a blastula, a characteristic exclusive to animals, which then rearranges and differentiates. Sometimes these changes are complicated, other times not so much. Some animals are capable of asexual reproduction. This may take place when fertile eggs are produced without mating or in some cases through fragmentation where the animal simply splits to form two from one. Some animals go through a process of metamorphosis and change throughout their life-cycle until their adult stage while others simply grow in size and become sexually mature.

Most animals are heterotrophs, meaning that they feed on

other living things making some of them carnivores, herbivores, omnivores, or parasites. Some carnivores, called predators, hunt other animals for food, known as prey. This relationship has caused the advancement of certain traits over others that were less successful in either protecting prey animals or aiding the predator in securing a meal. It’s a fact that this survival of the fittest scenario, known as natural selection, has led to evolutionary variations creating a greater diversity in animal life. The other main category of organisms are the detritivores, these animals eat dead things. Some can be hard to place, for example when a parasite preys on a host organism killing it, and then lays its eggs on it so that its hatching young can feed on the decaying corpse.



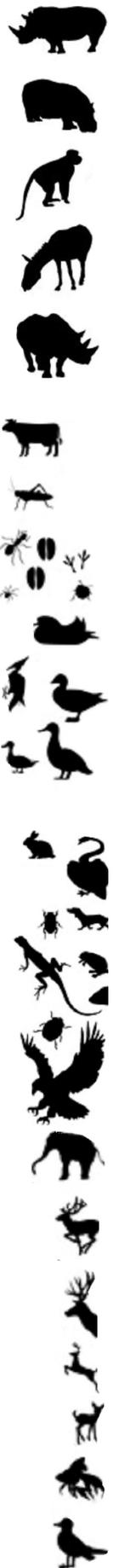
Model of a Plant Cell

used as the building blocks that allow the plant to grow. When animals eat these plants the sugars stored in the plant are transferred to that animal. They are transferred again if another eats that animal. These sugars are either used to help the animal grow or broken down releasing the stored solar energy allowing the animal to move and otherwise live. Scientists know this as the process of glycolysis. Some animals living close to hydrothermal vents and cold seeps on the ocean floor are not dependent on the energy of sunlight at all. They feed on chemosynthetic archaea and bacteria instead.

The oldest fossils considered to be of animal origins are interpreted as being early sponges and were found in 665 million year old rock. The next oldest possible animal fossils were formed towards the end of the Precambrian, around 610 million years ago, but are difficult to relate to later fossils. Some may represent precursors of modern animal types, or they may not really be animals at all. Aside from them, most known animal types make a more or less simultaneous appearance during the Cambrian period, about 542 million years ago. This “Cambrian explosion” was the relatively rapid appearance of a great variety of animals.

So now, with all of this in mind, we have animals without backbones including sponges, worms, starfish, snails and clams, and then spiders, insects and crustaceans like the crayfish as well as many more. Then there are those with backbones including cold-blooded snakes, lizards, turtles and those that use lungs and gills like frogs and salamanders and fish plus the warm-blooded creatures like humans, weasels and whales and all the birds .

This, very simply put, represents our current understanding of the group of organisms we call animals.

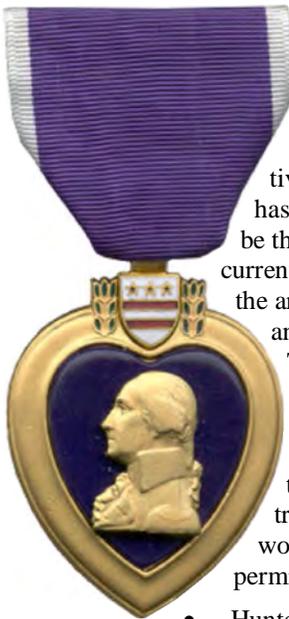


Purple Heart Hunting

by Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator

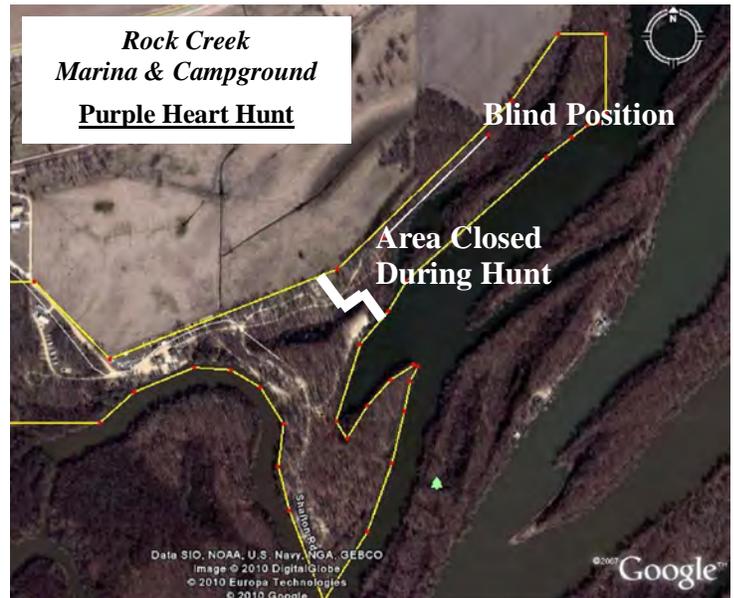
The Clinton County Conservation Board is offering permitted hunting in the Rock Creek Marina & Campground area for military veterans that have earned combat citations, been a Prisoner of War or are a Disabled American Veteran.

This is the Conservation Board's way of saying thanks to veterans who have made great personal sacrifices for our country. It will also allow handicapped accessible hunting to a group of people who need and deserve it. We are also willing to open up permits to severely handicapped non-vets or groups like the *Make a Wish Foundation* if we have seasons unused by veterans. There is no charge for hunting privileges, however the hunter is responsible for the purchase of all required licenses and tags.



The Rock Creek area was chosen for several reasons. It is in the Mississippi River floodplain making it relatively flat, thus making access easy. It has abundant deer and turkeys which will be the prime target species of hunters. It is currently not open to public hunting, making the area safe for the single permitted hunter and to raise the odds of hunting success. The CCCB has handicapped accessible facilities on site (cabin, campsites, restrooms and camp store). The CCCB has staff on site that can render assistance and make quick repairs to the trail or hunting blind. The hunting area would be closed to all persons except the permitted hunter during the hunt (see map).

- Hunters may use an ATV/UTV to retrieve game and to get to and from ground blind.
- Hunter may use a passenger car/truck to get to and from the blind.



- Hunters may have a non-hunting assistant along.
- The CCCB will work with the hunter to get volunteer assistance if needed.

Applications for next year are already coming in. We will award permits on a first come, first served basis, instead of a lottery as originally planned. We hope this will make the planning process easier on the hunters. We are accepting applications currently for permits through the 2012 spring seasons.

Contributing Organizations: Clinton County Conservation, Illowa Marine of Clinton, Steel Tuff of Low Moor, Scott County Pheasants Forever, Scott County Waterfowl USA and Wapsi Bottoms Whitetails Unlimited. Other area wildlife organizations are considering donating as well. We are looking for an inexpensive but reliable electric golf cart hunters may use to quietly get back to the blind. Any help would be appreciated.

For more information on the Purple Heart Hunt email conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov or call 563-847-7202.

Five Spring 2011 Seasons Still Available!

- Antlerless Deer Jan. 11-31, 2011
- April 8-10, 2011, Youth Spring Turkey Gun/Bow
- April 11-14, 2011, Spring Turkey Gun/Bow #1
- April 15-19, 2011, Spring Turkey Gun/Bow #2
- April 20-26, 2011, Spring Turkey Gun/Bow #3

2011-12 Probable Season Permits

1. Sept. 17-Oct. 2, 2011 Disabled/Youth Hunter Season
2. October 3-31, 2011 Deer Archery, Resident Early Muzzleloader, Turkey Gun/Bow
3. November 1-30, 2011 Deer Archery, Turkey Gun/Bow
4. Dec. 4-8, 2011 Shotgun Deer #1
5. Dec. 10-18, 2011 Shotgun Deer #2
6. Dec. 19-Jan. 10, 2011-12, Late Deer Muzzleloader, Deer and Turkey Archery
7. Jan. 11-31, 2012, Antlerless Deer
8. April 5-8, 2012, Youth Spring Turkey Gun/Bow
9. April 9-12, 2012, Spring Turkey Gun/Bow #1
10. April 13-17, 2012, Spring Turkey Gun/Bow #2
11. April 18-24, 2012, Spring Turkey Gun/Bow #3



Handicapped-accessible ground blind by Steel Tuff and Illowa Marine. Photo by Jeremy Huss, Dewitt Observer

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

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Long-eared Owl
 Picture taken north of Calamus
 during the CCCB's 2010
 Christmas Bird Count

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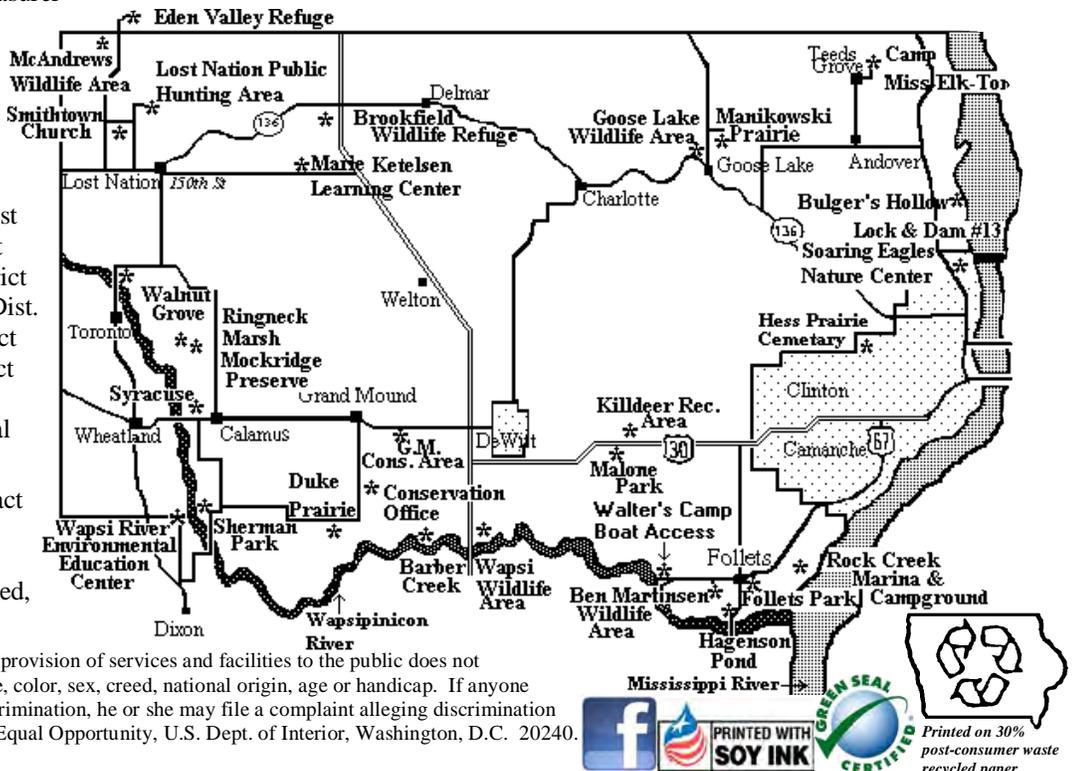
MAILING LIST

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.

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.

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.



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