

# The Heron

*Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation  
Volume 41 Number 2 May - August, 2019*

## **Flooding at Rock Creek**

*by Brad Taylor, Park Officer, East District*

As we gear up for spring at Rock Creek, we are under water yet again. The river crested on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 21.9 feet. Normal water levels for the Camanche area are around 10 or 11 feet. That means we had an extra 10 to 12 feet of water in places we didn't need it.

We get a lot of calls and questions about what parts of the park close at certain river levels. While we like to see the level around 12 feet, we only saw that for a short time the last few years.

When the river hits around 15 feet, we must close the lower end of the campground, which includes cabins 4 and 5. We expect this to happen every spring.



When the river hits 17 feet, we must close the remainder of the camp sites, along with cabins 1, 2 and 3. Water begins to go over the road just past the Eco Center and over the road by Cabin 1. At about 17.5 feet we close the Pintail and Wood Duck cabins.

The number we dread the most is 18 feet. At this level we close the entire park including the Eco Center. While this is a huge inconvenience for both campers and boaters, very little damage occurs.

Over the years of monitoring flood levels we have built everything to handle the high water. All permanent structures are elevated above the 100-year flood stage. While the Eco Center basement will get water, the main floor is built 1 foot higher than the 500-year flood. The basement is designed to let flood water in. Some of the non-permanent structures, such as the wood shed and life jacket shed, will simply be moved to higher ground.

While flooding does restrict things we can do maintenance-wise in the campground, there are still many projects we can work on. We always struggle to paint the shower house because it must be done in warmer weather and we don't want to close it during our peak camping season. When the park is closed for flooding, that is a great time to repaint.

We also have around 100 picnic tables to maintain. We will bring many of them to the shop while we are moving them out of the low areas to replace boards or bolts as needed.

In the east district we also maintain Killdeer Recreation Area, Malone Park, Camp Miss-Elk-Ton and a few wildlife areas. Maintenance projects in these parks are planned around the flooding. As the days get longer and warmer, let's hope mother nature cooperates and we can all enjoy a great camping and boating season.



# Eden Valley Treasure Quest

by West District Staff

Last year we introduced our "Treasure Quest" at Eden Valley. The squirrels seemed to like the birdhouse-shaped puzzles more than the park visitors.



Squirrels attacked the swollen plywood with a vengeance and raised havoc on the moving parts of the boxes. Even with the hard-to-work parts, there were still several people that managed to reach the last box and find their treasure.

Over the winter, the boxes were brought inside, torn apart and reconstructed using half-inch

plastic sheeting. Four of the designs stayed pretty much the same; however 2 boxes are completely different, with new challenges. If this idea is popular, more boxes can be placed on other portions of our vast trail system at Eden Valley.

You may be asking: what is "Treasure Quest?" The "Treasure Quest" at Eden Valley is a trail of clues leading you on a journey throughout the park. Along your journey,

you will encounter six boxes shaped as birdhouses.

Each box offers a unique challenge: to find the cache within. Use the clues in the cache of each box to open and find the location of the next box. Your Quest will end when you locate the last box and solve the puzzle to find your treasure. After finishing each box, please remember: "Keep the adventure going and please return the box to the way you found it."

When you reach the end of Eden Valley's "Treasure Quest," please take one prize and tell others about your adventure.

Please take a selfie with the box and tag us on your Facebook page!



# Clinton County Is Hopping With Anurans!

by Erin Toohey, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Spring is finally upon us and signs of it are everywhere. Animals are returning from their winter getaways, flowers are reappearing and the weather is finally warming up again.

One of the many signs of spring is the sound of calling anurans, also known as frogs and toads. Chorus frogs have emerged from their winter hibernation and are singing around the water. They are beginning to establish their territories for mating season.

Iowa's home to 17 species of frogs and toads, 8 of which have been recorded in Clinton County. The species in Clinton County are pretty diverse. They range from the large bullfrog to the tiny chorus and cricket frogs. Some of them are good climbers, like treefrogs, and some are burrowers, like American toads. Despite their many differences, all of them are amphibians and need water to lay their eggs in.

American toad



When I worked at Rock Creek this past summer, it was perfect habitat to see all kinds of frog and toad activity. I could hear them calling and the splashes of startled frogs jumping into the water. We often caught tadpoles

when using the nets to study what lives in the backwaters of the Mississippi.

Coming from a biology background, I like having physical records of things. I tried to take pictures of species I didn't know or hadn't seen yet. I typically did this during my "Critter Catching" programs, as well as when I was doing things around the Eco Center and park.

Based on these pictures, I saw six of the eight species of frogs and toads in Clinton County this past summer. I saw the American toad, Blanchard's cricket frog, northern leopard frog, green frog, American bullfrog, and one of the species of treefrogs. There are two species of tree frogs in Iowa, but the only way to tell them apart in the field is by their call. The other species I missed was the chorus frog, but they can easily be heard in any water around this time of year.

Many of our parks have great habitats to find frogs and toads. You can join us at one of them for a "Frog Chorus" program May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>.



Northern leopard frog



Blanchard's cricket frog



## Volunteer!

**Eden Valley Nature Center Hosts.** The Nature Center at Eden Valley is open on Saturdays, Memorial Day through Labor Day, from 1-4 PM. Our staff cannot be there for all of the days and we are hoping to get some folks to volunteer to open and host for us. It's easy: unlock the door and turn on the lights! If we can find enough volunteers, perhaps we can extend our open dates. Hosts get a certificate for one night of free camping at any of our campgrounds or \$20 off a cabin rental. Call us at 563-847-7202 to sign up! Volunteers are critically needed on these dates: May 25; June 1 and 8; July 6 and 20; August 17 and 31.

**Fishing Has No Boundaries.** FHNB is at Rock Creek Marina & Campground on June 8<sup>th</sup>. If the water levels are too high, the event will be rescheduled to August 10<sup>th</sup>. A decision will be made by May 7<sup>th</sup> to finalize the date of the event.

The Eastern Iowa Chapter has provided hundreds of people with great memories of spending the day fishing with new friends. FHNB is a non-profit organization that provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the outdoors and learn to fish using adaptive equipment (electric reels, pole holders, dock ramps, etc.) provided by the chapter.

Volunteers are the backbone to a successful day. Hundreds of people from all over eastern Iowa have offered their time, experience and smiles to partner up with us to provide an unforgettable day

In addition to volunteers, we have amazing corporate sponsors that have helped this Chapter get off its feet and grow. Clinton County Conservation, Rock Valley Physical Therapy, QCCA, In-fisherman Club, Davenport Izaak Walton League and the Mississippi Valley Sportsmen Club have played a huge part in making the event affordably possible.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> year anniversary means a lot to everyone who has been a part of this chapter since the beginning, but our work is not done. **We are in need of volunteers for this year's event!** Please consider being a fishing buddy to an angler or help with set up or take down of the days event. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202.

**Friends of Rock Creek.** Doing small things to make a big difference! This fun, no pressure group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month.



## Letting Off Some STE“a”M

by Mark Roberts, Interpretive Naturalist



**STEM** is an acronym thrown around a lot these days in education circles. It stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. STEM Education, then, is the learning of these STEM subjects through an integrated approach; one that offers hands-on and relevant learning experiences.

The Naturalist staff teaches science every day. Our nature center displays are all about science. If you slide in a letter “a” into STEM you get STE“a”M, as in, a steam engine and what makes it go. The “a” stands for art. We constantly use art to illustrate science. As a matter of fact, I think it would be impossible for us to teach science without art. If you have visited the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center or Eden Valley Nature Center, you know what I mean.

**Taxidermy.** The process of making an animal skin look alive is an art. Whether it's a bobcat in a tree or a replica fish hanging from the Camp Store ceiling, a well-done mount is beautiful and educational. It tells you things like “How big is it?” and “What color is it?”

**Sculpture.** We've gone to great lengths to display our taxidermy in appropriate habitats. Some of our work is done in house, like Eden Valley's “Battling Bucks” display. Chuck Jacobsen and I created a nature-scape using foam, fabric, plaster, glue, paint and natural objects. The background is a huge photograph taken on the tower trail. Some of our most stunning displays at the Eco Center were created by artist Susan Holgersson. She worked with our staff to create our giant, climb up & through cottonwood tree, our riverbank display and our new aquascape in the Camp Store. Together we came up with a vision, then Susan worked with staff to create a framework and finally, she paints and plasters the final product with spectacular results.

*Bats Eat Bugs, w/guitar chords*

- (G) Bats eat bugs,
- (C) they don't eat people.
- (G) Bats eat bugs, they don't
- (D) fly in your hair.
- (G) Bats eat bugs, they eat
- (C) insects for dinner.
- (G) That's why they're
- (D) flying up (G) there!

**Painting.** Susan is also responsible for bringing my idea for a 360 ° wildlife mural to life. As you walk into the Nature Gallery at the Eco Tourism Center, you will find over 75 animals and plants depicted in the scenes all around the walls and even on the ceiling! Many are hidden amongst the foliage and make a fun game of “Eye Spy.”

**Music.** Chuck and I use guitars and songs to help students understand scientific principles. We use Chuck's inspirational wilderness music from artists like John Denver or a raucous sing-a-long of “Bats Eat Bugs.” The song has verses about many animals like coyotes, eagles, salamanders and snakes. The guitars also work great to introduce sound waves and hearing concepts. My homemade guitars illustrate recycling, repurposing and simple engineering. If you want to learn some of nature's music, come along on our “Building Better Birders Cruises” or the “Frog Chorus” You'll learn to identify animals by the music they make.

The absolute best way to merge science and art is to simply step into nature. Nature's art is found in the beauty of a tree, the process of photosynthesis, the plumage of a Baltimore oriole, the hammering of a woodpecker, the song of a tree frog or the rainbow sprays of water on a river cruise. Art and science cannot and should not be separated. Our long list of learning experiences we offer will do more for you and your family than sySTEMatically teach a list of facts, we will immerse you in nature, allow you to decompress, get away from the electronic screens and let off some serious STE“a”M!

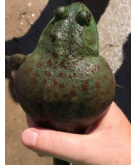


# Summer.... Oh, Oh, Oh! It's Magic!

## May Events

Watch Facebook and newsletters for a "Renovation Celebration" at Flannery One Room Schoolhouse. Date to be determined.

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Frog Chorus ~ 7:30 PM ~ Sherman Park** ~ Our frogs should be in full song tonight as mating season peaks. Meet at the north parking lot for a hike to listen and learn!



**25<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM** ~ The Nature Center will be open on Saturdays through Labor Day. Volunteer hosts are needed.

**25<sup>th</sup> ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park** ~ Starts at dusk (must be clear skies) in Sherman Park, at the north parking lot. Hosted by the Quad Cities Astronomical Society, check them out [www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/](http://www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/)

**26<sup>th</sup> ~ Memorial Day Service ~ 3 PM ~ 1223 125<sup>th</sup> St, Lost Nation** ~ The Smithtown Cemetery Association will be sponsoring a Cowboy Church Service.



**28<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Doing small things to make a big difference! This fun, no pressure group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month.

## June Events

*Note on Good Morning and Sunset Cruises. Sign-up for each cruise will begin one week before each trip. Check the forecast, gather your friends and sign-up! 563-259-1876. Note: The Blue Heron does not go out if winds are 20+ MPH, lightning is (or is forecasted) within 10 miles or the river stage is 17+ feet (Camanche river gauge).*

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM**

**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Wapsi Windings ~ 6:30 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center** ~ While photos flash on a large screen, Chuck Jacobsen will share the story of our Wapsi River. The discussion will be led with music, natural history and tales of humanity's use of this important waterway. Admission and refreshments are free.

**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Frog Chorus ~ 8 PM ~ Sherman Park** ~ Meet in the north parking lot.



**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Building Better Birders Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ World-class birder, Kelly McKay, will lead this free class for people wanting to improve their birding skills. Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

**7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> ~ Free Fishing Weekend for Iowa Residents**

**8<sup>th</sup> ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries Event ~ 8 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Clinton County Conservation will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Fishing Has No Boundaries event. This event will provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities on and along the Mississippi River. We are in need of boat captain volunteers and fishing buddy volunteers! If you would like to be a part of this amazing event, please contact Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202.



**8<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM**

**8<sup>th</sup> ~ Campground Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley** ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers/park visitors.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Family Pack Trip Orientation ~ 6:30 PM ~ Clinton CCB Office, 2308 255<sup>th</sup> St., Grand Mound** ~ We're looking for families to join us on a 36-hour backpack trip into beautiful Yellow River State Forest, June 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. This orientation and equipment checkout is mandatory for trip participants but others are also welcome. Maps, packs, compasses, GPS, camp stoves, cook sets, tents and mess kits will be demonstrated and used on this trip. Pack food will be sampled. Register online at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events) for both the orientation and trip.

**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Open Range ~ Air Rifles ~ 1-3 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ We are opening our new Air Rifle Range in the basement of the Eco Center for public use. The event will include both safety and practical instruction. Participants must use our equipment and will be under the watchful eye of a range master. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Voyageur Canoe Outing ~ 4-6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Our voyageur canoes, "The Marquette" and "The Joliet", will be in the water at the new east boat ramp and ready for folks to try them out!



**13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> ~ Family Friendly Pack Trip ~ 9 AM ~ Lincoln Park, DeWitt** ~ This will be a 36-hour backpacking trip through the Yellow River State Forest. Orientation on June 10<sup>th</sup> is mandatory. There is an equipment fee of \$10/pack. Group size is limited to 16 and youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Register online at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events) for the trip.

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance.

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Half Price Canoes ~ 8-11 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Every other Saturday this summer, there will be naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Fairy House Competition ~ 10 AM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center** ~ Build your best fairy or gnome home and bring it along for this family event. Prizes for different age groups will be awarded. Email [sencin-fo@gmail.com](mailto:sencin-fo@gmail.com) for rules and an entry form. Fun activities like paint your own garden decoration, make a nature fridge magnet and games will also be available. Grilled food and cool beverages will be sold for a summer picnic lunch.



**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM**

**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Full Moon Night Hike ~ 8:30 PM ~ Eden Valley** ~ Meet at the Nature Center for a walk up to the tower. We will look at the moon and try to identify some features using binoculars and telescopes. We will also listen for owls.



**18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> ~ Pollywog Camp ~ Full**

**18<sup>th</sup> ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 1-3 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ We are opening our Archery Range in the basement of the Eco Center for public use. The event will include both safety and practical instruction. Participants must use our equipment and will be under the watchful eye of a range master. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**18<sup>th</sup> ~ Beaver Island Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ The Blue Heron will take a trip past Camanche and around Beaver Island. We will look at industry and wildlife along the way. Call 563-259-1876 for reservations.

**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Building Better Birders Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

**19<sup>th</sup> ~ EEK! Snakes ~ 11:15 AM ~ Camanche Public Library** ~ Snakes are fascinating animals that play an important role in our ecosystem. We will be reading *The Snake Who Was Afraid of People* by Barry Louis Poilisar. Get a chance to see some of Iowa's snakes live and up-close. Face your fears!



**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Amateur Radio Field Day ~ 9 AM ~ Malone Park** ~ On the fourth weekend of June each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or friends to operate from remote locations. Join the Clinton Amateur Radio Club as they demonstrate the importance of Amateur Radio in the communication of both planned events as well as emergency crises.

**22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM**

**22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Hay Wagon Rides ~ 4:30 PM ~ Eden Valley** ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.



**24<sup>th</sup> ~ Mississippi Paddle Trip #1 ~ 9 AM ~ South Lake Park, Sabula** ~ This is a 10-mile trip along Clinton County's most beautiful stretch of the Mississippi. We will supply paddle craft and gear and will shuttle drivers back to their cars. Meet and park at the South Lake Park shelter in Sabula, Iowa. Participants are responsible for their own water, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, food and any other gear they require for their comfort. This trip requires paddling skills. We may be exposed to undesirable weather so be prepared for adventure. Register online at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events).

**25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> ~ Creature Camp ~ FULL**

**25<sup>th</sup> ~ Mississippi Paddle Trip #2 ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ This 7-mile trip takes us across the widest point of the river locking through Lock & Dam 13 then on along the Fulton riverfront crossing to Willow Island and Joyce's Slough for a landing at Clinton's 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. North boat ramp. We will supply paddle craft, gear and shuttle drivers back to their rides. Participants are responsible for their own water, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, food and any other gear they require. This trip requires paddling skills. We may be exposed to undesirable weather so be prepared for an adventure. Register online at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events).



**25<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Hay Wagon Rides ~ 3-5 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6 PM ~ Malone Park** ~ Providing new experiences in nature for children helps build an appreciation for the outdoors at a young age that they may carry on throughout their life. We have worms, poles and tackle...let's just catch the fish! Bring your child to the shoreline and teach them how to fish. Experience and licenses are not required unless you plan on doing the fishing yourself. We will teach you how to encourage your angler even if you're not an angler yourself. This is a free event and open to the public. Call Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202 with any questions.



**28<sup>th</sup> ~ Half Price Canoes ~ 3-5 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Building Better Birders Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Feather Fest ~ 10 AM-2 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Come celebrate all things birds with games, crafts and other family-friendly activities!

◆ **10 AM ~ Banding** ~ Discover the importance of bird banding by being banded yourself, and tracking which activities you attend throughout the day.

◆ **10 AM ~ Bird Bingo** ~ See if you can find enough birds around the park to get a "BINGO!"

◆ **1 PM ~ Bird Beaks!** ~ Discover why beaks are an important tool for a bird, and participate in hands-on demonstrations!



**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM** ~ Help feed our snakes, fish and turtles at 1:30 PM. At 2:30 PM, learn to throw and stick a tomahawk!

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park** ~ [www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/](http://www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/)

# July Events

*Enabled Hunting sign-up starts. Call 563-847-7202 to reserve your upcoming season in our accessible blind.*

2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Open Range ~ Air Rifles ~ 1-3 PM ~ Rock Creek

2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Voyageur Canoe Outing ~ 4-6 PM ~ Rock Creek

2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Special Tuesday evening cruise!

6<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

7<sup>th</sup> ~ Critter Catching ~ 9:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Borrow a net to catch frogs, fish and insects in the water just outside of the Eco Center!

11<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

13<sup>th</sup> ~ Half Price Canoes ~ 8-11 AM ~ Rock Creek

13<sup>th</sup> ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

13<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> ~ Child vs. Wild Camp ~ FULL

16<sup>th</sup> ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 1-3 PM ~ Rock Creek

16<sup>th</sup> ~ Full Moon Night Hike ~ 8:30 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ Meet in the north parking lot for a walk into the woods. We will look at the Buck Moon and try to identify features using binoculars and telescopes. We'll also listen for owls.

17<sup>th</sup> ~ Building Better Birders Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

18<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

20<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

20<sup>th</sup> ~ Campground Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley

22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> ~ Kanoe Kids Camp ~ Rock Creek ~ Tuesday ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM and Wednesday ~ 9:30 AM until Thursday, 2:30 PM ~ A "wilderness" camp for your teenager, close to home! Spend three days and one overnight along local rivers. This camp is for children who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond. Cost is \$50/child for the three days. Payment and registration must be done on [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com). Deadline for registering is July 9<sup>th</sup> and all paperwork must be received by July 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact Jessica Steines at 563-847-7202

25<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas in July Weekend ~ Rock Creek

◆ 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Decorate Your Campsite ~ Decorate your campsite for Christmas in July. We will have site judging Saturday night with prizes awarded.

◆ 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Half Price Canoes ~ 3-5 PM

◆ 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 8:30 AM

◆ Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Hay Wagon Rides ~ 7 PM ~ Join us for a lighted wagon ride around the park to view decorated campsites. Kids must be accompanied by adults.



27<sup>th</sup> ~ EnviroKids ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Paddleboats, canoes, kayaks, critter catching and a chance to ride the Blue Heron pontoon! Complete the fun with s'mores around a campfire. Adults are encouraged to accompany children. Call Judie Petersen at 563-357-6932 to sign up for this and other EnviroKids Events.

◆ June 8<sup>th</sup> - Clinton Co. Area Solid Waste Agency

◆ June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Clinton Izaak Walton

◆ June 29<sup>th</sup> - Clinton Lumberkings Baseball Game

◆ July 13<sup>th</sup> - Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center

◆ August 3<sup>rd</sup> - The Sawmill Museum

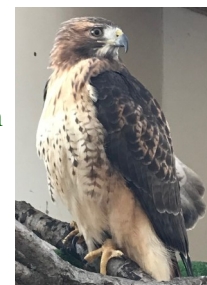
◆ August 17<sup>th</sup> - Bickelhaupt Arboretum

27<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

27<sup>th</sup> ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ [www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/](http://www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/)

29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> ~ Yellow River Forest Backpacking Trip ~ This trip is for ages 11-15. Registration is open through July 8<sup>th</sup> and there is a fee of \$50. A mandatory pre-trip meeting will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12 PM-4 PM. Contact Chuck at 563-357-0759 for registration materials.

31<sup>st</sup> ~ Radical Raptors! ~ 11:15 AM ~ Camanche Public Library ~ Raptors have awesome adaptations that allow them to rule the air. The Camanche Library reading program has invited our red-tailed hawk to visit you!



# August Events

1<sup>st</sup> ~ Hay Wagon Rides ~ 3-5 PM ~ Rock Creek

1<sup>st</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Half Price Canoes ~ 3-5 PM ~ Rock Creek

3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Crossroads Triathlon ~ 8 AM ~ Killdeer Recreation Area ~ [crossroadstriathlon.com/](http://crossroadstriathlon.com/)

3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Hay Wagon Rides ~ 4:30 PM ~ Eden Valley

3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Hay Wagon Rides ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

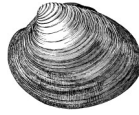
5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> ~ Black River State Forest Backpacking Trip ~ This trip is for ages 14-18. Registration is open through July 15<sup>th</sup> and there is a fee of \$75. A mandatory pre-trip meeting will be on July 22 from 12 PM-4 PM. Contact Chuck at 563-357-0759 with questions.



6<sup>th</sup> ~ Wapsi Paddle Trip ~ 9 AM ~ Allen's Grove Park ~ This 11-mile trip takes us through a gently meandering stretch of our Wapsipinicon River just Southwest of DeWitt, Iowa. We'll meet at Allen's Grove Park off CR Y52 north of Donahue. We will supply paddle craft and gear and will shuttle drivers back to their cars. Participants are responsible for their own water, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, food and any other gear they require. This is an intermediate trip and requires paddling skills. Register online at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events).

6<sup>th</sup> ~ Open Range ~ Air Rifles ~ 1-3 PM ~ Rock Creek

6<sup>th</sup> ~ Mussel Beach Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Blue Heron will take participants out to learn about and wade/dunk for the 15 species of freshwater mussels that live on Mussel Beach. Call 563-259-1876 for reservations.



8<sup>th</sup> ~ Mussel Beach Cruise ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek

8<sup>th</sup> ~ Music Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This will be a special cruise with home-spun music from local musicians. Register one week in advance by calling 563-259-1876.

9<sup>th</sup> ~ Riverside Community Fire Jam ~ 8 PM ~ Sherman Park ~ Local talents will gather around a fire near the shelter for some home-spun music. There will be fix-ins for s'mores while supplies last. All are welcome.



10<sup>th</sup> ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries Flood Date ~ 8 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This will be the rescheduled flood date for FHNB. A decision will be made by May 7<sup>th</sup> on which date this event will happen. If you would like to be a part of this amazing event, please contact Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202.

10<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> ~ Hunter Safety Camp ~ 8:30 AM-5:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Do you want your child to learn how to operate and respect firearms? In this camp, they will do just that while having the opportunity to receive their hunting safety certificate! For this event, we will go beyond the basics of hunter education standards of archery, shotgun, muzzleloader and rifles. All these activities plus more will allow students to actually participate, not just listen to speakers or watch films. The course is open to ages 11-16. Cost per student is \$30 for transportation, meals, ammo & targets. Limited space, register at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com).



13<sup>th</sup> ~ Mississippi Paddle Trip # 3 ~ 9 AM ~ Clinton ~ Meet at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. boat ramp. We'll be crossing the channel into protected waters, then follow the Illinois shore and cross from Albany to Beaver Island, making our landing at Camanche. We will supply paddle craft gear and will shuttle drivers back to their cars. Participants are responsible for their own water, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, food and any other gear they require. This is an intermediate trip and requires paddling skills. We may be exposed to undesirable weather so be prepared for adventure. Register at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events).

14<sup>th</sup> ~ Mississippi Paddle #4 ~ 9 AM ~ Camanche ~ We'll meet at the Camanche's 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. boat ramp for this 5-mile, 18<sup>th</sup> century-style trip, where we will imagine a wild Mississippi. We'll supply paddle craft and gear and will shuttle drivers back to their rides. Participants are responsible for their own water, hat, sunscreen, food, sunglasses, and any other gear they require. This is an intermediate trip and requires paddling skills. We may be exposed to undesirable weather so be prepared for an adventure. Register at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events).

15<sup>th</sup> ~ Hay Wagon Rides ~ 3:30-5 PM ~ Rock Creek

15<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

15<sup>th</sup> ~ Full Moon Eco Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Sign-up for a slow cruise out on the moonlit river. We'll look at the Sturgeon Moon and try to identify some features using binoculars and telescopes. We'll also listen for owls.

17<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

17<sup>th</sup> ~ Campground Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley

19<sup>th</sup> ~ Float Your Family ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We'll offer tips on planning, packing for and paddling a family trip into the Iowa wilderness. We'll examine the gear Clinton County has and demonstrate paddling techniques. This event will also serve as a mandatory orientation for the upcoming "Overnight Family Paddling Trip" scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> on the Wapsipinicon. Register for this presentation and the overnight trip online at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events).

20<sup>th</sup> ~ Open Range ~ Archery ~ 1-3 PM ~ Rock Creek

20<sup>th</sup> ~ Voyageur Canoe Outing ~ 4-6 PM ~ Rock Creek

22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

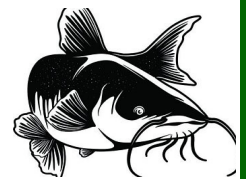
24<sup>th</sup> ~ Half Price Canoes ~ 8-11 AM ~ Rock Creek

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Back Waters Paddle ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Meet at the Eco Center and gear up for a paddle in the backwaters of the Mississippi River. No equipment or experience is necessary, we'll share our knowledge and gear with you. Prepare to be out for 2 hours depending on water conditions. This is a free event and is open to the public. Call Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202 with any questions.

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

25<sup>th</sup> ~ Eleventh Annual Rock Creek Catfish Classic ~ 7 AM-12 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Clinton County Conservation Foundation is hosting this tournament to raise funds for our nature centers. Costs are \$50/boat and \$10 for the Biggest Fish Jackpot. Sign-up & rules at [www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events)



27<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

28<sup>th</sup> ~ Building Better Birders Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> ~ Family Overnight Float ~ 9 AM ~ Wheatland ~ This is a 36-hour, 16-mile family overnight trip on the Wapsi River from Wheatland to Allen's Grove Access, north of Donahue. Orientation on August 19<sup>th</sup> is mandatory. We'll meet at Sherman Park, south of Calamus, and shuttle to the put in. We'll supply paddle craft, gear and will shuttle drivers back to their rides. Participants are responsible for their own water, hat, food, sunscreen, sunglasses, and any other gear they require. This is an intermediate trip and requires paddling skills. We may be exposed to undesirable weather, so be prepared for an adventure. Register at [mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events](http://mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events).

29<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

31<sup>st</sup> ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ [www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/](http://www.facebook.com/QuadCitiesAstro/)

**Clinton County Conservation**  
**P.O. Box 68**  
**2308 255<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Grand Mound, Iowa 52751**  
**Phone: 563-847-7202**  
**Email: [conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov)**  
**Web: [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)**

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*The first two weeks in May is peak time to find "Big Yellow" morel mushrooms, like the ones pictured.*

**CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION**

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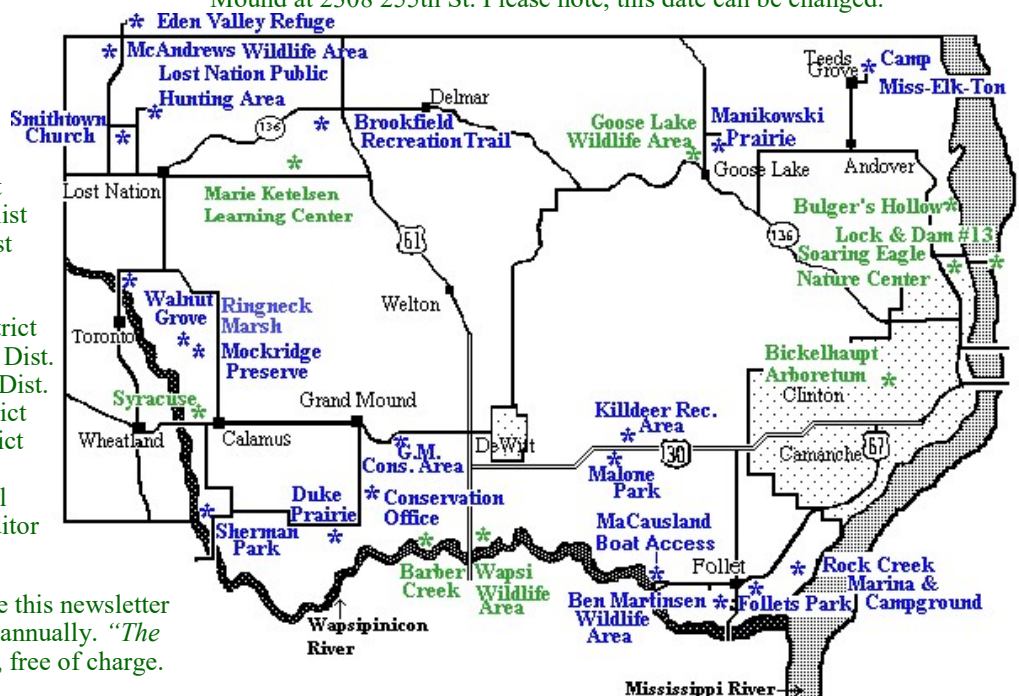
**MAILING LIST**

Clinton County residents may receive this newsletter at home, free. Others are charged \$5 annually. "The Heron" 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 regularly 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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