



The Heron

*Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
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The Petersen Addition to the McAndrews Wildlife Area

by Phil Visser, Executive Director and Darin Voss, Resource Technician

When we are talking about hunting areas we often hear people say that they have been hunting or fishing there for years. We may have a parent or even grandparent that will tell about how they use to go all over those hills when they were young or some of us may even remember a certain trip where we harvested our first turkey or found a bunch of morel mushrooms. Special places like this are bought and managed so the public (and wildlife) will continue to thrive in this area for years to come.

The Clinton County Conservation Staff takes great pride in all of our public parks and wildlife areas. Our Natural Resource Management team, led by Darin Voss, works tirelessly to make sure that we are able to provide excellent habitat for all kinds of wildlife and provide a wide range of recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, bird-watching and hiking.

However, the Clinton County Conservation Board is not able to accomplish its mission without the support of many others. It is through their support that we are also able to continuously grow and expand outdoor opportunities in the region by acquiring the Petersen Addition to the McAndrews Wildlife Area.

The Petersen Addition is 208 acres that lies directly between McAndrews Wildlife Area (to the south) and Eden Valley Refuge (to the north). This acquisition has created 607 acres of contiguous public land in which 406 acres is open to hunting and 201 acres is refuge and park. The Petersen Addition will support a wide range of habitats and will feature reconstructed tallgrass prairie, mature wood-

lands and a small pond. The area is also home to a diverse array of wildlife species including whitetail deer, turkeys, pheasants, quail, waterfowl, furbearers and countless non-game species. Over the next several years we will be conducting habitat restoration projects on the area including tree, prairie plantings and a variety of food plots.

The acquisition of the area was accomplished through Pheasants Forever's "Build a Wildlife Area" project and by a joint effort between the Twin Rivers, Clinton County and Dubuqueland Pheasants Forever Chapters, as well as the support from many other conservation supporting groups, grants, and individuals including:

- *Dubuque County Conservation Society*
- *Buchanan County Pheasants Forever*
- *Cedar Wapsi Pheasants Forever*
- *Clayton County Pheasants Forever*
- *Clinton County Conservation Board*
- *Clinton County Pheasants Forever*
- *Clinton Area Whitetails Unlimited*
- *Delaware County Pheasants Forever*
- *Dubuqueland Pheasants Forever*
- *Eastern Iowa Conservation Foundation*
- *Elmer and Evelyn Petersen Family*
- *Fayette County Pheasants Forever*
- *Iowa Build A Wildlife Area® Program*
- *Iowa County Pheasants Forever*
- *Iowa DNR Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund*
- *Iowa Pheasants Forever State Council*
- *Jackson County Pheasants Forever*
- *Linn County Pheasants Forever*
- *Maquoketa Whitetails Unlimited*
- *Matt McQuillen*
- *Mississippi Valley Sportsmen*
- *Quad Cities Conservation Alliance*
- *Scott County Pheasants Forever*
- *Twin Rivers Pheasants Forever*
- *Wapsi Bottoms Whitetails Unlimited*
- *Whitetails Unlimited*



Continued on Page 2. P.1

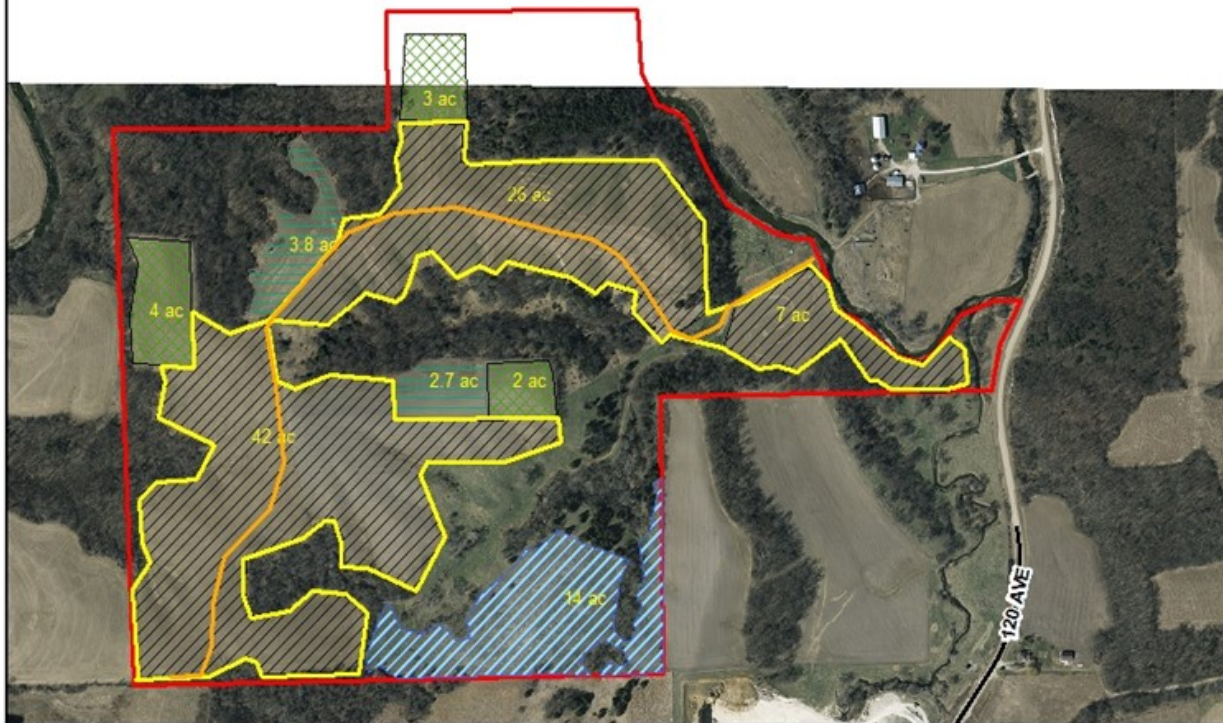
Continued from Page 1.

The official Pheasants Forever press release states: “Donor support of Pheasants Forever’s Build a Wildlife Area® program has permanently protected more than 20 square miles of habitat in 10 states through this unique, partner-driven matching gift program. Through local, state and federal grants plus individual private donations Build A Wildlife Area® designates 100 percent of the funds directly toward land acquisition projects to create public access, conserve critical habitat for wildlife, and preserve outdoor heritage traditions. Our Build a Wildlife Area program creates strategic public habitat complexes for pheasants, quail and other wildlife,” stated Matt Holland, Director of Grant Development for Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever. “Thanks to the Petersen family, the twenty-six funding partners, numerous individuals, corporations and foundations, this project is now available for all to enjoy.”

With the support of so many active groups and individuals we are able to ensure that there will always be public wildlife areas available to enjoy so that we can tell our children and grandchildren about how we were all over those hills when we were young.



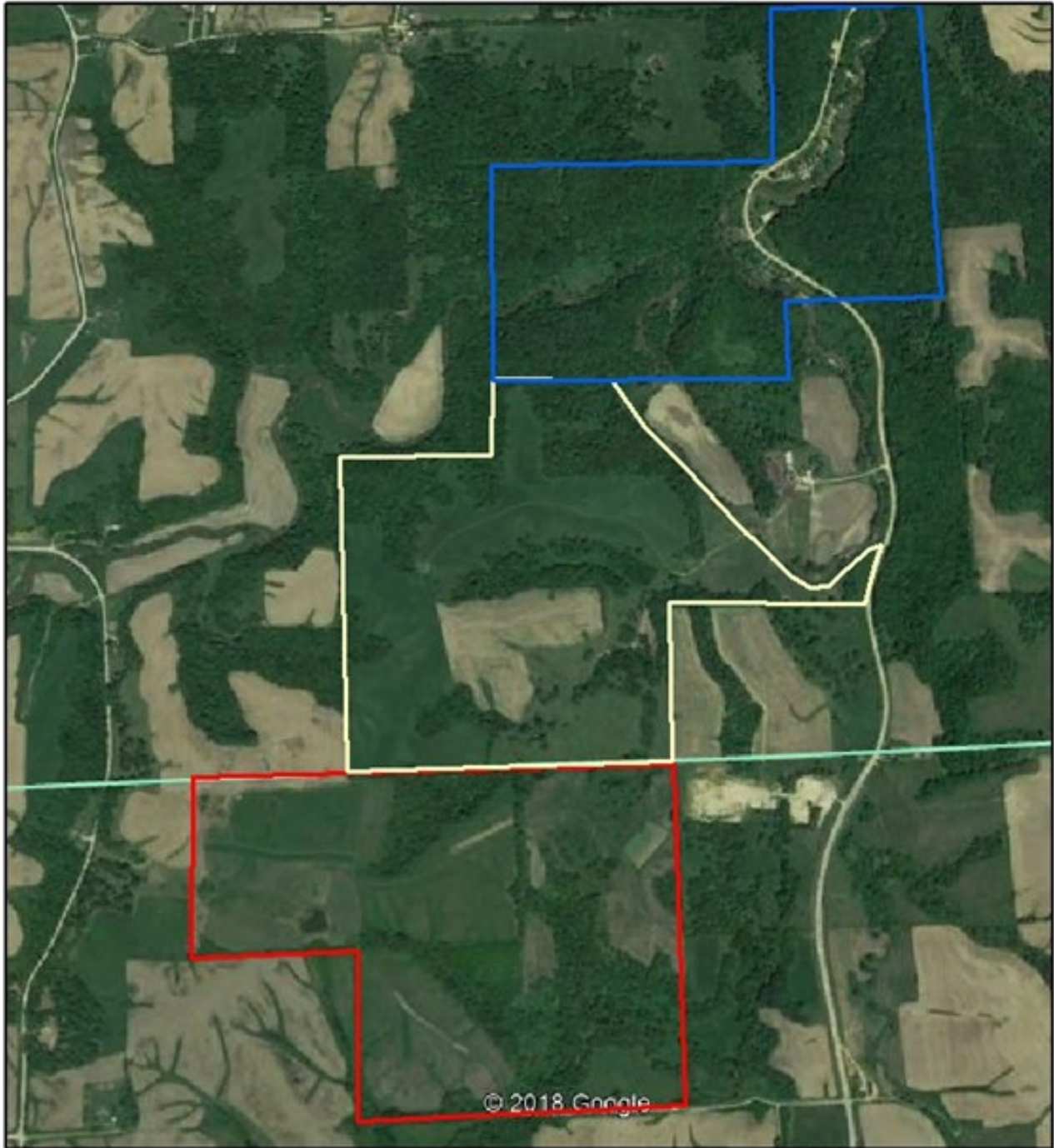
Petersen Management Map




Robinson Projection
Central Meridian: 10000



Petersen Property in Proximity to CCCB Property



LEGEND

-  McAndrews Wildlife Area
-  Petersen Addition
-  Eden Valley Refuge



Robinson Projection
Central Meridian: 60.00



On a Long and Lonesome Highway, East of Omaha...

by Mark Roberts, Interpretive Naturalist, lyrics from Bob Segers' classic "Turn the Page"

In the earlier issues of *The Heron*, I wrote articles looking back into my own history here with Clinton County Conservation. This has led me to make a series of my top eleven greatest hits.

3. Staff & Program Growth Through the Years ~ Back in 1992, I started working for Clinton County Conservation. I was merely 26 years old and full of ideas to grow the Conservation Education Department. I was a one naturalist show.

Just as I was starting this grand adventure, Clinton and Scott County Conservation were starting a grand experiment, the *Wapsi River Environmental Education Center*. The two county's would develop and staff the Center with Scott County being the owner and footing most of the bills. The former Boy Scout Camp needed a lot of major renovations and I would be at the forefront.

Eden Valley Nature Center had been around since 1978 with few changes since that time. It needed a facelift, especially with displays. The décor of the center would have to be put on the back burner as all the creative energy was being put towards the Wapsi Center.

Bob Bryant, Director of the Wapsi Center and I soldiered on. The center was slowly transformed physically and some great displays were added. We were also building our program and fanbase with schools and folks from the public that loved our events.

In 1994, we expanded *Rock Creek Park* by purchasing *Fairbanks Fishing Hole* adjacent to the existing campground. That purchase would become much more important in the future than it seemed at the time!

With the successful blossoming of the Education Program at these three parks I was able to convince then Executive Director, Al Griffiths, to expand our staff with a part-time position of Assistant Naturalist in 1996. We hired our former Intern, Renee Dietrich, who was working in Carroll County as a naturalist. The added position would become full-time in 1999 with Greg Wolf filling the position.

In 2002, with a lot of help from some generous donors and a grant from the *Clinton County Development Association*, we launched *Blue Heron Eco Cruises* out of Rock Creek. I was frustrated that we were bringing many people to the backwaters of the Mississippi but the grandeur of the big river was hidden from view.

In 2003, *Soaring Eagle Nature Center* in Clinton was preparing to close its doors. The private nature center was out of money and was letting go of their staff. Again, I was able to convince Al Griffiths to step in and form a joint venture with the *Soaring Eagle Nature Society* that would save the Nature Barn and it's programming. The center would be kept up by the Nature Society and Clinton County Conservation would provide programming. We also were able to hire Chuck Jacobsen as our third naturalist. His knowledge of the *Nature Barn* went back to its very beginnings and he proved to be an outstanding addition.

In 2007, Jessica Steines took over for Greg Wolf who was off to form a new education program with Davenport Parks. We had worked with Jess at the Wapsi Center and knew that her work ethic and skills would serve us well.

For those keeping score at home, we now had three nature centers and three full-time naturalists. Our program grew by leaps and bounds every time we made an investment in the Education Program, with staff, equipment, events or buildings.

By 2009 *Blue Heron Eco Cruises* already had seven years of success and we built a new Blue Heron that was bigger and better than the original. It would be 4 feet wider and sported two 115 HP engines! It was built by *Clark Boats* in Bellevue to be stronger and more durable, as well.

2012 saw the opening of the *Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center (MRETC)* and Director, Walt Wickham approved the hiring of a fourth naturalist, Jill Schmidt. Jill came to us from Eagle River, Wisconsin where she gained ten years of experience working for *Trees for Tomorrow*.

The MRETC promised to be our busiest and most high profile facility yet. School field trips would explode through the roof as would our public events at the center. As a result, the 22-year relationship with Scott County Conservation at the Wapsi Center would come to an end in 2014. It had matured into one of the best Environmental Education facilities in the state and has continued to grow with staff and prominence paralleling our own.

In 2016, fundraising began on an expansion of *Eden Valley Nature Center*. After many years of planning and raising money, the new wing is ready for it's Grand Opening this May (See Calendar of Events, page 7).

In 2017, we finally completed all our permanent displays at the *Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center*.

At every turn, as we grew, our numbers of attendees swelled. The number of lives we impacted climbed. The potential of the program became reachable. Along the way we have won a bevy of awards and trained some of the new generation of naturalists through our intern and AmeriCorps naturalists.

I think that the people of Clinton County have seen a great return on their investments. I hope you agree!

You can enjoy the previous articles in this series at "*The Heron*" newsletters via www.clintoncounty-ia.gov.

4. *Nature Gallery & Archery Range*
 5. *Voyageur Canoes*
 6. *Disc Golf Courses*
 7. *Prairies for Schools & Pheasants Forever*
 8. *Hunter Safety Camp*
 9. *Eden Valley Nature Center Reinvention*
 10. *Nature Center Partnerships*
 11. *River Clean-ups*
- 5a. *Building Better Birders Grant* P.4



Living Outdoors Series ~ Protecting Your Skin

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist

This winter I received a diagnosis that kind of rocked the figurative pedestal I was standing on. The diagnosis wasn't huge, it could definitely have been worse, but to me it was lifechanging. Being told the "C word" is NOT pleasant, no matter what kind, but luckily it was "just" the 2nd most common skin cancer called *squamous (skwāmes)*. It still has me reeling a bit as I am healing. Now we are going into the intense sun seasons, spring and summer, and I am preparing on how I am going to do my best to protect my skin.

As you all probably can guess, my career and hobbies are nearly all outdoor based. There are SO many things to be aware of that it is a bit overwhelming but SO important. Therefore, I will be writing a series of articles to help us all be a little more conscience of ways to care for our one and only body while doing the outdoors things we love. I think the best place to start is to learn how to block the majority of what ultimately causes sun damage to your skin, ultraviolet radiation, known as UVA and UVB rays. The three ways to avoid these radiation rays are shade, clothing and sunscreen.

Shade

The most intense sun radiation is between 10AM – 4PM. If you are working on a project outdoors during this time, try find some shade. I guess I will now be using the awning on the Blue Heron Eco Cruiser between these time. Birds may be harder to see but I suppose that is a sacrifice I will have to make and hopefully you can make similar sacrifices too.

Clothing

There is special clothing that can be purchased that is labeled with a UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) rating. The great thing is that you do not have to reapply, therefore it is the most effective against sun exposure. It also **protects against UVA and UVB rays**. Manufacturers make affordable long-sleeved shirts with hoods/high collars, gloves, neck gaiters, hats and pants that are breathable and light. The higher the rating the better. For example: 50 UPF means only 1/50 or 2 % of the sun's radiation penetrates the fabric to your skin. In general, loose fitting, darker, tighter knitted fabric protects your skin the best if you do not want to invest in specialized clothing.

Sunscreen

Instead of a UPF label, sunscreen uses the still confusing SPF (Sun Protection Factor) rating system. SPF is based on the time it takes for UV rays to redden skin. For example, if you burn after 5 minutes, an SPF of 20 will protect your skin for 100 minutes. This applies only if you have not gotten wet with sweat or water, not wiped off with a towel and applied the correct amount to your skin. Make sure you use more, not less! **Use at least a shot glass for your body with a nickel sized dollop for your face alone!** Something else that is tricky, **SPF only applies to UVB rays**. To protect from UVA rays as well, make sure the label says **broad or multi-spectrum**.

Like higher UPF ratings, the higher the SPF the more it does to provide additional benefits. But unfortunately this may give people a false sense of security, therefore mis-

leading people into getting longer sun exposure. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed limiting SPF claims in sunscreen to 60. The FDA's minimum SPF recommendation is 15 whereas, the American Academy of Dermatology suggests at least a SPF of 30 and the Environmental Working Group (EWG) suggests no higher than 50.

Hazard score key:



Low hazard Moderate hazard High hazard

Speaking of the EWG, they have a convenient app that you can install on your phone to know what you are putting on or in your

body. The app has a color coded number system to demonstrate the toxicity of so many everyday products along with a barcode scanner. Did you know the average woman **absorbs almost 5 pounds of chemicals a year** by unknowingly **applying 515 different synthetic chemicals a day!** This is only what she is applying, not what she is ingesting with food/drink or the chemicals for everyday use. **Only 5% of the over 1,400 sunscreens tested by EWG met their safety standards with over 40% potentially contributing to skin cancer.**

In fact, my once favorite sunscreen has the ingredient **retinyl palmitate, a vitamin A derivative, that has been shown to speed up the growth of cancerous cells by 21%!** Also, many chemicals commonly used in sunscreen are endocrine disruptors. Therefore **acting like estrogen causing thyroid and other hormone processes in the body** (like breasts on males and reduced sperm count) and **SHOULD NOT** be used on children or pregnant/breast feeding women. The most harmful and common chemical in sunscreen is **oxybenzone** and was found in 96% of the general population by a study done by the CDC (Center for Disease Control). To be truthful, in sunscreen there are SO many ingredients with SO many of them harmful and they are often complicated to say or remember.

My word of advice is to just **download the EWG Healthy Living app** and purchase the products that are free from chemicals of concern and meet EWG's highest standards for health and transparency that is labeled as EWG Verified.



The best sunscreen is a mineral sunscreen with **non-nano zinc oxide and titanium dioxide** as the active ingredients. This physically (not chemically) blocks the sun's UV. Be careful as some mineral sunscreens use the same chemicals as chemical sunscreen for preservatives and other uses.

Good luck this season to all of my fellow sunworshippers, I feel you! This is hard, but together with the "Living Outdoors Series" we will tackle what we need to know to continue to work and play safely with our friend, Sól (the sun). It is the governing force of life here on Earth and we will navigate how to balance sun protection along with human health next, pertaining to Vitamin D and diet.

Restructuring Security Within Our Parks

by Phil Visser, Executive Director

Many of our park visitors may not be aware but there has been some major changes going on over the winter at Clinton County Conservation. In the past, we have had three designated park officers that have handled security concerns as well as daily operations inside their assigned parks. After much debate and deliberation, the CCCB is excited to announce the start of a new partnership with Clinton County Sheriff's Department. In the past, the Sheriff's Deputies have assisted the Conservation Board Park Officers in making sure that all the parks and camping areas were secure. Moving forward, we will have two new park supervisors. One will be covering Eden Valley, Walnut Grove and Sherman Park. The other will cover Rock Creek. These individuals will be responsible for the day-to-day operations in the parks as well as the basic security needs.

The Sheriff's Department will assist the Park Supervisors

with the security of the parks and will ensure that all of our park visitors are safe. If you are staying in the park and are experiencing an emergency please call 911 first. Dispatch will be able to delegate to the Sheriff's Department or the Park Supervisor. For non-emergencies please call our main office at 563-847-7202 if you are staying at Walnut Grove, Eden Valley or Sherman Park. If at Rock Creek call the Eco Center at 563-259-1876. We will continue to support the Sheriff's Department and ensure park security through our veteran Park Ranger, Ryan Waltz. Ranger Waltz has been with the CCCB for years and we are excited to have him continue to serve the people of Clinton County.

Our number one priority is the safety and security of our conservation staff and visitors. As with all major changes we will continue to review and refine our processes to make sure that everyone can have a safe and enjoyable experience at our parks.

Welcoming a Familiar Face Back This Summer

by Cassidy Stoecker, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Some members of the community may remember me but for those who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Cassidy Stoecker. Last year I had the honor of serving as the AmeriCorps Naturalist for Clinton County Conservation through the AmeriCorps 4-H Environmental Education Program and Iowa State University and this summer I am a returning participant! I am very much looking forward to meeting a whole new batch of people eager to learn about the environment as I continue my own environmental education with the other naturalists at CCC.

Last year I reached many people that were interested in learning about environmental education but considering we were battling COVID for a great majority of my time, I felt like my goal was not reached. This time around I want to set bigger goals and reach new heights with this second chance CCC has given me; do more events, learn more facts and reach more people.

Educating local communities is still a big part of why I love this job and why I strive to learn about forestry, conservation and wildlife management. There is no better feeling than seeing people I interact with during a presentation able to take away helpful information that may change their life or change their thinking about the natural world. During my term this year, I want to learn more from the naturalists that already excel in education so that I can become like them, an advocate for the community and for nature.

This year I am required to complete a project that will last after my time is up with CCC. Considering that my greatest passion is conservation, I looked at the idea of creating man-made homes for animals that lost their habitats during the *Derecho* last summer. A lot of our sites were hit hard, leaving a lot of the wildlife displaced and without protection from predators and the elements. I want to be able to give back to some of my favorites sites in Clinton County and I feel confident that I will be able to through building and installing nesting boxes.

For the last two years, I have been a student at Clinton Community College and this spring I will be graduating with my A.A. in Environmental Science.

After my term is finished with Clinton County Conservation I will be furthering my college education at *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale* to pursue a Science Degree in Forestry with a focus on Wildlife Conservation and Management. It has been a dream for me to become a student at SIUC and it is finally coming true! I know that with the prior knowledge that I learned through being a naturalist, I already have a confident foot in the door and that my time at SIUC will be one filled with great memories.

I am beyond grateful for this opportunity that CCC has given me to be able to pursue my passion for nature with other like-minded individuals. This time in my life will always be one I look back on and think of fondly.



In the Summer, In the Parks

Note on Blue Heron 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).

May

1st ~ Wildflower Walk ~ 10 AM ~ Sherman Park ~ We'll meet at the shelter and hike about 3/4 of a mile along the bluff searching for our favorite spring blooms. We'll identify those we don't know and learn their connections to us. Call 563-357-0759 for details and *registration*.

1st ~ Wapsi Paddle Trip #1 ~ 11:30 AM ~ Sherman Park to Allen's Grove Park ~ This is a 10-mile trip passing beautiful rock outcrops and sand beaches. You will have

paddling to do as this is *not a float*. You will wear a legal PFD and stay in site of the group while on the water. We'll meet at the boat ramp and be on the water at noon. Call Chuck at 563-357-0759 to reserve equipment, for more details and *register*.

1st ~ Trivia Night ~ Doors open @ 6 PM, Trivia @ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ It's fun and it supports TWO great organizations (Friends of Rock Creek (FORC) AND Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB)). FORC volunteers for and funds events in the park while FHNB hosts an annual fishing event for the disabled. It's \$15/player or \$60/table of 6. Register at mycountyparks.com or call/txt 563-212-0955.

3rd ~ Birds of a Feather ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Learn about the fearsome Birds of Prey found in Iowa and their awesome adaptations that make them unique. A live presentation with our red-tailed hawk and barred owl will be given at the Eco Center.

12th ~ Star Walk ~ 8:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ We'll meet at the nature center and drive to Lost Nation Wildlife Area. The trail there is level with the parking area making an easy walk. We'll tour the stars from one constellation to the next talking of Greek and North American mythology. If the sky is overcast we'll visit them digitally after the hike with the Stellarium program in the Eden Valley Nature Center.

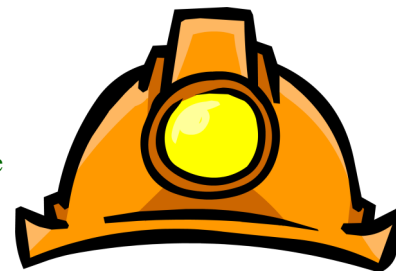
18th ~ Moonlight & Music Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We'll launch the Blue Heron under the waxing Flower Moon and head out to quiet waters for an hour or so of home-spun acoustic music and move indoors in case of rain. Registration for players and audience opens May 11th. Call 563-259-1876 to *reserve* your seat.

25th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Doing small things to make a big difference! This fun, no pressure group meets the 4th Tuesday of every month.



26th ~ Birds of a Feather ~ 10 AM ~ Eden Valley ~ Learn about the fearsome Birds of Prey found in Iowa and their awesome adaptations that make them unique. A live presentation with our red-tailed hawk and barred owl will be given at Eden Valley Nature Center.

26th ~ Caving Extravaganza ~ 5 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Crawl around like a salamander in a private cave exploring every nook and cranny! We will meet at Eden Valley Nature Center and drive to the cave site to go exploring. Hard hats are provided, knee pads and old clothes are recommended. This is a free event but space is limited, visit www.mycountyparks.com to sign up by May 24th.



26th ~ Flower Moon Hike ~ 8:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ This Moon is often called the Flower Moon as flowers are abundant this time of year. Other names include the Corn Planting Moon or the Milk Moon. We'll walk in its light if the sky is clear and produce our own if it's cloudy. Meet at the Eden Valley Nature Center and call Chuck at 563-357-0759 for information and *registration*.

29th ~ Wagon Rides ~ 10:30 AM ~ Eden Valley ~ We will be offering rides around the park. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

29th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Grand Opening! ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Our staff has been hard at work constructing an addition to the Nature Center. Come in for cake and refreshments to see all the new changes!

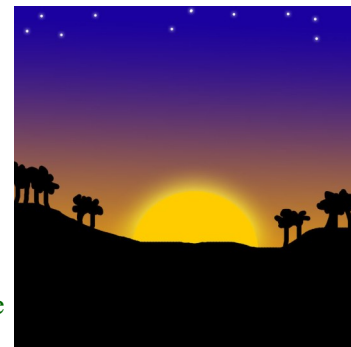
30th ~ Memorial Day Service ~ Smithtown Church, 1223 125th St, Lost Nation ~ Call the Conservation Office at 563-847-7202 for details.

June

3rd ~ 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.

4th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ This "presentation" series is a time where youngsters of ALL ages and their guardians can spend time simply playing in nature, making up their own "nature story". Though at times, there will be a story read and an outdoor theme or activity planned. This is youth-led but a naturalist will be there to help facilitate and share knowledge of the things encountered.

4th-6th ~ Free Fishing Weekend for Iowa Residents
5th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM



5th ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries ~ 9:30 AM ~ Lake Malone ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries, Eastern Iowa Chapter and Clinton County Conservation are partnering up again for a NEW fishing event for school-aged children! This event will provide fishing opportunities for children with disabilities. We are in need of volunteers and fishing buddies! If you would like to be a part of this amazing event, please call 563-847-7202.



7th ~ Building Better Birders Cruise ~ 6:30-8:45 AM & 9-11 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

7th ~ Birds of a Feather ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek

9th ~ Pond Life ~ 2 PM ~ Camanche Library ~ If you are unable to visit the pond we'll bring the pond to you! This hands-on exploration of the creatures that live under the surface will open your eyes to the most amazing aquatic life Iowa water's have to offer.

8th ~ 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! 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 all. Call 563-847-7202 with questions.

10th ~ Star Walk ~ 8:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ We'll meet at the nature center and drive to McAndrews Wildlife Area. This walk is over moderate terrain as we climb a wide path through grasslands to the ridge top where the sky is open. Bring a small pack with water and a blanket, pick a spot and relax under the dark sparkling sky. If the sky is overcast we'll visit them digitally after the hike with the Stellarium program in the Eden Valley Nature Center. Call Chuck at 563-357-0759 for information and *registration*.

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

11th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek

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

13th ~ Building Better Birders and Citizen Scientists Workshop ~ Eden Valley ~ Join us for a full day of learning about birds and how we can help them. Funding for this workshop was provided by the Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP). This workshop will be conducted by Kelly McKay (BioEco Research & Monitoring Center), with assistance from Mark Roberts (Clinton County Conservation) and Brian Ritter (Nahant Marsh Education Center). Attend as many or as few sessions as you want! Please call us at 563-847-7202 if you can to let us know which sessions you plan on attending. There will be a drawing at each session for a free night of camping!

Birding Workshop Schedule:

- ◆ 6:30 AM ~ *Bird Walk at Eden Valley*
- ◆ 9:30 AM ~ *Live Raptor Talk featuring our red-tailed hawk and barred owl*
- ◆ 10:00 AM ~ *Raptors of Iowa*
- ◆ 12:00 PM ~ *Lunch Break, bring a sack lunch*
- ◆ 12:30 AM ~ *Bird Walk at Eden Valley*
- ◆ 2:00 PM ~ *Woodpeckers & Doves of Iowa*
- ◆ 4:00 PM ~ *Live Raptor Talk featuring our red-tailed hawk and barred owl*
- ◆ 4:30 PM ~ *Warblers of Iowa Presentation*
- ◆ 6:30 PM ~ *Dinner Break, bring a sack dinner*
- ◆ 7:00 PM ~ *Bird Walk at Eden Valley*
- ◆ 8:30 PM ~ *Bird Walk/Owl Prowl*

13th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Scattered week-ends this summer, there will be naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.



14th ~ Storytime with Snakes ~ 2 PM ~ Clinton Library ~ As part of Clinton Library's Summer Reading Club we will be joining with a story-time about snakes! A presentation with our native snakes will also be featured.

15th-17th ~ Pollywog Camp ~ Rock Creek ~ FULL

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

17th ~ After Dark Backwater Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This will be a slow cruise along the backwaters to hear the night sounds and sights of the Mississippi. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

18th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek

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

22nd-24th ~ Creature Camp ~ Rock Creek ~ FULL

22nd ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

22nd ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6 PM ~ Malone Park ~ This is a free event and open to the public. Call Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202 with any questions.

22nd ~ Blueridge Mountains Travel Log ~ 6:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ After an amazing Spring-break trip to western North Carolina and many clicks of the shutter, we would like to share this area of winding trails, towering mountains and falling waters through the eyes of a naturalist. These images beckon visitors to come and see for themselves. Call Chuck at 563-357-0759 to reserve your seat.



22nd ~ Moonlight & Music Cruise ~ 9 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We'll launch under the waxing Strawberry Moon and head out to quiet waters for an hour or so of home-spun acoustic music. Registration for players and audience opens June 15th. Call 563-259-1876 to *reserve your seat*.

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

25th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek

26th ~ Building Better Birders Cruise 6:30 AM & 9 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!

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

27th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

27th ~ Wapsi Paddle Trip #2 ~ Noon ~ Allen's Grove Park ~ This is a 10-mile trip passing beautiful rock outcrops and sand beaches. You will have paddling to do as this is *not a float*. You will wear a legal PFD and stay in site of the group while on the water. We'll meet at the boat ramp and be on the water at noon. Call Chuck at 563-357-0759 to reserve equipment and *register*.

29th - July 1st ~ Child vs. Wild ~ Rock Creek ~ FULL

30th ~ Caving Extravaganza ~ 5 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ This a free event but space is limited, visit www.mycountyparks.com to sign up by June 28th.

July

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

1st ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

2nd ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek

3rd ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

6th ~ Building Better Birders Cruises 6:30 AM & 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 for one or both!

6th ~ Storytime with Owls ~ 11AM ~ Wheatland Library ~ Part of Wheatland-Curtis Library's Summer Reading Club we will be joining with a storytime about owls! Our barred owl has been invited to visit you during our live presentation.

6th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6 PM ~ Malone Park ~ This is a free event and open to the public. Call 563-847-7202 with any questions.

8th ~ Birds of a Feather ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek

8th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

8th ~ After Dark Backwater Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

8th ~ Star Walk ~ 8:30 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ This walk is over moderate terrain as we travel through wooded trails to Eagle Point Park's Stone Tower. We'll get an overview of Illinois and the City of Clinton as we enjoy the summer constellations. Call Chuck at 563-357-0759 for information and *registration*.

9th ~ Ice Age Backpacking Trip Orientation ~ 9 AM-Noon ~ Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa, IA ~ This is a mandatory meeting for the July 12-15th overnight Ice Age Backpacking Trip. Call 563-652-3783 or email jess@jacksonccb.com for more information and to register. Cost for this adventure is ONLY \$75. All forms must be turned in before equipment is assigned. Space is limited. A joint venture ~ Clinton, Dubuque & Jackson CCBs

9th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek

10th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

11th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

11th ~ Backwater Paddle1 ~ 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 but registration is required. Call the Conservation Office at 563-847-7202 to sign up.

16th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek

16th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

17th ~ Crossroads Triathlon ~ 8 AM ~ Killdeer Recreation Area ~ <https://parks.cityofdewittiova.org>

17th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

19th ~ Storytime with Owls ~ 2 PM ~ Clinton Library ~ As part of Clinton Library's Summer Reading Club we will be joining them with a storytime about owls! Our barred owl has been invited to visit during our presentation.

20th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6 PM ~ Malone Park ~ Call 563-847-7202 with any questions.

20th ~ Moonlight & Music Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We'll launch the Blue Heron under the waxing Buck Moon and head out to quiet waters for home spun acoustic music and move indoors in case of rain. Registration for players and audience opens July 13th. Call 563-259-1876 to *reserve* your seat.

21st ~ **EEK! Snakes** ~ 2 PM ~ 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 Polisar. Get a chance to see some of Iowa's snakes live and up-close. Face your fears!

22nd ~ Buck Moon Float ~ 7 PM ~ Bulger's Hollow R.A. ~ This truly is a float as we lazily drift about under the waxing gibbous Moon. Participants may come and go as they like. Our paddling equipment will be offered free of charge. Your canoe will be lighted and you will wear a PFD while you are on the water. Call Chuck at 563-357-0759 for information and *registration*.

22nd ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

23rd-25th ~ Christmas in July Weekend ~ Rock Creek

◆ Friday & Saturday ~ Decorate Your Campsite ~ Dig out your Christmas decorations! Site judging is Saturday night with prizes awarded.

◆ Saturday ~ Half Price Canoes ~ Noon-5 PM

◆ Saturday ~ 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.

◆ Sunday ~ Building Better Birders Cruise 6:30 AM & 9 AM ~ Call 563-259-1876.

◆ Sunday ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 11 AM ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.



23rd ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek
24th ~ Backwaters Paddle ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ 24th ~
Call 563-847-7202 to sign up!

Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM
27th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek
27th-29th ~ Kanoë 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 over-
night along local rivers. This camp is for children who have
completed 6th grade and beyond. Cost is \$50/child for the
three days. Payment and registration must be done on
www.mycountyparks.com. Deadline for registering is July
9th and all paperwork must be received by July 15th. If you
have any questions please contact Jessica Steines at 563-
847-7202

28th ~ Caving Extravaganza ~ 5 PM ~Eden Valley ~ This
is a free event but space is limited, visit
www.mycountyparks.com to sign up by July 26th.



28th ~ 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.

29th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek
30th ~ Nature Story ~ 10AM ~ Rock Creek

August

2nd ~ Mussel Beach Cruise ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek
3rd-4th ~ Hunter Safety Camp ~ 8:30 AM-5:30 PM ~
Rock Creek ~ Do you want your child to learn how to op-
erate 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 partici-
pate, 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



5th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek
5th ~ Star Walk ~ 7 PM ~ Manikowski Prairie Preserve,
1444 370th Ave., Goose Lake ~ We'll travel back in time
with a wagon ride to this remnant of pre-European Iowa.
Rolling along low bluffs of the ancestral banks of the Mis-
sissippi River who's shallow rocky soil has preserved a dry
prairie dominated by little bluestem. Bring a blanket and
watch the stars appear above. Call 563-357-0759 for info.
and *reservations*.

6th ~ Mississippi River Voyageur Canoe Trip Orienta-
tion ~ 9 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ This is a mandatory
meeting for the August 9-11th overnight Mississippi River
Voyageur Canoe Trip. Call 563-652-3783 or email
jess@jacksonccb.com for more
information or to register. Cost
for this adventure is ONLY
\$50. All forms must be turned
in before equipment is assigned.
Space is limited. A joint ven-
ture with Clinton, Dubuque and
Jackson CCBs.

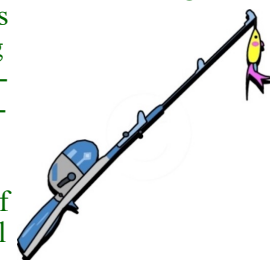


6th ~ Mississippi Voyageur Trip Orientation ~ 9 AM till
Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ This is a mandatory meeting of the
trips staff and registered participants. All forms must be
turned in before equipment is assigned. Parents with ques-
tions may attend briefly. Call 563-357-0759 for more info.

6th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek
7th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM
8th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek
10th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6 PM ~ Malone Park ~ Call
563-847-7202 with any questions.

11th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 2 PM ~ Camanche Library ~ Rap-
tors have awesome adaptations that allow them to rule the
air. The Camanche Library has invited our red-tailed hawk
to visit you!

12th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek
13th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek
14th ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries ~ 8 AM-2 PM ~ Rock
Creek ~ Clinton County Conservation will be hosting the
8th annual Fishing Has No Boundaries
event. This event will provide fishing
opportunities for people with disabili-
ties on and along the Mississippi Riv-
er. We are in need of boat captain
volunteers and fishing buddy volun-
teers! If you would like to be a part of
this amazing event, please contact Jill
Schmidt at 563-847-7202.

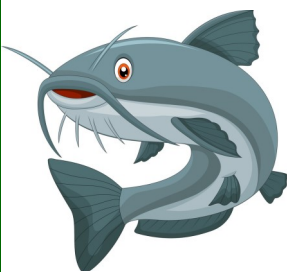


14th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM
15th ~ Building Better Birders Cruise 6:30 & 9 AM ~
Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 for one or both!
19th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek
19th ~ Sturgeon Moon Float ~ 9 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This
truly is a float as we lazily drift about under the waxing
gibbous Moon. Participants may come and go as they like.
Paddling equipment will be free. Your canoe will be lighted
and you will wear a PFD while you're on the water.

20th ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek
20th - 22nd ~ Lower Wapsi River Clean-up Project ~
Sherman Park ~ The clean-up will return to where we
started 15 years ago with Sherman Park being our head-
quarters. We'll transport participants to Walnut Grove Park
Saturday morning, camp the night at Sherman and finish at
Allen's Grove Park on Sunday afternoon. For more info
email coordinator@lwrcp.org

21st ~ **Community Fire ~ 8 PM ~ Sherman Park** ~ Come help us celebrate the return of the Lower Wapsi River Clean-up Project as local talent raises music into the evening skies.

21st ~ **Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM**



22nd ~ **Thirteenth 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

22nd ~ **Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

22nd ~ **Radical Raptors ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek~ Eco Center** ~ Raptors come in all shapes and sizes and rule the air! From sharp talons to excellent eye sight, these birds have it all! We will take a closer look at these radical adaptations as you meet our live education raptors!



24th ~ **Building Better Birders Cruise 6:30 & 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Call 563-259-1876 for one or both!

24th ~ **Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek**

24th ~ **Creating an Angler ~ 6 PM ~ Malone Park** ~ This is a free event and open to the public. Call 563-847-7202 with any questions.

24th ~ **Moonlight & Music Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek**

~ We'll launch the Blue Heron under the waxing Flower Moon and head out to quiet waters for an hour or so of home-spun acoustic music and move indoors in case of rain. Registration for players and audience opens May 11th. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve your seat.



26th ~ **Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

27th ~ **Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek**

28th ~ **Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM**

September & October

Sunset Cruises ~ 6 PM in September ~ 5 PM in October.

New Fishing Line Recycling Program

by Mark Roberts, Interpretive Naturalist

Monofilament or "fishing line" is a killer. It is all too common for conservation personnel to find a dead bird tangled in line, hanging from a tree or a water bird dragging line from a hook stuck in its bill. Other creatures ingest line and it becomes entangled within the animal's gut.

"Monofilament line is a strong, flexible plastic line that is made in a single strand. It does degrade after a certain period of time, especially if left in direct sunlight. BUT the problem is mono and all other fishing lines are a hazard to all coastal wildlife because they are mostly clear and animals can become entangled in them. Or worse, they can ingest the lines and die." www.savecoastalwildlife.org

"Fishing line can remain a problem even if put in the trash because birds can take it from an open bin and become entangled or it can entangle wildlife at landfills. The good news is that, if collected, the line can be melted down into plastic pellets, which are then recycled into products such as tackle boxes, spools for fishing line, toys and fish habitat structures." *Wisconsin DNR.*

In an effort to help clean-up our favorite bank fishing spots, I constructed a dozen fishing line recycling containers over the winter. They will be strategically placed at our boat accesses and at other sites throughout the county. People are encouraged to place their old line, either from home or while fishing, in the receptacles where I will collect and send it to the Berkley Company for recycling.

"Public response to Berkley's innovative line and spool recycling program has been remarkable. Since 1990, the Berkley Conservation Institute, with the help of anglers everywhere, has recycled more than 9 million miles worth of fishing line. That's enough line to fill two reels for every

angler in America!" www.berkley-fishing.com

Our recycling containers have a bird guard made from an old inner tube to keep birds from trying to nest inside the tubes. It would be very disheartening to empty the receptacle and find a pair of tree swallows tangled and dead.

Please use the receptacles properly. No cans, bottles or trash please, other than fishing line and other tackle like hooks, jigs and sinkers. You can be extra heroic and pick up line (or trash) you see discarded by others. Every piece of line out of circulation can save a life!



Clinton County Conservation
P.O. Box 68
2308 255th Street
Grand Mound, Iowa 52751
Phone: 563-847-7202
Email: conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov
Web: www.mycountyparks.com

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 Permit No. 164



*Something to CROW about!
 Conservation Trail-cam picture.*

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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 third Tuesday the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, date and location may be changed.

