



The Heron

Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
Volume 44 Number 2 May - August, 2022

Paddling Clinton County

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretive Naturalist

We have a rich history of paddling here along the shores of Clinton County on the Mississippi and Wapsipicon Rivers. They have been paddled by the first native people for centuries, by the French and Spanish beginning in the 1600's and are still enjoyed by hundreds if not thousands of visitors each year.

It's my last summer as an employee of Clinton County Conservation and I intend to go out doing what I love, PADDLING! I intend to paddle all 82 miles of Clinton County coastline this summer and invite you to join me. The Mississippi River represents 25 miles of that shoreline while the Wapsi has 57 miles. Many of these miles will be covered in day trips, while others are part of an overnight adventure. There will be great memories for those who make it the entire way with me.

Parts will be paddled in 17-foot canoes and various kayaks while others will be done in our 29-foot voyageur canoes. You may choose to use your own but the conservation department has a fleet ready to serve you free of charge.

If you'd like to expand your paddling experience you might consider joining us on the Wisconsin River during our June 20th-22nd Voyageur Expedition. We're starting at Boscobel, Wisconsin and continuing two nights down that river and into the Mississippi to Clayton, Iowa. We already have

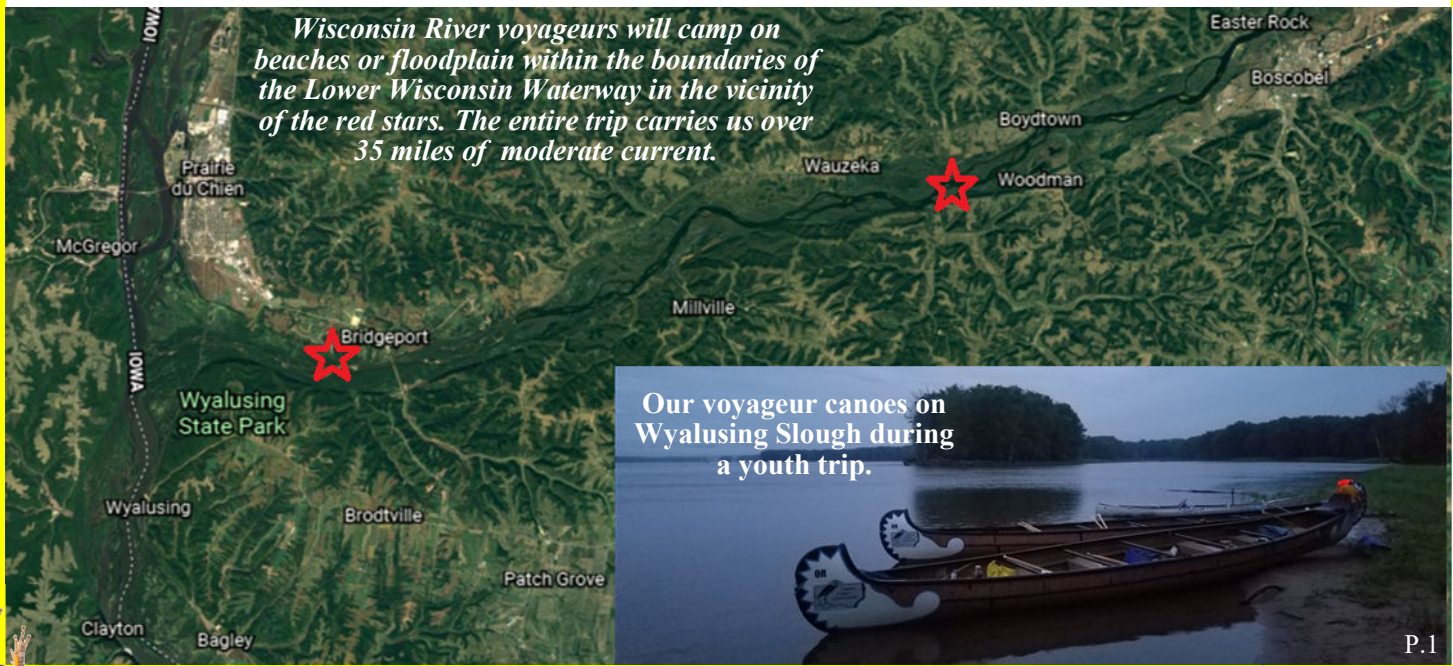
folks coming from several parts of Iowa and Illinois. Other voyageur opportunities exist throughout the summer and include a July 15th trip around St. Feriolen Island in Prairie du Chien, WI as the town commemorates the War of 1812. In September we'll finish off the summer season by spending an evening at Bulgers Hollow, along the bluffs of Pool 13.

There will be an overnight paddle trip for youth in early July as well as backpacking trips scheduled for them. It will be a busy season for me filled with many adventurous faces. Will one of them be yours? **(see more info in events schedule)**



A younger me instructing even younger and first time paddlers at Rock Creek.

Wisconsin River voyageurs will camp on beaches or floodplain within the boundaries of the Lower Wisconsin Waterway in the vicinity of the red stars. The entire trip carries us over 35 miles of moderate current.



Our voyageur canoes on Wyalusing Slough during a youth trip.





Award Season

by Mark Roberts, Interpretive Naturalist

I set a task for myself this winter to make sure that some of the outstanding people I work alongside of were recognized for their outstanding efforts to benefit conservation. I feel fortunate to report that my efforts were rewarded!

2021 Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award For Lifetime Achievement in Environmental Education Excellence and Leadership

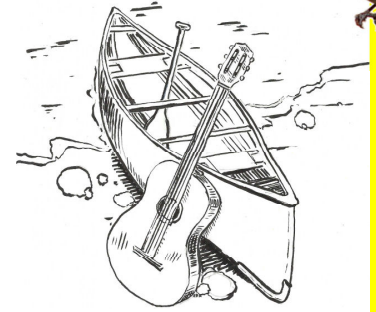
Charles (Chuck) Jacobsen was born in 1957 and got interested in nature at a young age. Like many naturalists he cites that playing in a creek on the way home from school spawned his love of nature. Catching bugs and chasing frogs made a lasting impression.

Some of his early influences from mentors in his life:

- ◆ **Uncle Ed** took him camping at the backpack-in primitive sites at Eden Valley Refuge at a young age.
- ◆ **David Rose**, his 7th grade life science teacher, as well as his 9th grade earth science teacher, at Clinton Middle School, made learning about science fun.
- ◆ **Charlie Hunter**, his high school science club leader took several students on an overnight canoe trip, which became his first experience in a canoe and a lifetime paddler was born!
- ◆ **Dick Kissack**, a high school science teacher nominated him for a position at Soaring Eagles Nature Center as a board member as a senior in high school in 1974. In his 2nd year with Soaring Eagle, he was elected president. This practice of citizen volunteerism has stayed with him throughout his life.
- ◆ Chuck and Dick Kissack constructed all trails on the property (4-miles) and created all of the interpretive signs in that first year.

Soaring Eagle Nature Society .

In his early adulthood, Chuck stayed active with the Soaring Eagle Nature Society teaching field trip classes and helping where he could on the property. In 1999 Chuck was hired as the director of the Soaring Eagle Nature Center. The Center was in desperate financial shape, he wrote grants, built membership and solicited donations to keep the Center afloat. In a last-ditch effort, he found homes for all the animals in the petting zoo to try and cut operational expenses. Clinton County Conservation took in all the native animals from the Center.



Eventually, with the writing on the wall, the Center was set to close in early 2003. Soaring Eagle had a great program and a strong relationship with the schools in Clinton. Conservation Director, Al Griffiths recognized the value in keeping the 25-year program going and hired Chuck as a County Naturalist.

Clinton County Conservation.

In May of 2003, Chuck officially became a staff Naturalist with Clinton County. He kept the relationship with Soaring Eagle Nature Society strong and that relationship still holds to this day.

Beginning in that first year Chuck immediately started to expand his programming beyond Soaring Eagle to the rest of the growing Clinton County Conservation Environmental Education Program. Rather than dwell on the over 2,600 events Chuck has been a presenter at over the years, I want to focus on the unique presentations and talents that Chuck brings to the Environmental Education table.

Canoeing and Paddling.

Chuck quickly became the go-to-naturalist for all paddling.

- ◆ Canoeing 101
- ◆ Lower Wapsipinicon River Clean-up Project
- ◆ Project AWARE
- ◆ Canoe Kids Camp
- ◆ Voyageur Canoes
- ◆ Public Canoe Floats
- ◆ Lower Wapsi Paddling Guide—*Bends & Beaches*
- ◆ Canoe Access Signage

Astronomy and Constellations.

Chuck is our night sky expert.

- ◆ Sky Walks
- ◆ Starlab
- ◆ Stellarium

Honestly, the list goes on and on.

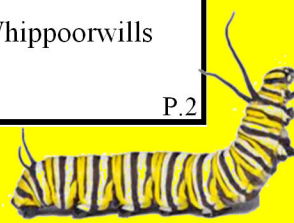
Congratulations to Chuck for well-deserved recognition of a lifetime dedicated to conservation!



Chuck & Macailah, doin' work in 2009!

Other Specialties:

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| ◆ Cross Country Skiing | ◆ Animal Winter Strategies | ◆ Ice Fishing |
| ◆ Snowshoeing | ◆ Reasons for the Seasons | ◆ Dangerous Plant & Animals |
| ◆ Paleontology | ◆ Growth & Metamorphosis | ◆ Energy & the Sun |
| ◆ Nature Center Displays | ◆ Survival and Habitat Essentials | ◆ Frog Chorus |
| ◆ Backpacking Trips | ◆ Maple Syruping | ◆ First Scientists |
| ◆ Weather & Water | ◆ Things Green & Growing | ◆ Geology Rocks! |
| ◆ Properties of Light | ◆ Dirt Made My Lunch | ◆ Nest Box Workshop |
| ◆ Local History & the Mississippi | ◆ 3 R's; Reduce, Reuse & Recycle! | ◆ Wilderness Music |
| ◆ Animal Defenses | ◆ Geocaching & Orienteering | ◆ Woodcocks and Whippoorwills |
| | ◆ Tipis | ◆ Soil & Water |





2021 "Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award

For Outstanding EE Program or Event which Informs and Educates the General Public

Building Better Birder & Citizen Scientists Workshops

*Kelly McKay, Bio Eco Research and Monitoring Center
Mark Roberts, Clinton County Conservation
Brian Ritter & James Wiebler, Nahant Marsh Ed. Center*

Project Goals:

- 1) Engaging and exposing the public to the natural world.
- 2) Increasing public involvement with local conservation organizations and efforts.
- 3) Getting the public actively involved in citizen science.
- 4) Building a sustainable program into the future by "training the trainers."

Project Description:

During this project, we conducted multiple "Building Better Birder and Citizen Scientists Workshops" at 26 various county conservation nature centers across Iowa. In 2020, the team began presenting Building Better Birders and Citizen Scientists Workshops throughout Iowa. These workshops were free and open to the public and are funded through a grant from the Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP) resulting in 1,806 participants at 100 workshops in 26 counties across Iowa.



Above, from left: Mark Roberts, Brian Ritter, Kelly McKay, and James Wiebler. Photo by Colin Shirk.

One of the project's goals is to encourage public participation in citizen science programs. Data collected during the various bird hike and owl prowl workshop sessions are being reported to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in seasonal field note reports. During the workshops, 930 workshop attendees have taken part in citizen science through their participation in one or more of the 102 bird hikes & 20 owl prowls conducted. Participants identified 225 bird species!

This has been a monumental task involving crisscrossing Iowa dozens of times with 100 workshops featuring 300+ presentations and lots of nights in cheap motels. The lion's share of the credit goes to Kelly McKay who was the primary presenter at 100% of the workshops. As with all great tasks it takes a team and the other people on this nomination have done their part, often in the background receiving little credit, making all this possible. Much credit should go to the 25 naturalists and their conservation departments for hosting four workshops each. I'd like to thank our other sponsors, Blevins Wild Bird Shop, Bio Eco Research and Clinton County Pheasants Forever.

Saluting to everyone involved!



2021 Eddy Award for Stewardship

Each year River Action honors individuals and organizations that best represent the spirit of true river action.

The "Eddy Awards" recognize those who go against the current, as in an eddy to benefit the river.

Melisa Jacobsen, Coordinator and Visionary behind "The Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup Project".

Melisa is the glue that has held together a 15-year effort to clean trash from 100-miles of the Wapsi and Mississippi River backwater sloughs and channel from Camanche to the Scott County border, stretching from Anamosa, Iowa to the Mississippi.



The cleanup has been held each year since 2006. Paddlers using Clinton County Conservation and private canoes have removed nearly 91,880 lbs. of trash from the rivers with a 68% overall recycling rate which includes metals, tires and glass. All sections of the rivers have been cleaned twice, and many three times, over the 15-year period.

"The Wapsi is practically my backyard. I learned to paddle on her. I've enjoyed countless days swimming, paddling, fishing and camping along her sandy shores. It just feels right to give back a little," stated coordinator Melisa Jacobsen. "This is a great way to bring people together to have fun and do good. The care of those people makes our local river more beautiful and safer for everyone to enjoy."

"New garbage bugs me," Jacobsen said. "The majority of what we see here is due to littering, not flooding." Others, including her husband, Chuck, looked on the bright side. "We're not seeing as much trash as we were in the beginning," he said. "When we don't find as much, it means that we're making a difference, and maybe people are getting smarter about recycling."

"I like my daughter to play in a stream as safe as we can make it," she said, referring to now 14-year-old, Macailah. "I want her to be able to enjoy that river."

Clinton County Conservation has supported the project from the beginning providing free camping, staff, canoes, vehicles and other vital equipment.

Melisa and her regulars have toiled in anonymity for years and deserve the spotlight shone on their efforts. I hope it will inspire other clean up efforts in the future just as Melisa was inspired all those years ago. This award will be for all the volunteers over the years that have worked so hard to make our river better for people, wildlife and the environment.

A big heart-felt "Huzzah"!





For the People

by Phil Visser, Executive Director

I have often said that our purpose in conservation is not only to protect and care for nature, but to serve the people. We realize that without the support of Clinton County residents and visitors, we would not be able to provide any of the outdoor and educational opportunities that we have currently been blessed with.

We are always looking for ways to improve and develop the lands and facilities that have been entrusted to us. Recently, the Clinton County Conservation Board was able to complete its strategic plan, which outlined several goals that we wish to accomplish over the next five to ten years. This plan includes a large amount of growth and development in all of our parks and areas.

At Rock Creek Marina and Campground, we are planning to add new electrical sites on the north side of the park. There will still be opportunities for people who wish to camp on non-electric sites, but we have seen a large increase in the desire for electrical hook ups at all of our campgrounds.

We are also looking at a similar project at Sherman Park. There we will be adding new electric sites to compliment the sites that are already in the campground. At Sherman Park, this will allow for more visitors to utilize the area. These projects, and others like them, are made possible through the *American Rescue Plan* funding that the county has received from the federal government. Some projects that we are planning with help from these funds include paving the parking lot at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, replacing the restrooms at Malone Park, Killdeer Recreation Area and Follet's Park, and the addition of high-speed internet at our campgrounds and cabins.

At Eden Valley, we are planning on doing some major renovations to the nature center. In 2020, we were able to add the community room and the public restrooms. This has been a great addition, and we are looking to compliment that addition with the renovations. This project will include new educational displays and live animal exhibits that will allow for visitors to learn about the wildlife and the environment of eastern Iowa. This exciting project is only made possible by the support of the Clinton County Conservation Foundation. The CCCF is a non-profit organization that is

Clinton County Conservation



Foundation

independent from the Conservation Board, but assists with fundraising for various projects, as well as helping with events and providing volunteers. Without the support of the CCCF, we would not have many of the great facilities that we are able to enjoy today, including the Eden Valley Community room and the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek.

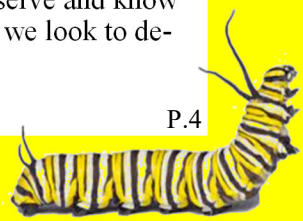
There are several other projects that we are planning that are not going to be as exciting for members of the public, but are no less important to our everyday operations. These include new storage areas to keep our equipment out of the elements, and renovations to the main conservation office at Grand Mound. Because of projects like these, we are able to better focus on our goals and our mission to serve the people of Clinton County.

Our plans also include projects that will be done in and around our wildlife and natural areas. This may include working on wetlands, native grass seedings and access improvements. It may appear that these projects are focused solely on wildlife and nature. However, our main purposes is to provide benefits to everyone. These natural areas provide areas for everyone to experience the outdoors in a more natural setting than you would experience in a campground or recreational area. Deer, turkeys and other wildlife that are not frequent visitors to the camping areas, can be found in abundance on many wildlife and natural areas and many visitors will have a chance to view them.

Finally, I want to say thank you to those people who live in and visit Clinton County. All of the work that we are doing is to provide outdoor opportunities and environmental interpretation to the citizens and visitors of the area. It is only with the support of the public that we are able to accomplish our goals and to see the growth of the areas that you have entrusted in our care. We are so grateful for the support that we see from those we are here to serve and know that we will continue to see that support as we look to develop the public areas of Clinton County.

Thank you!

The American
Rescue Plan
Act 2021





Get Out and Go Fishing

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

Clinton County has many great choices when it comes to finding a favorite fishing hole. I spent any chance I could on the Mississippi River with my grandpa learning how to find the honey hole full of fish. He always had his favorite spots to try and with any luck we could come home with a stringer of bluegills and crappies. As a naturalist, I enjoy sharing this passion with others by providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to go fishing. It teaches patience, observation and technique as well as appreciation of our aquatic habitats and everything that inhabits them.

Hagenson's Pond, Folletts

Hagenson's is a 9-acre pond that is part of the Ben Martinsen Wildlife Area. Like many of these ponds the deep water is in the center of the pond leaving little fishing opportunities on the pond's shoreline.



In December of 2020, Clinton County Conservation received a Fish Habitat grant from the Iowa DNR. The project was to include a new fishing jetty at Hagenson's Pond along with added fish structures to increase fish habitat in this pond. The idea of the jetty is to allow angler's to get closer to the deeper waters in hopes to catch some of the larger fish that occupy those waters. The project was completed late this winter and with the help of the Clinton County Secondary Roads



Department. Together we were able to get in the new fishing jetty and we added fish structures to the water in time for spring fishing! This fishing hole is a great place to take kids and easily accessible for all people.

"Creating An Angler" Events

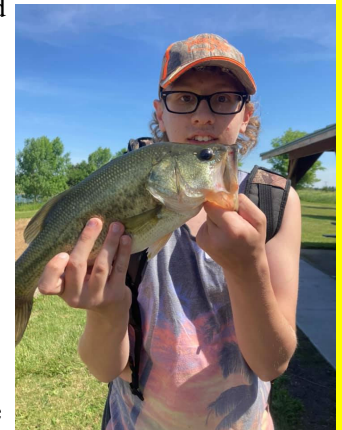
If you are a parent/guardian of a young person who is interested in fishing but you yourself has little, to no experience, this is a great program for you. Starting in June and extending through September there will be several opportunities to create YOUR angler. This program provides everything you would need to go fishing: worms, poles, tackle and a safe place for any aged child to catch a fish! Bring your child to the



shoreline and we will help your child catch the fish! There is no need for experience or a fishing license 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 everyone. Be sure to check out the calendar of events for the dates. It is our goal, with every new experience in nature, our children will build an appreciation for the outdoors at a young age that they may carry on throughout their life.

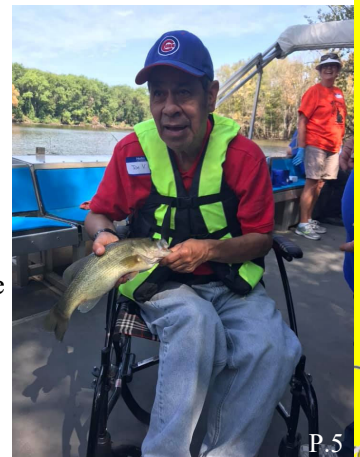
Fishing Has No Boundaries

I am a strong believer in providing fishing opportunities for everyone. Nature has been proven to improve both mental and physical health. For many of us, it is quite simple to grab a rod and head to the water, but for others it's just not that easy. Fishing Has No Boundaries is a national, nonprofit that provides fishing opportunities for those living with a disability. The Eastern Iowa Chapter is found right here in Clinton County and with the help of Clinton County Conservation, it provides two events every year. The youth event is for school-aged children with disabilities and is held on June 11th this year at Lake Malone. This is a morning event and each young angler is partnered up with a fishing buddy who assists them where needed. The kids enjoy learning about how to bait their hook safely, how to take a fish off the hook and even how to identify what kind of fish they caught! It is a lot of fun watching their expressions on their faces as they reel in a fish! Registering a child for this event is required and is done through me, Jill Schmidt. If you would like to witness this yourself, we are looking for volunteers to help us for this event, feel free to contact me for more information!



The adult FHNB event is held on August 13th this year at Rock Creek Marina & Campground. It is one of the most rewarding events I help organize as more than 30 anglers take to the Mississippi River to go fishing! We have boat captains that volunteer their boats and time to take people out on the river plus 50 more volunteers that buddy up with the anglers, serve lunch and help us ensure a safe and fun day of fishing. Over the past 9 years we have had many repeat anglers and volunteers that have built a lifetime friendship as they all look forward to the next event. Like the youth event, registration is required so contact me.

JSchmidt@clintoncounty-ia.gov





I'm Walking on Sunshine and Don't it Feel Good!

May

7th ~ May Fair ~ 11 AM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ Celebrate Spring with a hike, craft and music.

10th ~ Music in the Loft ~ 6:30 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ Local talents entertain acoustically with familiar and original compositions from Folk to Rock n Roll. There is no admission fee and everyone is welcome.

15th ~ Bloomin' Prairie ~ 6:30 PM ~ Manikowski Prairie ~ Take a step back in time to see unique prairie flowers like shooting stars, pussytoes and wood betony carpet the largest limestone prairie remaining in Iowa. At Goose Lake, head north of town on Co Hwy Z34, then take a right on 137th St. Park parallel by the Clinton Conservation vehicle.



24th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join this fun little group that does big things for Rock Creek!

28th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Season Opener! ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Come in for refreshments to see all the new changes and your old favorites!

June

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).

2nd ~ Turtle Talk ~ 1:30 PM ~ Clinton Public Library ~ Turtles come in all shapes and sizes! Join us for a live turtle presentation of common turtles found in Iowa! All ages are welcome!



2nd ~ Bloomin' Prairie ~ 6:30 PM ~ Duke Prairie ~ Take a step back in time to see unique prairie flowers like shooting stars, blue flag iris and star grass carpet a 20 acre wet (bring appropriate shoes) prairie that was only turned over once! This gem is found southwest of Grand Mound, at the end of 215th Ave. Park parallel by the Clinton Conservation vehicle.

2nd ~ 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.

2nd ~ 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. We will

also try to call in a barred owl! Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

3rd ~ Birds of Prey ~ 5 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Learn about the birds of prey found around us and enjoy a live bird presentation of our red-tailed hawk and barred owl at the Nature Barn. All ages are welcome!



3rd-5th ~ Free Fishing Weekend for Iowa Residents

4th ~ Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) ~ 8 AM-7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This statewide event is held for children 12-18 years old who compete in eight elements: shotgun, rifle, muzzleloader, archery, wildlife ID, orienteering, safety trail and knowledge base test. This is a full day of fun competing as a team or individual! Practices are going on right now, contact Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202 for more information or visit www.iowadnr.gov/yhec.

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

5th ~ Backpacker Practice Hike ~ 10 AM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ Train for your next trip with others bound for similar adventures. Bring your pack or borrow one of ours loaded to your level of training. The terrain there is rolling and our elevation gain will be approximately 300 feet. Call 563-357-0759 for more info and to register. There is no fee and our Yellow River and Kickapoo youth need no adult supervision.

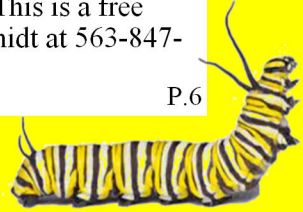
5th ~ Voyageur Orientation ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This outing is for anyone interested in these 29-foot cargo canoes. We'll paddle quiet waters and learn to maneuver the craft. Call 563-357-0759 for more info and to register.

6th ~ Building Better Birders Cruise ~ 6:30 & 8:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Master birder, Kelly McKay, will lead this free class for people wanting to improve their birding skills. Call 563-259-1876 to sign up for one or both!



6th ~ Nature Story ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ This informal activity is child led by their imagination, though the naturalist will have a different nature theme with story for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check Facebook for theme.

8th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6:30 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.





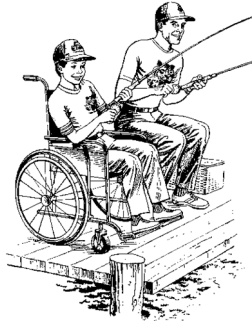
8th ~ Night Float ~ 8 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Meet at the Eco-center and be ready to go by 8 PM. We'll explore the quiet backwaters on the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge. If you use your own watercraft in addition to your other gear you will need a 360 degree center light a flashlight and a whistle. Call 563-357-0759 for more info and to register.

9th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

9th ~ Moonlight and Music Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents entertain with familiar and original compositions from Folk to Rock n Roll. There is no admission fee and everyone is welcome. Call 563-259-1876.

11th ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries Youth Event~ 9:30 AM-12:30 PM ~ Lake Malone

~ Fishing Has No Boundaries, Eastern Iowa Chapter and Clinton County Conservation are partnering up once again for our youth with disabilities fishing event! If you know of a child living with a disability please consider signing them up for a morning of fun and fishing at Lake Malone. The cost for this event is \$20/child and registration is required. We are in need of 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.



11th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

13th ~ Nature Story ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ This informal activity is child led by their imagination, though the naturalist will have a different nature theme with story for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check Facebook for theme.



14th ~ Beyond the Beaten Path ~ 11 AM ~ Walnut Grove ~ The Curtis Memorial (Wheatland) Library is hosting a summer reading program outing! There will be a campfire with roasted goodies and activities to explore the area by the Wapsipinicon River! Sign-up by calling 563-374-1534.

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

18th ~ Building Better Birders Cruise 6:30 & 8:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Master birder, Kelly McKay, will lead this free class for people wanting to improve their birding skills. Call 563-259-1876 to sign up for one or both!

18th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 11 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

18th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

20th - 22nd ~ Voyageur Expedition ~ 10 AM ~ Clayton, Iowa ~ This adult event is accepting email reservations. Contact Jen Meyer at jen@jacksonccb.com or Chuck Jacobsen at cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov for more information. Registration ends June 5th.

20th ~ Nature Story ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ This informal activity is child led by their imagination, though the naturalist will have a different nature theme with story for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check Facebook for theme.

22nd ~ "Northern Lights" Painting Class with "Fresh Paint" with Christine Boeve ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~

Paint your own version of this *Aurora Borealis* celebration! You can put your family name, a favorite saying, or whatever you like. All materials supplied! Register by calling Christine at 319-321-5499. Make sure you leave a message how many people are attending. We need at least 8 people so bring friends! You will pay Chris directly that evening by cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



22nd ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6:30 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.

23rd ~ Yellow River Forest Youth Backpack Trip Orientation ~ 9 AM ~ Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa ~ Attendance at this pre-trip meeting is required. Register at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jackson/Park/Hurstville-Interpretive-Center/Events by June 1st. Call 563-357-0759 or 563-652-3783 for more info.

23rd ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

25th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

27th ~ Nature Story ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ This informal activity is child led by their imagination, though the naturalist will have a different nature theme with story for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check Facebook for theme.





28th - 30th ~ Yellow River Youth Backpack Trip ~ Yellow River Forest ~ Harpers Ferry, Iowa ~ Youth ages 14-17 looking for an adventure are invited to join Clinton, Dubuque, and Jackson County Conservation on a 3 day backpacking trip to Yellow River State Forest in Northeast Iowa! Cost is \$50 per participant. This covers food, equipment, and transportation from Clinton/Dubuque/Jackson Counties. Attendance at the pre-trip meeting on June 23 is required. Register at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jackson/Park/Hurstville-Interpretive-Center/Events by June 1st. Call (563) 357-0759 or 652-3783 for more info.



28th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join this fun little group that does big things for Rock Creek!

29th ~ Slithery Snakes ~ 2 PM ~ Camanche Library ~ Snakes may not be liked by all but they definitely have their roll in our environment. Come check out some of our slithery friends and learn why they are so important.

30th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

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

July

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

2nd ~ Building Better Birders Cruises 6:30 & 8:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 for one or both!

2nd ~ Cave Tour ~ 10 AM ~ Eden Valley ~ Come crawl around a private cave with a naturalist and explore the tunnels underground. We will tour the inside of the cave and discuss the different critters that call caves their home. Please plan to meet at the Eden Valley Nature Center at 10am and we will drive to the cave site from there. Hard hats will be provided and old clothes are recommended. Space is limited so call 563-847-7202 to reserve your spots.



2nd ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 11 AM ~ Rock Creek

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

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

7th ~ Music and Moonlight Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents entertain with familiar and original compositions from Folk to Rock n Roll. There is no admission fee and everyone is welcome. Call 563-259-1876.

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

11th ~ Nature Story ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ This informal activity is child led by their imagination, though the naturalist will have a different nature theme with story for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check Facebook for theme.

13th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6:30 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.



14th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

15th ~ Canoeing with the Voyageurs ~ 1 PM ~ St. Germain dit Gauthier House, 419 5th St. Prairie du Chien WI ~ Experience the thrill of paddling a fur trade canoe in the Mississippi River just as the voyageurs did during the 18th and 19th century fur trade.

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

17th ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Explore the mighty Mississippi as animals are taking advantage of cooler morning temperatures and lighter boat traffic. Call 563-259-1876.

17th ~ Backwaters Paddle ~ 10 AM ~ 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.

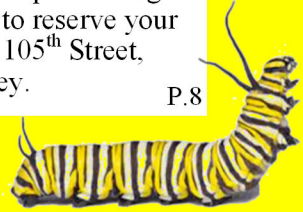


18th ~ Nature Story ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ This informal activity is child led by their imagination, though the naturalist will have a different nature theme with story for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check Facebook for theme.

19th ~ 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.

20th ~ Wiggly Worms ~ 2 PM ~ Camanche Public Library ~ Did you know that red worms hatch from cocoons? We will look at worm cocoons and get our hands on the slimy worms themselves! All ages are welcome!

20th ~ McAndrews Wildlife Area Wagon Ride Tours ~ 7 PM ~ McAndrews W.A. ~ Join our Natural Resource Team and take a fun one-hour tour through the two adjacent wildlife areas onboard one of our tractor pulled wagons. Space is limited so call 563-847-7202 to reserve your seats. Meet at the main parking lot at 1157 105th Street, Baldwin, about 2 miles south of Eden Valley.





21st ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

22nd & 23rd ~ Christmas in July ~ Eden Valley, Walnut Grove and Sherman ~Decorating campsites in the Christmas-fashion. Weather permitting a movie played at Eden Valley Campground at dusk.

23rd ~ Crossroads Triathlon ~ 8 AM ~ Killdeer Recreation Area ~<https://parks.cityofdewittowa.org>

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

25th ~ Wapsi Paddling Trip # 1 ~ 10 AM ~ Walnut Grove ~This is a great trip for beginners as it's only 4 miles short. We'll take our time and explore the half dozen or more beaches we'll pass collecting rocks, fossils, artifacts, tracks and shells as we go. Register by calling or texting 563-357-0759 today.

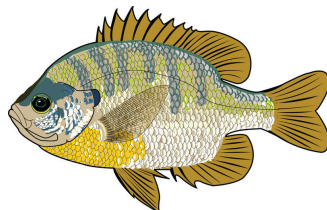
25th ~ Nature Story ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~This informal activity is child led by their imagination, though the naturalist will have a different nature theme with story for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check Facebook for theme.

25th ~ Wapsi Overnight Paddle Trip ~ 6 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~This is a free Family oriented trip. Get an early supper and meet at the park. We'll travel just downstream to a large beach, pitch tents and enjoy the water, sand and a community fire. In the morning we'll continue downstream 9 miles in all to our take out at the Lincoln HWY Boat Ramp. We can supply paddling gear, dry bags, sleeping bags, tents, mess kits, cook kits and stoves. You must provide all your other necessities (i.e. food, water, bug repellent, sunscreen, etc.). Call 563-357-0759 for more information and registration.

26th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~Join this fun little group that does big things for Rock Creek!

27th ~ Amaze-wing Hawks ~ 1:30 PM ~ Clinton Public Library ~Discover the swooping and soaring hawks found all around us! There will be a live bird presentation, as well as other hands-on animal stations. All ages are welcome!

27th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 6:30 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 at 563-847-7202 with any questions.



28th ~ Beaver Island Paddle Trip ~ 10 AM ~ Camanche Boat Ramp ~Meet at the South Clinton Boat Ramp to launch. We will have to cross the rock levee at the head of Sunfish Slough and deal with other possible blockages. Sounds like an adventure right? We'll survey it prior to the trip and give you our best estimate of its difficulty. Call 563-357-0759 for more info and to register.

28th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

29th - 31st ~ Overnight Family Adventure Camp ~ 6 PM -10 AM ~ Eden Valley ~Have you ever wanted to take your family on a true camping experience but feel overwhelmed by the details or do not have the equipment? Well Clinton County has you covered! Cost is \$30/person, just sign up on www.mycountyparks.com. We will have fun activities planned like an outdoor movie, caving, rock scrambling, games, creek exploration, hiking, etc.



30th ~ Tree ID Hike ~ 11 AM ~ Eden Valley ~We will hike throughout Eden Valley Refuge and practice using different tools to identify the native plants and trees around us. Please plan to meet at the nature center.

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

August

1st ~ Wapsi Paddle Trip #2 ~ 10 AM ~ Lincoln HWY Boat Ramp ~We'll launch and travel six miles to Sherman Park visiting beaches along the way. We'll swim, collect rocks, fossils, shells and tracks. Bring a shore lunch. Call 563-357-0759 for more info and registration.

1st ~ Nature Story ~ 10:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~This informal activity is child led by their imagination, though the naturalist will have a different nature theme with story for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check Facebook for theme.

1st ~ Wapsi Overnight Paddle Trip ~ 6 PM ~ Sherman Park Boat Ramp ~We'll launch and travel to a beach, set camp and enjoy an evening on the river. We can supply tents, packs, etc. In the morning we'll travel on to Allen's Grove Park for a total of 10 miles visiting beaches along the way. This is a free family oriented event. Call 563-357-0759 for more info and registration.

2nd ~ Mussel Beach Cruise ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~Learn about the common mussels found in the beaches around us. Take a ride on the Blue Heron to cruise the mighty Mississippi and discover some mussels for yourself! Limited seating is available, so please call 563-259-1876 to reserve your seats.



4th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek



6th ~ EnviroKids Family Camp ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek
 ~ Paddleboats, canoes, kayaks, pond 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 11th ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum**
- ◆ **June 11th ~ Clinton LumberKings Baseball Game**
- ◆ **June 25th ~ Clinton Co. Area Solid Waste Agency**
- ◆ **July 9th ~ Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center**
- ◆ **July 16nd ~ Clinton Izaak Walton League**
- ◆ **August 20th ~ The Sawmill Museum**

6th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

9th ~ Wapsi Paddle Trip # 3 ~ 10 AM ~ Allen's Grove Park ~ This is a free Family oriented trip. We'll launch stopping at beaches along this eleven mile stretch to enjoy a swim, rock, fossil, shell and track hunting. We can supply paddling gear. You must provide all your other necessities (i.e. food, water, bug repellent, sun screen...). Call 563-357-0759 for more info and registration.

10th ~ 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.

11th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

11th ~ Music and Moonlight Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents entertain with familiar and original compositions from Folk to Rock n Roll. There is no admission fee and everyone is welcome. Call 563-259-1876.



13th ~ 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 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.

13th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

18th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

18th ~ After Dark Backwater Cruise ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

20th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

21st ~ Turtle Sunday ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Did you know that turtles are surprisingly fast? You can come find out at the **Turtle Races at 10 AM**. Find out why at **Turtle Talk** after the Races. Then enjoy a free turtle sundae!



23rd ~ Wapsi Paddle Trip #4 ~ 10 AM ~ Gambrel Access ~ This is an 8 mile long free Family oriented trip. We'll travel downstream visiting beaches along this eight mile route to the take-out at a landing near McCausland. We can supply paddling gear. You must provide all your other necessities (i.e. food, water, bug repellent, sun screen...). Call 563-357-0759 for more info and registration.

23rd ~ Wapsi and Mississippi Overnight Paddle ~ 6 PM ~ McCausland Boat Landing ~ We'll meet after supper at the landing then move downstream to a beach. After a stretch we'll pitch our tents and enjoy sand and water. After breakfast we'll continue on paddling 11 miles in all to Rock Creek. Call 563-357-0759 for more info and registration. This is a free family oriented event.

24th ~ Building Better Birders Cruise 6:30 & 8:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 for one or both!

25th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

26th - 28th ~ Lower Wapsi River Clean-up Project ~ Anamosa to Hale ~ This is a family oriented community service project sponsored by the Clinton County Conservation Board and Eagle Point Nature Society. Email riversflowild@gmail.com.



27th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

28th ~ 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

30th ~ Building Better Birders Cruise 6:30 & 8:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 for one or both!

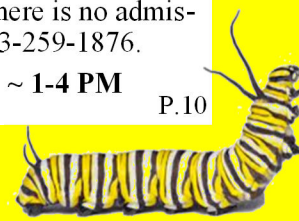
30th ~ Lock Thru Paddle Trip ~ 9 AM ~ Bulger's Hollow ~ Be ready to cross the widest part of the Mississippi, have lunch at Lock and Dam 13 and be back to Clinton by 4 PM. Call 563-357-0759 for more info and to register.

September

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

1st ~ Music and Moonlight Cruise ~ 7:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents entertain with familiar and original compositions from Folk to Rock n Roll. There is no admission fee and everyone is welcome. Call 563-259-1876.

3rd ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Finale! ~ 1-4 PM





Meet Our New AmeriCorps Naturalist!

by Hannah Pannell, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Hello everyone, my name is Hannah Pannell, and I am the AmeriCorps intern working with Clinton County Conservation this summer as a naturalist! I grew up in Fulton, Illinois where I spent much of my childhood in the outdoors. As I grew up fishing, hunting and roaming around the outdoors with my family, I developed a strong love for nature and everything that comes with it.

For as long as I can remember I knew I wanted to pursue a career in the outdoors. Knowing my love for the outdoors and my desire to teach, I decided to attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and study Natural Resource Management with an emphasis in Environmental Education and Interpretation. Throughout college I participated in the student chapter of The Wildlife Society where I had the opportunity to work on various projects. Those projects included banding saw-whet owls, a variety of woodpeckers, and putting tracking collars on whitetail deer. I spent my final semester of college doing my practicum experience at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station and Schmeeckle Reserve. I developed both public programs, as well as short lessons for the students at the Tomorrow River Community Charter School. I spent my summers working at a fish hatchery in Cordova, Illinois where I branded walleyes to release into the Mississippi River. I also took part in raising a variety of endangered mussel species, hybrid striped bass, alligator gar and blue catfish.

I am so excited to spend my summer working with a



Hannah Pannell at her first prescribed prairie burn at Duke Prairie in April. She is wearing Nomex, fire resistant clothing and eye protection. She is using the drip torch to lay a fire line right where we need it.

variety of ages and audiences at the various locations in Clinton County! The conservation group has great programs planned for the summer season and I am so excited to be a part of it. This summer I plan on leading various public programs, including birds of prey, a cave tour, a tree identification hike and a mussel cruise! Visit me at Rock Creek or Eden Valley this summer on Saturdays and check out the animals and displays we have out for you!

Supporting Environmental Education

by David Stedwell, President, Clinton County Conservation Foundation

Imagine you are eight years old and you have never caught tadpoles at the water's edge, or have been in a kayak or canoe. Today you are bursting with excitement because your school field trip is to the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center.



Your first activity is an adventure in a fourteen-passenger, super-sized canoe that you and your classmates will paddle into the backwaters of the Mississippi River.

That is just one of many educational opportunities of-

ferred to area students and organizations. The Clinton County Conservation naturalists provide year-round nature experiences at the county's parks and in-school classrooms.

There are also opportunities for adults and families to enjoy the outdoors and learn. It could be a spring woodland flower walk, bird watching aboard the Blue Heron, an evening owl program or a lesson on snowshoeing and ice fishing.

The nature displays at all the parks are free to the public. At the Eco Tourism Center you can see native fish swimming in an 8,000-gallon aquarium, crawl through a clear tunnel under swimming turtles at Turtle Island, climb up inside a giant cottonwood tree and see snakes, salamanders and turtles close and personal.

Please use the attached donation envelope. With your generous tax-deductible support, environmental education programs and hands-on nature experiences like these will be able to continue and thrive. You may also choose to use Venmo @ClintonCounty-ConservationFoun or PayPal @clintonccf.

The Eco Tourism Center, Rock Creek, Eden Valley, Malone Park and all the other Clinton County parks are **your** precious resources and places where this generation and the next will learn and grow in their respect for nature.

Thank you for your generous gift.

Clinton County Conservation Foundation

