



THE Heron



By Karri Rutenbeck,
West District Park
Supervisor

Planning, Pitfalls and Progress on the West District

Planning for park projects starts long before a literal shovel hits the dirt. In theory, a successful project requires foresight, detailed preparation and an understanding of what's needed before any work can be done. Permits must be applied for, materials must be procured and even seeds for landscaping projects need to be collected the fall before. Perfectly readying yourself for the upcoming summer's projects takes advanced planning, careful timing, consideration and accurate cost estimates to ensure the project proceeds as smooth as possible.

However, the reality of working in parks is quite a bit different. As much as we strive for that ideal state of readiness, our days are often shaped by the unexpected

and unpredictable. This summer, for instance, we faced a cascade of challenges that have kept us on our toes.

In April, longstanding team member Bob Schaefer retired after 35 years of dedicated service. With a leaner staff than in previous springs, much of the month was consumed with routine maintenance tasks of cleaning restrooms, mowing and operating weed-eaters to keep our parks well maintained.

Then came the first major issue of the summer, the Sherman Park well "drying up". A group of Calamus-Wheatland Elementary students were shown how to use buckets of water to flush toilets, after arriving for a clean-up event with no working restrooms. After a month of only allowing self-contained units, a new complimentary well was dug adjacent to the existing well, restoring full water access to the park.

May brought its own set of troubles as the Wapsipicon River flooded both Walnut Grove and Sherman Park. Near the end of the month, high winds hit Eden Valley and Walnut Grove campgrounds, leaving a mess of uprooted trees and debris. While we worked swiftly to clean up and restore these areas to camping condition, these efforts unfortunately delayed other planned projects.

By the end of May, I was eager to return to a project I had started the previous fall: re-nativizing and rejuvenating the landscaping around our parks. Over the

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Bear Creek, which runs through Eden Valley Refuge, was ripped to prevent the bank from eroding into the campground.



From Manicured Grass to a Monarch Haven

Pollinators are the hot topic in the Conservation world. I'm sure most of you have heard the word "pollinators" and are aware of how they are struggling to thrive on our agricultural landscape. A pollinator is any organism that helps with the cross-pollination of plants. They are vital to the survival of most of the world's ecosystems, with an estimated 70-87% of flowering plants relying on pollinators! The fact that our bee and monarch populations are dropping at alarming rates is a thought often shoved to the back of our brains. Unfortunately, it won't be until they vanish from our planet that we will act on the importance of these little creatures that have such a big impact on our everyday life.

Pollinators need plant diversity! They need an abundance and variety of flowering plants from as early as March through October and possibly into November depending on temperatures. Iowa's lack of plant diversity is one of the causes of population decline in some of our pollinators. Manicured lawns and cropland are not diverse, reducing the food source for all these "busy bees." Making baby steps in improving plant diversity in our landscapes is one way we can support our pollinators.

Making a Change

Malone Park is a property owned and managed by Clinton County Conservation. Located just south of Hwy 30 near DeWitt, it has a man-made lake, created when the overpass was built on Hwy 30. The park offers a swimming beach, fishing, frisbee golf and a quaint picnic shelter to enjoy a meal. Over the past few years there have been many improvements to the park. Just this past year, we installed a much-needed Huffcut pit toilet, a new kiosk as well as the beginnings of a playscape area. Among the features updated for humans, we took a closer look at the landscape for wildlife. It was at that point that we decided to transform a large, mowed area, seldom used by people, back into a prairie, increasing the plant diversity in that area.

Converting a manicured mow space to pollinator haven is not an easy task. It takes time and patience. It also requires an open mind and possibly a new perspective on the benefits of a natural look or what I like to call a nature-messy yard.

1 | Survey the landscape: for Malone Park we had an established prairie plot to the north of where we were going to convert. We also noted a low-lying area that was consistently wet.



2 | Kill the existing grass. For this we used glyphosate in the fall of '23. It took some time to take effect but the outcome was what we were hoping for.



3 | Burn the dead grass material. This was done in December of '23. The burn provides extra nutrients to the ground as well as sets the soil for planting.



4 | Prep the land for planting by turning up the topsoil using a disc.



5 | Plant your pollinator mix. When doing this you want to ensure you are planting native plants to your area, including a good mixture of flowering plants and grasses.



6 | Enjoy your prairie! The first year is always questionable with possible weedy plants popping up but as time goes by the intended prairie plants catch up and we are happy with our results. We may add additional flowering plants and grasses in hopes of adding to the diversity of the prairie.



Just like us, try to take those baby steps by reducing your mowing to increase the plant life. It will prove to have positive effects on your own landscapes. It is as simple as joining the “No Mow May” movement to help those early pollinators that depend on dandelions and other early blooming flowers. So, take the chance, park the mower, plant the prairie and enjoy our pollinators as we all reap the benefits.



West District Progress

(continued on front page)

winter, I constructed a 500-cell greenhouse to propagate the seeds collected last fall. I had 17 species hand-picked and ready to grow. I envisioned a stunning display in front of the Nature Center— New England asters towering over butterfly milkweed, with monarchs laying their eggs amidst the vibrant blooms. It was a spectacular vision.

Unfortunately, either my gardening skills were overestimated or the seeds weren't viable, as the greenhouse produced only a handful of swamp milkweeds and black-eyed susans. My grand vision seemed to falter, but help arrived in an unexpected form. A volunteer organization reached out, offering grant funds to donate plants to our parks, helping to bring a part of the vision to life.

Despite the chaos, we managed to complete several other important projects. Bear Creek, which runs through Eden Valley Refuge, was rip-rapped to prevent further erosion and the interior of the shower house building was painted with epoxy. Looking ahead, we are excited to finish our next major project: a new 20' X 30' basketball court in the Eden Valley campground.

As I observe the single Swamp Milkweed plant growing around Walnut Grove's flagpole, I'm reminded that every little effort contributes to our goals and sometimes help arrives when you least expect it. The unpredictability of our job is what makes each day an adventure and something to look forward to.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we navigate the joys and challenges of park management together.



By Jessica Steines,
Interpretive Naturalist

Wolves and Wild Lands Exhibit

We are excited to announce that the Wolves and Wild Lands traveling exhibit will be at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center for the month of December (4th-27th) thanks to the Clinton County Conservation Foundations support.

This display was made and managed by Outhouse Exhibit Services in association with The International Wolf Center to "bring the compelling stories of wolves and their relationship with humans." This beautifully done exhibit includes five different taxidermized species of wolves and one coyote for comparison. This is important as wolves are protected species in Iowa's hunting laws and can be mistaken for coyotes by hunters. The wolves displayed are the Artic, Mexican, Red, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains wolves.

Along with the animals, there are graphics to show regional information, natural history with up-to-date

population statistics from the most recent research and human perspectives of living with or without wolves.

To add to the excitement of this unique display, there will be three public presentations to learn more about these interesting creatures. To come and explore on your own, make sure you check the Eco Center hours by looking on Facebook or calling 563-259-1876. For more information on the display go to www.outhouseonline.com/international-wolf-center

December 5th ~ Wolves of the Great Lakes ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

~ Wolves have had a tumultuous history in Wisconsin (as they have in many areas of the world). They have been both rejected and respected by humans throughout history. In Wisconsin, the gray wolf population has fluctuated from numerous to none and has now bounced back to numbers that are exceeding DNR

goals. Join me as we take a closer look at the wolf history, biology and life cycle, management techniques and political status in Wisconsin. This is a FREE program and is intended for older children and adults.

12th ~ Wolves in Iowa ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

~ We invited Iowa DNR Wildlife Biologist, Nick McClimon, to share his knowledge about the history of wolves in Iowa and about some of the recent visitors you've heard about in the news.

16th ~ Wolf Introductions ~ 5:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

~ Join a Naturalist as we discuss two famous wolf studies that each occurred in a National Park. One was a natural introduction caused by a cold winter and a naturally formed ice bridge and the other a reintroduction to put the balance of nature back in check.





CALENDAR OF Events

Note on Blue Heron Eco 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).

September

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

5th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 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 for all Sunset Cruises.

10th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 5:30 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! Experience and licenses are not required unless you plan on 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.



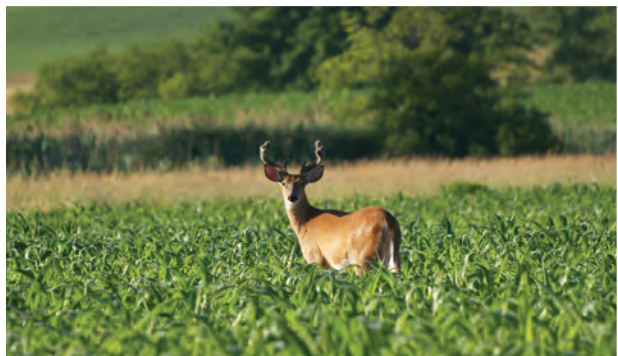
12th ~ Dewitt Farmer's Market ~ 3:30 - 6:30 PM ~ Dewitt Community Center ~ While picking up some locally grown produce and handmade items, visit the naturalists' table of animal artifacts at the Farmer's Market!

12th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 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 for all Sunset Cruises.



14th ~ Youth Outdoor Skills Day ~ 9 AM - 3:30 PM ~ Clinton Izaak Walton League, 4167 US 136 Clinton, IA ~ Children ages 11-17 are invited to spend a day challenging themselves in a variety of outdoor skills including many shooting sports. Registration is required, send a check to 1801 S. 21st St. Clinton, IA 52732 for \$15 per child. Make checks payable to Youth Outdoor Skills Day (YOSD). Please include the child's name, age and shirt size. For questions, call Jeff Beckwith at 563-249-7358. DEADLINE: September 1st for sign-up and payment.

19th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 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 for all Sunset Cruises.



21st ~ Enabled Deer Hunting Starts ~ Ringneck Marsh ~ Call Jill at 563-847-7202 for information on this opportunity for people with disabilities. The blind is set in the oak forest along the Wapsipinicon River.

24th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join this amazing volunteer group to help make a difference at Rock Creek! For more information, email hedfors@clintoncounty-ia.gov.



29th ~ Turtle Sunday ~ 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~
Join us for a fun day of turtles! We will start the morning with a live animal presentation, followed by turtle races, crafts and finish the day with turtle sundaes!

October

3rd ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 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 for all Sunset Cruises.



Halloween weekend at EDEN VALLEY & WALNUT GROVE!

Adults must accompany children during activities.

Friday the 4th

- ~ **Decorate Your Campsite** ~ Get into the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Halloween. We will be awarding prizes for the most creative Halloween campsites.
- ~ **Frightening Family Movie Night ~ 7 - 9 PM** ~ Come in your pjs and bring your favorite blanket for a Halloween family-friendly movie near the playground.



Saturday the 5th

- ~ **Trick or Treat! ~ 4 - 5 PM** ~ We invite all our camper ghouls and goblins to trick or treat the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy.



- ~ **Lighted Hayrack Ride ~ 5 PM** ~ Join us aboard our hayrack as we drive through the campground looking at the decorated campsites. Adults must accompany children.

9th ~ Eco Printing on Silk Scarves ~ 10 AM ~ Eden Valley ~ Arrive at 10 AM to hike and collect leaves to then eco print onto silk scarves at 11AM.

If you are unable to hike, just show up at 11 AM and there will be leaves available to use. The process takes 1.5 hours to simmer after you have designed and rolled up your scarf, so expect to be at Eden Valley at least till 1 PM. During that time, you may look around the nature center, bring and eat your own sack lunch or hike some more! All materials are provided, scarf is 8" X 54". You must register for \$10 at mycountyparks.com.

10th ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 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 for all Sunset Cruises.

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND at ROCK CREEK!

Adults must accompany children during activities. All activities originate at the Eco Tourism Center.

Friday the 11th

- ~ **Decorate Your Campsite** ~ Get into the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Halloween. We will be awarding prizes for the most creative Halloween campsites.
- ~ **Frightening Family Movie Night ~ 7 - 9 PM** ~ Come in your pj's and bring your favorite blanket for a Halloween family-friendly movie on the patio. Concessions will be available for some favorite movie treats. Cash only please, plan accordingly.

Saturday the 12th

- ~ **Outside Archery Range ~ 10:30 AM** ~ Test your hand at slaying wild animals that have been infected by zombies on our outside archery range. The event will include both safety and practical instruction. Participants must use our equipment and will be under the watchful eye of a range master. Children (9+) must be accompanied by an adult.



- ~ **Boo! Bags Tournament ~ 1 PM** ~ \$25/team of two, prizes to be won! Call the Eco Center Store to sign up at 563-259-1876.
 - ~ **Spooktacular Crafts ~ 1 PM** ~ Creepy crawly crafts will be provided for people of all ages.
 - ~ **Pumpkin Carving ~ 2 PM** ~ Come carve your pumpkin at the Eco Center! We will supply the carving tools, stencils and a place to make a mess! Bring your own pumpkin!
 - ~ **Trick or Treat! ~ 5 - 6 PM** ~ We invite all our camper ghouls and goblins to trick or treat the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy. Note: the road to the back part of the campground will be closed 4:30 - 6:30 PM to driving traffic.
 - ~ **Lighted Hayrack Ride ~ 6 PM** ~ Join us aboard our hayrack as we drive through the campground looking at the decorated campsites. Adults must accompany children.
- 12th ~ Halloween Fun, Trick or Treat! ~ 4 - 5 PM**
~ **Sherman Park Campground** ~ We invite all our camper ghouls and goblins to trick or treat the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy.

14th ~ Water shut-off begins ~ Clinton County Campgrounds

16th ~ Rod Building Workshop ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Custom Rod Builders, Garry Land and Ryan Waltz will be on hand to help you complete your very own custom spinning rod for only \$75, register at mycountyparks.com. If you are not able to arrive by 5 PM, please text 563-212-0955 when you sign up to let us know when you are able to arrive. This project will take around 3 hours depending on skill level, but rods must stay overnight, to be picked up at a future time for the epoxy to harden on the spinners.

17th ~ Dewitt Farmer's Market ~ 3:30 - 6:30 PM
~ **Dewitt Community Center** ~ While picking up some locally grown produce and handmade items, visit the naturalists' table of animal artifacts at the Farmer's Market!

17th ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 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 for all Sunset Cruises.

22nd ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM
~ **Rock Creek** ~ Join this amazing volunteer group to help make a difference at Rock Creek! For more information, email hedfors@clintoncounty-ia.gov.

24th ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 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 for all Sunset Cruises.

26th ~ Fall Fest ~ 12 - 3 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center, Clinton ~ Free family fun for all!



29th ~ Fall Color Hike ~ 5 PM ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~ Enjoy some hot apple cider as we walk through the bluffs of the beautiful Eden Valley Refuge and view all the fall colors on display! This hike is for all experience types.

November

2nd ~ Bald Eagle Cruise ~ 11 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Take a cruise on the Blue Heron for the last time of the year and view all the Bald Eagles that are beginning to congregate along the Mississippi River. Call 563-259-1876 at any time to register for your free spot!

2nd ~ Clinton County Conservation Foundation Fall Fundraiser Banquet ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek. Join us for a night celebrating 26 years as an organization supporting environmental education! Doors open at 5 PM with dinner following at 6:30 PM. Seating is limited, so call the Rock Creek store at 563-259-1876 or Conservation Headquarters at 563-847-7202 to purchase your \$30 ticket!

13th ~ Turkey, Turkey, Turkey Talk ~ 2:15 PM ~ Camanche Public Library ~ What struts, gobbles and purrs? A turkey! We will learn all about turkeys and their unique characteristics that make them different from other animals around them. This presentation is for all ages!

14th ~ Dewitt Farmer's Market ~ 3:30 - 6:30 PM
~ **Dewitt Community Center** ~ While picking up some locally grown produce and handmade items, visit the naturalists' table of animal artifacts at the Farmer's Market!

22nd ~ Turkey Time ~ 10 AM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton ~ Did you know that turkeys can run up to 25 mph and fly as fast as 55 mph! Bring your kids to learn this and more with hands-on animal artifacts and mount!



26th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join this amazing volunteer group to help make a difference at Rock Creek! For more information, email hedfors@clintoncounty-ia.gov.

December

4th - 27th ~ Wolves and Wild Lands Exhibit ~ The Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center will be presenting this fascinating display from the International Wolf Center that is composed of six preserved taxidermy specimens: Artic wolf, Mexican wolf, Coyote, Red wolf, Great Plains wolf and the Rocky Mountain wolf. Please call the Conservation Office for hours of viewing at 563-847-7202 or check out our Facebook page for more details.

5th ~ Wolves of the Great Lakes ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Wolves have had a tumultuous history in Wisconsin (as they have in many areas of the world). They have been both rejected and respected by humans throughout history. In Wisconsin, the gray wolf population has fluctuated from numerous to

none and has now bounced back to numbers that are exceeding DNR goals. Join me as we take a closer look at the wolf history, biology and life cycle, management techniques and political status in Wisconsin. This is a FREE program and is intended for older children and adults.



10th ~ Bird Feeder Ornaments ~ 5:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join a Naturalist at Rock Creek to create bird feeder ornaments to decorate your yard with! String popcorn and berries or decorate pinecones with all sorts of goodies for the birds to enjoy!

11th ~ Animals in Winter ~ 2:15 PM ~ Camanche Public Library ~ Like us, animals have a variety of ways they prepare for and survive the wintertime. We will have a variety of animal artifacts, live animals and even play a game to see who has what it takes to survive an Iowa winter! This presentation is for all ages!



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winter and a naturally formed ice bridge and the other a reintroduction to put the balance of nature back in check.

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20th ~ Animals in Winter ~ 10 AM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton ~ Iowa's wildlife face many challenges throughout the cold months of winter, learn about their fascinating adaptations that help them survive! This presentation will have puppets, animal artifacts, a live turtle and barred owl!

January

3rd ~ Happening Hawks ~ 10 AM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton ~ Did you know that red-tailed hawks can spot a mouse from 100 feet in the air! You and your child will be able to touch real animal artifacts and see a live red-tailed hawk!





Familiar Faces Back in Conservation



**Anton Green, Maintenance II,
West District**

Greetings Conservation Enthusiasts,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Maintenance II employee for the West District of our county. My name is Anton Green and I have worked for the Conservation Board for several years as a seasonal employee out of Eden Valley Refuge. While waiting for an opportunity to open with the Conservation Board, teaching special education and science kept me occupied. I had the opportunity to work with my predecessor, Bob Schaefer, aka Schaef, those years as a seasonal employee and realize that I have large shoes to fill with the tasks that it takes to keep the holdings of the Conservation Board safe and well-maintained.

Working out of Eden Valley is a pleasure known to few. Hours spent grooming trails, weed whacking and mowing give way to larger projects like the basketball court being poured the week before Labor Day. As my time here continues, I look forward to learning about our conservation areas in all their seasons. Fall will be here before we know it and soon after, public hunting will begin. I can't wait to see the landscape and my responsibilities change as summer rolls out and fall rolls in.

My mother asks about my new position often and I get to brag to her that "every day is a day in the park." I hope to keep this energy and mantra going with changing seasons in Clinton County.



**Colton Jones, Park Ranger,
East District**

Hi, my name is Colton Jones and I am the new Park Ranger for the East District of Clinton County Conservation. My passion has always been conservation and helping the public. I am 28 years old, with an associates degree in Conservation from Muscatine Community College. In 2016 and 2017, I worked for the Iowa DNR at Bellevue State Park as a seasonal maintenance worker. During my time with the DNR, I helped with various projects around the park, participated in turtle population studies, goose banding, and other various activities. In 2018, I worked as a seasonal with Clinton County Conservation at Rock Creek Marina and Campground. I began my full-time journey with Clinton County, in August of 2019, as a Correctional Officer with the Clinton County Sheriff's Office and began this position with the Conservation Department in April of 2024. I am also working towards becoming a Reserve Deputy for the Sheriff's Office in hopes to further serve the residents of Clinton County.

I am married to my wife Molly Jones who works for the Clinton Community School district as a director of the after school and summer camp programs. We have been married for a little over two years and welcomed our first boy William (Billy) Jones as of May of 2023. We are soon to be a family of four as we are expecting another baby boy this upcoming December. We also can't forget about our labradoodle named Daisy!

I have three major goals I would like to work towards as I grow and mature into my role as a Park Ranger. One, I hope to keep the parks safe and up to date on all regulated safety needs. Two, creating a safe and fun experience for all campers and guests who visit. Three, to ensure the quality of up-keep and maintenance at the county's level of expectation. I am grateful to work as the East District Park Ranger for Clinton County Conservation, and I am excited to see what the future holds for me here at Clinton County.



Loren doing what he loved, spending time with participants in the 2024 State YHEC competition.

Leaving Behind a Conservation Legacy with Clinton County YHEC

BY JILL SCHMIDT, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Recently we said goodbye to one of the GREAT Conservationist of our area, Loren Zaruba. To be a conservationist you must be a person who advocates conservation, primarily of our natural resources.

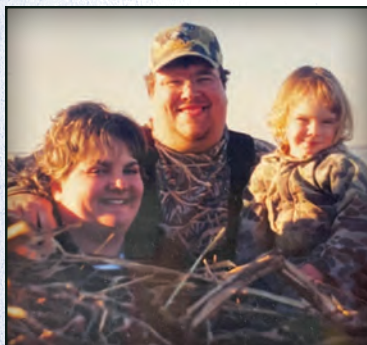
You must have an understanding that our environment is something we use, so we must conserve it and take care of it, so others can use it in the future. Loren was a true Conservationist. Throughout his life, Loren wore many hats. He was on the Clinton County Conservation Foundation. He support-

ed environmental education and lead through example as a Hunter Safety Instructor. He had many passions, but the one that stood out the most was his love for teaching. He instructed thousands of people of all ages in ethical and safe hunting practices by sharing life experiences and stressing the importance of caring for our resources.

He challenged those who followed in his footsteps to be the best they could be and to embrace the outdoor interests of our youth as he carried out his

skills and knowledge though leading YHEC (Youth Hunter Education Challenge) here in Clinton County. Loren was one many of us admired, not only for his desire to continue the sport of hunting, but to spread the wisdom of the outdoors to whoever would listen.

YHEC continues to grow in Clinton County, those of us who instruct, do so to share our enthusiasm of hunting and the outdoors with our youth, something Loren shared with us, but most importantly to carry on his legacy with Clinton County YHEC.



Man, It's Good to be Back!

BY EMMA JACOBS,
INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST

Growing up just across the Mighty Mississippi in Fulton, Illinois, this area has always had a special place in my heart and I am excited to share my love and passion for the outside world with the very community that helped raise me. Growing up, I loved all things nature related! My dad would take my sister and me hunting and fishing with him and my mom would take us outside to chase butterflies and play in the dirt. As I got older, that love for nature transformed into a passion for wildlife and the natural world around me.

After high school, I attended Wartburg College where I was a member of the Track & Field Team (GO KNIGHTS!) and received my B.A. in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science & Studies. Throughout my college years, I was able to care for various animals (my favorites were the Blue-tongued Skinks!) in the biology department and conduct my

own research on the biodiversity of upland and floodplains of primary and secondary forests.

After college, I was not sure exactly what I wanted to do, but I knew I had a passion for sharing my love of animals and the environment with others. I stumbled upon a job posting for an Environmental Education Internship with Cerro Gordo County Conservation in Mason City, Iowa and I immediately fell in love! After my time with the CGCCB I moved a little closer to home and began my time as an AmeriCorps 4-H Environmental Educator with Scott County Conservation, during this time I also coached shotput & discus for the Fulton Middle School Track & Field team. After my term ended with SCCB I moved to Lansing, Iowa to work for Allamakee County Conservation. I will miss my old coworkers, the friends I made, and the Timber Rattlesnakes, but man, it's good to be back!

Clinton County Conservation

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Grand Mound, Iowa 52751
Phone: 563-847-7202
Email: conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov
Web: www.mycountyparks.com

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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.

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.

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.

