

Oak Hickory

LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

LOOKING TO THE PAST TO SEE THE

Future

Dennis Goemaat, Deputy Director

The statement “What’s past is prologue” is credited to William Shakespeare in his play “the Tempest.” While I’m certainly not claiming to be a William Shakespeare aficionado (and my literature instructor will confirm that fact), the phrase has intrigued me. In modern usage, the term “What’s past is prologue” explains how the past has set the context for the present.

Over the years, Iowa has made major contributions to the science of conservation through many of the people who were born or raised here. Let’s take a brief look at some of Iowa’s past conservation leaders to get some context for the present:

First, Native American tribes were conservationists. They had deep connections to the land and natural resources and a stake in managing them wisely.

Many people have built on that tradition after the state was settled by Europeans. For example, John F. Lacey moved to Iowa as a teenager. His experiences with the prairie and the associated plants and animals instilled an affection and concern for the outdoors. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives where he championed many conservation issues, including the establishment of federal wildlife sanctuaries and expansion of the national park system. The Lacey Act is still used today to prosecute poachers who illegally transport wildlife across state lines.

Bohumil Shimek was an immigrant from the Czech Republic. He quickly came to love Iowa. He became a professor of Botany at the University of Iowa and spent much of his career studying Iowa landscapes. He convinced the state to purchase some poor-quality farmland in southeast Iowa and convert it to woodlands – known now as Shimek State Forest.

Louis Pammel moved to Iowa from Wisconsin. He earned a doctorate degree in botany from Iowa State College and stayed at Iowa State as a professor. He served as President of the State Board of Conservation and established 38 state parks while serving in this capacity. The first park was locally important to Eastern Iowa - Backbone State Park. Pammel State Park near Winterset honors the man who is “The Founder of Iowa’s State Park System.”

Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling grew up near Sioux City. While attending college, he would liven up the yearbook with humorous sketches and sign them D’ing, a contraction of his last name. He became a cartoonist for the Des Moines Register and would regularly use cartoons to comment on conservation issues of the day. One of his drawings appeared on the first federal duck stamp. Darling became the chief Administrator of the Bureau of Biological Survey, which would later become the US Fish and Wildlife Service. During his time at the Bureau,

he played a significant part in creating the national wildlife refuge system. Today, you can visit the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

Men were not the only early champions of conservation in Iowa. Ada Hayden was the first woman to earn a Ph. D. from Iowa State College. She grew up on a farm where the family maintained and enjoyed a tract of virgin Iowa prairie. Dr. Hayden became a professor of Botany at Iowa State and spent much of her career documenting and fighting for protection of Iowa’s few remaining prairie tracts. She helped protect one of the largest prairie tracts remaining in Iowa - now called Hayden Prairie in her honor.

The final three people I’ll mention have been especially impactful to me. Aldo Leopold was born in Burlington, Iowa. He started the country’s first Department of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin where he pioneered the study of ecology and wildlife management. His book, *A Sand County Almanac*, is a series of essays that illustrates his belief that people need a land ethic that considers the natural environment as part of our human community.

Sylvan (Sy) Runkel was a naturalist, botanist and biologist. He loved to share his knowledge and love of the natural world with other people by leading hikes. He believed that experience and

(continued on page 2)

Future

knowledge of the environment was critical in order to appreciate and protect remaining natural places. I had the good fortune to participate in a guided hike with Sylvan early in my career.

University of Iowa educator and later President Thomas Macbride wrote a paper in 1896 outlining the need for a system of county parks in Iowa. He wrote in his paper, "It is my purpose to show that such parks are needed, that they are needed now; that they should have the highest scientific value, and that in Iowa they are everywhere practicable!" He goes on to discuss three reasons why he believed county parks were necessary: 1) for public health and happiness; 2) for educational value; and 3) to preserve nature for future generations. The county conservation board law would not pass the Iowa legislature for another 60 years after Macbride first advocated for county parks. Visionaries often do not get to see the results of their foresight.

I took a brief look back in order to consider some the people who championed conservation in Iowa and their motivation for trying to protect our remaining natural areas at that time. Much has changed over time and we continue to lose natural places.

I believe that Iowans today have stood up and said that they want to chart a course for a future that includes a healthy, diverse, and vibrant natural system with clean water and air. We all need to continue to work toward this goal. Today will be Iowa's past at some point. What will we have done that future Iowans can look back on with appreciation for our efforts?

How do you envision the future of Iowa? I believe it is time for Iowans to set the future course of our states natural resources. We need to realize that if we continue on our current path, our natural heritage will continue to deteriorate. We have a rich history of Iowans who made a stand for our natural heritage. We need do our part and take a stand **today** for the future of Iowa.



➔ *Much of the historical information for this article came from the Iowa Association of Naturalists publication Important Iowa Conservationists.*



NEW

RED CEDAR LODGE Completed in March

Following a year of construction, the new lodge replaces aging 40 year old building

The new Red Cedar Lodge at Squaw Creek Park includes air conditioning with other energy efficiencies, a full kitchen, ADA compliant restrooms, new changing areas/dressing rooms, and a gas-operated fireplace. The venue can seat 150 indoors and up to 200 with outdoor patio space. Other amenities include a separate catering/service entrance, two

**HUNDREDS
TOURED THE
NEW LODGE
DURING TWO
OPEN HOUSES
IN EARLY MARCH**



double outdoor cooking grills, and a gravel pad for larger smokers and grills. Planning to replace Red Cedar Lodge started in 2015 after it was determined the cost of needed renovations would surpass that of a new facility. No funds from the recently passed Linn County Water and Land Legacy Bond issue were used for this project. Find out more at www.LinnCountyparks.com. To reserve the lodge for your next event, click on facilities (under Lodge-Red Cedar) or call (319) 892-6450.

RED CEDAR LODGE NOW AVAILABLE FOR:

Family Gatherings | Weddings and Receptions
Graduation Parties | Business Meetings and Retreats



Why Cities Need Nature

(and Nature Needs Cities?)

Linn County Conservation continues
its partnership with Trees Forever
and the Woodland Legacy Symposium



More than 130 community leaders, educators, advocates and outdoor enthusiasts came together to talk about creating sustainable cities and living “green” as Trees Forever hosted the 10th annual Our Woodland Legacy Symposium this past December. Keynote speaker Kaid Benfield of PlaceMakers LLC, a city-planning consultancy, spoke on the key ingredients of green and healthy communities, as well as how to create and maintain places that people love. He is the author of *People Habitat: 25 Ways to Think about Greener, Healthier Cities*. We were fortunate to have two other speakers for the day. Dr. Suzanne Bartlett Hackenmiller, integrative medicine physician at Mercy Medical Center, shared current research on the subject of nature, health and well-being, and her experiences using nature therapy with her patients. Joanna Eckles of Audubon, Minnesota spoke on how cities can incorporate practices that support the needs of birds and all wildlife while making our communities stronger, more vibrant and healthy for people. In addition to our keynoters, a lively exchange of ideas continued during afternoon workshops and roundtable discussions.

Thanks to all of our sponsors and those who came together for the symposium to help make our communities greener and healthier!

➡ You can watch videos of the keynotes and the panels at www.treesforever.org/owlssymposium-2016.

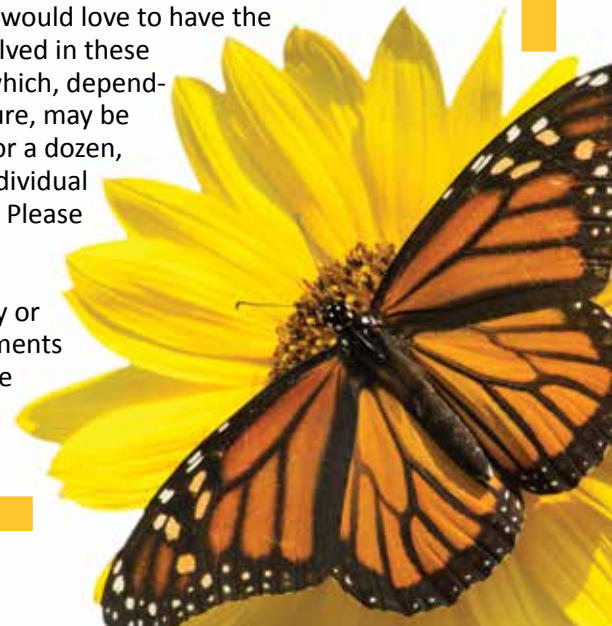


Canoes, Kayaks, and Paddleboats at Pinicon Ridge Park

Not only can you rent a kayak, canoe, or paddleboat for in-park use at Pinicon Ridge Park, but also canoe shuttles are available for 2, 4, and 6-hour float trips down the Wapipinicon River from May until September (river level and weather conditions permitting). We have 50 canoes available for up-river shuttles so we can accommodate large groups—whether it is private, business or church & youth groups. To confirm availability or for questions, call (319) 438-1961 for the Pinicon Ridge Park Boat Concession (in season), or (319) 438-6616 for the Pinicon Ridge Park office. You can also find out more at www.LinnCountyParks.com

Monarch Zone Project

Wickiup Hill will again be raising monarchs from eggs to adults in our monarch tents this summer. Yes, that’s right, TWO tents this year. The program is a bit different this year, but we will have two batches of eggs that will mature about two weeks apart. We would love to have the public involved in these releases, which, depending on nature, may be just a few or a dozen, or more individual butterflies. Please watch our Facebook page in July or announcements about these releases.



LORD OF THE RINGS

A campfire. Have you ever wondered where some of your wood comes from if you happened to have purchased it from a Linn County Conservation campground? Most people may assume it's just there – it just happens to always be stocked and available for purchase. But where does it come from?

We have a hazard tree identification program in our department. Dana Kellogg, our Natural Resource Specialist, will identify any trees in our parks, natural areas, or trails that may pose a hazardous risk to our users. These may be dying trees or trees that have been storm damaged and are in risk of falling down – perhaps on a campsite or across a trail. These trees are marked and removed by Conservation staff in the fall. The trees are felled, bucked into manageable pieces and ultimately run through a log splitter and turned into firewood. That firewood is then stocked at our lodges, but the largest majority is sold to our own campers.

So back to trees- Every other year we seem to come across a tree that is worthy of discussion. It may be as simple as, "I wonder how old that tree is?" or "I wonder if we should try to sell the log out of that tree or just buck it up for firewood?" However, some trees are worth discussing or at least philosophizing about a little more.

One hazard tree in particular this season was a mighty Burr Oak that came from our Wakpicada Natural Area near Central City. This Oak tree, at the entrance of our Natural Area, has been around now for three different centuries. As we know, Oaks start as an acorn. Since Oaks like sunlight – was it more of an open prairie/Oak savannah type rather than the woodland edge it is/was sitting in today? Who was living in the vicinity of this great tree – were early American settlers here yet or were the native people of this land still inhabiting the area? Were Elk still on the landscape when this acorn was germinated? Were Bison still in the area? Were rattlesnakes still warming their body temperatures in a pile of Oak leaves on a warm fall afternoon? How about the first Linn County Fair? This tree is on the edge of the Linn County Fairgrounds – how many carnival rides, children and livestock that attended the Fair over the decades has this magnificent tree outlived? Every camper, boater or fisherman or fisherwoman has had to drive under this mighty Oak to get to the campsites and boat ramp in Wakpicada. How many changes has this tree seen

below it as campers, boats and automobiles have changed over the years?

Trees are aged by growth rings – this giant Oak has numerous growth rings, earning it the title of "Lord" or "King" or any other admirable name. It has earned it. I counted the rings on that Oak Tree and a good guess is that the tree started as an acorn somewhere around the year 1827.

Now this tree will serve another purpose – to provide fire, heat, light or just perhaps "soul medicine" as we watch the flames burn and our eyes affix on fire like a moth that is attracted to light. For some, it may be cooking bacon and eggs over a morning campfire. For others, it may be toasting the marshmallow that will eventually lead to the creation of what we commonly call a "s'more". Many may just find it a gathering place with friends and family to reminisce of days gone by or to create new memories that will stay with them throughout their life.

Eventually the tree will be turned into ashes and the cycle will start all over again...





LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION MEETS WITH POTENTIAL PARTNERS WITH SIMILAR GOALS OUTLINED WITH THE LINN COUNTY WATER AND LAND LEGACY BOND ISSUE

Water Quality and Land Protection projects will be TOP PRIORITY for bond dollars

Linn County voters expressed their high level of support for water quality, natural resources, parks and trails when they approved a \$40 Million bond issue last November. The Linn County Water and Land Legacy measure passed with 74% voter approval. As outlined by the Conservation Board prior to the election, the Board intends to utilize a majority of the funds to: protect sources of clean drinking water with targeted wetland, easements and buffer areas; improve water quality of local streams and rivers; preserve natural areas for wildlife habitat; and maintain land to provide natural floodwater storage. Since approval of the bond issue, the Linn County Conservation Board has taken action toward these goals. Work has started on a five-year

strategic plan to implement bond-funded projects, which must also include design and engineering. Linn County Conservation staff have been conducting meetings with potential partners in an effort to leverage these dollars for the maximum benefit of the the bond measure goals.

Linn County Conservation has identified wetland restoration projects as a starting point. Wetlands have been proven to not only slow runoff water, but can also purify and filter surface water. The areas also provide needed wildlife habitat. North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants have been secured to help leverage bond dollars toward restoration of wetlands at Buffalo Creek Natural Area and Matsell Bridge Natural Area. The Board is also seeking prospec-

tive projects north of Cedar Rapids along the Cedar River. Duane Arnold Energy Center/Nextera Energy has provided matching funds toward wetland restoration at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Area.

Several of these type of projects will help complete the objectives of the Linn County Water and Land Legacy. Many of the other improvements, in particular parks and trails, will be guided by previously approved Master Park plans. Linn County Conservation hopes to implement its first series of bond-funded projects by spring of 2018. Again, NO bonds have been issued or spent at this time as these planning steps move forward. Stay tuned, as we continue to update you on more progress of the Linn County Water and Land Legacy.

NEW pack-in group/family campsite available for use at Wickiup Hill



This primitive, pack-in campsite is located just northwest of the Wickiup Hill Learning Center. It features one replica Wickiup, a fire ring with sitting stones, an ADA platform for tents, and a nearby outdoor restroom. Campers will be able to recreate what life was like for the woodland peoples who lived here hundreds of years ago. The parking lot is just ¼ mile away from the campsite. The Wickiup Hill pack-in campsite is designed for youth groups and single family use only and must be reserved in advance, however it is available year round. To reserve this unique outdoor experience at 10260 Morris Hills Rd, Toddville, go to www.LinnCountyParks.com or (319) 892-6450

CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL UPDATE:



West Blue Creek Bridge

The new bridge, located just west of Center Point, is replacing a 270-foot wood trestle bridge believed to have been built around 1914 along the Waterloo, Cedar Falls & Northern Railway. The new, safer bridge will improve the water flow and decrease maintenance along the West Blue Creek trail crossing. The trail is closed temporarily from Urbana Road to 56th Street Drive with expected bridge completion by late spring.



Cedar Valley Nature Trail hard surfacing

Paving the trail from Schultz Road north to Iowa Street in Center Point was completed in the fall, but some additional maintenance is scheduled this spring as weather allows. Hard surfacing is planned later this month from Iowa Street through town to the Grubbs Creek Bridge near Ash Lane. We appreciate the public's patience during these exciting projects along the trail.

Linn-Mar Educator Joins Linn County Conservation Board

The newest member of the Linn County Conservation Board grew up in cranberry bog country in West-Central Wisconsin, where the outdoors were part of his regular boyhood experiences. **John L. Hanson, Ed.D.**, continues to take joy in sharing the wonders of the outdoors with others. "Nature is a source of inspiration and comfort," said Hanson. "To paraphrase from Calvin Rutstrum, I personally have found that time spent in our natural world, whether alone or with others, is never a deduction of time from one's life account, but rather an addition."

Hanson, of Marion, teaches Social Studies at Linn-Mar High School. "I take joy in sharing the wonders of the outdoors with others like I do in teaching eager minds about U.S. History. To be part of the Conservation Board is an opportunity to extend my interest in sharing the great outdoors with more people." Hanson was appointed to a 5-year term on the Conservation Board by the Linn County Board of Supervisors. He succeeds Kristin Eschweiler, whose term expired at the end of 2016.



His interest in serving on the Conservation Board sparked when he moved to Iowa in 1997. Soon after, Hanson harvested his first wild

turkey at Matsell Bridge Natural Area. "The first-rate park system I came to enjoy engendered my interest in being a part of its success."

Goals as a Board member are four fold for Hanson:

- Be a thoughtful and accountable leader in managing the Land and Water Conservation Bond.
- To be a steward of the excellent park system we have.
- To ensure the County Parks are serving an ever diversifying community.
- To maximize our park's wildlife carrying capacity for the benefit of hunters as well as nature enthusiasts.

Hanson is also active in the community in other ways. He is a member of the Sons of Norway "Restauration" chapter, the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marion, and an officer in Marion Masonic Lodge #6. Additionally, Hanson co-founded the not-for-profit Ursus Iowa with the objective to change the laws to protect Black Bears. Currently in Iowa, Black Bears can be killed at any time for any reason. Ursus Iowa believes that Black Bears should be declared a game species to afford them scientific management and protection. Hanson also enjoys writing about the outdoors, live music, and speaking to groups about his experiences in Norway.



"NATURE IS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND COMFORT."

SPRING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Classes and Events are at Wickiup Hill Learning Center unless stated otherwise

10260 Morris Hills RD Toddville, IA 52341-9604

APRIL

Tri-State Rodbuilders Workshop

Saturday, April 8, 9am – 4pm, Swiss Valley Nature Center near Peosta

The Tri-State Rod Builders will host an educational workshop at the Swiss Valley Nature Center 13606 Swiss Valley Road, located near Peosta, Iowa. The workshop is for all levels of rod builders: new and experienced. We will have several short morning presentations, followed by a good will offering lunch, and demonstrate cross-wrap thread work and segmented cork inlays which can be done without a lathe. Please contact BuffaloCreekRods@aol.com if you plan on attending, so that we can accurately plan for meals. Bring some of your completed rod building projects along for show and tell. Watch for additional details as we firm up presenters.

6th Annual Wickiup Hill Nature Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8, 10am

Challenge your youngsters to find 12 different colored eggs and then turn them in for prizes! Be ready to look high and low for eggs hidden in the tall grass prairie, the woodland, and along the savanna hiking trail. For ages 3 and up. You **MUST** preregister by April 4 online or by calling 319-892-6485. Cost: \$3/child.



Science for Squirts: Hike and Play Day!

Friday, April 14, 10am – 11am



We will hike back through the forest, do some exploring, and end at the sand boxes. Ages 3-6, but younger and older siblings welcome. Cost \$2/child. Please call 319-892-6485 at least 2 days prior to program to register.

Wolves in Yellowstone: the First Twenty Years

Monday, April 17, 7pm at Cherry Auditorium, Coe College

Linn County Community Connections Series
Doug Smith, head of the Wolf Reintroduction Program in Yellowstone National Park will be visiting Coe College to give a bio seminar to students during the day and present a public lecture at 7pm. Smith will discuss wolf population dynamics, predator-prey relationships, effects of the wolves' presence on ecosystems, and wolf management within Yellowstone National Park. No fee for this program.



EcoFest 2017

Saturday, April 22, 10am – 4pm at NewBo Market

EcoFest is the premier Earth Day event in Eastern Iowa, and it's GOOD GREEN FUN! EcoFest is a collaborative annual event planned by multiple local non-profit environmental groups, along with other community organizations. The Corridor's premier Earth Day celebration, this family-friendly festival includes the Eco-Film Fest, interactive educational activities, eco-practice demonstrations on how to reduce our consumption of resources, fun ways to reduce and reuse household items, local foods, and free live music all day! EcoFest helps us connect our personal choices to individual, community and planetary sustainability. Find out more at www.ecofestcr.org or like us on facebook at Ecofest CR.

Wine Bottle Hummingbird Feeders

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30pm

Make a hummingbird feeder out of a used wine bottle and learn about these fascinating migratory birds. We will have wine bottles and items to decorate them. Space is limited. Cost: \$10 per person. Call 319-892-6485 to register. Registration deadline is April 24.



MAY

Mushroom Ramble

May 6, 9am – Noon

Marty Augustine of the Prairie State Mushroom Club will lead participants on a search for fungus at Wickiup Hill. We will have a program on mushroom identification first, then head to the woods to see what we can find. Of course, at this time of year many thoughts will be on the tasty morel mushrooms – though we will see many other kinds of fungi as well. We will learn a bit more about local mushrooms and identify what was located at the end of the program. Maybe someone will even share their favorite spots. Bring a container to collect mushrooms and dress for conditions that may include ticks, mosquitoes or poison ivy. Cost: \$2.50/ adult, \$1.00 for children 16 and under or \$5.00 per family. No charge for Mushroom club members.



Bird Banding & International Migratory Bird Day



Saturday, May 20, 9am – Noon

Migration brings new and colorful birds who have spent the winter in southern climates back to the Midwest as they fly north to breeding grounds. Some remain here in Iowa to nest and others travel farther north, even to the Arctic Circle. These migratory birds are facing more obstacles to their survival each year. Citizen scientists such as Rob Bradley contribute

to the knowledge of migratory paths by banding birds caught at Wickiup Hill. Visitors may be surprised with special views of spring migrants such as warblers and summer tanagers. While birds are banded, weighed and then measured, close-up views of feather colors and behaviors can be observed. To celebrate International Migratory Bird Day, activities for children will take place during the morning, which will highlight the importance of international efforts to conserve birds through agreements, laws, treaties, and collaborations. Cost: \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5/family.

Youth Fishing Clinic

Saturday, May 27, 9am – Noon at Pinicon Ridge Park

The North Linn Fish and Game Club and Linn County Conservation will cosponsor a youth fishing clinic near the boat rental area in Pinicon Ridge Park near Central City. All youth participants will receive prizes for participating. Educational materials provided by Iowa DNR. No pre-registration is required. Cost is free.

JUNE

Meanings Behind the Symbols Used by Prehistoric Native Americans Living on the Prairies

Thursday, June 1, 7pm

Joe B. Thompson and Dr. David W. Benn of Bear Creek Archeology, Inc., Cresco, Iowa will describe the styles of symbols used on the earliest functional pottery vessels in the upper Midwest. Liverpool ware (500 – 100 B.C.), were covered with geometric decorations. The symbolism of these decorations is analyzed and related to historic Native American mythologies as well as to other prehistoric creations such as Effigy Mounds, rock art, and geoglyphs. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under or \$5/family.

American Hiking Society National Trails Day

Nature Trail Hike at Wickiup Hill

Saturday, June 3, 10am

Join us, along with the local HikeitBaby chapter for some hiking along the trails of Wickiup Hill. Hikes include: Adult-paced Hike 3-4 miles (carrier only); Big Kid Hike - 1-2 miles through the woods; Toddler Lead - for new to preschool walkers, short exploration hike. There will be prizes and activities for the kids inside the Learning Center in case of rain. You don't have to be a HikeitBaby member to participate, just come on out, and enjoy the trails!



Family Pond Study

Tuesday, June 6, 7pm

Wetlands are special places found around the world. They are major breeding areas for thousands of species from beneficial insects to birds and mammals. Bring the family for a hands-on experience in capturing and identifying some of these amazing creatures. We will use aquatic pond nets to discover the life of an Iowa wetland. Please pre-register by June 5 by calling 319-892-6485 or online at linncountyparks.org/events. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under or \$5/family.

Creek Study & You

Thursday, June 8, 10am – 1pm at Bever Park Duck Pond Pavilion, Cedar Rapids

Get your hands in the water and dip into our creek study. Explore what is in the mud; learn about plant and critter life, and practice fishing techniques. The Cedar Rapids Park and Recreation Dept., Iowa DNR and Linn County Conservation will cosponsor this youth stream study at Bever Park in Cedar Rapids. Registration options are available at www.cedar-rapids.org/residents/parks_and_recreation/recreation_programs.php. Bring a sack lunch not needing refrigeration and a bottle of water. Dress to wade in the stream. Cost is \$12 per 8-11 year old student.

Fuzzy, Furry, Slimy, Scaly

Thursday, June 15, 10am – 1pm at Bever Park Duck Pond Pavilion, Cedar Rapids

We will explore the group of animals called vertebrates, comparing the birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fishes. Participants will learn about the categories of creatures using live animals and many hands-on examples. We will learn about what makes the groups the same and what makes them different. Join the fun in the pavilion near the duck pen. The Cedar Rapids Park and Recreation Department, Iowa DNR and Linn County Conservation cosponsor this annual educational program. See this page for registration options www.cedar-rapids.org/residents/parks_and_recreation/recreation_programs.php. Bring a sack lunch not needing refrigeration and a bottle of water. Cost is \$12 per 8-11 year old student.

Geocaching 101

Saturday, June 17, 12 – 4pm

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game in which the participants use a Global Positioning System receiver (GPS) to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches") anywhere in the world. This class will cover the basics such as how to use the geocaching web site to advance techniques using a Garmin 60CSx GPSr. The class will conclude



outside where we will hunt several geocaches placed for the event. Experienced geocachers will be along to offer assistance. Dress appropriately for the outside portion. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under or \$5/family.

Kids Day at the Linn County Fair



**Thursday, June 29,
10am – Noon, Central City**

Join us at the fair as youth have the chance to see and experience many interesting and exciting educational booths. Look for us and we will promise to entertain you a bit and perhaps have a few prizes too!

JULY

Kids Fishing Derby

**Tuesday, July 4, Following the Parade until 2pm
at City Park, Central City**

The Central City Sons of Am Vets Post 37 and Linn County Conservation sponsor this annual holiday fishing event. Call 319-551-2074 for more information. Participants will be fishing on the Wapsipinicon River. Fishing poles are provided by Linn County Conservation for those who need them. No charge. Happy Independence Day!

Science for Squirts: Wildlife Rainbow Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, July 25, 10am – 11am

There are so many colors to find in nature-from red flowers to orange butterflies, the natural world is full of color. Join us for a fun hike and scavenger hunt and see if we can find something for every color on the rainbow. Ages 3-6, but younger and older siblings welcome. Cost \$2/child. Please call 319-892-6485 at least 2 days prior to program to register.

National Moth Week Celebration

Tuesday, July 25, 8:30pm – 10pm

National Moth Week celebrates the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths. Come and enjoy a fun evening of “mothing” with local expert Jim Durbin. We begin inside and then head out to the dark to find who is flying around on little wings - you will be surprised. This program is free.



Blank Park Zoo Visit

Friday, July 28, 11am

The zoo is coming to Wickiup Hill! Come join us for a visit from the Blank Park Zoo staff as they share a few of their education animals with us. Creepy, Crawly, Slimy, Scaly? We don't know, but we can't wait to find out! Recommended for all ages. Cost: \$5/child. Limited number of spots available. Please call 319-892-6485 to register by July 26.



DAY CAMPS:

ARCHERY ART!

Thursday, June 14, 10am – Noon

New this year at Wickiup Hill! We are combining archery and art in an unusual way. See what masterpieces you can create with paint filled balloons as your archery targets! Take your masterpiece home with you! Ages 10 and up. Registration Deadline: June 6. Cost \$10.

'HUNGER GAMES' THEMED SURVIVAL CAMP

Tuesday-Thursday, June 27-29, 9am – 2pm

If you love the books/movies, then you'll love this camp! Learn how to survive like Peeta and Katniss as we train you for your game day. Learn the art of archery, camouflage, shelter and fire building, wilderness survival, and more.

Participants will create their own nerf style bow and arrow, paracord bracelet, and given a survival kit.



Be prepared to get dirty and have a ton of FUN! Snacks provided. Recommended for ages 11-14. Bring a sack lunch.

Registration deadline: June 7.
Cost: \$60

WOODCARVING FOR KIDS

Wednesday, June 28, 9am– 3pm

Introduce children to a hobby that lasts a lifetime - woodcarving. With the guidance of Cedar Valley Woodcarvers member's, a few basic tools, scrap wood, and the safety in mind, any child aged 12 and older will be on their way to creating keepsakes or crafting hand-carved gifts for their family. Each participant will be given a block of wood to practice the new skills taught in class and take home what they have created. Materials and tools will be supplied for the class. Registration deadline: June 22. Cost: \$15 per child.

NATIVE AMERICAN SKILLS DAY CAMP

Thursday, July 6, 9am-Noon

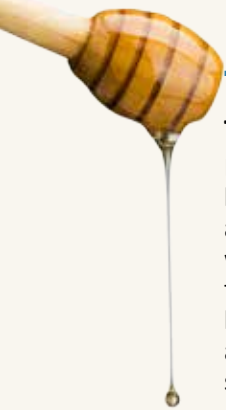
Kids aged 8-12 step back in time to learn traditional Native American skills. This camp will highlight snowsnakes – why they were used and how they were made. We will also make our own pictographs and compare them to present day Emoji's. Cost \$20. Must register by July 5.

WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

Tuesday, July 7, 10am – Noon

Bugs hold a bit of intrigue for everybody, but are often misunderstood. Find out why these amazing creatures play a huge role in nature. This event will feature fun and educational activities with a swarm of bug-related games and crafts. Maybe you will pick the lucky cockroach for the cockroach races! So grab the larvae and scurry over for all the six-legged fun. For all ages. Please register by June 10. Cost \$5





BEES AND BUTTERFLIES

Tuesday, July 11, 10am – 2pm

Discover the benefits of butterflies and bees and learn about the role they play in the natural world as pollinators. Observe the monarch lifecycle when you visit our Monarch Zone house. Will there 'bee' fresh honey to taste from Wickiup's bee hives. Explore the relationship between plants and our insect friends. Parents must provide a sack lunch. For ages 6-12. Registration deadline: July 7. Cost: \$20.

BE A NATURALIST DAY CAMP

Tuesday – Friday, July 11-14, 9am – 2pm

Children aged 8 -12. Explore Wickiup Hill with local insect, reptile, bird and mammal experts. Learn how to catch and ID animals in the prairie, forest and wetlands. Come prepared to get wet and dirty and have a lot of fun. Parents must provide a sack lunch. Registration deadline: July 10. Must register by July 7. Cost: \$75.00.

YOUNG POLLINATOR PICASSO

Monday, July 17, 10am – 11:30am

It's time for the kids to reach out to their inner artist! During this fun, informative program kids will create a painting of a pollinator scene on canvas to take home. Be inspired before



we paint with a hike through the prairie and woods. Naturalist Sarah will give tours of the new pollinator programs going on at Wickiup Hill and explain why they are so important. There might even "bee" a few special visitors! Ages 5 and up. Registration deadline: July 13. Cost \$8.

ARCHERY ART!

Tuesday, July 18, 10am – Noon

New this year at Wickiup! We are combining archery and art in an unusual way. See what masterpieces you can create with paint filled balloons as your archery targets! Take your masterpiece home with you! Ages 10 and up. Registration Deadline: July 14. Cost \$10.

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY CAMP

Tuesday – Thursday July 18-20, 9am – 2pm

Children aged 8 -12. Hey kids, do you like to explore and learn about the past. Then come out and dig with us. Learn how archaeologists find, investigate and interpret how people have lived in the past by excavating archaeological sites. Parents must provide a sack lunch. Registration deadline: July 18. Must register by July 14. Cost: \$65.00.

YOUTH ARCHERY DAY

Wednesday, July 26, 10am – 11am

This outdoor event will be an introduction to shooting recurve bows – a traditional bow style similar to the one used by heroine Katniss Everdeen in the Hunger Games. Experienced archers also welcome! Naturalist Sarah Wendt

will help students determine eye dominance, practice proper form and execute shooting exercises. The class will end with some friendly competition! Class size is limited to ensure the best personal instruction and lots of time with the bows. This event targets ages 10-16. Please call 892-6485 at least 2 days prior to program to register. Weather dependent. Cost: \$5

WHO GIVES A HOOT CAMP – OWLS!

Thursday, July 27, 9am – Noon



Join us as we learn about some of the common owls of Iowa. We will see a variety of mounted owls and learn about what makes them "Nature's Perfect Mousetraps." Explore wings and talons, owl pellets, mounts and more. Participants will build their own owl calls

and head out on the trails to try out their new call. Occasionally owls will respond even in the daytime! Open to ages 8-11. Limited registration so sign up early. Registration is due by Monday, July 24. Cost is \$10 per participant, snacks and drinks provided.

BLANK PARK ZOO/ANIMAL DAY CAMP!

Friday, July 28, 1pm – 3pm

The zoo is coming to Wickiup! Come join us for a visit from the Blank Park Zoo staff as they share a few of their education animals with us. Creepy, Crawly, Slimy, Scaly? We don't know, but we can't wait to find out! You will also meet the animal friends at Wickiup Hill and create your own creatures to take home. Recommended for ages 6-9. Deadline: July 21. Cost: \$15

FAIRY HOUSES AND STUMP CITIES

Wednesday, August 2, 10am – 11:30am

The simple challenge of creating a fairy house gives children a unique activity that encourages them to go outside and connect with the natural world. We will collect items from nature and make pieces out of clay to help complete our houses. Sticks, bark, dry grasses, pebbles, shells, feathers, pinecones and nuts are just some of the natural materials used. Ages 5 and up. Registration Deadline: July 24. Cost: \$15/child.

WACKY WETLANDS

Wednesday, August 9, 9am – 11am

This is a great time of year to dip our nets in the wetland and discover the little critters hiding in the water! This is a hands-on camp that will focus on wetlands and the unique plants and animals found there. Each participant will also go home with a special book on frogs and tadpoles. Recommended for ages 6-9. Registration Deadline: August 1. Cost: \$12

NATIVE AMERICAN SKILLS DAY CAMP

Thursday, August 10, 9am – Noon

Kids aged 8-12 step back in time to learn traditional Native American skills. Make your own atlatl and learn the skill of flint knapping with archaeologist Mark Anderson. Enjoy a fun way to understand the historic lives of Native Americans. Cost \$20. Must register by August 8.

SPREAD THE WORD.

THOSE WHO OWN MORE THAN 3 ACRES IN LINN COUNTY ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME AND ARE RECEIVING A MAILED INVITATION FLYER.

LINN-LANDOWNER FORUM

A new Linn County movement is beginning to help landowners bring more nature to their land. Together, we can restore and preserve 10,000 more acres of natural land in Linn County! This will benefit pollinators and wildlife, increase water quality and help mitigate flooding. Our neighborhoods will be healthier, our waters cleaner, and our lives more interesting.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Monarch Research Project, Trees Forever, and Linn County Conservation are collaborating to bring this informational forum to landowners in Linn County and surrounding counties. If you are a landowner, you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet helpful experts
- Learn the benefits of natural land
- Learn about federal, state and local funds available when you restore nature on your land

Free admission. | RSVP is appreciated. | Sign up at monarchzones.com or phone Linn County Conservation at 319-892-6450.

**SATURDAY,
April
29**

9 a.m.
until 12 p.m.

Linn-Landowner FORUM

Optional lunch & conversation
12 - 1 p.m.

Clearwater Farms

4970 Lakeside Rd., Marion, IA

BOARD & STAFF

Conservation Board

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Steve Emerson, Vice President
Cindy Burke, Secretary
George Kanz, Member
John Hanson, Member

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Brent Oleson, District 4
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Dennis Goemaat, Deputy Director
Randy Burke, Planner
Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach
John Layton, Senior Account Clerk
Mandy Bieber, Clerical Specialist
Deanna Donovan, Senior Clerk Typist
Conservation Education – Wickiup Hill
Jenny Corbett, Lead Naturalist
Gail Barels, Naturalist
Chuck Ungs, Naturalist
Sarah Wendt, Naturalist
Services
John Scott, Operations Manager
Mick Gunderson, Lead Carpenter
David Kephart, Carpenter
Chuck Bogard, Equipment Operator
Mike Shoop, Equipment Operator
Bill Perrin, Operations Technician
Tom Blythe, Mechanic
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Shaun Reilly, Resource Manager
Josh Fossum, Assistant Ranger
Gary Novotny, Resource Technician
Dawn Zimpfer, Resource Technician
Jared Van Hamme, Resource Technician
South Cedar District
Jason Baumann, Resource Manager
Joe Reu, Assistant Ranger
Chris Burian, Resource Technician
Landon Barnes, Resource Technician*
Wapsipinicon District
Aaron Batchelder, Resource Manager
Steve Deaver, Assistant Ranger
Josh Volz, Resource Technician
Nathan Allen, Resource Technician
Noah Krob, Resource Technician
Natural Resources
Dana Kellogg, Natural Resources Specialist
Doug Kuehl, Resource Technician
Tony Nemmers, Resource Technician
*position shared with Natural Resources

The Conservation Board typically meets the fourth Monday of each month at Wickiup Hill Learning Center at 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, 52341. Meetings are open to the public.

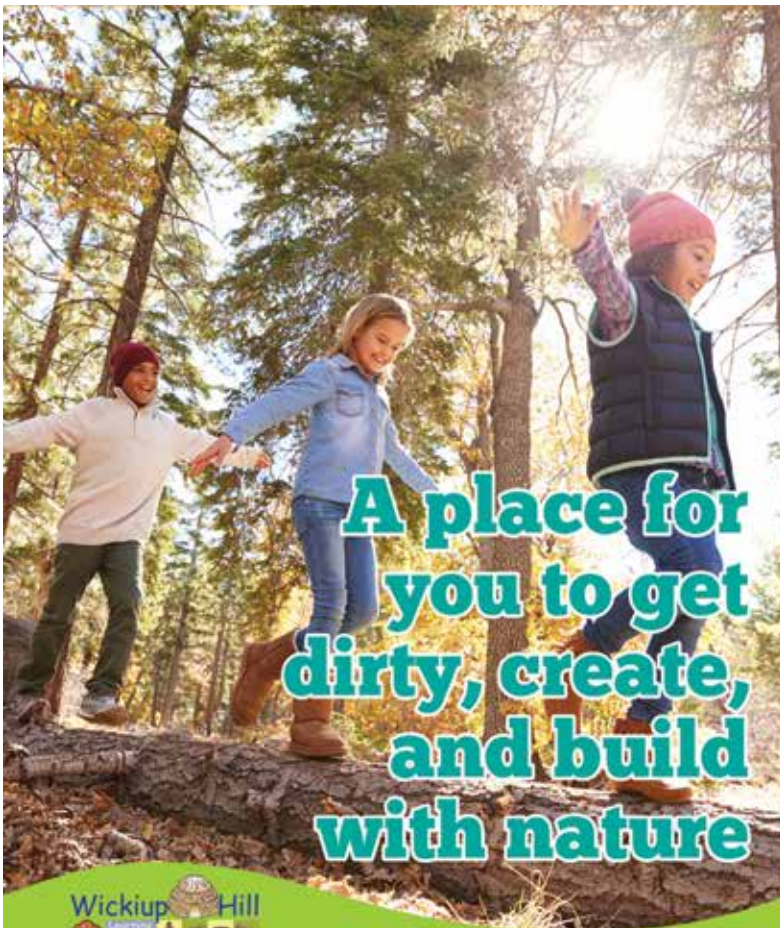
Conservation Board Vision & Mission: To improve community through people, parks, trails & open space. To achieve this, we protect natural resources; promote health and wellness; strengthen safety and security; support economic development; increase environmental awareness; provide outdoor recreational experiences; foster human development; strengthen community image & sense of place. -- The Linn County Conservation Board intends to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act and all other local, state and federal laws pertaining to equal treatment. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Linn County Conservation Board or the office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240



Linn County Conservation
10260 Morris Hills Rd
Toddville, Iowa 52341
Phone (319) 892-6450

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Wickiup's Wandering Woods NATURE PLAYSCAPE

Construction is starting this spring on Wickiup Hill's new nature playscape!

Wickiup's Wandering Woods will allow children and families to use their imagination and creativity in experiencing a greater appreciation for the outdoors and the environment. Our nature playscape will feature sand, boulders, logs, tree cookies, and other natural elements for unstructured play and healthy activities! Linn County Conservation has not only received Federal and local grants to help fund this effort, but also individual and corporate private grants.

➔ If you would like to consider joining in our efforts for this unique opportunity for our community, click on **DONATIONS** at www.Linncountyparks.com

