

the

Oak Hickory

April 2016

LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Pollinators

Dennis Goemaat, Deputy Director

Fair warning: This is a story about the birds and the bees – well mostly bees and butterflies, but birds also make their way into this story.

Much has been published about the plight of pollinators. Honey bee colony collapse disorder is well-known, but still little understood phenomenon. Many people may react to a shortage of honey bees with some happiness. After all, these little buggers have a stinger and it hurts when they sting you. Some people are at additional risk with allergies to bee stings.

While colony collapse has been well studied, a definitive cause has not been found. Mites, viruses, parasites, pesticides, environmental stress, habitat changes and other factors have all been implicated as possible causes. Colony collapse appears to be less common today than it was a few years ago, but it is still a concern.

Butterflies are also plant pollinators. You may have read about the decline in monarch butterflies over the past several years. Monarch butterfly populations have declined by 97% over the past 15 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has taken note of this alarming trend and has set a goal of increasing the population by 225 million individuals.

Why is that important to us here in Iowa? Iowa is right in the middle of the northern reaches of the monarch migration. All monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains overwinter in a mountain range in Mexico. In the spring, the monarchs disperse northward. As they migrate, they lay eggs, die and the next generation continues the northward migration. They arrive in Iowa by summer and continue to raise young. The last monarchs to hatch in late summer are the ones that migrate south.

It's really an amazing story. The last generation of monarchs that hatch in the fall will be long-lived and will migrate to that single overwintering area in Mexico. These migrants may be as many as five generations removed from the ones that started the northward migration and yet they somehow know instinctively how to reach their wintering grounds up to 2,500 miles away.

Monarchs are a perennial favorite for many people and perhaps the most recognized butterfly. I remember as a child having a migration of monarchs land in a barren field across the road from our house. There were thousands of monarchs in this 10-acre area. Virtually every plant had multiple monarchs hanging from it as they refueled to continue their trip south to Mexico. Pollinator habitat in Iowa and elsewhere along the migration route has declined.

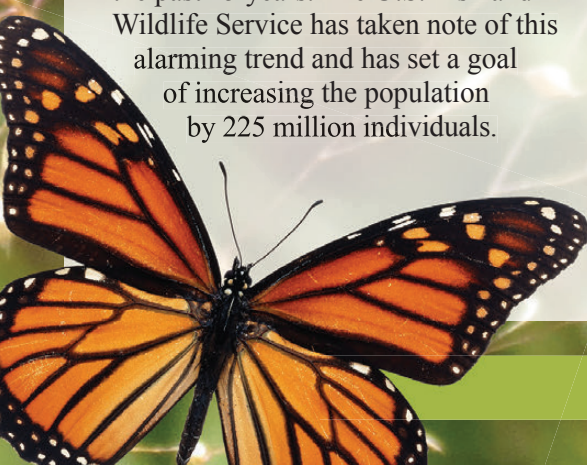
Habitat in Mexico is also in some danger. Unlawful logging is difficult to stop in the area that has been overtaken by drug cartels. This area of Mexico is now a dangerous place to visit and tourism, a once promising way for local people to make a living, has declined in recent years. Trees are also important to the local communities since many of the small villages still use wood to cook and heat their homes.

continued on page 2

Nature's Miracles

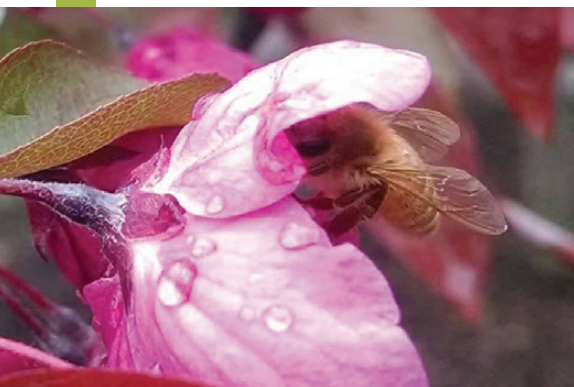
By Gail Barels, Linn County Conservation Naturalist

I have never had the privilege of viewing a cluster of migrating monarchs in Iowa. In 2010, I did take a trip to Mexico to view the monarchs at their winter roost in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, in the Mexican state of Michoacán. The monarchs roost on several different mountains at nearly 10,000 feet in the Oyamel Forest, northwest of Mexico City. The sight of millions of monarchs floating through the sky was a miracle I will never forget. Thousands more were roosting on tree trunks so thickly that you could not see the tree bark. This is truly one of nature's natural miracles.



Pollinators (continued from front page)

So what is the problem if we have fewer bees, butterflies and other pollinators? Well, the quick answer is that they are interesting animals that add beauty and diversity to our environment. The pragmatic reason is that pollinators in general play an important role in food production. Some estimates show that a full third of the food people eat requires pollinators. Other food crops have decreased yields even though they are able to self-pollinate to some degree. Broccoli is on the list of plants that require pollination. It's likely that there are some kids that wouldn't mind if these plants quit producing florets!



Linn County Conservation is taking an active role in the effort to stabilize and increase pollinator habitat. We will be participating locally in the Monarch Zone project. Enclosures at Wickiup Hill will help raise monarchs and increase survival of the young. In addition, we will be partnering with Cedar Rapids Parks Department in their 1,000-acre initiative. The goal is to increase pollinator habitat by 1,000 acres in and around Cedar Rapids. We are also working with a bee group to educate people about the value of honey bees. This group will be placing demonstration hives on the Wickiup Hill grounds.

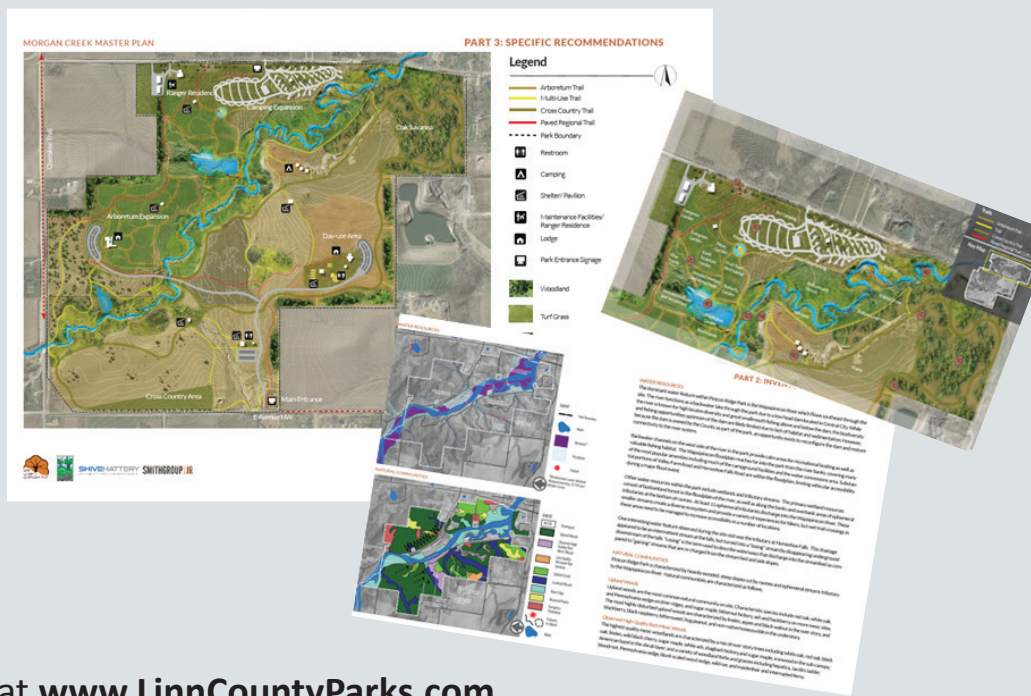
Educational opportunities abound over the next year for both kids and adults. Summer day camps will be a great way for kids to keep their science skills sharp over the summer. In addition, Pollinator Picasso, Bees and Butterflies, and Be a Naturalist will keep them bzzzzzzz. Adults get in on the fun and learning with Master Gardner Becki Lynch lending her knowledge on planting for pol-

linators. Finally, don't forget about EcoFest on April 23 in the Newbo district. Several vendors will have displays on how you can help pollinators. Save the dates because you aren't going to want to miss out!

So, what about the birds? I mentioned that this story was about the birds and the bees and so far we have only talked about bees and butterflies. Locally hummingbirds and other bird species pollinate their share of plants. The cool part about providing pollinator habitat is that it benefits the pollinators, as well as other birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and other insects. This habitat helps filter water, reduce erosion and adds beauty to our landscape. It seems like a win, win, win for all concerned. Pollinators win with more places to raise their young, other species win with more places to live and we win because we have more beauty and diversity to enjoy along with a bountiful harvest. After all, this earth wouldn't be near as interesting a place without other plants and animals with which we coexist.

Linn County Conservation has developed Master Plans to determine the best and future use for three flagship parks: Morgan Creek, Pinicon Ridge, and Squaw Creek. These Master Plans serve not only as a long range (10-20 year) vision, but also as a guide for future development and management. Some of the guiding principles in developing these plans included:

- use Linn County Conservation Board mission and vision statements as a guide
- interaction between people and nature is important
- keep park at least 60 percent natural
- protect/improve water resources/quality
- protect natural resources
- reduce/minimize operation costs



➤ Master Plans can be viewed at www.LinnCountyParks.com

LinnParks Challenge

LinnParksChallenge.org



Find 25 Caches in 25 County Parks



Print the Passport & Download the App
LinnParksChallenge.org



Linn County Conservation not only has over

300 campsites

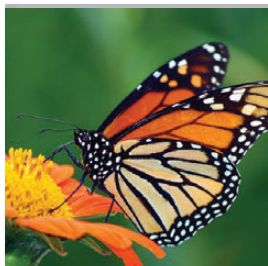
in its parks and **100 miles of trail**

for you to enjoy this Spring and Summer but also shelters and lodges for rent for your next family event. www.linncountyparks.com for more information!

GROW GREEN: LET IT BEE



By Naturalists Gail Barels & Jenny Corbett



This year we are working with the **Monarch Zone**, a Monarch Research project based in Cedar Rapids. A bio-tent will be located at Wickiup Hill Learning Center where we will rear numerous monarch butterflies. During a guided tour, visitors will have the opportunity to view various stages of the monarch lifecycles.

Wild monarch populations have dramatically reduced in the past 15 years in the

Midwest due to over use of insecticides. The loss of habitat has also contributed to their decline. If you are interested in providing habitat for monarchs in your yard, come to Wickiup and learn about providing the right kinds of native plants for food sources for monarch larva and adults.

When you provide food source plants for monarchs in your yard you will be supporting other pollinators as well.

Wickiup Hill is teaming up with the Bee a Part – Bee Together beekeepers group. This group is teaching a beekeeping class at Wickiup Hill. Participants are learning how to become good honey bee stewards. Hives will be placed this spring at Wickiup Hill. Our reconstructed prairie, filled with native flowers and grasses, will provide our bees a variety of pollen sources.

Like the monarch, chemicals and other unknown stress factors have decreased the honey bees too, but you can help. When you plant host and nectar plants, not only are you helping the monarch butterfly, you will be helping other butterflies, honeybees, birds, mammals and other animals. By helping one you are helping others.

Throughout the spring and summer we will have a variety of informational programs on planting for pollinators. Look through our event calendar and visit us at Wickiup Hill to learn more.

Bicycle repair stations coming to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail this summer.

Has this happened to you? You're enjoying a nice, leisurely bicycle ride and the wheel is loose on the axle...or maybe your brakes need tightening. Linn County Conservation is adding three bicycle repair stations along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to allow you to fix it quickly: the trail head at Boyson Road, County Home Road parking area, and the Center Point Railroad Depot. These bike stands by Bike Fixtation®, will allow bike riders to mount their bicycle and make a quick repair with provided tools. Attached screwdrivers, wrenches, a pump, and other tools of different sizes will get you back on the trail in no time. These bicycle repair stations are made possible by donations from Blue Grass Enterprises in Alburnett, ITC Midwest, and Linn County Trails Association (Bob Westercamp memorial).





Ryan Schlader

Linn County Conservation Community Outreach

Mitigation project underway at Buffalo Creek Dam

Changes are underway at the Buffalo Creek dam site near Coggon as steps are being taken to partially remove the dam and install rock arch rapids. The dam has provided pleasant scenery over the years for locals and visitors to the area, however the decision to make changes followed a lengthy process keeping safety and ecological benefits in mind. The question for many has been “why take down a beautiful feature to the Buffalo Creek area?”.

There have been some misconceptions about the dam, which was built in 1965 a few years after the opening of Buffalo Creek Park. The dam was built to create an impoundment, or confined body of water, for recreational boating and fishing above the dam. Over the years, the impoundment has silted in and no longer serves its original purpose. The dam was not designed to hold water for flood control. In fact, areas that are downstream from the dam site are not at a greater or lesser risk to flooding because of the dam structure or after its removal.

Lowhead dams, such as the one at Buffalo Creek, are being recognized across the country as safety hazards and there is now statewide interest in removal. The recirculating water current

that is present at the base of the Buffalo Creek dam would make it difficult to rescue any individuals that may inadvertently go over the dam structure or get caught in the current. Legally, the only public access to the area was by going underneath the railroad tracks about 140 feet north of the structure. The walkway bridge, which use to overlook the dam, was built for maintenance purposes only. Railroad property had to be crossed to access this bridge. This walkway was also not meeting current safety standards. Not only is safety an issue, but Buffalo Creek is listed on Iowa’s impaired waterways, as the current dam does not allow for passage of fish or other animals.

Linn County Conservation held public meetings in the area in 2014, which included feedback such as “do nothing” or “remove the dam,” to “create something new.” The Linn County Conservation Board voted for partial dam removal with rock arch rapids. Late last fall, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers issued a Nationwide Permit 27 to allow for bids on the project. Peterson Contractor, Inc. from Reinbeck was awarded the \$689,585 contract and mitigation work began the first week in March. Funding is provided from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources



(DNR) Dam Mitigation Program, DNR Fish Habitat Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local sources. 7-10 feet of the dam will be removed over time. The plan is to remove 2.5 feet now, and one foot phased in over the next 3 to 5 years. It will not be a continuous removal, but will be dependent on water levels that push the silt deposits downstream. Any activities or amenities at nearby Buffalo Creek Park will not be affected.

The project will benefit the ecological health of the currently impaired Buffalo Creek. The end result will also provide for additional recreational opportunities for paddlers and anglers, especially those who want to start their adventure at Buffalo Creek Park and make their way into Coggon.



**TAKE A CANOE
TRIP DOWN THE
WAPSIPINICON RIVER...**

...or rent a kayak, paddleboat, or canoe for the backwaters at Pinicon Ridge Park.

This spring, Linn County Conservation will once again be offering up-river canoe shuttles as well as our traditional in-park rentals of canoes and paddleboats at Pinicon Ridge Park in Central City. The up-river canoe shuttles are available in 2, 4, and 6 hour float trips for \$25, \$30 and \$35, respectively. Linn County Conservation provides the canoes, paddles and lifejackets while you supply refreshments and any other small gear you would like to bring (no pets or glass allowed). After a brief canoe operation orientation, Pinicon Ridge Park staff will shuttle you up in either our shuttle van or our shuttle bus depending on group sizes. We have 50 canoes available for up-river shuttles so we can accommodate large groups- whether it is private, business or church & youth groups. (River level and weather conditions permitting).

We will be open weekends from May 21 through September 25 and will be open daily starting May 30 through August 14. Come join us for a leisurely float down the scenic Wapsipinicon River or enjoy an hour or two from a vessel in the backwaters while watching all of the activities in Pinicon Ridge Park. We have canoes, kayaks and paddle boats available for in-park hourly rentals. Mention this article to receive a discounted rate during weekday in-park rentals. We hope to see you soon “on the river!” 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.



I found an orphaned or injured animal. What do I do?

Spring is here and with it an onslaught of calls to local nature centers, wildlife rehabilitators and the Iowa DNR with the same message: "I found a baby (insert animal here). What do I do?" Warm weather brings with it the temptation to pet, touch, or help furry or feathered babies.

As hard as it is, the best thing to do the next time you see baby wildlife that appears orphaned is leave it alone. Stand back and observe the situation, but most of the time the human desire to help or "rescue" baby, orphaned, or injured wildlife can have unintended consequences for the animal, including death. Spring is a busy time for wildlife parents. They typically leave their young alone, often for long periods, throughout the day. The parent stays nearby, very conscious of their babies.

If you find a baby bird that is not fully feathered or its eyes are closed, return the bird to its nest. If it is not possible to access the nest or it was damaged in the fall, place the nestling in an artificial nest at a lower location as close as possible to the original location. Artificial nests can be made from a small basket or box lined with dry grass, soft cloth or shredded paper. Minimal human handling will not discourage the parents from continuing to care for their baby. The parents may be wary of the new location or nest, but after a few hours they will return.

Keep these phone numbers handy this spring:

Black Hawk Wildlife Rehabilitation Project hotline number **319-277-6511** for orphaned or injured wildlife.
www.bhwildliferehab.com

For injured raptors, such as hawks or owls, call R.A.R.E. at **319-248-9770** or email **help@theraregroup.org**

Both of these organizations are primarily operated by volunteers. Please leave a detailed message and be patient.

If you determine that a wild animal does need assistance, a wildlife rehabilitator is the best person to call. A rehabilitator can explain what to do to keep the animal safe, quiet, warm, and protected until you can get the appropriate help. These experts care for injured, ill, and orphaned wild animals with the goal of releasing them back into their natural habitat. It is important to keep cats, dogs, and children away from any animal while determining if the animal needs help or remains in the area. Dogs and cats are predators, so it's up to you to make sure they can't harm newborn wildlife.

Never attempt to rehabilitate a wild animal yourself. It is against the law to keep wild animals unless you have permits to do so, even if you plan to release the animal. Linn County Conservation is not permitted to accept injured wildlife but we can direct you to someone who is.



Bow Building Workshop

Over time, many types of building skills have been lost to modern manufacturing. One skill that is still used today, as it has been for generations, is bow building. If you have an interest in building your own self-bow from one piece of wood with the help of an experienced instructor, this is your chance.

Gene Winter has been building bows for many years and will be sharing his skill with workshop participants on Saturday, April 23, and Sunday, April 24 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The workshop will be held at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center.

Workshop cost is \$220 per person which includes one stave. Additional staves may be purchased for an additional cost. Pre-registration by April 15 is required, as class size is limited. For more information or to pre-register, contact Chuck at (319) 892-6485.

SPRING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Classes and Events are at Wickiup Hill Learning Center unless stated otherwise
10260 Morris Hills RD Toddville, IA 52341-9604

APRIL

Pleasing the Bees and Butterflies: Planting for Pollinators

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30pm

Master Gardener Becki Lynch will relate how our lives on Planet Earth are intertwined with those of many creatures, including pollinators like bees and butterflies. But pollinators and their habitats are disappearing. Learn about the bees and butterflies and other pollinators, what's happening to them, what's being done to save them, and how you can help. No charge.



5th Annual Wickiup Hill Nature Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 9, 10 – 11am

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 savannah hiking trail. Aimed for ages 3 and up. You MUST preregister by April 4th online or by calling 892-6485. Cost: \$3/child.

Meet and Greet with Puddles the Skunk

Saturday, April 16, 10am

The real Puddles the skunk, and her two little sisters, Gracie and Sweet Pea, will be doing a children's story time, skunk education and book signing. Listen to a fun filled story read by local author, Tina Wagner and have the opportunity to purchase the books and have them signed. Puddles hopes to see you there! Program is free, but donations are appreciated.



5th Annual Trout Fishing Derby

Saturday, April 16, 10am – 1pm

at Prairie Park Fishery – Cedar Rapids

The Iowa DNR will stock 2000 hungry trout into the lake at Prairie Park Fishery! In addition 200 trout will be tagged. Just catch a tagged trout and turn it in at the awards table for a prize. All anglers must register the day of the event. Children may participate also. Fishing rods will be available for those who wish to borrow one. This free event is a cosponsored event with Cedar Rapids Parks and Rec., Linn County Conservation, and Iowa DNR. Anglers must have a valid license and trout stamp. For derby rules go to www.crrec.org and click on Prairie Park Fishery on the left.

The Voyager 1 Mission to the Outer Planets and into Interstellar Space

**Monday, April 18, 7pm at Flaherty Hall,
Mt Mercy University**

This Connection Series program highlights University of Iowa's Dr. Donald Gurnett's work with the Voyager Space Craft. Dr. Gurnett will discuss some of the great discoveries made by Voyager, including from our instrument, as it flew by the outer planets and 35 years after launch became the first human-made object to reach interstellar space. Donations accepted.

Science for Squirts – Earth Day Party!

Wednesday, April 20, 10 – 11am

Join us for a little Earth Day celebration! Children enjoy a story, craft, and activities based on the monthly theme. Ages 3-6, but younger and older siblings are welcome. Cost \$2/child. Please call 892-6485 at least 2 days prior to program to register.

EcoFest 2016

Saturday, April 23, 10am – 4pm at NewBo District

EcoFest 2016 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 @ Ecofest CR.

Bow Building Workshop

Saturday and Sunday, April 23-24, 8am – 4:30 pm at Wickiup

Learn the nearly lost art of bow building under the guidance of an experienced instructor during a special workshop. See the article on page 5 for more information. Registration deadline is April 15. Cost: \$220 per person.

MAY

Mushroom Ramble

Saturday, May 7, 9 – 10am at Wickiup & 10:00 – Noon, Hike at Wickiup Hill Natural Area

Marty Augustine of the Prairie State Mushroom Club will lead participants in a discussion of fungus in the classroom initially. Participants will then go on a hike to search for mushrooms and more. We will car pool to the Natural Area as a starting point for the hike. Of course at this time of year many folk's 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 – who knows, 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/children 16 and under or \$5.00 per family. No charge for Mushroom club members.



Bird Banding & International Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 21, 9am – Noon

Rob Bradley will be banding birds caught near Wickiup Hill. Visitors may be surprised with special views of spring migrants such as warblers and summer tanagers. While birds are being banded, close-up views of feather colors and behaviors can be observed. Activities for children will take place during the morning to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day which highlights the importance of international efforts to conserve birds through agreements, laws, treaties, and collaborations. This year also marks the Centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty, a landmark agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico to protect our shared migratory birds. Cost: \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5/family.



Wonders of the Wetlands Walk

Saturday, May 21, 2pm at Matsell Bridge Natural Area, Central City

Join Natural Resources Manager Dana Kellogg as he guides you into the recently constructed Matsell Bridge wetland. If you are thinking about building a wetland, want a nice, interesting hike, or are looking to spot an elusive creature then this is your program! Dana will discuss everything from construction to what types of wildlife have moved into the area. This two mile walk on mowed trails is a great opportunity for birders to try a new area. Be sure to bring your camera along as you may see some of Iowa's threatened and endangered wildlife roaming about. Meet in the Anderson lot at 4006 Finn Rd. Follow the signs. No charge for this program.

Seize the Milkweed

Sat. or Sun., May 15, 22, 28, or 29 (predicted pickup dates)

We need your help, but when? On one of the dates listed, Wickiup will receive 100s of milkweed plugs. As part of our Monarch Zone Project, these plugs will need to be planted in the enclosed hoop structures where the monarchs will be raised. Please contact us if you or a group you're involved with would like to get in the swing of things and help us plant them. Call 892-6485 to get your name on the list and we will contact you with the date(s) we plan on plugging them in to the ground.

JUNE

Youth Fishing Clinic

Saturday, June 4, 9am – Noon at Pinicon Ridge Park, Central City

The North Linn Fish and Game Club will cosponsor a youth fishing clinic near the boat rental area in Pinicon Ridge Park near Central City. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Free Fishing Weekend is June 3-5. All youth participants will receive prizes for participating. No pre-registration is required. Cost is free.

Youth Fish IOWA! Adventure

Saturday, June 4, 3 – 5pm at Lowe Park, Marion

Come out and reel in the fun as we learn more about casting and how to lure more fish to your line. Participants will learn about fish identification, water habitat, knots, and more. Of course, we'll also go fishing. It will require a hike to get to the pond and back, but over a well paved trail. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Free Fishing Weekend is June 6-8. All youth participants will receive prizes for participating. Cost is free but you MUST pre-register by calling Marion Parks and Recreation at 319-447-3590 to reserve your spot by May 30.

Abbe Creek School – Grand Bell Ringing Ceremony

**Sunday, June 5, 12:30 – 1pm at Abbe Creek School
near Mount Vernon**

Join us as we commemorate the return of the original school bell to Abbe Creek School. The bell has been owned privately by the Jim and Mary Gunn family since the 1970's. Come celebrate with us as we welcome the bell back to the school and show off the recent repairs to the school. This is also the first day of our open houses for the summer which run from 1-5 every Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day at this one room school house, which was the first of its kind in Linn County.

Youth Archery Day

Thursday, June 9, 10 – 11am

This outdoor event will be an introduction to shooting re-curve 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

Wine Bottle Bird Feeders

**Tuesday June 14, 6:30pm at Squaw Creek Park's
Prairie Lodge**

Make a bird feeder out of a used wine bottle and learn a bit about area back yard birds. Wine bottles with pre-drilled holes and items to decorate it with will be provided. Bring a bottle of your own wine to enjoy while you design your feeder. Limit 25. Please pre-register by calling 319-892-6485. Registration deadline is June 10. Cost: \$10 per person.

Creek Study & You

**Thursday, June 16, 10am – 1pm at Bever Park Duck
Pond Pavilion, Cedar Rapids**

Get your hands dirty and dip into our creek study. Explore what's in the mud; learn about plant and critter life, and practice fishing techniques. The Cedar Rapids Park and Recreation Dept., Iowa DNR and Linn CCD will cosponsor this youth stream study at Bever Park in Cedar Rapids. Register at the Ambroz Recreation Center at 286-5731. 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.

Ride Walk Play CR

**Tuesday, June 21, 5pm – 8pm at National Czech and
Slovak Museum and Library**

Register from 10am to noon at National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library then bike or walk the trail to visit museums, the CR Library and a number of booths along the route. Play games, do some crafts, get free museum admission and much more. Wickiup Hill will host an activity along the trail. This event is cosponsored by the Linn County Trails Association and museums along the route. Look for more information as the date approaches.

Kids Day at the County Fair

**Thursday, June 23, 9am – Noon, Linn County Fair –
Youth Day at the Fair, 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 quiz you and perhaps have a few prizes too!

Fuzzy, Furry, Slimy, Scaly

**Thursday, June 30, 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 CCD cosponsor this annual educational program. Register at the Ambroz Recreation Center at 286-5731. 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.

JULY

Kids Fishing Derby

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

The Central City Sons of Am Vets Post 37 and LCCD 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 LCCD for those who need them. No charge. Happy 4th of July!

Young Pollinator Picasso

Wednesday, July 13, 10 – 11am

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 5-7. Registration deadline: July 6. Cost \$8.

Youth Archery Day

Thursday, July 14, 10 – 11am

See previous entry of this event.

Science for Squirts – Pollinators!

Thursday, July 21, 10 – 11am

Join us to visit our new pollinator friends at Wickiup – bee hives and butterfly tents! Children enjoy a story, craft, and activities based on the monthly theme. Ages 3-6, but younger and older siblings are welcome. Cost \$2/child. Please call 892-6485 at least 2 days prior to program to register.

Youth Archery Day

Wednesday, July 27, 10-11am

See previous entry of this event.

summer daycamps

To obtain a summer camp brochure, call (319) 892-6485 or go to www.LinnCountyParks.com

JUNE

Fish Iowa Day Camp

Tuesday - Friday, June 7-10, 9am – Noon Daily at Pinicon Ridge Park, Central City

Learn how to catch more fish! Come out and reel in the fun. Student's ages 8 – 14 will learn about fish, water habitat, tackle, knots, rods, reels and more. Of course, we'll also go fishing! The fee includes snacks and camp materials. Class size is limited. Many scout fishing badge requirements are met. Registration deadline: June 1. Cost: \$40 per child.

Pollinator Picasso

Friday, June 24, 10 – 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 Jenny 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 8-12 Registration deadline: June 21. Cost \$8.

Woodcarving for Kids

Tuesday, June 28, 9 – 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 between the ages of 12-16 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: \$10 per child.

Fairy Houses and Stump Cities

Wednesday, June 30, 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, pine cones and nuts are just some of the natural materials used. For ages 5+.

Registration Deadline: June 20. Cost: \$10

JULY

Camp Camp = Camp Squared

Wednesday, July 6, 10am – 2pm

Are your kids interested in learning more about camping out? We'll cover some of the fun stuff – hobo pies, and hobo dinners, s'mores, go for a hike, pick some berries, we'll learn about poison ivy and mosquitos and will cover how to avoid them. One of the big skills is always making a camp fire so we'll give that a try as well. Open to kids aged 8-12. Space is limited for participation so register by calling (319) 892-6485 by June 29 to save a spot. Cost: \$20 per child.

Pollinator Picasso

Tuesday, July 12, 10-11:30am

See previous entry of this event.

Archaeology Day Camp

Tuesday – Friday, July 12-15, 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 and 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 8.

Cost: \$75.00 per child.

Be a Naturalist Day Camp

Tuesday - Friday, July 26-29, 9am – 2pm

Children aged 8 -12. Explore Wickiup Hill with local monarch butterfly, bee, reptile and bird experts. Learn how to catch and ID animals in the prairie, forest and wetlands. Visit our Monarch Zone house and bee hives. Come prepared to get wet and dirty and have a lot of fun. Parents must provide a sack lunch.

Registration deadline: July 22. Cost: \$75.00 per child.

AUGUST

'Hunger Games' themed Survival Camp

Tuesday - Thursday, August 2-4, 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 be given a survival kit. We will also test your knowledge of the trilogy and survival with various quizzes and games throughout to earn points to be the final victor! Be prepared to get dirty and have a ton of FUN! Snacks provided. Space is limited and this class fills quickly so call early! Recommended for ages 11-14. Bring a sack lunch. Registration deadline: July 18. Cost: \$70

Native American Skills

Tuesday, August 9, 9am – 2pm

Kids step back in time to learn traditional Native American skills. Make your own atlatl and other items. Enjoy a fun way to understand the historic lives of Native Americans. Parents must provide a sack lunch. Registration deadline: August 5. For ages 8-12. Cost \$20.

Bees and Butterflies

Tuesday, August 16, 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: August 15. Cost: \$20.

CONNECTIONS SERIES:

The Voyager 1 Mission to the Outer Planets and into Interstellar Space

This Connection Series program highlights Dr. Donald Gurnett's work with the Voyager Space Craft. Dr. Gurnett, from the University of Iowa Department of Physics, has been involved with space exploration for almost 60 years. His involvement spans over 41 space missions including Voyager 1 and 2, Cassini, Mars Express, and Juno missions.

In 2012, Voyager 1 entered interstellar space, farther than any human-constructed object has traveled. Dr. Gurnett, a graduate of Regis High School in Cedar Rapids, will discuss some of the great discoveries from the Voyager missions. Donations accepted.

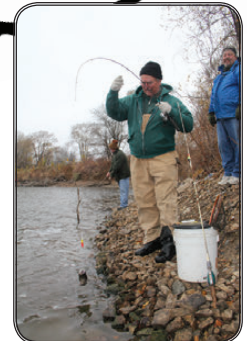
Connections is a consortium of natural science departments from Cornell college, Coe College, Mount Mercy University, Kirkwood Community College, Washington High School, Kennedy High School, the United Nations Association, plus a number of natural resource and environmental groups in Linn County, including the Linn County Conservation Board.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 16
9:30-11:30 AM**

**PRAIRIE PARK FISHERY
2125 OTIS ROAD SE**

2000 Trout will be Released
with 200 Tagged -
All trout will be released at 9:30am



This event is **FREE**, but anglers must register at the derby, be properly licensed, and bring their own fishing equipment. For a list of derby rules, go to CRREC.org and click on Prairie Park Fishery in the menu on the left.

Children under 16 may fish for and possess trout if they fish with an adult who has a valid fishing license and trout stamp. However, their combined daily limit is five trout. Children under 16 may purchase their own stamp which would allow them to keep their own five trout limit. They do not need a fishing license.

Sponsored by:



APRIL 9TH 10-11AM

Cost \$3/child


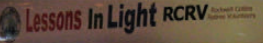
Challenge your youngsters to find 12 different colored eggs and turn them in for prizes!

Be ready to look high and low for eggs hidden in the tallgrass prairie, the woodland, and along the savannah hiking trail.


Aimed for ages 3 and up.




You must **PREREGISTER** by April 4th
Register online: linncountyparks.com or call 319.892.6485
10260 Morris Hills Road • Toddville 52341

12 Mar	7:30 p.m.	16 Jul	3:00 p.m.
09 Apr	8:00 p.m.	06 Aug	8:30 p.m.
07 May	8:30 p.m.	03 Sep	7:30 p.m.
04 Jun	9:00 p.m.	01 Oct	7:30 p.m.
11 Jun	9:00 p.m.	29 Oct	7:30 p.m.
02 Jul	9:00 p.m.	19 Nov	7:30 p.m.






CEDAR AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS (CAA) EVENT UPDATE AT THE EASTERN IOWA OBSERVATORY

PALISADES-DOWS PRESERVE 1365 IVANHOE ROAD ELY, IOWA

Founded in 1979 to promote and practice astronomy in Eastern Iowa, the Cedar Amateur Astronomers operate the Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center at 1365 Ivanhoe Rd., Mt. Vernon, located at Linn County Conservation's Palisades-Dows Preserve. The highlight of the facility, which hosts numerous permanently mounted telescopes, is a 24" former research telescope donated by the University of Iowa. A minimum of 12 public programs are held throughout the year and feature a free astronomy themed presentation followed by live viewings through telescopes. In addition, this year the Observatory will be open to the public every Saturday April through October, weather permitting, from about dusk for two hours thereafter for observing through the telescopes. The CAA is a 100% volunteer non-profit hobbyist organization. Memberships start at \$20.00 a year and include additional activities at the observatory, subscription to a locally produced Astro-nomical Newsletter, membership within the Astronomical League, and much more. Consider attending an event or joining! Additional information may be found at www.cedar-astronomers.org

BOARD & STAFF

Conservation Board

Kristin Eschweiler, President
Hillary Hughes, Vice President
Steve Emerson, Secretary
Cindy Burke, Member
George Kanz, Member

Linn Co Board Of Supervisors

Jim Houser, District 1
Linda Langston, District 2
Ben Rogers, District 3
Brent Oleson, District 4
John Harris, District 5

Conservation Staff

Dan Biechler, Director
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 Unga, 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

North Cedar District
Steve Swenson, Resource Manager
Shaun Reilly, 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 4pm 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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Center Point, Iowa
Permit No. 4

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Plans continue for Playscape at Wickiup Hill

You may have attended our child and community input sessions last fall for our Children's Outdoor Natural Playscape, and plans are moving forward for this exciting new concept at Wickiup Hill. This will be a place next to the Wickiup Hill Learning Center where children of all abilities and ages can discover the natural world, playing in an environment using natural materials. This space allowing for unstructured play can develop a greater appreciation of the outdoors for children in an environment designed to engage creativity and innovation. We have developed tentative designs and hope to start construction in the near future. Sign up for our eNews at www.LinnCountyParks.com for updates.

