



# THE TRIBUTARY

Summer 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR MITCHELL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Misty morning on the Cedar River @ Halvorson Park

## A SUMMER OF FUN OUTSIDE!

Mitchell County Conservation and the Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation are excited to offer various "nature camps" for area youth this summer. Help your child discover the wonders of nature this summer through Picnics in the Park, Family Fun Camps, or Adventure Day Camps! Camps are separated into age groups, and most require pre-registration, so sign your children up early! Age/Grade ranges are based on the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. All camps are lead by Mitchell County Naturalist Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe, Summer Naturalist Intern Lauren Voaklander, and Natural Resource & Outreach Specialist Andy Taets, and will feature nature-based subjects and outdoor activities. Registration fees cover educational supplies and equipment maintenance. Camp scholarships are available for those wanting assistance with registration fees - please contact Chelsea for more information. Check out camp details on the following pages!

**Please call, email, visit our Facebook Page or [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com), or stop by our office to register.**

### Picnics in the Park

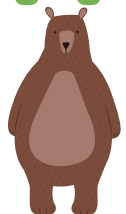
Families with children going into Kindergarten and younger are invited to enjoy nature through Picnics in the Park! Picnickers are asked to bring a picnic lunch, blanket, and have an adult present throughout the program. Please meet us at the specified park where we will eat lunch and have a short program and activity based on a nature-themed book. This program is FREE and there is no registration required. Please call Chelsea's cell (641) 330-0765, or watch our Facebook page for any weather updates or directions.



**June 14th - "What's the Buzz? (Bees)"**  
@ Halvorson Park, St. Ansgar



**June 21st - "Rad Reptiles (Snakes & Turtles)"**  
@ Riverside Park, Stacyville



**June 28th - "We're Going on a Bear Hunt"**  
**(Bears) @ Pinicon Alders Cabin**  
3313 470th, McIntire

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6TH - 8TH GRADE Adventure Camps!

\$20/camp

Join us for all three camps, or sign up for your favorites



KAYAKING THE CEDAR! JUNE 21ST



BIKING THE WAPSI! JULY 13TH



HIKING THE GREENBELT! JULY 27TH

Join Mitchell County Conservation staff Andy Taets, Chelsea Rowcliffe, and intern Lauren Voalklander to explore nature this summer! In these camps, we will be adventuring through different outdoor skills. You can join us for all three camps, or sign up for your favorites. We will meet in a different area for each camp. Campers are asked to wear outdoor clothing & close-toed shoes, and bring a refillable water bottle.

This camp is for students ENTERING 6th - 8th Grade. Pre-registration is required.

FOR QUESTIONS, OR TO SIGN UP - CONTACT US AT:

- OFFICE: (641) 732-5204
- CHELSEA'S CELL: (641) 330-0765
- ANDY'S CELL: (641) 420-5517

chelsea@osage.net

1879-3 Highway 9 Osage, IA 50461



# Family Fun Camps!

9:00-11:00 AM

\$10/camper per camp

Choose any or all camps!

## ENTERING 1ST - 5TH

July 5th - Feelin' Froggy (Frogs & Ponds)

July 6th - For the Birds

July 12th - Get Growing! (Plants & Flowers)

July 19th - Nature's Art

July 20th - Insect-igations

July 26th - Geology ROCKS!

Discover the wonders of nature with your child this summer through Family Fun Camps!

AGE: students entering 1st-5th grade. Age/Grade ranges based on the 2023-2024 school year.

All of the camps require a 16+ guardian/parent/caregiver to remain present with their campers throughout the 2-hour session.

Pre-registration required - Sign up for any or all camps! Cost of \$10 per student per camp, which covers supplies and educational tools to take home. Limit of 25 youth per camp.

Registration due by June 23rd!

- 📞 Office: (641) 732-5204
  - 📞 Chelsea's Cell: (641) 330-0765
  - 📞 Lauren's Cell: (641) 832-8173
- TO SIGN UP - CONTACT US AT:

- ✉️ [chelsea@osage.net](mailto:chelsea@osage.net)
- 📍 1879-3 Highway 9
- 📍 Osage, IA 50461

June Public Programs



Building Better Birders



Are you a beginning birder, expert in avians, or somewhere in between? Then this is the program for you! We offer a variety of high-quality workshops designed to prepare you for the next step in your birding education. Building Better Birders is a programming series designed to improve the bird identification skills of local citizens & promote a greater interest in citizen science programming. This workshop will be conducted by Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center) in conjunction with Mitchell County Conservation. Kelly McKay is a recognized leader in the birding field throughout the Midwest. His 40 years of experience in the field as an avian researcher and educator makes these workshops special! Workshops are presented free of charge & supported by the Resource Enhancement and Protection - Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP).

These programs are open to all ages but are geared toward participants age 12 & over.  
 PLEASE CALL TO PRE-REGISTER to ensure supplies for all attendees.  
 Attendees may register for all programs or may select the ones that most interest them.

**Two Part Event - Friday June 30th & Saturday July 1st**

**Friday, June 30th**

**Milton R. Owen Nature Center**

6 PM-7:30 PM "Wetland Birds of Iowa" Presentation  
 7:45 PM-9 PM "Nocturnal Raptors of Iowa" Presentation

**9 PM -10:30 PM Owl Prowl Night Hike**

**Saturday, July 1st**

**New Haven Potholes Outdoor Classroom**

**3748 Shadow Ave., Osage**

6 AM -9AM Wetland Bird Hike

Where Passion for Birds Meets Education - Building a Community of Lifelong Learners and Citizen Scientists!

If you enjoy participating in the programs Mitchell County Conservation/Environmental Education Foundation offers, appreciate the use of outdoor equipment and trails, or just want to ensure the youth, families, residents, and visitors to Mitchell County get to spend time in and understand the importance of conserving our natural resources - **please consider joining the Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation!**

Your membership, donation of time & talents, and/or monetary support can make an even larger impact when used for grant matches and opportunities like those listed here.

**See how to become a member on page 6.**



**"The Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation creates public awareness, promotes responsible stewardship, and expands support for the conservation of our natural resources and cultural heritage."**

# Summer 2023 Calendar of Events

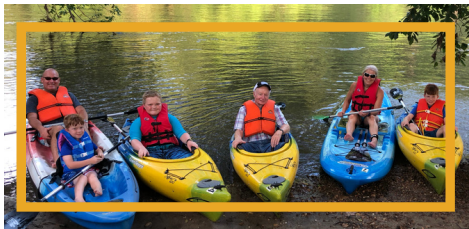
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>JUNE</b>						
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- 1st** - Fat Tire Bike "Brew Rides" meet up at Limestone Brewers - 6PM
- 2nd-4th** - Iowa DNR Free Fishing Weekend (no license needed)
- 3rd** - Free Family Fishing Day! @ Riverside Park, Stacyville 9:00-11AM
- 3rd** - Full "Strawberry" Moon!
- 4th** - Golf Cart Day and Pie Sunday at the Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail, 2-5PM
- 7th** - Picnics in the Park @ Otranto Park
- 14th** - Picnics in the Park @ Halvorson Park
- 15th** - Free Guided Paddle Program
- 15th** - Fat Tire Bike "Brew Rides" meet up at Limestone Brewers - 6PM
- 18th** - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
- 19th - 25th** - National Pollinator Week!
- 21st** - ADVENTURE CAMP! Kayaking the Cedar - see page 2 for details
- 21st** - Picnics in the Park @ Riverside Park
- 23rd** - Friday Night Out in Osage
- 24th** - Osage Sustainability Celebration @ Valent BioSciences
- 24th** - BRAM! Bike Ride Around Mitchell County
- 28th** - Picnics in the Park @ Pinicon Alders Cabin
- 29th** - Cedar River Water Trail Grand Opening Float Event
- 30th** - Building Better Birders - Wetland Birds (6:00) & Owl (7:45) Presentations
- 30th** - Building Better Birders - Owl Prowl Night Hike @9:00



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>JULY</b>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 1st** - Building Better Birders - Wetland Bird Hike @ New Haven Potholes, 6AM
- 2nd** - Pie Sunday @ Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail, 2-5PM
- 3rd** - Full "Buck" Moon!
- 4th** - HAPPY 4th of JULY!
- 4th** - Osage 4th of July Parade
- 5th** - Family Fun Camp! 9-11AM - Feelin' Froggy
- 6th** - Family Fun Camp! 9-11AM - For the Birds
- 6th** - Fat Tire Bike "Brew Rides" meet up at Limestone Brewers - 6PM
- 11th** - Free Guided Paddle Program
- 12th** - Family Fun Camp! 9-11AM - Get Growing (Plants & Flowers)
- 13th** - Adventure Camp! Biking the Wapsi Great-Western Line Trail
- 14th** - Friday Night Out in Osage
- 15th** - Border Bike @ Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail
- 19th** - Family Fun Camp! 9-11AM - Nature's Art
- 20th** - Family Fun Camp! 9-11AM - Insect-igations
- 20th** - Fat Tire Bike "Brew Rides" meet up at Limestone Brewers - 6PM
- 23rd** - Free Guided Paddle Program
- 26th** - Family Fun Camp! 9-11AM - Geology ROCKS!
- 27th** - Adventure Camp! Hiking the Greenbelt



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>AUGUST</b>						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 1st** - Full "Sturgeon" Moon
- 2nd-6th** - Mitchell County Fair
- 3rd** - Fat Tire Bike "Brew Rides" meet up at Limestone Brewers - 6PM
- 5th** - Wapsi Fest (Riceville town festival) WGWL Trail events all day
- 6th** - Pie Sunday @ Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail, 2-5PM
- 10th** - Free Guided Paddle Program
- 10th - 20th** - Iowa State Fair

- 11th** - Friday Night Out in Osage, 5-9 PM
- 12th** - Stargazing Program, 8PM @ Greenbelt Trail Shelter (Lunds/Hickory Ave. Access)
- 12th-13th** - Cedar Valley Memories Power Show @ MCCB Headquarters
- 16th** - Senior Citizen Golf Cart Day @ Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail
- 16th** - Free Guided Paddle Program
- 17th** - Fat Tire Bike "Brew Rides" meet up at Limestone Brewers - 6PM
- 18th** - Mitchell County Conservation @ the Iowa State Fair!
- 30th** - Full "Blue Moon"!



**Eat LOCAL this summer from our Farmer's Markets!**  
**Stacyville:** Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30 PM @ City Park  
**Osage:** Thursdays, 3:30-5:30PM @ 114 South 7th Street  
**St. Ansgar:** Thursdays, 4-5:30 @ Clausen Park  
**Riceville:** Saturdays, 9-11:30 AM @ 203 Main Street

# THE TRIBUTARY

MITCHELL COUNTY



With our ever increasing “plugged-in” world, exposure to and understanding of our natural world is more important than ever. The Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation strives to support quality environmental education programs for ALL residents and visitors of Mitchell County. Our goals include providing financial support through memberships for programs that educate and train the public, as well as increase access to such programs through interactive displays, events, and volunteers. Program topics include ecology, local plants and animals, geology, outdoor recreation skills, recycling, human & land relationships, and many more. Consider supporting environmental education by becoming a member today!

*“The Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation creates public awareness, promotes responsible stewardship, and expands support for the conservation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.”*



**Recent projects funded through the MCEEF:**  
 Senior Scholarships  
 Summer camp supplies & scholarships  
 New Environmental Education equipment

**INTERPRETIVE PLAN FOR THE NATURE CENTER!**  
**YOUR DONATION can make it a reality!!!**

Benefits of being a member...

- Early signup for camps, trips, and limited classes
- Recognition on our donor wall for \$50+ donation
- Tax-deductible donation
- Input on Projects, Events, & Programs
- Volunteer opportunities
- Reduced registration prices for classes, or “members only” programs



**BECOME A MEMBER**

**Yes! I want to join MCEEF!**

Additional Family Names/Memorial Inquiries:

Name/Organization

Address

City State Zip Code

Phone

Email

## Membership Levels

- Student \$10
- Individual \$25
- Family (2+ people) \$40
- Senior (60+) \$20
- Memorial **Ask about options**
- VOLUNTEER!**
  - Fundraising
  - Nature Center Host
  - Event/Program Volunteer
  - Other Talent?

## Donor Levels

- Sugar Creek \$50
- Spring Creek \$51 - \$100
- Turtle Creek \$101-\$250
- Little Wapsi \$251-\$500
- Burr Oak \$501-\$1000
- Little Cedar \$1000 +
- Red Cedar \$5000+

Make checks payable to:  
 MCEEF  
 1879-3 Highway 9  
 Osage, IA 50461

**This is a TAX EXEMPT Donation!**

# Summer Public Programs

## EXPLORE *The Water*

### FREE KAYAK AND STAND UP PADDLE BOARD GUIDED FLOATS



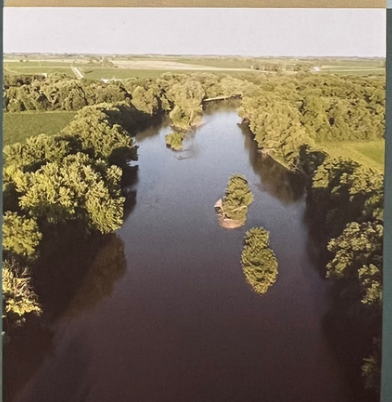
- ✿ June 15th PM float
- ✿ June 29th 10AM float  
*Cedar River Water Trail Grand Opening event and float*
- ✿ July 17th PM float
- ✿ July 23rd afternoon float
- ✿ August 10th PM float
- ✿ August 16th PM float

Have a great time exploring Mitchell County's beautiful waters with guided paddles! This is a FREE program led by MCCB Natural Resource & Outdoor Recreation Specialist, Andy Taets. Spots are limited to 10, so please call/text or email Andy to reserve your place. All equipment and basic paddling instructions are provided and all floats will take place in Mitchell County. If you have your own equipment and would like to join the float, please contact Andy with your information to be added to the attendee list. Floats will take place in the afternoon, and once you have signed up, you will be contacted with the specific meeting time & location.

**Contact: Andy Taets:(641) 420-5517**  
**ataetsmccb@osage.net**



# CEDAR RIVER WATER TRAIL



**MITCHELL COUNTY**

## CEDAR RIVER WATER TRAIL GRAND OPENING



When: June 29th 2023  
10:00 am

Where: Bennett Access/Two Poles  
3791 River Road Osage, IA

What: Kayak and Canoe float with Grand  
Opening of the Cedar River Water Trail

### Guided Grand Opening float

If you would like to kayak or canoe this day and need a boat, please call 641-732-5204 or scan below to reserve your spot.



**SCAN ME**

Summer Programs Cont...



# Star gazing!

AUG 12TH | CEDAR RIVER GREENBELT TRAIL  
LUNDS ACCESS/HICKORY AVE. ACCESS SHELTER  
8:00PM

One of the BEST stargazing spots in Mitchell County is at the shelter along our Cedar River Greenbelt Trail. After a short (10 min/.4mi) walk down the trail, a large grassy area welcomes stargazers for an amazing view of the night sky during the height of the Perseid Meteor Shower.

Grab something comfortable to sit on (blanket or camp chair), a water bottle, bug spray, and a head lamp or flashlight - then just sit back and enjoy the celestial show! Comfortable walking shoes and a sweatshirt or light jacket are also recommended (depending on the weather).

While we wait for dark, stargazers will enjoy a program on night sky viewing, stars, and constellations. Binoculars, star charts, and constellation guides will be provided for use. Supplies to build your own micro-meteor collector, and other fun star activities will also be available.

This program will be cancelled if there is cloud cover or storms predicted for the area. Please check our Facebook page, or contact Lauren at (641) 832-8173 for questions, directions, or weather concerns.

This program is free and open to the public.



## Other Outdoor Opportunities



July 11-13th @ Hickory Hills - Waterloo, IA

August 7th-9th @ Wildwood Hills Ranch - St. Charles, IA

Outdoor Journey for Girls is a three-day, two-night workshop aimed at introducing outdoor skills to girls ages 12–15 in a supportive, learning environment where they have opportunities to try things hands-on.

- Canoeing and Water Safety
- Basic Orienteering
- Archery
- Game Care
- Hunter Education Certification
- Fish and Wildlife Identification
- Firearm Safety and Basic Shooting
- Camping and Outdoor Survival
- Fishing and Preparing the Catch

Registration forms, and chaperone and sponsorship opportunities, are available at <https://www.iwinr.com/outdoor-journey-for-girls>



Looking for a reason to explore new fishing and paddling areas across Iowa? Iowa DNR has launched the Hook 'n Paddle Passport!

**Paddle Iowa waters. Catch fish. Earn prizes.**

What more could you ask for? Learn more here:

[www.iowadnr.gov/kayakfishing](http://www.iowadnr.gov/kayakfishing)



### Summer Brew Rides!

Try out a new hobby or meet like-minded friends this summer! Our local Fat-Tire bike group has open rides the first and third Thursdays of the month at 6:00. Meet at Limestone Brewers and hit the trails!

Open to all riders. Come join us!





## RECENT RECYLING NEWS & THE LANDFILL LATEST

FMC Landfill - 3354 330th Street Elma, IA 50628

[www.fmclandfill.org](http://www.fmclandfill.org)



Welcome  
we're  
**OPEN**

Monday: 7am-3pm  
Tuesday: 7am-3pm  
Wednesday: 7am-3pm  
Thursday: 7am-3pm  
Friday: 7am-3pm  
Saturday: Closed  
Sunday: Closed

### The FMC Landfill is turning 50!

Follow us on Facebook or visit our new website to stay tuned for celebration announcements!

<https://fmclandfill.org>

### 50th Anniversary Celebration September 23rd

10:00-2:00

Tours, kids fishing, food & more!

### HHM Mobile Pickup

This service is offered free for HOUSEHOLD WASTE, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, generally April through October once a month at a designated location.

Make your appointment or get more information now by calling (641)982-4288 between the hours of 7 AM and 2:00 PM Monday through Friday.



## WAPSI-GREAT WESTERN LINE

# Trail Events

Trailhead  
Wapsi-Great Western Line

110 EAST MAIN STREET (U.S. HWY #9)

RICEVILLE IA 50466

[WWW.WGWLTRAIL.COM](http://WWW.WGWLTRAIL.COM)



Trailhead Welcome Center Open – Saturdays & Sundays, 2-4 PM

Farmers Market – Saturdays through August 26th, 9-11 AM

Summer Art Show – Sunday, June 4th – Sunday, September 2nd Located in the lower-level of the WGWL Trailhead Welcome Center. For more information please visit our [Featured Artist](#) page.

- July 2nd - Pie Sunday 2-5PM
- July 15th - Border Bike - Official Interstate Bike Ride <https://borderbike.wgwtrail.com/>
- August 5th - Wapsi Fest (Riceville town festival) Events all day. Wapsi Wiggle 5K Walk/Run, Half-marathon training, trail treasure hunt, and more! See more Wapsi Wiggle info and registration at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IA/Riceville/Wapsi5K>
- August 6th - Pie Sunday 2-5PM
- August 16th – Senior Citizens Golf Cart Day



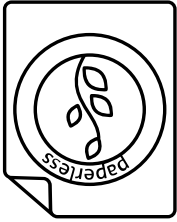


# Mitchell County Conservation Board

1879-3 Highway 9

Osage, IA 50461

Office: (641) 732-5204



Help us keep costs down and save resources by going paperless. If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, please send an email to [chelsea@osage.net](mailto:chelsea@osage.net).



Keep up to date with our events and nature happenings by liking and following us on: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and at <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Mitchell.aspx>



## Mitchell County Conservation Board:

Bridget Chatfield  
Lori King  
Mike Palsic  
Dennis Riley  
Mark Ross

### Staff:

Mike Miner - Director

Daniele Dorsey - Office Manager

Brad Olson - Trails Manager

Brian Huffman - Parks Supervisor

Matt Nicholson - Maint. Foreman

Chelsea Rowcliffe - Naturalist

Andy Taets - Recreation & Resource

Outreach Specialist

Austin Walk - Nat. Resources

Tech./Roadside Manager

Lauren Voaklander - Summer

Naturalist Intern

Darrin Flury - Seasonal Mower

Radar Milton - Seasonal Mower

Connor Siffka - Seasonal

Leo Klapperich - Seasonal

Thatcher Goodale - Seasonal

## Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation:

Brian Huffman—President

Dave Goodale—Vice Pres.

Jessica Bohannon—Secretary

Daniele Dorsey—Treasurer

Bridget Chatfield

Jonathon Cramer

Gary Huffman

Ed & Joanne Kleinwort

Chelsea Rowcliffe (ex-officio)

Adam Shirley (ex-officio)

Andy & Sam Taets