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# Oak Hickory

December 2016

LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

## Bond Passes, Work Begins

**Dennis Goemaat, Deputy Director**

Linn County residents overwhelmingly passed the Linn County Water and Land Legacy bond on the ballot November 8. It was very gratifying to see that 74% voted in favor of the measure. This level of support highlights the importance Linn County residents place on water quality, natural resources, parks and trails.

The Bond will create \$40 Million for the purposes of protecting sources of drinking water and the water quality of rivers and streams, as well as park improvements and trails. The effort includes acquiring and protecting natural areas for floodwater storage and wildlife habitat.

Linn County voters are not alone in placing a high priority on natural resource and park funding. Voters nationally approved 68 of 86 ballot measures on November 8 for a 79% approval rating. The interesting thing is that conservation ballot measures seemed to receive bipartisan support. Initiatives passed in areas that supported Clinton as well as those that favored Trump.

Following the election, Will Rogers from the Trust for Public Land commented on the large number of conservation measures that passed nationwide. "We saw again that while American voters are divided on many issues, parks and natural areas are an issue that we can all agree on. Whether they were voting for 'red'

or 'blue' candidates, voters are 'green' – they want local parks and close-to-home places for recreation and they're willing to pay for them."

Now that funding is in place in Linn County, the work of implementing projects will begin. A lot of project planning, design and engineering work must first take place to get projects ready for implementation. This will take some time, so be patient with us as we work through the planning and design phases.

We are currently meeting with potential project partners. Our goal is to maximize the return on investment to ensure bond funding is leveraged through grants and donations to the largest extent possible. We want to use these funds to build on existing partnerships and develop new ones with other groups and organizations. By working with other groups and organizations that have similar goals, we plan to be both efficient and effective as bond funds are invested.

Projects with the highest priority are those involving water and land protection. There are several projects that will be developed on county-owned land that will store water during rains, reduce runoff and clean it before release into streams or rivers.

While we work on implementing meaningful projects locally, we will also continue efforts to fund the Iowa

Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. In 2010, 63 percent of Iowans voted for a constitutional amendment to create the Trust Fund, a permanent and constitutionally protected funding source dedicated to clean water, productive agricultural soils and thriving wildlife habitats. Six years after the vote to establish the Trust Fund, it sits empty as the Iowa Legislature has failed to implement funding as voters requested. In 2017, state lawmakers should take action to do what's right for Iowa – fully fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund will provide grants statewide to address water quality, land protection, and outdoor recreation projects. Linn County bond funds could be used to match these state grants. A significant goal is to use local dollars wisely and leverage them at every opportunity. We are very aware that these are tax dollars that you want invested carefully for maximum benefit of Linn County.

On behalf of the entire Linn County Conservation Board and its staff, we want to thank you for your support and vote for bond funding. We are truly grateful for your vote and humbled by your trust. We look forward to making a significant difference and continuing to address the natural resource issues facing Linn County. We will keep you informed as we implement projects and invest bond funds.

**There are plenty of reasons to visit a Linn County Park during the winter.** Winter provides a unique perspective and highlights nature's changing beauty. These colder months of the year allow for opportunities to hike, snowshoe, bird watch, photography, or make additional time to spend with family and friends. **Be safe, and dress for the weather!**



# WINTER FUN

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING:

Linn County Conservation trails that are groomed for cross country skiing include:

Matsell Bridge Natural Area	5 miles
Morgan Creek Park	3.8 miles
Squaw Creek Park	3.5 miles
Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Area	3.3 miles
Pinicon Ridge Park	2.5 miles

4" of snow is the minimum amount required to use our grooming equipment. Tracks are first "rolled" and then "groomed". Hikers, horses, and dogs are encouraged to stay off the intended Nordic ski track. Be safe! We encourage bright colors on the trail.

## ICE FISHING

There are plenty of ice fishing opportunities along the Wapsipinicon and Cedar rivers. No one should venture onto the ice unless it is least 4" thick.

## SLEDDING

The area next to the Red Cedar Lodge at Squaw Creek Park and a hill by Woodpecker Lodge at Pinicon Ridge Park have been popular for sledding during the winter months.

## SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

A snowmobile trail at Pinicon Ridge Park is open from December 1 until April 1, if the weather and ground conditions cooperate (1" or more of snow cover required). It is nearly a mile in length and follows the main road through the park. Snowmobiles must follow markers staying on the trail at all times and adhere to the 15 mph speed limit. Snowmobiling is also allowed on designated unpaved surfaces of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail north of Center Point through Benton County.



By Dana Kellogg  
Linn County Conservation Natural Resource Specialist

# Linn County Conservation creating Pollinator Zones

*“If you plant it they will come!”*



By Gail Barels, Naturalist  
Linn County Conservation

Paraphrasing from that famous “Field of Dreams” movie quote, we owe thanks to a grant from the Monarch Research Project for bringing pollinators back to Linn County. The mission of the Monarch Research Project (MRP) is to restore habitat for all pollinators in an effort to re-establish the monarch population. One of the ways they hope to accomplish this mission is by creating tracts of pollinator habitat throughout the Cedar Rapids metro area and Linn County. The “1000 acre Pollinator initiative” was developed with the MRP, City of Cedar Rapids, community organizations, and others to provide 1000 acres of pollinator habitat over the next 3-5 years. To expand the initiative even further and create maximum habitat, the Linn County Conservation Department was invited to take part. Over the next year, Linn County Conservation will be planting over 140 acres of land to a diverse mix of wildflowers and prairie grasses. The prep work has already begun and planting will begin full force next spring.

**OVER THE NEXT YEAR, THE LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE PLANTING OVER 140 ACRES OF LAND TO A DIVERSE MIX OF WILDFLOWERS AND PRAIRIE GRASSES.**

The MRP will be providing over \$130,000 to establish pollinator habitat in Linn County parks and natural areas. Large plantings will be conducted at Matsell Bridge Natural Area, Morgan Creek Park, Pinicon Ridge Park, and Squaw Creek Park. Areas that were previously in turf grass, invasive Reeds Canary grass, and poor quality crop land that Linn County Conservation previously leased will be converted to high quality grassland habitat.

Monarchs and many different

pollinators will benefit from this habitat, but so will hundreds of other species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. It will also aid in natural water filtration, improved water quality, and reduced soil erosion.

Thanks in part to the Monarch Research Project and others in Linn County, the future looks brighter for monarchs and all other wildlife that will benefit from this habitat.

As the local Monarch Zones Project continues to engage the community in re-establishing monarch butterfly population and pollinator habitat, Linn County Conservation had a successful summer of raising and releasing this key species. You may have seen the biotents near the Wickiup Hill Learning Center this summer where milkweed plants were raised as food for the caterpillars. Two sets of caterpillars were then placed in the biotent about one month apart in July and August.

The biotent protects the caterpillars from predators as well as decreases the chance for disease. The Conservation Department initially received 100 caterpillars from the Project and our naturalists at Wickiup Hill took very delicate care of them on a daily basis. When the monarchs emerged from their chrysalises, they were released. The first group stayed within the area and reproduced naturally. The second set of monarchs was tagged before they began their journey to Mexico to over winter. Natural reproduction in the wild has about a 10% success rate. The first set of caterpillars produced 87 monarch butterflies. The second set of 100 caterpillars had 67 adults emerge.

Wickiup Hill is planning on adding an additional biotent to raise more monarchs next summer. As the Monarch Zone Project continues to encourage the increased planting of pollinator and monarch food plots, we will also purchase more milkweed plants to add to the restored prairies at Wickiup Hill and other Linn County Conservation locations. For more information on the Monarch Zone Project please see [www.monarchzones.com](http://www.monarchzones.com).

**By Ryan Schlader**  
Linn County Conservation Community Outreach

## Bill Perrin marks 50 years with Linn County Conservation

Linn County Conservation was just beginning to develop its park system when 18-year-old Willard Perrin received a call about working for the Neighborhood Youth Corps, a program started by President Lyndon Johnson targeting 16-22 year olds. "At the time, I was working on a dairy farm near Olin," said Perrin. "It was a lot of physical work {and long hours}, but it gave me great experience for the Youth Corps." The Corp's partnership with the county on several projects eventually led to his hiring in the fall of 1966 as a Shop Maintenance Man for Linn County Conservation (yes, that was the official title). His roles have changed throughout the years, but "Bill" has surpassed his 50th year with Linn County Conservation.

From keeping track of tools and ordering supplies in the 1960's, to assisting staff with electricity and plumbing work in the 70's, the Janesville, Wisconsin native provides ongoing maintenance and construction needs from the Services Unit at Linn County Conservation. After a busy camping weekend, Perrin collects the trash with the hooklift truck at different areas. He also pumps out the pit toilets when they need it. The work over the years hasn't always been glamorous, but the work has been plentiful for Bill as an Operations Technician with the Conservation Department. He received a standing ovation at a recent Linn County Employees Recognition Breakfast for his years of service to the community.

"It's a nice variety of work, as there's always something going on," according to Perrin. "I like to be outside working when the weather is nice." He said he has picked up a few additional carpentry skills from his colleagues that he plans to utilize even more in the future.

During the evening hours, you may see Bill walking his dog along the Marion parks and trails system. "I enjoy the trails," he said, but you can count on seeing him at work in the morning. "What keeps me coming to work here is I like the people I work with." If he didn't, "...I would have retired by now."



## Red Cedar Lodge

The new Red Cedar Lodge is nearing completion at Squaw Creek Park, with construction anticipated to finish this spring. We currently are accepting Lodge reservations for dates after April 8. Find out more at [www.LinnCountyParks.com](http://www.LinnCountyParks.com) and click on Facilities



## Congratulations

to our friends in Conservation at Indian Creek Nature Center on their new amazing space. Check them out at 5300 Otis Road SE in Cedar Rapids

By Gail Barels, Naturalist

# Muskrats are Back at Wickiup Hill Wetland

A visitor asked me the other day what the large pile of cattails was near our wetland boardwalk. I paused, thought a moment and then said, "Those are muskrat houses." Our staff saw a muskrat occasionally this summer while monitoring the monarchs in the Monarch Zone Biotent. It would be near the tent eating clover. I kept thinking the muskrat was a bit confused since their main food is cattails and the wetland a few yards away was full to the brim with cattails this summer.

Musk rats are a common Iowa mammal that live around wetlands, lakes and rivers. Their numbers may be down a bit compared to what they were before settlement. Since Iowa became a state, nearly 80% of our wetlands have been drained and the plants and animals associated with wetlands have therefore decreased.

The persistent rains that we had this summer raised the level of our wetlands. This higher water then enticed the musk-

rats to return. When water levels get too low, the muskrat may not be able to swim under the winter ice and may abandon an area to find deeper water. So, even though the rains eventually brought floods to our area, it increased the amount of habitat available for muskrats.

Musk rats are not really rats, although they are rodents. They are really large voles and if you know what voles look like and compare them to the muskrat, you can see the resemblance. Much like beavers, muskrats live in and near water.

A mother was overheard while looking at the wetland habitat exhibit explaining to her daughter the differences between muskrats and beavers. She explained that beavers have round tails and muskrats have long tails similar to a rat – hence the name.

Once considered a vital trapping species in Iowa after beavers were extirpated in the 1800s, muskrat are still trapped, but not as often as the past. Muskrat coats

were once in style, especially if mink was out of reach of your pocket book.

Just like beavers, muskrats build lodges, but instead of constructing with tree materials, muskrats use cattails. And just like beavers, the living quarters are above water. Sometimes they will live in burrows along the banks of a river, which again is just what beavers often do in Iowa too.

Musk rats could be on your diet too. They were often eaten by Native Americans and after having tasted a bit of smoked muskrat, I can truly say they are not bad. They depend on aquatic plants such as cattails, smartweed, bulrushes, and pickerelweed for food, oh and clover too. Aquatic animals such as clams and crayfish are also on their diet.

Come check out the recently constructed muskrat houses that are along the edge of the cattails by looking west from the most northern point of the wetland boardwalk at Wickiup Hill.



## Cedar Valley Nature Trail

Linn County Conservation continues to make improvements along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Paving has been completed from Schultz Road to Iowa Street in Center Point. This spring, more hard surfacing is scheduled from Iowa Street through Center Point to the Grubbs Creek Bridge just north of town. Currently the trail is closed from Urbana Road to 56th Street in Benton County (a nearly one mile stretch) until early summer for the purposes of replacing the deteriorating West Blue Creek Bridge.

# WINTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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

## DECEMBER



### Kayaking Session at Bender Pool

**Sunday, December 18, 4:30-6:30pm**

See article on page 9 for more information and additional dates in January, February and March.

### Winter Solstice Celebration

**Wednesday, December 21, 7:00pm**

Come celebrate the shortest night of the year with a short outdoor walk, a few stories and some astronomy. We will follow up with a bonfire and some hot chocolate. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under or \$5/family.

### Kids Ice Fishing Clinic

**Saturday, December 31, 9 – 11:30am  
at Pinicon Ridge Park**



Bring the kids to the backwater area of Pinicon Ridge Park to learn the fine points of ice fishing. Participants will practice jigging with an ice fishing rod, learn how a depth finder works, and attempt to view fish from an ice shack. All youth will receive a prize for their participation. The North Linn Fish and Game Club co-sponsors this clinic. Program cost is \$2.50/ adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5 per family.

## JANUARY

### Winter Bird Banding

**Saturday, January 7, 9:00am - Noon**

Winter conditions draw a large number of birds to the feeders at Wickiup Hill. Rob Bradley will be banding birds caught near these feeders. Large numbers of gold finches, woodpeckers, cardinals and other birds can be observed. Birds are banded indoors so close-up views of feather colors and



behaviors can be observed. If conditions are too cold, we will postpone this event until January 14. Please check our Facebook page for an update. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5/family.

### 3rd Annual Fishing Academy

**Saturday, January 14, 8:30am-4:30pm**

We will again host a great opportunity to pick up some new ideas and techniques from the leading edge of the fishing world. We will have some local experts here to help you catch more fish. See page 11 for additional information on presenters. Cost is \$20.

### Toddler Toadstools Playgroup

**Thursday, January 19, 10-11am**

Need to get your little one out of the house and into nature? Come out to Wickiup Hill and experience our one of a kind nature center! This is an informal play group for children ages 1-6. Naturalist Sarah will bring around some critters for the children to meet while they play in the Center. Cost: Free



## Science for Squirts - Let It Snow!

Friday, January 20, 10-11am

Children enjoy a story 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.

## Make a Rustic Willow Suet Bird Feeder

Saturday, January 28, 9am-3pm



Attract more backyard birds this winter with this easy to weave willow suet feeder. In this class, participants will use a form to help shape a conical feeder, and then learn some basic weaves to complete the sides, rim, and handle. Join willow artist Mary Kopecky, owner of WillowSprite, ([www.willowsprite.com](http://www.willowsprite.com)) for a day of learning about the wonderful medium of willow and take home a treat for your birds! Participants need to have decent hand, finger and wrist strength. Please bring 2 large, old bath towels or cloths of a similar size, very sharp hand pruners (secateurs), needle nose pliers a small hammer and

a sack lunch. Registration deadline is January 20. Cost: \$25



## How Native Americans Used the Bison

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00pm

The American Bison, the new US National Mammal, was once one of the most numerous animals in North America. This animal was a mainstay for Native Americans who roamed the prairies from southern Canada to northern Mexico. The bison provided food, tools, toys, clothing and shelter for many Plains tribes, and even those who once lived in Iowa. Enjoy an evening of exploring the various ways the Native American used this animal and what it meant for their survival. Participants will handle actual items made by a present day re-creator of Native American objects. Cost: \$2.50/adult, \$1/child (16 and under) or \$5/family.

## Science for Squirts - Curious Critters

Wednesday, February 22, 10-11am

Come play with Wickiup's animal friends and give our turtles a bath! Children enjoy a story 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.

## FEBRUARY

### Fishing Rod Building Course Series

Thursdays, February 9, 16 & 23, 6:30-9:30pm

Learn how to make your own fishing rod during this course. See the article on page 9 for more information. Cost depends on the model and options selected. Call Chuck at (319) 892-6485 for details. Registration is deadline is January 13.



### Toddler Toadstools Playgroup

Thursday, February 16, 10-11am

Need to get your little one out of the house and into nature? Come out to Wickiup Hill and experience our one of a kind nature center! This is an informal play group for children ages 1-6. Naturalist Sarah will bring around some critters for the children to meet while they play in the Center. Cost: Free

## MARCH

### Hunter Education Class Series

Tuesday March 7, & Thursday, March 9 - 6:30-10pm  
& Saturday, March 11, 9am-Noon

Are you a youngster who's interested in doing some hunting? Are you an adult interested in heading west for a hunting trip? If your answer was "yes," then you may be interested in attending these classes. If you want to obtain an Iowa hunting license and you were born after January 1, 1972, it's mandatory that you complete hunter education training. The class is free; the Iowa Department of Natural Resources provides all course materials. Attendance at all classes is necessary to receive certification. Participants must be 12 years old to use their certificates. To register for this training go to the Hunter Education section and register on-line at <https://register-ed.com/programs/iowa> and look under the Iowa Hunter Education Classroom Course and select View upcoming events, then follow directions.

## What's All the Buzz About?

Thursday, March 16, 2pm,  
at Lowe Park, Marion

Bugs hold a bit of intrigue for everybody, but are often misunderstood. Find out why these pretty 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'll pick the lucky cockroach for the cockroach races! So grab the larvae and scurry over for all the six-legged fun. Must register for the program, call Marion Parks and Rec at (319) 447-3590.

## Bone Where There's Not Supposed to Be Any: The Dubuque Third Street Cemetery

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00pm

The 19th century Third Street Cemetery, the first established Catholic cemetery in Dubuque, suffered decades of neglect, multiple episodes of purposeful and inadvertent burial removal, and by the late 20th century was commonly believed to no longer exist. When the land was purchased by a local developer, the removal myth was quickly debunked. From 2007 through 2011, archaeological excavations revealed over 900 burials. The history and bioarchaeology of the Third Street Cemetery provide a fascinating look into Dubuque's early years, its residents, and the difficulty of separating fact from fiction in historic research. Robin Lillie, recently retired, and Jennifer Mack are Bioarchaeologists with the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist. Cost: \$2.50/adult, \$1/child (16 and under) or \$5/family.



## Science for Squirts - Fletcher the Fox Springtime Blossoms

Thursday, March 23, 10-11am

Jump into spring with Fletcher and his animal friends. Children enjoy a story 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.



## Toddler Toadstools Playgroup

Friday, March 24, 10-11am

Need to get your little one out of the house and into nature? Come out to Wickiup Hill and experience our one of a kind nature center! This is an informal play group for children ages 1-6. Naturalist Sarah will bring around some critters for the children to meet while they play in the Center. Cost: Free

## IF YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY RECEIVE THE OAK HICKORY IN THE MAIL...

Contact us at [conservation@linncounty.org](mailto:conservation@linncounty.org) (or call us at 319-892-6450) and provide us with your name and address and you will be added to our mailing list. You can also send us an email and sign up for our Linn County Conservation E-Newsletter for periodic updates throughout the year.



## SAVE THE DATE:

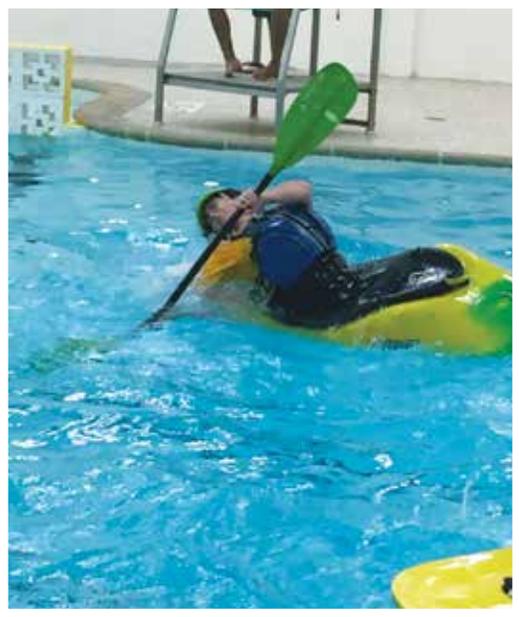
# 6th Annual Wickiup Hill Nature Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8, 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 4 online or by calling 892-6485. Cost: \$3/child.

# KAYAK/CANOE PRACTICE *pool time!*



As a place to practice for the open water season, a pool is a good substitute to the harsh conditions involved with boating in the winter. It also works well to refine skills under a controlled environment rather than out on a river itself. This winter, Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation and Linn County Conservation are teaming up to invite you and to promote kayaking with pool time at Bender Pool in Cedar Rapids, located at 940 14th Ave SE. Drop in pool sessions for kayakers are being offered from 4:30-6:30 pm on Dec. 18, Jan. 15 and 29, Feb. 12 and 26 as well as March 12. The fee is \$10 per person per time. Minimum age is 10 years and everyone will be required to be in swimwear and a lifejacket. A helmet is required for those practicing rolls. Youth must be supervised by an adult.

In case of inclement weather, the City of Cedar Rapids weather/events line is (319) 286-5700 – listen for the prompt on Bender Pool. You also can consult the Wickiup Hill Facebook page and we will have that information updated as quickly as possible if it looks inclement. Information about Bender Pool can be found by dialing 319-286-5790. For further questions on the kayak/canoe sessions feel free to call us at Wickiup Hill at (319) 892-6485.

Watch for additional information on the March 26th event from noon to 6. We will have more one on one instruction available that day.



## FISHING ROD BUILDING CLASS

Build a fishing rod to your specifications! A series of fishing rod building classes will be held on February 9, 16 and 23 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. Custom rod builder Chuck Ungs, will lead participants through the process of building a St. Croix or Rainshadow spinning rod. When finished with this series of classes, you will have the knowledge to move on to other rod-building projects. You also get to keep the rod you build! For additional information or to register, please call Chuck at (319) 892-6485. Participants must pre-register by January 13. Class size is limited. Class cost depends on the model of fishing rod blank and options selected.

# Linn County Conservation **RESPONDS & PERSEVERES** during the high river levels.

## CEDAR RIVER OVER CHAIN LAKES NATURAL AREA

(PHOTO FROM CIVIL AIR PATROL)

Cedar Rapids was spared significant flood damage from the Cedar River this past September. Although the city prepared to withstand a crest of 28 feet, two feet higher than projections, the river eventually crested just under 22 feet, 8 feet above major flood stage. Many Linn County Conservation employees answered the call away from their normal work duties to fill sandbags as the waters continued to rise downtown. These efforts proved to be crucial in protecting the Linn County Sheriff's Office, Jail, and other critical Linn County facilities along the river.

While this effort was taking place, workers also advanced their preparations for the potential of flooding at county parks. Linn County Conservation also owns or manages six areas directly impacted by the Wapsipinicon River. The projections had changed upstream in Independence, with the water expected to rise to major flood stage levels at Pinicon Ridge Park near Central City.

"With half our staff in Cedar Rapids that day, the rest of us worked into the night to get Pinicon Ridge Park campgrounds prepped for major flooding," said Aaron Batchelder, Resource Manager for Linn County Conservation's Wapsipinicon District. "This included removing all electrical components from campsites, moving more



than 200 tables, and evacuating our watercraft concession. We also evacuated all of our campers".

It is not the first time park staff have endured high waters and their previous experiences enabled them to predict where the river would crest. "We were right on the mark", said Batchelder. Mitigation efforts from 2008 minimized damage to park facilities. Post-flood, Pinicon Ridge employees worked tirelessly to get campsites repaired, electric components installed and park damage cleaned up, despite the fact that all campsites in Flying Squirrel Campground had been under water. "Less than two weeks after the Wapsipinicon crested, the campground looked brand-new again."



# 2017 LINN CO CONSERVATION & HAWKEYE ANGLING ADVENTURES 3rd ANNUAL WINTER FISHING ACADEMY

**Saturday, January 14, 2017**  
**8:30 AM – 4:30PM**

Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center  
10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA

\$20.00 per person includes Lunch, payable at the door  
Limited Space! Door prizes.

- 8:30-9:00      **REGISTRATION**  
\$20 per person-includes lunch and drawings
- 9:00-10:45    **Fishing 101 – LEARN TO FISH-THE BASICS**  
by PALO OUTDOORS with Chuck Ungs,  
Linn Co Conservation Naturalist &  
Dave Nichols-Hawkeye Angling Adventures
- 10:45-11:00   **BREAK**
- 11:00-12:15   **Fishing 202 – KAYAK FISHING-THE BASICS**  
**AND BEYOND**  
CrawDaddy Outdoors Darrin Siefken  
& Jackson Kayaks Pro-Staff Tanner Speidel
- 12:15-1:00    **LUNCH**  
**SPEAKER PAUL SLEEPER IOWA DNR FISHERIES**  
**BIOLOGIST- UPDATES ON THE PLEASANT CREEK**  
**LAKE PROJECT**
- 1:00-2:00     **Fishing 303 – BASS FISHING TIPS & TRENDS**  
St Croix Rod Pro-Staff Chris Aswegan
- 2:00-3:00     **Fishing 404 – WALLEYE FISHING**  
Back to the Future  
NWT/Do-It Molds Pro Steve Miller
- 3:00-3:15     **BREAK**
- 3:15-4:15     **Fishing 505 – ICE FISHING/PAN FISHING**  
products and technique updates,  
Mark Hughes-Fin & Feather, Iowa City

## 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  
Stacey Walker, 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 Borels, 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

North Cedar District  
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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

# 2017 Beekeeping Series

BEES LOVED AND CARED FOR BY  
 BEE A PART BEE TOGETHER



Approximately one third of all the food Americans eat is directly or indirectly derived from honey bee pollination. Over the last 25 years there has been a dramatic decrease in our bee population. We invite you to **Bee a Part** of the solution, 95% of beekeepers in the United States are hobbyist working to keep our bees healthy and enjoying the many benefits they offer.

Join us for this eight session series designed for individuals serious about becoming a beekeeper. This series will walk participants through the annual cycle of beekeeping from establishing a hive to harvesting the honey produced. **This is an in-depth, hands-on, total immersive learning experience.** Classes will be held at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center and students will have the opportunity to take a look into and work the hives at this location.

**CLASS DATES: January 9, January 23, February 6, February 20, March 20, April 3 • CLASS TIMES: 7:00-9:00PM**  
**QUEEN REARING CLASS: June 24, June 25 • ADVANCE BEEKEEPING: March 4, March 5 • CLASS TIMES: 9:00AM - 4:00PM**



**Cost: \$150.** Fee covers: You and spouse/friend to attend classes, informational handouts, Beekeeping handbook (one per couple), support website/phone line and if necessary hive inspection by an instructor.  
**Bee Together** with your family, children under 18 may attend free with an enrolled parent\*.  
 This program is a comprehensive beginning beekeeping class.  
**Bee Pick Up: April-TBD and Extraction Day: August-TBD.** \*Some restrictions apply.

Registration: Email [honeybeeclasses@gmail.com](mailto:honeybeeclasses@gmail.com), (Subject Line: Enroll) or call 319-721-3493  
**SPACE IS LIMITED**

