

the

Oak Hickory

August 2015

LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

To Sue {OR} Not to Sue

Dennis Goemaat, *Deputy Director*

By now, you have likely seen numerous reports of Des Moines Water Works decision to sue three northern Iowa counties over the water they are discharging. This lawsuit has resulted in increased discussion regarding water quality and the best approach to address the problems. Des Moines Water Works cites a lack of progress on reducing nutrient inputs into the river for the reason to sue. They are frustrated that they have to use a \$7,000 a day treatment system to remove excess nitrates from Des Moines drinking water. It was recently reported that 60 Iowa cities are battling similar problems of high nitrates in their drinking water, so high nitrates isn't a problem isolated to Des Moines.

Meanwhile, the Cedar Rapids Water Department and Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett have taken a different approach. They are working cooperatively with landowners on select tributary streams of the Cedar River to install conservation practices on farm fields. The costs of these conservation practices are paid by a grant and are installed voluntarily on private land. The rationale is that it is cheaper to work with landowners to install conservation practices than to purchase and operate a nitrate removal system.

These two different approaches to address water quality problems have generated a lot of discussion and, in some cases, anger. So, who is correct in their approach? Well, I certainly understand the frustration of those who are tired of waiting for action. Still, my preference is to give the voluntary approach to nutrient management a try. You may correctly point out that Iowa has had a voluntary nutrient management approach for the entire history of the state. An important point is that Iowa has never had adequate public funding to partner with landowners to implement the required conservation practices.

Obviously a lot of heat has been generated over this topic in recent months. I guess I'm one of those people who dip

their toe in the water, find out it is much too hot and decide to jump in anyway. Why would I want to get involved with this discussion? Simply put it is too important for the future of our state not to speak up and I hope all Iowans become engaged in this important topic.

I believe it is time for an "intervention." With any intervention, there is a need to recognize and admit that there is a problem. I think that part of the intervention process has been successfully completed. I hear very few people say that Iowa's water quality is fine and just where we want it to be. There have been many articles and news reports in the last month alone that again highlight numerous, persistent problems. The first step has been taken in the intervention – people recognizing that there is a problem and that changes are needed. However, interventions can only be successful if after admitting the problem, action is taken to correct the problem.

One possible solution is the STRIPS program being studied by Iowa State University. One of the study areas for this project is our own Eastern Iowa Airport. Initial research has indicated that converting 10% of crop fields to prairie strips results in 95% reduction in sediment loss, 90% reduction in phosphorous loss and 85% reduction in nitrogen loss. Note that treatment on only 10% of the field yields outsized returns.

Iowa has adopted a voluntary nutrient reduction strategy. Critics of this approach correctly point out that there are no timelines to achieve reductions and little funding appropriated to implement practices that begin to address the problems.

Minnesota has recently taken a more aggressive stance requiring an average of 50 foot buffers be planted to either grasses or trees along all major streams. The reason

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LINN PARKS CHALLENGE

The Linn Parks Challenge continues into the 2015 recreational season. With the weather getting cooler it's time to get started and explore 25 Linn County parks, preserves and historic sites. Whether you are a seasoned geocaching expert or just figuring out how to download the free smart phone app, this is the perfect way to enjoy warmer weather. Now is the time to enjoy the spring wildflowers and wildlife in your local Linn County parks. Visit the website LinnParksChallenge.org to download the passport and get started today!



**LinnParks
Challenge**
LinnParksChallenge.org



Find 25 Caches
in 25 Linn
County Parks
Win this Coin!



To Sue {OR} Not to Sue

cited for taking this action is that few Minnesota streams pass the “swimmable and fishable” test. That is also true for Iowa streams. Critics of the Minnesota legislation say it doesn’t go far enough as it exempts the smallest streams, which contribute the most sedimentation and nutrient pollution into streams. Minnesota may not have a perfect solution, but at least it is a start to solving their problem.

The one thing that has been missing in Iowa is funding to help implement the required practices. The Iowa Water and Land Legacy passed by voters in 2010 and is waiting action by the Iowa Legislature finally offers hope of adequate funding to address this vexing problem. Having money available to implement practices on the land will be critical to addressing this ongoing problem if the cooperative approach is to win out over lawsuits.

In a recent, thoughtful editorial in the Des Moines Register, Kirk Leeds, Executive Officer of the Iowa Soybean Association makes the following statement. “I’m concerned that a majority of Iowans are losing hope that our water quality issues will be resolved. Perhaps they’re fatigued because of the divisive rhetoric. This I can understand. Or, maybe

they believe farmers are in denial about their environmental footprint, resistant to changing how they farm or worse, indifferent about water quality. This, I can assure you, is not true.”

Leeds goes on to express support for funding the Iowa Water and Land Legacy and correctly points out that as much as 2/3 of the funds raised would be eligible for use to address water quality issues in Iowa. The remainder would go to recreational activities and general environmental and conservation initiatives.

It is obvious that people care about our water resources. See the article in this newsletter about Project AWARE and the recent Wapsipinicon River cleanup. People who care and are willing to take action are certainly taking a step in the right direction. However, the only way we will make significant progress on Iowa’s water quality woes is with a cooperative approach where we all chip in to help implement conservation practices. These changes will not be free. All Iowans need to contribute to helping our landowner friends address this problem. We know there is a way, now we just need to find the will to fund it.



LINN PARKS CHALLENGE GEOCACHE PROGRAM EARNS NATIONAL **ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Linn County Conservation has been recognized with Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials (NACPRO).

The recognition stems from the Linn County Parks Challenge, a geocaching recreational activity that involves hunting for and finding a hidden object by means of using GPS coordinates through www.geocaching.com

The Linn County Conservation Department launched the year-round geocaching campaign in 2014, designed to use peoples' love of technology to get them into the great outdoors, instead of keeping them inside. The Linn Parks Challenge offers adventure without requiring a lot of travel time or money. The Challenge directs people to find 25 caches hidden in 25 Linn County parks, preserves and historic sites. If participants make it to all 25 spots, they qualify for a free souvenir medallion.

"The Linn Parks Challenge has been a great success in connecting the public to Linn County Conservation areas," said Dan Biechler, Linn County Conservation Director. "We especially want to thank the Linn County Board of Supervisors, Linn County Conservation Lead Education Specialist Jenny Corbett, and the many experienced geocache volunteers for helping us get this program started."

The Linn County Challenge is ongoing. Residents of all ages are encouraged to get out and join the fun of the challenge. Information about participating can be found at www.linnparkschallenge.org



Ryan Schlader

Linn County Conservation Community Outreach



RED CEDAR LODGE TO UNDERGO NEW CONSTRUCTION

After nearly 40 years, the Red Cedar Lodge at Squaw Creek Park will be razed and replaced next fall with a brand new facility.

Red Cedar Lodge was originally used as a ski lodge in the winter when it was first built in 1975 supporting the adjacent, lighted ski hill that was operational at the time. The ski hill ceased operation in the 1980's, but the hill is still used for winter recreation activities. The lodge has continued to be on a year-round reservation schedule, popular for family gatherings, graduation events, weddings and receptions, as well as corporate activities.

Linn County Conservation, working with Shive-Hattery, determined the cost of constructing a brand new facility with needed upgrades and improved amenities would be less costly than renovating the current building. Late next year, you'll enjoy an air conditioned unit, expanded kitchen space, ADA compliant restrooms, and new changing rooms. The estimated cost of the total project is one million dollars which includes a connection to the sewer system and added energy efficiencies.

Due to construction, Red Cedar Lodge will be closed to all reservations from March 1 through December 1 in 2016. However, Prairie Oak Lodge at Squaw Creek will still be accepting reservations for your event.



GO OUTSIDE *and play!*

Natural materials are the next big thing in playgrounds!

How often did you as a child hear your parents or grandparents say “Go outside and play!” Were you given the opportunity to build forts, climb trees and dance among the willows? Too often children today are deprived of that experience. If you close your eyes and imagine your neighborhood playground, what do you see? Swings, slide, monkey bars – your typical playground equipment. This equipment guides a child to do what the designer of the playground wants them to. In response, a new generation of playgrounds has been popping up world-wide. Say good-bye to the plastic, the metal, the manmade. Say hello to sticks and stones, water and sand, logs and stumps! A natural playscape is a space that allows children to discover the natural world and how it works. Through abundant loose materials, the children are encouraged to use their imagination and creativity in order to foster innovation and independence. Sand, logs, boulders, tree cookies, sticks, and water provide a unique sensory experience for children and adults.

Wickiup Hill is currently in the design process of an outdoor Nature Playscape. This area will allow kids to interact with natural items, build, climb and play! It will provide a place for children to use the STEM skills they learn in school in a real life environment. If kids want to build a fort, they can engineer one here. How many blocks will it take to dam up the water? Do real-life experimenting and find out.

It is our desire that this area sparks true creativity and innovation, and leads to a deep love of the outdoors. This area will be inclusive, and allow for children of all ages and abilities to interact and experience the natural world. In order to make it the best possible place for the children though, we need their help! We want them to come and play, show us what interests them, see what they do with pieces to build with, and most of all tell us what they like and don't like. This will be a fun, interactive hour of play.

CHILD INPUT SESSION DATES:

Wednesday, August 19, 10-11am part of our Science for Squirts program
Saturday, October 10, 10-12 part of our Fall Fest

WE WILL ALSO HAVE TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE:

Saturday, August 22, 10am-12pm
Thursday, September 10, 6:30pm-7:30pm

All sessions held at Wickiup Hill Learning Center.

PROJECT AWARE

Each year, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources hosts a river clean up on a designated interior river in Iowa. The event is called Project A.W.A.R.E., which is an acronym for A Watershed Awareness River Expedition. This year the chosen river was the Wapsipinicon River, cleaning the river from Independence to Olin, a total of 65 river miles. The 5 day long river clean up expedition was held July 11-16. The group tries to clean up as much trash as possible along the routes – leaving the river and its banks back to its natural state while also removing some of the environmental hazards left behind from others.

The project is made up of hundreds of volunteers from mostly Iowa and people from surrounding states. The small cost of the registration includes meals and each volunteer gets a shirt. There are several agencies that participate, sponsor or partner along with many other clubs and environmental groups. Linn County Conservation Department was one of the major sponsors with in-kind donations of staffing, equipment, camping and facilities.

The project started in Buchanan County on Sunday, July 11th with overnight camping in Quasqueton. On Monday, the 12th volunteers were shuttled to the launching point at the Troy Mills Wapsipinicon River Access and went all the way to Pinicon Ridge County Park near Central City with the half-way point being the Paris Wapsipinicon River Access (a total of 12.5 miles). At the old iron bridge near Paris, there were dump trucks, roll off dump boxes and other containers waiting for the trash and recyclables from the volunteers. There was no shortage of it either. Countless cans, bottles, tires, scrap metal pieces and many other items were brought in by the volunteers. For some, it's a contest – to see who can get the largest, bulkiest item on their canoes or kayaks to be barged down river. Some use



ingenuity and tie up their canoes together in order to transport the debris. The end point for Monday was at Pinicon Ridge Park and overnight camping for both Monday and Tuesday nights were held at the park's Group Campgrounds. There was just about as much debris collected between the old Paris bridge and Pinicon Ridge Park.

After all the trash is off loaded from the vessels the Project AWARE staff (made up mostly of Iowa DNR employees) is sorted – recyclables such as glass, plastic, redeemable cans, tires, scrap metal, etc., are all sorted and placed into specific containers or boxes. The rest of the stuff left over is just refuse and taken to the local landfill who also partners with the project.

Camping is free for volunteers and each night in the campgrounds there are environmental programs put on for the volunteers. The programs are very educational and often times entertaining (the night I was there and our own Environmental Education Specialist, Jenny Corbett, was doing a snake program and taking the snakes through the crowd and letting people touch them). Some of the programs are specific to the area they are camping

in such as cultural history or resources that are significant to the local area.

Showers were available for the paddlers in the Flying Squirrel Campground of the park and Central City Schools also opened their facility for volunteers to get showers (there tends to be just a little bit of mud involved by the end of each day!). The Project AWARE staff has shuttle vans constantly going to and from the shower facilities and other local areas. I can't commend their staff enough on how well organized and efficient they were. This is the 13th annual AWARE project so they definitely have it down on what needs to be done!

The next morning, July 14th, the launch started in Central City at the city's river access. Tuesday was the biggest day with the most participation and floating 16.1 river miles. There were 175 canoes put on the water that day and that was not counting any private vessels of which some people bring their own canoes or kayaks. After the morning safety orientation in the campground, the volunteers were shuttled down to the river where a canoe, paddle and life jacket would be waiting for them and staff would get them launched safely.

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PROJECT AWARE

Tuesday was also the longest day of the clean-up project and probably one of the most interesting or “wild” as far as the river goes. The half-way off load point was in Waubeek at FB & Company who also partnered in the event. Again – unbelievable the amount of items collected and off loaded at the boat ramp. Why do I say unbelievable? In 2009, Project AWARE was supposed to have been held a cleanup event on the Cedar River but due to high water was moved to the Wapsi at the last minute. This entire section was cleaned just 6 years ago and that year we even had help from Living Lands & Water, another environmental group with staff and large, flat bottom, jet-drive boats that cleaned out literally tons of garbage from the river that year. It’s just amazing how much more was taken out again this year.

I also mentioned “wild”. There has always been the famous “Matsell log jam” in the river located somewhere in the Matsell Bridge Natural Area section of the Wapsipinicon River. There have been horror stories of people having to portage long distances to clear this monster log jam. In that section of the river, the land becomes very flat and becomes a true “flood plain”. The river disconnects into three different small channels and has always been debated on which fork to take. Luckily, the Project A.W.A.R.E. staff scouts the river before the event so there are no sur-

prises and it definitely helped this year with them placing directional signs on which channel to take. Even with the correct channel – you still feel like a pinball getting bounced back and forth between logs or stumps in the water. You don’t see the cabins in that section of the river like you do every couple of miles upstream from the Matsell area so in a sense – you do feel like you are in the wild.

On Tuesday’s section of the river, we retrieved 47 tires between Waubeek and Matsell, dump truck loads of scrap metal, countless cans & bottles and endless other things. Linn County Conservation seasonal staff even retrieved a scrapped out Jet-Ski that someone had left in the river. The volunteers were then shuttled back to Pinicon Ridge to camp for the night where they could get showers and attend another environmental program again that evening.

The next morning the volunteers were shuttled back to Matsell where they would get launched again and end the day at the Newport Access downstream. The final day would be the Newport Access to Olin, completing the river expedition.

In Linn County alone, we removed from the river 13,560 pounds of scrap metal, approximately 1,680 aluminum cans (mostly beer), endless tires, numerous bottles, a jet ski, mowers, old dish

washers, batteries, plastic barrels, out-board motors, a snowmobile, refrigerators, stoves, a paddleboat, just about everything and the kitchen sink (and I think we got that too).

It is no secret that river use has increased exponentially in recent years with the popularity of kayaks and river float tubes. Our County Conservation Department is partnering with the Iowa DNR on their “Keep it Clean/Keep it Beautiful” campaign to try and educate people on keeping the river clean, safe and trash free. Our department offers canoe trips and with each canoe goes a mesh bag with the campaign logo on it reminding people it’s a “Carry in-Carry out” river. Whatever you take in your canoe should also be coming out with you when you exit the water. Our officers and staff also hand these bags out free of charge to groups who may be floating on river tubes or kayaking. Most people readily take them once they find out they are free. The river is a resource and a beautiful one at that. We all need to do our part in keeping it beautiful, healthy and safe for future generations to enjoy. We certainly thank Project A.W.A.R.E. for choosing this section of “our river” this year and look forward to doing it again in the future!

FALL PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Classes & Events are at Wickiup Hill Learning Center unless stated otherwise.

AUGUST



SCIENCE FOR SQUIRTS: NATURE PLAYSCAPE CHILD INPUT

Wednesday, August 19, 10-11am

See article on page 4.

NATURE PLAYSCAPE COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

Saturday, August 22, 10-12pm

See article on page 4.

LONG BOW BUILDING WORKSHOP

Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 29-30, 8 am-4:30 pm
at Wickiup Hill

Learn the nearly lost art of bow building under the guidance of an experienced instructor during a special workshop. See the article on page 10 for more information. Cost: \$220 per person.

SEPTEMBER

CREEK STUDY AND YOU

Friday, September 4, 10 am-1 pm, Bever Park, Cedar Rapids

Get your hands and feet wet as we dip into a creek study. Explore what's in the mud; learn about plant and critter life and discover how to casting a fishing pole. Sponsored by Linn CCD and Cedar Rapids Park and Rec. This is an in-service day for Cedar Rapids Schools so send your student over to keep learning with school out for the day. Register at the Ambroz Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids by calling 286-5731 soon, as registration is limited. Registration is \$10 for Cedar Rapids residents and \$14 for non-residents. Students should dress in clothing and shoes that can get muddy and should bring a bottle of drinking water.

NATURE PLAYSCAPE COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

Thursday, September 10, 6:30-7:30 pm

See article on page 4.



FALL BIRD BANDING

Saturday, September 12,
9-Noon

Rob Bradley will again be banding birds caught at Wickiup Hill. Visitors may be surprised with special views of fall birds including many types of woodpeckers, sparrows and finches.

Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5/family.

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN IN IOWA

Friday – Sunday, September 18-20 at Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Center Iowa

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) is an international program aimed primarily at women, but is an opportunity for anyone 18 years or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits. The workshop is for you if: you have never tried these activities, but have hoped for an opportunity to learn; you are a beginner who hopes to improve your skills; you know how to do some of these activities, but would like to try your hand at some new ones; or you are looking for the camaraderie of like-minded individuals. Please check out the Iowa DNR website, www.iowadnr.gov for details and to register.





4TH ANNUAL WICKIUP FALL FEST!

Saturday, October 10, 10am-Noon

Kick off the fall season and enjoy some family fun with our friendly trick or treat hike through the woods, pumpkin bowling, straw scramble, crafts, free face painting, creepy critters, and more! Aimed at ages 3-8, but younger and older siblings welcome! Costumes encouraged! Cost \$3/child. No registration required.

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORICAL PATHWAYS WITH KELLY SCHOTT

Saturday, October 17,

Western Great Lakes Woodland Indian Cooking:
9am - Noon

Historical Pathways will demonstrate traditional methods used for cooking. These methods will open flame such as rabbit and squirrel. The demonstration will also include the cooking and processing of food dishes: hickory nut soup; hominy; wild rice; corn bread and puddings. The program will cover many other food stuff and related items, including cooking with bear oil/grease, how to render tallow and many other cooking and food processing methods. Pre-registration is required by October 14. Cost: \$10.

Twined Bags: Western Great Lakes styled twined bags:
1pm-4pm

Continue the day with this program that will cover the history of these wonderful and unique bags that have no seam yet are strong enough to carry heavy loads and can even hold and carry water. A brief power point will cover these bags in their beauty in more detail, while after the program an opportunity



to learn the process of how to construct a small bag will be held for those interested. Pre-registration is required to reserve a bag kit, Cost: \$20. Call Gail at 319-892- 6488 to pre-register by October 14. Cost for both programs is \$25.

DUTCH OVEN COOKING CLASS

Saturday, October 24, 9am-Noon

The weather is cool, leaves are crunchy and the campfire is warm. Learn traditional Dutch oven cooking done in cast iron pots over coals is great for campers, tailgaters and outdoor cooks. Learn the history, and how to clean and store your Dutch oven. Roll up your sleeves and help create a variety of yummy dishes. Class size is limited. Cost: \$7/adult, \$3/child 16 and under or \$14/family. Call 892-6485 to register by October 21.



YOUTH ARCHERY DAY

Monday, October 26, 10-11am (No school for Linn-Mar)

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

ALMOST FULL MOON NIGHT HIKE - AKA, THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Monday, October 26, 7-8:30 pm

Wander on the trails and learn about what goes bump in the night, as well as what your eyes can and cannot distinguish in the dark. Enjoy the sights sounds and smells of the autumn night woods. We will play a few games to display the functioning of your eyes and may touch on the various animals of the night. A focus will be on nocturnal creatures of the area and how they make their way around. Dress for the weather and prep for a hike over bumpy trails in the dark. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5/family.



SCIENCE FOR SQUIRTS

Wednesday, October 28, 10-11am

Children ages 3-6 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.

HOW DID SPANISH COLONIZATION CHANGE MAYA SOCIAL STRUCTURE?

Thursday, October 29, 7 pm

If television shows such as CSI are of any interest to you, don't miss this program. Archaeologist Lara Noldner from the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist will summarize how bioarchaeologists investigate the lives of past people using skeletal signatures of activity, and provide an example of what we can learn about past societies from such studies. Find out how Spanish colonization affected the ancient Maya community at Tipu in west-central Belize. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5/family.

GREAT PUMPKIN ATLATL HUNT

Saturday, October 31, 1-4 pm

Come and try your hand at using an ancient hunting tool, the atlatl or spear thrower. We will provide the spears, darts and pumpkins – plus other targets too. Also, watch as college teams and others compete in a sanctioned atlatl competition. For more information contact Gail Barels at 892-6485. This program is free and there is no registration.

NOVEMBER



EVENING PRAIRIE BURN

Thursday, November 5, 7pm

Natural resource specialist Dana Kellogg and resource manager Steve Swenson will light up the night sky with a spectacular prairie fire. Observe the dramatic management practice of prairie burning to renew the prairie Wickiup Hill Learning Area. Before the burn, meet at the kiosk near the parking area to learn why this technique is used, how the area is prepared and what types of equipment are used. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under or \$5/family.



SCIENCE FOR SQUIRTS

Thursday, November 19, 10-11am

Children ages 3-6 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.

A CLOVIS SITE REDISCOVERED

Thursday, November 19, 7 pm

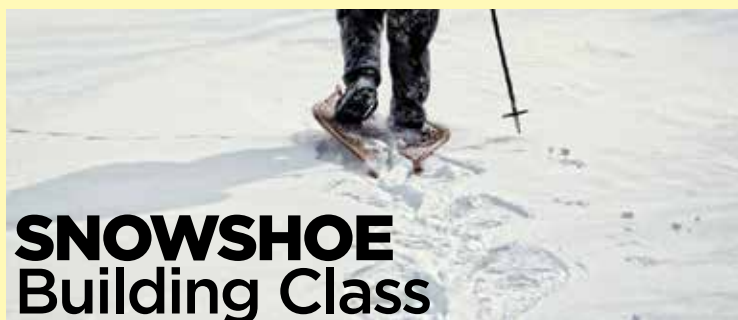
Site 13CD15, known as the Rummells-Maske Site, is Iowa's oldest archaeological site based on the recovery of 20 Clovis projectile points from this Cedar County location. Wayne Rummells and Dick Maske originally found the site in the early 1960s and brought it to the attention of the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist. Unfortunately, the site was not recognized at the time for its importance and it slipped into the background of Paleo-Indian research. Mark Anderson from the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist will present this program. Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5/family.



TODDLER TOADSTOOLS

Friday, November 20, 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 gathering for children ages 1-6. Playtime begins at 10, and at 10:30 we will meet a few of Wickiup's real live animals! Weather dependent, there will be activities indoors and out. Registration not required. Cost: Free



SNOWSHOE Building Class

This winter Linn County Conservation will again offer the opportunity to build a pair of traditional snowshoes. Conservation Education Specialist Chuck Ungs will guide participants through the snowshoe-building process. Those who have taken the class in the past have been very pleased with the finished shoes and have enjoyed the class. These sets would make a unique gift, functional tools or can be used as a grand decoration.

Participants should plan to attend the evening sessions on Thursday Dec. 10 and 17 as well as Saturday Dec. 19. The evening classes will run from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the Saturday class will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road near Toddville. With some time invested at home, kits can be completed around New Year's. Additional evenings will be needed to varnish the shoes at the Conservation Department shop near the former Abbe Center in the week following construction, and between the Holidays. For best results, a minimum of three to four of these evenings will be required to varnish the shoes properly.

Participants must pre-register and pay by Dec. 7, so we can order kits. The \$190 class fee includes the cost of a snowshoe kit, a binding set and varnish for each participant. To pre-register or for more details and options, call Chuck Ungs at 319-892-6485. Attendance at all three lacing sessions is highly recommended. Kit building typically requires the manual dexterity of someone high school age or older. Class size is limited to 15.



BOW Building Workshop

Over time, many types of building skills have been lost to modern manufacturing. A skill that is still used today, as it has been for generations, is bow building. If you have an interest in building your own bow built from one piece of wood, also known as a selfbow, with the help of an experienced instructor, this is your chance. The style of bow could also be called a longbow.

Gene Winter has been building bows for many years and will be sharing his skill with workshop participants on Saturday, August 29, and Sunday, August 30 from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The workshop will be held at Wickiup Hill Learning Center.

Workshop cost is \$220 per person which includes one stave. Additional staves may be purchased for an additional cost.

Pre-registration by August 26 is required, as class size is limited. For more information or to pre-register, contact Chuck at 892-6485.



BOMBS AWAY!

Saturday, November 21, 10-11:30am

Winter is here, the pollinators are hibernating and while you are all warm and cozy inside, how about getting ready for a blooming, colorful spring outside? Join naturalist Jenny to create seed bombs! Making seed bombs are cheaper than buying transplants, natural and organic, easy to make, pocket sized, and you can easily cover a large area in a very short time. Local native wildflower seeds will be used. What a great way to start a pollinator's heaven. Late fall is a great time to start wildflowers or give these as a holiday gift. Family fun for everyone! Please register 3 days before event. Cost: \$5 for 6 seed bombs. When registering please indicate how many "bombs" you would like to make.

DECEMBER

SNOWSHOE BUILDING CLASS

December 7 - sign up deadline, classes will be Dec. 10, 17, & 19, Thursdays plus a Saturday, 7:00-10:00 pm and 9 am-noon, Wickiup Hill

Snowshoe Building Classes are scheduled 7-10 p.m. each Thursday eve and Saturday from 9 to noon at Wickiup Hill.

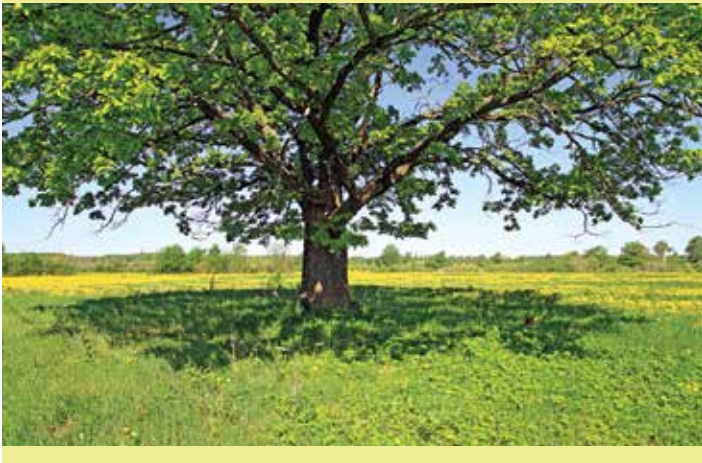
Build your own functional traditional snowshoes.

All Cedar Amateur Astronomers programs are held at The Eastern Iowa Observatory & Learning Center at Palisades-Dows Preserve.

September 12, 7:30pm
October 10, 8pm
October 17, 7:30pm
November 14, 7:30

www.cedar-astronomers.org

Operation Releaf



Operation ReLeaf is a program to help Alliant Energy customers save energy in their homes using trees to provide shade during the summer and increase windbreaks during the winter. This is a great opportunity for area residents to purchase trees that retail between \$65 and \$125 for only \$25 each. You are allowed to order up to two trees. For more information or to print an order form go to, LinnCountyParks.com Tree pick-up day is September 26 at Squaw Creek Park.



Our young campers at Squaw Creek will enjoy a new state of the art playground in the campgrounds. The inclusive play area extends to nearly 7,000 square feet with 50 grounded or elevated activities for those ages 2 to 12. We have added a walking path from the shower facility to the site, and also to some nearby sitting benches for those supervising our imaginative explorers. (The new playground is expected to be open in early August.)

BOARD & STAFF

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John Layton, Senior Account Clerk
Mandy Bieber, Clerical Specialist
Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach
Deanna Donovan, Senior Clerk Typist

Wickiup Hill Education
Jenny Corbett, Lead Naturalist
Chuck Unga, Naturalist
Gail Barels, Naturalist
Sarah Wendt, Naturalist

Services

John Scott, Operations Manager
Chuck Bogard, Heavy Equip. Operator
Mike Shoop, Heavy Equip. Operator
Mick Gunderson, Lead Carpenter
David Kephart, Carpenter
Bill Perrin, Operation Technician
Tom Blythe, Mechanic

North Cedar District

Steve Swenson, Resource Manager
Shaun Reilly, Assistant Resource Manager
Gary Novotny, Resource Technician
Dawn Zimpfer, Resource Technician
Jared Van Hamme, Resource Technician

South Cedar District

Jason Baumann, Resource Manager
Joe Reu, Assistant Resource Manager
Chris Burian, Resource Technician

Wapsipinicon District

Aaron Batchelder, Resource Manager
Steve Deaver, Assistant Resource Manager
Nathan Allen, Resource Technician
Josh Volz, Resource Technician
Noah Krob, Resource Technician

Natural Resources

Dana Kellogg, Natural Resource Specialist
Tony Nemmers, Resource Technician
Doug Kuehl, Resource Technician

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

WICKED WICKIUP FALL FEST

Saturday, October 10th 10-Noon
\$3 per child

FUN FOR ALL AGES, COME SEE WHAT TRICKS AND TREATS YOU FIND DOWN THE TRAIL!

Kick off the fall season and enjoy some family fun with our friendly trick or treat hike through the woods, pumpkin bowling, straw-scramble, crafts, free face painting, creepy critters and more! Costumes encouraged!



Wickiup Hill
10260 Morris Hills Road • Toddville 52341
linncountyparks.com • 319.892.6485