

# The W.R.E.N.

## Wapsi River Environmental News

### Spring 2007

Scott County Conservation Board's Environmental Education Newsletter

[www.scottcountyjowa.com/conservation/wapsi.php](http://www.scottcountyjowa.com/conservation/wapsi.php)

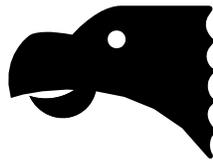
The Wapsi River Center is owned, managed and operated by the Scott County Conservation Board with programming and development assistance from the Clinton County Conservation Board.

## Wapsi Center Happenings

by Dave Murcia, Director

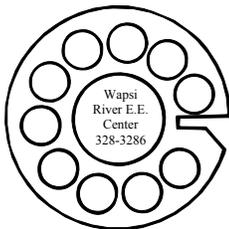
### Quad City Bald Eagle Days

The QCCA Expo Center held its annual Bald Eagle Days event on January 5-7 with record attendance. The attendance numbered 15,742 for the weekend and 1,707 on the Friday school program day that included 84 classrooms from 37 schools! This year's theme was "A Place for All Seasons". Visitors to the "hands-on" booth had a chance to see what happens during all four seasons including learning about snow flakes, a frog's life cycle, bird watching, identifying trees, "traveling seeds" and the ever popular stream table. *Thank you* to all our volunteers who assisted at the booth!



### School and Public Programs

From September-February of this school year, 2,344 students, teachers, and parents participated in 40 field trips at the Wapsi River Center. A total of 86 public presentations were attended by 1,624 participants. Thanks to the Iowa winter weather, cancellations did limit programs.



The Center takes an interdisciplinary approach to environmental education. The Center's staff can help plan your field trip to meet the state standards. There are days open in April, but May is filling up fast. If you are a teacher who wants to schedule a field trip or

take advantage of our dormitory and schedule an overnight field trip, give us a call at (563) 328-3286.

### Eco Center Hours Change

The Eagle View Eco Center and its interpretive displays will be open (free of charge) Saturdays



and Sundays from 1:00 - 5:00 P.M., April 1 - October 28.

### Winter Fun Day

This year's winter fun day on Saturday, February 17, was a great success and had record attendance (145 participants) for the day's activities. Although the frostbite star party was cancelled, due to weather, participants enjoyed the cross-country ski clinic conducted by Bob Bryant (previous Director), a snowshoe nature hike, a tour of the Eagle View Eco Center, a bald eagle program and observation and of course the supper hosted by the Friends of the Wapsi Center. We would like to thank the Friends group once again for the hearty and warm food and Clinton County Conservation for their use of the extra snowshoes (we had 58 shoeshoers alone!).



### Wapsi River Center Rental Facilities

Dormitory: The Owl's Nest Dormitory is divided into two large rooms, each capable of sleeping 26 people. Each section has its own shower and rest room facilities. Full dorm rental is \$300 per night. If you have a smaller group, you may rent sections of the dorm as needed. Partial rental options start at \$80. Kitchen and dining/meeting space are available in Redtail Lodge and the Eagle View Eco Center.

Meeting and Dining Facilities: Rustic Redtail Lodge (capacity: 50) has a kitchen, meeting/dining room with gas fireplace, and rest rooms. The Eagle View Eco Center has a kitchen, meeting room (capacity: dining, 70; meeting, 100) and rest rooms. Meeting room fees are \$50/day and kitchen fees are \$15/day. The \$15 kitchen fee is waived for groups renting any part of dorm and a meeting room.



Cabin: Kestrel Cabin has one bedroom with a queen-size bed, 2 twin-size cots, a combination kitchen and living

room with a full-size foldout couch, gas heat, air-conditioning and a bathroom with a shower. Rental fee: \$30/day.

## Scott County Conservation Board Seeks Candidates for AmeriCorps Program

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, has engaged more than 70,000 Americans in community service each year. Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with local and national organizations.



The Scott County Conservation Board (SCCB) is currently a participating member of the Eastern Iowa Conservation Alliance (EICA). The EICA has been awarded an AmeriCorps grant through the Corporation for National Service and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. A full-time enrollment period is September through August, and currently we are authorized for two AmeriCorps members with a possible third position to be awarded to the SCCB.

Full-time AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, health insurance, student loan deferment, and receive a \$4,725 education award, upon completion of 1700 hours, to help finance or to pay back student loans. Half-time positions (900 hrs.) receive a modest living allowance, student loan deferment, and receive a \$2,363 education award. The half-time position hourly rate may be adjusted, based upon education and experience.

SCCB AmeriCorps members serve as naturalists at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and assist with the educational programming and maintenance of the Center, and potentially at the other parks. They have played an instrumental role in the Center's increased educational programming and attendance.

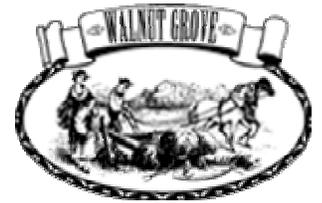
The AmeriCorps program is a great way for college graduates to get a start in the field as well as gain valuable experience. If you would like to get more information on applying for the positions, contact Dave Murcia, Wapsi River Center Director, at (563) 328-3286. To learn more about the AmeriCorps program visit [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org).

## Invasive Species Cleared

Over 10 acres of autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) were cut in February thanks to maintenance staff from Scott County Park. Operators cut shrubs and trees north of the main power lines from the main trail to the observatory and around the amphitheater. This introduced species tolerates low nitrogen levels in the soil and produces many seeds to out compete native plants. Management of the area will be needed and may include mowing, hand cutting, chemical treatments and fire – so volunteers be ready!

## Former SCCB Director Dan Nagle Leaves His Path in Scott County

Dan Nagle, 70, of Long Grove, IA, passed away on Friday, March 2, and was buried at St. Anne's Cemetery in Long Grove, IA. In serving the SCCB for 30 years, Nagle set the course for thousands of visitors to enjoy the many Scott County sites within the park system including historical as well as natural recreation sites. The Walnut Grove Pioneer Village now bears his name in recognition of his dedication and commitment to conservation since his retirement in 1988. His love of nature helped in acquiring many facilities and lands including the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center. Dan Nagle will be remembered.



## Hours set for S.C.P. Pool & W.L.P. Beach/Concessions

### Scott County Park Pool

Open: Memorial Day Weekend

Re-open: Early June - Late August

Weekdays: Noon - 8:00 P.M.

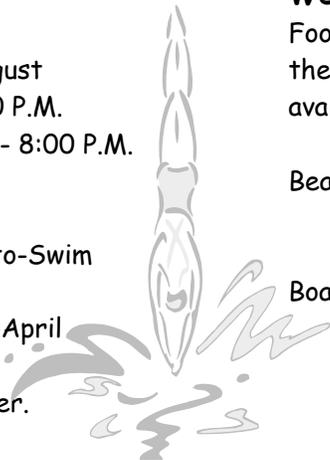
Weekends: 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Open: Labor Day Weekend

### Scott County Park Pool Learn-to-Swim Program

Registration: Will start in mid-April and continue after pool opens.

Call (563) 328-3282, to register.



### West Lake Park Beach & Concessions

Food and beverages will be available at the beach and the boathouse. A variety of aquatic equipment is available for rent. Bait is also available.

Beach & Concession:

Open: Memorial Day - Labor Day

11:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

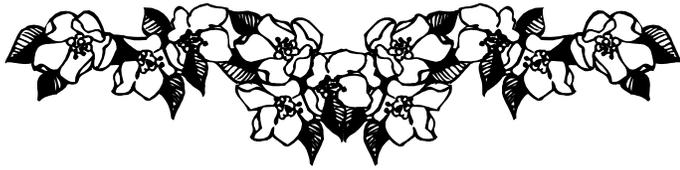
Boathouse & Concession:

May 1 (weather permitting) - Memorial Day:

Weekends: 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

After Memorial Day: Weekdays

& Weekends: 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.



# IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT OF THE WAPSI RIVER CENTER

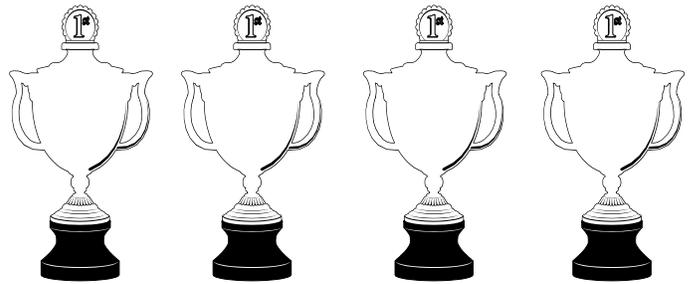
## Kids' Column - Blooming Word Find

Below is a list of 22 spring woodland wildflowers. Grab a pencil, the family and try your hand at finding these beautiful blooming signs of spring.

S O C P J A C O B S L A D D E R V  
 P L G R E E N D R A G O N R G U I  
 R B L U E C O H O S H S K L E E R  
 I V X Y W I L D G I N G E R P A G  
 N W A B S Q U I R R E L C O R N I  
 G I G L S W E E T C I C E L Y E N  
 B L F O P K E W E M B J C M D M I  
 E D H O R I U E O K A P L O N O A  
 A G T D I T S N T O R Y H Q J N B  
 U E O R N V U A K W D G A I K E L  
 T R O O G Z B W D C I S L P M O U  
 Y A T O C Y X C E F A L O N P P E  
 T N H T R I L L I U M B L R Q L B  
 V I W B E L L W O R T S B I R R E  
 U U O W S H E P A T I C A A A E L  
 X M R Y S B U T T E R C U P G M L  
 D U T C H M A N S B R E E C H E S

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Bellwort            | 12. Spring Beauty      |
| 2. Bloodroot           | 13. Spring Cress       |
| 3. Blue Cohosh         | 14. Squirrel Corn      |
| 4. Buttercup           | 15. Sweet Cicely       |
| 5. Dutchman's Breeches | 16. Sweet Williams     |
| 6. Green Dragon        | 17. Toothwort          |
| 7. Hepatica            | 18. Trillium           |
| 8. Jacob's Ladder      | 19. Virginia Bluebells |
| 9. Mayapple            | 20. Wild Geranium      |
| 10. Rue Anemone        | 21. Wild Ginger        |
| 11. Skunk Cabbage      | 22. Wood Sorrel        |

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Jim Varcho         | Connie Huber   |
| Jane Ann Varcho    | Dave Huber     |
| Bill Collett       | Bill Robbins   |
| K.J. Rebarcak      | Lucia Dryanski |
| Cecilia Braum      | Mary Rourke    |
| Pete Tofilon       | Karen Bietzel  |
| Mary Tofilon       | Shelli Tague   |
| Ingrid Bogdanowicz | Gloria Mullin  |
| Carl Gerwulf       | Erma Wiszmann  |
| George Bentrott    | Carol Rogers   |
| Helen Bentrott     | Warren Wiese   |

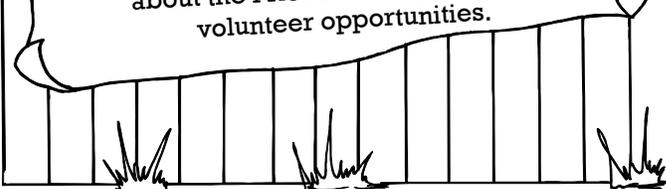


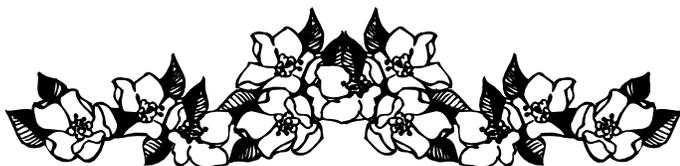


**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**April 14, 2007 ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon**

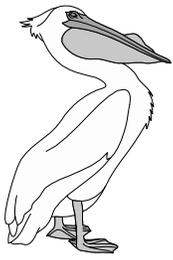
In cooperation with the *Great American Cleanup of Keep America Beautiful 2007*, the Wapsi Center will host a spring workday in support of *Keep Scott County Beautiful*. The workday will focus on habitat clean-up and erosion control improvements. All skill levels are welcome, so bring the whole family and invite a friend to enjoy the day!

In appreciation of your hard work, lunch will be provided courtesy of the Friends of the Wapsi Center. To volunteer, call (563) 328-3286. Plan to stay around after lunch and learn about the Friends Group and other volunteer opportunities.





# April



**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Quad Cities Pelican Watch ~ 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. ~ Day Use Area, Lock and Dam 14** ~ The Mississippi River Project of the US Army Corps of Engineers with the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau are sponsoring the watch. The Pelican Watch site is located just off highway 67 between Bettendorf and the I-80 bridge. Corps of Engineers Park Rangers and interested

volunteers will be present to answer questions and assist Pelican Watchers with spotting scopes.

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ Season Opener ~ 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. ~ Buffalo Bill Cody Homestead** ~ Today is the season opener for the Cody Homestead. The homestead is open 7 days a week from 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Admission fee is \$2.00 for adults and free to those 16 years old and younger. The homestead, 28050 230<sup>th</sup> Ave., is located west of Princeton, IA, off County Road F33.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Nighttime Prairie Burn ~ 7:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~ (April 4 is rain/wind date)** ~ Pyro-botanist Andy Friederichsen will light up the night sky during this educational program. Fire is a natural part of a prairie's life cycle. Along with a spectacular show, Andy will explain the how, why and when of prairie burns. Please call (563) 847-7202 for more information.



**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Nahant Marsh Workday ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Nahant Marsh** ~ Join the volunteer effort to beautify Nahant Marsh. Participants are asked to bring work gloves, old clothes and to wear sturdy shoes or boots. Nahant Marsh is located off Interstate 280, following Hwy. 22 to Wapello Ave. (toward Davenport), and then turning left before the railroad tracks. Contact person for Nahant Marsh is Sheri Coleman (309) 786-8504.

**7<sup>th</sup> ~ Kite Flying 101 ~ 10:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ "Up, up and away!" Nothing can make your spirits soar like building and flying your very own kite. Using sticks, string, paper and glue, create a traditional diamond bow kite. After construction, participants will launch their creations on a test flight. Interested participants are asked to pre-register by April 5, (563) 328-3286. Supply cost is \$2.00 per kite.



**7<sup>th</sup> ~ Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park** ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky. If cloudy or raining, there will be slide shows and talks in the observatory.

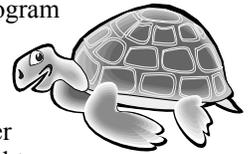
**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Woodcock Watch ~ 7:30 P.M. ~ Sherman Park** ~ Come watch the dynamic display of the American woodcock at Sherman Park's north



# SPRING

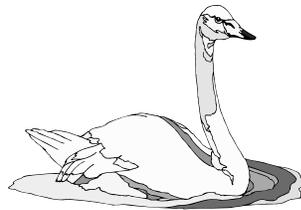
entrance. This is our 22<sup>nd</sup> year watching the woodcocks' courtship "Skydance", and they have always treated us to a good show.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ KinderNature: Reptiles! ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ DeWitt Community Center** ~ This program, for three- to five-year-olds, will have live reptiles from Iowa to help you learn about reptiles from all over the world. The program will also include an egg hunt, song, and snack to create a fun learning experience. Please join me and the critters at the DeWitt Community Center located at 512 10th St. in DeWitt, IA right across from the library. Please register at the Clinton County Conservation office by calling (563) 847-7202. Deadline for registering is April 6. Any further questions, please call Jessica Steines at the conservation office.



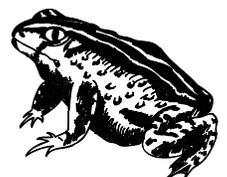
**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Float Goose Lake ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Goose Lake Wildlife Area** ~ Really get into the marsh with a canoe for great birding and a sunset on the water. The frogs should also be giving quite a chorus. Call (563) 847-7202 to reserve your canoe.

**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Trumpeter Swan Release ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Ben Martinsen Wildlife Area** ~ The Clinton County Conservation Board, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is releasing trumpeter swans. These swans are part of the wild release program that is bringing the trumpeter back to Iowa after 120 years. This will likely be the last release ever in Clinton County. These swans were hatched in Iowa in spring of last year. Ben Martinsen Wildlife Area is located 1/2 mile south of Folletts, IA on US Highway 67.



**14<sup>th</sup> ~ Volunteer Stewardship Workday ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ In cooperation with the *Great American Cleanup of Keep America Beautiful 2007*, the Wapsi River Center will host a spring workday in support of *Keep Scott County Beautiful*. The workday will focus on habitat clean-up and erosion control improvements. All skill levels are welcome, so bring the whole family and invite a friend to enjoy the day! In appreciation of your hard work, lunch will be provided courtesy of the Friends of the Wapsi Center. To volunteer, call (563) 328-3286. Plan to stay around after lunch and learn about the Friends Group and other volunteer opportunities.

**14<sup>th</sup> ~ Nahant Marsh Frog & Toad Survey ~ Dusk ~ Nahant Marsh** ~ Nahant Marsh is the location for this musical



# EVENTS

performance. Participants will be helping with the frog and toad survey that is being used to determine the population inventory of Nahant Marsh. Participants are asked to bring a small flashlight and be sure to dress for the weather. Nahant Marsh is located off Interstate 280, following Hwy. 22 to Wapello Ave. (toward Davenport), and then turning left before the railroad tracks. Other survey dates: April 28, May 12 & 26, June 9 & 23 and July 7. For more details call Sheri Coleman (309) 786-8504.

**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Nighttime Prairie Burn ~ 7:30 P.M. ~ Soaring Eagle ~ (April 18 is rain/wind date) ~** Pyro-botanist Andy Friederichsen will light up the night sky during this educational program. Fire is a natural part of a prairie's life cycle. Along with a spectacular show, Andy will explain the how, why and when of prairie burns. Soaring Eagle Nature Center is located on the north end of Clinton, on the south edge of Eagle Point Park. Please call (563) 847-7202 for more information.



**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Spelunking ~ 6:30 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~** Take a wild cave tour at Werden's Cave with the Clinton County naturalists. Meet at Eden Valley Nature Center; pre-registration is required, (563) 847-7202.



**17<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Hunter Education Course ~ 6:30 - 9:00 P.M. (Tue.) & 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. (Sat.) ~ Arrowhead Hunting Club, Goose Lake ~** Call Loren Zaruba at (563) 659-5383 for required sign-up. Our Enhanced Hunter's Safety Camp is scheduled for August 17 - 19 at the Wapsi River Center.

**21<sup>st</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Earth Week ~** Find your personal way to show the earth you care and celebrate the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Week. Go to [www.QCEarthweek.org](http://www.QCEarthweek.org) for a listing of local events. Ideas for celebrating Earth Week can also be found at the National Wildlife Federation's website: [www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek](http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek). Earth Day is April 22.

**21<sup>st</sup> ~ Earth Day Expo ~ 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. ~ QCCA Expo Center ~** The Quad Cities Earth Week Coalition is hosting its fourth annual Earth Week Fair at the QCCA Expo Center in Rock Island, IL. This event is free to the public and will feature over 60 booths offering hands-on activities, demonstrations, make and take crafts, literature, videos, quizzes and other interactive projects. A "Recycled Fashion Show" from Santa Fe, NM will take place from 1:00 - 2:00 P.M. Saturday's Fair also offers special



activities for helping both Boy and Girl Scouts earn environmental badges. Scouts can also participate in the Recycled Fashion Show! For more information, contact Erin Robinson, QC Earth Week Co-Chair at (563) 386-9575.

**21<sup>st</sup> ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Opener ~ 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge ~** The Nature Center will be open from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. on Saturdays, now through October. A



wildflower hike will be held at 1:30 P.M. to explore the spring colors of the woods. As always, we are looking for volunteers to open the Nature Center on Saturdays. No experience is necessary. Call the Clinton County Conservation office at (563) 847-7202 for information.

**21<sup>st</sup> ~ Earth Day Celebration ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum ~** The arboretum (340 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St. ~ Clinton, IA) will host outdoor programs and activities for the whole family. Call (563) 242-4771 for more information.

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Arbor Day ~** Planting a tree shows faith in the future! It's also a great way to commemorate a birth, death, anniversary or other special event.



**28<sup>th</sup> ~ Moonlight Frog Chorus ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center ~** Experience the sounds of the season, in search of the frogs and toads which inhabit the Wapsi River Center. Please bring a flashlight and waterproof footwear.

## May

**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Nahant Marsh Cleanup ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Nahant Marsh and surrounding areas ~** Join the volunteer effort to beautify Nahant Marsh. Participants are asked to bring work gloves, old clothes and to wear sturdy shoes or boots.



Participants are asked to meet at the picnic tables in front of the Nahant Marsh Educational Center. Come with lots of energy and be prepared to spruce up this natural area. This spring, a few volunteers will also work along the planned extended trail picking up debris from past floods. Nahant Marsh is located off Interstate 280, following Hwy. 22 to Wapello Ave.

(toward Davenport), and then turning left before the railroad tracks. Contact person for Nahant Marsh is Sheri Coleman (309) 786-8504.

**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Horseshoe Tournament ~ 11:30 A.M. - Noon: Sign-up ~ Wapsi River Center ~** Entry fee is \$5.00, will draw for partners, double elimination. Payback toward 3 places includes trophies (4-team min.). Participants must be at least 18 years old to play. B.Y.O. snacks and drinks. Contact Renae at the Wapsi River Center regarding any questions at (563) 328-3286 or (309) 631-3334.



**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Monsignor Menke Open House ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory, for a tour of the spring sky. Please call (563) 333-6141 on the day of the event to find out if the weather conditions will permit viewing.

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Wildflower Pressing ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Decorating with pressed leaves and flowers is a fun and inexpensive way to bring the beauty of the outdoors into your home. Join naturalist Jessica Steines for a hike to collect some spring woodland wildflowers to put into your very own plant press. Then come inside to learn some simple and attractive craft ideas. Participants are asked to pre-register by calling the Clinton County Conservation office at (563) 847-7202. Materials fee - \$3.

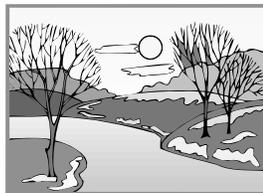


**12<sup>th</sup> ~ The Night Shift ~ 7:30 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ The Wapsi Center is home to Iowa's three most-common owls – the great horned, screech and barred owls. Learn more about Mother Nature's night shift with us as we call the raptors. Participants should bring a small flashlight.

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> ~ River Cities Rumble ~ 7:00 A.M. Registration/ Players Meeting at 8:15 A.M. ~ West Lake Park** ~ Attention all disc golfers! Join members of the Quad City Disc Golf Club for a PDGA B-Tier Disc Golf Tournament at West Lake Park. The tournament will feature 2 rounds of 24 holes with \$2,000 minimum added cash. Register online at [www.qcdiscgolf.com](http://www.qcdiscgolf.com) or for more information; call Chad Eng at (309) 786-0926.

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Manikowski Wildflower Hike ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Manikowski Prairie** ~ The beautiful pale pink, purple and white hues of the shooting stars are in abundance during this time of the year. This shortgrass, limestone prairie provides an excellent opportunity to explore part of Iowa's heritage. Manikowski Prairie can be found by turning north from Highway 136 at Goose Lake onto A34 and proceeding north 1 mile, then taking 137<sup>th</sup> St. (gravel) ¼ mile east.

**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Wapsipinicon Watershed Sampling ~ 8:00 A.M. ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Join area environmentalists and volunteers to sample the Wapsipinicon river watershed for to survey the region's water quality. Field kits will be used at the stream to measure pH, nitrate/nitrate, chloride, dissolved oxygen, phosphate, water temperature and transparency. Please call Katie Forman at (319) 335-1571 if you are interested in participating.



**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Mississippi Blufflands Float ~ 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. ~ Bulgers Hollow Recreation Area** ~ Meet at Bulgers Hollow Recreation Area off US 67 North of Clinton, IA. Shuttle to South Lake Park in Sabula, IA to put in. Float the Mississippi backwaters past towering bluffs, islands and wildlife. We'll do some pollywogging and water sampling along the way and

explore the mouth of Elk River. Upon our return to Bulgers Hollow you may stay if you like for a cook fire, stories and music after the float. You may bring your own equipment or use our county canoes, paddles and PFD's. Regardless, you must register for the event by calling (563) 847-7202 by May 18.

**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Night Hike ~ 8:30 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ Ranger Chip Brown will lead participants on an after-dark tour of the refuge's murkiest corners. Meet at the Eden Valley Nature Center and bring a small flashlight.



**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Public Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park** ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky. If weather conditions do not permit viewing the star party will be cancelled.

**26<sup>th</sup> ~ Rock Creek Marina Spring Celebration ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ To celebrate a new season at the Rock Creek, a variety of activities will be taking place. There will be free canoeing for campers and park visitors. The camp store will have 25-cent hot dogs and chips available during the day and a fish boil that evening. Free family movies will be shown at dusk.



**27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Heritage Days ~ 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of yesteryear! The past will come to life at the Village as interpreters and actors recreate pioneer life. There will be pioneer craft demonstrations, folk music and a gun show performed by the Wapsi Wranglers. Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village is located on the north side of Scott County Park. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children.

**31<sup>st</sup> ~ Blue Heron Eco Cruises ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Every Thursday evening through October, Clinton County Conservation will be offering naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat on the Mississippi River out of Rock Creek Marina. Call (563) 259-1876 to reserve a spot. Cost is \$6/adult, \$4/children under 16 and free for children under 5.



## June

**1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Free Fishing Days** ~ Let's go fishing! During these three days, Iowa residents may fish and possess fish without a fishing license.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Fishing Clinic ~ 8:00 A.M. - Noon ~ West Lake Park, Gate #1 - Rolling Hills Shelter** ~ Kids, kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and an adult chaperone are invited to attend this event. Registration will begin at 8:00 A.M. at the Rolling Hills shelter. The individuals will spend the morning traveling to five different stations



learning about fish identification, casting, fish cleaning and tasting, laws and ethics and equipment. There is no charge for this family event!

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Nahant Marsh Workday ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Nahant Marsh** ~ Join the volunteer effort to beautify Nahant Marsh. Participants are asked to bring work gloves, old clothes and to wear sturdy shoes or boots. Contact person for Nahant Marsh is Sheri Coleman (309) 786-8504.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ And They're Off! ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Bring your turtles to sign up at the park store porch for an exciting morning of racing! Refreshments will be available, along with placement prizes. Admission is \$1. If you have any questions please call the Clinton County Conservation office at (563) 847-7202; ask for Jessica.



**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Good times aboard this ½-hour, ranger-guided hayride around the park. Continuous rides offered till dusk.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Saturday Night at the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ The Nature Center at Eden Valley is showing family movies on the big screen for campers and park visitors. Free popcorn!

**4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Young Pioneers Day Camp ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village ~ Laura Ingalls Wilder Week** ~ will kick off eight, one-week day camps hosted by the Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village. Learn what life was like for Laura Ingalls. Experience how she lived by spending time in an 1830's cabin and a one-room schoolhouse. Enjoy making crafts, visit a farm and much more. We have two weeks available due to popularity (July 16 - 20/Session B). Contact Jo Noon at (563) 328-3283 for registration information.



**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Free Canoeing ~ All Day ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Rock Creek's 10 canoes will be available to use free of charge all day in the Mississippi Backwaters surrounding the park.

**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Pool 13 Canoe Float ~ 1:00 - 6:00 P.M. ~ Clinton's Riverfront Park** ~ Meet at Clinton's 9th Ave N Boat Ramp on the north end of the park. Shuttle to Bulgers Hollow Recreation Area to put in. Explore the clear backwaters, view wildlife, lock through or portage over the spillway at Lock and Dam



#13 and explore Willow Island. For more fun, drive to Bulgers Hollow afterwards for a cook fire, stories and music. You may bring your own equipment or use our county canoes, paddles and PFD's. Regardless, you must register for the event by calling (563) 847-7202 by June 8.

**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ Good times aboard this ½-hour, ranger-guided hayrack ride to McAndrews Wildlife Area. Continuous rides offered till dusk. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Public Star Party ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park** ~ Join the Quad Cities Astronomical Society at Sherman Park's north end to explore the night sky. If weather conditions do not permit viewing the star party will be cancelled.



**11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Young Pioneers Day Camp: Ecology Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ Learn about the land, water and wildlife. An exploratory visit to the Maquoketa Caves will be included. Activities will include nature crafts, plant and wildlife identification, recycling and our role with nature. This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Contact Jo Noon at (563) 328-3283 for more information.



**12<sup>th</sup> ~ Arts at the Arb. ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum** ~ The arboretum (340 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St. ~ Clinton, IA) invites you to bring a lawn chair and enjoy an outdoor performance by the Clinton Symphony. Call (563) 242-4771 for more information.

**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Quad Cities Triathlon ~ 7:00 A.M. ~ West Lake Park, Gate #1 - Beach Parking Lot** ~ Participants begin the day by swimming Lake of the Hills, then bike a 15-mile trek and return to West Lake Park to finish with a run. Pre-registration is required. Register online at [www.qctriathlon.com](http://www.qctriathlon.com) or contact either Eric Sarno at (608) 848-7441 or (608) 209-1054, or Kirby Winn (Director of Public Relations at Augustana College) at (309) 794-7473.



**16<sup>th</sup> ~ And They're Off! ~ 10:00 A.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ Bring your turtles to sign up at the nature center for an exciting morning of racing! Refreshments will be available, along with placement prizes. Admission is \$1. If you have any questions please call the Clinton County Conservation office at (563) 847-7202; ask for Jessica.

**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Monsignor Menke Open House ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi River Center** ~ Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory, for a tour of the spring sky. Please call (563) 333-6141 on the day of the event to find out if the weather conditions will permit viewing.



**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday Night at the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Family movies will be shown. Popcorn is free!

**18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> ~ EDIWILD 2007 ~ Educators in the Wild Workshop** ~ See special section for more details.



**18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Young Pioneers Day Camp: Wild West Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ Spend a week doing what the cowboys and cowgirls did. We will visit the buffalo at Cody Homestead and tour the Buffalo Bill Museum in LeClaire, IA. Welcome a visit from D&J's petting zoo and take a pony ride. Enjoy many fun crafts, games, plus much more. This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Contact Jo Noon at (563) 328-3283 for registration information.



**25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Young Pioneers Day Camp: Nature Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ This is one week where you can actually camp out under the stars for one night! Enjoy lots of nature crafts, hikes; learn about deer from the Park Ranger. Plus take a trip to the Wapsi Environmental Education Center. This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Contact Jo Noon at (563) 328-3283 for more information.

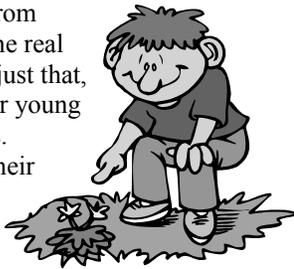
**21<sup>st</sup> ~ Summer Solstice ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum** ~ The arboretum (340 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St. ~ Clinton, IA) invite you to welcome summer with them! Call (563) 242-4771 for more information.



**23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 5:00 P.M. ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Good times aboard this ½-hour, ranger-guided hayride around the park. Continuous rides offered till dusk.

**23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Saturday Night at the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ The Nature Center at Eden Valley is showing family movies on the big screen for campers and park visitors. Free popcorn!

**25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Summer Day Camps ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground/Malone Park** ~ These are new programs being offered in Clinton County as part of our "Rewilding Iowa" efforts. Through a series of camps we hope to bring children back to the wild spaces and away from activities that separate them from the real world they live in. Day Camps are just that, we will entertain and enlighten your young children for a matter of a few hours. Activities will vary depending on their age. K - 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be familiarized with the living world through hikes, boating, collecting and other fun activities. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders will pitch camp as if they were spending the night, enjoy fishing, hiking, photography, wildlife viewing and identification, boating and at the end of the day strike camp before heading home. Events will be offered according to the following schedule:



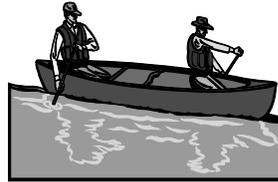
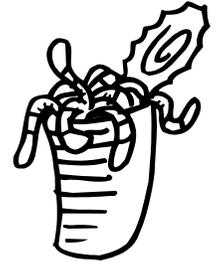
**Children Entering Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
June 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Rock Creek ~ 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.  
June 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Malone Park ~ 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

**Children Entering Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>**  
June 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Rock Creek ~ 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
June 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Malone Park ~ 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.



Later in the summer we will be hosting "Overnight Camps" for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades and a "3-Day Camp" for 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Call the Clinton County Conservation office at (563) 847-7202 to register.

**28<sup>th</sup> ~ Kids' Fishing Tournament ~ 5:30 - 8:30 P.M. ~ Malone Park** ~ Kids, ages twelve and under, are invited to test their angling skills. Sunfish are thick in the 10-acre lake, with bass, bullheads and catfish in good numbers. Plaques will be awarded for the greatest weight of fish in two age groups, ages 10-12 and ages 9 and under. There will also be door prizes. Registration starts at 5:30 P.M., with fishing from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M.; weigh-in and casting contest will follow.



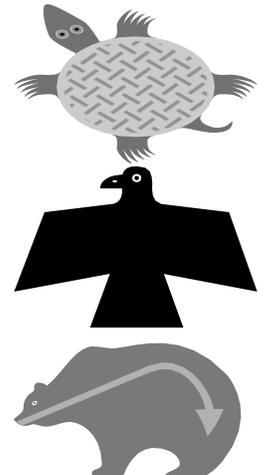
**30<sup>th</sup> ~ Free Canoeing ~ All Day ~ Rock Creek Marina & Campground** ~ Rock Creek's 10 canoes will be available to use free of charge all day in the Mississippi Backwaters surrounding the park.

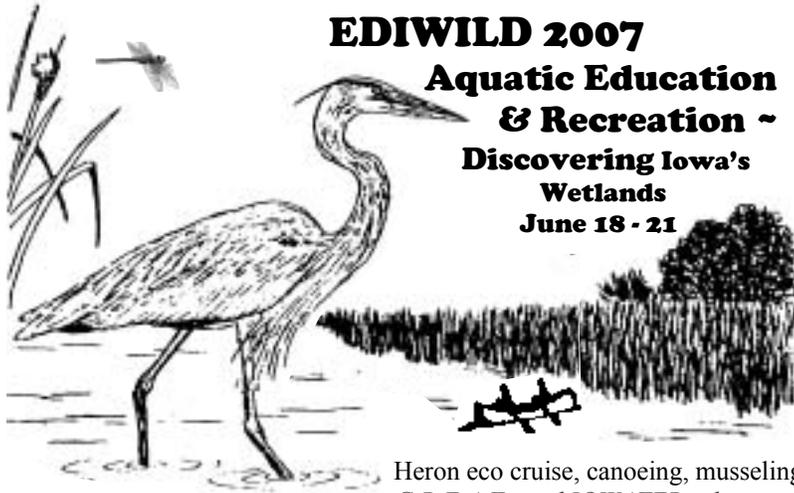
**30<sup>th</sup> ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ Eden Valley Refuge** ~ Good times aboard this ½-hour, ranger-guided hayrack ride to McAndrews Wildlife Area. Continuous rides offered till dusk. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## July

**7<sup>th</sup> ~ Nahant Marsh Workday ~ 9:00 A.M. - Noon ~ Nahant Marsh** ~ Join the volunteer effort to beautify Nahant Marsh. Participants are asked to bring work gloves, old clothes and to wear sturdy shoes or boots. Nahant Marsh is located off Interstate 280, following Hwy. 22 to Wapello Ave. (toward Davenport), and then turning left before the railroad tracks. Contact person for Nahant Marsh is Sheri Coleman (309) 786-8504.

**9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Young Pioneers Day Camp: Native American Week ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Daily ~ Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village** ~ Visit the Hauberg Indian Museum, discover Indian sign language, make an Apache scroll and dreamcatcher, plus many other crafts. Also take a canoe ride at West Lake Park (life jackets provided)! This day camp is geared for children 6-11 years of age. Contact Jo Noon at (563) 328-3283 for registration information.





**EDIWILD 2007**  
**Aquatic Education**  
**& Recreation ~**  
**Discovering Iowa's**  
**Wetlands**  
**June 18 - 21**

Heron eco cruise, canoeing, musseling, pond study and curriculum training in *Fish Iowa*, *G.R.E.A.T.*, and *IOWATER*; plus much more.

EDIWILD (Educators in the Wild) is a 4-day teachers' workshop (including evening activities) to facilitate the incorporation of environmental education into the school curriculum. The workshop will use an interdisciplinary approach of teaching and will emphasize environmental issues.

**Workshop Sites:** Nahant Marsh Educational Field Station, Rock Creek Marina & Campground, Hurstville Interpretive Center and the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center.

**Activities and Topics include:** history of Iowa's wetlands, endangered & invasive wetland species, outdoor shooting sports, wetland flora & fauna, Blue

**Overnight Accommodations** will be available at the Wapsi Center's Owl's Nest Dormitory. Participants are encouraged to stay overnight on Wednesday; however, participants need not stay Monday or Tuesday night.

**Continuing Education Credit** through Drake University and relicensure credit through the AEA 9 will be available for those interested.

**Cost** for the workshop will be \$65. This does not include continuing education credit or relicensure credit.

If you are interested, please contact the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center at (563) 328-3286. We will send you an EDIWILD brochure, which will include a registration form, daily activities, and other workshop details.

**“A Place for All Seasons” Photo Contest ~ Calling All Shutterbugs!!!**

To celebrate the beauty of our local wild places, the Wapsi River Center will be holding a photo contest. We are looking to create a 2008 calendar featuring current photos taken at Scott or Clinton County conservation/recreation areas. Three photos will be selected by volunteer judges to represent each season of the calendar year.

Concluding the contest, those participants whose photos have been selected will receive a complimentary calendar. One photo will be selected for the cover of the calendar. This winner, in addition to the calendar, will receive a free two-night stay at the rustic Kestrel Cabin located at the Wapsi River Center.

**Contest Requirements:**

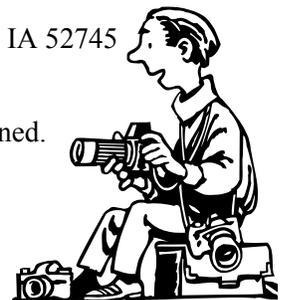
1. Photos must be from the current season and taken from either Scott or Clinton County conservation areas.
  2. A brief description, date taken and name of conservation area must be submitted along with an 8 by 10 color photo. Submitted prints will be used for judging purposes.
  3. Save the negative or electronic (JPEG) file of your submitted photo. Providing your photo is selected, these will be needed to complete the calendar. **Please note:** for printing purposes, photos may be edited by our staff.
  4. Please include your name, address and contact number.
- Send photos to: Wapsi River Center ~ Attn: Photo Contest ~ 31555 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. ~ Dixon, IA 52745

**Contest Rules:**

1. All photos entered will become the property of the Wapsi River Center and not be returned.
2. Each contestant is allowed to submit up to 4 photos.
3. Judges will not select more than 2 photos from any contestant.
4. **Contest ends October 31, 2007.** Photos may be submitted anytime before this date.

All calendar proceeds go toward the *Friends of the Wapsi Center*. The *Friends* are a citizens' support group who provide assistance to the Wapsi River E. E. Center in the form of volunteers for programs, technical assistance, curriculum planning, financial support and guidance in fulfilling the Center's goals.

For questions, call the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center at (563) 328-3286.



## Wildlife Profile ~ Am. Woodcock

by Renae Hanson, AmeriCorps Naturalist

In Iowa, the American woodcock, also known as the timber-doodle, begins arriving mid-March through early April. Its scientific name, *Scolopax minor*, translates “little lover of the swamps or bogs”. Although a member of the shorebird family, the American woodcock has adapted quite well and shows preference toward uplands rather than marshes. Its upland habitat must have rich soil with brushy understory for roosting and cover. It prefers to nest and roost near pastures or abandoned farmland.

Having never seen an American woodcock, ones first encounter may spark a phrase such as “what on earth was that?” The American woodcock is a small bird, with brown camouflage coloration that blends perfectly into the ground litter on the forest floor. Its body is plump and its legs are short but what is uncommon is its head. It has an excessively long beak and large bulging dark eyes that sit back on its head farther than other birds. These are all characteristics that seem unusual for a bird that inhabits an upland forest, yet all have purpose for this bird.



photo printed with permission and courtesy of Jean Iron

The American woodcock’s short legs allow it to take cover under dense brush. The length of its beak is almost 3 inches! Its beak is stern yet flexible, allowing the bird to probe into the rich moist soil while still being able to extract earthworms and other invertebrates. Earthworms make up 90% of the woodcocks diet. The large, bulging dark eyes set far back on the head allow the bird to see in all directions, including behind it.

A sure sign of spring is when the American robin begins arriving and the woodpeckers begin tapping into maple trees. Now is that time – let the courtship begin! Beginning in March, most migratory birds are heading back to their old nesting grounds to start a new family. Some will return and have the same mate they’ve had for years and others will return to select a new mate. Generally, it’s the male who really has to prove to the female that he is worthy, possibly by: strutting his display of bright colors, a serenade, rumbling with another male or even a beautiful dance may attract her to him. Whichever courting ritual the male displays, it will be dramatic and intense at that.

The male American woodcock begins courting by performing a ritual sky dance that starts in the early evening as light begins to fade into dark. First, on the ground in an open or abandoned field, close to the forest or dense shrub where female nesting habitat is likely, he starts with approximately 5 minutes of nasal “peents” that repeats in 20-second intervals. He then begins his sky dance by swirling upward into the sky, similar to an upside down tornado. Close to the ground each loop around is wide and begins to narrow as he reaches a desired height of 100-500 feet. During the ascent, the wings make a twittering sound as they beat. Once reaching the desired height, he suddenly descends as if injured. Although seeming reckless, it is very well planned. During the descent, he emits a series of chirps until reaching the ground in the exact place in which he began. From beginning to end the sky dance lasts around 60 seconds, only to start all over on the ground and beginning again with the nasal “peents”. The American woodcock continues the ritual for nearly an hour, and then rests until early morning where he begins the same ritual all over lasting another hour. The male will perform the sky dance every day until a female selects him as her mate; however, the male American woodcock is not monogamous, and may pass on his genes with more than one female.

The male American woodcock will begin courting soon after migration during late March into early April. If you would like to witness the American woodcock’s dynamic sky dance, come join others at Sherman Park, located in Clinton County on April 9 at 7:30 P.M. See calendar for more information.

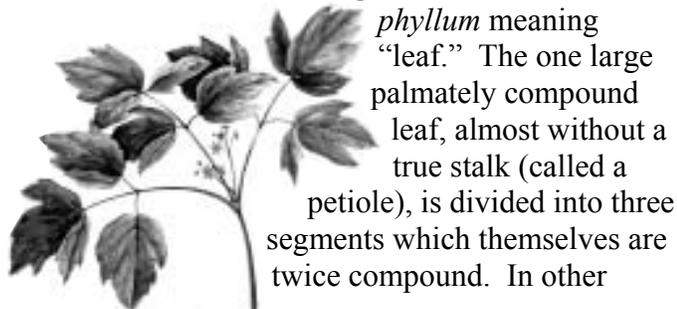
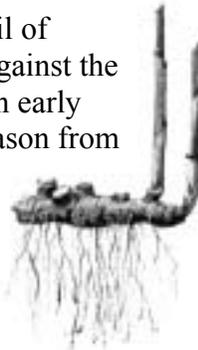
## Plant Profile ~ Blue Cohosh

by Paula Mullin, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Some may agree with Aldo Leopold that, “One skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring.” Others might wait for the Vernal Equinox to affirm its beginning. Either way, it is finally spring! The exuberance of new growth, or rather rebirth, and warming temperatures make spring a fabulous time to be outdoors. Woodland trails are among the many great places to celebrate the changing season, as several wildflowers start blooming in March and early April. As you hike, keep your eyes out for a smooth, bluish stem with a large, single unfolding leaf toward the top. It may be the distinctive early growth of blue cohosh, *Caulophyllum thalictroides*, a native perennial.

Blue cohosh grows in moist, rich soil of woodlands and initially stands out against the relative bareness of the understory in early spring. One aerial stem rises per season from a perennial rootstock (also called a rhizome) that grows horizontally underground. Since only one shoot is produced per season, the age of the plant can be determined by counting the scars on the rhizome left by previous growth. The rhizome of blue cohosh is matted, knotty and quite thick. The name “cohosh” actually comes from an Algonquian word meaning, “rough” which references the feel of the rhizome when handled. Therefore, the name blue cohosh describes the bluish stem and rhizome of the plant in a clever fashion.

Scientific names can be descriptive of appearance as well. For example, *Caulophyllum* comes from the Greek word *kaulos* meaning “stem” and from *phyllum* meaning “leaf.” The one large palmately compound leaf, almost without a true stalk (called a petiole), is divided into three segments which themselves are twice compound. In other



words, what looks like nine separate leaflets is actually the one leaf. The leaf of blue cohosh may become two feet or more across, with the plant growing to three feet tall. Before the leaf reaches its full size; however, the flowers typically appear.

Blue cohosh blooms in April and May but the tiny flowers, less than a half-inch across, do not draw great attention to the plant. Each flower within the inflorescence (cluster of flowers) has six petals and sepals. The petals are green to yellow-green and are opposite green sepals. Having an equal number of petals and sepals, opposite each other, is characteristic of species in the barberry family (*Berberidaceae*), with the exception of Mayapple. The fruit of blue cohosh contain two seeds with a protective fleshy covering. They resemble blueberries upon ripening in late summer and help the plant stand out against other woodland flora. While they may look good, fruits of the plant are poisonous to humans. The plant itself may be an irritant to the skin. Nonetheless, blue cohosh has a long history of medicinal use.



Native Americans used blue cohosh to address several ailments. Most often sought after were the rhizomes and roots, which were harvested in late fall. They were ground into a powder and used as a remedy for rheumatism, colic, bronchitis and menstrual cramps. Above all, the plant was used as an aid in childbirth. It was taken only in the last two weeks of pregnancy to induce rapid and relatively painless labor. Early settlers also used blue cohosh as an aid in childbirth, but called the plant squawroot and papoose root. It is actually still used by herbalists today, including one midwife whom I spoke to about the plant.

If you have yet to see blue cohosh growing wild under shaded woodland, or would like to learn more about wildflowers, be sure to check the calendar of events. Both Scott and Clinton County offer wildflower hikes throughout the spring!

**WAPSI RIVER E. E. CENTER**  
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The Wapsi River Environmental Education Center is a joint project between the Scott and Clinton County Conservation Boards. "The W.R.E.N." is published quarterly by the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and the Scott County Conservation Board.

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Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist  
Jessica Steines, Interpretative Naturalist

**Mailing List**

If you would like to receive "The W.R.E.N." free of charge, please send a post card to the Wapsi River E. E. Center at the address above.

The Scott County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes they have been subject to discrimination, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Scott County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240.