

The Oak

*A Quarterly Newsletter of
the Black Hawk County
Conservation Board*

*1346 W. Airline Highway
Waterloo IA 50703*

*Summer 2011
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The Grand Opening

By Vern Fish, Executive Director

After three years and many trials and tribulations, the grand opening for the Evansdale Bridge has been tentatively scheduled for 4:00 PM on Sunday, July 31. This grand old bridge was severely damaged during the flood of 2008. Working with FEMA and Iowa Homeland Security, a Project Worksheet (PW) was written by FEMA to provide \$2.2 million dollars to replace the damaged bridge in February, 2009.

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board hired the engineering firm Shuck-Britson Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa to design a new bridge. It took over a year to complete the design and secure all of the necessary permits. The bid package was let in the spring of 2010 and awarded to Peterson Contractors Incorporated (PCI) of Reinbeck, Iowa.

Since the flood of 2008 the CVNT has been cut at the Evansdale Bridge and the McFarlane Bridge east of La Porte City. Funding for the McFarlane Bridge was secured last fall and design work has begun. The goal is to let bids for the McFarlane Bridge this fall. Work on six miles of the CVNT east of the McFarlane Bridge is scheduled for this summer. See article on page 4. Hopefully, the CVNT will be reconnected sometime in 2013.

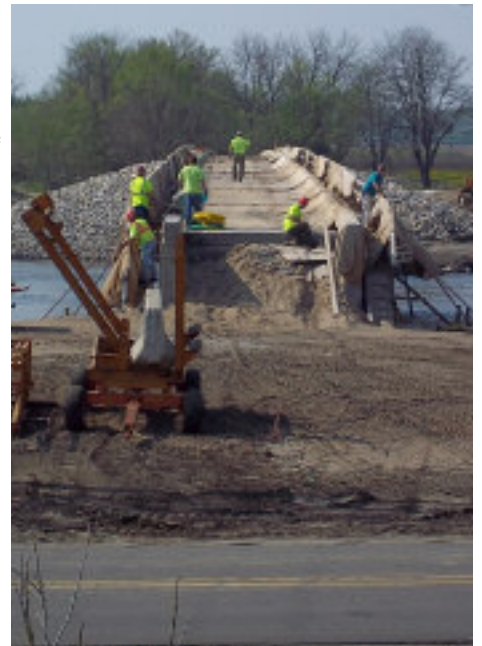
We are working closely with the City of Evansdale to plan the grand opening of the Evansdale Bridge. Details of the day's festivities will be announced at a later date. For now, plan on lacing up your hiking boots or bringing your bike to make your first crossing of the new bridge on Sunday, July 31 at 4:00 PM!



New Evansdale Bridge on left replacing the old bridge on right - October 2010

The new bridge will have 3 pillars instead of 7 and the deck will be 8 feet higher. The higher arch will put the new bridge above future floods and reduce the backup of water upstream. Because the new bridge is 8 feet higher, it was necessary to build a ramp to get the trail up to the new deck. This ramp required that River Road in Evansdale be moved. Moving the road dictated that Mid-American Power relocate one of their electrical towers. Work began in the summer of 2010 and the first new I-beams were placed in October of 2010, as shown in the photo. The deck is scheduled to be poured this spring with a goal of opening the bridge in July.

The Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) runs from Evansdale, Iowa to Hiawatha in Linn County, a distance of 52 miles.



Deck on new bridge - May 2011

**Watch our website,
BlackHawkCountyParks.com
for Grand Opening information.**



Board Members:

Louis Beck, President
Eric Dowell, Vice President
John Mardis, Secretary
Steve Clabby
Dianna Darold

Executive Director:

Vern Fish

Headquarters:

Janice Smuck, Office Manager
Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator
Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist
Nikki Koelling, Clerical II
Colton Johnson, Intern

North Unit:

Mike Hendrickson, Unit Ranger
Al Weber, Ranger III
Ross Chapin, Mechanic
Stan Swingen, Maintenance II
Scott Boose, Ranger II
Chris Dunkin, Ranger II
Heath Brown, Maint. I

South Unit:

Al Finke, Unit Ranger
Leon Lindley, Ranger III
Troy Petersen, Ranger II
Brian Van Meeteren, Maintenance II

Park Custodian:

Jim DeWald, CRNRA

Hartman Reserve Nature Center:

Ed Gruenwald, Nature Center Director
Chris Anderson, Program Coord.
Laura Stammer, Development Coord.
Sheryl Sires, Office Coordinator
Angi Reid, Program Assistant
Ashley Kittle, Program Assistant
Scott Taylor, Building Cleaner
Alexa Dostart, Program Intern
Cynthia Gage, Program Intern
Katie Klus, Program Intern

Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission (Waste Trac)

Lyndsey Anderson, Waste Educator
Tammy Turner, Waste Educator

Mission

"To enhance the quality of life & stimulate economic development in Black Hawk County by providing open space, outdoor recreation, education & resource management."

Planning Administrator Appointment

Cherrie Northrup applied for and was accepted for this position. Cherrie has experience as the Ranger II for Big Woods Lake Campground and many years on the maintenance crew. Her education and experience will be an asset for the many upcoming projects. Congratulations!



Cherrie Northrup

Bruggeman Road

Bruggeman Park is located in the north-east corner of Black Hawk County. This 487 acre wildlife area straddles the Wapsipinicon River a few miles north and east of Dunkerton, Iowa. East Bennington Road cuts this wildlife area into a North and a South unit.

Many years ago a lane was created from East Bennington Road south through the South Unit and out to Wheeler Road. This lane provided access to a shooting range just south of East Bennington Road. This lane was also used to provide access to a shelter and restroom at the south end of South Unit. Because of vandalism and budget issues, the restroom and shelter at south end were removed several years ago.

Last fall we received a letter of concern about the shooting range. People hunting in the North Unit of Bruggeman Park reported hearing rounds go through the tree branches above their head from the shooting range. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) reviewed this situation at their January 6, 2011 meeting. The BHCCB was faced with a serious safety issue that would require upgrading the range to prevent rounds from "skipping" over the backstop or closing the range.

This range is in a remote location and it does not get as much use as our other two shooting ranges at Black Hawk Park and the Cedar River Natural Resource Area. There was a sizable cost to upgrading the range in addition to maintaining the lane that provides access to this range. This lane has been cut by the Wapsipinicon River in the past and required costly repairs. This lane is

often under water due to flooding and it has become an ongoing maintenance issue. To see a map of this area go to www.blackhawkcountyparks.com and click on Parks. Click on Bruggeman Park and go to the printable map at the bottom of the page.

After reviewing the options and costs, the BHCCB voted to close both the range and lane. The range will be removed and the lane closed to vehicle traffic when time and resources allow this summer. A parking lot will be established at the south end of the Bruggeman Park. The lane will still be open to hiking, hunting and fishing.

Firewood Policy

Starting January 1, 2011 the Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship requires all firewood sold in Iowa to have the county and state of harvest location on the label of packages and the delivery ticket for bulk firewood. If you purchase firewood from us, you will see this label on our firewood. See example below.

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) has implanted a firewood policy to reduce the risk of accidental introduction of Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) and other damaging forest pests into your county parks. In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the BHCCB hereby prohibits the importation of firewood that is not federally or state certified as pest free from states under a federal Emerald Ash Borer quarantine. Areas currently quarantined include all or parts of Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Ontario (Canada) and Allamakee County, Iowa. Campers will be asked to voluntarily burn all restricted firewood immediately.



BLACK HAWK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FIREWOOD

Packaged and Distributed by
Black Hawk County Conservation Board
1346 W. Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA 50703
(319) 433-7275

Harvested in Black Hawk / Tama County, Iowa (Circle One)
\$5 per 2 Cubic Feet

Purchase of _____ Cubic Feet on _____

~ 2011 Growing Season~

**SAVE OUR TREES! DON'T TRANSPORT FIREWOOD
BUY LOCAL & BURN IT WHERE YOU BUY IT**



LEAVE A LEGACY Celebrates Arbor Day at Big Woods Lake Campground (BWLC)

The local chapter of LEAVE A LEGACY Iowa held a public dedication of Legacy Grove at BWLC on Friday, April 29. The trees and planting were done in partnership with Black Hawk County Conservation and the City of Cedar Falls. The celebration featured special guest speaker Tony DiCecco who spoke on the importance of planting a seed to shade future generations. The new Legacy Grove is a permanent and public symbol of the power and potential of planned giving.

LEAVE A LEGACY is a collaborative effort of more than 30 local non-profit organizations with a collective mission: encouraging people from all walks of life to remember their favorite charities in their will or estate plan. Details on the many ways to Leave a Legacy through a will or estate plan can be found at www.leavealegacyiowa.org.

Quality of Life Award

On April 28, the City of Cedar Falls recognized the Black Hawk County Conservation Board for their partnership in developing the Big Woods Lake Campground and Recreation Area.

Welcome!

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board has hired Chris Dunkin as the Ranger II for the Big Woods Lake Campground and Heath Brown for the Maint. I position.

Sherwood Park Buyout Area

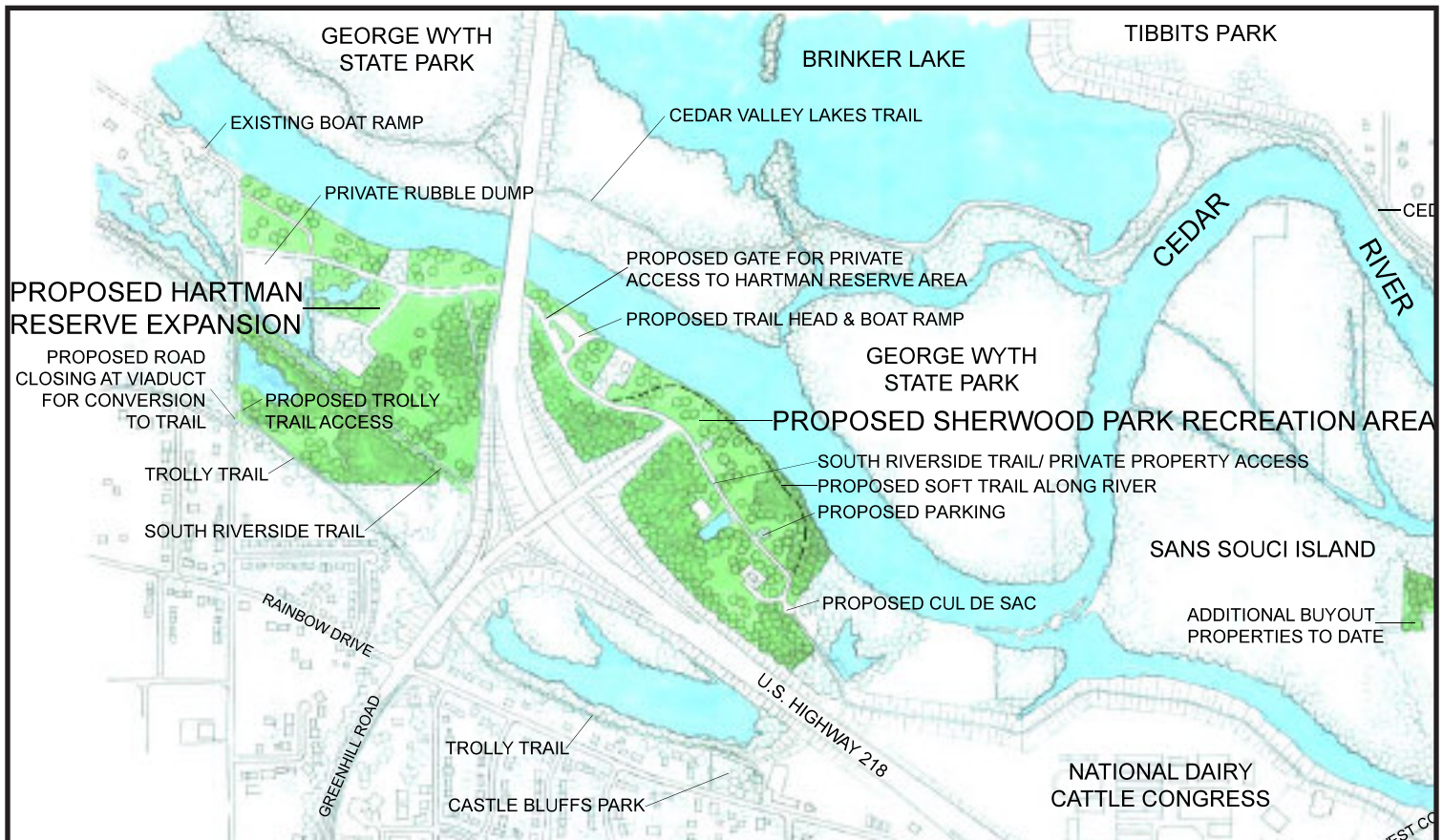
Vern Fish, Director of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board and Paul Huting, Director of Waterloo Leisure Services have worked together to develop a conceptual plan for the area of the buyouts in the Sherwood Park neighborhood. Because these are FEMA buyouts the area needs to be managed as an open, green space with no structures. The details are shown in this plan below. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board, the Waterloo Leisure Services Commission and the Friends of Hartman Reserve have endorsed this plan. The Waterloo City Council will make the final determination.

This plan assigns the area west of Highway 218 as an extension of Hartman Reserve and the City of Waterloo will manage everything to the east. The Conservation Board is interested in managing the area as an extension of Hartman Reserve; "if we've got control of the roads." This would make illegal dumping difficult and keep unwanted activity from occurring. The Conservation Board may move the boat ramp downstream where access would be at the end of Greenhill Road from the Greenhill Road exit off U.S. Highway 218.

This plan will not be developed until the Summer of 2012 if approved by the City of Waterloo.

Planning an Event?

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board has you covered. From open air shelters in our beautiful parks to the Rotary Reserve Lodge, your event can be a success. Check out our facilities at www.blackhawkcountyparks.com



Sherwood Park Buyout Area

Search & Destroy

On April 9, a dozen volunteers were lead by Tom Schilke and Mike Tompkins on a search and destroy mission at Hickory Hills Park. The goal was to find and pull the invasive plant called Garlic Mustard. Garlic Mustard, if left unchecked, will crowd out all of the native wildflowers. Brought over from Europe to be used as a pot herb, this non-descript plant is overwhelming native forests all over the county.



Garlic Mustard

The bad news was that the volunteers found garlic mustard. The good news was that where the plant had been pulled last year there was less of it. Volunteers can control this plant by pulling if the patches are small. Unfortunately, the volunteers also found a very large patch in the far southwest corner of the public hunting area at Hickory Hills Park.

This large patch will require a different management tool. One possibility is to use controlled fire to suppress this non native invader or a very controlled application of herbicide.

The seeds of Garlic Mustard can be carried by animals and hikers. Thus, this problem will only get worse and will require constant attention. We need your help to map where the plant is and to help us pull it this spring. If you wish to help map invasive species within our county parks go to www.eddmaps.org to submit your entry of species and location by GPS or map location. Our staff will use this information to identify and prioritize our management of invasive species. If you wish for more information, contact our Wildlife Conservationist, Jim Weimer, at jweimer@co.black-hawk.ia.us.

Two good resources on Garlic Mustard include the following websites: www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry (Iowa State Forestry Extension) and www.invasive.org (Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health)

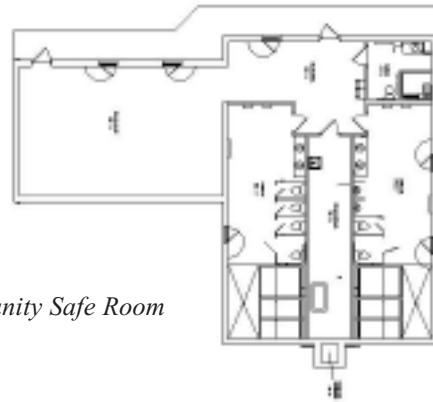
Wildlife Intern

Working with the County Conservation Wildlife Conservationist this summer will be Iowa State University student Colton Johnson. He will be working on projects such as non native invasive species removal and organizing volunteers for other projects. His internship starts in May and will concentrate on garlic mustard removal at Hickory Hills. These internships are invaluable experience for future natural resource professionals. Welcome aboard Colton.



Hickory Hills Tornado Safe Room

Black Hawk County Conservation Board was awarded a grant from Iowa Homeland Security through the FEMA 361 program to construct a tornado safe room at Hickory Hills Park. The need for such facilities is unfortunately becoming more and more apparent with increasing weather phenomenons such as those witnessed this spring. This facility will fulfill the need for improved visitor safety and the need for an updated shower building. The BHCCB has worked with StruXture Architects to finalize the building design. Kidder Construction out of Waterloo was the low bidder at \$456,558 and will be constructing the facility. The FEMA 361 grant was awarded to the BHCCB in the amount of \$301,810 and the difference will be made up with the BHCCB's capital improvement funds. Construction will begin shortly and weather permitting, will be wrapped up by early fall.



Community Safe Room

Cedar Valley Nature Trail Repairs

Repairs to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from the east side of McFarlane Bridge (East of McFarlane Park over the Cedar River) down to Carter Avenue in Buchanan County will be completed this summer. This section of the trail sustained considerable damage during the 2008 floods. These repairs will bring the Cedar Valley Nature Trail one step closer to being completed and back open. After bids are received and a contract awarded to a contractor, work can begin. This project will be funded through FEMA and with weather permitting, this section of trail will be repaired by early fall, 2011. This section of trail however, will remain closed until the McFarlane Bridge repairs have been made. Funds have been secured for the McFarlane Bridge repair and we are hopeful the design will be completed and construction can begin later this fall or early spring of 2012.

With the Evansdale Bridge nearing completion, trail repairs scheduled, and the McFarlane Bridge project moving forward, we are finally getting closer to opening the entire Cedar Valley Nature Trail to trail visitors.

Thank you Cedar Trails Partnership (CTP)

The CTP granted the BHCCB \$1,800 to place an interpretative sign on prairies at the short grass prairie remnant on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail just south of the Evansdale Bridge.



A Lasting Impact

by Vern Fish, Executive Director

In 1980, as a brand new naturalist at Hartman Reserve Nature Center (HRNC), I met Larry Miller for the first time. Larry was coordinating the Iowa Conservation Corps (ICC) for the

Larry Miller Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) and Waterloo Schools. The ICC was a state program designed to teach high school aged youth job skills by working in local parks during the summer. Larry was a guidance counselor and coach in the Waterloo School District. He and Jim Gephart, an industrial arts teacher, were the co-leaders.

Both Larry and Jim had been working at HRNC with ICC crews since the nature center was acquired by the BHCCB in 1976. These ICC crews hauled away tons of garbage and helped make original 80 acres a safe place to explore and hike. They built all of the bridges and created the trail system that we are still using today.

Over the next 10 years I had the privilege of working with Larry and Jim on projects ranging from building bridge railings on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to replacing the Kay Romanin Bridge at HRNC. The ICC program required that the



UNI's Dr. Gaff & Laura Stammler, from the Friends of Hartman Reserve, accepting the award and check.

Veridian Credit Union Awards \$1,000

Donald Gaff, assistant professor of sociology, anthropology and criminology in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences was awarded the Veridian Credit Union Community Engagement Award and in turn donated the money to the Friends of Hartman

Reserve. Dr. Gaff has focused a lot of his efforts on unearthing some of the Cedar Valley's prehistoric secrets. His archeological surveys have helped Hartman Reserve rethink how we build and maintain trails, plan for construction projects and maintain utilities. Dr. Gaff has made numerous presentations to draw attention to the potential of archaeology to contribute to a community's understanding of its history. (Information courtesy of the University of Northern Iowa University Relations press release.)

Beneath Our Feet, Cedar Valley Archaeology

On display June 6 through August 20, *Beneath Our Feet: Cedar Valley Archaeology* features artifact and research findings from right in our own backyard.

View pieces of pottery and projectile points found by the UNI Archaeology Field School excavations at Hartman Reserve Nature Center. Learn how professional archaeologists excavate sites, what they look for in the lab, and how they interpret artifacts to better understand the culture of prehistoric Iowans.

On June 7, at 7 PM join UNI Museums in celebrating the opening of this exhibit. Naturalist, Chris Anderson, will give a brief presentation on the making of the exhibit's wigwam. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Visit www.uni.edu/museum for more information.



Conservation Corps 1984 - Larry Miller on left

youth work 32 hours a week and spend at least 8 hours in some kind of educational activity. Larry, Jim and I took the ICC crews canoeing, caving, rappelling, fossil hunting, tombstone rubbing and camping to name a few activities.

Larry believed that every young person that came through his program had potential and deserved a chance to succeed. Over the years, hundreds of young people had a chance to learn how to work by pulling weeds, hauling railroad ties and building trails. To my personal delight, every now and then a middle aged parent will introduce themselves and asked if I remember working with them and Larry as an ICC crew member.

Larry Miller retired from teaching in 1999 and enjoyed an active retirement until he passed away on February 21, 2011. Every time I hike across a bridge at HRNC I can see a physical example of Larry's impact on our community. Every time I meet a former ICC crew member I am reminded of how Larry changed lives. Larry Miller was a very special person who made a lasting impact on my life.

If you make a memorial gift in Larry Miller's name, your gift will support the program that Larry helped build.

Thank You!

The Friends of Hartman Reserve wish to thank the following individuals for their generous contributions.

Donations - Reece Beuter, Robert Bradford, Dr. Gaff and Cynthia & Wade Mitchell.

Endowment - Mary Jo & William Allen, Dorothy Clausen, Doris & Wayne Fleshner, Martha Hurlbut, Kerry Kelling, Jesse & Amber Shinn-Koch, Charles & Carol Lidtke, Michael & Joan Lowe, Carol & David Morgan and Thomas Schilke.

Field Trip Trust - Jim & Nancy Gephart and Susan & Jerry Green.

Memberships - Join the Friends of Hartman Reserve and support vital environmental education programs in our community. Memberships range from \$10-\$2,500. Join today!

Memorials - Memorials from the family and friends of Jim Gephart Sr., Larry Miller and Gloria Evenson.

Pledges thru the Cedar Valley United Way, Community

Foundation and Trust - Carol & Jack Aschenbrenner, Nathaniel Bergland, Chelsea Bloom, Stephen & Gerry Chamberlin, John Fischer, Wendy Kinney, Sara Knott, Joshua Nunez, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Pulford and Teresa Winkie.

Hartman News & Events

Earth Fair 2011

Earth Fair 2011 was a huge success! Over 200 community members visited Hartman to help celebrate Earth Day! We had crafts, educational booths, canoeing, kayaking and much more! We also had over 80 volunteers help us remove invasive species from our Hartman trails. It was a wonderful day to be outside and celebrate our Earth! Thank you again to all our hardworking volunteers.



Blue Spotted Salamanders

The Iowa DNR has issued a special permit for Hartman Reserve to collect Blue Spotted Salamander larvae. This is part of an ongoing plan to reintroduce the species into Hartman Reserve in the near future. The larvae is being delivered to the amphibian research station at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Offspring from these wild captured salamanders will then be released after they reach a predetermined age. This "head



starting" process prevents too many small larvae from being eaten and adults from wandering off as they are prone to do. The release will hopefully begin next spring. Thank you to our many partners that have been involved in this project: Iowa DNR, George Wyth Memorial State Park, Henry Doorly Zoo, UNI Student Nature Society, UNI Biology Department and Linn County Soil and Water. Also thank you to

everyone who had participated in the salamander surveys over the last three years. Checking minnow traps in mud and floods was a difficult job. We could not have gotten to this point without you!

2011 CVAST Eco-Triathlon

This year's eco-triathlon is being organized by the Cedar Valley Association of Soft Trails (CVAST). Go to www.cvast.org for lots more information.

Hartman Wish List

Thanks to all the wonderful people who made our wishes come true. We received a tea set from Mary Ellen Meier, kitchen utensils from Joan Youngblut, a dustbuster from Carol Power and silverware from Sandy Jo Messingham. Wishes do come true!

Items still on the wish list are: flower deck holders, sugar, hummingbird feeders, grape jelly, squirrel feeder, large flower pots, life jackets (both youth & adult sizes), washable markers, crayons, Elmer's glue, kids Fiskar scissors, construction paper, tacky glue, masking tape, double-sided tape, zipper sandwich bags, 56 qt Rubbermaid totes w/lids, 3M mailing tape, duct tape, glue sticks, zipper gallon bags, tea lights, lighters for luminaries and rolls of white art paper. Visit hartmanreserve.org for a complete wish list.

A Sweet Success

Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, and over 2,100 festival goers for making this year's Maple Syrup Festival a huge success! **Dr. Cervetti and the Cedar Valley Podiatry/Foot & Ankle Center** exclusively sponsored the annual event, which took place at Hartman Reserve Nature Center on March 5-6 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Guests enjoyed all-you-can-eat pancakes topped with Hartman's real maple syrup, sausage, **Hansen's** milk, butter, and cream, and **Starbucks** coffee. The Festival featured the entertaining flapjack flipping of Chris Cakes, maple syrup processing demonstrations in the Sugar Shack, a real maple syrup bake sale, and a raffle. Congratulations to all our lucky raffle winners! Yvonne Everton was the winner of a new bike and helmet, donated by **Bike Tech** and **Cedar Valley Association for Soft Trails (CVAST)** and Ryan Backes took home a new kayak, paddle, and life vest, courtesy of **CrawDaddy Outdoors**.



The Friends of Hartman Reserve would like to thank this year's exclusive sponsor: Cedar Valley Podiatry/Foot & Ankle Center (Drs. Cervetti, Morreale, and Torness); and exclusive dairy sponsor: Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy. Thank you to the following sponsors: Bike Tech, CVAST, CrawDaddy Outdoors, Dr. Greg and Sue Lantz, Starbucks in Cedar Falls and Waterloo, Taylor Veterinary Hospital, Western Home Communities, Advanced Systems, BMC Aggregates L.C., Ken and Patty Achey Cutts, Vern Fish, Joel and Linda Haack, Douglas A. Hansen DDS PC and Greenhill Family Dental, Cynthia Herndon, Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo, Kiwanis Rough Risers, Representative Bob Kressig, Loy & Associates, LLP., David and Mary McCalley, Roth Jewelers, Scheel's All Sports in Cedar Falls, Lea Ann and Jerry Shaddox, Dr. Tom and Char Strub, David and Sharon Walker, Kevin Wall and Kathleen Sallee, and Roger and Maureen White.

All proceeds from the event go to support Hartman's mission and environmental education in the Cedar Valley. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this event or other events throughout the year, please contact Laura Stammler at (319) 277-2187 or laura.hrnc@gmail.com. For more information on upcoming events, please visit www.hartmanreserve.org.

Mark your calendars! Next year's Maple Syrup Festival will be held on March 3-4, 2012.



Hartman Adult Programs

Cedar Valley Conservation Series (CVCS)

Join us, Tuesdays from 6-9 PM, for a special series of programs to help you better understand flora, fauna, habitats, and natural history of the Cedar Valley. Each Tuesday we will meet up with a different guest presenter as they tell us about topics as varied as prairies, forestry, geology, wildlife rehabilitation, waste management and more. The cost for the Cedar Valley Conservation Series is \$15 per session, or \$50 for the entire series (\$75 for couples).

CVCS: Prairies-June 7, Ryan Welch; Tallgrass Prairie Center

CVCS: Birds of Black Hawk County-June 14, Tom Schilke; Prairie Rapids Audubon Society

CVCS: Wildlife/Private Lands Rehab-June 21, Linda Nebbe; Black Hawk Wildlife Rehab Project

CVCS: Black Hawk County Public Lands Tour
June 28, Jim Weimer; Black Hawk County Conservation Board

CVCS: Geology-July 5, Sherm Lundy; BMC Aggregates

CVCS: Forestry-July 12, Joe Herring; Iowa DNR

CVCS: Sustainable Stormwater Management & Water Quality-July 19, Phil Schuppert; Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District

CVCS: Citizen Science-July 26, Chris Anderson; Black Hawk County Conservation Board

CVCS: Waste Management & Sustainability
August 2, Brett Vette; Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission; Waste Trac Education Team; Lyndsey Anderson.

Fun Adult Nature Series (FANS)

FANS: Birding by Bike-Wednesday, June 8, 6-8 PM.

Grab your bike and meet at Hartman Station on the bike trail as it passes through Hartman Reserve. From there we will go on a guided tour, pausing to observe birds, wildlife, and plants along the way. Near the midpoint of the trip we will stop at *Kickstand Refreshment (315 East 14th Ct., Cedar Falls, IA 50613)* where we will listen to a brief discussion on feeding from Steve Aldrich who owns both Kickstand Refreshment and *Out on a Limb* which specializes in wild bird related products. Program fee: \$5 per adult (18 & over).

FANS: Canoeing Black Hawk Creek-Wednesday, June 22, 5-8 PM. Come explore one of Black Hawk County's unique waterways that offers a bit of solitude in the middle of an urban environment. Paddle your canoe from Franke Park in Hudson, IA to Robinson Bird Sanctuary on Ranchero Drive in Waterloo. This program is for adults (18 & over). Program fee: \$20 per adult and includes a picnic supper.

FANS: Hartman Archeology, Effigy Mounds Trip & Wine Sampling-Saturday, July 2, 8 AM-4:30 PM. Come and join a Hartman naturalist and UNI archaeology students to discover how Hartman was used by Native Americans before European settlement. We will also take a trip to Effigy Mounds National Monument to visit the largest collection of prehistoric mounds in the nation. We'll stop for lunch in McGregor then visit Eagle's Landing Vineyard and Winery in Marquette to try some of their many options of wine! Lunch is not covered. Program fee: \$20 per person. Must be 21 years of age or older.

FANS: Solo Canoeing Secrets-Wednesday, July 20, 6-9 PM. There is a quiet and poetic beauty to guiding a canoe through the morning mist, upon a lake where the only thing that is disturbing the mirrored surface is you. During this program we will explore the subtleties of solo canoeing. Topics covered will be; safely launch/land a canoe, paddle strokes, preparing for an extended solo canoe trip, how to pack, portage, plan and prepare meals, and set up camp. We will meet at the south boat ramp at Big Woods Lake. Program fee: \$5 per adult (18 & over).

FANS: Wine Tasting & Willowglen Nursery

Tour-Saturday, August 27, 8 AM-5:30 PM. Interested in a day away with friends? Then join the Hartman staff for a day of wine and willows! We will take a tour of the gardens at Willowglen Nursery in Decorah (as seen in the April/May issue of *Iowa Outdoors*) and learn different gardening methods and concept to designing your own garden. An introductory class to willow craft making and the many uses of willow will also be offered. We will have lunch in Decorah before heading to a family winery where we will taste their many wine options! Program fee: \$20 per person. Must be 21 years of age or older. Lunch is not covered. We will leave promptly at 8 AM. Space is limited Pre-register by August 25th to reserve your spot.



Hartman Summer Camps

Earth! Wind! Fire! Water!
Come explore the elements!



E = Earth
Wi = Wind
A = Art
Wa = Water
F = Fire



GREEN EARTH GANG

Grade: Children entering Kindergarten and 1st
Price: \$10 per day; Time: 9:00-Noon

- (E) June 14: **Incredible Insects**-They live inside logs, underwater and under leaves. They pollinate some of our favorite flowers and even make tasty treats! Watch them up close and learn why insects are so important to have around!
- (Wi) June 28: **The wonders of wind**-Discover the many amazing ways flying creatures use wind to take flight!
- (A) July 12: **Nature Art**-Rotate through art stations to make homemade paper, recycled games, lightning bug hotels and much more!
- (F) July 26: **Summer Sun Exploration**-Bask in the sun! Explore Hartman Reserve and learn how plants and animals use sunlight.
- (Wa) August 9: **Wacky Water Creatures**-Prepare to get wet as we explore the wonderful wacky water world!!!

ON THE WILD SIDE

Grade: Children entering 2nd and 3rd
Price: \$10 per day; Time: 9:00-Noon

- (E) June 16: **Prairie Life**-Explore our prairies and learn about the animals that call the prairie home.
- (Wi) June 30: **Flying High!**-Learn the basics of wind and weather and make your own wind craft to take home.
- (A) July 14: **Gnome Rafts & Fairy Homes**-Gather plant materials from the prairie, woods and wetland areas and learn how to cut, bundle, and arrange the materials to build a critter home, fairy house or mini raft.
- (F) July 28: **Soak up the sun**-Learn how plants transfer sunlight into nutrients through photosynthesis. Take a stroll through Hartman and see this amazing process in action!
- (Wa) August 11: **Water World**-Prepare to get muddy...Sample the different seasons of water and visit different water habitats at Hartman.

EXPLORERS

Grade: Children entering 4th and 5th
Price: \$20 per day; Time: 8:00-4:30

- (E) June 13: **Earth Stories**-Learn what stories the Earth has to tell. We'll do some tracking, learn about geology, and how to find your way in the woods without a compass plus more!
- (Wi) June 27: **Wind and Weather**-Spend the day learning about the weather and then we'll tour the KWWL Weather Center and talk weather with a real Meteorologist!
- (A) July 11: **Dig into it**-Create your own Earth paint from mud and clay to duplicate famous pieces of art or your own dirt original. Get even messier during the sand sculpture competition at Lake Manatt.
- (F) July 25: **It's All about Solar!**-Learn how the sun drives everything we do. From the food we eat to the cars we drive to the plants and animals we see.
- (Wa) August 8: **Nature Exploration**-Explore nature at Twin Springs and a nearby quarry. Prepare to get dirty!

JUNIOR NATURALIST

Grade: Children enter 6th, 7th, 8th
Time: 8:00-4:30

- (E) June 15: **Rock N' Roll!** \$40-Go rock-climbing at UNI and learn how a rock tumbler is used to make your own rock jewelry.
- (Wi) June 29: **Come sail away!** \$30-Create your own sailboats, and learn sailing techniques on Hartman's very own sailboat.
- (A) July 13: **Pottery** \$35-We will make and fire pottery while learning about soils, geology, watersheds, and fire!
- (F) July 27: **Fire!** \$25-Learn the many uses of fire. Things like cooking, heating and lighting. We will also learn about how we use fire day-to-day in ways you may not realize.
- (Wa) August 10: **Mississippi River Exploration** \$40-Take a trip and experience the Mississippi River Museum up close!



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Hartman Summer Camps

1-Day Camps (for siblings, friends, & cousins!)

Iowa Rocks! Camp

Grade: Children entering 4th-8th

Price: \$25

Date: Monday, July 18

Time: 8:00- 5:00

Take a trip back in time and visit the Rockford Fossil and Prairie Park to collect fossils older than dinosaurs! Since this site is a former quarry, be prepared to climb up limestone hills and get messy in the clay!

Machines at Work Camp

Grade: Children entering 4th-8th

Price: \$15

Date: Wednesday, July 20

Time: 8:00- 5:00

Travel around the Cedar Valley to observe machines hard at work! See cranes, car shredders, conveyor belts, balers, compactors, garbage trucks and sludge trucks, all while learning about recycling and various types of waste.

Book Camp: *Sign of the Beaver*

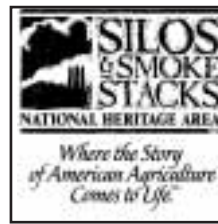
by Elizabeth George Spear

Grade: Children entering 5th-7th

Price: \$120

Date: July 6-9 (overnight stay on the 8th)

This book takes place in 1768 in what will eventually become the state of Maine. It tells the story of a 12 year old boy, Matt, who is left alone in the wilderness while his father leaves to bring the rest of his family to the cabin they have built. After becoming injured Matt is nursed back to health by a local tribal leader and his grandson. Once Matt is well, he and the Native American boy exchange skills they will need in a changing world. We will study and learn these skills ourselves and this camp will include an overnight stay in the Buckles Program Center without electricity to simulate staying in an 18th century cabin!



Silos and Smokestacks presents Summer Camp 2011

Inside the Outdoors

for Grades 3-6

Tuesdays - 8AM - 5 PM

Explore Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area this summer. Each

Tuesday, campers will travel to a new destination where they will learn about Iowa history, culture and agriculture. Register for camp today! Sign up for all nine days for \$210 or \$30 a day.

Amana Heritage Society Museums Colonies, Amana.

June 14.

Heartland Farms, Waterloo & Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy, Hudson. June 21.

Mines of Spain Recreation Area & Four Mounds Rope Course, Dubuque. June 28.

Wagaman Mill Museum & North Skunk River Float, Lynnville. July 12.

Ushers Ferry Historic Village, Cedar Rapids & Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Area, Toddville. July 19.

Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch, Fredericksburg & The Dairy Center, Calmar. July 26.

Motor Mill Historic Site & Turkey River Float, Elkader. August 2.

Effigy Mounds National Monument & Mississippi River Float, Harpers Ferry. August 9.

Iowa State Fair, Des Moines. August 16.

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silosandsmokestacks.org

Important Stuff!

1. Limited to 15 participants per day.
2. Grade level refers to the grade the camper will be in during the 2011-2012 school year.
3. Campers are required to bring a sack lunch; snacks will be provided.
4. Base Camp is Hartman Reserve Nature Center, 657 Reserve Drive, Cedar Falls.
5. For more information call 319-234-4567 or visit silosandsmokestacks.org.

Waste Trac

Spring & Fall Hazardous Materials Drop-off Events

On Saturday, April 2nd, the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission partnered with the City of Waterloo to sponsor a free household hazardous materials drop-off event at the Waterloo Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Approximately 275 vehicles from throughout Black Hawk County brought toxic materials from their homes and garages to the free drop-off site. Items such as lawn chemicals, old cleaners, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent light bulbs (compact and tube), aerosol cans, propane tanks, mercury thermometers and many other items were accepted for safe disposal by a licensed hazardous waste hauler.

The Commission would like to extend a special "Thank you" to the City of Waterloo Public Works Department for hosting the event and to all of the volunteers for helping to make the event a success!

For individuals that were unable to attend the April 2nd drop-off event, the Commission will be sponsoring another free drop-off for Black Hawk County residents this fall. The drop-off will take place (rain or shine) on Saturday, September 24th from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Cedar Falls Utilities. Check the Waste Trac website for updates and accepted materials, as the September event approaches.



Disposing hazardous materials

Empty Ink Cartridges Wanted

Donate your empty ink cartridges from your home printers to Hartman Reserve Nature Center! Cartridges will be recycled at Staples through the Rewards recycling program. For each cartridge recycled, the nature center will earn store credit to buy office supplies and art supplies for our school programs. Look for the recycling tub in the front lobby next to the other recycling containers and help us earn \$20 worth of free supplies each month!



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Other Area Events



Cedar Trails Festival

August 10-14. As in past years, the festival will kick off with the Senior Cruise on Wednesday afternoon and Opening Ceremonies on Thursday. Friday will feature the new Volksmarch in downtown Waterloo, ending in time for Waterloo's Friday 'Loo in Lincoln Park. Dog Walks with animals from the Cedar Bend Humane Society will be held at both the Waterloo and Cedar Falls leash-free dog parks and Movies Under the Moon will finish up the day in Cedar Falls' Overman Park. Saturday will be a full day of events, starting with the 5K Run, followed by C.F. Community Main Street's Pancake Breakfast in Gateway Park. Kids will want to participate in the Bike Rodeo at Black Hawk Park, then hustle back to Gateway Park for the Waterloo Jaycee's Annual Canoe Race. The Tour de Valley bike ride, also starting from Gateway Park on Saturday morning, will feature several options: a short Kids' Route, a Recreation Route that shadows the canoe race, and a Riders' Route to really stretch your legs and explore more of the trail system. The Cedar Valley Soft Trails Association will join the fun on Saturday afternoon with a Dirty Ride, a mountain bike adventure on the single track trails. And, of course, the fabulous Light Up the Night Ride on Saturday night brings a perfect ending to the day. The Festival will finish up on Sunday with the ever-popular Poker Ride, with prizes for everyone! Visit www.cedartrailspartnership.org for more information. This article courtesy of Bob Morgan, President of the Cedar Trails Partnership.

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History and Purpose

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) was authorized by the people of the county at the general election in 1956, for the purpose of purchasing and developing land for parks, hunting and fishing access and other recreational use within the county. Currently the BHCCB manages over 8,000 acres of land in Black Hawk, Benton, Buchanan, and Tama counties.

Special Thanks

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) who process this mailing and all of the businesses whose ads support the printing of our newsletters.

Board Meetings

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board is scheduled to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 PM. Please note, time and location is subject to change.

Newsletter Fund

The newsletter is available without subscription. Your contribution toward its publication helps defray costs. Your donation is appreciated. Please notify us with any change of address or to be removed from the mailing list by calling 319-277-2187 or email hartmanreserve@co.black-hawk.ia.us.

Black Hawk County Conservation Board

1346 W. Airline Highway
Waterloo, IA 50703
319-433-7275 (PARK)
Hours: M-F, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
www.blackhawkcountyparks.com
conservation@co.black-hawk.ia.us

Hartman Reserve Nature Center

657 Reserve Drive
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
319-277-2187
Hours: M-F, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday: 1:00-5:00 PM
Closed Saturdays & major holidays
Trails open daily, sunrise to sunset.
www.hartmanreserve.org
hartmanreserve@co.black-hawk.ia.us

The Black Hawk 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 disability. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Black Hawk County Conservation Board or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. If you require special assistance for participation in our programs and services, or to request information in an alternative format, call the Black Hawk County Conservation Board at 319-433-7275.

Hartman Public Programs

Birding by Boat at Big Woods Lake-

Thursdays, June & July, 6:30- 8:30 PM. Spend the evening paddling around Big Woods Lake in a kayak or canoe. A naturalist will be on hand to point out any interesting birds or other critters that may be seen. Boats will be available for program participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Program fee: \$10 per boat.



Birding 101-Saturday, June 11, 9-11 AM. Bring the whole family to learn some birding skills! This will be held at Hartman Reserve. Activities will include learning the basic skills for identifying birds and information about resources and equipment to use. We will be searching for birds while hiking and sitting in a self made bird blind. Bring binoculars if you own a pair. For participants 16 & over. Program fee: \$2 per person.



Coneflower

Prairie Walk and Talk-Sunday, June 12, 1-2:30 PM. Less than .01 of one percent of native prairie still remains in the state of Iowa. Join a Hartman naturalist and learn about the wonderful and striking ecosystem of the tallgrass prairie. We will learn about how the prairie was used by Native Americans in this area, as well as all the benefits native prairie provide. Through discussion, activities, and hikes we will understand the ecological role many of the plants and animals play in the prairie community. We will also learn about the loss of much of the tallgrass prairie because of past human activity. Program fee: \$5 for Adults (17 & over), \$2 for Youth (16 & under).

Have a Hopping Good Time

Thursday, June 16, 6-7:30 PM. Come join the frog hunt! This program is for people of all ages. Activities will include learning the calls and basic information about the frog species that live in Black Hawk County. This will be held at Hartman Reserve. After you have learned some basic information you can try to catch some frogs with a net (nets will be provided.) You might get wet so wear proper clothing, this will include: rubber boots/old tennis shoes and clothes you don't mind getting muddy. We hope to see you at the frogging frenzy! Program fee: \$5 per family.



Papermaking Workshop

Saturday, June 18, 10AM-12PM. Transform old office paper into new handcrafted stationary! Learn tips for customizing your paper using a variety of materials, including items from nature. All children younger than 5th grade must be accompanied by adult. Co-sponsored by the Waste Trac Education Team. Program fee: \$5 per adults (unless assisting a child), \$2 per child.

Bushcraft Survival Series: Predicting the Weather

Sunday, June 26, 1-3:00 PM. When on extended trips in the field, it's important to be able to know what the weather is going to do so you can plan accordingly. Even if you don't have access to a radio or the internet you can learn what the weather's plans are just by keeping your eyes open. Nature loves to tell you stories about its past, and its plans for the near future; all you have to do is listen. During this program we will cover tips and tricks on how to be a better listener and to foresee changes in the weather. This program will be outdoors so be sure to dress for the weather. Fee: \$5 for Adults (17 & over), \$2 for Youth (16 & under), \$30 for organized youth groups.



Twilight Tales-Nocturnal Animals!-Thursday, July 7, 6:30 PM. Join us for an evening story time about nocturnal animals. After our book we will create shadow puppets from recyclables. As the sun goes down, take a hike at twilight through the woods. Twilight Tales is geared for families with kids/grandkids - toddlers to age ten. Co-sponsored by the Waste Trac Education Team. Program fee: \$5 per family.

Bike Trail Scavenger Hunt-Sunday, July 10, Must check in between 1-2 PM. After checking in at Hartman Station (and getting a scavenger hunt card and compass), ride your bikes to find marked objects along the trail. Jump off your bikes and use the compass to locate creatures hidden in the woods. Follow the clues on the creatures and return to Hartman Station at the end with your finished scavenger hunt card. Co-sponsored by the Waste Trac Education Team. Program fee: \$5 per family.

Hartman School of Magic

Wednesday, July 13, 6-8 PM. We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hartman School of Magic. In honor of the impending defeat of "You-Know-Who", Hartman Reserve will be hosting an event that highlights the magic of nature. Some of the courses that will be covered during this open house event are Herbology, Divining, Weather Divination, Care of Magical Creatures, Make your own Quill, Invisible inks, and more! Please use muggle-internet to register. Registrations sent via owls will not be accepted. Program fee: \$5 per family.



Compostable Seed Paper Making-Friday, July 15, 6-8 PM. Spend a day at Hartman learning about how we recycle paper here and how easy it is to do it right in your home. With the help of a naturalist, you can make your own paper and infuse it with leaves, twigs, and wild flower seeds. Then when it is dry you can start writing or drawing a masterpiece. The best part is when your done with the paper you can start a garden by burying it in the ground so the seeds can grow. Program fee: \$5 per adults (unless assisting a child), \$2 per child.

Hartman Public Programs

Cedar River Clean Up-Saturday, July 16, 9 AM-12 PM.

Join the Hartman Staff for a day of hands-on conservation. Rivers provide more than 65% of the nation's drinking water, but trash and pollution can degrade a river's safety and its beauty. An easy way to help nature and your community is to participate in a River Clean Up. Meet up at Hartman and then we will drive to a location on the Cedar River and paddle down picking up trash. Beginners are welcome and transportation will be provided. This program may require getting in and out of the canoe, as well as walking along the river bank; so be sure to dress appropriately (wear old clothes and bring work gloves). Pre-register by July 14 to reserve your canoe. You are welcome to bring your boat! Free event.



Invasive Species Removal-Sunday, July 17, 1-3 PM. You are invited to volunteer at an invasive species removal work day at Hartman. We will learn what invasive species are and why they need to be removed. We will be working on various projects such as removing honeysuckle and raspberries brambles in our white oak savanna. We will learn what makes oak savannas so special and why our hard work is so important. Please wear work clothes and bring work gloves and a water bottle. Please feel free to bring your own hand clippers and bow saws. This is a free event.

Camping Skills On the Wapsi-Monday, July 11, (6-8 PM) and Friday, July 22-Sunday, July 24 (Friday, 6-8 PM & Saturday, 7 AM-Sunday, 2 PM). Interested in trying



backcountry camping and learning traditional bushcraft camping skills? Join a naturalist at Hartman Reserve Nature Center for a paddle trip down the

Wapsipinicon River in Northwest Black Hawk County. We will meet Monday, July 11 from 6:00-8:00 PM for an informational meeting and to go over the menu, safety concerns, etc. We will meet again on Friday, July 22 to load the vehicles with supplies so we can leave early Saturday morning.

In camp you will have the opportunity to learn fire lighting, outdoor cooking, plant ID, tracking, navigating, and more! Program fee: \$35 per person.

Tracks and Scat-Sunday, July 24th 2-3:30 PM. Spend the afternoon learning about animal feet and the tracks they make. Participants will each create a plaster cast of a track they find and will help locate scat (poop) from deer, rabbits and fox. Sure fun for the entire family. Program fee: \$5 per family.

Fly-fishing 101-Wednesday July 27, 6-9 PM. Would you like to get started in fly-fishing, but don't know where to start? Why not start at Hartman Reserve? During this program we will cover equipment selection, casting, fly-tying, and finally *lines on the water!* All participants over the age of 16 must have a valid fishing license to participate. Enrollment is limited to 6 unless you have your own fly rod, reel and line (Please specify when registering). Fee: \$10 w/Hartman equipment; \$5 w/own equipment.



Turtle Trek-Friday, July 29, 6-8 PM. Come join Hartman naturalists and learn all about various turtles native to Iowa. Dress for the outdoors as we will be taking a hike to Hartman's Turtle Pond to find turtles in their natural habitat. Hike back up to the Nature Center to paint turtle rocks and end the day with delicious turtle sundaes! Fee: \$2 per person.

Primitive Skills Workshop at the UNI Museum

Saturday, August 13, 1-3 PM. The staff of Hartman Reserve Nature Center and the UNI Museum are teaming up to bring you a primitive skills workshop that highlights the UNI Museum's *Beneath Our Feet* exhibit. The exhibit showcases some of the archaeological finds from Hartman Reserve, and the workshop will highlight the traditional skills it took to survive in Iowa's landscape thousands of years ago. This is a free event.

Weekend Tales-Fishing!-Sunday, August 21, 1 PM. Join us for a weekend story time about fish. After our fish book we will learn the parts of a fishing pole and learn how to cast the pole. The group will then take a 15 minute hike to Lake Manatt and rotate through stations where the kids will go fishing, play a casting game with plugs, and do a fish activity. Weekend Tales is geared for families with kids/ grandkids - toddlers to age ten. Program fee: \$5 per family.

Twilight Tales-Monarch Tagging!-Thursday, September 8, 6:30 PM. Join Hartman for an evening story time about Monarch butterflies. After our book you will learn about the amazing journey Monarchs take to Mexico! The group will then rotate through the following stations: Monarch tagging, caterpillar country, prairie patch time (use a butterfly net!), and a metamorphic craft. Weekend Tales is geared for families with kids, grandkids - toddlers to age ten. Fee: \$5 per family.

Nature Tales Story Hour

Join the Hartman Naturalists for nature-themed stories & activities!

Nature Tales Schedule

June 7
July 12

No Nature Tales in August
Sept 13

For Ages 3-5
10:30-11:30 AM

\$2 Suggested donation per child

Nature Tales can also hit the road and visit your preschool, daycare or Head Start program.

Call the nature center at 277-2187 for program fee details.

