

The Oak

A Quarterly Newsletter of
the Black Hawk County
Conservation Board

1346 W. Airline Highway
Waterloo IA 50703

Fall 2010
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It Was Thirty Years Ago Today

By Ed Gruenwald, Nature Center Director

In the Fall of 1981 the first County Conservation newsletter was published. Originally titled *The County Conservation Quarterly* it created a dialog between the conservation board, park users and others in the community. These publications let know what services are offered, where to find them, and who to contact.

By looking back thirty years this first publication has underscored the amount of progress we have made in habitat protection and recreation. In 1981 we managed 29 recreational areas on 4,300 acres. Today we maintain 37 areas totaling approximately 8,200 acres. These include river accesses, wetlands, wildlife areas, prairies, campgrounds, cabins, bike trails, geologic sites, lodges, and a nature center.

Much has not changed though; we remain committed to providing technical assistance, maintenance and development of our areas, and educational/recreational programs. We assist land owners in prairie and wildlife management, have skilled people who keep the parks running smoothly and safely, and provide numerous outdoor opportunities for all ages.

Possibly the biggest changes have been the result of the 2008 flood. Moving the offices out of the floodplain to Airline Highway is probably the biggest move we have encountered in these intervening years. Replacing two bridges on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail and completing the Big Woods Lake Campground are also big projects. We have also begun to take credit cards for reservations and cabins (go to blackhawk-countyparks.com).

Thank you to the many board members and volunteers who have contributed to the Conservation Board over the years. I hope you all have had a chance to leave a legacy with us.

THE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD UMBRELLA

Except for an occasional hot item picked up by the media, your county conservation board has kept a low profile. This vice is probably undesired because we actually provide a broad spectrum of programs and services year-round. Did you know that we helped private landowners plant over 100,000 trees roadside last year? Or that Hartman Reserve Forest Center is owned and operated by the Board?

Let's look more closely at what the Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) offers. The Board is comprised of five county residents appointed for five year staggered terms by the Board of Supervisors. Your 1981 Board members are Don Elby, Gene Buckles, Ralph Parks, Myrtle Foulk and Jean Williams. They are responsible for the policies of the conservation program and oversee the operation of the conservation board staff.

Under the broad umbrella of our board our activities fall into two major categories: land and water conservation and public services. The protection and management of natural areas fall into the first category. Four area types are listed in the picture at the right. Multi-use areas include five supervised components:

Multi-use areas

Public recreation areas

River accesses

Wildlife habitat

Public Services

Technical assistance

Maintenance and development

Environmental education and recreation programs

**BLACKHAWK
COUNTY
CONSERVATION
BOARD**

Black Hawk Park, Hickory Hills Park, Thunder Moan Park, McFarlane Park and Siggekow Park. Parks that don't provide camping but are public recreation areas include Popo Access, Bruggeman Park and Elk Run Heights Park. Several small parcels are found along our waterways: the Cedar River, the Macgregor River, Crane Creek and Black Hawk Creek. These simply offer river access to fishermen and boaters. The fourth type includes those areas which may or may not

COUNTY CONSERVATION QUARTERLY
2410 WEST LONE TREE ROAD CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613
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Board Members:

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

Executive Director:

Vern Fish

Headquarters:

Janice Smuck, Office Manager
Anne Duncan, Planning Administrator
Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist
Nikki Koelling, Clerical II
Mary Cox, Resource Mgmt. Intern

North Unit:

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Al Weber, Ranger III
Mike Cahoe, Maintenance II
Cherrie Northup, Ranger II
Ross Chapin, Mechanic
Stan Swingen, Maintenance II
Scott Boose, Ranger II

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

Park Custodians:

Roger Conry, Siggelkow Park
Jim DeWald, CRNRA

Hartman Reserve Nature Center:

Ed Gruenwald, Nature Center Director
Chris Anderson, Program Coord.
Laura Stammler, Development Coord.
Sheryl Sires, Office Coordinator
Ashley Kittle, Program Assistant
Angi Reid, Program Assistant
Scott Taylor, Building Cleaner
Katherine Klus, Program Intern
Candace Schiltz, Special Events 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."

Board Member Vacancy

There will be an opening for a new board member on the Black Hawk County Conservation board. The five year term will start in January 2011. If interested, send letter of interest to the Black Hawk County Supervisors, Black Hawk County Courthouse, 316 East 5th St., Waterloo IA 50703. If you have any questions, call Vern Fish at 433-7275.

McFarlane Playground

The Black Hawk County Gaming Association has granted the BHCCB \$13,669 for playground equipment for McFarlane Park. Matching funds will come from the supporters of Mc Farlane Park. Hopefully the project will be completed by the 2011 recreation season.

Calling All Nuts

We need your help collecting the following seeds this fall! Walnut, Hickory: Shagbark and Shellbark, Oak: Red, Black, Pin, Bur, Swamp White, and Kentucky Coffeetree.

Seeds can be taken to Black Hawk Park (BHP) or Hartman Reserve Nature Center (HRNC) this fall. Roll-off dumpsters will be at both locations for you to place your contribution. The dumpster at HRNC will be in the parking lot and the dumpster at BHP will be in the Snag Creek Group Campground. We request that the nuts be deposited loosely in the dumpster without a bag and as free of leaves and twigs as possible.

If you have any questions, call Jim Weimer at 319-266-6813 or email jweimer@co.black-hawk.ia.us.

Trumpeter Swans Released

A pair of trumpeter swans was released on June 29, at Beaver Valley Wetland. The Iowa DNR and the BHCCB partnered to release the swans.

The trumpeter swans released are part of the DNR's statewide trumpeter swan restoration effort, with hopes that they will help restore a wild free flying population to Iowa.

Public support is key to achieving this objective. A special thanks to Russ Wasendorf and his company Peregrine Financial Group, Inc., for their contribution to the trumpeter swan restoration program

This summer the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service asked all states to assist with the 2010 Quinquennial Trumpeter Swan Survey for North America. This survey, provides baseline population data for trumpeter swan management throughout North America. Please report any trumpeter swans to your local wildlife biologist at David.Hoffman@dnr.iowa.gov

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

To help prevent the spread of EAB into our area the BHCCB will require campers to burn all firewood brought in from a quarantined state. 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 are to voluntarily burn all restricted firewood immediately.

Mary Kay Eakin

One of the founding parents of the Friends of Hartman Reserve passed June 29. She made contributions of both time and money. She was a driving force behind the FOHR financially and intellectually. She was a strong supporter of HRNC and will be dearly missed.

Planning Your Holiday Event?

Reduced winter rates are offered for December thru February rentals.

	Rotary Reserve	Lakeview Lodge
Thursday night, all day Friday	\$500	\$275
Friday night, all day Saturday	\$650	
	\$325	
All day Friday & Saturday	\$775	\$400
All day Friday	\$450	\$200
All day Saturday	\$500	\$225
All day Sunday	\$400	\$250

Airline Community Room

New all year rental rates. Any 8 hours on Saturday for \$150 or any 8 hours on Sunday for \$125. For additional rental rates and available dates, call 319-433-7275.

North Unit News

Cedar Bend Savanna

By Mary Cox, Natural Resources Intern

The Cedar Bend Savanna (CBS) is a 55 acre oak savanna located in the north end of the Black Hawk Park Complex just south of Washington-Union Access. Historically, this area was open-canopy woodland and prairie dominated by black and bur oak which thrived on the sandy soils. The canopy began to close when natural disturbances such as fire, grazing, and browsing were eliminated. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis of aerial photos shows that in the 1930's the canopy cover was 38%. It has now closed to 95% by encroaching trees. Cattle grazing until 1985 and volunteer efforts over the years have allowed 5% of the area to remain open for sun loving prairie species to persist.

The staff of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board has identified the CBS as a Significant Natural Area (SNA) and has dedicated limited resources to its management. It is one of two locations in the county that plant enthusiasts can view the delicate, early-blooming Pasque Flowers. Other species of interest at CBS include Bent Vetch and Clustered Sedge which are listed as species of special concern in Iowa. Another draw of CBS is the 100 year old, open-grown oak trees. These "lone wolf" trees are recognized by their thick, far-reaching lower limbs.

In 1985, it was estimated that only 0.02% of Midwest oak savannas remain, making it one of the rarest plant communities in the world. The CBS provides critical habitat to a variety of unique plants and animals. In my role as a Natural Resources Intern, I have written a land management plan to coordinate the restoration of the CBS. This plan sets forth goals and objectives and a schedule of tasks to attain them. Restoration of CBS includes removal of invasive species and recently established woody species. In select areas, older trees will also be removed. The removal of woody species along with prescribed burns and regular mowing should stimulate the growth of suppressed prairie/savanna species. This plan will also allow the next generation of oaks to be established.

Throughout the 2010 summer, the staff of the BHCCB with the help of volunteers began to implement the management plan. To track the impact of these restoration efforts, test plots and photo points were established. An informal biological survey is also being conducted. Thus far, 159 plants, 66 invertebrates, 32 birds, 8 reptiles/ amphibians, 9 fungi, and 6 mammals have been documented. Comparison of the current and previous surveys suggests that at least three species may have already disappeared from CBS over the last 20 years. The restoration activities should enhance the CBS and allow some of these species to reestablish themselves.

To reach the CBS, go north on Hwy 218 and then go west on C-57 (Cedar-Wapsi Road) to Washington-Union Access. Find the trail at the south end of the access and hike one-half mile to the south. Look for single track dirt trail on the left side. For an aerial map of the site, go to www.blackhawcountyparks.com click on Parks and look for Black Hawk Park. At the bottom of the Black Hawk Park page click on Printable Map (North). For more information on the CBS restoration or volunteer to help with the restoration, call 319-433-7275. Also view pictures, phenology, and restoration updates on the Facebook group page "Cedar Bend Savanna."

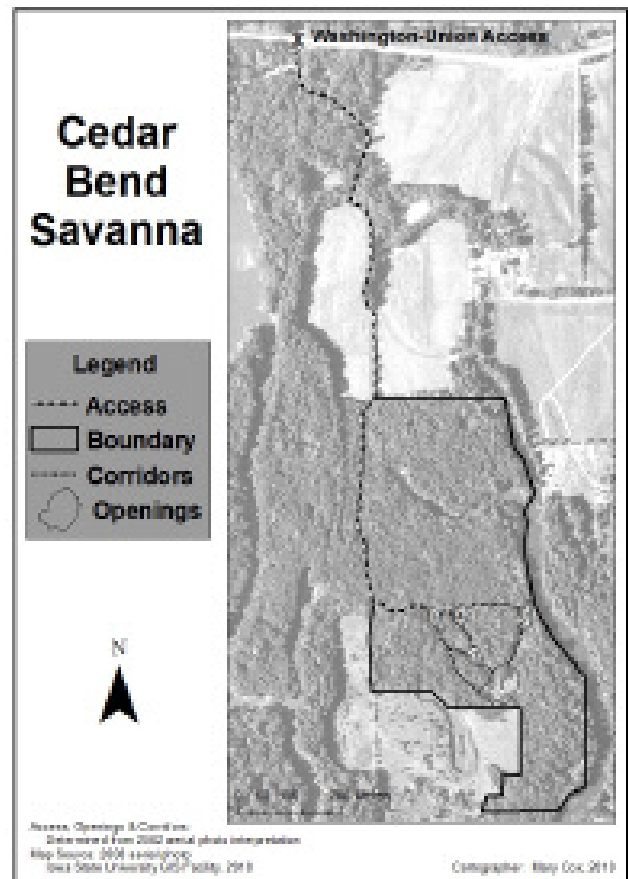
South Unit News

Twin Springs Natural Area

Located in the far southeast corner of Black Hawk County, Twin Springs Natural Area is most recent addition to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board system. This fifty-four acre wildlife area harbors a narrow valley with a small stream that flows down to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail and on to the Cedar River. The stream cuts through limestone outcrops and is flanked by wetlands, open grasslands and upland timber. This area will be open to public use by the end of October. For a map and more information go to our website at www.blackhawcountyparks.com click on Parks and look for Twin Springs Natural Area. This purchase was made possible with a generous donation from the Young Family Foundation, other private donors, a state grant from the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund and with funding from the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program.



AmeriCorps volunteer cutting woody vegetation out of savanna



Halloween Events

Black Hawk Park

2410 West Lone Tree Road
Cedar Falls IA 50613
319-433-PARK (7275)
conservation@co.black-hawk.ia.us

Halloween Campout

Registered campers are in for a treat October 16 from 5:30-6:30 PM. Join in the fun and trick or treating.

Panic Park Haunted House

Are you feeling lucky? The haunted house (located at the Rotary Reserve, 5932 N. Union Road in Cedar Falls) will be open 7:00-11:00 PM. The house opens on:
Fridays: October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
Saturdays: October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
Sunday, October 31 from 7:00-10:00 PM.
Tickets are \$9. For more details visit <http://www.co.black-hawk.ia.us/panicpark>.



Hickory Hills Park

3338 Hickory Hills Road
La Porte City IA 50651
319-342-3350

hickoryhills@netins.net

For reservations contact
blackhawkcountyparks.com

Halloween Camp-Out

Saturday, October 9. For registered campers, there will be pumpkin carving, campsite decorating, costume contests and a parade.

Hartman Reserve Nature Center

657 Reserve Drive
Cedar Falls IA 50613
319-277-2187

hartmanreserve@co.black-hawk.ia.us

Halloween Hikes

Every year, our guests enjoy a hike through the woods, celebrating the Halloween season with non-scary characters in a fun performance. The adventure in 2010 will feature a variety of characters in "Where the Wild Things REALLY Are."

Designed for the whole family, Halloween Hikes are complete with lighted trails, nature-related stories, and cookies, cocoa, and hot cider. Costumes are welcome, but not required.

Ticket sales will begin October 1st, so reserve your tickets for one of the hikes, leaving every 15 minutes on October 27, 28 & 29. First hike starts at 6:00 PM. The last hike leaves at 8:00 PM. Guests will complete their hike with refreshments in the Interpretive Center and then voting for a favorite pumpkin in the carving contest before they leave. (Guests may use a quarter to vote for additional pumpkins.) Please allow 90 minutes for this fun adventure!

McFarlane Park

13619 King Road
La Porte City IA 50651
319-342-3844
mcfarlane@netins.net
For reservations contact
blackhawkcountyparks.com



Halloween Camp-Out

September 17-18. Event for registered campers. "Night at the Museum" is the theme. T-rex will be visiting. Apple dunking, pumpkin carving, trick-or-treating bag decorating, movie & popcorn, campground trick-or-treating, campsite decorating contest, costume contest, spook ride and noon potluck with chili furnished. Bring side dishes, table setting and appetite.

HARTMAN RESERVE NATURE CENTER PUMPKIN CARVING/DECORATING CONTEST

Beginning Monday, October 25, submit your pumpkin masterpiece for a \$1 entrance fee. Pumpkins will be displayed during each night of the hikes and guests can vote for their favorite entries.

Prizes will be awarded in various categories.

Entrants may pick up their pumpkins on Friday, October 29 at 9:00 PM or
Sunday, October 31 between 1:00-5:00 PM.



Hartman News

Coming and Goings

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Constance Grimm, our development coordinator. Her friendly demeanor and determined work ethic will be missed. It is also time to say goodbye to our summer interns: Ashley Kittle, who continued the proud legacy of our Gene Buckles Natural Resource Internship and Amy Buckendahl. Thank you all for all of your hard work this summer! Chelsie Thompson who started with Hartman as an AmeriCorps member is leaving the assistant program coordinator position to return to school. Also leaving to return to school is Kyle Bauch, our current AmeriCorps member.

Our new development coordinator is Laura Stammler. She will be taking over the grant writing and fundraising for Hartman. We are excited to have her aboard! Katherine Klus will be continuing as a program intern.

Board of Directors

If you have ever considered becoming involved in the decision making process for Hartman Reserve or would like to participate in an advisory capacity or if you feel like you have something important to offer to the future of Hartman Reserve, consider applying for a seat on the Friends of Hartman Reserve Board of Directors. Applications can be found at the Friends website www.hartmanreserve.org under the *friends* tab.

Endowment, Memorials and Donations

The Friends of Hartman Reserve thank William & Mary Jo Allen, Saul & Joan Diamond, Olga Chyle-Jung and Thomas & Cathy Meier for their generous contributions to our endowment fund. Thanks to the friends and family of Mary Kay Eakin for their memorial donations. The Friends also thank the following businesses, individuals and families for their donations: Peregrine Financial, Loren & Jacquelyn Bakker, Susan & Jerry Green, Tom & Char Strub, Roger & Maureen White, and the Fredrick Marold fund.

Thank You Volunteers!

We are proud to announce that our valued volunteers have generated over 2,518 hours of service so far this year.

The top 10 individuals and groups are: Robbin Burns 500+, Cedar Valley Association of Soft Trails (CVAST) 390+, Cletus Wander 300, Cedar Heights School 120, Devonshire School 96, UNI Greek 54, Cody Bilharz 52, Denver Girl Scouts 30, Alicia Herzog 30, and Next Generation Wireless 30. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our mission.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, call our volunteer coordinator at 277-2187.

Join the Friends of Hartman Reserve

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

Lions in Iowa! Going Home

This traveling exhibit has been to numerous counties over the last five years. Hartman has been proud to sponsor this informative display about an important natural resource issue. Thank you to the many counties who participated and to REAP-CEP for generously funding this project.

Urban Youth Corp (UYC)

Our annual work crew spent four weeks on projects throughout Hartman Reserve. They painted, set posts, mulched trails and did many other assorted tasks. This years team consisted of Thomas Wells, James Horton, Jessica Wetherall, Adrian Thompson, DeOnite Jenkins and Caleb Wallace as the team leader. Great job everybody! The work crew was paid through a grant from the Iowa DOT. Speaking of the trail crew, thank you to the Cedar Trails Partnership for sponsoring new trail signs and posts at all of our trail junctions. These updated signs will help visitors find their way through thick and thin at Hartman.



UYC Crew

A Salute to Songbirds Exhibit Is Extended

Thanks to the REAP committee, this exhibit will be available to view for another year!

Osprey Project

Once again our old friend H8 is back in the cell tower in Cedar Falls. He is back with a mate and it looks like there are three chicks in the nest. This is great news and a tribute to the forward thinking of Hartman staff from years ago. Thank you Bill Schuerman for keeping an eye on this nest.

Bird Cents Fundraiser

During the month of October, 2 cents per pound will be donated to Hartman Reserve. Support Hartman Reserve by buying your bird seed from the following merchants. Visit: Cedar River Milling in Gilbertville, East Central Iowa Co-Op in Cedar Falls and Platt's Inc. in Waterloo.



Iowa Prairie Mural by UNI Art & The Child Students
in May 2010

Hartman News

UNI Students Unearth Cedar Valley's Prehistory

By John Anderson in the Northern Iowan

University of Northern Iowa students learned the fundamentals of field archaeology and uncovered artifacts from the Cedar River Valley's prehistory through UNI's Archaeological Field School.

The 6-credit course was taught by Don Gaff, assistant professor of anthropology, and met from May 17 to June 24 at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Cedar Falls. The class worked in the field Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the duration of the course.

Throughout the course the students learned the fundamentals of field archaeology, including how to find, excavate and document archaeological sites; photography; and map work. "It's real research," Gaff said. "It's not a pretend exercise; it's not a worksheet; it's not a pretend laboratory setting. Everything (the students are) seeing is the first time it's been seen in over a thousand years, and every piece they find tells us more about the prehistory of Black Hawk County and the Cedar River Valley."

According to anthropology major Justin Elkins, the course began at Hartman by shovel-testing, which is archaeological "grunt work" that involves digging 20-centimeter-deep holes every 10 meters and sifting through the soil for artifacts or soil changes, which indicate the potential for an excavation site. This "tedious" process was complicated in the prairie of the reserve by a prevalence of mosquitoes and chest-high poison ivy. Gaff likened the team building created by the rough conditions to going to boot camp or being on an athletic team.

"You come together with a bunch of strangers and you pop out the other side as the best of friends," he said. According to Gaff, the course's slow start exposed the students to the realities of archaeology. "TV, as any of these guys will tell you, doesn't show how it really is," he said. "It's not, *voila*, golden idol. There's lots of paperwork, lots of slow-going."

After the shovel-testing, the students began excavating an area near the previous course's site until they reached the B horizon, or lighter colored soil, but did not find any artifacts. On a hunch the team moved to the other side of the site and found some clay sherds, or pieces, and projectile points that likely date back to A.D. 300-700. "I think what's really, really cool about the spear points is, before when we were digging stuff up we found a lot of fire-cracked rock, some flint, some sherds from the process of making the (projectile) points, but not really concrete evidence," said anthropology major Anna Moran. "Having a point shows there's concrete evidence that a human being was here, whereas beforehand it's just speculation. Because in nature you can get sherds, but you can't really get an arrowhead just naturally formed." Timothy Walton, anthropology major, enjoyed the hands-on nature of the course. "It's different from a normal class, because you're actually outside doing different things, (and it's) hands-on, even more so than a lab, because you're actually finding the stuff right there, you're the source of the discovery," he said. "It's cool, especially now that we're finding stuff." Moran felt that her experience working in the course has given context to otherwise tedious archaeological paperwork. "It's no longer just a random site in an imaginary land in my head; it's now a real place," she said.

Hartman Events

Wood Vibrations

On Wednesday, August 11, Hartman Reserve partnered with the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival artists. The Chamber Orchestra performed two free concerts at Hartman Reserve for children. The kids created their very own cicada kazoos, paper flowers and enjoyed the symphony concert.

2010 Hartman Eco-Triathlon

Sixty-four racers registered for the race held on Sunday, August 15th. The following individuals received recycled plaques: Cutters relay, CF Public Works relay, Cheryl Dralle, Robert Houlihan, Zach Cloe, Matt Kostle, Joshua Shively, Adam Nosbisch, Chuck Fitz, Eric Johnson, Donald Warbritton, Jerry Brown and Gene Dahlen.

Our sponsors were Bike Tech, Cedar Trails Partnership, Cedar Valley Association of Soft Trails (CVAST), Hammer Nutrition, Iowa DNR: George Wyth State park, The Runner's Flat, Cedar Falls Tourism, Field of Yoga, Panera Bread, Road ID, Bertch Cabinet Manufacturing, Inc., and CrawDaddy Outdoors. The race was timed by TrekMan Racing. Along with the sponsors, 39 volunteers assisted in this event.

To check out the results from the race go to www.hartmanreserve.org. Click on the link to the 2010 Hartman Eco-Triathlon on the right hand side of the page.



Under the Harvest Moon Fundraiser

This year's Friends of Hartman Reserve fundraising benefit will be held on Friday, November 5, at Hartman Reserve Nature Center! Enjoy food, drink, music, silent and live auction packages with all proceeds going to support environmental education. Call 319-277-2187 to request an invitation.

SPECIAL REPORT!!

Weather Predictions through Nature Observation

By Chris Anderson, Program Coordinator

I don't believe I am the first person to have said it, but I often start off the hikes I lead by saying "The forest has a story to tell, if you are just willing to listen". The story that the forest tells is very adeptly written and has a mind boggling cast of characters and countless subplots. Today we are going to delve into one of those subplots, the weather.

I have been using nature to help me predict the weather ever since I was a boy bailing hay as a hired hand during the summer months. More often than not the only way I would get a day off was if it rained. Since I hated watching the news I needed another way to learn the likelihood of impending changes in the weather. My Grandma Emma always used to say "If you see a Cardinal it will rain within a day." Read more at our website www.hartmanreserve.org

Hartman Public Programs

Public Program Fees
\$5 Adults (17 & over) &
\$2 Youth (16 & Under)
\$30 Organized Youth Group
(16 & under)
or priced as noted
Sign up for public programs at
BlackHawkCountyParks.com

Fun Adult Nature Series (F.A.N.S.)

Monarch Tagging

Friday, September 10. 4:30-7:00 PM

Visit a few prairie patches and local roosting spots and help Hartman tag Monarchs on their journey to Mexico!

Apple Orchard Tour/Hard Cider Demonstration

Sunday, Oct. 10. 1:00-5:00 PM

Together we will visit the Jefferson Greenhouse and Orchard near Dunkerton. After a tour of the orchard we will gather up apples and head back to the Nature Center where we will make cider using a traditional screw press. The cider that we press will then be used to make hard cider. We will also have some hard ciders on hand for you to sample while we discuss different ways that you can start making your own at home. All participants must be 21 years of age or above (Please have your photo I.D. available). The cost for this program is \$10 per person.

Bushcraft Survival Series

Survival Fishing

Sunday, October 3. 1:00-3:00 PM

In a survival situation fishing can be the most productive way to obtain fats and proteins with minimal expenditure of calories. Together we will look at simple fishing kits you can assemble at home, as well as improvised equipment you can manufacture in the field from natural, and recycled materials. This program will be outdoors so be sure to dress for the weather.



Nocturnal Navigation

Sunday, November 21. 5:30-7:30 PM

Learn how to negotiate your way through the wilderness day or night. We will look at using compasses, topographic maps, and the night sky to establish our whereabouts on the face of the planet. This program will be outdoors so be sure to dress for the weather.

Assembling Survival Kits

Sunday, December 5. 1:00-3:00 PM

What exactly do you need in a survival kit? We will explore different types of kits that you can assemble at home using scrounged and re-purposed materials in addition to a few specifically purchased items.

Monarch Tagging

Saturday, September 11. 4:30-7:00 PM

Bring the family and learn how to tag Monarch butterflies. The group will caravan to several butterfly hotspots.

Woodland Workout

Sunday, September 12. 1:00-3:00 PM

Are you interested in trying a unique way to work out and get into better shape? Join us and give the “Woodland Workout” a try. Start off with a stretching warm up led by members of UNI’s yoga club then work your upper body while cutting cordwood with a bow saw and stacking the cut wood.

Improve your cardio as you take off down the trails at a run or enjoy a leisurely stroll with a map and compass while you search for orienteering flags and tips for healthy living. After you’ve found your flags, hop in a canoe or kayak and paddle around Lake Manatt. Lastly, follow a naturalist on a nature hike to the upland portion of the Hartman Bluff State Preserve and back again for the finish. After you’ve completed the course, the UNI yoga club will again assist by leading more stretches. This program will be outdoors, so be sure to dress for the weather.

Grandparent’s Day Celebration

Sunday, September 12. 2:00-4:00 PM

Spend the day with your grandchild and celebrate being a grandparent as you hike through the forest learning about the critters that live in it. Each family will make a bird house to take home and share. Cost: \$10 per bird house.

Incredible Insects

Friday, September 24. 6:00-7:00 PM

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!

Birding by Boat at Big Woods Lake

Thursday Evenings September & October. 6:30-8:00 PM.

Spend the evening kayaking around the lake and listening to the birds. Reservations are not required; however, boat rental and program begin promptly at 6:30 PM. Binoculars are optional. Cost: \$10 per boat

Hartman Public Programs

Cedar River Clean Up

Saturday, October 2. 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

It is important to manage and preserve our natural resources in order to fully enjoy all that they offer. Paddle down the Cedar River and make a difference by cleaning up and managing our riverbanks. After our hard work, we will relax and enjoy fresh baked Dutch oven dessert! No prior canoeing experience is necessary and transportation will be provided to and from the site. The fee for this program is \$5.00 per person. This program may require getting in and out of the canoe so be sure to dress appropriately.

Night Hike Investigation

Friday, October. 22. 7:30-9:30 PM

Go on a night hike and look for all the ghost and goblins that live in the forests surrounding Hartman Reserve. Make sure to bring a flashlight and a good story to share around the campfire.

Nighttime Prairie Burn

Wednesday, November 10. 6:00-8:00 PM

Smokey the Bear was wrong! Dispel myths and find out how fire is beneficial for a majority of Iowa's ecosystems. Learn how and why natural resource managers conduct prescribed burns. Compare the differences between burned and unburned sites. If weather prevails, observe a burn in action! Pie-iron pizzas will be served so you don't have to worry about missing supper!

Stream Exploration and Stormwater Management

Sunday, November 14. 1:00-3:00 PM

When it rains, water, as well as pollutants rush into storm drains and into nearby water bodies. Stormwater runoff from parking lots and other developed surfaces act as a mode for transporting pollutants into receiving water bodies. These pollutants can have very harmful impacts on fish and wildlife populations and kill native vegetation and make recreational areas unsafe for use. Take a trip and learn about current stormwater management practices and explore local streams impacted by stormwater runoff.

Holiday Wreath Making

Saturday, November 20. 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Create your very own wreath out of boughs from native conifer trees. Sure to impress your friends, this holiday treat will light up your front door. Bring hand prunners to build this holiday masterpiece. Cost: \$15

Birding Hike at Sweet Marsh

Saturday, November 20. 6:30-10:30 AM

Join us for a birding hike through a unique Iowa habitat at Sweet Marsh State Wildlife Management Area. We will walk along the dike system and observe the unique flora and fauna of a real Iowa gem! This is great opportunity to observe birds you may not have realized live in Iowa.

Night Time Creatures

Friday, December 10. 7:00-8:30 PM

Are you afraid of the dark? If not, come join us for an exciting night hike. We will explore the woods at night and learn about some of Iowa's fascinating nocturnal creatures. Afterwards, come inside and warm up with some hot chocolate!

Snoeshoe Building Workshop

Date and time to be announced. Cost: \$200. Weave your very own pair of traditional wooden snowshoes and then spend the winter tromping around in the woods. The shoes will take approximately 3-4 evenings to make.

Boundary Waters Boot Camp

Planning a trip to the Boundary Water-Quetico region of Northern Minnesota and Southern Ontario? Want a little practice, or added guidance before you go? Then sign up for this new camp. The camp will be under the instruction of a former Boundary Waters Wilderness Ranger on the ins and outs of trip planning, gear selection, leave-no-trace camping, BWCA/Quetico rules & regulations, menu selection, gear maintenance & emergency repairs, wilderness first aid, map and compass use, bear safety, fire building, and more!!! After the classroom portion of camp, you'll grab a canoe and go for a paddle on the Cedar Valley Paddlers Trail. The trail will give you an opportunity to canoe on various bodies of water, with variable challenges to test and improve your canoeing ability and improve your endurance. You will also have the opportunity to portage your canoe. Portaging is the act of carrying your canoe and gear from one body of water to the next, a task that you will complete many times before your real Boundary Waters trip is complete! To learn more, call or e-mail Chris Anderson; Program Coordinator at 319- 277-2187 or chris.hrnc@gmail.com.

Nature Tales Story Hour

Kids 3-5 years old and their caregivers.

Read a nature themed story and do an activity based on the book.

Held the 2nd week of each month

Tuesdays or Thursdays; 10:30-11:30AM.

Cost: \$2 suggested donation per child.

No registration required.



Thursday, September 9, 2010

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Hartman School Programs

Teachers Newsletter Fall 2010

We are getting closer to the return of kids to school which means we are quickly approaching field trip season! Here at Hartman Reserve Nature Center we have programs for all grade levels and abilities. Our programs can help to enhance courses such as math, science, writing, art, and physical education. Along with our traditional fall programs like:

*Apple cider pressing-All grades (IA Core Curriculum; Life Science, History, Reading) Each student needs 2 apples.

Topics covered include photosynthesis, pollination, and the life cycle of flowering plants.

*Orienteering-4th-12th grades (IA Core Curriculum; Geometry & Measurement, Number & Operations, Data Analysis/Statistics & Probability, Geography) Teaches team building, problem solving, and map and compass skills while students search for orienteering flags.

*Canoeing-5th-12th grades (IA Core Curriculum; History, Health Literacy, Behavioral sciences) Teaches team building as students work together to paddle around one of Hartman Reserve's small lakes. Students receive instruction in water safety, paddling, and the history of canoes in North America.

*Nature hikes -All grades (IA Core Curriculum; Life Science, History, Health Literacy, Science as Inquiry, Behavioral sciences) Hikes can be themed to favor different topics such as ecology, wild flowers, animal habitats, prehistoric Iowa, and more!

*Animals of Black Hawk County-All grades (IA Core Curriculum; Life Science, History, Science as Inquiry, Geography) Exploration time in exhibit room and the naturalist will get out a live turtle, snake, or salamander, and hands on pelts.



New Outreach Programs!!!

We are developing new programs that will further incorporate subjects that were a bit neglected in the past (art, writing, social studies).

The staff of Hartman Reserve can also visit your classroom or a County Conservation Board area near your school if you are unable to make it to the nature center due to time or budget constraints. Some possible outreach programs that work well are:

*Animals of Black Hawk County-All grades (IA Core Curriculum; Life Science, History, Science as Inquiry, Geography) A naturalist will get out a visit your class with a turtle, snake, or salamander, and hands on pelts.

*Build a Tree-1st grade (IA Core Curriculum; Life Science, Science as Inquiry) Students will act out the parts of a tree.

Students will understand that plants have external features that help them thrive.

*Oh Deer!-3rd-6th grade (IA Core Curriculum; Life Science, History, Science as Inquiry Geography) Students will understand plants and animals and their dependence on one another.

*Intro to Osprey-5th-12th grades (IA Core Curriculum; Life Science, History, Science as Inquiry Geography) Students will learn about osprey introduction to the Cedar Valley.

*Stream Table-4th-12th grades (IA Core Curriculum; Life Science, History, Science as Inquiry Geography) Students will

experiment with hydrology and flood plains by trying to control one of nature's strongest forces; WATER!

Tailor-made Programs

Also keep in mind if there is a particular subject that you want to cover in your class, that we do not currently have a program for, the Hartman staff would be more than willing to work with you to develop a "tailor-made" program!

Sneak Preview...

Soon Hartman Reserve will be offering a new series of "citizen science" programs. The Citizen Science Series will cover the Number & Operations, Data Analysis/Statistics & Probability, Geography, Life Science, Science as Inquiry, Writing, Essential Skills, 21st Century Skills, Viewing, Earth & Space, Political Science sections of the Iowa Core Curriculum.

Mock Turkey Reintroduction Grades 6th-12th

This fall we will be offering the Mock Turkey Reintroduction program. During this program your students will assume the role of biologists, ecologists, politicians, game wardens, land managers, foresters, land owners, and geographers among others. They will work together using maps, literature, surveys, data collection, and personal opinions to decide if it would be possible to bring wild turkey back to Hartman Reserve. This program is unique because it can be done on site at Hartman Reserve, or in a classroom, media center, or library that has internet access. If you choose to do the Mock Turkey Reintroduction program you will be encouraged to have the students do a little homework in advance to learn about wild turkeys from literature or the internet.

Bluebird Nest Box Observation Grades 1st-12th

Unlike the Mock Turkey Reintroduction program the Bluebird Nest Box Observation is the real deal! The data that is collected by your students will be entered into the online Nest Watch (<http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nest/home/index>) data sheets that are utilized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Students will use their powers of observation and technology to monitor and record the goings on around the Bluebird nest boxed located on one of the prairies that Black Hawk County Conservation Board manages.

Monarch Tagging Grades 2nd-12th

Be apart of Monarch Mania! This is great way to be apart of the Monarch's remarkable journey! Students will have the opportunity to learn about the Monarch's life cycle, make their own butterfly net from recycled materials found around home, tag Monarch butterflies, and learn how to follow their amazing trip. All the data collected by your students will be entered onto Monarch Watch (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>) so that we can monitor each butterfly's progress from here to Mexico!

For more information on these, or other programs offered through Hartman Reserve Nature Center, please contact Chris Anderson; Program Coordinator via e-mail at chris.hrnc@gmail.com, by phone at 319-277-2187, or visit HartmanReserve.org.

Waste Trac Programs

“Backyard Composting 101” Workshop

Thursday, September 9 & September 30; 7:00-8:00 PM (FREE) Learn to feed you compost bin a balanced diet! Receive tips for how to set up a compost bin and then feed it a good mix of ‘greens’ (high in nitrogen) and ‘browns’ (high in carbon). It’s easy to harvest and use your own homemade compost! Call 319-266-TRAC to register.

“Where Does Our Waste Go?” Tour

Friday, October 15; 9:00-Noon (FREE)
Tour the Black Hawk County Landfill, the Waterloo Waste Water Treatment Plant, and a local recycling center to learn what happens to different types of waste produced daily in the Cedar Valley. Call 319-266-TRAC to register.

Waste Trac Events

Energy and Environmental Fair

Saturday, September 25; 9:00–2:00 PM (FREE)
Free food, kids’ activities, eco-friendly displays, plus compost bin and rain barrel sales. There will also be a free household hazardous material drop-off for Black Hawk County residents. For more details visit the Waste Trac website, www.WasteTrac.org

Fall Household Hazardous Material Drop-off

Saturday, September 25; 9:00-2:00 PM (FREE)
Black Hawk County residents, make note of the 2010 Fall Household Hazardous Material Drop-off, which will be held in conjunction with the 2010 Energy and Environmental Fair at Cedar Falls Utilities. Visit the Waste Trac website, www.WasteTrac.org for updates as the event approaches, or call the Waste Trac Education Team at 266-TRAC.



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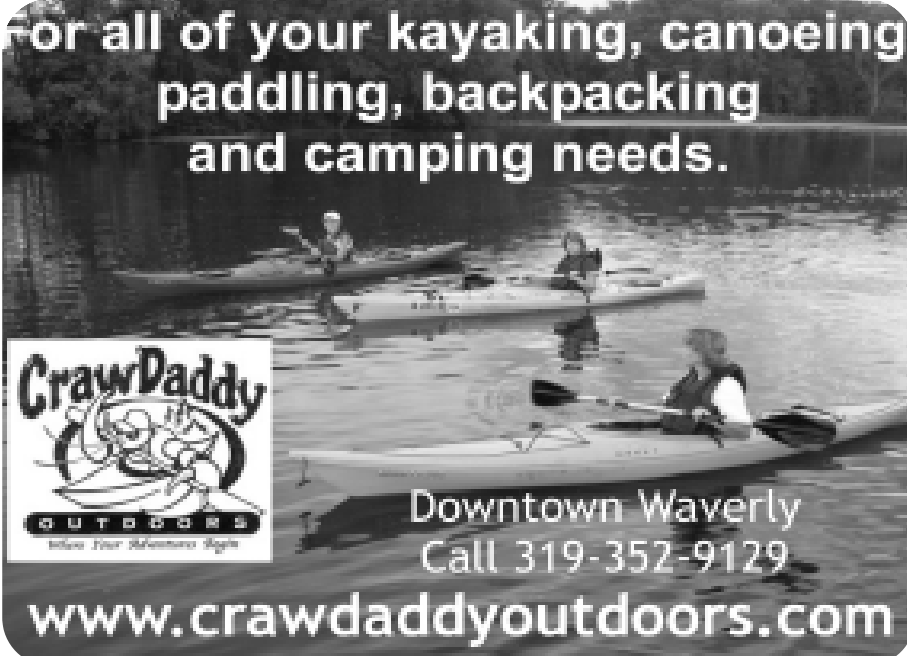
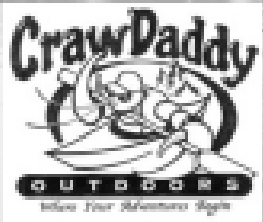
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History and Purpose

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 first 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, please call the Black Hawk County Conservation Board at 319-433-7275.