

The Oak

A Quarterly Newsletter of
the Black Hawk County
Conservation Board

1346 W. Airline Highway
Waterloo IA 50703

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Fisher Forest

by Vern Fish, Executive Director

On New Years Day I bundled up and took a hike into the Fisher Forest, the newest addition to our county park system. I wanted to get a look at the heron rookery that the Fisher Forest protects. I found a frozen beaver dam and crossed the oxbow that connects the Shell Rock River to the West Fork of the Cedar River. I followed a series of deer paths under several abandoned wooden deer hunter platforms as I wondered through the forest.

At the confluence of the two rivers I was stopped by thin ice and moving water. I could not get to the sand bar that hosted a grove of cottonwood trees and heron nests. I did find a picnic table wedged about 10 foot up into the fork of big silver maple. I could not tell if it was one of our tables from Thunder Woman Park or a Bremer County Conservation Board table that came down the Shell Rock. The only other sign of human occupation was a set of cement footings from what looked like an old cabin site overlooking the Shell Rock River.

As I watched the ice flowing down the Shell Rock, an eagle announced its displeasure with my presence. As I turn my attention upward, two mature and one immature bird wheeled, caught the wind and soared out of sight to the south. Every time I have paddled the West Fork of the Cedar River between Thunder Woman Park and the Shell Rock River I have seen eagles. There must be a nest in this greenbelt I have yet to find.

On a north/south sandy ridge that runs down the middle of the forest, I found a clump of five or six large, old bur oaks. It does not seem as cold when you walk into a grove of oak trees that may be older than the state of Iowa. For a moment I stood and slowly turned, trying to capture some of the history that these trees may have witnessed. In 1805 Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike followed the Cedar River upstream from the Mississippi for about 300 miles. He found the Cedar River navigable until, "it then branches out into three forks, called the Turkey's Foot." In the 1830's Captain Nathan Boone, son of Daniel Boone, traveled thru NE Iowa with Lieutenant Albert Lea and Lt. Colonel Kearney.



Heron Rookery located at Fisher Forest

Lieutenant Lea described the Cedar River as "easily navigated during three or four months of the year, boats will run with ease to the mouth of the Shell Rock River." On June 24, 1835, Lieutenant Lea writes, "we encamped on a small stream 30 yards broad. This day for the first time this season we saw buffalo, killed 5 or 6." In 1833 James Craig, a surveyor, described the Red Cedar River as a beautiful stream, a country full of game.

As I was stumbling through the deep snow back to the beaver dam, a bow hunter had already crossed and was working his way to his deer stand. As I stood on the beaver dam I could see his bright orange vest high up on the deer stand. The setting sun was being covered by

blowing snow as I headed back up the lane to my car. My dad tried to teach me to stop every now and then to look and listen when he took me hunting. Sometimes you catch a deer or an owl staring at you from a distance or flush a pheasant under your foot. On the final "stop & listen" my eye caught a couple of swans fighting their way to the northwest into the wind. I have no idea where they came from, where they were going or even why they are still here.

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) acquired Thunder Woman Park in the early 1960's. The West Fork Access was acquired in 1971. Since 2006 the Yokum Addition, Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area and now the Fisher Forest, have been added to the West Fork Management Unit. Our staff has begun the process of restoring the natural landscape by planting prairie and forest. One of the goals of resource management is to create "big" blocks of habitat to provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. With the addition of the 87 acre Fisher Forest this block of habitat just got bigger.

The BHCCB wishes to thank Mrs. Judy Fisher for her willingness to share this "historic" forest, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for negotiating this purchase and the Young Family Foundation for providing a matching pledge of up to \$10,000 for this purchase. The Prairie Rapids Audubon Society (PRAS) is the first organization to contribute \$500 towards this purchase. To make a pledge and see the map go to page 3.



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John Mardis, Secretary
Steve Clabby
Dianna Darold

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Vern Fish

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Sara Spvacek, Program Intern
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Andrew Rupe, Intern
Morgan O'Connor, AmeriCorps

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."

Welcome Dianna Darold

Dianna Darold has begun her first term on the BHCCB. She grew up in Hudson and had spent much of her youth camping at George Wyth and Black Hawk Park. She describes, "Growing up enjoying the outdoors with my family, fishing, camping and hiking, I now enjoy sharing it with my children, especially local landscapes and points of interest."



Dianna Darold

After spending 20 years on the west coast in central Oregon, her family moved back to Iowa. "While out west I became involved in environmental and watershed issues and discovered my servant/activist heart. Now that my family is grown, we use the Hickory Hills cabins and campground regularly and consider it our 'home away from home'."

Dianna says, "I'm happy to be able to help with the board's tasks and helping to promote this area's outdoor opportunities. It is an honor to be asked to serve on the Conservation Board and be involved in the current and future land management projects. This is an exciting time for environmental and conservation issues!"

Dianna's term runs for five years. Board members may then renew for one last five year term. We are excited to have her on "board." We thank her for serving in this important role while we experience so many changes moving ahead with so many projects and programs. Thank you and welcome aboard Dianna.

Invasive Species Management

This workshop on managing invasive species (i.e. garlic mustard) is at Hartman Interpretive Center on March 27 from 1:00-3:00 PM. This workshop will be followed up with a field day in April, at Hickory Hills Park, to pull garlic mustard.

Black Hawk Creek Water Trail

This water trail starts in Grundy Center and goes to Waterloo. With a grant from the Iowa Water Trail Program and a matching grant from the Cedar Trails Partnership this trail will become a reality. Work will begin this summer with completion next year.

Firewood Policy

Starting January 1, 2011 the Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will require 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 (*Agilus 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.



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.

Open air shelters are available at Black Hawk, Hickory Hills, McFarlane, and Siggelkow Parks along with Hartman Reserve Nature Center.

Enclosed facilities include the Airline Community Room, Hartman Reserve's Interpretive Center or Buckle's Building, Lakeview Lodge at Hickory Hills Park and the Rotary Reserve Lodge. Check out our facilities at www.blackhawkcounty-parks.com.



Heron Rookery at Fisher Forest

Fisher Forest - Matching Funds Contribution

The *Young Family Foundation* of Waterloo, Iowa, in support of Black Hawk County Conservation Board's efforts to protect the important addition of Fisher Forest to Black Hawk County's West Fork Management Unit, has pledged up to \$10,000 in matching funds raised by Black Hawk County Conservation Board to offset the acquisition costs of Fisher Forest. Please call the BHCCB at 319-433-7275 with questions.

Make check payable to:
 Black Hawk County Conservation Board
 1346 West Airline Highway
 Waterloo, IA 50703

Name _____

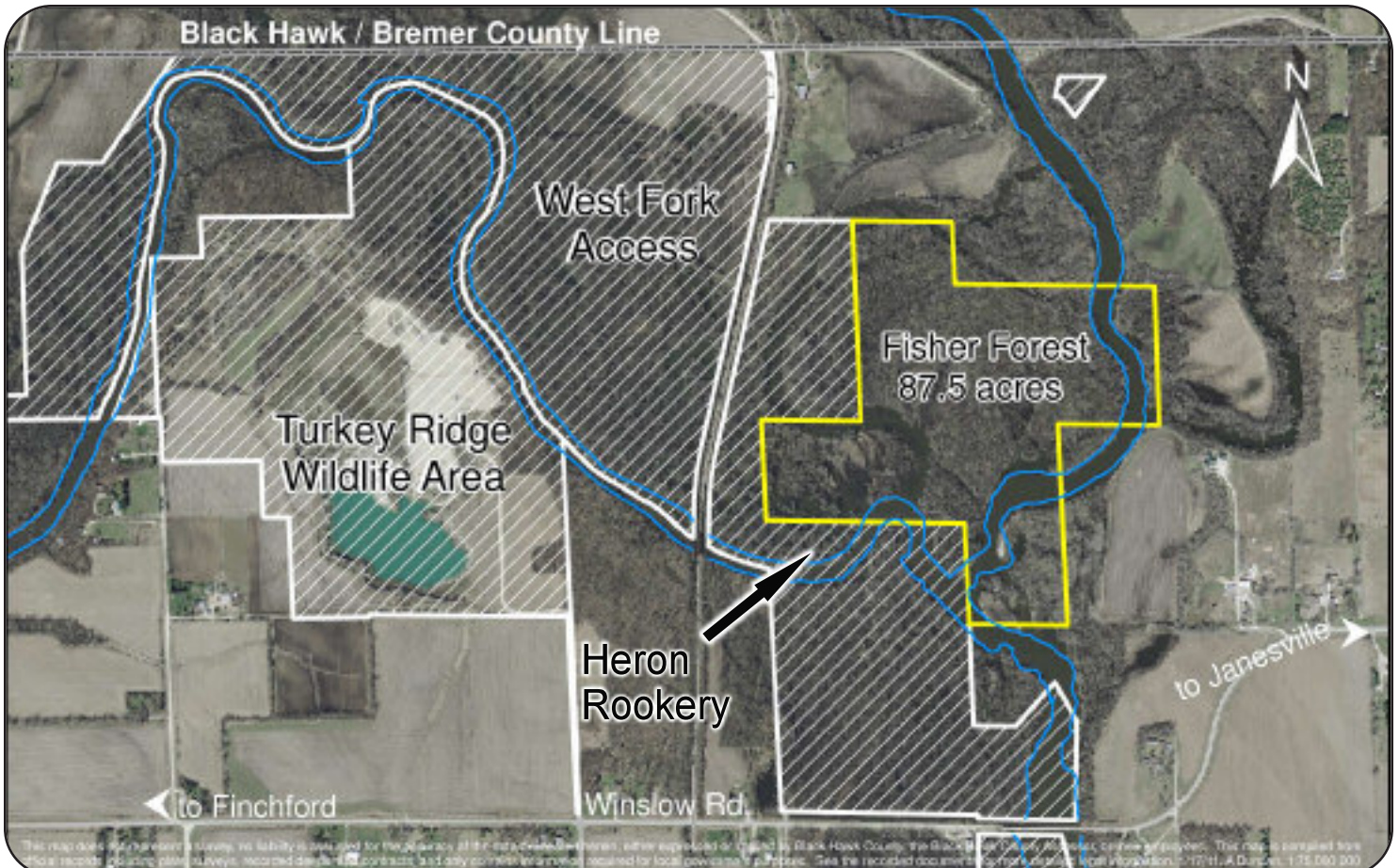
Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Comments _____

Thank you!

An acknowledgement of your contribution will be sent.



Fisher Forest

North Unit News

Now Available! Big Woods Lake Cabin Rental

The beautiful all season cabin at Big Woods Lake is now open and ready to be rented. To make your reservation visit www.blackhawkcountyparks.com.

This cabin has two bedrooms, open style kitchen/living room, bathroom with a shower. The cabin is heated has air-conditioning and can accommodate up to six people. One bedroom has a queen size bed and the other bedroom has two sets of bunkbeds.

Kitchen furnishings include a microwave, electric stove with oven, refrigerator, sink with running water, table & chairs, ceiling fan, mop and broom. Also included is a coffee pot, 12" fry pan, 2-qt. sauce pan, pizza pan, spatula and spoon.



Big Woods Lake all season cabin

The living room has a sofa, side chair and a TV/DVD. A picnic table and fire ring are located outside of the cabin. Rental fees are \$73.92* per night Sunday-Thursday; or \$105.28* per night for Friday or Saturday. To reserve, there is a two-night minimum. Take advantage of this location along Big Woods Lake and the bike trails. Enjoy!

*tax included.

Big Woods Lake Campground is located at 1301 East Lake Street, Cedar Falls IA 50613

Youth Fishing Contest at Black Hawk Park

June 4. Free fishing contest for youth 17 and under. Two age categories: 12 & under; 13-17 years. Registration starts at 8:30 AM. Fishing from 9AM-11AM at Yellowbelly Pond which is located between the two campgrounds. Bring your own fishing rods, tackle and bait. Prizes will be awarded.

South Unit News

Troy Petersen

I graduated in the 237th Basic Class from the Basic Level I Training School, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, on December 17. Classes began on Sept 13. The Academy is at Camp Dodge in Johnston. My class had 31 students, and included police officers, deputies, park rangers, and conservation officers from all over the state.



*Troy Petersen
Ranger II*

Areas of training included law, firearms, report writing, enforcement and investigation techniques, defensive training, physical training, and vehicle operations. Total hours of course time was 568 hours. I am now a certified peace officer in the State of Iowa.

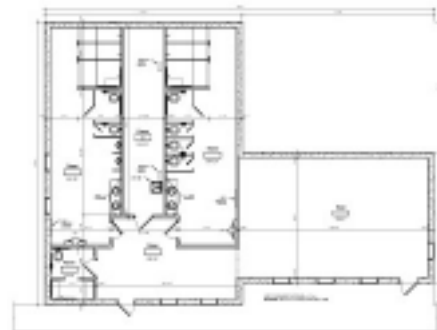
I enjoyed my time there, learned a lot, and made new friends. I appreciate very much being given the opportunity to go to the Academy and look forward to many more years of service to the Conservation Board.

Thank You Aspro!

Thank you to Aspro for their generous donation of almost 200 tons of sand for the new playground at McFarlane Park.

Community Safe Room

Work on the community safe room/shower at Hickory Hills Park is scheduled to begin this spring with a mid summer completion date. This will replace the existing showerhouse in the campground. The structure will provide safe haven for park users in cases of tornado or high wind events. A grant from Homeland Security has made this possible.



Community Saferoom/ Showerhouse

Evansdale Bridge

Five supports have been installed on the bridge. Work has ended for the winter season and will resume in the spring.



Hartman News

Cedar Valley Association of Soft Trails (CVAST)

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board has entered into a partnership with CVAST. They have agreed to assist with trail maintenance and offer advice on a variety of recreational issues for the Hartman Reserve area. We look forward to working with them in achieving a common goal.

Contribute to the Field Trip Trust

Your tax-deductible gift will be used to provide scholarships to eligible Black Hawk County schools, allowing countless children to experience a field trip at Hartman Reserve Nature Center. The trust has been kept strong this quarter because of generous contributions from **Jim & Nancy Gephart**.

Donations, Endowment, Memberships, and Memorials

The Friends of Hartman Reserve thank the families and friends of **Amy Gephart** and the estate of **Mary Kay Eakin** for their memorial gifts. Thanks also to **Kelly Barber, Seth & Kim Brown, CrawDaddy Outdoors, CVAST, James Fitkin, Steven & Susan Flack, Richard & Lisa Hurban, Sara Knott, Koch Construction, Brett & Kendra Richman, Runners Flat, Charles & Alice Shirey, Casey & Adrienne Slack, Jerome & Sandra Tempel, and Chelsi Wickham** for their donations. Also, to all who have purchased Friends of Hartman Reserve memberships, thank you for your support. You all are contributing to Outdoor Education in the Cedar Valley.

Join the Friends Reserve

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

Big Backpack Attack

Hartman Reserve is now offering backpacks filled with all of the necessary equipment for a fun family hike. We have two subjects available Birds and Rocks & Minerals. This free service has been made possible by the **Prairie Rapids Audubon Society (PRAS)** and the **Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society**. Stop by the Interpretive Center to get your pack and explore!

Eagle Scout Project

Thank you to **Joe McGee** and his crew for the fine work they did repairing the footbridge in Hartman Reserve's South Unit. The bridge was showing its age and in one day Joe and crew rebuilt the entire structure. It will now be available to visitors for many more years.



Eagle Scout Project

Snowshoe & Ski Trail Signs

New snowshoe and ski signs were installed this fall thanks to a generous donation of time, money, and labor by the **Cedar Valley Cyclists**. These signs will hopefully inform snowshoers that ski tracks should not be destroyed.

Volunteer Appreciation Chili Dinner 2011

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the 2011 Volunteer Appreciation Chili Dinner. The night was a great success, full of appreciation to Hartman's wonderful volunteers and warm chili! Thank you again to all of our hardworking volunteers - Hartman would not be the same without you!



Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help with this year's **Maple Syrup Festival March 5th and 6th**. Areas where volunteers are needed are: Kitchen help, table bussing, assist with Chris Cakes, sap collection, ticket sales, parking attendants and help with the bake sale. We will be tapping trees **Friday, February 25th from 10:00AM-12:00PM** at Hartman. We also need volunteers to help staff various stations for our **Earth Fair Sunday April 17th from 1:00-5:00**. Please contact ashley.hrrc@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer! Thanks!

*Greg Greco,
President of the
Friends board
with Cletus
Wander, Jeanne
Miller and
Robbin Burns.*

Watch for new exhibit "Coming Soon"

Hartman will be hosting a new exhibit in the Buckles Program Center. The exhibit will be on display for a limited time. We will have more information at a later date, so watch our website www.hartmanreserve.org.

Hartman Wish List

Thanks to all the wonderful people who made our wishes come true. We received a sailboat (yes, you read that right, a sailboat) from **Judith Speer**, canoes from **Dennis Clark**, a freezer for our maple syrup from **Erin Kern**, and **Madeline Metzger** donated a sewing machine. Thank you to all who gave beanie babies for programming. Thank you to **Harris Cleaners** for donating a dehumidifier.

New wishes are: Small cash register for gift shop & events, dustbuster, new life jackets in adult and youth sizes, tea lights, tiki torches, tools, Rubbermaid totes with lids for storage and utility lighters. Misc. sewing supplies. Kitchen supplies that are needed include plastic spatulas, measuring cups & spoons, ladles, serving tongs and a convertible griddle. Metal silverware for wind chime craft.

Hartman Public Program

Silos and Smokestacks presents *Adventures Through Time Spring Break Camp*

for Grades 3-6

March 14-18; 8 AM to 5 PM Daily

Cost is \$150 for the entire week and overnight stay at Hartman Reserve or

\$130 for day camps only

For information call 319-234-4567 or visit silosandsmokestacks.org



Sew Me, Love Me Workshop

St. Patrick's Day Friend- Saturday, March 12, 9-11 AM.

Breathe new life into old items and clothing! We'll use orphan socks, shrunken sweaters, ill-fitting tops, dad's old ties, old baby clothes, and mismatched buttons to make homemade stuffed animals. Bring items from home to reuse along with our supply of leftover fabrics. Create one of 3 different stuffed animals and use patterns to create a St. Patrick's Day outfit for your new stuffed critter. The program is open to all ages, but students younger than 7th grade will need an adult to assist them.

Co-sponsored by the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission and the Waste Trac Education Team. The cost for the workshop is \$5 per stuffed animal.

Sticky, Tricky, Gnome Hunt-Saturday, March 12, 1-4 PM (drop in anytime before 3:00). While collecting sap from the sugar maple trees, check for marked sap bucket lids. Follow the clues and use a compass to locate gnomes hidden in the woods. Bring the gnome's message to the gift shop for a small prize.

Syruping Sundays-Sunday, March 13 & March 20, 2-3:30 PM. Help collect and make maple syrup! The sugar shack will be open and cookin' maple syrup. Join the fun by collecting sap and learning all about the sugaring process.

Bluebird Box Workshop-Sunday, March 27, 2-4 PM. \$10 per box. Build your very own bluebird box and then go on a hike in search of these colorful birds. Registration deadline: March 6.

Stormwater Management and Stream

Exploration -Sunday, April 3, 1-3 PM. It's spring and the snow is melting, but where does it all go? 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 making recreational areas unsafe for use. Take a trip with a naturalist and learn about current stormwater management practices and explore local streams impacted by runoff.

Wildlife Adventure: Having Fun while being

Active-Saturday, April 9. 1-3 PM. Bring your child to Hartman Reserve to teach him/her how it can be fun to be active and healthy. Throughout the program participants will have the opportunity to take part in various nature-

centered activities. Children will take part in a warm-up game and create an animal related art project. We will then go, as a group, on a nature scavenger hunt to learn about various wild animals. The end of the program will consist of preparing and eating a healthy snack at the nature center.

Be sure to dress in appropriate clothing, as we will be taking part in physical activities in addition to being outside for a portion of the program. This program is designed for children ages 10 & under. Parents are welcome to accompany their child. Program fee: \$5 per child.

Green Spring Cleaning-Sunday, April 10. 1-3 PM.

When Winter finally ends and Spring arrives, a home may be in need of some serious cleaning. This sometimes daunting task may make a person use harmful chemicals or environmentally harmful techniques. This program will lessen your spring cleaning woes by providing useful information regarding ecologically friendly techniques and alternative cleaners that may be used. Participants will learn great practices to develop along with an informational handout regarding techniques and recipes for alternative cleaners that will also be demonstrated.



Dance of the Woodcock-Thursday, April 21, 7-8:30 PM. Search Hartman Reserve for the evasive woodcock and learn about his mating dance that takes place every day at sunset.

Naturally Fit: How to be Healthy the Natural Way-Sunday May 1; 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Tired of running on a treadmill in a cramped fitness center? Ready to re-vamp your diet? Need of an escape from the stresses of daily life?

Come join us at Hartman Reserve. This program will teach you how easy and fun it is to be naturally healthy. During this program, we will take part in a short cardiovascular activity such as a jog on one of the nature center's trails.

Afterward, we will return to the nature center for a relaxing yoga cool-down and finish with a delicious natural and healthy recipe. Dress in appropriate clothing for physical exercise, a portion of which will take place outdoors. This program is designed for people 17 & over. Program fees: \$5 per session

Jean Pocket Art- Friday, May 6, 7-8 PM. Surprise Mom with homemade wall art made from old jean pockets and beanie babies! Co-sponsored by the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission and the Waste Trac Education Team. The cost for the workshop is \$2 per person.

Hartman Public Programs

Naturally Fit: How to be Healthy the Natural

Way-Sunday May 8, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Tired of running on a treadmill in a cramped fitness center? Ready to re-vamp your diet? Need of an escape from the stresses of daily life?

Come join us at Hartman Reserve. This program will teach you how easy and fun it is to be naturally healthy. During this program, we will take part in a short cardiovascular activity such as a jog on one of the nature center's trails.

Afterward, return to the nature center for a relaxing yoga cool-down and finish with a delicious natural and healthy recipe. Dress in appropriate clothing for physical exercise, a portion of which will take place outdoors. This program is designed for people 17 & over. Program fees: \$5 per session.

Spring Wildflower Walk-Sunday, May 8,

2-4 PM. Take your mom for a hike and learn about the spring wildflowers that bloom throughout the forest. Remember to bring your camera!

Nature Journaling and Hike -

Saturday May 14, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

“Nature journaling is the process of keeping a place-based, personal record of events, observations, and experiences in the outdoors.” (Hofmann and Passineau) Journals are excellent tools for creative expression and enjoying the outdoors. Journals can be used in many ways: to record scientific data, to take notes, to keep dried specimens, to take drawings or sketches, to use as a scrap book or simply to record thoughts and feelings! Join Hartman Naturalists in learning the art of Nature Journaling through discussion and outdoor exploring. This program is designed for people 17 and over.

Green Thumb Roadtrip-Saturday, May 21, 8:30 AM-

5:30 PM, \$15 per person. Travel in the Hartman vans to Decorah to visit Seed Savers Exchange and enjoy some free time in the downtown district.

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 tall grass prairie. Learn about how the prairie was used by Native Americans in this area, as well as all the benefits native prairies provide. Through discussion, activities, and hikes we will understand the ecological role many of the plants and animals play in the prairie community. Also learn about the loss of much of the tallgrass prairie because of past human activity.

Papermaking Workshop, Saturday, June 18, 10 AM-

Noon. 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.

Bushcraft Survival Series

Signaling & Trail Marking

Sunday, March 20, 1-3 PM.

The ability to communicate in the field over distance, or over time can be a great asset whether you are out hunting, hiking, canoeing, or just plain lost! We will explore ways to communicate via line of sight, audibly, and by way of signs left on or near the trail for your companions to “read”. This program will be outdoors so be sure to dress for the weather.



Map making and Way finding

Sunday, May 22, 1-3 PM.

Attention to detail in the field can lead to a more fulfilling experience. It can also mean the difference between an uneventful stroll, and a survival situation. During this program we will discuss ways to hone your ability to better see the natural world around you, and to translate the 3-dimensional world around you into a 2-dimensional map. These skills are also useful for mapping your favorite morel hunting grounds, wild raspberry patch, or deer stand. While a GPS may be “easier” it won't give you the same connection to “your spot” that a hand drawn map can. Portions of this program will be outdoors so be sure to dress for the weather.

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

Predicting the Weather

Sunday, June 26, 1-3 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 it's past, and it's 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.

Nature Tales Story Hour

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

Nature Tales Schedule

March 8

April 12

May 10

June 7

For Ages 3-5

10:30-11:30 AM

\$2.00 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.



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 drive 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 ways that 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 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 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!

Hartman Events

Bird Cents

A big thank you goes out to our generous donors who support our bird feeders. Thanks to Cedar River Milling for their Bird Cents contribution and the generous donation from the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society. David Boyce donated 50 lbs. of bird seed and Tom Stone keeps the feeders full. Come out and enjoy viewing our birds.

Maple Syrup Festival – March 5-6, 2011

Save the date and your appetite for March 5-6, 2011. Come hungry for stacks of all-you-can-eat pancakes, Hartman's

REAL maple syrup, live maple syrup processing demonstrations, and a fun time!

Bring the whole family and catch your pancakes in the air with the famous flapjack flipping talents of Chris Cakes. The breakfast also includes sausage, coffee, and milk.

Guests are invited to park at Cedar Heights Elementary School and ride the shuttle to Hartman Reserve Nature Center. Doors open at 7:00AM on Saturday, March 5, and Sunday, March 6. The pancakes will keep stacking and syrup bottles will be flowing until 1:00PM each day. Be sure to buy some raffle tickets at the event for your chance to win great prizes; like a kayak

package from CrawDaddy Outdoors or a bike package from Bike Tech and CVAST. Advanced tickets will go on sale Monday, February 14, and can be purchased at Hartman Reserve Nature Center or on www.brownpapertickets.com. Advanced tickets are \$7 adults and \$4 children (ages 3-12). Tickets at the door are \$8 adults and \$5 children (ages 3-12). A special thanks to our 2011 exclusive sponsors; Dr. Ron Cervetti and Cedar Valley Podiatry/Foot and Ankle Center and Hansen Farm Fresh Dairy for sponsoring all the milk and butter again this year! Funds raised will be used to

support our mission. If you would like to become a sponsor or volunteer for this event, please contact Hartman Reserve at 319-277-2187 or email laura.hrnc@gmail.com. Visit www.hartmanreserve.org for more information.

Earth Fair – April 17, 2011

Everyone is invited to attend this FREE event that takes place at Hartman Reserve on Sunday, April 17. Celebrate the Earth by participating in outdoor recreational activities and exploring Hartman. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Hartman Reserve at 319-277-2187 or email ashley.hrnc@gmail.com.



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Waste Trac

Spring Household Toxic Drop-off

The Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission will be partnering with the City of Waterloo to sponsor a FREE household hazardous materials drop-off event this spring. Black Hawk County residents are welcome to bring approved materials. The event will be held on Saturday, April 2nd from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Waterloo Waste Water Treatment Plant located at 3505 Easton Avenue in Waterloo. On the day of the event, follow signs from the intersection of Highway 218 and Mitchell Avenue to the drop-off site.

The Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission will be accepting toxic materials from county residential homes and garages at the free drop-off site. Home and garden items accepted at the event include: aerosol cans, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent light bulbs (compact and tube), ballasts, fungicide, furniture and metal polish, insect spray, wallpaper remover, rat poison, spot remover, floor care products and oven, drain, and other types of cleaners. Toxic items in the garage and workshop may include: pool chemicals, concrete cleaner, acids and bases, auto cleaners, varnish, car wax, brake fluid, driveway sealer, epoxy, glues, gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, petroleum-based adhesives, roofing tar, shellac, and propane tanks. A listing of accepted items can be found on the county solid waste mgmt. commission's website (www.WasteTrac.org). Please call if you have an item not listed and Tammy or Lyndsey can let you know if it will be accepted at the drop-off event.

Unfortunately, no paint, motor oil, antifreeze, ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, asbestos, radioactive materials, non-hazardous waste, or business waste of any kind will be accepted during the event.

The drop-off will take place as scheduled – rain or shine! For more information, please visit www.WasteTrac.org or call the Waste Trac Education Team at 266-TRAC.

For those residents unable to attend the April 2nd drop-off event, the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission will be sponsoring another free drop-off event for Black Hawk County residents this fall. Watch for more details in the next edition of The Oak or check the Waste Trac website for updates as details become available.

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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*Commission Administrator, Brett Vette
assists a resident with their materials.*



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