

The Oak

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

*1346 W. Airline Highway
Waterloo IA 50703*

*Fall 2011
Vol. 31, No. 1*

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*Black Hawk County
Board of Supervisors*

John Miller

Scott Jordan

Tom Little, Chair

Craig White

Frank Magsamen



Opportunities Fulfilled

The flooding and tornados of 2008 caused severe damaged to the parks and recreation areas managed by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB). These same storms also created opportunities to improve our recreational infrastructure.

After 37 months of planning and preparation, the Evansdale Bridge was formally opened on July 31, 2011. Under the leadership of the Evansdale Chamber of Commerce, the grand opening drew almost 100 people on a very hot and humid day.

You can now ride, hike or roller blade down the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Evansdale to McFarlane Park, a distance of 16 miles. Unfortunately, the trail is blocked at this point by McFarlane Bridge which was also damaged in the flood of 2008. The BHCCB is still raising money for this \$3.6 million project. We hope to raise the money, complete the design, let bids and start work by next spring. The work on the McFarlane Bridge may not be completed until the summer of 2013.

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board wishes to thank the many organizations and individuals that made this \$2 million bridge possible. This list includes:

**City of Evansdale
FEMA**

**Iowa Homeland Security
Shuck-Britson, Consulting Engineers
Snyder & Associates**

**Peterson Contractors Inc.
Black Hawk County Secondary Roads
Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
Iowa Northland Regional
Council of Governments**

The violent weather of 2008 also highlighted the need to have community safe rooms in our campgrounds. The BHCCB was able to secure a FEMA grant in 2009 to build a shower that can withstand the force of an EF5 tornado. This shower will serve as a tornado shelter that can protect up to 287 people. After three years of planning, ground was broke in April. The Hickory Hills Park shower/community safe room is due to be completed this October. The BHCCB is also working on FEMA grants to build community safe rooms at McFarlane Park and Hartman Reserve Nature Center.



Community safe room under construction



July 31, 2011 grand opening of the Evansdale Bridge



Board Members:

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John Mardis, Secretary
Steve Clabby
Dianna Darold

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Vern Fish

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Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist
Nikki Koelling, Clerical II
Craig Hemsath, Intern
Colton Johnson, Intern

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Al Weber, Ranger III
Scott Boose, Ranger II
Chris Dunkin, Ranger II
Stan Swingen, Maintenance III
Heath Brown, Maint. I

South Unit:

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

Park Custodian:

Jim DeWald, CRNRA

Hartman Reserve Nature Center:

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Chris Anderson, Program Coord.
Laura Stammer, Development Coord.
Sheryl Sires, Office Coordinator
Angi Reid, Program Assistant
Ashley Kittle, Program Assistant
Scott Taylor, Building Cleaner
Mary Howell, Special Events 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."

Ross Chapin Retirement

July 19, 2011 marked 30 years to the day that Ross Chapin began his career as the BHCCB Mechanic. During that time Ross has worked hard to keep a variety of vehicles in top shape. When Ross applied for the job at BHCCB he had no idea this was not your ordinary mechanics position. Over the next three decades Ross would be involved in several prairie burns, the release of wild turkeys, chasing elk, and banding swans. Congratulations to Ross for 30 years of service to BHCCB.

Welcome Chris Dunkin, Ranger II

Chris Duncan was hired by the BHCCB as a Ranger II. He will be primarily stationed at Big Woods Lake. After graduating from the police academy in April of 2010 Chris went to work with the City of Newton Police Department. He is an Iowa State Graduate with a degree in Animal Ecology. He has previously worked with the Iowa DNR and the Marion CCB.



Chris Dunkin
Ranger II

Welcome Heath Brown

Heath is our newest maintenance employee. He had previously been working at the Hardin CCB in various positions such as maintenance, resource management and education. He has worked with the DNR in law enforcement, with Wyoming Game and Fish, Conservation Corp of Iowa, and he also did research for Ducks Unlimited.



Heath Brown
Maintenance I

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. Checkout our facilities at www.blackhawkcounyparks.com

Dove Hunting

The Iowa Natural Resource Commission recently approved a dove hunting season. The season will begin September 1 and end November 9 for the entire state. Hunters can take Morning Dove and also Eurasian Collared Dove species. For more detail and bag limits, visit the Iowa DNR website at iowadnr.gov or pick up a Hunting and Trapping Regulations booklet at one of the local sporting good stores.

Morning Doves and most other dove species feed primarily on grains and weed seeds and are considered an "edge species" meaning they inhabit prairie and grasslands next to forested edges. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board manages numerous areas that would provide excellent hunting opportunities including the Prairie Addition to Bruggeman Park, Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area, Cedar River Natural Resource Area, and Fox Township. The site that may provide the best opportunity would be the Brett Klima Wildlife Area with its newly reconstructed prairie. For more information or high quality maps of the counties wildlife areas, visit blackhawkcounyparks.com or call 319-433-7275. Good hunting and be safe!

Prairie Hay for Harvest

To maintain a prairie, the land must be disturbed periodically or the prairie will be over run by trees. Prairies can be disturbed by burning, grazing or cutting. We try to burn our prairies every three years when staff are available and the weather allows. Now we are launching a pilot program to manage some of our prairies by cutting the grass for prairie hay.

Recently the Conservation Board approved the first contract with a local landowner to harvest standing prairie from the Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area. Approximately 21 acres will be cut and bailed this late summer. Late summer cutting avoids most ground nesting birds but also allows the prairie plants to re-grow and set seed during the fall months. The public will have the opportunity to bid on prairie sites identified by the Wildlife Conservationist that need to be cut.

If you are interested in participating in this program next year, would like to see a bid sample or would like more information, please contact the administrative office at 319-433-7275 or email the Wildlife Conservationist at jweimer@co.blackhawk.ia.us

North Unit News

Black Hawk Creek Informational Meeting

The Black Hawk Creek Paddlers Trail will be dedicated next summer when all signage is in place. John Wenck with the Iowa DNR will hold an informational meeting on this and other water trails. The meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 22 at the Hudson Public Library.



Alan Donaldson enjoying Black Hawk Creek

A cleanup has been scheduled following the meeting. See more information and registration information on page 8.

Invasive Species and Natural Resource Stewardship Plans

During the past summer months Craig Hemsath, a biology teacher from Union High School, worked closely with the staff to begin the process of developing a natural resource stewardship plan for the West Fork Management Unit. This area includes Thunderwoman Park, Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area, the West Fork Access and the newest addition of Fisher Forest. The plan will be a comprehensive overview of the natural resources in these areas including management recommendations for the future. The plan will focus on managing the area for wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified by the state, recreational opportunities, and water quality. This document is currently a work in progress. On behalf of the County Conservation Board, thanks for all of your work and dedication to this project!

Logging Controversy

The logging controversy at Black Hawk Park during the winters of 2010 and 2011 was a hot topic of discussion in our community. Terms like; clear cut, commercial logging, logging roads, erosion, quality of life and disgraceful “topping” practices were thrown about as tempers flared. Join Vern Fish, the Executive Director of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. and take a hike through the area in question to see for yourself the impacts and benefits. Meet at the Riverview Shelter in Black Hawk Park on Saturday, October 1, from 10 AM-Noon. Two years later; Is this area “a tangle of waist high wood nettle and poison ivy” or is it a diverse habitat filled with wildflowers and young oak trees? Dress to hike off trail in a remote area.

REAP Assembly Coming to Hartman Reserve Nature Center

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the upcoming REAP Assembly. This assembly will be held on Tuesday, September 20 from 5:30-8:00 PM at the Nature Center. Checkout www.iowadnr.gov for more information on the REAP Assemblies.



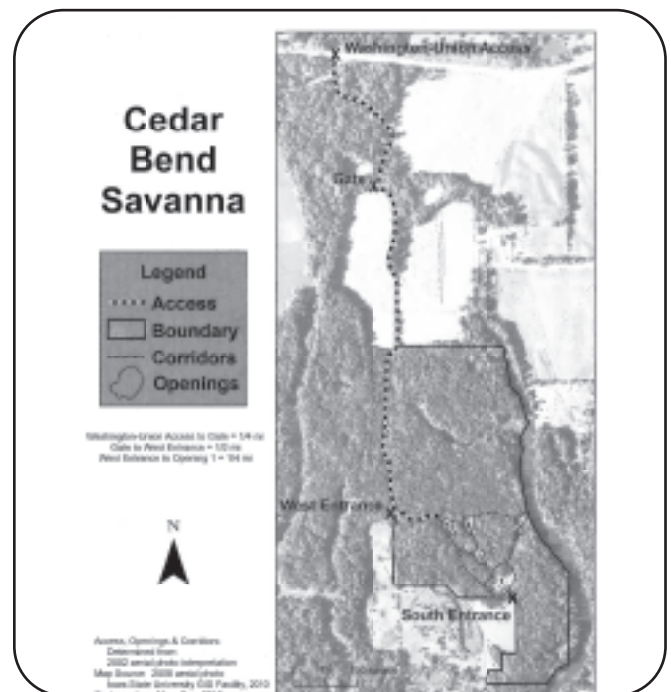
Cedar Bend Savanna Restoration Continues

Located at the north end of Black Hawk Park near Washington Union Access is a small savanna remnant. An oak savanna is comprised of a fairly open canopy of very large bur oak trees with an understory of prairie and forest species. It is essentially where the forest meets the prairie. Savannas are considered to be rarer than the tallgrass prairie that once covered most of Iowa 150 years ago. Small in size but large in character and diversity, Cedar Bend represents a small piece of Iowa’s natural history.

Historically kept open from grazing by bison and elk and the occasional prairie fire has now given way to natural succession. What was once an open oak canopy has now filled in with other tree species such as the eastern red cedar, black oak, elm and boxelder; shading out most savanna plant species.

Due to the rarity of this ecosystem and the recreational and wildlife benefits a savanna provides, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board has labeled this site a Significant Natural Area and has committed to restoring this lost landscape. For the past several decades restoration efforts were sporadic by professionals and volunteers but with a recently written management plan work will be more aggressive and focused.

Starting this fall/winter, larger sections of the savanna will be opened up by removing tree species which will allow more sunlight to penetrate the canopy. Primarily mature bur oaks and some young oaks will remain. We are hoping that the savanna species that once thrived on the site will once again appear after years of overshadowing. The savanna will be managed by mowing and also prescribed burns in an attempt to enhance the ecosystem and keep the savanna open for future generations. For more information and to view the management plan, visit blackhawkcountyparks.com or call 319-433-7275.



Cedar Bend Savanna located at the north end of Black Hawk Park

North Unit News

Sherwood Park Area Cleanup

Many homes have been removed that have been purchased with the flood buyout option through FEMA. The area is located between North Hackett Road and the Highway 218 overpass. As the area reverts back to a natural state it will resemble the surrounding landscape. The removal of structures and driveways that are impervious to water will help to increase ground infiltration. The buyouts will also reduce the number of damaged structures when the area floods again. This area is within the proposed Hartman Reserve expansion.

Recently the BHCCB and the Friends of Hartman Reserve wrote a letter of support to the City of Waterloo for a Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant to pay for removal and cleanup of debris in the Sherwood Park area. All those involved in this project look forward to creating another public green space for everyone's enjoyment.

This area will be a great candidate for direct seeding. See the following article.



Removal of homes in the Sherwood Park neighborhood

Calling All Nuts

The Conservation Board once again needs your help collecting tree nuts and seeds this fall! These seeds will be direct seeded in several county wildlife areas, helping to reestablish old farm land into a healthy forest. Direct seeding is the process of planting large quantities of tree seeds to mimic the natural seeding from trees. The area to be seeded will first be disked and then the nuts and seeds broadcast spread over the disked area. The area is then lightly disked again to "bury" the seeds. When the seeds germinate and grow, the seedlings are very close together causing them to grow straight and tall reaching for sunlight. The "thickness" of the planting also ensures that many will survive deer browsing.

How can you help? The Conservation Board is looking for the following seeds (nuts) for this project: *Walnut, *Hickory: Shagbark and Shellbark, *Oak: Red, Black, Pin, Bur, Swam White, *Kentucky Coffeetree. Collected 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 put in your contribution. The dumpster at HRNC will be in the parking lot and the one 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, please call Jim Weimer at 319-433-7275 or email jweimer@co.black-hawk.ia.us

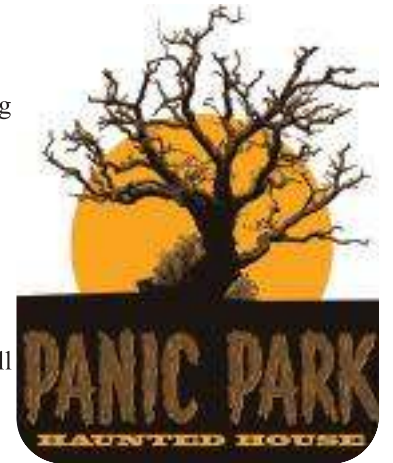
Panic Park Haunted House Ready to Frighten Again

Over 3,500 people visited the hallowed halls of Panic Park Haunted House in 2010. Two hundred (200) left the haunted dwelling with dampened drawers and countless numbers were lost in the Sausage Grinder Maze. This year will offer even more frights and screams, being sure to terrify.

Panic Park is operated by live actors so it is never the same from one spooky night to another. Our actors are all volunteer. If you are interested in participating please call 319-433-7275 or email aweber@co.black-hawk.ia.us

Panic Park will be open 7:00-11:00 PM on Friday, September 30 and all Fridays and Saturdays in October and 7:00-10:00 PM on Halloween Monday. The price of admission this year is \$10.00 per person.

Check out our website, www.panicpark.org for volunteer forms, coupons and other valuable information.



WE DARE YOU!



Wolf Creek & Wetland Mitigation

Wetlands provide a valuable ecological service for our environment. They absorb water and reduce flooding. Wetlands filter nutrients and pollutants out of our water. Wetlands also provide habitat for a wide variety of unique plants and animals and help maintain biodiversity. Because wetlands are so valuable, the goal has been to maintain our existing wetlands and restore wetlands that have been drained.

Wetlands come in many forms and sizes. Any soil that is saturated for part of the year can be considered a wetland. The premise behind wetland preservation is to avoid filling and building on wet soils. However, there are times when it is necessary to negatively impact a wetland. All roads cross rivers or streams and bridges require the filling of a wetland. It is very difficult to build a large structure such as a school or housing development without impacting existing wetlands.

If it is determined that a new construction can not avoid a wetland, the next step is mitigation. Wetland mitigation requires the agency or business planning a development to create new wetlands to off set the loss of the filled wetland. The challenge with wetland mitigation is to find a landowner that wants to convert dry ground to a wetland.

When the Black Hawk County Conservation Board rebuilt the Evansdale Bridge we impacted a small wetland which we mitigated by building a bigger wetland at Hickory Hills Park. When we build the McFarlane Bridge, we will also create a larger wetland at Hickory Hills. Both of these wetlands will help reduce flooding and improve the water quality in Casey Lake, Wolf Creek and the Cedar River. In addition these wetlands will create a prairie/wetland complex that will provide valuable wildlife habitat and allow public access.

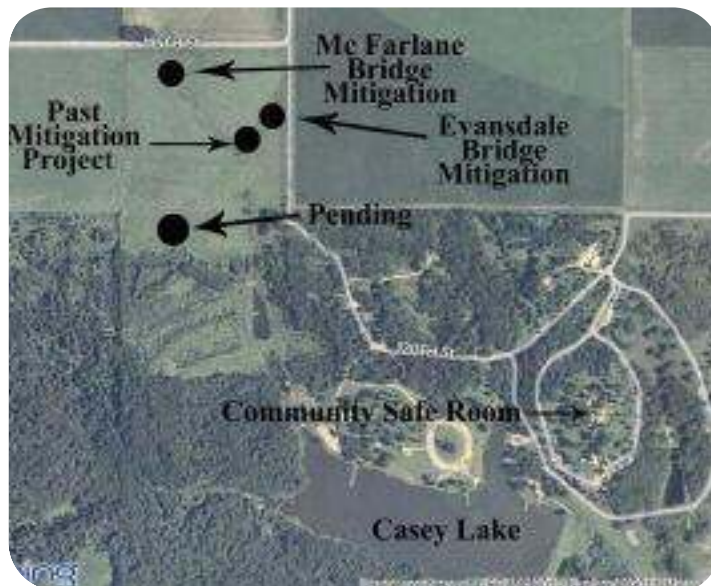
The Wolf Creek Wetland Complex started as wetland mitigation for the replacement of the bridges that carry Brandon Road (D48) cross Wolf Creek and the Cedar River. One of these wetlands will be located along Brandon Road northeast of La Porte City. The second wetland was dug at the entrance of McFarlane Park east of La Porte City. Both of these areas will be managed by the BHCCB.

The idea gained a steam after two small residential parcels along Brandon Road (D48) were purchased by Black Hawk County and La Porte City using FEMA flood buyout funding. About the same time, we were approached by private landowners who wanted to sell flood prone crop ground along Wolf Creek. The BHCCB can not afford to buy crop ground so we started looking for partners to help. The first partner to step in was the Iowa DOT. The DOT was looking for land on which to mitigate wetlands impacted by a state highway road project.

To expand the Wolf Creek Wetland Complex, the BHCCB submitted a \$1.5 million Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) grant to the US Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The USDA announced on March 21, 2011 that this funding would restore, enhance and protect high-priority wetlands and improve wildlife habitat on 326 acres along Wolf Creek in southeast Black Hawk County. When all of these wetland projects are completed about 500 acres of wetlands,

floodplain forest and wet prairie will have been restored or created. Work on the Wolf Creek Wetland Complex will not begin before the fall of 2012 and may not be completely finished until 2015.

The Wolf Creek Wetland Complex is an example of the value of wetland mitigation and partnerships. When this project is completed, it will be one small step towards achieving the broader goal of reducing future flooding and improving water quality in the Cedar River Watershed. It will also create a new wildlife area and provide a variety of recreational opportunities. To see a map of the Wolf Creek Wetland Complex go www.blackhawkcountyparks.com and then click on the Resource Management tab.



Site of wetland mitigation at Hickory Hills Park

Invasive Species Plan for Hickory Hills Park

Colton Johnson, a student from Iowa State, worked on an Invasive Species Plan for Hickory Hills Park which focused on Garlic Mustard and Autumn Olive. Invasive species usually outcompete native vegetation and if left unchecked, can ultimately change an entire ecosystem. Not only did Colton put together a plan but also put the plan into action. The plan included mapping these species and then applying various control methods such as cutting, pulling, burning, and chemically treating. For more information on this plan or if you would like to get involved, please contact the administrative office. To see the entire plan visit our website www.blackhawkcountyparks.com and choose the Natural Resource tab. On behalf of the county conservation board, thanks for all of your work and dedication to this project!

Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT)

The CVNT, east of McFarlane Park to Carter Road is being re-graveled and re-grated to repair the flood damage of 2008. However this section is still closed to public use until the McFarlane Bridge is repaired. See page 1.

Hartman News

Thank You!

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

Donations - Katie Johnson & Maxine Morrison

Endowment - Kerry Kelling and Helen Wymore

Field Trip Trust - Friends and family of Amy Gephart and Larry Miller

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 - Friends and family of Patricia Brown, Mary Kay Eakin, Gloria Evenson, Amy Gephart and Larry Miller

Pledges thru the Cedar Valley United Way, Community

Foundation and Trust - Nathaniel Bergland, John Fischer, Kurt Kaliban, Wendy Kinney, Sara Knott, Lederman Bonding Co., Fredrick Marold Fund, Joshua Nunez, Brian Pulford, Chelsi Wickham and Teresa Winkie

Hartman Wish List

Thanks to all the wonderful people who made our wishes come true. **Alan Donaldson** donated two canoes and the Unitarian **Universalist Society of Black Hawk County Youth Group** donated bird feeders and bird food.

Items still on the wish list are: bike carrier or bike trailer, plain gift bags, brown craft paper bags w/handles, wine corks, Christmas fabric, retro white Christmas tree, safety can opener (that leaves no burrs), dried Milkweed pods, dried kentucky coffee tree pods and old Christmas cards. Visit hartmanreserve.org for a complete wish list. Wishes do come true!



Eagle Scout volunteers

Eagle Scouts

Logan Graham along with Scout troops 1 and 116 completed some landscape renovation work at Hartman Reserve. They, along with a number of adults, built a raised bed and removed an old concrete sidewalk from in front of the Waste Trac office. The finished product looks great. If only we could keep the deer out of the garden.

Hartman Youth Corp

Our team Leader for the 2011 Hartman Youth Corp could not have done a better job. Hartman staff relies on this team for the many tasks that contribute to keeping a nature center running smoothly. In only 4 weeks they were able to complete almost all of the tasks they were given (they were given five weeks worth of work). Projects include: filling potholes, painting parking lot, clearing trails, repairing the firewood area, digging holes for the footings for the solar panels, and other various assignments. The HYC ended July 1. If you would like to make a contribution to this yearly program that provides a positive work experience to a diverse group of young adults please

6 contact Ed Gruenwald at 277-2187.

Hartman Archeology

The partnership between Hartman and the UNI museum has culminated in an exhibit called "Beneath Our Feet: Archeology in the Cedar Valley." The exhibit had its opening reception on June 7. **Dr. Don Gaff** and Hartman Naturalist **Chris Anderson** were both featured speakers at the event. The exhibit will have a number of items found at Hartman as well as from the area. A number of artifacts found by John Hartman will also be on display. Some banners panels and artifacts will be given to Hartman Reserve for display in the Interpretive Center when the exhibition ends on August 20.

The archeological field school spent the early part of the summer working near the area where they had last found evidence of 800- 1000 year old camps. Fire cracked rock and post holes (possibly from a temporary shelter), and pottery continue to be found. One strong possibility is that this site was used for natural resource extraction during the spring, which points to maple syrup production.

New Exhibit

Thank you to the **UNI University Museum** for the donation of a large glass exhibit case. With it we have built a temporary monarch nursery. We will collect monarch eggs and caterpillars then release them



Guest enjoying the new exhibit

when they become butterflies. This allows guests an opportunity to see this amazing transformation. It will be on display until mid-September.

Blue Spotted Salamanders

With some help from UNI's **Biology Department**, including three of **Dr. Peter Berendzen's** students, we made an attempt to collect salamander larvae. Although our time in the water was cut short by lightening storms, it was fun and we look forward to next year.



Roundup of Blue Spotted Salamander larvae



Unitarian Universalist Society of Black Hawk County Youth Group donated bird feeders & bird seed

Hartman Events & Programs

Halloween Hikes – Oct. 12-14

The Friends of Hartman Reserve's annual Halloween Hikes will take place at Hartman Reserve Nature Center October 12-14. Hikes will run every 15 minutes from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This fun family event features a non-scary hike through the woods with characters and educational performances along the way. This year's theme is "Hartman Idol." Enjoy musical performances



Kids dressed for the occasion

by Hartman's own critters and vote for your favorite! Following the hike, you may warm-up with hot cocoa, cider, and treats while you vote for your favorite pumpkin in the pumpkin contest. Tickets are \$5 each (ages 2 and under free) and will be limited per hike. Advanced tickets go on sale September 12 and can be purchased by calling 277-2187 or at Hartman Reserve Nature Center. All entries for the pumpkin contest must be submitted with a \$2 entry fee by noon on October 12. For entry form and more event details, please visit www.hartmanreserve.org. For sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, please contact Laura Stammler at 277-2187 or laura.hrnc@gmail.com.



Entries in the pumpkin decorating contest

Under the Harvest Moon – Friday, Nov. 4

Join the Friends of Hartman Reserve for an evening to benefit Hartman Reserve Nature Center and support environmental education. The 16th annual Under the Harvest Moon dinner and auction will be held on November 4 at the Rotary Reserve. Enjoy a night out with friends while you dine for a good cause. The evening will include dinner, drinks, dessert and live musical entertainment. Join us in celebrating Hartman Reserve and the community that supports this unique natural area in the Cedar Valley. For more information about the event, please visit www.hartmanreserve.org. For sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, please contact Laura Stammler at 277-2187 or laura.hrnc@gmail.com.



*Friends of Hartman Reserve
President Greg Greco*

Birding by Boat Big Woods Lake. Thursdays in September; 6:00-8:00 PM. Back by popular demand, birding by boat will continue at Big Woods Lake. Come grab a kayak or canoe and enjoy a program on the water. Things that you may see include; beaver, pelicans, osprey and herons. The cost for is \$10.00/boat.

Twilight Tales-Monarch Tagging! Thursday, September 8; 6:30 PM. Join us for an evening story time about Monarch butterflies. After our book we 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. The cost is \$5/family.

Nature Tales Story Hour. September 13; 10:30-11:30 AM. Read a nature-themed book with the naturalist, followed by a nature craft, hike or outdoor activity. For kids ages 3-5 and their caregiver. A \$2/child donation is suggested to cover supplies.

Camping Skills 101. September 17-18. 9:00 AM (Sat)- Noon (Sun). Interested in trying backcountry camping and learning traditional bushcraft camping skills? Join a naturalist for a overnight camp-out on the Cedar River near Hartman Reserve. In camp you will have the opportunity to learn fire lighting, outdoor cooking, plant ID, tracking, navigating, and more!!! Food will be provided. Participants will need to bring tents, sleeping gear, and table service and lunch for Saturday. Supper will be provided on Saturday and breakfast will be provided on Sunday. We will meet at the Hartman Reserve parking lot at 9:00 AM on the 17th and we will be done by noon the following day. The cost is \$35/person.

Acorns, Apples and Cider. Sunday, September 18 2:00 PM-3:30 PM. Go for a hike and learn about seeds, trees and fruiting things. Afterwards help press apples into some refreshing apple cider. Cost is 3 apples/person.

Fall Family Phenology Hike. September 23; 6:30-7:30 PM. Phenology is the study of changes in nature from season-to-season. Bring the family out to Hartman Reserve for a short hike with a naturalist to learn what changes are happening in the forest. After the hike we will enjoy some hot chocolate and snacks by the fire. The cost is \$5.00/family.

FANS-Fall Phenology and Fermentation. October 1, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. During this new quarterly program series we will learn about phenology (changes to nature through the seasons) and fermentation (the conversion of sugars to alcohol). Come enjoy the beautiful colors of fall at Yellow River State Forest in Harpers Ferry. Enjoy a morning of hiking and learning about why leaves change color. 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 in the program fee. Must be 21 years of age or older. Pre-register prior to September 29th to reserve your spot! The cost is \$20/person.

Hartman Programs

Invasive Species Removal. October 2; 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. You are invited to become a 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 (long pants), bring work gloves and a water bottle. Please feel free to bring your own hand clippers and bow saws. This is a free event.

Kid's Fall Crafting. October 7; 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Come and join a Hartman naturalist to make crafts specially designed for the season! There will be many different craft options available for different age groups. Materials will be provided including many natural materials which will be collected on a short hike in Hartman. All ages are encouraged to attend; however, we do ask that any child under the age of 8 be accompanied by an adult. Make as many or as little crafts as desired. Crafts range from \$1-\$2 depending on supplies needed (while supplies last).

Bushcraft Survival Series: Waterproof Survival Kit. October 9; 1:00-3:00 PM. The best survival kit available is the one you have with you when you need it. Often times when people begin to put together a emergency survival kit to throw in a day pack for hiking they over-do it and include more than is needed. Then they leave it behind because it becomes too heavy. During this program we will assemble a small, lightweight kit that will provide the carrier with food, water, and shelter without breaking your back, or the bank. The cost is \$10.00 per kit.

Nature Tales Story Hour. Tuesday; October 11; 10:30-11:30 AM. Read a nature-themed book with the naturalist, followed by a nature craft, hike or outdoor activity. For kids ages 3-5 and their caregiver. A \$2/child donation is suggested to cover supplies.

Weekend Tales-Apple Cidering! Sunday, October 16; 1:00 PM. Join us for a weekend story time about apples. After our book we will create an apple craft and make apple cider! Weekend Tales is geared for families with kids/grandkids - toddlers to age ten. Program fee: \$5/family.

Black Hawk Creek Clean Up. Saturday, October 22; 9:30 AM-3:30 PM. Join the Hartman staff and a number of other Iowa paddling organizations for a day of hands-on conservation. An easy way to help nature and your community is to participate in a River Clean Up. We will meet at Robinson Bird Sanctuary parking lot off of Rancho Road near Black Hawk Creek at 9:30 AM sharp. We will then shuttle down to Hudson. We will attend an informational public meeting about Black Hawk Creek beginning at 10:00 AM at the Hudson Public Library. After the meeting we will begin the clean up around 12:30 PM. Beginners are welcome. This program will 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 and a water bottle) Please bring a sack lunch. Other organizations will be continuing on to the second portion of Black Hawk Creek. If you intend on doing the entire stretch of Black Hawk Creek please meet at the Hudson landing (Frank Park) and make accommodations for your own transportation back to you vehicle. You are welcome to bring your own boat! October 29th will be the alternate rain out/flood date. This is a free event. You must pre-register by October 20th if you want to use Hartman's transportation services and use a Hartman canoe. Hartman staff will only be able to provide transportation and canoes for 10 individuals. For questions please contact hartmanreserve.co.black-hawk.ia.us

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Hartman Programs

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Christmas Wreath Workshop. Saturday, November 19; 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM or 2:00-4:00 PM. Create your very own wreath out of boughs from local conifer trees. Sure to impress your friends, this holiday treat will light up your front door. Be sure to bring hand pruners to build this holiday masterpiece. The cost is \$15.00/wreath.

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Bushcraft Survival Series; Winter Camping Overnight. December 17-18. 9:00 AM(Sat)-9:00 AM (Sun). Camping during the warm months of the year is easy, but doing it in the winter? Now that is a challenge! During this program we will learn how to set up a spend the night warm and safe. Each participant will need to bring a tarp, sleeping bag, blanket, and a pot to melt snow for water. Supper and energy snacks will be provided for Saturday. We will camp near the Nature Center so we will have a warm building if anyone gets too cold. The fee is \$20 per person.

TEACHERS!

Plan a field trip to Hartman Reserve by visiting our website hartmanreserve.org and click on the Field Trip Planning page or visit <https://sites.google.com/site/hartmanfieldtrips/home> or scan the symbol.



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Waste Trac

Electronics & Household Toxins Drop-off

The Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission will be partnering with Cedar Falls Public Works to sponsor recycling/disposal drop-off events.

Saturday, Sept. 24th
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

at Cedar Falls Public Works
1500 Bluff St., Cedar Falls

(Across the road from Cedar Falls Utilities)

Electronics Recycling Drop-off:

- CRTs (Cathode Ray Tubes) are contained within older TV sets and old computer monitors. (CRTs are found in non-flat screen monitors and TVs).
- Recycle 2 CRTs per household at no charge.
- \$5 for each additional CRT.
- **Unlimited quantities of the following electronics will be recycled at no charge:** keyboards, mice, computer towers, laptops, routers, desktop copiers & printers, fax machines, cell phones, video game systems, DVD/VCR players, handheld electronics, phones, flat-screen TVs, flat screen computer monitors, toasters, mixers, can openers, curling irons, hair dryers, radios, stereos, cassette players, record players, vacuums, and fans.

*Residents are asked to bring exact cash only.

*Bills larger than \$20 will not be accepted.

*Electronics waste from businesses is not accepted.

Household Hazardous Materials Drop-off:

Free disposal for Black Hawk Co. Residents
Bring household items such as: clogged aerosol cans, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent light bulbs (compact and tube), ballasts, metal polish, wallpaper remover, spot remover, floor care products and drain cleaners. Drop off lawn & garden products such as: insect spray, DDT, rat/mouse/gopher poison, and fungicides. Bring your garage & workshop items such as: 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.

WHAT YOU CANNOT BRING:

Paint, Appliances, Motor oil, Antifreeze, Fire extinguishers, Smoke detectors, Alkaline batteries, Asbestos, Ammunition, Tires, Radioactive materials, Non-hazardous waste, Business waste of any type .

A complete listing of accepted toxic items and electronics can be found on the commission's website (www.WasteTrac.org). The drop-off will take place as scheduled – rain or shine! For more information, please visit www.WasteTrac.org or call the Education Team at 266-TRAC (8722).

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



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Hartman Programs

Birding by Boat Big Woods Lake. Thursdays in September; 6:00-8:00 PM. Back by popular demand, birding by boat will continue at Big Woods Lake. Come grab a kayak or canoe and enjoy a program on the water. Things that you may see include; beaver, pelicans, osprey and herons. The cost for is \$10.00/boat.

Twilight Tales-Monarch Tagging! Thursday, September 8; 6:30 PM. Join us for an evening story time about Monarch butterflies. After our book we 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. The cost is \$5/family.

Nature Tales Story Hour. September 13; 10:30-11:30 AM. Read a nature-themed book with the naturalist, followed by a nature craft, hike or outdoor activity. For kids ages 3-5 and their caregiver. A \$2/child donation is suggested to cover supplies.

Camping Skills 101. September 17-18. 9:00 AM (Sat)- Noon (Sun). Interested in trying backcountry camping and learning traditional bushcraft camping skills? Join a naturalist for a overnight camp-out on the Cedar River near Hartman Reserve. In camp you will have the opportunity to learn fire lighting, outdoor cooking, plant ID, tracking, navigating, and more!!! Food will be provided. Participants will need to bring tents, sleeping gear, and table service and lunch for Saturday. Supper will be provided on Saturday and breakfast will be provided on Sunday. We will meet at the Hartman Reserve parking lot at 9:00 AM on the 17th and we will be done by noon the following day. The cost is \$35/person.

Acorns, Apples and Cider. Sunday, September 18 2:00 PM-3:30 PM. Go for a hike and learn about seeds, trees and fruiting things. Afterwards help press apples into some refreshing apple cider. Cost is 3 apples/person.

Fall Family Phenology Hike. September 23; 6:30-7:30 PM. Phenology is the study of changes in nature from season-to-season. Bring the family out to Hartman Reserve for a short hike with a naturalist to learn what changes are happening in the forest. After the hike we will enjoy some hot chocolate and snacks by the fire. The cost is \$5.00/family.

FANS~Fall Phenology and Fermentation. October 1, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. During this new quarterly program series we will learn about phenology (changes to nature through the seasons) and fermentation (the conversion of sugars to alcohol). Come enjoy the beautiful colors of fall at Yellow River State Forest in Harpers Ferry. Enjoy a morning of hiking and learning about why leaves change color. 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 in the program fee. Must be 21 years of age or older. Pre-register prior to September 29th to reserve your spot! The cost is \$20/person.

Invasive Species Removal. October 2; 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. You are invited to become a 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 (long pants), bring work gloves and a water bottle. Please feel free to bring your own hand clippers and bow saws. This is a free event.

Kid's Fall Crafting. October 7; 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Come and join a Hartman naturalist to make crafts specially designed for the season! There will be many different craft options available for different age groups. Materials will be provided including many natural materials which will be collected on a short hike in Hartman. All ages are encouraged to attend; however, we do ask that any child under the age of 8 be accompanied by an adult. Make as many or as little crafts as desired. Crafts range from \$1-\$2 depending on supplies needed (while supplies last).

Bushcraft Survival Series: Waterproof Survival Kit. October 9; 1:00-3:00 PM. The best survival kit available is the one you have with you when you need it. Often times when people begin to put together a emergency survival kit to throw in a day pack for hiking they over-do it and include more than is needed. Then they leave it behind because it becomes too heavy. During this program we will assemble a small, lightweight kit that will provide the carrier with food, water, and shelter without breaking your back, or the bank. The cost is \$10.00 per kit.

Nature Tales Story Hour. Tuesday; October 11; 10:30-11:30 AM. Read a nature-themed book with the naturalist, followed by a nature craft, hike or outdoor activity. For kids ages 3-5 and their caregiver. A \$2/child donation is suggested to cover supplies.

Weekend Tales-Apple Cidering! Sunday, October 16; 1:00 PM. Join us for a weekend story time about apples. After our book we will create an apple craft and make apple cider! Weekend Tales is geared for families with kids/grandkids - toddlers to age ten. Program fee: \$5/family.

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