

Bremer Bulletin

A NEWSLETTER OF THE BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Spring 2020 Edition

Naturalist Notes By Heather Gamm

Hello! Here is a little recap of some recent projects. In February, Bremer County Nature Alliance members co-hosted the winter picnic. Nearly 50 people, including many families, came to Ingawanis Woodland to hike, snowshoe, play outside, mix together a Dutch Oven cake, eat cake, play board games and just get out of the house! It was a fun celebration. Also in February, 30 people attended an Ice Fishing Program with Bremer County Conservation staff in Waverly. It was the first time many of the participants had ever ice fished.



As March rolled around, Mike Weidemann, began work on the kestrel boxes located throughout the county. He cleans out old nest material and replaces it with new material for these birds. You can see numerous boxes hanging on power poles throughout Bremer County. At one time, naturalists and natural resources technicians could band the birds. That is no longer happening due to restrictions from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Also in March, Dave Steere checked our wood duck boxes. These boxes are also maintained throughout the county. I got the opportunity to follow him and we found several used boxes. Some boxes had old eggs, some had feathers and one even had mice! We also found numerous owl pellets to use for dissection in upcoming classes.



Feel free to use Bremer County areas to hike and wander during this spring season. Please take care of yourself and stay healthy!



Bremer County Conservation Board Staff

Executive Director - Andrew Hockenson

EE Coordinator / Naturalist - Heather Gamm

Recycling Educator / Naturalist - Angie Auel

Natural Resources Technicians - Pat Hyde, Dave Steere,

Mike Weidemann & Nick Franzen

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Picnic in the Park

Picnics are meant to help you socialize with other families in the summer and get outdoors. Each family brings their own lunch items and a blanket to spread out on. Picnic tables are also available. Each month will have a book and activity. Please email Heather at naturalist@co.bremer.ia.us to reserve your spot. There is no fee for this program but it is nice for planning purposes to have a head count.



11:30 a.m. Cedar Bend Park - East Shelter
 1267 205th Street - Waverly
June 9, 16, 23, and 30

Summer Outdoor Explorers Programs

To register for any Outdoor Explorers events, please call Heather Gamm at 319-231-9640 or email her at naturalist@co.bremer.ia.us. Please leave your name and phone number if you get voicemail. You can download a registration form/liability waiver from the Bremer County website. <https://bit.ly/2WiJahu> Checks should be made payable to Bremer County Nature Alliance for the amount of the class or combination of classes. Please mail checks and registration/liability form to Bremer County Conservation, Attn. Heather Gamm, PO Box 412, Tripoli, IA 50676.

Outdoor Explorers Beginners

Ensure your child is outside this summer by signing them up to enjoy and learn about the great outdoors! Outdoor activities are listed below. Your child may take this class 2 years in a row. Most activities will alternate every other year.

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 am

Grades Completed: 2nd - 3rd

Place: Cedar Bend Park East Shelter (1267 205th Street, Waverly)

Fee: \$30

Date	Activity
July 7	Nametags/S'mores/Games
July 9	Dinosaurs
July 14	'Stained Glass' Leaves
July 16	Invent an Animal/Animal Olympics
July 21	Using a Compass
July 23	Fishing/Canoeing/Kayaking @ Three Rivers Park – Duck Pond
July 28	Papermaking/Recycled Crafts
July 30	Spider 'Hunt'

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Field Trips

Trip to Heery Woods (Clarksville) in Butler County

Participants will go fishing and canoeing at Sportsman's Park. Then they will get involved with numerous team challenges and get to check out the nature center at Heery Woods. Limit of 7.

Date: Thursday, June 25

Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm

Age: Completed 3rd grade and up

Fee: \$20

Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch and Twin Ponds Nature Center

This group is off to Chickasaw County to get up-close and personal with animals! Participants will take a hay wagon ride in the buffalo pasture and feed the buffalo ears of corn by hand. Then we will travel to the nature center, where we will touch live animals and fish at the pond.

Date: Wednesday, July 22

Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm

Age: Completed 2nd grade and up

Fee: \$30

Rockford Fossil Park near Rockford, Iowa

Travel to the Devonian Age when Iowa was an ocean. That's before the dinosaurs! Participants will tour the Fossil & Prairie Center before going out to look for fossils and possibly hiking to the kilns.

Date: Tuesday, August 4

Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm

Age: Completed 2nd grade and up

Fee: \$20

Continued on page five...



Spring Wildflowers of Bremer County Your Take-home Wildflower Guide—You be the Naturalist!



Who am I? _____
Leaves: One big leaf
Flowers: One white flower with 8 -10 petals around a bright yellow middle
Root: Full of a bright red juice that looks like blood when cut
Fun Fact: Native Americans used the red juice to color their baskets, clothes and bodies.

Give me a nickname: _____



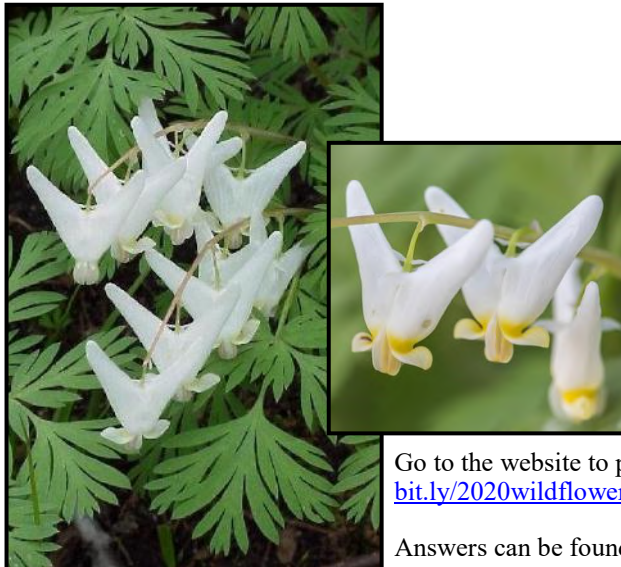
Who am I? _____
Leaves: Larger and thicker than any other you may have seen today
Flowers: Blue, sometimes pink and are shaped like-guess what? _____
Root: Like wet soil. If you found bluebells, you may have wet feet too.

Give me a nickname: _____



Who am I? _____
Leaves: Long & narrow - Sometimes spotted like a brook trout
Flowers: One flower per plant with 6 white petals. Do the petals look like dog's teeth?
Root: Spreads underground. Colonies of plants occur together giving it another of its names- thousand leaf

Give me a nickname: _____



Who am I? _____
Leaves: Look like carrot leaves
Flowers: White flowers & looks like pants hanging upside down
Root: Root is poisonous when eaten.
Fun Fact: Pioneers used the roots to treat skin diseases.

Give me a nickname: _____

Go to the website to print your color version of this wildflower guide:
bit.ly/2020wildflowerguide

Answers can be found on page 5



Who am I? _____

Leaves: Attach in a circle or whorl around the stem
Flowers: White or pink. Look closer, in the center of the flower you see hair-like stalk called stamen. The golden “dust” you can see is pollen.

Fun Fact: Native Americans made tea from roots to cure headaches.

Give me a nickname: _____



Who am I? _____

Leaves: Long and thin like grass leaves
Flowers: White or pink with dark pink strips on the petals

Root: Looks like tiny potatoes

Fun Fact: Native Americans and pioneers like to eat these roots. One nickname for this plant is “fairy spuds”.

Give me a nickname: _____



Who am I? _____

Leaves: Leaves are balanced—one on each side of the stem. They’re opposite one another.

Flowers: Blue to purple. Petals are arranged like the propellers of a helicopter or windmill

Fun Fact: Smell Me! Can you smell why they named this flower SWEET William?

Give me a nickname: _____



Who am I? _____

Leaves: Heart shaped

Flowers: May be purple, blue, yellow, or white. Imagine yourself as a bee and you are coming in for a landing. Can you see the landing pad?

Fun Fact: Did you take your vitamins today? The violet leaves are rich in vitamins A & C. Flowers can be eaten if it hasn’t been sprayed!

Give me a nickname: _____

Outdoor Explorers Programs Continued

Field Trips

Extreme Kayaking at Manchester Whitewater Park

CrawDaddy Outdoors will provide all the gear and training for this epic adventure! Participants will meet in Waverly and ride with a naturalist or Darrin Siefken, CrawDaddy Outdoors owner. Minimum number of 5 students must be met. Some kayaking or canoeing experience is preferred. REGISTER ONLINE for this program only! Here is the link to register.
<https://bit.ly/whitewaterkayaking>

Date: Monday, August 17
 Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm
 Age: Completed 5th grade and up
 Fee: \$40 (Pay online)
 Location to meet: Behind CrawDaddy Outdoors

Where does your garbage go?

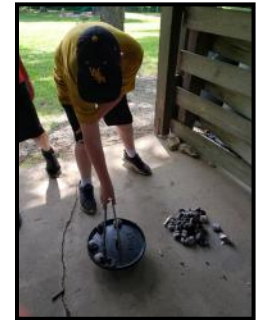
This is a walking tour of the Black Hawk County Sanitary Landfill (in rural Waterloo). Participants will watch garbage trucks in action, see a variety of items at the small loads area/compost site, and learn about the technology and environmental protections that are put in place to protect people and the environment from waste.
 Date: Thursday, August 20
 Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm
 Age: Completed 3rd grade and up
 Fee: \$20

Outdoor Explorers Intermediate

Participants will enjoy a longer session to engage in hands-on activities. This Outdoor Explorers group will meet at various locations around Waverly. Please be on time for all activities. Children should bring a water bottle and dress to be outdoors which includes tennis shoes.

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm
 Grades Completed: 4th - 5th
 Place: various locations around Waverly
 Fee: \$50

Date	Activity	Location
July 7	Dutch Oven Berry Cake/Dig. Scav. Hunt	Cedar Bend Park
July 9	Frisbee Golf/Slacklining	Brookwood Park
July 14	Waverly Community Garden (salsa)	End @ Farmer's Market
July 16	Biking (Bring your bike & helmet.)	South Riverside Park
July 21	Geocaching	Around Waverly
July 23	Fishing/Canoeing/Kayaking	Three Rivers Park-Duck Pond
July 28	Pellet Guns/Archery/Stepping Stones	Cedar Bend Park
July 30	Creek Stomp	South Riverside Park



Outdoor Explorers Advanced

This group meets for three sessions on Fridays in July.
 Participants will kayak, bike, and shoot archery.

Day: Friday from 12:00 - 3:00 pm
 Grades Completed: 5th - 8th
 Fee: \$50 for all dates

If you sign up for only one event, the price will be as follows:
 \$20 for kayaking, \$15 for biking and \$15 for archery.

Date	Activity	Location
July 17	Biking (Bring your bike & helmet.)	Waverly Rail Trail to Denver
July 24	Kayaking	Shell Rock River
July 31	Archery	Waverly Archery Club



Spring Wildflowers Answers Page 3: Bloodroot, Bluebells, Dogtooth Violet, Dutchman's Breeches
 Spring Wildflowers Answers Page 4: Rue Anemone, Spring Beauty, Sweet William, Violets

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Bremer County Conservation Board
P.O. Box 412
1104 South Main Street
Tripoli, IA 50676

BREMER BULLETIN

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Bremer County Conservation Board

(319) 882-4742

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bremer.com*

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.com/county/
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319-882-4742.**