



# Three Rivers Journal

Winter 2011/12

Volume 33

Warren County Conservation Board

Issue IV

Our purpose is to encourage a state of harmony between people and the land communities upon which our lives and welfare depend, through programs of conservation, preservation and education.

## Thank You, Pastor Ford

*by Jim Priebe, Director*

For quite a few years I've had the privilege of knowing and working with Pastor Homer Ford. Homer, pastor at the First Baptist Church in Indianola, has been one of my most dependable and talented volunteer Hunter Education instructors for nearly a decade. He has been deeply involved with the Warren County Conservation Board's Mentor Hunt program (the picture above is from the 2009 Mentor Hunt), and known to drop in at the Annett Nature Center whenever he and his friend and fellow Hunter Education instructor Robin Kluesener were out shed hunting, looking for mushrooms, or just roaming the countryside because it was a good day to be outside. Not least, I have been happy to know Homer as my friend.

Homer is passionate about the outdoors and being part of it. He is equally passionate about sharing his love of God's work with others. Many people, me included, at times feel that

our outdoor excursions are a chance to get away from the day-to-day — a time to be hoarded and kept away from strangers — shared only with a select group of family and friends. I don't know if Homer ever feels this way, but he has certainly used much of his time to show others how much nature can mean to them, if they just give it a chance. I've learned a good deal from Homer about sharing some of my outdoor time with others, especially outdoor novices.

I learned recently, from Homer, that he and his wife will soon be leaving Warren County for a calling in Indiana. While I'm saddened that my friend will be leaving, and concerned about filling the hole created in the WCCB's Hunter Education and Mentor Hunt efforts, I'm heartened that a new group of people will be influenced by the way Homer shares the outdoors with those around him.

Godspeed in all your new endeavors, Pastor Ford.

# 2011 Mentor Hunt

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On November 2nd, 11 novice deer hunters embarked on a journey. They were going to participate in a controlled deer hunt with a mentor. Many had never been hunting. Some came with mentors, and some were meeting their mentor for the first time, but everyone's goal was to gain valuable information about deer hunting and put their new skills to the test by harvesting a deer. This has been an extremely successful combination! By the end of the weekend all of the hunters walked away with new skills and seven deer were harvested.



The Mentored Deer Hunt, going into its fourth year here in Warren County, is a program designed to give inexperienced deer hunters a hands-on introduction to the sport of deer hunting. Thirty people between the ages of 12 and 50 have participated in the hunts. The hunt included an opportunity to harvest a deer within Lake Ahquabi State Park with the assistance of a mentor. A multitude of topics are covered before heading into the field to make participants



feel comfortable and safe hunting deer in Iowa. Topics include deer biology and management, deer hunting equipment and methods, laws, safety, field dressing and game processing. Everyone practices shot placement and shooting.

The Mentored Deer Hunt is an annual event open to novice hunters ages 12 and over that have successfully completed a certified hunter safety course. For more information on this year's hunt please call Missy Smith at (515) 961- 6169 ext. 206.

**Top: Conservation Officer Craig Cutts helps hunter Callie Freeman safely zero-in at the range**

**Center: Hunters, mentors, and officers after range practice prior to the first morning's hunt.**

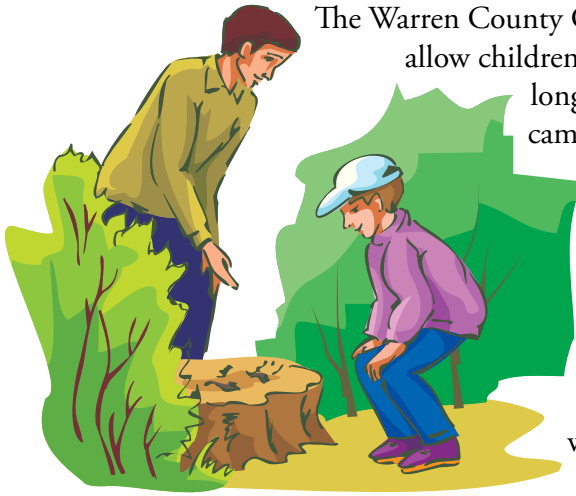
**Bottom: Brett (right) and Collin Blanchard, a father/son-mentor/ hunter team with one of the seven deer harvested at the 2011 Lake Ahquabi Mentor Hunt.**



# 2012 Day Camps

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The Warren County Conservation Board has developed a set of summer camps that allow children from all over to see nature up close. The camps are a week-long experience in conservation and nature. Activities at the camps include story time, nature art, picnics, cookouts, science activities and, for Kestrel and Challenge campers, a camp over. **Parents may register children 4–12 years old for camp beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday March 14, 2012.** Registration is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, come to the Annett Nature Center or call 961-6169. No email registrations will be accepted. **Because of limited enrollment, children are asked to**

**attend each camp only once.\*** Complete information and scholarship applications are available from the Annett Nature Center on request. For those people who do not have children of their own — or those who would like the opportunity to send a child to camp — there is a scholarship program for children who could not otherwise afford camp fees. Scholarships are made available through donations. Call Missy at (515) 961-6169 ext. 206 for complete information.



## **Cricket Camp:**

Session I: June 4–8

Session II: June 11–15

Children 4–5 years old Cost: \$35

Monday–Thursday, 9:00–11:30 a.m.; Friday 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Children must be 4 years old by January 1, 2012.

## **Discovery Camp:**

June 18–22

Children 6–7 years old Cost: \$55

Monday–Thursday 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

## **Kestrel Camp:**

June 25–29

Children 8–9 years old Cost: \$60

Monday–Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.; Thursday 3:00 p.m.– Friday 9:00 a.m.

## **Challenge Camp:**

July 9–13

Children 10–12 years old Cost: \$60

Monday–Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.; Thursday 3:00 p.m.– Friday 9:00 a.m.

\*If there are camp openings three weeks prior to the starting date, return campers are welcomed.

# Outings

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## **Owl Prowl**

Thursday, February 9, 6:30 p.m., Annett Nature Center

Join us for a hooting good time as we welcome Beth Brown back to teach us all about her owls and hike in the cold and dark to try and find wild owls that live in our area. Please join us – and come prepared for the February cold.

## **Brownie Girl Scouts Bugs Badge**

Thursday, February 16, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Annett Nature Center

Come bug out at the Annett Nature Center! See some bugs in action, build a bug box, and take home a fun bug craft.

Steps 1, 2, 3. **Registration deadline: February 13, 2012.**

## **Cross Country Skiing**

Sunday, February 26, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Annett Nature Center

A free workshop for beginning skiers ready to explore the winter outdoors. Cross country skiing is an active stimulus for both the mind and body and it is easy to learn. Participants will be instructed indoors then invited to ski on the trails at the Annett Nature Center. Reservations are required if you need skis.

Call (515) 961-6169 to register.

The Warren County Conservation Board has Cross Country Skis for rent at the Annett Nature Center most weekends. Rental fees, paid in advance, for a complete package are \$10/weekend plus a \$10 deposit.

## **Wolf Cub Scout Achievement # 7 Your Living World**

Thursday, March 8, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Annett Nature Center

You only have one world to live on. This evening you will learn how to take care of that world. Learn about pollution problems and how you can fix them, play a recycling game, and help clean up the Annett Nature Center! You will also be reading about people who are protecting the environment and will earn things YOU can do to save energy.

Requirements 7A, B, C, D, E, F. **Registration deadline: March 5, 2012.**

## **Hunter Education Course**

Thursday, March 8, 6:00–9:00 p.m. & Saturday, March 10, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.,  
Warren County Izaak Walton League

Hunters born after January 1, 1972 must complete an approved education course before purchasing a hunting license in Iowa. Participants must be 12 years old by March 10, 2012 and attend both sessions to receive certification. Homework is required and homework packets must be picked up by students at least one week prior to class. There is **NO** fee for this class. Lunch is provided on Saturday. Cosponsored by the Warren County Izaak Walton League and the WCCB.

Online registration is **required**. Go to: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/training> (make sure to include the “s” in “https”) and type “Warren” into the search field to find the class.

Call (515) 961-6169 with any questions.

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## **Turkey Hunting Workshop**

Saturday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Annett Nature Center

If you are interested in turkey hunting and would like to learn more about this sport — attend this seminar! Hunters of all ages and skill levels are welcome and can learn and sharpen techniques and safety skills under the direction of the WCCB staff and invited professionals in the area of turkey biology, calling and hunting. Explore all aspects of turkey hunting, including equipment, safety, biology and methods. Weather permitting, portions of the workshop will be outside — dress for the weather. Participate in problem solving scenarios which will make your hunt more successful and enjoyable. Registration required. Call (515) 961-6169 today to reserve your seat!

## **Day Camp Registration**

Wednesday, March 14, 8:00 a.m., see Page 3 for details.

## **Blue Bird Houses**

Sunday, March 25, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Annett Nature Center

Bluebirds, the familiar and colorful harbingers of spring, will be returning by the end of the month. Welcome them back with a new “home”. All lumber is durable cedar and has been pre-cut. Participants will receive materials and a helping hand. All ages are welcome, but children will need the help of an adult. Each bird house kit is \$10 and you may put together as many as you like or take them home. Great as gifts.

## **Evening Prairie Burn**

Thursday, March 22, 7:30 p.m., Annett Nature Center

Join the WCCB as we light up the night sky! Learn about the valuable role fire plays in the prairie ecosystem. This program may be postponed due to weather conditions, call for updates at (515) 961-6169.

## **Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos Leave No Trace Awareness Brownie Girl Scout Way Badge**

Thursday, April 19, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Annett Nature Center

Work toward your Leave No Trace Awareness Award tonight. Learn the importance of the frontcountry guidelines, participate in a Leave No Trace service project and draw a poster to illustrate the frontcountry guidelines. Leaders, please bring pledge.

Boy Scout requirements 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, Girl Scout step 4. **Registration deadline: April 16, 2012.**

## **Osprey 5k**

Saturday, April 21, 8:00 a.m., Annett Nature Center, see Page 7 for details.

## **Indianola Parks & Recreation Spring Fun Fest**

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m.–Noon, Warren County Fairgrounds

Enjoy the outdoor family activities and indoor information booths. Look for the Warren County Conservation Board while you are there. For more information go to [indianolaiowa.gov](http://indianolaiowa.gov) and check out the Parks & Recreation links.

# Outings

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## **Brownie Girl Scout Global Action Patch**

Thursday, May 17, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Annett Nature Center

Earn your Global Action Patch by spending the evening at the Annett Nature Center. We will go on a hike through the park while exploring the spring scents, observing wildlife and talking about the wetland and it's purpose.

Requirements: 7. **Registration deadline: May 7, 2012.**

## **Friends of Warren County Conservation Native Iowa Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 19, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., Annett Nature Center

Sunday, May 20, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Annett Nature Center

Come and see what is growing at the Annett Nature Center and take some of it home with you. Our annual native plant sale offers native Iowa perennials that. You will be able to find some of the old standards such as purple coneflower and New England aster, plants you know and love. You may also find some you are not as familiar with, like rattlesnake master and foxglove beardtongue.

Back this year: Trees will be available for \$30 per tree. Thanks to the Iowa DNR, MidAmerican Energy and the Indianola Tree Committee, a limited number of six to eight foot trees will be sold. Call Joel at (515) 961-6169 ext. 204 for details or to reserve up to two trees.

## **Plan Ahead (some dates subject to change)**

June 2 — Kids Fish Day

June 7 — Brownie Girl Scout Hiker Badge

June 15–16 — Wild Women of the Woods

Second week in July — Osprey Arrival

July 19 — Webelos Scout Activity Badge #10, Forester

August 9 & 11 — Hunter Education

August 16 — Cadette Girl Scouts Trees Badge

September 6 — Webelos Scout Activity Badge #13



## **Clear Out a Closet Shelf or a Dresser Drawer!**

The Annett Nature Center needs old T-shirts to use in recycling programs. Any color, any size. Bag them up and drop them off!



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Warren County Conservation is on Facebook! Become a fan of the Annett Nature Center to find the latest program and park information, photo albums, and volunteer opportunities. Let us know what you'd like to hear about! Search for the Annett Nature Center if you're a member of Facebook, or link from [www.warrenccb.org](http://www.warrenccb.org) to see what we're talking about! Facebook® is a registered trademark of Facebook, Inc.



# OSPREY 5K FUN RUN/WALK

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Annett Nature Center**

**THE EVENT-** The Osprey 5K will take place Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 9:00 am. (8:00-8:45 Registration/Package Pick Up at the Annett Nature Center). The course starts and finishes at the Annett Nature Center, located at 15565 118th Avenue in Indianola. The 3.1-mile route includes Lake Ahquabi State Park. Immediately following the event, snacks and refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Annett Nature Center Osprey Project.

**AWARDS-** The top male and female from the 16+ and under 16 age categories will be awarded.

**LOCATION-** The Annett Nature Center is located five miles south of Indianola. Travel 4 miles south on Hwy 65/69 and look for the Annett Nature center signs. Turn west on G-58 to Lake Ahquabi and then turn north on 118<sup>th</sup> Ave. The ANC is on the east side of the road. A map of the ANC may be downloaded at:  
<http://www.warrencb.org/areas/anc/anc.html>.

**REGISTRATION BY MAIL OR IN PERSON-** \$25 by April 16, 2012. \$30 after April 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Send completed registration form and payment to:  
Friends of Warren County Conservation  
c/o Osprey 5K  
15565 118th Avenue  
Indianola, IA 50125  
All mailed forms MUST be postmarked by Monday, April 16, 2012.

**REGISTRATION ON DAY OF RACE-** Visit the Annett Nature Center office to sign up for the Osprey 5K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, April 21, 2012, starting at 8:00 a.m. Cost is \$30 if registering after Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**VOLUNTEERING AND MORE INFO-** For information on volunteer opportunities for the event, contact Missy Smith at 515-961-6169 or [missysmith@warrencb.org](mailto:missysmith@warrencb.org).

## OSPREY 5K REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age on 4/21/12: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size (circle one):    S        M        L        XL

Gender (circle one):    Male        Female

Entry Fee: \$25 made payable to Friends of Warren County Conservation

Special Gift Donations: You may add any amount to your registration as a special gift to the Annett Nature Center Osprey Project

Signature (parent or legal guardian if under 18) and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby, in consideration of myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive all rights and claims for damages I may or hereafter have against individuals associated with the Osprey 5K race, their agencies, and representatives, for any injuries suffered by me in this event. I certify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event and that I am physically fit to participate in it and have no medical conditions that prevent my participation. I consent to receive medical treatment deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident, or illness during this event. I authorize the use of my name and picture to be used in any promotional materials associated with this event.

# The Back Page

## Thank You!



All the actors, trail leaders, cookie bakers, craft coordinators and everyone else that helped with the Halloween Hike



Everyone that took time away from their own hunting to be a part of the Mentor Hunt



Dave Sunken for the donated taxidermy



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