



JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Summer 2018

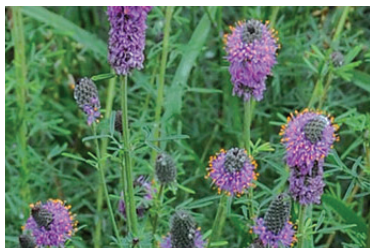
Surviving and Thriving this Summer

The days are long and hot. There is humidity in the air and pop up storms scattered throughout the season. Plants are soaking up the extra hours of sunlight, and producing beautiful blooms to attract pollinators. The prairie plants are starting to reach up above eye level. The wild animals have mostly had their offspring for the year and are raising and teaching them how to fend for themselves as fall approaches. With the hot, humid air that comes along with summer, it can be tempting to lounge about in the air conditioning all day, but there are some great ways to really enjoy the summer time and still get outdoors with the family even in the heat. Check out some of these great, family-fun, adventures that you and your family can explore together!



In Iowa you can get out on the lakes, rivers, and ponds to enjoy many different water sports. Canoeing, kayaking, and stand up paddleboarding are great ways to get on the water and explore at your own pace! Stand up paddleboarding is a fun type of water sport that is rapidly growing in popularity. The Annett Nature Center still has a few free stand up paddleboarding programs left this summer! Many lakes and state parks have boat rentals to try out different types of boating.

Summer is a great opportunity for wildlife viewing. Since most animals have had their offspring for the year already, they are now focused on preparing them for the fall and winter, and to be on their own. Fawns are starting to get old enough to travel with their mothers instead of staying hidden all the time, so around dusk and dawn are great times to see them walking across fields. Butterflies and moths are in full force, many people have found that raising and tagging monarchs can make a great hobby, as well as be very beneficial to our environment! Check out our monarch tagging events this fall to learn more about the great Monarch Migration!



The butterflies, hummingbirds, and honeybees are being attracted to the sweet nectar the summer flowers are providing. Going on a plant hike can be very fun, they don't run away like animals can and stand still much better for pictures! Summer can be a great time to look for different types of fungus (but be careful and make sure you can properly identify if you are thinking about collecting them for eating) and fruits and berries.

Due to the changes in heat and moisture content in the air, storms are frequent in the summer. Clouds, rain, and streaks of sun can create beautiful art in the sky during the changes in airmass and when fronts are rolling in. Dew, caused by condensation of water droplets, can also create some fascinating nature views. Make sure to think about safety first when admiring the phenomenons that the weather can bring.





New Tax Rules on Charitable Gifting

Information Adapted from an article by Legacy Financial Group by Brian J. Hood, CFP®

With the recent change in the Tax Code for 2018, we need to think differently about how we give to our favorite charities.

Give because you want to give. Do not let this article sway you one way or another on giving. We all have our reasons for giving, and tax benefits should be a secondary concern.

The old way:

To better understand the change, let's review the way giving impacted taxes in 2017. A charitable contribution is a Schedule A itemized deduction. There are four major parts to a Schedule A – charity, interest expense, state and property taxes, and unrecovered medical expenses.

In 2017, a married couple got a standard deduction of \$12,500. That means to itemize, the combined total of the above items needed to equal more than \$12,500, or you just took the standard deduction. Hence, if you could come up with \$13,000, you did gain \$500 more than the standard deduction, but \$500 is all you gained. If you came up with \$11,000, you just took the standard deduction.

So what has changed?

The new standard deduction is now \$24,000 – great for people that itemize or that are not getting any tax benefit for giving to charities. There is also a \$10,000 limit on the maximum deduction you can take on State Taxes and Property Tax.

Most retirees don't or shouldn't have any interest expenses, and they really don't want to have any unreimbursed medical expense. So that only leaves charity. You would need to give \$14,000 (\$24,000 standard deduction - \$10,000 property tax) before exceeding the new standard deduction. Remember, the standard deduction something you would get, even if you didn't give a dime.

So what is the planning opportunity?

Remember, if you are age 70.5 or older, you may need to make Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your retirement plans.

This is the opportunity - give directly from your IRA as part of your RMD, rather than writing a check to your charity. That way, you don't need to claim the income, hence lower taxable income and lower taxes.

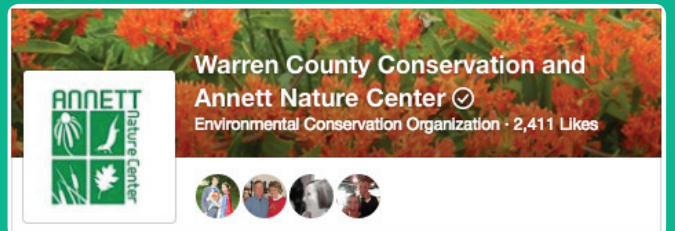
If you are over age 70 and have charitable aspirations, QUIT WRITING CHECKS! Give from your IRA instead. Let's have a conversation about your real situation before you give, making sure you're not missing out of the new opportunities for tax savings.

News



2018 Day Camps

Check out some of the highlights from this year's summer day camps!



Scan the code to go directly to our facebook page. From there, you can check out upcoming events, like and comment on pictures, and follow us!

Events

August

Storywalk

August | Otter Creek

StoryWalk is a fun idea to get communities outside and reading. Each month, we will put new nature-themed children's stories along trails in different parks. Stories will all be nature-themed and fun to read! Bring your whole family out to hike and read a page of the story every few feet as you go along.

Mammals of Iowa

Tuesday, August 7th | 7 p.m. | Memorial Park

Indianola Parks & Recreation and WCCB invite you to come to Memorial Park and discover all about mammals of Iowa! A WCCB Naturalist will talk about the different animals found in central Iowa and you'll have the opportunity to touch furs, and see skulls, tracks and more!



Stand Up Paddleboarding

Friday, August 10th | 3 p.m. | ANC

Get out on the water and give stand up paddleboarding a try. A WCCB naturalist will go over the basic equipment, paddle strokes, and get you paddling around Lester Pond at Annett Nature Center. Children must be at least 12 year old and accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and registration is required.

Bowfishing

Tuesday, August 14th | 4 p.m. | ANC

Bowfishing is a fun sport that combines the skill of archery and the fun of fishing. Join a Naturalist to find out how it's done, learn about the species you can bowfish, and try your hand at shooting into the water!

Family Park Explorers

Thursday, August 16th | 6 p.m. | Hickory Hills

Explore nature family style with the WCCB naturalist. We will provide fun, educational, hands on activities that your family can do together at a different Warren County park each summer month. You will be guided on how to explore different habitats, wildlife, and nature. Registration is required so that we can have enough equipment and snacks.

Stand Up Paddleboarding

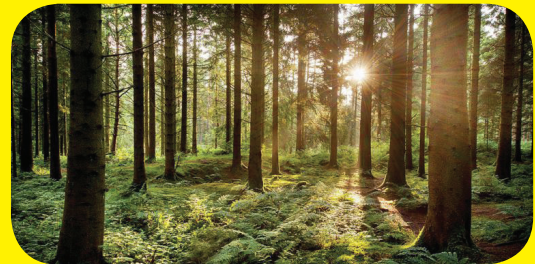
Friday, August 24th | 3 p.m. | ANC

Get out on the water and give stand up paddleboarding a try. A WCCB naturalist will go over the basic equipment, paddle strokes, and get you paddling around Lester Pond at Annett Nature Center. Children must be at least 12 year old and accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and registration is required.

Forest Bathing

Saturday, August 25th | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Hickory Hills

Immerse yourself in nature and experience the benefits of being fully present in the medicine of the forest. This gentle three hour forest therapy walk offers a rich experience in nature that can improve mood and provide relaxation. Shinrin-yoku or forest therapy offers researched based health benefits such as lowered blood pressure, decreased anxiety, and improved cognitive functioning. There is a cost of \$15 per person and registration is required.



Movie Night: Bears!

Friday, August 31st | 7:15 p.m. | Memorial Park

Join WCCB and Indianola Parks & Recreation for a Summer Movie Night featuring Paddington 2! A WCCB naturalist will present a program about how bears live in the wild, then the movie will begin at 8:15 pm.

Check our website for details and registration deadlines: <http://www.warrencb.org/events>

Events



September

Monarch Tagging

Sunday, September 9th | 1 p.m. | ANC

Come discover more about the monarchs fascinating life cycle, migration, and possibly tag a monarch. Learn how to catch and handle a monarch, determine gender, and properly tag them in the wild as part of a national research project. All monarchs will be released after they are tagged. Bring a butterfly net if you have one, or share a park net if you don't. Fun for the whole family!

Monarch Tagging

Saturday, September 15th | 1 p.m. | Buxton Park

Come to Buxton Park and join Indianola Parks & Recreation and WCCB to discover all about Monarch butterflies, their unusual lifestyle and life cycle and their miraculous migration to Mexico. A WCCB naturalist will teach you how to catch and handle a monarch, determine gender, and properly tag them in the wild as part of a national research project. All monarchs will be released after they are tagged. Bring a butterfly net if you have one, or share a park net if you don't. Fun for the whole family!



FWCC Prairie Picnic

Saturday, September 15th | 5 p.m. | ANC

Join the Friends of Warren County Conservation for our annual prairie picnic fundraiser. This relaxing evening includes a social hour with appetizers, drinks, and a meal with sides and desserts. After the meal there will be a silent and live auction filled with lots of nature related items, handmade goodies, and nature experiences to choose from. Registration is required by September 4. The cost is \$30 per person and seating is limited. Bring your friends and family out for a casual evening on the prairie.

October

Breakfast Dutch Oven Cooking

Saturday, October 6th | 8:30–10 a.m. | ANC

Are you in need of an easy, filling, and delicious recipe for your next camping trip or outdoor adventure? Learn to prepare scrumptious breakfast recipes that will feed a crowd. Participants will prepare recipes, cook them in the Dutch oven, and learn how to care for Dutch oven cookware. The best part is breakfast & coffee are included. The cost is \$5 per person. This program is geared towards those 12 and older. Space is limited, please register by October 3, 2018.



Halloween Hike

Monday, October 22nd | 6:30 p.m. | ANC

Join Warren County Conservation Board for our annual Halloween Hike! Trek down the jack o' lantern lit trail and meet several characters along the way. Afterwards, we will enjoy a craft and a snack in the nature center. The 2018 Halloween Hike theme will be announced later in the year.

Mentor Hunt

TBA | ANC

This is an opportunity for inexperienced hunters to learn more about hunting. Learn about the animal, hunter safety, and go out in the field with a mentor to experience hunting this fall!

Check our website for details and registration deadlines: <http://www.warrencb.org/events>



Events

Thank You!

Warren County Parks Tour & Wine Tasting 2018

Indianola Chamber of Commerce
Carlisle Chamber of Commerce
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

La Vida Loca Winery
Shawn Szalkowski
Ashley Vanderflught
Peg Hutchison
Donna & Bill Fink
Kathy Krogmeier
Peggy Hutchison

Monty & Lori Freeman

Black Keys- Graham Brooks & Austin Griswold

Bee Outfit Sewing

Marilyn Newell and Ann Goodrich from Fairview
Community Church

Priscilla Gauber Butterfly & Pollinator Exhibit

Opening Night

Indianola Chamber of Commerce

Steve Weaver
Randy Edwards
Lisa Niedermayer
Steve Derman
Blair Lawson
Judy Hendricks
Ace Hendricks
Donna Fink
Ashley Vanderflught
Sue Boll
Monty Freeman

Kids Fish Day 2018

Monty & Lori Freeman
Ashley Vanderflught
Steve Weaver
Al & Kathie Farris
Randy Edwards
John Krogmeier
Lisa Niedermayer
Donna Fink



Blank Park Zoo Program 2018

Blank Park Zoo

Fareway

Steve & Mary Weaver

Ashley Vanderflught

Friends of Indianola Public Library

Friends of Warren County Conservation



Little Free Library

Donation of Little Free Library:

Randy Edwards

Books for the Little Free Library:

Jim Coffey

Friends of Warren County Conservation

John & Kathy Krogmeier

Linda Urbas

Bird Feeder & Bird Seed Donation

Sue Boll

Ted Lare Farmers Market

Donna Fink

Steve Derman

Peg Hutchison

John & Kathy Krogmeier

Kids Health & Nature Day

Cayten Boswell

Graysen Boswell

Emily Thompson

Katie Thompson

Sharon Thompson-Young Living Essential Oils

Kathrin Herr-Young Living Essential Oils

Sue Wilson- Young Living Essential Oils

Shelley Heckertt-PI-Yo Instructor



FRIENDS OF WARREN COUNTY CONSERVATION

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FORMALLY INVITES YOU TO THE

2018 *Prairie Picnic*



Saturday, September 15
5PM-6PM Social Hour
6PM Dinner
Annett Nature Center

\$30 PER PERSON

Limited seating

Reservations required by September 4, 2018

Contact Karen at 515-961-6169

Catered BBQ Style Meal

Appetizers, Drinks, Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Auction



Steve Derman | Peg Hutchison | Donna Fink | Monty Freeman

Sue Boll | Judy Hendricks | Karen Johlas-Szalkowski

John Krogmeier | Blair Lawson | Ashley Vanderflucht

Steve Weaver | Lisa Niedermayer



Summer 2018

Warren County Conservation Board



The Warren County Conservation Board manages over 2,200 acres of land for the benefit of its citizens. Visitors can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities on areas being conserved for this generation and generations to come.

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programs, parks, & projects:



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Ace Hendricks	Ackworth
Mick Kreidler	Indianola

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David Youngblut	Operation Coordinator
Mark Wilson	Natural Resource Specialist
Doug Gaumer	Conservation Technician
Tyler Sueferer	Conservation Technician
Karen Johlas-Szalkowski	Naturalist II
Kelsey Longnecker	Naturalist I

The Warren County Conservation Board does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Warren County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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