



# JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Winter 2020

## Meet A Member: Carla Kuehl-Purdum

Please help us welcome our new Friends of Warren County Conservation Board member- Carla Kuehl-Purdum:

Growing up in Linn County, a love of the natural world was instilled upon me at an early age. My mom would take my brother, two sisters, and me exploring the Cedar River and creekbanks for turtles, frogs, snakes (yup- snakes), and crawdads. (you never forget that pinch of a claw that grabs you before you grab it.) She'd then cook up our catch and we'd have frog legs and crawdads for dinner!

Camping in the summer brought about more discoveries, for the four of us. All kinds of fun-natured mischief along the edges of the campgrounds, like stopping up the nearby creekbed with rocks and watching the water find another route through. The taste of fresh-caught bluegills and sunfish cooked over the open fire with lemon juice and butter was the best, and nothing compared to the taste of watermelon cooled in the waters of the stream. Watermelon seed spitting contests were high competition. Catching fireflies in the dark of night are among my most fond memories. Visiting National Parks and spending week-long trips at our cousin's cabin in Northern Minnesota, we got to expand the love of the natural beauty across the nation and explore even more. Berry picking brought about fresh berries on home-made ice cream. Umm! Umm!



In my later teen years I was able to cross the continental divide in Colorado on backpacking quests. A favorite high school assignment was a botany project. In fact, I had such a passion for collecting leaves and forest flora, I completed my boy friend's project, his brother's, and both my sister's too! As a nature geeking high schooler, I preferred swimming in the local lake and farmer's ponds to the local swimming pool. Riding bike throughout the countryside was and still is a preferred pastime. I even planted a variety of wildflowers from the local woods to my parent's yard. My argument being, you don't have to take of them, they come up by themselves year after year. Now, I'm still involved with native plants and am even beginning to recognize and identify them and understand the importance of bringing them back.



In college I educated myself in Outward Bound and Project Learning Tree at Black Hawk County. As a teacher in Union County, I worked closely with the Conservation Department to have my students experience the outdoors throughout the seasons with hiking excursions, snowshoeing, and building Kestrel houses to be placed along the county roadways.



"Meet A Member": Continued on next page



# Meet A Member

## Meet A Member Cont'd:

Moving to an acreage in 1992 in Warren County, the first county park I discovered was Zo-El Annett. It was a nice trail ride on horseback from our property. I was and am still in awe of the suspension bridge. I took my students from the early childhood program I founded (Adventures School of Discovery) to Warren County Parks for the next seventeen years. Naturalists from Annett Nature Center brought programs such as owls and bats and beavers to us. Opening up the door and guiding students to make discoveries in the own "Big Back Yard" was foremost in the curriculum. Ants and worms became our friends.

Each Spring I eagerly await the Warren County Conservation Geocache Adventures. Along with collecting the nature-themed cards, this challenge gets me (and those I can drag along with me) out combing the parks and trails of Warren County searching for clues. I find great pleasure in capturing landscape photos along the way.



I look forward to my annual May 12th trek to the tower, where I climb the stairs to the top "Eagle's Roost" and sit down for a birthday sack lunch amidst the wind and imagine shapes in the clouds.

An exhilarating experience on the prairies of the Nature Center has been, net in hand, running through the tall grasses to collect butterflies for tagging. To see such an abundance of Monarchs gives me faith that our practices of saving species are working.

Recently, signing up for the Forest Therapy Walks offered by our educated naturalists, has been such a grounding, mindful, senses-centered opportunity to hang out with like-minded folks. I highly recommend you try it.

I am honored to have been asked to sit on the board of FWCC. My goal as a board member is to encourage all ages to "GET OUTDOORS" and get close up and personal with the natural world around them- RIGHT HERE IN WARREN COUNTY! It has been gratifying building campfires and offering S'Mores- seeing smiles on young and young-at-heart faces, bringing me back to my youthful memories. The Prairie Picnic offers good food and good fun and a great way to support programs. I hope it is YOU I'll be serving S'Mores to in 2020!



# Updates



## Annett Nature Center Park Lodge Under Construction

It will be a busy winter on the grounds of the Annett Nature Center Park. After a lengthy planning and bidding period, work is underway on a new, all-season lodge.

The as yet unnamed lodge is being built on the hill south of the ANC wetland. The 84' x 40' structure will feature a 50' X 40' great room with a fireplace and stunning views, a full kitchen, heating and air conditioning, and modern restrooms. Set in restored prairie, the site allows views of the ANC wetland, Lester Pond, and the Annett Nature Center. Footings and the floor are complete. Framing is quickly nearing completion. Electrical, plumbing, septic, and finish work will be starting soon, with work continuing through the winter.

The lodge will be used for Annett Nature Center programming, and will be available for private rentals. Rental fees, and the date when rentals can be booked have not been set. Tentative completion date is Fall 2020, but this is subject to many conditions.

This project was made possible by a very generous donation. The Warren County Conservation Board looks forward to getting to work on the project sections being constructed by staff, and is excited about how this facility will enhance WCCB programming and the public experience at the Annett Nature Center Park. More information on the donation, the name of the facility, when it will be dedicated, and when it will be available for public use will be made available as work continues.



# Events

## January

### **Dreamcatchers**

**Friday, January 17th | 6:30–7:30 p.m. |**

**Indianola Activity Center**

Join a WCCB naturalist to learn about dream catchers. We will talk about history of the dream catcher, materials that would have been used, and how they were constructed. You will learn how to make and decorate your own dreamcatcher to take home!

This event is \$5, and all materials will be provided. This event is geared towards adults. Registration is required by Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

### **Snowshoe Hike**

**Saturday, January 18th | 1–2:30 p.m. | Pickard Park**

Don't let the winter weather keep you locked up indoors! Join Warren County Conservation and Indianola Parks & Recreation at Pickard Park to experience the great outdoors and learn how easy and fun snowshoeing can be! Fun for the whole family! Proper clothing, equipment, and techniques will be discussed. Wear warm winter boots. The event will be cancelled if there is not enough snow. (at least 5 inches)

Please specify adult or child, height and weight in the comments when registering. This information will be kept confidential, but will ensure we bring the correct size of snowshoe. Registration is required by January 16, 2020. There is no charge for this event.

## February

### **Snowshoe Hike**

**Saturday, February 1st | 1–2:30 p.m. |**

**Annett Nature Center**

Don't let the winter weather keep you locked up indoors! Join Warren County Conservation at the Annett Nature Center to experience the great outdoors and learn how easy and fun snowshoeing can be! Fun for the whole family! Proper clothing, equipment, and techniques will be discussed. Wear warm winter boots. The event will be cancelled if there is not enough snow. (at least 5 inches) Please specify adult or child, height and weight in the comments when registering. Registration is required by January 31, 2020.



### **Winter Walk Painting with Art Uncorked**

**Tuesday, February 4th | 6–8 p.m. |**

**Annett Nature Center**

WCCB will be hosting Art Uncorked for an evening of painting. Participants will be painting on wood a “Winter Walk.” The program cost is \$25 and includes all art materials, instruction, and a light snack. Space is limited and registration is required at <https://elarteuncorked.com>. This program is geared for those 12 years and older and children must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Full Moon Snowshoe Hike**

**Sunday, February 9th | 6–7:30 p.m. |**

**Annett Nature Center**

Bundle up and explore the trails on snowshoes. Snowshoeing is a great way to stay fit during the winter. We will provide general instructions and snowshoes. Dress for winter weather and wear warm boots. This event will be cancelled if there is not enough snow. (at least 5 inches) Registration is required by February 7, 2020.

### **Owl Prowl**

**Tuesday, February 11th | 6:30– 8:00p.m. |**

**Annett Nature Center**

Join a WCCB naturalist to learn about the Owls of Iowa. Meet a live educational screech owl, learn to identify owl calls, and hike down the trail to listen for owls living in the park. Winter is a great time to call for owls, but be sure to come bundled up for the cold February weather. Please register by February 10th at noon.

**For more details and information, or to register for events, please visit [www.warrencb.org/events](http://www.warrencb.org/events) or call 515-961-6169.**



# Events



## February Cont'd

### **Snowshoe Hike**

**Saturday, February 16th | 1–2:30 p.m. |**

**Annett Nature Center**

Don't let the winter weather keep you locked up indoors! Join Warren County Conservation at the Annett Nature Center to experience the great outdoors and learn how easy and fun snowshoeing can be! Fun for the whole family! Proper clothing, equipment, and techniques will be discussed. Wear warm winter boots. The event will be cancelled if there is not enough snow. (at least 5 inches) Registration is required by February 14, 2020.

## March

### **2021 ANC/Shelter Rentals**

**Wednesday, March 4th | 8 a.m.**

Bookings for the Annett Nature Center and the Lester Davison Memorial Pavillion can be made beginning on March 1st, 2020. Please call 515-961-6169 to request information or to make a reservation.

### **2020 Day Camp Registration**

**Wednesday, March 4th | 8 a.m.**

Naturalists lead summer camps that encourage children to explore and enjoy nature up close. Parents may register children for camp beginning Wednesday, March 4th at 8:00 a.m. Registration is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, come to the Annett Nature Center or call us at (515) 961-6169. Because of limited enrollment, children are asked to attend each camp only once. More camp details are available on our website: [www.warrencb.org/education/daycamps!](http://www.warrencb.org/education/daycamps!)

### **Geocaching 101**

**Saturday, March 7th | 1–2 p.m. |**

**Annett Nature Center**

Looking for a fun new outdoor hobby? Want to participate in our county-wide Geocaching Adventure? Come discover the fun and excitement of geocaching, the high tech outdoor scavenger hunt that uses a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit! Join a WCCB naturalist for a beginner course to learn about geocaching and how to use a GPS unit. Registration required by March 5th at noon.

### **Rain Barrel Workshop**

**Saturday, March 14th | 9–10:30 a.m. |**

**Annett Nature Center**

Participants will learn the benefits of rain barrels, how to collect water, and make a rain barrel. You will be provided with all the tools and instructions to make your own rain barrel for your yard. Please make sure that your vehicle can transport the finished large barrel. The cost is \$50 per barrel. Space is limited to 15 participants.

Registration is required by March 12, 2020 so we can provide enough materials.



## April

### **Fish Geocaching Adventure Begins**

**Wednesday, April 1st | 8 a.m.**

Grab your GPS, your hiking boots, and get ready to explore! Find all 25 geocaches and collect the trading cards, April 1, 2020 through November 1, 2020. There are 25 Geocaching Fish Adventure Caches hidden in county, state, and city parks around Warren County. Your challenge is to explore parks and find them all using a GPS.

### **FWCC Osprey 5K**

**Saturday, April 4th | 9 a.m. | Annett Nature Center**

Join Friends of Warren County Conservation as we host the 11th Osprey 5K Trail Run/Walk event. The trails will lead you through the beautiful prairie and woodlands of Annett Nature Center. Participants will receive a long sleeved tech shirt, finishers medal, and swag bag.

All proceeds benefit environmental education programs and exhibits. Packet pick up is from 8AM-8:45AM and the race will start at 9AM. The cost is \$30 if registered before March 30 and \$35 after.

**For more details and information, or to register for events, please visit [www.warrencb.org/events](http://www.warrencb.org/events) or call 515-961-6169.**



# Events

## Thank You!

### Monarch Tagging Program

Kay Whipple  
Theresa Finken

### Friends of Warren County Conservation Prairie Picnic

Nancy Engle  
Hank Bauer  
Steve Derman  
Monty & Lori Freeman  
Ace & Judy Hendricks  
John & Kathy Krogmeier  
Donita Petersen  
Bob & Jackie Sarasio  
Jeff & Marlys Sowers  
Steve & Mary Weaver  
Ashely Vanderflught  
Lisa Niedermayer  
Shawn Szalkowski  
Bill & Donna Fink  
Blair & Marilyn Lawson  
West Hill Brewery  
Putney Auction  
Blank Park Zoo  
Ted Lare Design & Build & Gardens  
Iowa Native Trees & Shrubs  
Hudson Valley Seed  
Legacy Financial Group  
Milo Meat Locker  
National Balloon Classic  
National Balloon Museum  
Patrick Roehrman MT Knives, LLC  
Pies & Pastries by Lana  
Wild Bird Unlimited  
Warren County Izaak Walton League  
Terri Frank  
Karen Williams  
The Groggy Dog  
515 Woodwork  
Hand-Me-Down Talents  
Tanner Zimmerman Pottery

### Iowa Trail Run Series

Mallory Wells  
John & Kathy Krogmeier  
Bill & Donna Fink  
Christine Massey  
Shari Carney  
Ashely Vanderflught  
Shawn Szalkowski

### Halloween Hike

Carolyn Randolph  
Pamela Dunkin  
Steve & Mary Weaver  
Amanda Stadtlander  
Paige Rader  
Tory Novotny  
Donna Fink  
Kathy Disney  
Monty & Lori Freeman  
Shawn Szalkowski  
Tanner Hagenow  
Barb Ripperger  
Veronica & Alex O'Hern  
Jackie Sarasio  
Sara Titus  
Linda Urbas

### Fall Hike & Homemade Gifts

Sue & Phia Wilson  
Kathy Krogmeier  
Carla Kuehl-Purdum  
DeAnn Carlson  
Kay Whipple  
Bree & Wyatt

### Candy Cane Hike

Lisa Niedermayer  
Shawn Szalkowski





## Join Us! Become a Friend of Warren County Conservation in 2020

Pledge your support today for high quality, healthy living for Warren County through greater recreation and outdoor education opportunities, new and improved facilities, restored landscapes, and extended open space. In addition to supporting our important work, Friends of Warren County Conservation receive the following additional benefits:

- You receive half price rental of the Annett Nature Center once a year at the Benefactor Level
- You are put on the mailing list to receive current Warren County Conservation newsletters
- You support conservation and recreation projects in your own backyard

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### 2020 Friends of Warren County Conservation Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

You can support the Friends of Warren County Conservation at a variety of membership levels by selecting one of the following:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership - \$20          | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint/Family Membership - \$30        | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact me about donating property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership - \$50          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Business Membership - \$100 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership - \$1000 or more  |   |



# Winter 2020

## 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.

Subscribe to *Three Rivers Journal* via email!  
Reduce waste and get frequent updates on  
programs, parks, & projects:  
[subscribewccb@warrencb.org](mailto:subscribewccb@warrencb.org)



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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.

Warren County Conservation Board  
15565 118th Avenue  
Indianola, IA 50125-8852  
(515) 961-6169  
[www.warrencb.org](http://www.warrencb.org)  
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