



# JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Spring 2020

## Species Spotlight: Spring Peeper *Pseudacris crucifer*

For the members of our community more enamored by amphibians than birds, the spring peeper's song is a melody sure to send a chill of excitement down the spine! Spring peepers are one of the first froggy friends that welcome us out of the winter months into spring.

The name, peeper, comes from the high pitched whistle or peep that the males make during mating season. They often sing in trios, with the deepest voice starting the song. They will repeat their "peep" about 20 times a minute. A female will lay anywhere from 750 to 1200 eggs which will hatch out after approximately 12 days. It will take tadpoles about 6 to 12 weeks to transform into frogs. After mating and laying eggs, the adult frogs will spend the rest of the year in the forest.



Spring peepers are brown or tan with dark lines that form a distinctive "X" on their back, and they grow to about 1.5 inches in length. They are typically found in wooded or grassy areas near ponds, wetlands, or lakes. Being nocturnal helps the peepers hide from predators during the day. At night they come out to eat beetles, ants, flies, and spiders. Predators of spring peepers include snakes, skunks, salamanders, large carnivorous insects, and birds.

It is easier to hear a spring peeper than to spot one. Spring peeper songs can be heard from 1–2.5 miles away! As a full chorus, they can sound a bit like sleigh bells. Have you been hearing the spring peepers this spring?







# Meet A Member

## Meet A Member: Joe Schettler

My name is Joe Schettler and I'm excited to contribute as the newest member of the Warren County Conservation Board. Growing up on a cattle farm in Carroll County, I developed a deep appreciation for time spent enjoying the outdoors. After graduating Carroll High School, I attended Iowa Lakes Community College and earned my Associate's Degree in Environmental Science. I then studied Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and graduated from Northwest Missouri State in 1994. During my college years I spent each summer working as a seasonal employee for the Carroll County Conservation Board and truly enjoyed the experience.

For the last 20 years I have owned a small business in Carlisle. My wife, Kristan and our three children: Cooper, Claire, and Charlie, live on our farm just outside Palmyra. As a family we enjoy traveling and time spent outside. I'm glad to be part of the board and look forward to using my past experiences to help guide decisions that will benefit the people of Warren County.



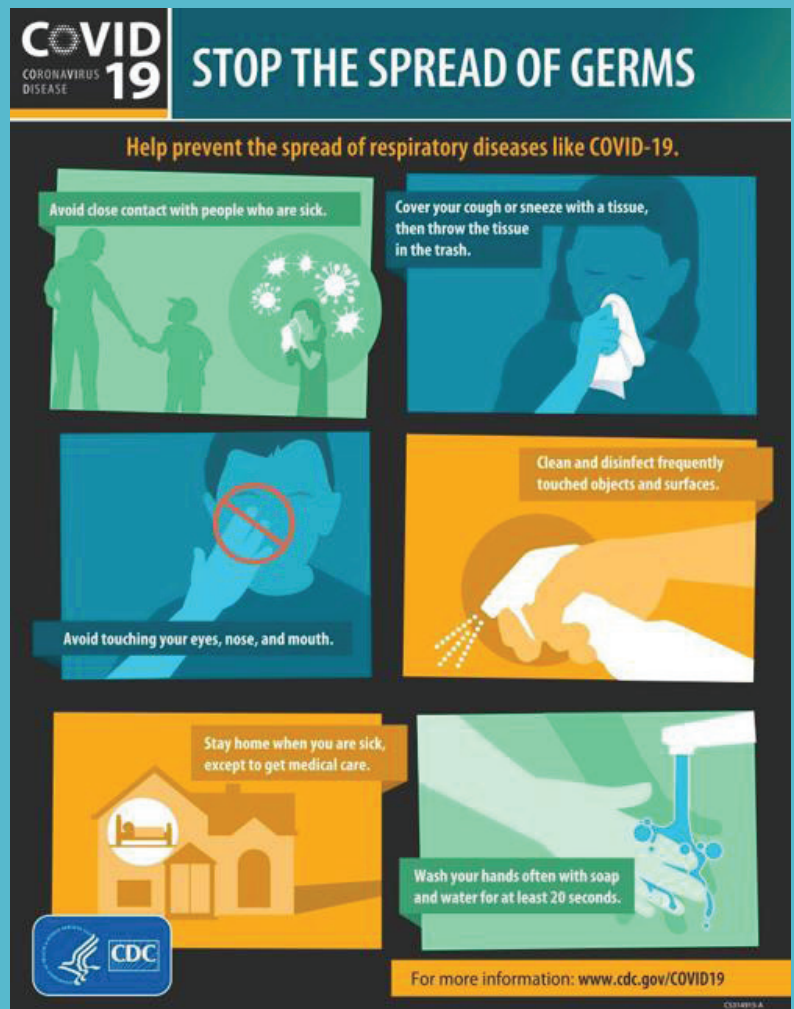
# Updates



## Coronavirus/COVID-19 information

Effective until further notice, the following restrictions on are placed Conservation Board facilities and services:

- Warren County Conservation Board meetings remain open to the public, but will be held electronically—see the agenda on the Board Meetings page for details
- The Annett Nature Center and the WCCB maintenance facility will be closed to public access unless an appointment has been made. Group access will be prohibited. Call the WCCB at 515-961-6169 to see if arrangements can be made.
- Public and school programming is cancelled through at least May 31, 2020. WCCB staff are working on virtual programming opportunities. Watch the Warren County Conservation and Annett Nature Center facebook page for those developments.
- Facility rentals and reservations are cancelled though at least May 31, 2020. Any paid Annett Nature Center rentals cancelled by Warren County will be refunded through the monthly WCCB meeting schedule.
- Because the recommended schedules for cleaning during this time can not be met, park restroom facilities are closed until at least May 31, 2020.
- Shelters and campgrounds are closed until at least May 31, 2020.
- Warren County Conservation parks and trails **WILL REMAIN OPEN**. Please practice the Center for Disease Control's social distancing guidelines while getting fresh air and enjoying Warren County's outdoor spaces!







# Events

## 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.

**\*\*Due to Covid-19 you are welcome to simply "log your find" on geocaching.com that you found the cache and pick up cards from the Annett Nature Center at a later date. \*\***

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

**\*\*We will be updating our events and programming as new information becomes available of the current impacts of COVID-19. Check our website or facebook page for current updates:**

[www.warrenccb.org](http://www.warrenccb.org)



## Thank You Joe Gavin!

We would like to thank Joe Gavin for his time as a Board Member. He served on the Warren County Conservation Board from 1998–2019. During his long tenure with the WCCB, Joe worked on many conservation projects, both for the WCCB and for other conservation organizations. One of the biggest was developing and beginning the Iowa Outdoor Expo for Kids and Families, held on the grounds of the Polk County Izaak Walton League. For all you have done, and all you will continue to do for conservation, thank you, Joe!

## Nature Bites

Did you know that we send out an E-Newsletter called "Nature Bites" every month? This one-page publication is sent about a week before each new month. It is a brief reminder of all of the public programs coming up in the next month, and we have a featured event for each month. If you are interested in signing up for Nature Bites you can sign up by calling 515-961-6169 or by going here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/EVGr1fKh6wQBYfgJ2>





# News



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Carla Kuehl-Purdum for donation of the pond rug  
Four Seasons Carwash for donation of Rain Barrels  
Executive Laser Wash for donation of Rain Barrels  
Des Moines Parks & Recreation (program  
equipment usage)



# Craft

Right now it seems that toilet paper is a hot commodity, which also means there is a surplus of toilet paper tubes available after the paper is gone! So what would be a more appropriate craft to make than one using toilet paper tubes, and materials that you might easily have lying around the house?

## Toilet Paper Tube Critters

I like this craft because it uses an easily supplied base material (toilet paper tube) and any assortment of additional materials you might have in excess at the moment. You could also go on a hike to collect small leaves, acorns, sticks, or grasses to include in the craft to give it a more natural feel.

### Materials:

- Toilet Paper Tubes
- Markers or paint
- Googly Eyes
- Colored Paper
- Glue Sticks
- Miscellaneous Craft Materials



### Instructions:

1. Decide what animal you would like to start with and color or paint the body.
2. Make any necessary alterations to the body of the tube (I folded mine for the squirrel's ears).
3. Draw and cut out any limbs, wings, teeth, tails, etc.
4. Glue them into place on the tube and add any additional features (pompom nose, pipe cleaner antlers, etc.)
5. Let it dry and enjoy your new toilet paper tube buddy!

Notes: You could glue a clothes pin or magnet to the back to make it "cling" to different places. Older kids might want to wrap the body with colored paper rather than color it in (see the fox.)







## Parks and Social Distance

Right now is a great time to be out visiting the parks and getting some quality time in with your family. Please remember to use good hygiene practices and practice appropriate social distancing techniques even while outside. Since sometimes distance can be hard to visualize, here are some examples of animals to help you remember the 6 foot guideline!

### What does 6 feet look like?

2 Canada Geese



12 Painted Turtles



3 Raccoons



9 Tiger Salamanders



4 Largemouth Bass



6 American Kestrels



2 Badgers



2 Fox Snakes





# Spring 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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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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