



JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Fall 2020

Species Spotlight: Cup Plant

Silphium perfoliatum

Cup plant is a perennial native prairie plant that can grow to 8 feet in height. It has many yellow flowers that are 2 to 3 inches wide when open. The stout leaves are opposite, and join the stem and form a small “cup” which is where it gets the name. The cup often holds water from rains or dew and attracts insects, birds, and other small animals.



Native Americans once used the plant as a chewing gum, for the treatment of liver and spleen disorders, to treat morning sickness, and as a face wash.

Look for the yellow blooms in July through September. You can find cup plant at many of our Warren County Parks! Check out a map of parks at warrencb.org.

Grow Solar

Have you heard about Grow Solar? Grow Solar Warren County is offered by the The Nature Conservancy in Iowa, Indianola Sustainability Committee, Warren County Economic Development, and the Cities of Indianola and Carlisle, and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. Home and business owners throughout Warren County may participate in this program to help pool their buying power to secure significant discounts that make installing solar more affordable.

Start by attending a Solar Power Hour. The free information session teaches you the basics of solar, its financial implications for your property, and how the Grow Solar Warren County program works. Then, get a free, no obligation site assessment from our competitively-selected installer. You have until September 30, 2020 to decide whether to get solar through the program. The Solar Power Hour calendar and program updates will be posted on their website on an ongoing basis.

To learn more, visit:
<https://www.growsolar.org/solar-warren-co/>





Meet A Member

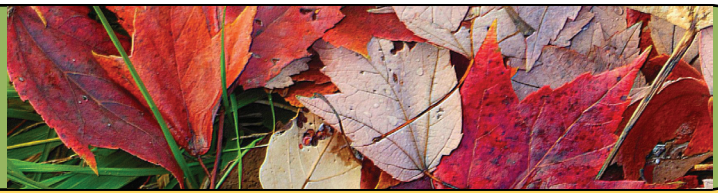
Meet a Member: Staff Ryan McPherrren, Conservation Technician

Ryan started working as a conservation technician with Warren County Conservation Board in 2019. Ryan grew up and graduated high school in Oskaloosa, Iowa. From there, he attended Central College in Pella, Iowa where he earned a degree in Environmental Science in 2014. He has work experience as a trail crew leader, naturalist, and in managing natural resources. Some of his past accomplishments he is proud of include building a sixty-foot long timber bridge located at Palisades Kepler State Park and proposing, obtaining funding, and building a natural playscape at Lake Red Rock.

Ryan's wife is a science teacher at Southeast Polk High School, and in their free time they like to go bird watching, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, running, biking, and camping.



Updates



Take A Peek.... Exhibit Hall Design

Bald Eagle Nest

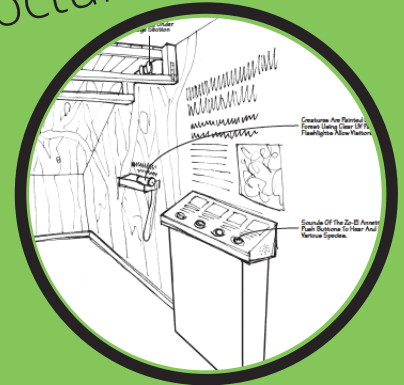


Birdwatching

Bison & Prairie



Nocturnal Animals



**Help us shape the future of the Annett Nature Center
Educational Exhibits.**

**Together we can make this happen. Here is how you can be a
part of this exciting project:**

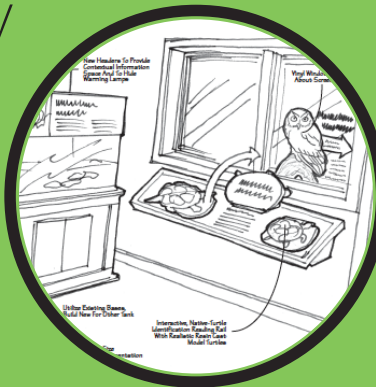
~Make a donation at <https://www.mightycause.com/story/Abfkeg>

~Consider sponsoring a portion of the exhibit

~Share this with a friend

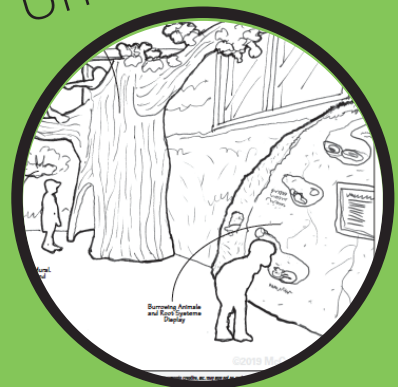
~Purchase an online auction package during the FWCC Prairie Picnic
September 12-19, 2020 for information on how to bid visit
putneyauction.com

Native American Display



Owl & Turtle

Underground





Events

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

September

Monarch Tagging @ Annett Nature Center **Sunday, September 13th | 1:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center**

Come discover more about monarch butterflies, their unusual lifestyle and life cycle and their miraculous migration to Mexico. A Warren County Conservation 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. There is a limited number of nets available for use. Fun for the whole family! Please register by September 11, 2020.

Please arrive promptly so you don't miss the instructions for tagging.



Monarch Tagging @ Buxton Park **Saturday, September 19th | 1:00 p.m. | Buxton Park**

Come discover more about monarch butterflies, their unusual lifestyle and life cycle and their miraculous migration to Mexico. A Warren County Conservation 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. There is a limited number of nets available for use. Fun for the whole family! Please register by September 17, 2020.

Please arrive promptly so you don't miss the instructions for tagging.

Virtual Prairie Picnic

Saturday, September 12th–19th | Online

Due to Covid-19 and to ensure the safety of our participants FWCC has decided to postpone this in person event and host an online auction. So log on, grab a snack, and enjoy bidding on some awesome items from the comfort of your home. Your support is appreciated and all funds will be used towards the redesign of the educational exhibit space at Annett Nature Center. If you would like to directly donate to this project visit: <https://www.mightycause.com/story/Abfkeg>

Online Auction Information: A big thanks to Putney Auction for listing our online auction. All items will be listed September 12-19, 2020 with photos and descriptions of each item. You will need to set up a free account with Putney Auction to be able to place your bid. Visit: <http://www.putneyauctiononline.com/auctions.htm#> to set up a free account for bidding. Pick up of all items will be at Putney Auction. Please visit their website for more information.

October

Iowa Trail Run Series

Saturday, October 11th | 10–11 a.m. | Annett Nature Center

Friends of Warren County Conservation are excited to announce that we will be hosting the Iowa Trail Run Series here at Annett Nature Center. Not only will you get to run the trails, but FWCC will be providing delicious smore's after the event. "We're back for a second round at Warren County Parks' Annett Nature Center for a beautiful fall run on Sunday morning. Race, relax, and enjoy the beautiful October colors through the gravel paths, dirt trails, and prairie grass." There will be a 5K or 10 K (two laps) option.

Visit: <http://iowatrailruns.com> to register, for packet pick up information, and for Covid-19 information.

Volunteer:

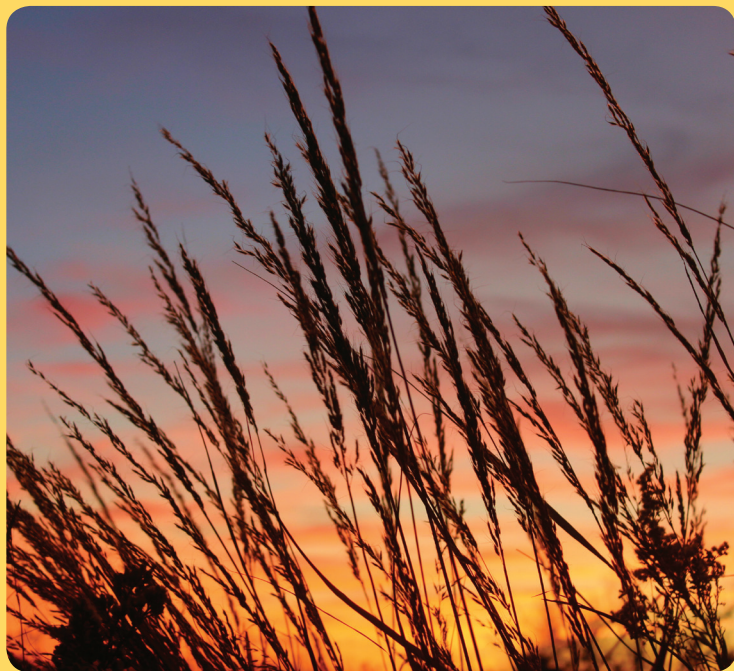
We could use some extra assistance with parking, water station, and packet pick up. No experience necessary, just a fun attitude. If you would like to volunteer at this event please contact Karen by email or call 515-961-6169.

karenjohlas-szalkowski@warrenccb.org

Events



October cont'd



Prairie Seed Harvest

Friday, October 16th | 5:30 p.m. | Blue Flag Marsh

Ever wished you could learn a little more about some of the prairie practices used by the Warren County Conservation Board? Do you want to help us preserve our beautiful prairies? Come out to help with the prairie seed harvest!

You will learn to identify and how to harvest seeds from several prairie plants. Come out to Blue Flag Marsh and take the opportunity to roll your sleeves up, enjoy the beautiful fall weather, and preserve the prairie seeds to be planted somewhere else.

If you have them, please bring a bucket, hand nippers, and a pair of gloves if you would like, and dress to be amongst the prairie plants! Please register by October 14th at noon so we can assure we have enough materials. We must have 5 participants to hold this event.

*Note: Blue Flag Marsh does not have a restroom facility, please plan accordingly.

Animals of Halloween

October 19th–31st | Annett Nature Center

Come out on your own anytime between October 19th and October 31st to hike the trail and learn about some of the animals of Halloween. This is a come on your own activity, so you can social distance and come when it is most convenient for you!

November

Holiday Crafts with Ted Lare Gardens

Tuesday, November 10th | 6:00 p.m. | Online

Join the naturalists on zoom as we host Ted Lare Gardens for an evening of holiday crafts. Each craft would make a lovely addition to your holiday decorating and features live plant materials. Participants can choose from a variety of crafts to make, which will be posted later. Registration and prepayment is required. Please register at tedsgardens.com or by calling 515-981-1073.

Make & Take Family Day

Saturday, November 14th | 2:00 p.m. |

Annett Nature Center

Bring the family out for a guided fall hike, scavenger hunt, make & take essential oil gifts, and nature center exploration. This is a come and go as you please event with the hike starting at 2:30PM.

For \$25 your family can participate in the activities and make the following gifts: hanging ornament, soothing hand lotion, bath salt, foaming hand soap, and roller bottle. (one of each item) Additional gifts can be made for a small charge.

Registration is required by November 12, 2020.

Safety precautions will be taken to stop the spread of Covid-19. Please view our website for details: www.warrenccb.org.





Events

December

Candy Cane Hike

Saturday, December 5th | 1:00 p.m. |

Annett Nature Center

Bring the whole family out to hike the trails of Annett Nature Center in search of hidden candy canes. Submit your guess for how many candy canes are on the trail and get entered to win a wintery surprise.

This is a self-guided hike, so you can come and go between 1:00–3:00 p.m. Check in at the front desk for instructions and a trail map. Please dress for the weather. Registration is required by December 3, 2020.

If you need to cancel, please call us at 515-961-6169 so that we can open the space for someone else. Space is limited to allow room on the trail for all participants to enjoy the hike.

Forest Therapy Walk

Saturday, December 12th | 1:00 p.m. |

Annett Nature Center

Warren County Conservation will be hosting a nature & forest therapy guided walk. We invite you to unplug, slow down, and experience mindfulness in nature. This gentle three-hour walk will focus on using all your senses to explore Annett Nature Center Park. Certified guides with the Association of Nature And Forest Therapy Association will lead you through nature explorations. This walk is based on Shinrin-yoku or forest therapy that can provide many positive health benefits such as lowered blood pressure, decreased anxiety, increased focus, relaxation, and a connection with nature.

Please come prepared by wearing comfortable walking shoes and dress in layers for the weather. You might want to bring a light snack and drinking water. A small backpack, sunscreen, and bug repellent may be useful. You are welcome to bring a mat to sit on or a small camping chair. There will be small sit mats available for use. We will hike if there is light rain, so bring rain gear. Please meet at front desk area inside the nature center. This program is geared towards those 16 and up. No pets.

The charge for this event is \$20 per person, please bring exact change or a check the day of the event. Registration is required at warrencb.org. Please register by December 10, 2020. There is limited space and a minimum of 4 participants are required to host this walk.

Visit our website for Covid-19 safety precautions.

Check our website or facebook page for updates and registration information: www.warrencb.org/events

Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, December 29th | TBA |

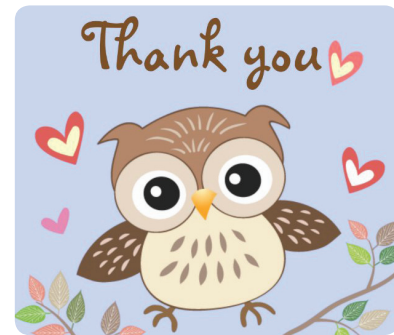
Annett Nature Center

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. Please register at www.warrencb.org/events so we can have your snowshoes ready.

When registering, please indicate your height and weight, so we can determine snowshoe size. (This information is confidential) Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by December 28th 2020 at noon.

Thank You!

Thank you to our amazing group of volunteers, we couldn't do it without you!



FWCC Native Plant Sale

Steve Derrand

Donna Fink

Carla Kuehl-Purdum

Blair Lawson

Laura Reeser

Linda Urbas

Ashley Vanderflugh

Mallory Wells

Peg Hutchinson

Donation of wood boxes and bat boxes

Annalise Duncan &

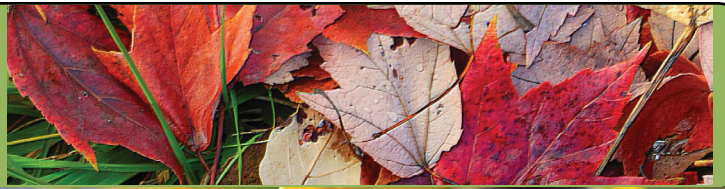
Evie Duncan of Troop 50

Donation of Monarch Mansion

Theresa & Roger Finken

Butterfly Garden Maintenance

Jessica Fearington



Friends of Warren County Conservation Prairie Picnic Online Auction September 12-19, 2020

In these uncertain times of a world pandemic, the Friends of Warren County Conservation was faced with making a difficult decision to postpone the in person prairie picnic. This fundraiser supports educational programs and exhibits at Annett Nature Center and is essential for the future redesign of the exhibit hall.

So just like many of us have adapted to changes in business, schools, and pretty much the world as we know it, FWCC has decided to make the best of it and will host an online auction. So put on your comfy clothes, grab a beverage, and bid from the comfort of your home or anywhere. This year we have some fantastic baskets filled with outdoor themed items, experiences, and locally made goods. FWCC will be sharing more details on our Facebook page the week of the event.

Many of you may be wondering how does an online auction work, how do I bid, where do I pick up my items or other questions. It's super easy. The first step is to set up a free account at <http://www.putneyauction.com>. When setting up your account they will ask some basic information and for a credit card. You will then be assigned a bidding number. You can view photos of the auction items and place a bid from September 12 at 8:00 a.m. until September 19 at 6:00 p.m. Once the auction is closed you will be notified if you are the final bidder. All auction items will be picked up at Putney Auction. A designated pick up time will be listed on their website.

All proceeds will benefit the new educational exhibits at Annett Nature Center. This is a large project with a budget of over \$200,000 that will benefit residents, schools, and tourists. The first phase of this project is being funded by FWCC, but your support is appreciated to complete this project. So consider bidding, making a monetary donation, and sharing the event with friends, family, and businesses. It takes us all to complete this project. A huge thank you Putney Auction for donating their services.



Fall 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.



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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
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