



JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Summer 2021

Species Spotlight:

Duckweed

Lemna minor

As summer warms up and you start spending more time near freshwater areas, you may or may not have noticed a small green plant floating inconspicuously on the water. These tiny plants are members of the duckweed family, and are the smallest known flowering plants! They are deceptive and fly under the radar because although they are tiny individually, they grow in large groups and can completely cover a body of water!



Duckweed plants are about 2-5 mm long, and has numerous tiny air bubbles imbedded within it allowing it to float on top of the water. A single rootlet develops near the center of 1-4 leaves and hangs down into the water. Duckweed thrives on still-moving ponds, lakes, and sloughs. Duckweed is an important food source for aquatic waterfowl, fish, and insects.



Scientists have recently begun to study their rapid growth rate and possible use as bioremediation (the use of either naturally occurring or deliberately introduced microorganisms or other forms of life to consume and break down environmental pollutants) of waterways with large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen from agricultural runoff. They have found that harvesting duckweed as a crop can remove these pollutants, as well as provide valuable livestock feed and fertilizer. Scientists are even developing techniques to use genetically modified duckweeds to synthesize insulin and other commercially valuable proteins.



Meet A Member

Retirement Announcement: David Youngblut

Please help us wish David the best as he enjoys his retirement from the Warren County Conservation Board after 37 years. Below are his retirement remarks.

As I sit here trying to write my farewell article for the newsletter, I am finding it more difficult than I thought it would be. I was Operations Coordinator for the Warren County Conservation Board for more than thirty-seven years. That is my entire adult working life! How do you summarize that? This will be the last article that I will write for the newsletter. The first one was for the board's tenth anniversary; year fifty is quickly approaching.

I interviewed for this job in December 1983. The interview went well and at the end they asked if I had any questions. I asked where the shop was. They all laughed. The agency was young and there were no facilities! It was a great opportunity for me to start at that time. It allowed me to use my creative ideas and abilities to help bring the conservation board to where it is today. I literally had my hands on almost every facility that the board has today. I feel fortunate to have had that opportunity.

The people who I have met and worked with along the way have been terrific. Board members, coworkers, seasonal employees, volunteers, supporters, friends, and local business owners have all contributed to my success and accomplishments. I cannot thank everyone enough for helping make all of these years productive and satisfying.

I had the opportunity to build a number of structures including park signs, shelters, bridges, boardwalks, restrooms, picnic tables, benches and much more. I also had the rare opportunity to develop numerous trails in the parks and wildlife areas managed by the conservation board. However, the thing that gives me the greatest sense of accomplishment in my career is the prairie renovation and restoration. Returning even a small part of Iowa back into something close to what it once was is very satisfying work.



News



Retirement Continued...

I look forward to enjoying these areas during my retirement and meeting other visitors who share my love for nature and the areas that the Warren County Conservation Board has provided. Creating these places for adventure and exploration for the residents and visitors in Warren County has been a rewarding and fulfilling part of my career as well.

The first project that I worked on for the board was the suspension bridge at ZoEl Annett Woods. The final project was the Middleswart Lodge at the Annett Nature Center Park. This was a great way to begin and end my career; two projects that I hope will give people memorable moments while visiting Warren County parks and help bring them back for more.

I accomplished nothing by myself! There were many hands involved. Thanks again to all who were part of that and a special thanks to my family who was always there for me and were my biggest supporters. To the people who saw my potential and gave me opportunity, I will be forever grateful to you. It was the best job that I could have had! I have no idea what else I would have done.



Help Us Complete Our Exhibit Hall!

Have you been out to check out the new, Phase I of our exhibit hall with the climbing tree, underground life, and bison wall? Did you know that we have 2 more phases to complete our exhibit hall redesign?

You can help! Here's how:

- Make a donation. Donate funds straight to our fundraiser page: <http://www.mightycause.com/story/Anc>
- Donate an auction item for our Annual Prairie Picnic. Visit: <https://www.warrenccb.org/support/prairie-picnic/> for more information.
- Attend the Prairie Picnic and have a great meal, fun atmosphere, and the chance to bid on awesome auction items!



Events

July

Storywalk @ Woodland Mounds July | Woodland Mounds Preserve

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!

After the Hunt: Butchering Program Friday July 9th | 7:00 p.m. | Middleswart Lodge

Learn about the techniques of skinning and butchering the animal to get the most out of it to fill your freezer. This will be a learning and hands on program. We will have a professional with the Iowa DNR here to teach these important skills. This program will focus on rabbits, and each participant will get their own rabbit to learn on and will take home the meat.

This program is geared towards adults and participants must be 16 years or older.

The cost is \$30 per person to help cover materials costs. Registration is required by July 31st, and space is limited. There is a minimum of 5 participants to hold this event.



Forest Therapy w/ Ted Lare Gardens Saturday July 10th | 9a.m. – Noon | Middleswart Lodge

Warren County Conservation & Ted Lare Gardens 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 Trails. 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.

This program is geared towards those 16 and up. No pets. This event is \$20 per person, payment is accepted online at the time of registration. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to the start time.

Registration is required by July 8th at www.tedsgardens.com. There is limited space and a minimum of 4 participants is required to host this walk.

Standup Paddleboarding

Friday July 16th | 3:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

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 at various areas. No experience necessary! An adult must accompany children and children must be at least 10 years old. Space is limited to 11 participants and registration is required. Please register by July 14, 2021. Please meet at Lester Pond Shelter. There will be maps attached to the Annett Nature Center Door.

***In order to reduce last minute cancellations and no shows. Registration will open one month out from the date of the event. Thank you for your understanding. ***

Forest & Nature Therapy Walk @ Buxton Park Saturday July 17th | 9:00 a.m. | Buxton Park

Warren County Conservation & Indianola Parks and Recreation 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 Buxton Park. A certified guide 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.

This program is geared towards those 16 and up. No pets. This event is \$20 per person, please bring exact change or a check the day of the event. Please arrive 10 minutes early. Registration is required by July 15. There is limited space and a minimum of 4 participants is required to host this walk.

Outdoor Wellness Day

Tuesday July 20th | 6:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Join WCCB staff and Young Living Essential Oils for a wellness day at Annett Nature Center. Hike the trails with an outdoor scavenger hunt, fun run, participate in outdoor yoga, and make essential oil items (listed below) that promote wellness and are perfect for outdoor adventures. Wrap up the evening by hiking the trails at your leisure. This is a come and go as you please event. Registration required. Please register by July 18, 2021.

The cost is \$25 per family and includes one of each item: After sun care cream, bug spray, roller bottle, fruit & veggie spray, and hand sanitizer. Additional items may be purchased while supplies last. Additional items may be purchased while supplies last.

For more details and information, or to register for events, please visit www.warrencb.org/events or call 515-961-6169.

Events



July Cont'd

Standup Paddleboarding

Sunday July 25th | 3:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

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 at various areas. No experience necessary! Children must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by an adult. Space is limited to 11 participants and registration is required. Please register by July 23, 2021. Please meet at Lester Pond Shelter. There will be maps attached to the Annett Nature Center Door.

***In order to reduce last minute cancellations and no shows. Registration will open one month out from the date of the event. Thank you for your understanding. ***

August

Storywalk @ Otter Creek

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!

Raptor ID Presentation

Saturday August 7th | 9:00 a.m. | Annett Nature Center

Join us at the Annett Nature Center for a Building Better Birders and Citizen Scientist workshop! Learn about different raptors (birds of prey) and tips about how to increase your birding knowledge. Bring along your own pair of binoculars or some will be provided!

This workshop will be conducted by Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center), with assistance from Mark Roberts (Clinton County Conservation) and Brian Ritter (Nahant Marsh Education Center).

Funding for this workshop was provided by the Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP – CEP).

Please register so we can make sure we have plenty of binoculars and materials.

Standup Paddleboarding

Sunday August 8th | 3:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

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 at various areas. No experience necessary! Children must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by an adult. Space is limited to 11 participants and registration is required. Please register by August 6, 2021. Please meet at Lester Pond Shelter. There will be maps attached to the Annett Nature Center Door.

***In order to reduce last minute cancellations and no shows. Registration will open one month out from the date of the event. Thank you for your understanding. ***

Dehydrating with Saltlickers

Tuesday August 10th | 6:30 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Master the art (and science) of creating your own unique spice blend. From drying the ingredients, to balancing their notes, Saltlickers' proprietor Jennifer Knox will lead aspiring spice lovers through the process, hands-on. We'll discuss considerations for making both salt-based and salt-free blends, then participants will make their own blends with over 50 ingredients to choose from. You're welcome to bring your own dried herbs and coffee grinder to practice your pulverizing process.

There is a \$10 program fee per person that will include 2, 2-oz jars to make & take home. There will also be an opportunity to skip the Des Moines Farmer's Market and purchase additional mixes after the program with a discount! Registration is required by August 9th at noon.

Tomahawks & Atlatls

Wednesday August 18th | 6:30 p.m. | Pickard Park

Join the WCCB naturalists for an evening of educational fun to learn about tomahawks and atlatls. There will be a brief history of each tool, safety instructions, and participants will learn to throw each one. So get your arms ready for tossing a tomahawk and spear at our large cardboard bison & 3D targets. Children must be accompanied by an adult and be at least 12 years old to throw.

Space & throwing time is limited. Closed toed shoes are required to throw. Please register at www.warrenccb.org/events by August 16, 2021. If you need to cancel, please let us know by calling 515-961-6169 so we can allow someone else to attend. This program is co-hosted by Indianola Parks & Recreation and will be held at Pickard Park, on Softball field #1.

For more details and information, or to register for events, please visit www.warrenccb.org/events or call 515-961-6169.



FWCC

15 Year Exhibit Anniversary



If you have been out to the Annett Nature Center in the last 15 years, you will have noticed our life-sized wire bison sculpture majestically overlooking the prairie near the parking area. Mark Wilson, Co-Director/Operations Coordinator created this symbol of prairies past in 2006. He used barbed and other fencing wire over a metal frame. The structure uses over 1 1/2 miles of wire, cut into over 15,000 pieces that were each welded individually to the frame. It weighs over 600 pounds, and is one of the striking pieces that draw many interested eyes and pictures from visitors to the Annett Nature Center!



Thank You!

Osprey 5K Sponsors

- City State Bank
- Fareway-Indianola
- Warren County Economic Development
- Subway-Indianola
- Uncommon Grounds
- Ace & Judy Hendricks
- Iowa Hunter Education Instructor Association
- Iowa Outdoor Expo
- Fleet Feet Sports
- Fitness Sports
- Hy-Vee-Indianola
- Friends of Warren County Conservation
- Rowdy Energy Drink
- Jenkins Garden Market & Landscaping
- The Compost Pile
- Anytime Fitness
- Peoples Bank
- John & Kathy Krogmeier
- Blair Lawson
- Friends of Carlisle Parks
- Joe's Gym
- Great Western Bank
- Athletico Physical Therapy
- Izaak Walton League
- Warren County Conservation Board

Herb Program

Keisha Thompson

Terra Cotta Pots

Ace & Judy Hendricks

Plant, Grow, Fly

Christine Eckles

Kids Fish Day

Donna Fink
 Steve Dermand
 Jay Timmons
 Larry Lepper
 Monty Freeman
 Lori Freeman
 Al Farris
 Kathie Farris
 Gerald Ancell
 Bobbi Ancell
 Lisa McIntyre
 Craig McIntyre
 Bill Brand
 Tom Brand
 Austin Freeman

Osprey 5K

Lori & Monty Freeman
 Steve Dermand
 Blair Lawson
 Shawn Szalkowski

Water Cycle Boxes

Lisa Anderson

Earth Day Event

Laura & Lia Reeser

Free Reading Library:

Building & Donation

Randy Edwards

Donation of Books

Sue Edwards

Painting

Claudia Cole Meek

Events



August cont'd

Standup Paddleboarding

Friday August 27th | 3:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

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 at various areas. No experience necessary! An adult must accompany children and children must be at least 10 years old. Space is limited to 11 participants and registration is required. Please register by August 25, 2021. Please meet at Lester Pond Shelter. There will be maps attached to the Annett Nature Center Door.

***In order to reduce last minute cancellations and no shows. Registration will open one month out from the date of the event. Thank you for your understanding. ***

Forest & Nature Therapy Walk

Saturday August 28th | 9:00 a.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. A certified guide 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.

This program is geared towards those 16 and up. No pets. This event is \$20 per person, please bring exact change or a check the day of the event. Please arrive 10 minutes early.

Registration is required by August 26 at warrencb.org. There is limited space and a minimum of 4 participants is required to host this walk.

September

Monarch Tagging

Saturday September 12th | 1:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

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. Bring a butterfly net if you have one, or share a park net if you don't. Fun for the whole family! Please register by September 10, 2021. Space is limited. If you need to cancel please call 515-961-6169 so someone else may attend.

Monarch Tagging

Saturday September 18th | 1:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Discover more about monarch butterflies, their unusual lifestyle and life cycle and their miraculous migration to Mexico. A Warren Please arrive promptly so you don't miss the instructions for tagging.

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. Fun for the whole family!

Space is limited. Please register by September 16th. If you need to cancel please call 515-961-6169 so someone else may attend. Please arrive promptly so you don't miss the tagging instructions.



FWCC Prairie Picnic

Saturday September 18th | 5:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

FWCC annually hosts the Prairie Picnic fundraiser in September. This event includes a BBQ catered dinner, social hour, and auction. This relaxing, enjoyable evening is sponsored by the Friends of Warren County Conservation to raise funds for facilities and programs at the Annett Nature Center. Guests will enjoy appetizers, drinks, and music from 5PM-6PM. Dinner will be at 6 PM with a silent auction. Stay tuned for more details! Contact Karen at 515-961-6169 to reserve your spot.

If you are interested in sponsoring the prairie picnic or have a possible donation, please email karenjohlas-szalkowski@warrencb.org

For more details and information, or to register for events, please visit www.warrencb.org/events or call 515-961-6169.



Summer 2021

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:



wccb@warrencb.org



BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Kickbush, President	New Virginia
Ace Hendricks, Vice-President	Ackworth
Ron Miller, Secretary	Milo
Sue Boll	Carlisle
Joe Schettler	Carlisle

STAFF

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Co-Director/Naturalist II
 Mark Wilson, Co-Director/Operation Coordinator
 Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist
 Kevin Brown, Conservation Technician
 Ryan McPherrren, Conservation Technician
 Kelsey Longnecker, Naturalist I
 Mallory Wells, Office Manager

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 of the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Warren County Conservation Board
 15565 118th Avenue
 Indiana, IA 50125-8852
 (515) 961-6169
www.warrencb.org
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED