



# JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Winter 2021

## Oaks Of Iowa

In 1961 the oak tree was designated as the official state tree of Iowa. There are 2 groups of oaks in Iowa: white oaks and red oaks. Some of the ways to tell the 2 groups apart are listed below:

- Oaks in the white oak group have lobed leaves with rounded lobes. In the fall, white oak leaves often turn to a dull brown. They also have acorns that mature in a single growing season. White oaks typically have deep furrows in the bark with ridges that are triangular in the cross-sections.
- Oaks in the red oak group have jagged leaves with sharp angles. In the fall, the leaves often turn brilliant colors. They have acorns that require two growing seasons to mature. Red oaks typically have smoother bark with flatter veins and a hint of red running down the tree.

Between the two groups there are 12 species of oak tree that are found in Iowa. White oaks: white, bur, chinkapin, dwarf chinkapin, swamp white, and post. Red oaks: red, pin, black, northern pin, shingle, and blackjack. Check out a mini spotlight of two Iowa oak species!

### Bur Oak:

The bur oak is broad, dense, and has a rounded crown. It has a slow growth rate of less than 12" a year but is very long lived. It tolerates a variety of moisture and soil conditions, and adapts well to urban settings. They prefer full sun. Bur oak acorns are large and have a fringed cap. They will grow to 70'-80' tall and spread to 80' wide. Bur oak acorns are the preferred food for wood ducks, turkeys, deer, rabbits, mice, squirrels, and other rodents.



### Pin Oak:

The pin oak is a pyramidal to oval shaped tree. It is one of the faster-growing red oaks with a growth rate of more than 24" a year. It tolerates wet, acidic soils but also likes drier, urban conditions. They also prefer full sun. Pin oaks won't start producing acorns until they are around 20 years old. They will grow to 60'-70' tall and spread 25'-45' wide. Turkeys, deer, squirrels, other small rodents, ducks, and many song birds eat pin oak acorns.



# Meet A Member

## Meet A Member: Staff Mankato Stonebrook, Conservation Technician



Mankato is our newest full time staff member out here at the Warren County Conservation Board. He is originally from Eastern Iowa, but have been living in Central Iowa for 2 years. He started working at Warren County as a Conservation Technician in July, 2021. He has worked in many different natural resources positions in the Midwest. Some of the places he's worked are: Clinton County Conservation, a private forester in Eastern Iowa, The US Forest Service in Minnesota, City of Clinton, Iowa, and for the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Hardin County.



Some things Mankato likes to do in his free time are going fishing and hanging out with his dog. Mankato's favorite park in Warren County is Rolling Thunder Prairie.

If you see Mankato around Warren County, please be sure to give him a big "Welcome!"

# News

## Educational Exhibit Update

Friends of Warren County Conservation (FWCC) funded a majority of our new educational exhibit. We also want to recognize some generous grants we received to help complete Phase I of our new Educational Exhibits at the Annett Nature Center.



FWCC was awarded a \$500 grant from Theisen's towards the new educational exhibits at Annett Nature Center. Thank you Theisen's.

FWCC was also awarded a \$5,000 grant from Warren County Philanthropic Partnership to use towards Phase I of the new educational exhibits.

Thank you WCPP.



We held the ribbon cutting for Phase I of our Educational Exhibits on Monday, December 6th, 2021. We would love for you to come out and visit it, and keep an eye out for information on Phases II and III!



## Turtles in the Winter

One of the many fun sights to see in the warmer weather is of the aquatic turtles stacking on logs or sliding back into the water as people approach. But where do they go in the cold winter months?

Turtles are ectotherms, or cold-blooded, meaning they rely on the environment to maintain their body temperature. In the cold weather, turtles stay underwater. A benefit to being in the water is that the temperature changes much slower than air temperatures that can be 50°F one day and -10°F the next! The temperatures at the bottom of a pond or lake also remain above freezing all year. Turtles will submerge themselves down in the mud at the bottom of the water and remain mostly inactive. However, some turtles will move around a little under the ice.

Since turtles' body temperatures lower due to the temperatures of the water, their metabolism also decreases. When their metabolism slows down, it allows them to survive months without food and with very little oxygen. Turtles breathe oxygen from the air, however they are adapt for winter survival by absorbing oxygen (respiration, not breathing) from the water through their skin near their heads and tails. Once the water temperature starts to warm up again, the turtles' body temperature and metabolism do as well. This is why you will notice turtles basking in the sun on those first, barely warm days of the spring!





# Events

## January

### Hit The Trails Challenge January | All Month

We want to see you staying active and hitting the trails in 2022. So January-April we are challenging you to hit the trails. Each month we will post a video on our Facebook Page and ask you to accept the challenge for that month. Each challenge will have options and be at various locations in Warren County. Submit your selfie in comments under the video to be entered to win a bag of wellness goodies. This challenge is made possible by Warren County Conservation Board and Warren County Health Department. Visit our Facebook Page Warren County Conservation & Annett Nature Center for all the details.

### Skulls January 7th | 7:00p.m. | Indianola Activity Center

Join Indianola Parks & Recreation and Warren County Conservation to learn about skulls! Animal skulls can tell us so much about how that animal lived, what it ate, if it was a predator or prey, and how the animal saw (or smelled or heard) the world!

There will be hands on opportunities to look and touch real animal skulls. We will put on our detective hats to discover information about the different skulls and identify them from those clues. Then we will create some skulls of our own!

### Snowshoe Hike January 8th | 1:00p.m. | Pickard Park

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 6 inches of snow is required.) Please register so we can have your snowshoes ready. Please indicate your height and weight in the comments, so we can determine snowshoe size. (This information is confidential) Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by January 6, 2022 at [www.warrenccb.org/events](http://www.warrenccb.org/events).

### Minute To Win It Night January 14th | 6:00p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Get out of the house for an evening of minute to win it challenges. Challenge your friends and family to see if they can complete the nature themed challenge in under a minute. The cost is \$5 per family and proceeds benefit educational exhibits at Annett Nature Center. This is a come and go as you please event. Registration is required by Jan 13, 2022 and space is limited.

### Snowshoe Hike January 22nd | 1:00p.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 6 inches of snow is required.) Please register so we can have your snowshoes ready. Please indicate your height and weight in the comments, so we can determine snowshoe size. (This information is confidential) Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by January 21, 2022.

## February

### Hit The Trails Challenge February | All Month

We want to see you staying active and hitting the trails in 2022. So January-April we are challenging you to hit the trails. Each month we will post a video on our Facebook Page and ask you to accept the challenge for that month. Each challenge will have options and be at various locations in Warren County. Submit your selfie in comments under the video to be entered to win a bag of wellness goodies. This challenge is made possible by Warren County Conservation Board and Warren County Health Department. Visit our Facebook Page Warren County Conservation & Annett Nature Center for all the details.



### Snowshoe Hike February 5th | 1:00 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 6 inches of snow is required) Please register so we can have your snowshoes ready. Please indicate your height and weight in the comments, so we can determine snowshoe size. (This information is confidential) Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by February 4, 2022.

# Events



## February Cont'd

### Couples Forest Therapy Walk

**February 12th | 1 p.m. | Annett Nature Center**

Warren County Conservation will be hosting a couples nature & forest therapy guided walk. Bring a friend, family member, or special someone with you to unplug, slow down, and experience mindfulness in nature. This gentle three-hour walk will focus on using all your senses to explore the Annett Nature Center Trails. A certified guide with the Association of Nature And Forest Therapy 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 register by February 10, 2022 at [www.warrenccb.org/events](http://www.warrenccb.org/events).

### Owl Prowl

**February 15th | 7:00 p.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 14th at noon.

### Bobcat Skull Cleaning

**February 26th | 10:00 a.m. | Annett Nature Center**

Learn how to prepare a skull for a museum-quality mount, and try it yourself! Jim Coffey with the Iowa DNR will provide bobcat skulls and instructions for participants to clean and prepare skull mounts. Participants will get to take home their skull that they work on during the program.

This program is geared towards middle schoolers through adults, and space is limited. There is a \$5 fee for this program. Please register by February 23rd at noon.

## March

### Hit the Trails Challenge

**March | All Month**

We want to see you staying active and hitting the trails in 2022. So January-April we are challenging you to hit the trails. Each month we will post a video on our Facebook Page and ask you to accept the challenge for that month. Each challenge will have options and be at various locations in Warren County. Submit your selfie in comments under the video to be entered to win a bag of wellness goodies.

This challenge is made possible by Warren County Conservation Board and Warren County Health Department. Visit our Facebook Page Warren County Conservation & Annett Nature Center for all the details.

### Daycamp Registration

**March 2nd | 8:00 a.m. | Annett Nature Center**

Naturalists lead summer camps that encourage children to explore and enjoy nature up close. Parents may register children for camp beginning Wednesday, March 2nd at 8am. 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 can attend each camp only once. More camp details available on our website: [www.warrenccb.org/education/daycamps](http://www.warrenccb.org/education/daycamps)

### Rain Barrel Make & Take

**March 12th | 9:00 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.

Prepayment and registration is required by March 7, 2021.

Register at [www.warrenccb.org/events](http://www.warrenccb.org/events)

### Geocaching 101: with Your Phone

**March 12th | 1:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center**

Looking for a fun new outdoor hobby? Discover the fun and excitement of geocaching, the high tech outdoor scavenger hunt that uses a GPS unit!

Join a WCCB naturalist for a beginner course to learn about geocaching and how to use the Geocaching app on your phone! Then head out in the park to find some "treasures" call caches. Fun for the whole family! After this session, you will be prepared to head out on your own and find the Geocaching Amphibian Adventure caches hidden in all of our Warren County Parks. Please register by March 10th at noon.

### Soapmaking

**March 15th | 6:30 p.m. | Annett Nature Center**

Explore the art and science of making handcrafted soap from scratch with Ann Staudt of Siberian Soap Co.! Using the centuries-old cold-process soapmaking technique, students will combine plant-based oils and lye to create soaps that are mild, moisturizing, and eco-friendly. This workshop is very hands-on, with each participant making and taking home 1 pound of their own custom batch of herbal handcrafted soap. Long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes are required of all participants. Please bring an old towel or blanket to insulate your finished soap. Open to ages 16+.

Registration is required by March 11, 2022 at 5PM. The cost is \$35 per person for materials and you will take home 1 pound of soap= 5 full size bars.

Register at: <https://www.siberiansoap.com/collection/herbal-soaps-from-scratch-workshop-march-15-2022>

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.



# Thank You's

## **Prairie Picnic**

Blank Park Zoo  
John & Kathy Krogmeier  
Karen Williams  
Nancy Engle  
Carla Kuehl-Purdum  
Scheels  
Caseys-Norwalk  
Pies & Pastries by Lana Shope  
Vera Bradley-Outlets of Des Moines  
Fareway-Indianola  
Fareway-Norwalk  
Ace Hardware-Norwalk  
Iowa Distilling Company  
Linda McCullough  
Ace & Judy Hendricks  
Karen & Shawn Szalkowski  
Ted Lare Design & Build  
Iowa Native Trees & Shrubs  
Tina's Homemade Goodies  
Milo Meat Locker  
Crimson Anchor Coffee Roasters  
Theisen's  
Warren County IKES  
Pageturners Bookstore  
The Chicken  
Blair Lawson  
Shari Hornback  
Chris Pace  
Jeff & Marlys Sowers  
Nancy Johlas  
Jenkins Garden Market  
Blooming Prairie Nursery  
Edge of the Woods Raspberry Farm  
Bob & Jackie Sarasio  
1 Oak One of a Kind  
Tiny Tots to Teens  
National Balloon Museum  
National Balloon Classic  
Steve Weaver  
Grant Webster Photography  
Saltlickers  
Ryne Doughty  
Putney Auction Service  
FWCC Volunteers

## **ANC Cleaning**

Shawn Szalkowski

## **Halloween Hike**

Shawn Szalkowski  
Ashley Vanderflight  
Lori & Monty Freeman  
Carla Kuehl-Purdum  
Donna Fink  
Mallory Wells  
Jackie Sarasio  
Carole Rowland  
Jackie Mc Lain  
John & Kathy Krogmeier  
Steve Weaver  
Kathy Disney

## **Monarch Tagging**

Ashley Vanderflight

## **Iowa Trail Run Series**

Shawn Szalkowski  
Ashley Vanderflight  
Carla Purdum-Kuehl  
Donna Fink  
Carol Rowland  
Lynn Isley

## **Backyard Birding Programs**

Kelly McKay

## **Painting with A Twist**

## **Make & Take Family Day**

Bree & Nicole Tenges  
Mike, Sue, Joviee & Phia Wilson  
Vanessa Travis  
DeAnn Carlson

## **Tree Planting**

Ace Hendricks  
Carla Kuehl-Purdum  
Steve Dermand

## **Fall Nature Market Vendors**

Lorene K Shepherd Photography  
Ink And Edges  
Flour Hour Bakery  
MamaBear's Mending, Sewing, and Crafts  
Wayward Saints Farm  
Mama Rid's  
ChrisCole Gardens  
Woody's Welding Creations  
1 OAK – One Of A Kind  
The Farm Warren Co. Iowa  
Meadow Blazing Star Honey  
West Handiwork  
April Sky Flower Farm  
Robinson Farms  
W.D. Woodcrafts

## **Plant Propagation Program**

Keisha Thompson 1 Oak One of Kind

## **Donation of an easel**

Lori Shepherd



# Warren County Conservation 2022 Events Calendar

## JANUARY

- \_\_\_ Hit the Trails Challenge
- \_\_\_ 7 Skulls Program
- \_\_\_ 8 Snowshoe Hike @ Pickard
- \_\_\_ 14 Minute to Win It
- \_\_\_ 22 Snowshoe Hike @ ANC

## FEBRUARY

- \_\_\_ Hit the Trails Challenge
- \_\_\_ Hidden Heart Hike @ McVay Trail
- \_\_\_ 5 Snowshoe Hike @ ANC
- \_\_\_ 12 Couples Forest Therapy
- \_\_\_ 15 Owl Prowl
- \_\_\_ 26 Bobcat Skull Cleaning

## MARCH

- \_\_\_ Hit the Trails Challenge
- \_\_\_ 2 Day Camp Registration
- \_\_\_ 12 Rain Barrel Workshop
- \_\_\_ 12 Geocaching App Program
- \_\_\_ 15 Soap Making Program

## APRIL

- \_\_\_ Hit the Trails Challenge
- \_\_\_ 1 Geocaching Amphibian Adventure Begins
- \_\_\_ 9 FWCC Osprey 5K
- \_\_\_ 19 Evening Prairie Burn
- \_\_\_ 23 Earth Day Program
- \_\_\_ 24 Rain Garden Program

## MAY

- \_\_\_ 14 Toad Houses @ Buxton Park
  - \_\_\_ 20 Potting Bar Program
  - \_\_\_ 21 Native Plant Sale
- ## JUNE
- \_\_\_ 1 Storywalk @ ANC
  - \_\_\_ 4 Kids Fish Day
  - \_\_\_ 10-11 Wild Outdoor Women
  - \_\_\_ 17 Stand Up Paddleboarding @ ANC

## JULY

- \_\_\_ 1 Storywalk @ Woodland Mounds
- \_\_\_ 16 SUP @ ANC
- \_\_\_ 23 SUP @ Summerset
- \_\_\_ 29 Kids Day at the Fair

## AUGUST

- \_\_\_ 1 Storywalk @ Otter Creek
- \_\_\_ 4 SUP @ ANC
- \_\_\_ 6 Sunrise Walk
- \_\_\_ 7 Painting in the Pavilion
- \_\_\_ 12 SUP @ Summerset
- \_\_\_ 17 Tomahawks & Atlats @ Pickard
- \_\_\_ 27 Forest Therapy @ Hickory Hills
- \_\_\_ TBA Farm To Table

## SEPTEMBER

- \_\_\_ 11 Monarch Tagging @ Otter Creek
- \_\_\_ 17 Monarch Tagging @ ANC
- \_\_\_ 17 FWCC Prairie Picnic

## OCTOBER

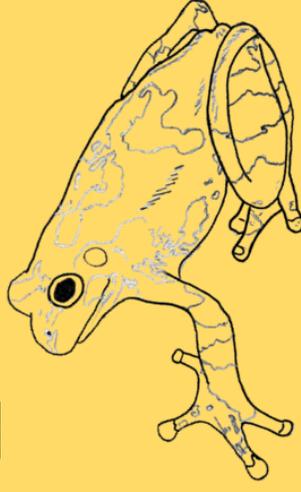
- \_\_\_ 4 Dutch Oven Cooking
- \_\_\_ 7 Prairie Seed Harvest & S'Mores
- \_\_\_ 9 IA Trail Run Series
- \_\_\_ 16 Butchering Program
- \_\_\_ 24 Halloween Hike

## NOVEMBER

- \_\_\_ 1 Fall Colors Hike
- \_\_\_ 5 Wild Edibles: Black Walnuts
- \_\_\_ 12 Harry Potter Make & Take Day
- \_\_\_ 17 Fall Nature Market
- \_\_\_ TBA Pheasant Cooking

## DECEMBER

- \_\_\_ 3 Candy Cane Hike
- \_\_\_ 8-10 Escape Room
- \_\_\_ 15 Yoga @ the Lodge
- \_\_\_ 17 Snowshoe Hike



At the event, have a WCCB staff member initial to keep track of events you have attended.  
Attend 6 or more events to win an amphibian-themed gift!

TO REGISTER VISIT: [WWW.WARRENCB.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.WARRENCB.ORG/EVENTS) OR CALL (515)961-6169.

\*Programs are subject to change or cancellation

# Events





# Winter 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@warrenccb.org](mailto:wccb@warrenccb.org)



### Board Members

Mark Kickbush, President  
Ace Hendricks, Vice-President  
Ron Miller, Secretary  
Sue Boll  
Joe Schettler

New Virginia  
Ackworth  
Milo  
Carlisle  
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  
Mankato Stonebrook, 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 or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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