



JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Spring 2022

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

If you look to the skies in the spring and fall, you may see some huge white birds gracefully soaring in large groups. Although they don't live permanently in Iowa, we are lucky to be a stopover for the American white pelican on their migration.

American white pelicans are one of the largest birds in North America. They have a wingspan reaching 10 feet and can weigh up to 30 pounds. Even though they are so large, they are spectacular fliers and often soar very high in the sky in slow, wheeling circles. American white pelicans are identifiable with their snowy white feathers and black flight feathers that are only visible when their wings are spread. They have a large yellow-orange bill that will grow a projection, or horn, on the upper mandible during breeding season.

These pelicans breed mainly on freshwater lake islands or islands in shallow wetlands. They forage in shallow water on inland marshes, along lake or river edges, and in wetlands. They eat mostly small fish like minnows, carp, and suckers but will also eat salamanders, tadpoles, and crayfish. They are occasionally seen with large game fish that they scoop up. American white pelicans feed by swimming on the surface and dipping their bill into the water to scoop fish up in their pouch. Contrary to popular cartoons and movies, pelicans do not fly with fish or water in their bill. After they catch them, they tip their bill up and let the water spill out before swallowing their prey. Pelicans will sometimes feed cooperatively by swimming in a horseshoe-shape while flapping their wings and dipping their beaks. This drives fish towards the shallow water where they cannot dive deep to avoid the pelicans.



Pelicans will choose a nesting site that is mostly flat on gravel, sand, or soil near other pelicans. They use their bill to rake up surrounding substrate to create a shallow depression to lay their eggs. They will lay up to 6 eggs in a nest, but usually only one chick survives. Both parents incubate the eggs and co-parent after they hatch. A single chick requires around 150 pounds of food from chick to adulthood from its parents. Chicks will leave the nest at 2-3 weeks and form groups with other young, although parents continue to forage for them.

Although they aren't fulltime residents of Iowa, make sure you take some time in April or mid-August to September to look to the skies for these magnificent visitors!



Meet A Member

Meet A Member: Friends of Warren County Conservation Louis Sajovec

My name is Louis Sajovec. I am one of the newer board members of FWCC. I have worked as an estimator for the Weitz Company for almost 25 years. What is an estimator? Simply put, I am responsible for verifying the budget during all phases of design for some of the larger commercial office buildings, parking garages, data centers, higher education facilities, and hospitality facilities in the metro area. I basically spend my working life indoors.

I currently live in Norwalk but I am planning to move into a Barndominium on my 18 acre farmstead just outside New Virginia in early 2023. This farmstead is intended to be a chemical-free orchard/market garden that can operate as a small business for my retirement years. I am a member of Practical Farmers of Iowa and an avid reader of any permaculture, market garden, orchard, and Mother Earth News information I can find.

I spend most of my free time outdoors and can usually be found every weekend at the farmstead. I am an avid biker, of which the Great Western Trail is one of my favorite rides. Climbing 14ers in Colorado, white water rafting, fishing, gardening, and enjoying bonfires are a few more of my favorite outdoor activities to do.

As a new member of FWCC, I am looking forward to learning from the experiences of the current board members, as well as, providing some insight into a sustainable living lifestyle.

If you see Louis around, please help us to welcome him to the organization!



Thank You!

Hit the Trails Challenge

Warren County Health Department

Heart Hike

Indianola Parks & Recreation

Skull Cleaning Program

Jim Coffey

Trail Maintenance

Norm Wilson



News

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://goog.gl/forms/EVGr1fKh6wQBYfgJ2>



FWCC Osprey 5K Trail Run April 9, 2022

- * 5K trail run/walk
- * Long sleeved tech shirt
- * Beautiful trails
- * Funds support environmental education programs
- \$30 per person

**Annett Nature Center
Friends of Warren County Conservation
Indianola, IA
9AM**



<http://getmeregistered.com/Osprey5KTrailRun>
515-961-6169
Virtual Option Available



Events

April

Hit The Trails Challenge April | 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 the 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 Services. Visit our Facebook Page Warren County Conservation & Annett Nature Center for all the details.

Warren County Geocaching Amphibian Adventure April—November 2022 | Warren County

Grab your GPS, your hiking boots, and get ready to explore! Find all 25 geocaches and collect the trading cards, April 1, 2022 through November 1, 2022. There are 25 Geocaching Amphibian Adventure Caches hidden in county, state and city parks around Warren County. Your challenge is to explore the parks and find them all using a GPS. Each amphibian cache includes an instruction card, a logbook, and a stack of amphibian trading cards. Sign the logbook to show that you found the cache and take a trading card for your collection. Explore the parks and trails to see if you can find some amphibians along the way. After finding all 25 caches, take your 25 collectible cards to the Annett Nature Center. We will give you the coordinates to find the last cache challenge. All participants who finish the challenge by November 1, 2022 will receive a finisher medal and will be added to our Geocaching Adventure Finishers Gallery. Then, check back for a new adventure theme next year! Download the coordinates at geocaching.com

FWCC Osprey 5K Trail Run April 9th | 9:00 a.m. | Annett Nature Center

Get your morning workout in at the Friends of Warren County Conservation Board Osprey 5K Trail Run. Run or walk the trails of the Annett Nature Center. All proceeds benefit new educational programs at the nature center. The cost is \$30 by March 31 2021 and \$35 after that. All participants will receive a finishers medal, long sleeve tech shirt and refreshments. A virtual option is available for additional shipping charges. Packet pick up will be April 9, 2022 at 8AM-8:45AM at Annett Nature Center. Register at <http://getmeregistered.com/Osprey5KTrailRun> Or mail in the 2022 Registration Form and payment to 15565 118th Ave, Indianola, IA 50125

Evening Prairie Burn

April 19th | 8:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Join the Warren County Conservation Board as we light up the night sky! Learn about the valuable role fire plays in the prairie ecosystem, and why prescribed burns are used. Enjoy the beauty of watching the prairie burn against the night. This program is dependent on weather conditions. Registration is not required for this event. Check for event updates on our website: www.warrencb.org/events, our facebook event, or call the office for at 515-961-6169.



Earth Day Trail Cleanup

April 23rd | 8:30 a.m. | Annett Nature Center

In celebration of Earth Day we will be hosting a trail cleanup along the Great Western Trail. Gloves, garbage bags, and water will be provided by Siegwerk. We have partnered with The Chicken in Orilla and they have graciously allowed us to park in their lot during the event. After the event grab a bite to eat at The Chicken with your 10% off coupon. Please register by April 20, 2022 so we can provide enough supplies and coupons. This event is a partnership with The Chicken and Siegwerk.

Rain Garden Program

April 24th | 1:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Join us in welcoming Julie Perreault to learn about the struggles of water runoff and benefits to having a rain garden of your own! A rain garden is a landscaping feature that captures rainfall and helps soak it into the ground. Urban development and removal of native vegetation has led to multiple environmental problems including excess stormwater runoff, decreasing water quality, loss of habitat and biodiversity, and increased flood potential. Rain gardens are a beautiful & functional landscaping feature you can use at home to positively impact these environmental challenges while also solving water and drainage issues you may experience at home. During this class learn the basics and benefits of rain gardens you can implement in your own yard. The design process, plant selection, basic construction process, and other resources will be explored giving you the tools to start on your own rain garden project.

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

Events



May

ITRS Chasin' Trail Run

May 1st | 10:00 a.m. | Annett Nature Center

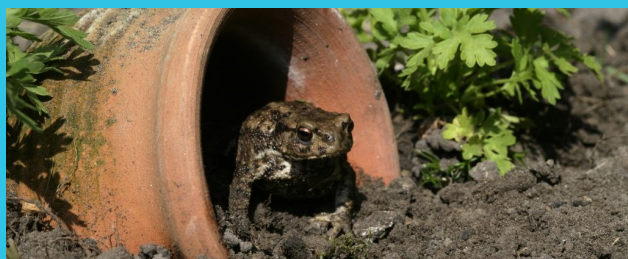
If you're ready to take on the trails with your best four-legged friend, the Iowa Trail Run Series has just the race for you!

We'll be Chasin' Trail at Annett Nature Center on May 1st for the first time ever!

Let your dog borrow your phone or laptop to sign themselves up for the 5K or 10K race and we'll even allow you the human to show up and compete too. Registration includes a custom ITRS dog toy, custom ITRS bib with your dog's name, timing in dog minutes and seconds, and we'll even have something for those bipedal among us!

SingleSpeed Brewing Co will help us celebrate post race at this event dedicated to our best friends and we can't wait for you to join us.

Register at www.runsignup.com/Race/IA/Indianola/IowaTrailRunSeriesDogRun



Toad Houses Make & Take

May 14th | 10:00 a.m. | Buxton Park

Join a Warren County Naturalist and Indianola Parks & Recreation to learn all about how toads can be our friends in the garden or flower bed. We will learn about some of the different toads of Iowa and who you might have in your backyard!

Then we will learn about what makes a good Toad house, and each participant will make their own to take home with them. There is a \$5 materials fee for this program. Registration is required by May 12th at noon in order to ensure we have enough materials.

Conversation & Nature Book Club

May 17th | 6:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Friends of Warren County Conservation will be hosting a bi-monthly book club. Simply read the suggested book and join us at Annett Nature Center for discussion followed by a creative activity related to the book. There is no charge for this program but participants will need to provide their own copy of the book. Please register by May 15, 2022 so we can have enough materials.

Book & Activity: One Square Inch of Silence One Man's Quest to Preserve Quiet by Gordon Hempton and John Grossman

Activity-A Silent Reflective Walk in the Woods

Potting Bar

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

Keisha of I OAK will assist you in selecting and planting your succulents. A wide variety of succulents will be available to select from to fill your planter.

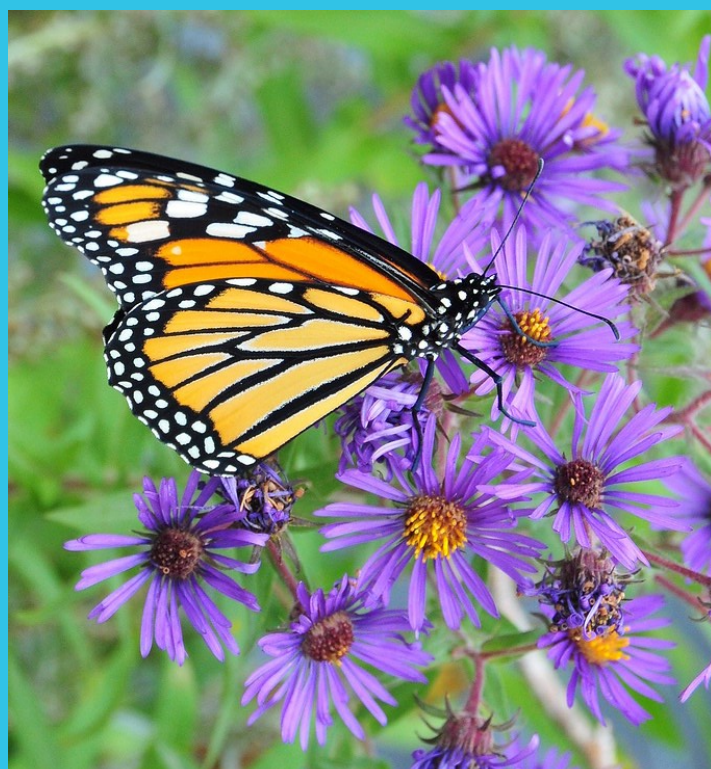
Included in the \$20 cost: pot, succulents/cacti, potting mix, decorative rock, fun plant marker, instruction, and care tips. You are welcome to bring your own pot/planter if you wish. Additional plants will be available to purchase. Registration is required by April 15, 2022 to ensure we have enough materials please register at: https://loakiowa.square.site/product/succulentplanterworkshop/1135?cp=true&sa=false&sbp=false&q=false&category_id=36

FWCC Native Plant Sale

May 21st | 8:00a.m.—2:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Friends of Warren County Conservation will be hosting their annual native plant sale. Spruce up your landscaping with some native plants that the pollinators will love.

A few favorites include a variety of milkweeds, purple coneflower, White Indigo, Prairie dropseed, New England Aster, Goldenrod, Coreopsis, Blazing Star, Columbine, and many more. Quantities are limited. All proceeds from the plant sale will benefit Warren County Conservation Board educational programming and exhibits.



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



Events Con'td

June

Storywalk®

June | Annett Nature Center

StoryWalk® is a fun idea to get communities outside and reading. Each month, we will put new a nature-themed children's story along the trail in different parks. Stories will all be nature-themed and fun to read! Bring your whole family out to hike and read a page of the story every few feet as you go along. Check the schedule on our website. A few days before the end of the month the storywalk will move to the next park. Call us ahead of time if you want to know the exact location of the StoryWalk within the park (515-961-6169). Please sign our guest book at the end of each StoryWalk® so we know how many people made it out.

June Story: *And the Bullfrogs Sing A Life Cycle Begins*
by David L. Harrison

Kids Fish Day

June 4th | 8:45 a.m. | Annett Nature Center

Have some fishing fun with us! Bring the family out to learn the art of fishing. Participants can learn the proper way to tie knots, cast, and fish safely. A fishing competition will take place at Lester Pond. There will be awards and door prizes given out as well as a free fish cleaning demonstration. Bring your own pole or borrow one of ours. Bait will be provided.

It's FREE — join us. A fishing license is not required for participants at Kid's Fish Day. Please register each child so we can plan for bait and materials! This program is put on by Friends of Warren County Conservation and the Izaak Walton League.

Day Of Timeline:

8:45 am: Check In

9:00 am: Fishing Competition begins

10:30 am: Competition will conclude and we will determine final counts!

11:00 am: Izaak Walton fish cleaning demonstration

11:30 am: Fish Fry and Drawing our prize winners!



Wild Outdoor Women

June 10—11th | 6:00 p.m. —4:30 p.m. |

Annett Nature Center

Would you like to meet other women with similar interests, attend classes to learn new skills and enhance older ones, or just kick back in the great outdoors? If so, this is the event for you. Grab your hiking boots and your gal pals and get ready for an exciting day in the outdoors! With so many exciting sessions to choose from, the hardest part will be deciding which to attend. The registration fee is \$60 and itinerary includes: Friday night activities, breakout sessions on Saturday, silent auction, and a Wild Outdoor Women gift!

Standup Paddleboarding

June 17th | 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 10 participants and registration is required. Please register by June 15, 2022.

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.

If you have to cancel please contact us at 515-961-6169 so we can open your spot for someone else to enjoy SUP.

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



Join Us! Become a Friend of Warren County Conservation in 2022

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 a reduced rental of the Annett Nature Center or Middleswart Lodge 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



2022 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 | |



Spring 2022

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



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

New Virginia
Ackworth
Milo
Carlisle
Carlisle

STAFF

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Mark Wilson, Co-Director/Operation Coordinator
Tyler Seufferer, Natural Resource Specialist
Kevin Brown, Conservation Technician
Ryan McPherran, 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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