



JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Summer 2024

Species Spotlight: Prairie Rose

Rosa pratincole or *Rosa arkansana*

In 1897, the prairie rose was chosen as the official state flower for Iowa (it became North Dakota's state flower in 1907). This rose is a perennial shrub found in a large part of central North America. It's known for its beautiful pink flowers and ability to grow in a variety of habitats, from open meadows to wooded areas. The wild rose is also known for its sweet fragrance and its popularity in gardens and landscaping. With its selection as the state flower, the wild rose has become a beloved symbol of Iowa's natural beauty and agricultural heritage.

The prairie rose has pink flowers with bright yellow stamens that give off a sweet fragrance which attracts bees, butterflies, and birds. Flowers range from 1.5 to 2 inches across with 5 broad petals. The stems typically have 9 to 11 leaflets that alternate, with rounded tips and serrated edges. Its stems are dark green with tiny thorns. The shrub is able to grow up to 3 feet tall.

This hardy plant can withstand harsh weather conditions and thrive in various soil types. Blooming from late spring to early summer, the prairie rose is resistant to drought and fire due to its stout roots. Because of its hardiness, it was one of the few plants that did well during the American "Dust Bowl" in the 1930s.



Leaves



Prairie Rose Flower



Rose Hips (fruit)

The rose hips, the fruit of the plant, resemble tiny red apples and are rich in Vitamin C. They were commonly utilized in tea and jams. The petals possess fragrance that can be used for perfumes.

Keep your eyes peeled for these beautiful blooms while exploring trails this summer!



Thank You!

Thank You!

Without the help of our amazing sponsors, donors, and volunteers we wouldn't be able to provide the programs and events that we do! If you or your business are interested in becoming a sponsor, donor, or volunteer please email Kelsey@warrencountyia.org

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Volunteer Opportunities

Farm to table (Berry foraging): We are looking for volunteers to assist us in harvesting fresh berries for our upcoming farm-to-table event. Help us gather the freshest ingredients for a locally grown culinary experience.

Farm to table (Decorations): Are you skilled at arranging decor? We are seeking assistance in decorating for our upcoming farm-to-table event. Join us in creating a beautiful atmosphere that showcases the elegance of farm-fresh ingredients.

Meet-a-Member



Friends Member: Mitch Anderson

Mitch Anderson is the newest board member of the Friends of Warren County Conservation (FWCC). Mitch grew up on his family's farm in Southeast Iowa, where they fed cattle and grew corn, beans, and hay. He spent much of his childhood outdoors, either working on the farm or participating in activities such as 4-H, soccer, and fine arts within the school district as well as the community.

Mitch graduated with a major in business management from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) College of Business. He was involved on campus with the Student Admission Ambassadors and volunteered at the performing arts center. During his college summers he interned in marketing, finance, and project management roles. In his career since graduation, he has worked in finance and project management.



When he is not working, Mitch enjoys spending time with family and getting to be an uncle. In addition, he enjoys anything outdoors from being with his dogs, flying his drone, working on the farm, beekeeping, walking along the lake and other trails. He also spends his time as a vendor at the local farmers markets and volunteering with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and the United Way.

Mitch is excited to be part of the Friends of Warren County Conservation.





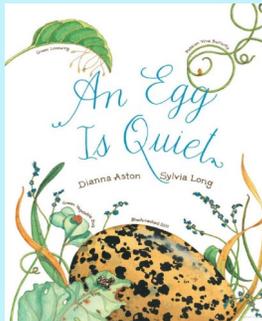
Events

July

StoryWalk

July | Woodland Mounds

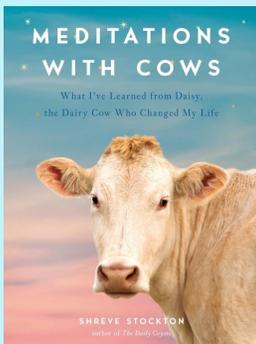
StoryWalk® is a fun way to get communities outside and reading. Each month, we will put a new nature themed children's story along the trails in different parks. Stories will all be nature themed and fun to read! This month's story is *An Egg is Quiet* by Dianna Hutts Aston, and illustrated by Sylvia Long.



Conservation and Nature Book Club

July 16 | Middleswart Lodge

Friends of Warren County Conservation will be hosting a bi-monthly book club. Simply read the suggested book and join FWCC at the Middleswart Lodge for a discussion followed by an extended activity related to the book. There is no charge for this program but participants will need to provide their own copy of the book. For this session they will be discussing *Meditations with Cows* by Shreve Stockton. Please register ahead so they can have enough materials on the Friends of Warren County Conservation Facebook page.



Extended Hours

July 18 | Annett Nature Center

Take advantage of our extended hours on the 3rd Thursday of each month to visit the Annett Nature Center! There may be new things to check out, an activity, or a chance to visit after school and work that might be harder during our regular office hours! No Registration required!

Stand-Up Paddleboarding

July 20 | 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 our pond. No experience necessary! An adult must accompany children and children must be at least 10 years old. Lifejackets are required and provided. Space is limited to 10 participants and registration is required.

There is a \$5 program fee for equipment. Fee will be due July 13th. You can send in cash or check to Warren County Conservation, 15565 118th Ave, Indianola, IA 50125.

***Registration opens June 13th, 2024.**



August

StoryWalk

August | Otter Creek

StoryWalk® is a fun way to get communities outside and reading. Each month, we will put a new nature themed children's story along the trails in different parks. Stories will all be nature themed and fun to read! This month's story is *A Pocket Full of Kisses* by Audrey Penn, and illustrated by Barbara Leonard Gibson.

Dutch Oven Cooking

August 1 | Annett Nature Center

Are you in need of an easy, filling, and delicious recipe for your next camping trip or outdoor adventure? Learn to prepare scrumptious recipes that will feed a crowd. Participants will prepare recipes, cook them in the Dutch oven, and learn how to care for Dutch oven cookware.

The cost is \$10 per person. Payment of cash or check to WCCB are due at least a week before the program. This program is geared towards those 12 and older and children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and registration is required by July 25th, 2024.

***Registration opens June 25, 2024.**

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

Events



Farm to Table

August 2 | Middleswart Lodge

Warren County Conservation invites you to a locally-sourced dinner prepared by award-winning Chef Aaron Holt, of Doolittle Farms, LLC. The evening will feature a four-course farm fresh dinner. Guests are welcome to bring their own beer or wine. Glasses and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Enjoy your meal with friends and family, while listening to music by the Briggs Family Band and enjoying the beautiful scenery from Middleswart Lodge.

***Reservations are required.**

***Tickets and pricing are coming soon, keep an eye out on our Facebook for more details!**

Archery

August 7 | Annett Nature Center

Want to enhance your outdoorsy skills? Well here is the chance. We are offering the opportunity for you to learn how to shoot a bow! Our experienced instructors will teach you the proper techniques and safety measures involved in archery. Whether you're a beginner or looking to improve your current skills, this is your chance to step up your game in the great outdoors. Gain confidence and precision as you learn how to master the art of shooting a bow. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to expand your outdoor activities and have some fun in the process.

***Registration opens July 7th, 2024.**

Natural Dyes

August 13 | Annett Nature Center

Are you prepared to explore the world of natural dyes and unleash your creativity? Discover the fascinating process of creating natural dyes and create your own unique dyed masterpiece. Join us as we explore the art of dyeing with natural ingredients, and bring your creativity for this hands-on workshop. The cost is \$10 per person. Payment of cash or check to WCCB are due at least a week before the program. This program is geared towards those 12 and older and children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and registration is required by August 1st, 2024.

***Registration opens July 1st, 2024.**



Extended Hours

August 15 | Annett Nature Center

Take advantage of our extended hours on the 3rd Thursday of each month to visit the Annett Nature Center!

There may be new things to check out, an activity, or a chance to visit after school and work that might be harder during our regular office hours! No registration required.

Canoeing

August 22 | Annett Nature Center

Join us out on the water for a canoe program on Lester Pond. Our naturalist will provide instruction on how to handle a canoe to avoid damaging it, how to get in and out of a canoe safely, how to paddle effectively, and how to navigate in the canoe with other people. This class will teach about boat safety, and offer the opportunity to explore the pond.

No experience necessary, we'll teach you everything you need to know! Lifejackets are required and provided. We will put up to 3 people in each canoe. Meet at the Annett Nature Center.

***Registration opens July 22nd, 2024.**



SAVE THE DATE

FWCC Prairie Picnic

September 21 | Annett Nature Center

Join Friends of Warren County Conservation for an evening on the prairie with appetizers, drinks, and entertainment followed by a dinner. A live and silent auction will follow dinner to end the celebration. All proceeds will support education programs and exhibits at Annett Nature Center and WCCB parks and trails.



ANC Updates

New Exhibits

If you haven't been to the Annett Nature Center yet this spring, we invite you to come out and check out the additions to our exhibit hall! We love our long-standing exhibits like the Insect and Pollinator room, Iowa Prairies and Iowa Woodlands in the exhibit hall, and the live animal floor. However, we are excited to introduce our Iowa Wetlands, common birdfeeder bird panels and seating in the exhibit hall, and Nocturnal Iowa just under the stairs on the Lower Level.

Explore the Iowa Wetland exhibit to discover plants, animals, and animal signs that you can find near wetlands and ponds. Search the wetland display for all the hidden treasures like fish, frogs, tracks, feathers, and more!



Touch the mammal furs, which one is the softest? Which is the prettiest? Can you identify all the furs without looking at the names?

Listen to the sounds of common visitors to birdfeeders. Have you heard those calls at your house? Do you see any of those birds out the large windows?



Head downstairs and look at the beautiful display of artifacts before turning under the stairs to enter an Iowa night! Can you see the animals looking back at you from the dark? Use the flashlights to illuminate the eyes shining back at you. Did you know that different animals' eyes shine different colors?



Come on out to check out the new exhibits at the Annett Nature Center and be sure to say "Hi" while you're here! See you soon! *M-F 8:00am– 4:30pm, or visit during our extend hours on July 18th from 4:30– 6:30pm*

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

Nature Untamed



The Secret Lives of Dragonflies

Did you know that dragonflies live longer in their larval stage than in their adult form? Dragonflies lay their eggs in various locations; some prefer to deposit them directly in water, while others choose to lay them on plants near the water. Once the egg hatches, the larva will make its way to the water and start to molt and eat at every chance they get. When in the larval stage, the dragonfly will molt anywhere from 5 to 14 times depending on the species. Sometimes this can take 2-3 months or even up to 5 years in the larval stage before they become adults. When it's time for the larva to molt into a dragonfly, it will crawl out of the water and begin the process of becoming an adult. Once they are adults, they will eat other flying insects such as flies and mosquitoes. Then they will mate, lay eggs, and lastly pass away. The adult dragonfly will live in this stage typically for a week or two, but some species can live in this stage for up to two months.



Widow skimmer
Libellula luctuosa



Dragonfly nymph

Graceful and Gazelle-Like

It's about the time of year when you will start to see baby deer running around. Did you know that does are more likely to have twins than one singular fawn? Typically, a doe will have just one fawn her first year and then she will have twins more often than not for the remainder of her life. Sometimes she might even have three or rarely four.

Have you ever wondered why whitetail fawns have spots? These spots act as camouflage to help them evade predators. Fawns are not as fast or agile as adults so when they get scared, they lie down and try to be as still as possible. The spots make it harder for the predators to see them when they are lying in the tall grass or even under trees and brush.

If you ever find a fawn laying the grass, leave them where they are. Their mothers often leave them hidden in foliage while they forage for food, and returning to find their fawn missing can be distressing for them. It's best to observe from a distance and trust that the mother will return to care for her young.





Summer 2024

Warren County Conservation Board



The Warren County Conservation Board manages over 2,700 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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wccb@warrenccb.org



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