

# THE CONSERVATIONIST



Spring 2011

Volume 14, Issue 4

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*Calendar of Upcoming Events*

*Outdoor  
Family Fair*

*Fossil & Prairie Center Anniversary*

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# Habitat Management with Matt

Matt Hager, Natural Resource Tech.



## What is going on???



**T.S.I. (Timber Stand Improvement)** *n.* improving the quality of a forest stand by removal of dead and undesirable species to achieve desired stocking and species composition.

T.S.I. work has been practiced in Floyd County's larger tree stands, Wentlands Woods and Mather's

Forest, for many years. This work tends to go unseen and unnoticed to those hiking the trails. The latest area to receive attention is Mink Creek, located across from Cedar River Harley Davidson, on the west edge of Charles City.



(above & right)  
Mink Creek

(below) Fossil & Prairie  
Park Preserve



Mink Creek is a grassland area with small stream emptying from a D.O.T. burrow pit. Brush and less desirable tree were removed to save the remaining grand Oak trees and small Oak seedlings. By doing so, these trees will provide future acorns for turkey, deer and squirrels.

Another noticeable improvement may be seen at the Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve. A return to the parks more "native state" - prairie. Trees are being removed from the prairie hillsides in order to maintain the park's grassland ecosystem. Pictures taken as late as 1989 show a more open landscape. With this change we also hope to encourage the return of the grassland birds, Bobolinks and Northern Harriers.

# Grow Wild . . .

## Summer Day Camps

Camps are from 8:30 - 3p.m. at the Fossil & Prairie Center, Rockford

Costs per camp are \$12 for Foundation Members, \$15 for Non-Members

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Graduates and Above

Fossil Camp (June 6) - As paleontologists, campers will explore the fossil quarry for ancient sea life. Each camper will receive a Golden Guide to Fossils book.

Bugs & Ughs Camp (June 7) - Visiting the Park's ponds and prairie, campers will encounter the creepy, crawly and squiggly insects found there. Each camper will receive a Peterson's First Guide to Caterpillars.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Graduates and Above

Slippery & Slimy Camp (June 6) - Camper will increase their awareness of the slippery, slimy and wet inhabitants of the Park. Each camper will receive a Peterson First Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians.

Eco Explorer Camp (June 7) - Search the Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve discovering the various habitats and the animals that live in each. Each camper will receive a Golden Guide to Pond Life book.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Graduates and Above

Camp Down Under (June 8) - Get messy while discovering the features of what lies beneath your feet. Each camper will receive a Peterson's First Guide to Insects.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates and Above

Outdoor Adventure Camp Step I (June 17-18) Campers will learn the basics of setting up camp, cooking in the outdoors, camp safety and Basic Astronomy during their overnight stay at the Fossil & Prairie Center. Participants will receive a Pocket Naturalist Guide to the Night Sky.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates and Above

Outdoor Adventure Step II (June 10-11) Campers will expand upon their camping experience by setting up camp along the Cedar River at West Idlewild Campground. Required: Must have attended Step I.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.FOSSILCENTER.COM](http://WWW.FOSSILCENTER.COM)

# Programs & Events

All events take place at the  
Fossil & Prairie Center, Rockford  
unless otherwise listed.

**May 1<sup>st</sup> Outdoor Family Fair**  
**Floyd Co. Fairgrounds**  
**11 - 3 p.m.**

See page 5 for more information

**May 1<sup>st</sup> Nature Tales -**  
**Use it again! • 1 p.m**

Join Floyd County Naturalist, Heidi Reams at the  
Outdoor Family Fair for a nature based story time.  
Story and related activity/craft for Kindergarten and  
under children with an accompanying adult.

**May 7<sup>th</sup> Fossil & Prairie Center**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House**  
**11 a.m.**

**May 7<sup>th</sup> Fossil & Prairie Center**  
**Open Weekends 1-4 p.m.**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> Webelo Science Day** ○  
**9-2 p.m.**  
More information and registrations  
available online at [www.fossilcenter.com](http://www.fossilcenter.com)

**June 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Summer Day Camps**  
**8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
See page 2 for more information!  
Also available online at  
[www.fossilcenter.com](http://www.fossilcenter.com)

- Pre Registration appreciated
- Pre Registration required

*For more information on any  
Floyd County Conservation sponsored programs,  
visit [www.fossilcenter.com](http://www.fossilcenter.com) or call 641-756-3490*

*A sign of Spring at the  
Fossil & Prairie Park  
Preserve . . .*



The blossoming of the pasque  
flowers planted last year in the newly  
established butterfly garden have  
made their announcement of spring.

Pasque flowers are the earliest prairie  
flower to bloom (March - April).  
They have fuzzy stems to insulate  
their stems during cool spring nights.  
Pasque is Old French for Easter,  
which is around the time the plant  
flowers.

*“the chance to find a pasque flower is  
a right as inalienable as free speech.”*

*Aldo Leopold  
Sand County Almanac*



# Outdoor Family Fair

Sunday May 1, 2011

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Floyd County  
Fairgrounds,  
Charles City



*Discover the outdoor  
opportunities available  
close to home.*

Door prizes, Food Booth & Activities  
for the whole family!

## *Fossil & Prairie Center 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House*

Saturday May 7, 2011

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



*Join us as we celebrate 10 years of welcoming visitors  
& school groups to the Fossil & Prairie Center.*

# KID'S PAGE

*Enter your picture in the Conservation Quarterly coloring contest.*



Mail your completed picture to: Floyd County Conservation, P.O. Box 495, Rockford Iowa 50468

## FISHING

How many words can you make from

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# NEW...



## at West Idlewild Park!

Last November, a new picnic shelter was constructed by Lien Brothers at the West Idlewild Park, 2 miles northwest of Floyd.

In addition to the existing picnic shelter, this structure will provide room for family events and increased day use of the Park.

Stop by this spring and summer to enjoy the serene setting along the Cedar River.



## Floyd County Conservation

### *Board*

Larry Hicok, Rockford, President

Richard Uetz, Charles City, Vice Pres.

Lori Paulus, Rockford, Secretary

Ann Schneckloth, Charles City, Member

Lyle Wendland, Floyd, Member

### *Staff*

Doug Schroeder, Director

Laura Elfers, Asst. Director/Naturalist

Heidi Reams, Naturalist

Matt Hager, Natural Resource Tech.

Patrick Reilly, Intern

### *Board Meetings*

The Floyd County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Fossil & Prairie Center, located 1 mile west of Rockford on County Road B47. Please note this date can be changed.

Floyd County's Programs and facilities are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age and handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Floyd County Conservation Board or the Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

## *Memorials*

### **Bill Hart**

Rhonda & Dennis Westergard

### **Mary Heard**

The Harmony Club

### **Nancy Cerwinski**

Larry & Sharon Hicok  
Jim & Sandra Lawrenz

### **Lorna Stern**

Larry & Sharon Hicok  
Jim & Sandra Lawrenz  
Juanita Schubert



