

# 2014 Season Schedule of Events

a publication of the  
Wapello County Conservation Board

the future in our hands



## Observe



## Habitat



## Imagine

## Sustain



This brochure contains a list of events planned for the year 2014. Programs may be added, cancelled or changed throughout the year. Keep current by visiting the events section of our websites on a regular basis or subscribing to our online newsletters. You can also check our Facebook pages or call our offices with any questions you might have.



# JANUARY

## Thursday, January 16 Winter Full Moon Hike at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area at 8:30 PM

The full moon will rise on January 16, and you are invited to PRNA for a hike by the light of the moon. We will explore the nocturnal life winter offers, and enjoy a hike around the area.

Ages: All

## Saturday, January 25 Lessons Learned About Prairie at Pioneer Ridge Nature Center at 10:00 AM

Bill Johnson will be at PRNC to discuss reconstructing a prairie, producing prairie seed with the help of inmate labor, and will end the presentation with a slideshow of blooming prairie plants from spring to fall. Through his 25 year career with the IA DNR, Bill has planted hundreds of acres of prairie, produced seed for thousands of acres of prairie, and has learned much along the way. Pre-registration is required by

Wednesday, January 22. A minimum number of pre-registrants must be met for this presentation to take place.

Ages: All FREE

# FEBRUARY

## Saturday, February 1 Basket Weaving at PRNC from 10 - 2

Therese Cummysky will return to PRNC for another basket weaving workshop. Therese will lead us through the process of making a melon basket. Lunch will be served for all attendees. Register early to ensure your spot in this entertaining event. All registrations must be made by Friday, January 24. Space is limited.

Ages: All Cost: \$15

## Saturday, February 8 Basic Beekeeping at PRNC from 9 AM - 4 PM

Come out to PRNC for the Basic Beekeeping Workshop. Learn the basics of how to get started in the beekeeping business. The workshop will cover C.C.D., start up

costs, swarm removal, honey flow, harvesting and much more. A chili lunch is included in this workshop. There will also be a field day on May 10. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. You can register by calling Charles at 641-682-8333 or 641-799-9266.

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$35; Alumni Free

## Saturday, February 8 Grant Wood's Birthday Soup Smorgasbord at the Eldon KD Center from 11 AM - 1PM

Join the American Gothic House Center as we celebrate the 123rd anniversary of Grant Wood's birth (officially on February 13). Enjoy delicious home-cooked soup straight from the kitchens of American Gothic House Center volunteers! Complete the meal and the celebration with a slice of birthday cake or a brownie and a mug of hot coffee.

Free will donations accepted.

# MARCH

## Saturday, March 22 The Soil Food Web at Place TBD at Time TBD

Molly Haviland is the Director and Soil Food Web Advisor at the Living Soil Lab at Maharishi University of Management. She will introduce us to the cast of characters that make up the Soil Food Web (SFW). Molly will help us better understand the symbiotic relationship between plants and soil microorganisms, how to establish a growing environment that increases and maintains the SFW population and more. Pre-registration will be required one week prior to the presentation. Watch for more information after the beginning of the year.

Ages: Adult Cost: TBD

## Saturday, March 29 Birdhouse Building Workshop at PRNA at 9:00 AM

Dress for the weather and join us to build a robin nesting platform. We will learn about this common backyard bird, and we will build a place for it to build a nest in your back yard. Why rely on those online nest cameras when you can have your very own to watch at home?

Ages: Families

Cost: \$7 per kit



# APRIL

## **Friday, April 4 Exhibit Opening: *Fruits* by Grant Wood at AGHC from 5:00 - 7:00 PM**

In his last few years of work, Grant Wood turned his focus to the print medium. *Fruits* is an important piece of this work. The AGHC is pleased to display this work as part of the Center's permanent collection. View the work and learn about the history behind this series of lithographs and its relationship to the Great Depression.

Acquisition of the work was made possible with funding from Ottumwa Regional Legacy Foundation, City of Eldon, and John Deere Ottumwa Works.

Ages: All

## **Saturday, April 5 Photography Workshop at PRNA at TBD**

Matt Wetrich, professional photographer, will be with us at PRNC to show us how to produce photos more like those you see in magazines. The type of camera is not all there is to it. This is your chance to become the nature photographer you have always wanted to be and produce a picture worthy of winning the annual photo contest. We will take a look at what makes attractive compositions, lighting, subject matter, equipment and more! You

will leave with a whole new perspective when you look through your camera as well as a cheat-sheet card to stick in your camera bag. Pre-registration is required by March 31.

Ages: Young Adult to Adult

Cost: \$15 per person

## **Sunday, April 6 Lecture Series: "Regionalist Art During the Great Depression" at Eldon Library Hall at 2:00 PM**

Join us as Mark McWhorter, director of the Indian Hills Art Gallery, discusses the implications the Great Depression had on the Regionalist art community. Several works from the IHCC collection will be on display, including works by Grant Wood.

Cost: Free

## **Saturday, April 19 Easter Egg Roll at our "White House" at AGHC from 1 - 3 PM**

Join us for our annual Egg Roll! A popular tradition at the White House, this event will be sure to please! Spring themed crafts and activities to accompany the event. Sponsored by the American Gothic House Center and GATE.

Ages: Children Cost: Free

## **Tuesday, April 22 Earth Day Celebration at PRNA at Time TBD**

It is Earth Day! Join us at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area for a celebration of the world that provides us life. Learn how we use various natural resources and help us beautify our natural areas. Activities will be determined at a later date.

Ages: All

# MAY

## **Thursday, May 1 Wildflower Walk at Garrison Rock at 5 PM**

Spring is here, and the spring ephemeral wildflowers are in bloom. Join us for an evening hike at Garrison Rock Wildlife Area. Learn how to identify some of the common spring, woodland flowers, and tour one of the most unique areas in our county.

Ages: All

## **Saturday, May 3 Wildflower Pastel Class at AGHC from 1 - 2 PM**

Celebrate May Day with a stroll through the Center's wildflower gardens! Students will learn about the flowers and create their own with pastel chalk. Local artist Chris Abigt

will host the class and guide the students in their creations. Pre-registration is required, and class is limited to 15 participants. Ages: K-6 Cost: \$9

## **Saturday, May 10 Youth Field Day at Ottumwa IKES from 8 AM - 4 PM**

The annual Youth Field Day is back! Join us as we participate in this annual spring event. Participants will enjoy many outdoor activities throughout the day lead by qualified and knowledgeable individuals from many environmental organizations. Come out to see what we have to offer this year. Watch your child's backpack this spring for a registration form and more information.

Ages: 8 - 17 Cost: \$10

## **Saturday, May 17 Wild Edibles Workshop at PRNA from 10 AM - 2 PM**

Mike Krebill is very skilled in the identification and preparation of wild edibles. Mike will lead this full day workshop with indoor and outdoor activities. Be involved in the collection and cooking of some common spring edible plants. A minimum of 10 pre-registrants must be met for this event to take place, and space is limited. Pre-registration is required by Friday, May 9.

Ages: All

Cost: \$10 per person or \$20 per family



**Thursday, May 22**  
**Garden Bites I at PRNA**  
**from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

This is the first of our Garden Bites Series with Iowa State University Extension. During each session, we will spend time in the garden to see what is in season and harvesting what we need for our meal. Then we will prepare and eat a meal made with those fresh ingredients. Next we will participate in a post-meal outdoor, family-friendly activity. Enjoy some time with your family while preparing a meal together and learning some gardening tips and outdoor activities.

Ages: All Cost: \$5/person or \$20/family

## JUNE

**Tuesday, June 3**  
**Toddler Camp:**  
**Camouflage at PRNA**  
**at 10 AM**

Let's explore how animals blend in with the environment, and how this helps them survive. We will use books, hands on activities, and outdoor activities to dig deeper into this topic. Come dressed for outdoor and off trail activities. Pre-register to ensure all participants



have access to necessary materials.

Ages: 3 and 4 with adult  
Cost: \$5 per child

**Fri.-Sun., June 6 - 8**  
**American Gothic Days!**

**Saturday, June 7**  
**American Gothic 5K**  
**Walk / Run at AGHC at**  
**7:30 AM (registration**  
**begins at 6:30 AM)**

Challenge yourself on the annual American Gothic 5K walk/run! The route goes through Eldon, along the Des Moines River, taking the trail through the park and traveling up one final hill to the famous American Gothic House. Awards for top finishers! Entry forms can be printed at [www.AmericanGothicHouse.net](http://www.AmericanGothicHouse.net) or picked up at the AGHC. Call 641-652-3352 for more information.

Ages: All (ages 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

**Sat.-Sun., June 7 - 8**  
**American Gothic**  
**House Art Contest at**  
**AGHC: entries due**  
**June 3 by 5 PM**

Join regional artists in celebrating the beauty of the house that inspired Grant Wood to paint American Gothic! Enter your artwork in one of our five divisions to win a cash prize for first or second place in your division. There are no entry fees, and artists using any media, excluding photography, are invited to participate.

Entry forms can be printed on the AGHC website or picked up at the AGHC. Sponsored by GATE.

Ages: Kindergarten - Adult

**Sunday, June 8**  
**American Gothic**  
**Bike Ride at AGHC at**  
**7:30 AM (registration**  
**begins at 6:30 AM)**

Bicyclists, get ready to celebrate American Gothic Days with a scenic ride through the land of Grant Wood! The event ends with pizza and refreshments in front of the American Gothic House. Entry forms can be printed on the AGHC website or picked up at the AGHC. Call 641-652-3352 for more information.

Ages: All (ages 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

**Saturday, June 21**  
**Des Moines River**  
**Canoe Float at 9 AM**

Summer is a beautiful time on the Des Moines River. We would like to invite you, your family and your friends on a relaxing canoe float. This float is weather and water level dependant. We will float from Ottumwa to Cliffland Access. Register by June 13 to ensure canoes are available for all participants. Please register even if you are bringing your own canoe or kayak.

Ages: All (Ages 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

Cost: \$5 per person

**Thursday, June 26**  
**Fishing Camp at**  
**Sycamore Pond from**  
**10 AM to 1 PM**

Join us for our first fishing camp. We will spend the day learning about fishing techniques, gear, and more. We will learn to clean and prepare a fish for cooking, and we will eat our catch for lunch. Pre-registration is required.

Ages: 10 - 15 years

Cost: \$5

**Thursday, June 26**  
**Garden Bites II at**  
**PRNA from 5 - 8 PM**

Session two is here, and we hope to have beans, cabbage and some greens available for our meal tonight. Bring the family out, and we will try to catch some fish to add to our meal.

Ages: All Cost: \$5/person or \$20/family

## JULY

**Tuesday, July 1**  
**Toddler Camp: Ants at**  
**PRNA at 10 AM**

We will make our way out to some very large ant hills at Pioneer Ridge, and we will learn how these animals live. Participants will also experiment with what ants like to eat.

Ages: 3 and 4 with adult

Cost: \$5 per child

**Thursday, July 17  
Youth Evening Camp  
at PRNA from 7 - 10 PM**

Spend a summer evening exploring Pioneer Ridge Nature Area. We will explore on and off the trails to see what nature has to offer. We will also use the telescope and binoculars to view and learn about the night sky.

Ages: 5 - 12years  
Cost: \$5



**Wednesday, July 22  
Youth Canoe Camp at  
PRNA from 9 AM - 12  
PM and 1 - 4 PM**

Spend some time learning proper canoe technique and safety. We will learn how to properly prepare for time on the water, how to maneuver the canoe, and how to rescue others when they are in trouble. At the end of the day, you will be prepared to head out on the river with your family for our fall canoe float. Pre-register by July 20. Space is limited.

Ages: 10 - 15  
Cost: \$5

**Thursday, July 24  
Garden Bites III at  
PRNA from 6-9 PM**

This is the last in the Garden Bites series. Tomatoes, peppers, corn, beans and much more should be ready to add to our family meal. Stick around for some fun and educational outdoor activities.

Ages: All Cost: \$5/person or \$20/family

## AUGUST

**Tuesday, August 5  
Toddler Camp: Water  
Wonders at PRNA at 10  
AM**

Water is a very important part of our world. We will use hands on activities to find out what makes water so special. Come dressed to get a little wet and dirty.

Ages: 3 & 4 with adult  
Cost: \$5 per child

**Saturday, August 16  
Fall Canoe Float  
at 9 AM**

The Wapello and Mahaska CCB's will be joining up again this fall for a fall canoe float on the Des Moines River. Look for location as August nears.

Ages: All (ages 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult)  
Cost: \$5 per person

## SEPTEMBER

**Monday, Sept. 15  
Photo Contest Entry  
Deadline by 4 PM**

The "Beauty of Nature" photocontest is back again. We hope you attended the photography workshop in April and have even more excellent photos to share this year. Enter your photos free in one of the following categories: Landscape, People and Nature, Wildlife, Plants. You can enter up to 2 in each category. Photos must be 8x10' and matted. All photos will be on display at PRNC. The first week they will be available for viewing and for public voting. Judging will take place the following week.

**Sat., September 27  
AGHC Volunteer  
Appreciation Potluck  
at AGHC at 5 - 6:30 PM**

The AGHC would like to thank all of its volunteers for donating thousands of hours of their time each year! The Center shows its appreciation with an annual potluck

dinner. If you would like to attend in support of these volunteers and all they do for the community, please RSVP to the AGHC by e-mail or phone. Bring a dish to share.

Ages: All

**September TBD  
Monarch Tagging at  
PRNA at Time TBD**

The fall migration has dwindled in the past few years, but we hope it will take place again this year. We will keep an eye on the migration of the monarch butterflies, and we will choose a date and time we believe will have the most potential for catching and tagging many monarchs.

Ages: All





## October

### **Fri-Sat., October 10-11 Halloween Hikes at PRNA at 6-8 PM**

The Halloween Hikes are back, and better than ever! At the time of this publication, the theme has not yet been set. Watch our website and news outlets as October nears to see what great theme we will have to offer this year. We will begin taking reservations on Monday, September 30. Register early to ensure a specific hike time.

Ages: All

Cost: \$3 per person; ages 3 and under free

### **Saturday, October 25 Children's Gothic Halloween Party at AGHC at 2-4 PM**

Celebrate Halloween in front of the American Gothic House! Arrive dressed in your costume, make your own spooky American Gothic parody, make fun crafts, play games and enjoy delicious treats.

Ages: PreK - 5th (small children should be accompanied by an adult)

## November

### **Sunday, November 9 Lecture Series: "Iowa History in a Cloth Bag" at Eldon Library Hall at 1:00 PM**

This presentation explains how cloth bags and the revolutionary idea of marketing to women helped Iowans survive the Great Depression and the shortages of World War II. Flour sacks, feed sacks and seed sacks will tell the story from relief work by Herbert Hoover to clothes and quilts in the 1950's.

Ages: All Cost: Free

### **Saturday, Nov. 15 Soap Making Workshop at PRNC from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

It is time again for our fall crafting workshop. This year we will be trying our hand at making soap. Chelsea Ewen will lead us through the steps of making our very own soap to take home. This is a great way to spend time with family and/or friends, try something new, and have something to take home with you. Pre-registration is required by November

7. A minimum number of pre-registrants must be met for this workshop to take place and space is limited. Register early to ensure your place in this workshop.

Ages: All Cost: \$15

## December

### **Saturday, December 6 Gothic Gingerbread House Building at AGHC from 1-4 PM**

Join in a great holiday tradition for the family! Arrive early to create your own gingerbread house made out of graham crackers, frosting and candy while supplies last.

Ages: Children Cost: Free

### **Thurs., December 11 My Travels to Spain at PRNC from 5 - 8 PM**

In 2013, Annette Wittrock travelled to Spain to participate in the bull run and explore the countryside. Come hear about this fun adventure with the help of a slide show and some videos. Maybe you will be inspired to travel to Spain yourself.

Ages: All

### **Friday, December 19 Christmas Bird Count in Wapello County**

Now in its 115th year, the Christmas Bird Count is the longest running wildlife survey conducted. We will be counting birds all day in an attempt to find as many species as we can within our count circle. Everyone is welcome to join in the count by counting at home or joining us on the drive through the count circle. Give us a call if you would like more information or would like to participate. No need to be a bird expert to help out.

Ages: All

## Year Round

### **Fourth Monday of Each Month Fly-Tiers Club at PRNC at 6:30 PM**

If you enjoy fly-fishing and tying your own flies, this may be just the group for you. These tiers get together once a month to share stories and tie flies. Come see what it is all about. All are welcome! Free!

## JANUARY

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## APRIL

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## JUNE

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## January

16 - Winter Hike

25 - Prairie

Presentation

## February

1 - Basket Weaving

8 - Basic Beekeeping

8 - Wood's Birthday

Soup Supper

## March

22 - Soils Workshop

29 - Birdhouse

Building Workshop

## April

4 - Exhibit Opening

5 - Photography Workshop

6 - Lecture Series

19 - Easter Egg Roll

22 - Earth Day

Celebration

## May

1 - Spring Wildflower Hike

3 - Wildflower Pastels

10 - Youth Field Day

17 - Wild Edibles

22 - Garden Bites

## June

3 - Toddler Camp

6 - 8 - American

Gothic Days - Eldon

7 - American Gothic

5K Walk / Run

7 - 8 - American

Gothic House Art

Contest

8 - American Gothic

Bike Ride

21 - Canoe Float

26 - Youth Fishing

Camp

26 - Garden Bites

## July

1 - Toddler Camp

17 - Youth Evening

Camp

22 - Youth Canoe

Camp

24 - Garden Bites

## August

5 - Toddler Camp

16 - Fall Canoe Float

## September

15 - Photo Contest

Submission

Deadline

27 - AGHC Volunteer

Potluck

TBD - Monarch

Tagging

## October

10 - 11 - Halloween

Hikes

25: Children's Gothic

Halloween Party

## November

9 - Lecture Series

15 - Soap Making

Workshop

## December

6 - Gingerbread

Houses

11 - Spain

19 - Christmas Bird

Count

Year-Round

Fly-Tying Club

## HOLIDAYS

Wapello County  
Conservation Board  
Events

American Gothic House  
Center Events

WCCB Board Meeting

AGHC Board Meeting

## JULY

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## AUGUST

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## SEPTEMBER

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## OCTOBER

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## DECEMBER

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# Wapello County Conservation Board

1339 Highway 63  
Bloomfield, IA 52537-8017  
641/682-3091 phone  
641/683-4621 fax  
wapellocb@netins.net  
www.wapellocounty.org/conservation

## Nature Center Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

## Park Hours

Open Daily: 6:30 AM - 10:30 PM

## Front Cover Photos

Top Row (L-R): Junco, Nature Center  
Middle Row (L-R): Indian Paintbrush, ButterfliZ of Iowa, Bloodroot  
Bottom Row (L-R): Camping Cabin

Or Current Resident

## Inside Photos (front to back)

Prairie, Student Pond Study, Young Snapping Turtle  
Canoe Float Participants, Monarch With Tag, Swans



## Staff

Kurt Baker – Director  
Paul Totten – Conservation Technician  
Annette Wittrock – Naturalist  
Frank Boyer - Natural Resource  
Manager  
Randy Halbur - Maintenance Technician  
Holly Berg – AGHC Administrator

## WCCB Board Members

Jeff Layton  
Marsha Parker  
Sam Rodgers  
John Utter  
Angella Cartwright

## AGHC Board Members

Kurt Baker  
Donna Jeffrey  
Sam Rodgers  
Steve Siegel  
Jane Powell