



2015 Season Schedule of Events

a publication of the
Wapello County Conservation Board
the future in our hands



This brochure contains a list of events planned for the year 2015. Programs may be added, cancelled or changed throughout the year. Keep current by visiting the events section of our web sites 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

Saturday, January 10 Winter Hike at Garrison Rock Wildlife Area at 9:00 AM

Enjoy winter at Garrison Rock by hiking back to horse thief cave to view the ice fall. We will then explore some of the trails in search of animal signs and view eagles from Garrison Rock itself. Trail conditions may be slick. Dress for the trails and the weather.

Ages: All

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 7 Basic Beekeeping at PRNC from 8 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. 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

Saturday, February 7 Grant Wood's Birthday Soup Smorgasbord at the Eldon KD Center from 11 AM - 1PM

Join the AGHC as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of Grant

Wood's birth (officially February 13). Enjoy delicious home-cooked soup straight from the kitchens of AGHC 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.

Thursday, February 26 Loon Magic at PRNC at 6:30 PM

Enjoy a slide presentation with Ty Smedes about the life cycle of the common loon. Ty is a well-known photographer and writer. Share his adventure with pictures shot from a canoe in the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota. You will see loons building nests, turning eggs, with youngsters on mother's backs and feeding youngsters. Pre-registration is required by February 20. A minimum of 10 registrants must be met for this presentation to take place.

Ages: All FREE

MARCH

Saturday, March 7 Bird Nest Monitoring Workshop at Pioneer Ridge Nature Center from 10 AM to 3 PM

Do you enjoy watching wildlife? If so, the Iowa DNR Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program (VWMP) wants your help! The citizen scientists of the VWMP provide the

IDNR with important data that they would be hard-pressed to gather. This training workshop focuses on some of Iowa's more spectacular bird species such as bald eagles, osprey, peregrine falcons and colonially nesting waterbirds such as herons and egrets. You will be taught how to collect data on specific nesting sites and much more. If you are interested in this opportunity register by calling 515-432-2823 ext 102 or e-mailing vwmp@dnr.iowa.gov. Find out more by visiting www.iowadnr.gov under volunteer wildlife monitoring.

Ages: Adult Cost: \$10

Saturday, March 28 Birdhouse Building Workshop at PRNA at 9:00 AM

Dress for the weather and join us to build a bird house to put up in your own backyard. No online nest camera necessary when you can watch this right outside your window.

Ages: Families Cost: TBD

APRIL

Saturday, April 4 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 AGHC and GATE. Ages: Children Cost: Free

Saturday, April 11 Tour the American Gothic House from 10 AM - 4 PM

The American Gothic House will be open for tours the second Saturday of the month from April to October.

Cost: Free

Saturday, April 25 Earth Day Celebration at PRNA at Time TBD

Earth Day is April 22! Let's do something to help the earth, which provides us life. Learn how we use various natural resources and help us beautify our natural areas. Activities are weather dependant and will be determined at a later date.

Ages: All

MAY

Thursday, May 7 Wildflower Walk at Garrison Rock at 5:30 PM

Celebrate May Day a day late with a hike through Garrison Rock Wildlife Unit.



This area is always alive this time of year with the beauty of spring. Come out for a nice morning hike.

Ages: All

Saturday, May 9 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 led by qualified and knowledgeable individuals from many environmental organizations. Come out to see what we have to offer this year. If you would like to be on the planning committee, be a presenter or help the day of the event, contact a committee member. Watch for registration this spring.

Ages: 8 - 17 Cost: \$10

Saturday, May 16 Dandelions and Morels at PRNA from 10 AM - 3 PM

Join Mike Krebill, Iowa's Wild Food Ambassador, as he reveals ways to reduce the bitterness in dandelions and turn them into family and company pleasing food. Bring your personal sack lunch & beverage to supplement dandelion-tomato appetizers, dandelion brats, and the improbable, but delicious, dandelion root ice cream. Kids may don aprons and fix dandelion donuts. After lunch, get 50 tips to

put more morels in your basket, and then join members of the Prairie States Mushroom Club on a mushroom hunt. Pre-registration required by May 12.

Ages: All

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



JUNE

Tuesday, June 2 Toddler Camp: Forest at PRNA at 10 AM

At this first camp of the season, we will learn what lives in the forest - trees, flowers and much more. We will venture out to our woodlands for an adventure only the forest can offer. Don't miss out on the FUN!

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

Thursday, June 4 Using Goats in Managing Woodlands and Savannas at PRNA at 5:30 PM

Goats are extremely comical and entertaining animals to be around. They are also very

effective in controlling invasive woody species such as bush honeysuckle, Russian olive, multi-flora rose and poison ivy. Learn how Wapello CCB staff use these animals in managing some of its areas. Learn how you can apply this management strategy in controlling invasive woody species on your property.
Ages: Adult Cost: TBD

Friday, June 5 Exhibit Opening - "American Gothic in Stitches: Quilts Inspired by the Famous Painting" at AGHC from 4:30 - 6:30

"American Gothic" has served as an inspiration for many artists, whether through a lighthearted or more analytical interpretation. This exhibit will feature works from skilled quilters from around the world who have created their own masterpieces influenced by the famous painting. Wood's baby quilt will be on display for the duration of the opening - thanks to the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. Jacqueline Falco-Smith, registrar of the CRMA, will be present to answer questions regarding the quilt. On exhibit June 1 - Oct. 18.
Ages: All Cost: Free



Fri.-Sun., June 12 - 14 American Gothic Days!

Saturday, June 13 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 the AGHC website or picked up at the AGHC. Call the AGHC for more information.

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

Sat.-Sun., June 13 - 14 American Gothic House Art Contest at AGHC: entries due June 9 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 at the AGHC website or picked up at the AGHC. Sponsored by GATE.
Ages: Kindergarten - Adult

**Tuesday, June 23
Habitat Camp at PRNA
from 10 AM to 2 PM**

Let's explore the varied habitats of Pioneer Ridge Nature Area. We will spend the day searching for life in the forest, prairie, pond and savannah. Come dressed for off trail and in water explorations. Pre-registration is required by June 16.

Ages: 5-10 years Cost: \$15

**Thursday, June 25
Leopold Camp
at PRNA
from 9 AM to 2 PM**

Be prepared for an adventure. Aldo Leopold will be our model for this all day camp. He observed, wrote about, drew and experienced the natural world. We will use activities pertaining to his writings and techniques to delve further into our surroundings. Pre-registration is required by June 18.

Ages: 10-15 years
Cost: \$15

**Thursday, June 25
Garden Bites at PRNA
from 5:30 - 8:30 PM**

Back by popular demand! Enjoy an evening in the garden with the Wapello CCB, ISU Extension, and our family. Each summer session will include hands-on gardening activities, food preparation, a meal, and a conservation activity. All families are invited to participate and learn together. Registration is required by calling the

ISU Extension office at 641-682-5491. A second session will be opened on June 24 if needed.

Ages: All Cost: FREE

**Saturday, June 27
Des Moines River
Canoe Float at 9 AM**

Join us for the first river float of the summer. This float is weather and water level dependant. We will float from Ottumwa to Cliffland Access. Register by June 19 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

JULY

**Tuesday, July 1
American Gothic
House Quilt/Fabric Art
Challenge at AGHC**

In conjunction with the "American Gothic in Stitches" exhibit, the American Gothic House is hosting an American Gothic House quilt challenge! Rules and entry forms can be found at www.AmericanGothicHouse.net or picked up at the AGHC. Entry Deadline: June 26. On display through October 18.

**Tuesday, July 7
Toddler Camp:
Recycling at PRNA
at 10 AM**

Let's make something old into something new and fun. Take home something useful you made from everyday garbage. Registration is required by June 30.

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

**Mon - Wed, July 13-15
Adventure Camp
at PRNA**

Learn how to make hunting tools, try your hand throwing with an atlatl, try archery, stay overnight in a shelter you built in the forest, and test your survival skills. This camp includes one overnight and some meals and snacks will be provided. Pre-registration is required by July 6. A minimum number of registrations must be met to hold this camp.

Ages: 12 - 15 years
Cost: \$30

**Tuesday, July 21
Leopold Camp
at PRNA
from 9 AM- 12 PM**

Be prepared for an adventure! Aldo Leopold will be our model for this all day camp. He observed, wrote about, drew and experienced the natural world. We will use activities pertaining to his writings and techniques to delve further into our surroundings. Pre-registration is required by July 14.

Ages: 5 - 10 Cost: \$15

**Thursday, July 23
Garden Bites at PRNA
from 5:30 - 8:30 PM**

It is time for the second session of garden bites. Make sure you are registered for this fun, family-friendly event. A second session will be opened on July 22 if necessary.

Ages: All Cost: FREE



AUGUST

Saturday, August 1 Adult Canoe Camp from 10 AM - 2 PM

Why should the kids have all the fun?! Join us for an adult canoe camp. Learn the basics of preparing for a canoe trip, how to transport your canoe safely, how to maneuver your canoe and much more. Pre-registration is required. Watch for more information this summer. Ages: Adult Cost: TBD

Tuesday, August 4 Toddler Camp: Prairie at PRNA at 10 AM

Earlier this summer we learned about life in the forest. Now let's delve into the prairie. Surrounded by tall grass, flowers and more, we will see what animals and plants need to survive in this habitat. Ages: 3 & 4 with adult Cost: \$5 per child

Tuesday, August 11 Plant Camp at PRNA from 9:00 - 1:00

What do plants need to grow? How do they get all the necessary ingredients to produce fruit, leaves, seeds, etc? We will compare/contrast the varied plants of Pioneer Ridge in search of the secrets of plant life. And we will have some fun with plant colors/dyes. Ages: 5-10 Cost: \$15



Thursday, August 13 Garden Bites at PRNA from 5:30 - 8:30 PM

It is time for the third session of garden bites. Make sure you are registered for this fun, family-friendly event. A second session will be added on August 12 if necessary. Ages: All Cost: FREE

Thursday, August 13 Youth Canoe Camp at PRNA at 9AM-12PM and 1PM-4PM

Spend a summer morning or afternoon 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. Once you have honed your canoe technique, we will use games to test your new skills. At the end of the day, you will be prepared to safely head out on the water with family and friends.

Ages: 10-15 Cost: \$10

Saturday, August 15 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)

SEPTEMBER

Tues., September 15 Photo Contest Entry Deadline by 4 PM

The "Beauty of Nature" photo contest is back again! We will accept entries between July 15 and September 15 at PRNC or HyVee Drugstore in Ottumwa. 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 26 AGHC Volunteer Appreciation Potluck at AGHC at 5 - 6:30 PM

AGHC would like to thank all of its volunteers that donate 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

Sept./Oct TBD Field Conservation at PRNA at Time TBD

This course is designed to familiarize participants with resource management at the local level. It's focus is to apply land management decision that promote diverse native habitats that ultimately promote plant and animal diversity. This will be a field course with limited classroom activity. participants will become directly involved in timber stand improvement, invasive species control, controlled burns and native plant production.

Ages: Adult Cost: TBD



**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

**Sat., October 3
"American Gothic
Window" Quilt
Workshop at AGHC at
1:00 PM**

AGHC volunteer (and quilter) Teresa Chickering, will lead the group in the creation of their own unique Gothic window wall hanging. The workshop will be held inside the American Gothic House. Pre-registration is required.
Ages: Children 9+
Cost: \$10

**Sat., October 10
"American Gothic
Window" Quilt
Workshop at AGHC at
1:00 PM**

AGHC volunteer (and quilter) Teresa Chickering, will lead the group in the creation of their own unique Gothic window wall hanging. The workshop will be held inside the American Gothic House. Pre-registration is required.
Ages: Adult Cost: \$15

**Fri-Sat., October 9-10
Halloween Hikes at
PRNA at 6-8 PM**

Bring your family out to learn about objects in the night sky. We will begin taking reservations on Monday, September 28. Register early to ensure a specific hike time. Registrations can be made by calling 641-682-3091 ext 102 or e-mailing pioneeridgehike@hotmail.com. If necessary, leave a message with your name, phone number and requested hike time.
Ages: All
Cost: \$3 per person; ages 3 and under free

**Saturday, October 24
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

**Sat., November 14
Basic Natural Dyes
at PRNC at 9:00 AM**

Learn to create some basic natural dyes to use in family-friendly crafts. We will create the dyes this day and put them to use in a fun way.
Ages: All Cost: TBD

December

**Saturday, December 5
Gothic Gingerbread
House Building at
AGHC from 12-4 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

**Tuesday, December 29
Winter Break Camp at
PRNA at 9:00 AM**

Would you like to brush up on your bird identification skills before tomorrow's CBC? All are welcome at this morning winter camp. We will learn to identify some of the most common birds found on the bird count. We will use pictures, binoculars, books, and bird calls as we hike the trails in search of birds. Dress for the weather.
Ages: All Cost: FREE

**Wed., December 30
Christmas Bird Count
in Wapello County**

Now in it's 116th year, the Christmas Bird Count is the longest running citizen science, 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



JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

January

10 - Winter Hike

February

7 - Basic Beekeeping

7 - Wood's Birthday

Soup Supper

26 - Loon Magic With Ty Smedes

March

7 - Nest Monitoring Workshop

28 - Birdhouse

Building Workshop

April

4 - Easter Egg Roll

11 - Tour AGH

25 - Earth Day Celebration

May

7 - Spring Wildflower Hike

9 - Tour AGH

9 - Youth Field Day

16 - Wild Edibles

June

2 - Toddler Camp

4 - Managing With Goats

5 - Exhibit Opening

12 - 14 - American Gothic Days - Eldon

12 - American Gothic 5K Walk / Run

13 - Tour AGH

13 - 14 - AGHC Art Contest

23 - Habitat Camp

25 - Garden Bites

25 - Leopold Camp

27 - Canoe Float

HOLIDAYS

WCCB Event

AGHC Event

WCCB Board Meeting

AGHC Board Meeting

July

7 - Toddler Camp

11 - Tour AGH

13-15- Survival Camp

21 - Leopold Camp

23 - Garden Bites

26 - Quilt/Fabric Art Contest Deadline

August

1 - Adult Canoe Camp

4 - Toddler Camp

8 - Tour AGH

11 - Youth Camp

13 - Garden Bites

13 - Youth Canoe Camp

15 - Fall Canoe Float

September

12 - Tour AGH

15 - Photo Contest Submission

Deadline

26 - AGHC Volunteer Potluck

TBD - Field

Conservation

TBD - Monarch Tagging

October

3 - Quilt Workshop

9 - 10 - Halloween Hikes

10 - Quilt Workshop

24 - Children's Gothic Halloween Party

November

14 - Natural Dyes

December

5 - Gingerbread Houses

29 - Winter Camp

30 - Christmas Bird Count

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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): Nuthatch, Fishing Camp
Middle Row (L-R): Rattlesnake Master
Bottom Row (L-R): Ornate Box Turtle Eating Prickly
Pear Cactus, Cicada

Inside Photos (front to back)

Bluebird Nest and Eggs; Student Archery; Goat
Management; Canoe Float; Buckeye Butterfly; Tufted
Titmouse; Christmas Bird Count Volunteers

Or Current Resident



Staff

Kurt Baker – Director
Paul Totten – Conservation Technician
Annette Wittrock – Naturalist
Frank Boyer - Natural Resource
Manager
Wes Pierson - 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
Shirley Stacey