



# 2016 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 2016. 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 for current information or call our offices with any questions you might have.**



# JANUARY

## Friday, January 22 Owl Prowl at PRNA at 6:30 PM

The moon will be full, and the trails will be dressed in their winter best. We will spend the evening prowling the trails, learning and using bat calls, and learning about the owls found in our area. Join us for a fun, full moon hike.

Ages: All

# FEBRUARY

## Friday, February 5 Brews and Brushes Painting FUNdraiser at Hotel Ottumwa From 6 to 9 PM

We are very excited to announce our "Brushes and Brews" FUNdraiser! Spend an evening painting "Cozy Winter Night at the American Gothic House" alongside local artist Chris Abigt. Tickets can be purchased at Hotel Ottumwa or the AGHC. Proceeds will go to the AGHC Endowment

Fund. A special thank you to the Hotel Ottumwa and Chris Abigt for their amazing support. Seating is limited, register early. Cost: \$40

## Saturday, February 6 Beekeeping Clinic at PRNC from 9 AM - 4 PM

Join Charles Newton as he teaches you how to get started with and successfully raise your own honeybee hives. Give Charles a call - 641-682-8333 - if you would like more information or would like to register.

Ages: Adult

## Friday and Saturday, February 12 & 13 Toddler Adventure at PRNC at 10 - 11:30 AM

The first in a three session series with Susan Smith begins today. Bring your toddler to the nature center for a morning of reading, crafting, learning and all around fun. This month's theme will be insects. We will learn about insects and meet some living insects up close. Each child

will go home with a book. Registration required. We are offering two mornings with the same theme so pick the date that works best for you.

Ages: 2 - 5 with adult

Cost: \$12

## Saturday, February 13 Grant Wood's Birthday Soup Smorgasbord at the Eldon KD Center from 11 AM - 1 PM

Join the AGHC as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of Grant Wood's birth. Enjoy delicious home-cooked soup straight from the kitchens of AGHC volunteers! Complete the celebration with a slice of birthday cake or a brownie and a mug of hot coffee. Free will offerings accepted.

## Saturday, February 13 New Exhibit Opening at the AGHC

*The American Scene: Prints From the 1930s and 1940s* will be on display until April 30. The Great Depression had a significant impact on the American art community. Many artists

pushed to develop art with social context and appeal to a broad demographic. The development of the subscription print service allowed artists to reach this new audience by creating art that the general public could afford. Many highly recognized artists became a part of this movement, including John Steuart Curry, Thomas Hart Benton, Isabel Bishop and Grant Wood. The exhibit features a selection of prints from the 1930s and 1940s depicting a variety of rural and urban scenes from across America. These are on loan from the IHCC Fahrney Collection.

# MARCH

## Saturday, March 12 Butterfly Survey Training at PRNC at 10:00 AM

Of the 122 species of butterflies known to live in Iowa, more than 1/4 are listed as endangered, threatened or special concern. Reiman Gardens has started the Iowa Butterfly Survey Network (ISBN) to not only educate Iowans about butterflies but also encourage people to take an active role in research and conservation. We will be hosting a training with Lee and Marion CCBs for anyone interested in becoming a citizen scientist to aid the butterflies of Iowa. Registration is required.

Ages: Adult Cost: TBD



**Friday and Saturday,  
March 18 & 19 Toddler  
Adventure at PRNC  
from 10:00 - 11:30 AM**

This month our adventure will focus on snakes. We will meet some of our resident snakes as we learn about how they survive in Iowa. Plus each child will leave with a book about these slithering critters.

Ages: 2-5 Cost: \$12

**Saturday, March 19  
Printmaking  
Workshop at the AGHC**

Learn about the techniques behind historical prints and create your own printed works of art with University of Iowa Grant Wood Fellow, Terry Conrad. Please check back for more information closer to the event. Registration is required.

Cost: TBD

**Saturday, March 26  
Easter Egg Roll at our  
White House at the  
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.

## APRIL

**Saturday, April 2  
Birdhouse Building  
and Bluebird Trail  
Maintenance at PRNA  
at 9:00 AM**

Dress for the weather and join us to build a bird house and help us get our birdhouse trail ready for the bluebirds. Get a hands-on lesson on caring for a birdhouse and its residents. This is also a great chance for your family to adopt a group of birdhouses at Pioneer Ridge and become citizen scientists for the spring and summer.

Ages: Families Cost: \$8

**Friday and Saturday,  
April 8 & 9 Toddler  
Adventure at PRNC  
from 10:00 - 11:30 AM**

April can be a great time to see frogs recently emerged from hibernation. Join us as we learn more about the life cycle of frogs. This session may include some time catching frogs and tadpoles at the ponds. Dress accordingly.

Ages: 2-5 with adult  
Cost: \$12

**Saturday, April 9 Tour  
The American Gothic  
House from 10 - 4**

The second Saturday of each month from April through October. Please note: Tours of the house will only feature the downstairs portion of the house. The steep stairs, short ceilings and lack of handrails prohibit safe access to the upstairs. Due to the historic features of the house and grounds, accessibility for visitors with limited mobility can be challenging. Guests with wheelchairs and walkers may find the terrain to the house difficult to maneuver. In addition, the entrance has two steps. We will make every effort to accommodate visitors' needs.

**Friday, April 22  
Earth Day**

**Saturday, April 30  
"Grant Wood: Prairie  
Rebel at McHaffey  
Opera House at 1 PM**

In this 45 minute, one man show, Grant Wood chats with the audience as if talking to an old friend across the back fence or maybe at his home. We hear the story of how he took the moments, the memories, and the people of our state and showed the whole world the specialness of this Iowa. The actor will answer questions after the presentation. If you are a person with a disability who requires special assistance, please call 641-652-3352 in advance. This program is made possible by funding from Humanities Iowa.

Cost: FREE

## May

**Saturday, May 7  
Wildflower Walk  
at PRNA at 9:00 AM**

The spring wildflowers are a welcome spring sight. Join us for a woodland hike to view the wonderful colors these ephemeral beauties provide the early spring woodland floor. We are changing the venue this year and will meet at the end of Savanna Lane.

Ages: All



**Friday, May 20**  
**Full Moon Frog Stomp**  
**at PRNA at 8:00 PM**

Bring the family out for a frog stomp at Pioneer Ridge. We will not be stomping any frogs, but we will be in and around the ponds searching for frogs. We will learn their songs and how to identify by sight. Wear clothes that can get wet and muddy. Some hip waders will be available.

Ages: All

## JUNE

**Saturday, June 4**  
**Youth Field Day at**  
**Ottumwa IKES**  
**from 8 AM - 4 PM**

The time has come for the annual youth field day. This is a chance for your children to get outdoors for a day of activities. Many conservation

organizations come together to put on this event. We are always looking for volunteers to be on the planning committee and sponsors to help us make this a great event each year. If you are interested in helping, give Annette a call at 641-682-3091. We will have our first meeting in January.

Ages: 8 - 17 Cost: \$10

**Tuesday, June 7**  
**Toddler Camp: Deer**  
**Detectives at PRNA**  
**at 10:00 AM**

Where and how can you find deer? What do they eat and how does their fur feel? Find out these things and more as we explore the life of white-tailed deer.

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

**Saturday, June 11**  
**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 11- 13**  
**American Gothic**  
**House Art Contest at**  
**AGHC: entries due**  
**June 7 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

**Friday, June 24**  
**Bats of Iowa at PRNA**  
**from 9 to 11 PM**

Russ Benedict is a Professor of Biology at Central College with expertise in mammology, conservation biology and more. He has conducted bat surveys at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area in the past, and he is going to give us an inside look into how this process works and teach us more about the bats of Iowa. This presentation will take place outdoors and include attempting to capture bats in nets.

Ages: All Cost: TBD

## JULY

**Tuesday, July 5**  
**Toddler Camp:**  
**Burrowing Animals at**  
**PRNA at 10 AM**

What animals burrow underground and why? What do they have that allows them the ability to dig and build a solid home underground? We will find animal burrows, and learn about the animals that made them. We may even get the chance to test our skills.

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



**Wednesday - Friday,  
July 6-8 Nature Chefs  
at PRNA from 9:00 AM  
- 1:00 PM**

What can we eat out of the wild? We will collect and catch edible wild things each day and create a meal cooked over an open fire we start ourselves.

Ages: 10 - 13 years  
Cost: \$35

**Monday - Friday, July  
11 - 15 Project Aware  
on Des Moines River**

Visit [www.iowadnr.gov/awareformoreinformation](http://www.iowadnr.gov/awareformoreinformation) and to register.

**Monday - Thursday  
July 18 - 21 Creepy  
Crawlies at PRNA  
from 9:00 AM - 12:00**

Some animals are just weird, ugly, have odd eating habits and may seem a little scary. We will spend this week searching for the odd creatures and learning their purpose in the environment. Dress for on and off trail explorations.

Ages: 4 - 6 years  
Cost: \$10 per child

**Monday - Thursday  
July 25 - 28 Outdoor  
Encounters at PRNA  
from 9 AM to 4 PM**

Spend four full days outdoors immersed in the natural world. Learn how to read the signs animals have left behind; identify animals by tracks, sounds and sight;



test your archery skills; and much more. Bring a lunch and refillable water bottle each day, and be prepared to be in nature. Snacks, water refills and all equipment will be provided.

Ages: 8 - 12 years  
Cost: \$30

## AUGUST

**Monday - Thursday  
August 1 - 4 Outdoor  
Encounters at PRNA  
from 9 AM - 4 PM**

Spend four full days outdoors immersed in the natural world. Learn how to read the signs animals have left behind; identify animals by tracks, sounds and sight; test your archery skills; and much more. Bring a lunch and refillable water bottle each day, and be prepared to be in nature. Snacks, water refills and all equipment will be provided.

Ages: 13 - 15 years  
Cost: \$30



**Monday - Thursday  
August 8 - 11 Nature  
Detectives at PRNA  
from 8:30 AM - 12:00**

How do you read the signs of nature? What clues do plants and animals leave us about their lives? Become a nature detective as we try to solve the wildlife mystery using clues left by our resident animals and plants.

Ages: 7 - 11 years  
Cost: \$10 per child

**Tuesday, August 9  
Toddler Camp: In The  
Garden at PRNA at  
2:00 PM**

What is growing in the garden, and what helps it grow? We will examine the soil, insects and more as we study the garden.

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

**Thursday, August 11  
Moth Lighting at PRNA  
at Time TBD**

We will spend the evening learning about the moths of Iowa and drawing them in for observation and identification with light. If you have ever wondered what might be silently floating through the night, this night is for you.

**Saturday, August 20  
Fall Canoe Float  
at 9 AM**

The Wapello and Mahaska CCB's will be joining up again this fall for a 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. 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.

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

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



# October

## **Sat., October 8 AGHC Volunteer Appreciation Potluck at AGHC at 5:00 PM**

The 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 by e-mail or phone, and bring a dish to share.  
Ages: All

## **Friday & Saturday October 14 & 15 Halloween Hikes at PRNA from 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

It is back for another year. In fact, it is our 25th year of Halloween Hikes!! We would like to have the best 8 characters from the past 25 years. Our volunteers have narrowed down your choices. Voting will be available this summer on our facebook page so check it out to put in your vote.  
Ages: All

## **Saturday, October 29 at AGHC from 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 (young children should be accompanied by an adult)  
Cost: FREE

## **Sat., September 17 Apple Pie Contest at PRNA at Time TBD**

The apples have grown well in our garden, and they will be ready for us to pick and put to use. All you will need to do is pick and use apples from our garden, and make the best pie you can. Apple supplies are limited so register early. Look for more information this summer.  
Ages: All

# November

## **Saturday, November 5 Natural Dyes at PRNA at Time 9:00 AM**

Learn how to make and use simple homemade dyes from natural products you can find anywhere  
Ages: All

# December

## **Saturday, DECEMBER 3 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

## **Sat., December 17 Christmas Bird Count All Day**

This count is very important in monitoring the population and range changes in birds throughout the world. We have a 15 mile diameter count circle we survey each year. We need many volunteers to ensure we cover as much of this area as possible. We need you!! Mark this date on your calendar, and plan to join us for other birding activities throughout the year to keep your identification skills fresh.  
Ages: All

# Other Events Throughout the Year

## **Get Dirty With Wapello County Conservation Series**

The Wapello County Conservation Board is inviting all interested parties to get dirty this year. We will be hosting a series of workshops and work days this year to help you better understand how to care for the land around you. Topics might include native plant production, controlled burns, and invasive species control. Use the techniques you learn at home.

## **Campground Cinema**

The Wapello CCB will host a few movie nights for those staying in the campground and cabins as well as the public.

## JANUARY

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## FEBRUARY

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## MARCH

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## APRIL

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## JUNE

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## January

22 - Owl Prowl

## February

5 - Brushes and Brews

6 - Beekeeping Clinic

12 & 13 - Toddler Adventure

13 - Wood's Birthday Soup Supper

13 - Exhibit Opening

## March

12 - Butterfly Survey Workshop

18 & 19 - Toddler Adventure

19 - Print Making Workshop

26 - Easter Egg Roll

## April

2 - Birdhouse Workshop

8 & 9 - Toddler Adventure

9 - Tour AGH

22 - Earth Day

30 - Prairie Rebel

## May

7 - Wildflower Hike

14 - Tour AGH

20 - Frog Stomp

## June

4 - Youth Field Day

7 - Toddler Camp

11 - American Gothic 5K Walk / Run

11 - Tour AGH

11 - 13 - AGHC Art Contest

24 - Bats of Iowa

June, July and August Dates TBD - Campground Cinema

## July

5 - Toddler Camp

6-7 - Nature Chefs

9 - Tour AGH

11-15 - Project Aware

18-21 - Creepy Crawlies

25-28 - Outdoor Encounters

## August

1-4 - Outdoor Encounters

8-11 - Nature Detectives

9 - Toddler Camp

11 - Moth Night

13 - Tour AGH

20 - Fall Canoe Float

## September

10 - Tour AGH

15 - Photo Contest Submission Deadline

TBD - Monarchs

## October

8 - Volunteer Potluck

14-15 - Halloween Hikes

29 - Children's Gothic Halloween Party

TBD - Apple Pie Contest

## November

5 - Natural Dyes

## December

3 - Gingerbread Houses

17 - CBC

31 - Winter Camp

## JULY

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## AUGUST

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## OCTOBER

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## DECEMBER

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## HOLIDAYS

WCCB Event

AGHC Event

WCCB Board Meeting

AGHC Board Meeting

# 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: 6:00 AM - 10:30 PM

## Front Cover Photos

Clockwise: Leaf With Frost; Horned Lark; Horse Thief  
Cave at Garrison Rock Wildlife Area; Hognose Snake

## Inside Photos (front to back)

Pollinating Bee, Silver-spotted skipper, frog at pond  
edge, Lunar eclipse, muskrat tunnel, moth, prickly  
pear cactus bloom, tagged monarch, cardinal

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