

Looking Out the Back Door...

"To initiate awareness and foster stewardship of nature's rewards."

A publication of the Sac County Conservation Board

Spring 2016



Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Newsletter Line Up

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Turtle Display Moves On



We enjoyed hosting the traveling display Turtles: Secrets of the Shell! If you missed seeing it, the display is now at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center in Sioux City, IA.

An American Robin's Dilemma

A robin sighting is something that for many is a sure sign of spring. However, there are times when one or more are sighted during the cold, snowy, blustery days of winter in Iowa. This raises some questions from people and it seems this year there have been more sightings than in the past. To understand why this might occur we need to look at what robins eat and the reason they migrate.

Let's take a look at an American Robin likes to eat: earthworms, seeds, fruits, and insects. Most of these food sources are dependent on warmer weather conditions that in Iowa we have most of the year, but not when the snow starts to fly.

The act of migration for animals is a seasonal movement from one area to another. In most animals this is from a summer breeding ground to a winter feeding ground, which means the animal is moving for food! Migration is very risky business as the animal is using a lot of energy to travel to a new place and may encounter dangerous situations or could die along the way.

If a robin has found a place with a place to roost and fruit to eat, it may decide to wait out the winter. Robins will also fluff up their feathers to capture body heat. In the winter it is less likely to see a robin because they will be up in trees instead of down on the grass looking for food, but it is possible!

The robin can still provide a sure sign of spring; one that is heard and not seen. An American Robin will sing once it has arrived at its breeding territory.

Keep your ears open as spring is on the way!





Eyes to the Skies!

March 2016

7- Jupiter at Opposition

[Visible all night, brightest planet is all year]

9- New Moon

20- Vernal Equinox

[The first day of spring! The sun will shine on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world.]

23- Full Moon

[Worm or Sugar/Sap Moon]

April 2016

7- New Moon

18- Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation

[Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.]

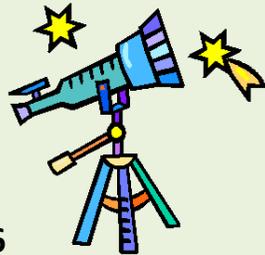
22- Full Moon

[Sprouting Grass Moon]

16-25- Lyrids Meteor Shower

[Best viewing after midnight.]

May 2016



6- New Moon

6-7- Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower

[30 meteors/hour after midnight]

9- Rare Transit of Mercury Across the Sun

[The planet will move directly between Earth and the sun. Extremely rare event, next one is 2019 and then again in 2039]

14- International Astronomy Day!

21- Full Moon, Blue Moon

[Flower Moon, Blue Moon occurs when there are 4 Full Moons during a season. This happens about once every 3 years, coining the phrase "once in a blue moon". Seasons typically have 3 Full Moons.]

22- Mars at Opposition

[Visible all night, brightest planet is all year]



Come to a STARLAB program in April to learn more about the night sky!

Fact Files!

Red Fox

(Vulpes vulpes)



- A member of the Canine (dog) family.
- 12 fox species throughout the world.
- Year round resident in Iowa.
- Have multiple scent glands to mark territories.
- Have underground dens to raise babies.
- Babies are called kits.
- Omnivorous diet including birds, mammals, berries and insects.
- Females are called Vixens.

Have an idea for a future file? Email me at scbnat@frontiernet.net and it could be next!

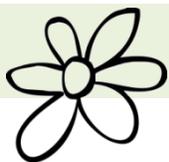
Thank You!

Tim Huser for use of enclosed trailer to transport turtle display.

Fish Iowa! Program for ice fishing clinic door prizes.

The Participants of the Christmas Bird Count for citizen science data.

Ice Fishing Clinic helpers: Steph Erpelding, Ben Wallace, Matt Mork & Mike Cook.



SCCB Upcoming Events



*Programs held at Hagge Park unless otherwise noted.

*Find us on Facebook for the most up to date information.

* To register for a program, email sccbnat@frontiernet.net or call 712-662-4530.

*Events may be cancelled if there are extreme weather conditions or if the minimum number of registered participants is not met.

MARCH 2016

Wednesday the 16th Knee High Naturalists- Baby Animals-9:30-10:15am or 4:00-4:45pm

Knee High Naturalists are children ages 2-4 and have an accompanying adult attend the program. This month we will be focusing on baby animals. In this program children and adults alike will participate in crafts, activities (may be outside), a story and a snack. Space is limited so reserve your spot today! There are two identical sessions this day.

Saturday the 19th DNR Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program Training-1:00-4:30 PM

In cooperation with the Iowa DNR a nest monitoring training workshop will be held at Hagge Park. Registration is through the DNR website at <http://www.iowadnr.com/volunteerwildlifemonitoring/>

Monday the 21st Summer Camp Registration Opening Day-10:00 AM

It may seem that warm days of summer vacation are far away, but they are creeping up quite quickly! See page 7 for registration details and page 8 for camp descriptions.

APRIL 2016



Wednesday the 20th Knee High Naturalists- April Showers-9:30-10:15am or 4:00-4:45pm

Knee High Naturalists are children ages 2-4 and have an accompanying adult attend the program. This month we will be focusing on rain and weather in spring. In this program children and adults alike will participate in crafts, activities (may be outside), a story and a snack. Space is limited so reserve your spot today! There are two identical sessions this day.

Friday the 22nd 6:00-8:00 PM & Saturday the 23rd 9:00-11:00 AM STARLAB Programs-

What better way to celebrate Earth Day than by exploring the planet from space? Join Megan at the Sac Community Center for a tour of the solar system inside the blow up planetarium. Programs in the dome are limited to 25 people; pre-registration is encouraged but empty slots will be filled at the time of presentations as well. Register for a slot today!

Tuesday the 26th Summer Camp Registration @ ESC Sac City Elementary Building (Lunch Room)-3:15-5:30 PM

Get all the kiddos signed up for nature camps, ISU Extension camps, and select DNR camps all at once!



MAY 2016

Monday the 9th Summer Camp Registration @ Schaller Elementary Extravaganza-6:30-8:00 PM

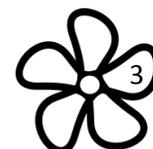
Get all the kiddos signed up for nature camps, ISU Extension camps, and select DNR camps all at once!

Sunday the 15th Nature's Kitchen- 1:00-4:00pm

Want to know how to identify wild edibles? Ever wanted to make a meal from plants found in your backyard? In this free, public program we will explore wild edibles of Sac County. There will be an ID session, hike, cooking, and of course a sampling portion of the program. Space is limited so make a reservation today.

Wednesday the 25th Knee High Naturalists- May Flowers-9:30-10:15am or 4:00-4:45pm

Knee High Naturalists are children ages 2-4 and have an accompanying adult attend the program. This month we will be focusing on wild edibles and spring plants. In this program children and adults alike will participate in crafts, activities (may be outside), a story and a snack. Space is limited so reserve your spot today! There are two identical sessions this day.



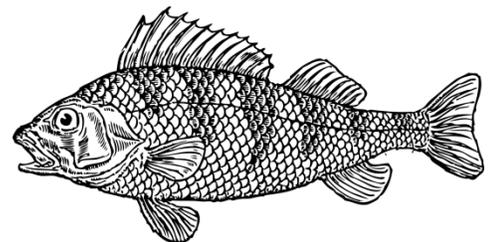
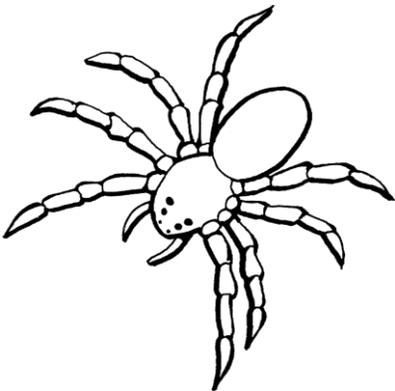
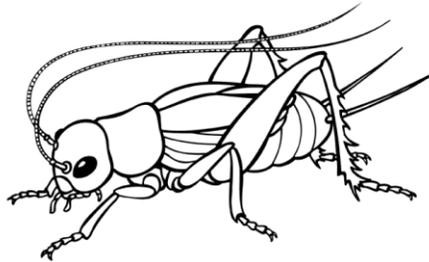
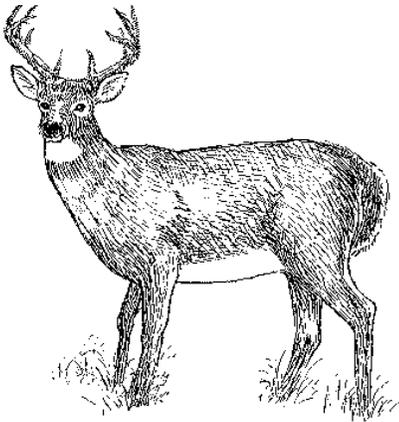
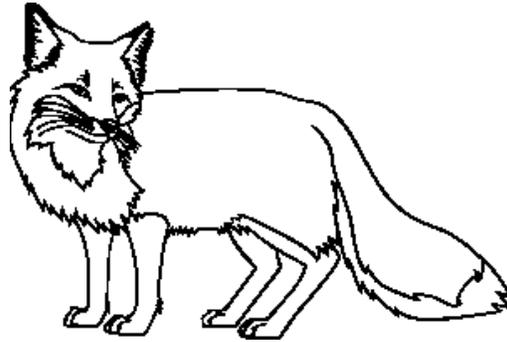
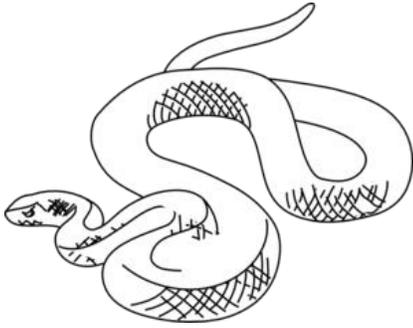
Kid's Korner

Oviparous Animals

What is oviparous?

This is the science term for animals that are hatched from eggs to be born.

Draw eggs around the animals below that you think are oviparous and check page 9 to see if you are right!



Nature News

Winter Program Review

Knee High Naturalist Programs

Monthly 45 min programs for 2-4 year olds and an attending adult.

December: Turtles



January: "The Mitten"



February: Snow & Ice



Winter Camp 2015

Day Camps for various ages during winter break.



Minnesota Avian Adventure

Bus trip to Minnesota to see birds and winter scenery.



Ice Fishing Clinic

We learned some ice fishing safety tips and then went to catch some fish!



School Programs

Archery, team building, snow and more were topics for classroom visits and field trips to the park this winter.



Full Moon Night Trek

A lighted night trek with hot cocoa and games inside.



Sac County Conservation Summer Events Preview

Library Visits

Come to your local library to learn about wilderness survival and participate in team building challenges!

Auburn Public Library- 6/1/2016 @ 1:00 PM

Schaller Public Library – 6/3/2016 @ 9:30 AM

Lytton Public Library – 6/3/2016 @ 2:00 PM

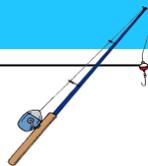
Wall Lake Public Library- 6/13/2016 @ 1:00 PM

Lake View Public Library- 6/13/2016 @ 3:30 PM

Sac City Public Library- 6/17/2016 @ 2:00 PM



Fishing Clinic



June 4th, 2015
9:00 am -12:00 pm

Come kick off summer and celebrate Iowa Free Fishing Weekend with the Sac County Conservation Board and the Sac County Iowa State University Extension Office!

Learn fish ID, casting, water safety, win a door prize and more. Stay tuned for registration information.

Due to free fishing weekend adults attending do not need a fishing license to participate

WILD WEDNESDAYS 7:00-8:00 PM

SURVIVOR: SAC COUNTY

Do you have what it takes to become the sole survivor?

In these free, family oriented programs at Hagge Park participants will learn about the topic and participate in related activities.

June
8th – Building Shelter
15th -Animal Tracking
22nd - Water Power
29th – Messy Mud

July
6th - Wild Edibles
13th - Nature Puzzles
20th - Team Building

Nature Camp Registration!

This year there will be several ways to sign up for summer nature camps! As in the past registration will open in late March and forms will be available at the Conservation Building in Hagge Park.

Additionally this year along with the Sac County ISU Extension Office there will be sign up nights available for onsite registration.

Camp descriptions and information are on PAGE 7.

OPENING DAY- Hagge Park

3/21/2016 @ 10:00 AM

ESC Sac City Elementary Sign Up Night

4/26/2016 @ 3:15-5:30 PM

Schaller Elementary Extravaganza

5/9/2016 @ 6:30-8:00 PM

NATURE CAMPS

Registration Information

- All camps are held at Hagge Park, south of Sac City unless otherwise noted.
- Camps will fill on a first come, first serve basis. There will be wait lists available.

How to register:

Fill out a registration form, permission slip, and pay registration fees (*covers supplies, snacks, and t-shirt*). Forms are available at the Sac County Conservation Building in Hagge Park, registration nights, and by calling the office.

Registration will open on 3/21/2016 at 10 am.

No early registrations will be accepted.

Costs:

- 2-4 year old camps: \$15*
- 5-7 year old camps: \$30
- 8-10 year old camps: \$40
- 11-14 year old camp: \$50

Contact us if you have additional questions.

Office Phone: 712-662-4530

Email: sccbnat@frontiernet.net

If calling to register please have the following information ready: child's full name, mailing address, phone number, and T-shirt size. You will then have a 2 week window to return forms and payments to confirm child's spot on the list.

Ages 5-7

9:00-11:30am OR 1:00-3:30pm

June 7-9: Nature Explorers

June 14-16: Rockin' Reptiles

June 21-23: Watery Wonders

(Camper may attend up to 2 sessions)

Ages 8-10

10:00am-2:00pm*

June 28-30: Habitat Camp

July 12-14: Jr. Naturalist

Ages 11-14

10:00am-3:00pm*

July 19-22: Survivor Camp (Overnight the 21st)

* Indicates camper brings sack lunch.

NEW FOR 2016!

Knee High Naturalist Day Camps

Day camps for children 2-4 years old and an attending adult. Registration costs cover the supplies for one child (2-5 years old) and one adult (18 years and up). *Extra children ages 2-5 are \$5, and younger siblings are welcome but hiking adventures are not stroller friendly. Adults must be able to supervise all participants if bringing additional children.

Participants will read a story, enjoy a snack, make a craft, participate in topic related activities, and create matching T-Shirts each session. May attend one or all sessions depending on availability.

All sessions run 9:30-11:30 AM

July 6th – All About Birds

July 7th – Tall Tall Grass

July 8th – Watery Wonders



Summer Nature Camp Descriptions

5-7 Year Old Camps

Limit 10 per session

Nature Explorers

We will explore the plants, animals, and habitats of land, water, and sky!

Rockin' Reptiles

This camp will focus on our scaly animal friends including snakes, turtles, lizards and more!

Watery Wonders

Come discover how amazing water can be. This camp will have lots of real water on hand so be ready to splash around!



8-10 Year Old Camps

Limit 10 per session



Habitat Camp

Where does an animal call home? In this camp we will explore different habitats of the prairie, forest, and water. There will be a canoe trip on the last day to explore the water habitat.

Jr. Naturalist-Predator/Prey

Staying alive on any level of the food chain is no easy task. Campers will learn what it takes to be the hunter and the hunted in the animal world. Archery will be a part of this camp.

11-14 Year Old Camps

Limit 12

Survivor: Sac County



Do you have what it takes to be the Sole Survivor? Much like the television show this camp will combine survival, problem solving, and teamwork skills to complete tasks. These skills will be learned and practiced during the first part of camp and utilized during an overnight camping trip. The overnight trip will be done in cooperation with the Sac County ISU Extension office and location is TBD.



Knee High Naturalist Camps

Limit 20 pairs per session

All About Birds

Birds come in all shapes and sizes; come learn what they can do and how to look for them!

Tall Tall Grass

The prairie is full of life and tall grass! We will see what lives here and how we measure up to the habitat.

Watery Wonders

Come discover how amazing water can be. This camp will have lots of real water on hand so get ready to splash around!



Events At A Glance

Date	Time	Event
<u>March 2016</u>		
Saturday the 12 th	3:30-5:30 PM	ESC PTO Mother/Son Event
Wednesday the 16 th	9:30 AM or 4:00 PM	KHN: Baby Animals
Friday the 18 th	5:00 PM	PF Banquet in Early
Saturday the 19 th	1:00-4:30 PM	DNR VWMP Training
Monday the 21 st	10:00 AM	Camp Registration OPEN
<u>April 2016</u>		
Wednesday the 20 th	9:30 AM or 4:00 PM	KHN: April Showers
Friday the 22 nd	6:00-8:00 PM	STARLAB @ Rec Center
Saturday the 23 rd	9:00-11:00 AM	STARLAB @ Rec Center
Tuesday the 26 th	3:15-5:30 PM	ESC Sac City Elem. Camp Registration Night
<u>May 2016</u>		
Monday the 9 th	6:30-8:00 PM	Schaller Elem. Registration
Sunday the 15 th	1:00-4:00 PM	Nature's Kitchen
Wednesday the 25 th	9:30 AM or 4:00 PM	KHN: May Flowers

Sac County Conservation Board

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Elizabeth Partridge
Blessingotn, Auburn

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Kenny Bentsen, Sac City

Member

Dean Stock, Lake View

Member

Andy Meredith, Lake View

Staff

Executive Director

Chris Bass

Secretary

Sandi Huster

Naturalist

Megan Cook

Meetings

Regular board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Sac County Conservation Center. These meetings are open to the public.

Contact Information

Hagge Park Office

(712) 662-4530

Email: saccocon@frontiernet.net

The Sac County Conservation Board in the provisions of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Sac County Conservation Board Office of the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240

Oviparous Animal Answer Key

