



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 10

- 2:30 – 5:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions – *Nishna Bend Park*
 - *Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic* – Nate Hoogeveen (Iowa DNR)
 - *Project WET Festival* – Rebecca Kauten and Kathy Scholl (Iowa Project WET/UNI Outdoor Recreation Studies Program)
 - *Erosion Demonstration Trailer* – Maria Sieck (East Pottawattamie SWCD) and John Thomas (Hungry Canyons Alliance)

Sunday, July 11

- *Afternoon Campground Program* – Bison/Elk – Jon Fenner (Pottawattamie County Conservation Board)
- 7:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions – *Botna Bend Park*
 - *Birds of Prey* – Christina Roelofs (Shelby and Audubon County Conservation Boards)
 - *Geology of the Nishnabotna River Watershed* – John Thomas (Hungry Canyons Alliance)

Monday, July 12

- 6:30 am – Morning campground program – Bird Watching Hike – Regina Wasson (Pottawattamie County Conservation Board)
- 7:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions – *Cold Springs Park*
 - *Loess Hills Recreation Plan and Scenic Byways* – Liz Leddy and Shirley Frederiksen (Golden Hills RC&D)
 - *The History and Impact of River and Stream Modification in Iowa* – Matt Dollison (Iowa DNR)

Tuesday, July 13

- 8:15 am – Field trip to Frank Chapman Pellett Memorial Woods (Pellett Woods State Preserve) – John Pearson (Iowa DNR) and Lora Schwendinger (Cass County Conservation Board)
- *On-river program* – Schildberg Recreation Area – Lora Schwendinger (Cass County Conservation Board)
- *On-river program* – Nishnabotna Ferry House (Cass County Mormon Trails Association)
- *Afternoon Campground Program* – Wildflower-watching, lichen-looking, and insect-inspecting in parks, preserves, and peaceful places - Cold Springs Park – John Pearson (Iowa DNR)
- *Afternoon Campground Program* – Southwest Iowa Fisheries Resources and Management - Cold Springs Park – Bryan Hayes and Chris Larson (Iowa DNR Fisheries)
- 6:45 – 8:30 pm – Hitchcock House Tours
- 7:00 – 8:30 pm – Music on the Lawn at Hitchcock County Park (Mr. Baber's Neighbors: The Solar String Band)

Wednesday, July 14

- *On-river program* – Nishna Rock Cuts and Cold Springs Park – Lora Schwendinger (Cass County Conservation Board)
- *On-river program* – East Nishnabotna Bald Eagle Nests – Micah Lee (Cass County Conservation Board)



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 7:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions – *Pilot Grove County Park, Elliott*
 - Water Trail Roundtable – Coordinated by Nate Hoogeveen (Iowa DNR)
 - Southwest Iowa Food & Farm Initiative (SWIFFI) – Bahia Barry (SWIFFI Local Food Coordinator, Golden Hills RC&D)

Thursday, July 15

- *Afternoon/Evening Campground Program* – Wildflower-watching, lichen-looking, and insect-inspecting in parks, preserves, and peaceful places - Anderson Conservation Area – John Pearson (Iowa DNR)
- 7:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions – *Anderson Conservation Area, Red Oak*
 - Fly Fishing and Fly Tying – Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association (Keith Wunder, Craig Evans, Dale Sanders, Ryan Maas, and Mike Schrader) and Deb Karwal (Montgomery County Conservation Board)
 - George Drouillard: Hunter, Interpreter, and Indian Sign-Talker for Lewis and Clark – Darrel Draper (Historical Edutainer) – brought to you by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities

Friday, July 16

- 7:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions – *Porter's Lake Lutheran Center*
 - Friday Night Fire Up! – David Williamson (Collaborative Artist, Project AWARE)
 - Iowa DNR Financial & Business Assistance Education Trailer



PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



Saturday, July 10

Program Title: *Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic*

Program Description: Can't keep that canoe straight? Worried about the rapids, dams, and other hazards on this year's Project AWARE route? This 2-hour primer is for you! We'll focus on simple boat control techniques, hazard identification, and learning to "read the river" in order to stay upright while finding that trash.

Presenter: Nate Hoogeveen (Iowa DNR, River Programs Coordinator)

Bio: Nate Hoogeveen, River Programs Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is an American Canoe Association certified instructor. He coordinates the Protected Water Areas, Water Trails, and low-head dam safety programs for the Iowa DNR.

Program Title: *Project WET Festival*

Program Description: Make your way through a number of educational activities about water. Activities are based on Project WET, or Water Education for Teachers, an international program helping kids of all ages learn about water, water quality and our role in the world around us.

Presenter: Rebecca Kauten and Kathy Scholl (Iowa Project WET/UNI Outdoor Recreation Studies Program)

Bio: Rebecca Kauten is a program assistant with the R2S program (Recreation Research and Service) at the University of Northern Iowa through a partnership with the Iowa DNR. Dr. Kathleen Scholl is faculty at UNI where she teaches outdoor recreation courses.

Program Title: *Erosion Demonstration Trailer*

Program Description: The Erosion Demonstration Trailer shows erosion processes through short, easy demonstrations in two units. A Rainfall Simulator demonstrates how different types of soil cover can protect soil from erosion and reduce the amount of sediment in runoff. A Stream Table shows riverine processes and channel evolution on an accelerated time scale – showing why streams move and how they can be stabilized to protect water quality.

Presenter: Maria Sieck (East Pottawattamie Soil & Water Conservation District) and John Thomas (Hungry Canyons Alliance)

Bio: Maria is the Resource Planner for Pottawattamie County in the East Pottawattamie Soil & Water Conservation District. She provides conservation education and conservation practice planning and implementation assistance, promoting and ensuring the sustainability of our natural resources. John has been the Hungry Canyons Alliance project director since October 2000. He received a BA in Geology & Environmental Studies from Cornell College in 1998, a masters degree in Geology & Water Resources from Iowa State University in 2003, and a masters degree in Civil Engineering (Hydraulics) from the University of Iowa in 2009.

Sunday, July 11

Program Title: *Birds of Prey*

Program Description: This program will feature three live birds of prey – an Eastern Screech Owl, a Red-tailed Hawk, and a Bald Eagle. Learn about the biology/characteristics of these raptors and why they are in captivity.

Presenter: Christina Roelofs (Shelby and Audubon County Conservation Boards)



PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



Bio: Christina has been the Naturalist for the Shelby and Audubon County Conservation Boards for almost nine years. She graduated from Northwestern College in Orange City, IA, with a degree in Environmental Science.

Program Title: *Geology of the Nishnabotna River Watershed*

Program Description: The entire Nishnabotna watershed lies in the Deep Loess Region of western Iowa, meaning it is covered by a thick mantle of highly erosive loess soil. Land use change and channelization of the wide, shallow, meandering Nishnabotna Rivers, coupled with the erosive loess soils, caused the rivers to become unstable and downcut and widen. This instability progressed upstream, and is still causing excessive erosion in the upper parts of the watershed, sending sediment downstream; in the mid- to lower-river reaches, the pendulum of channel instability has now swung the other way, as this sediment from upstream is being deposited faster than it is removed.

Presenter: John Thomas (Hungry Canyons Alliance)

Bio: John has been the Hungry Canyons Alliance project director since October 2000. He received a BA in Geology & Environmental Studies from Cornell College in 1998, a masters degree in Geology & Water Resources from Iowa State University in 2003, and a masters degree in Civil Engineering (Hydraulics) from the University of Iowa in 2009.

Monday, July 12

Program Title: *Bird Watching Hike*

Program Description: We will take a low intensity hike around Botna Bend Park, looking for birds. We may catch a glimpse of nesting birds along the river and end near the maple trees at the lodge.

Presenter: Regina Wasson (Pottawattamie County Conservation Board)

Bio: Regina Wasson has been an educator with Pottawattamie County Conservation Board for 2 years. She received her Wildlife and Fisheries Biology degree from Kansas State University. She has lived in New Zealand and Thailand, but returned to continue her career in Environmental Education.

Program Title: *The History and Impact of River and Stream Modification in Iowa.*

Program Description: A discussion on how hydrology has been modified in Iowa since European settlement and what the impacts of this are.

Presenter: Matt Dollison (Iowa DNR, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist)

Bio: Matt obtained a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2001. He has worked as a private lands wildlife biologist for the Iowa DNR covering southwest Iowa for the past four years, and did the same job in Kentucky and Nebraska for four years prior to moving to Iowa.

Program Title: *Loess Hills Recreation Plan and Scenic Byways*

Program Description: This will be an overview of the Loess Hills Recreation Plan, which studied existing and future recreation opportunities in the Loess Hills and how to attract a greater number of visitors to the region. There will also be an overview of the scenic byways found in western Iowa, which offer travelers an opportunity to explore Iowa's archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic resources.

Presenters: Liz Leddy and Shirley Frederiksen



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Bio: Shirley Frederiksen is the Coordinator for Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development.
Liz Leddy is the Project Manager for the Western Skies Scenic Byway.

Tuesday, July 13

Program Title: *Field trip to Frank Chapman Pellett Memorial Woods (Pellett Woods State Preserve)*

Program Description: We will go looking for what we can find in the way of plants, lichens, and insects in Pellett Woods Preserve. If you have them, bring your binoculars, hand lens, and cameras, but most of all bring your curiosity about the natural world.

Presenters: John Pearson (Iowa DNR) and Lora Schwendinger (Cass CCB)

Bio: John is a DNR botanist and ecologist with interests in plants, lichens, and insects.

Bio: Lora graduated from Kirkwood Community College and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and began duties with the Cass County Conservation Board as a Naturalist in October 2007. Naturalists provide environmental education programs to citizens of their county.

Program Title: *Schildberg Recreation Area*

Program Description: Learn the history of the area and the management techniques of the Schildberg Recreation Area. Find out all the activities you can enjoy around the five lakes.

Presenter: Lora Schwendinger (Cass County Conservation Board)

Bio: Lora graduated from Kirkwood Community College and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and began duties with the Cass County Conservation Board as a Naturalist in October 2007. Naturalists provide environmental education programs to citizens of their county.

Program Title: *Nishnabotna Ferry House*

Program Description: The Nishnabotna Ferry House, located on the northwest edge of Lewis, Iowa, is on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Samuel H. Tefft, ferry keeper, and his family lived here. In the late 1920s, the East Nishnabotna River was straightened and moved several hundred feet west. Thus, this home is no longer on the river bank. This ferry keeper's home witnessed thousands of pioneers going west and the Underground Railroad going east to freedom in Canada. It was the "I-80 of the 1850s." The Nishnabotna Ferry House is being preserved by the Cass County Mormon Trails Association (owner). When finished, the site will interpret the many trails that passed directly in front of the house-- the stage coach, the Mormon Handcart Companies of 1856-57, immigrants going west to Colorado and California for silver and gold, to Oregon for land, and the great westward migration in general.

(Modified from <http://www.lewisiowa.com/ferry.html>)

Presenter: Cass County Mormon Trails Association

Program Title: *Wildflower-watching, lichen-looking, and insect-inspecting in parks, preserves, and peaceful places – Cold Spring Park*

Program Description: We will go looking for what we can find in the way of plants, lichens, and insects in Cold Springs Park. If you have them, bring your binoculars, hand lens, and cameras, but most of all bring your curiosity about the natural world.

Presenter: John Pearson (Iowa DNR)



PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



Bio: John is a DNR botanist and ecologist with interests in plants, lichens, and insects.

Program Title: *Southwest Iowa Fisheries Resources and Management*

Program Description: River and stream resources in SW Iowa though past channelization. The impacts of this can be seen today as the streams down cut and widen. The topography of SW Iowa lends itself to constructing small ponds and lakes which provide tremendous fishing opportunities for the public.

Presenter: Bryan Hayes and Chris Larson (Iowa DNR Fisheries)

Bio: Bryan is a Fisheries Management Biologist with the DNR for 22 years. Bryan grew up in Atlantic and returned to the area back in 2006. He spent 12 years at Rathbun and 8 years at Manchester, all with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Chris has been the SW Fisheries Management Supervisor with the DNR for 24 years. Chris has also been a Fisheries Technician & Biologist all in SW Iowa. Rivers & streams in SW Iowa offer unique and challenging management opportunities for the department.

Program Title: *Hitchcock House Tours*

Program Description: The home of Reverend George B. Hitchcock in Lewis, Iowa, was a welcome respite for runaway slaves and abolitionists who traveled through the state. A minister of the Congregational Church, Hitchcock was an ardent abolitionist and an agent for the Underground Railroad. Settling in Lewis in the mid-1850s, Hitchcock built a log cabin where he lived until the completion of his stone house around 1856. From this house, Hitchcock carried out his Underground Railroad activities, providing shelter to fugitive slaves on their way northward. In 1865, Hitchcock was called by the Congregationalist Church to work in Missouri, where he was given the opportunity to educate and minister freed blacks. Two years later he moved to Kansas to carry similar duties in that frontier area. An ardent abolitionist virtually his entire adult life, George B. Hitchcock died in 1872 in Kansas. His home in Iowa stands as a testament to his role in the antislavery movement and his involvement in the Underground Railroad. (Modified from <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/underground/ia2.htm>.)

Wednesday, July 14

Program Title: *Nishna Rock Cuts and Cold Springs Park*

Program Description: Explore the rich history of the area, including what really happened to the river here. Discover the changes in the river and of Cold Springs Park

Presenter: Lora Schwendinger (Cass County Conservation)

Bio: Lora graduated from Kirkwood Community College and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and began duties with the Cass County Conservation Board as a Naturalist in October 2007. Naturalists provide environmental education programs to citizens of their county.

Program Title: *East Nishnabotna Bald Eagle Nests*

Program Description: Micah will discuss bald eagles in Iowa and their biology.

Presenter: Micah Lee (Cass County Conservation Board)

Bio: Micah graduated from Simpson College in May of 2001 and then worked for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a temporary employee and Wildlife Technician for 7 years. In July of 2008, Micah took over the position of Executive Director of the Cass County Conservation Board. He is an avid outdoorsman and loves sports.



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Program Title: *Water Trail Roundtable*

Program Description: In June, the first southwest Iowa water trail opens on the West Nishnabotna River in Pottawattamie County, and Project AWARE participants will enjoy the improved access this affords to the river. Are you interested in bringing more water trails nearer you? Learn about the various approaches to local water trail development, and planning tools now available through the Statewide Water Trails Plan. The Iowa DNR Water Trails program will host an informational session and discussion about water trails potential in southwest Iowa. Area community members, natural resources and tourism agency staff, and community and conservation leaders are invited to attend and voice their questions, concerns, or enthusiasm.

Program Title: *Southwest Iowa Food & Farm Initiative (SWIFFI)*

Program Description: The Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative (SWIFFI) is a multi-county coalition of individuals and organizations that are working to build a regional food system in Southwest Iowa. Our vision is to build a sustainable regional food system linking production, processing, distribution, and consumption for better health, food security, and community and economic development.

Presenters: Bahia Barry (Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative Local Food Coordinator, Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development)

Bio: Bahia Barry was hired in March of 2009 as the Local Food Coordinator at Golden Hills RC&D. She facilitates two Board of Supervisor appointed Local Food Policy Councils, one in Pottawattamie County and another in Cass County. She also leads the Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative, which is part of the Regional Food System Working Group at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and a program of Golden Hills RC&D. She has worked in resource conservation and protection with the National Park Service all across the USA for more than ten years and worked in the grocery industry for Whole Foods Market Inc for more than four years. She has experience with food distribution, processing, and organic certification. As a local food coordinator she works to build a stable food system in Southwest Iowa that encourages economic development, increased local food production, better nutrition for consumers, and better pay for farmers. She is an avid gardener with several acres in rural Pottawattamie County.

Thursday, July 15

Program Title: *Wildflower-watching, lichen-looking, and insect-inspecting in parks, preserves, and peaceful places – Anderson Conservation Area*

Program Description: We will go looking for what we can find in the way of plants, lichens, and insects in Anderson Conservation Area. If you have them, bring your binoculars, hand lens, and cameras, but most of all bring your curiosity about the natural world.

Presenter: John Pearson (Iowa DNR)

Bio: John is a DNR botanist and ecologist with interests in plants, lichens, and insects.

Program Title: *George Drouillard: Hunter, Interpreter, and Indian Sign-Talker for Lewis and Clark*

Program Description: George Drouillard (1774-1810), half French and half Shawnee Indian, was one of the most valuable members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Whenever the two Captains needed someone who could shoot straight, talk to Indians who had never seen white men before, provide the 400 lbs. of game needed each day, bring back a deserter, or stand his ground in the face of a wounded



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and raging grizzly bear...they almost always chose this amazing frontiersman. Adapted from the James Alexander Thom novel, *Sign-Talker*, this 45-minute presentation, in full costume and French accent, gives the audience a taste of Shawnee culture and spiritualism as you join Drouillard in the excitement of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Presenter: Darrel Draper (Historical Edutainer) – brought to you by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities

Bio: Darrel Draper was born in Auburn, Nebraska, a fifth generation descendent of Nebraska Territorial pioneers. His unique military career spanned over thirty years as a commissioned officer in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy. During his career, he was awarded over twenty-one personal and unit campaign decorations, including the Bronze Star and Defense Meritorious Service Medal for onshore and offshore combat service in Vietnam, Lebanon, Liberia, and the Persian Gulf. He retired in 1997 from the United States Strategic Command as a Navy Lieutenant Commander. For over twelve years, he has been using his talents as storyteller and actor to educate and entertain. He has personally retraced thousands of miles of the Lewis and Clark Trail by canoe and on foot, and he is considered an expert on the history of the expedition. His George Drouillard reenactment has received standing ovations from coast to coast. Darrel is a 1979 graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and presently lives near the campus with his wife, JoAnne.

Program Title: *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying*

Program Description: Our program informs the audience about the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association and what we do. We try to take away the mystique and simplify fly fishing and fly tying to a sport anyone can enjoy. Equipment needs will be discussed as well as demonstrating and instructing fly casting and fly tying.

Presenters: Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association (Keith Wunder, Craig Evans, Dale Sanders, Ryan Maas, and Mike Schrader) and Deb Karwal (Montgomery County Conservation Board)

Bio: Keith, Craig, Dale, Ryan and Mike are members of Central Iowa Fly Fishers which is part of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association. Their common interest is that they enjoy fly fishing and fly tying.

Bio: Deb has been the Montgomery County Naturalist for the last 14 years. She spends most of her time in the schools and with groups on field trips. She visits every class room in the county five times a year which keeps her very busy. Deb also teaches Fish Iowa and Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs and Hunter Education. Her programs are varied from a yearly Oregon Trail Reenactment to Conservation Day and Agriculture in the Classroom day along with many environmental programs. Deb is always happy to help people enjoy being outside in any way that she can.

Friday, July 16

Program Title: *Friday Night Fire Up!*

Program Description: For the past 7 years, David has been the collaborating artist for Project AWARE, assisting Project AWARE participants and fairgoers at the Iowa State Fair in transforming Project AWARE trash into sculptures which tell our story. Join David for an evening of sharing your thoughts in words and music as we create new Project AWARE songs celebrating Iowa's rivers. Then, at the conclusion of the songwriting workshop, David will fire up his portable furnace so that Project AWARE volunteers can recycle some of the aluminum collected during the week. The ingots will be used to create castings for the new sculpture built from our Nishnabotna River cleanup.

Presenter: David Williamson, Collaborating Artist, Project AWARE



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Bio: David is an artist who works in a handmade house and studio in central Iowa. As a sculptor and poet, his images celebrate life in the Midwest. He travels nationally as a creativity consultant to businesses, professional associations, and government agencies.

Program Title: *Iowa DNR Financial & Business Assistance Education Trailer*

Program Description: The DNR presents an exciting way to learn about energy and waste topics - a mobile education trailer! The "Smart Choices. Clean Future. Better Iowa." trailer, is an all-inclusive experience that includes informative displays, interactive kiosks, educational videos and more. The trailer is equipped with touch screen computers with games and flat screen TVs and DVDs. The trailer showcases Energy Alternatives, Household Hazardous Wastes, Recycling, Illegal Dumping, and Composting. Visit the trailer to learn more about what you can do in your own home and what opportunities exist in your local area.