

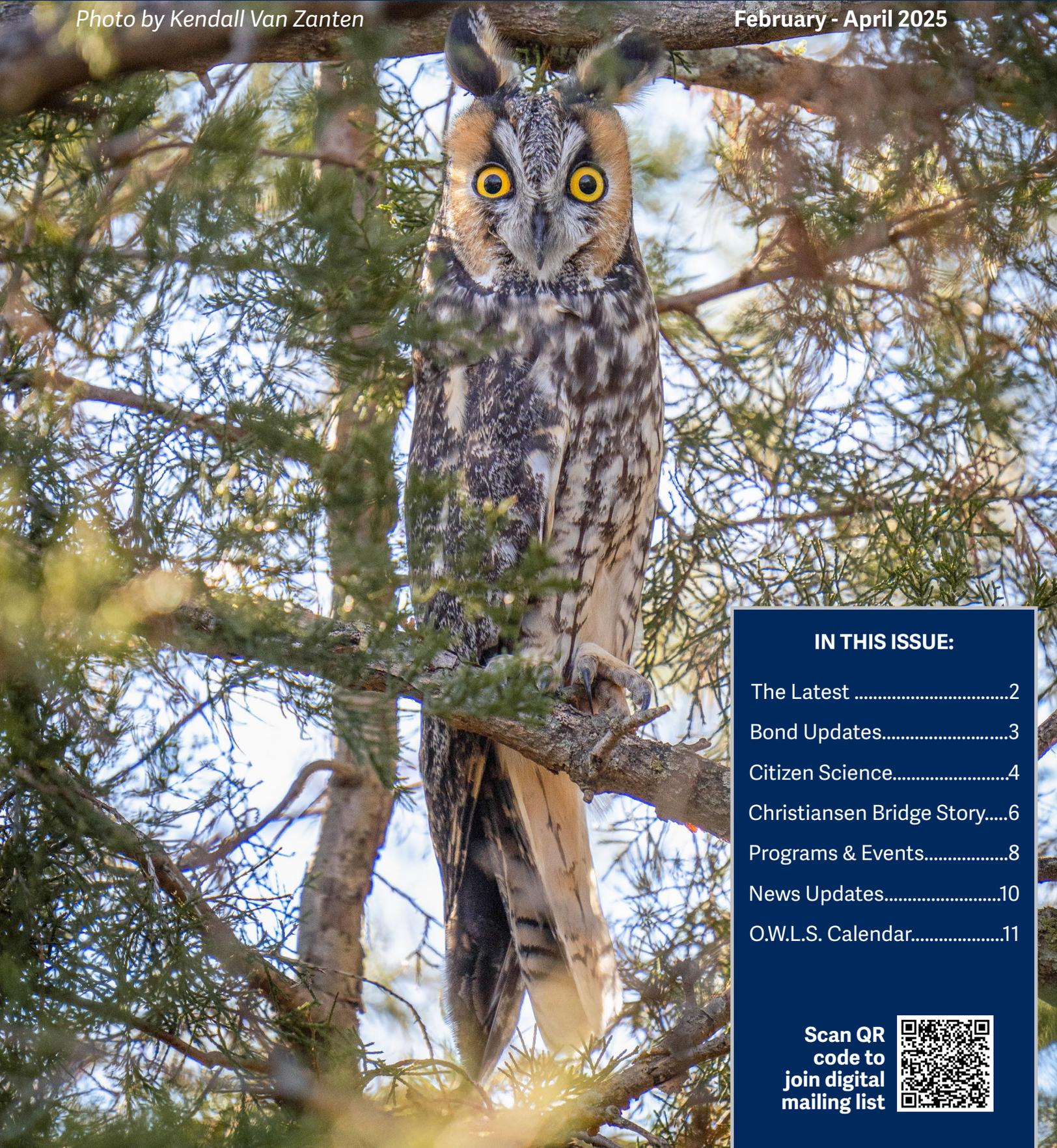


PRAIRIE HORIZONS

STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION | NATURE PROGRAMS AND NEWS

Photo by Kendall Van Zanten

February - April 2025



IN THIS ISSUE:

The Latest	2
Bond Updates.....	3
Citizen Science.....	4
Christiansen Bridge Story....	6
Programs & Events.....	8
News Updates.....	10
O.W.L.S. Calendar.....	11

Scan QR code to join digital mailing list



THE LATEST

Timely and brief updates on ongoing projects



IRVM Welcomes Nathan Schmitt

SCC welcomes Nathan Schmitt to the team as Vegetation Management Specialist. He recently graduated from ISU with an Animal Ecology degree.

"I am originally from a small town in northeast Iowa, Winthrop. It is here that I learned how to hunt and fish with my dad. From pheasant and deer hunting in the fall and winter, turkey hunting in the spring, and fishing during the summer, there was always something for me to do year-round. I soon started to develop a philosophy, if I was able to have so many opportunities and experiences in my youth, then so should others. That is when I knew I wanted to work in natural resources, so that I can help maintain the land for others to have the same experiences that I had growing up.

"Outside of work you can find me continuing to hunt and fish, I also like to golf and watch the Cyclones."

WHAT PROGRAMS DO YOU WANT TO SEE?

Take our quick survey to help our naturalists gauge public interest on program and event topics. Scan QR code or visit www.bit.ly/sccprogramsurvey online



ON THE COVER: Long-eared owl

Named for their long ear tufts, these actually do not mark the ears at all - ears are located along the crested line of feathers on the bird's face! This animal is classified as threatened in Iowa, likely due to historical habitat loss.

Thank you to Kendall Van Zanten for the submitted photo!



BECOME A CONSERVATION PARTNER TODAY!

Scan to contribute to *Partners* or donate to ongoing projects. OR visit www.bit.ly/sccdonaions



Wildlife Habitat Improvement Award for Story County



Story County recently earned 3rd place in the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Award 2024, presented by the Izaak Walton League of America. This award highlights exceptional efforts to enhance local wildlife habitats across Iowa's counties with populations over 20,000, where 33 counties compete.

STORY COUNTY WATER & LAND LEGACY BOND PASSES

Pictured above is the Deppe Family Conservation Area, one of two new SCC parks currently in the works.

Story County voters showed large support for conservation in November, voting to pass the Story County Water and Land Legacy (SCWLL) bond initiative with 77.75% approval! Story County Conservation (SCC) is thankful to have such strong support across the community. The \$25 million bond initiative is dedicated to enhancing water quality, improving parks and trails, and preserving natural resources.

SCC is committed to maximizing impacts of the investment Story County residents voted to provide. SCC will leverage the bond by utilizing contributions from private donors, grant funding and community partnerships.

Excited to keep the momentum alive, SCC took no pause between election day and project progress. SCC has matching grants and funding for initial projects, and several are already moving forward:

Wicks Wildlife Area Oxbows – Restoration of oxbows near Story City will provide increased flood retention along the South Skunk River during times of heavy rain, an impact of climate change Iowa is seeing more frequently. Natural resource restorations on site will improve water quality, increase biodiversity and provide valuable habitat for waterfowl and other aquatic species during times of drought.

Funding (and technical assistance): U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, SCWLL and SCC *Partners*.

Hannum's Mill – The north half of this dam will be removed, creating a safer passage along this section for both paddlers and wildlife, like fish and mussels. Streambank stabilization and natural resource improvements will also be a part of this project. This partial dam removal project is in the design engineering phase.

Funding: Iowa DNR, SCWLL and private donations.

Deppe Family Conservation Area – SCC took title to this family legacy property in early 2024 and began prairie restoration and resource enhancements last summer. Grant funding will now combine with bond funds to construct a picnic shelter, parking area and eventually a trail system. SCC anticipates the park opening to the public in 2027.

Funding: Land and Water Conservation Fund, SC General Basic, USFWS, and SCWLL.

Dakins Lake Cabin – Plans are being drawn for a year-round rental cabin with room for 6-8 guests at this multi-use recreational park in Zearing. SCC is in the design engineering phase of this project and hopes to complete it in 2025-26.

Funding: SCC camping revenue, SCC *Partners* and SCWLL.

For more information or a complete list of bond projects, scan QR code or visit www.bit.ly/waterandland



CITIZEN SCIENCE

HOW EVERYDAY PEOPLE ARE MAKING AN IMPACT

By Bobbi Donovan, Naturalist



As a naturalist, I rely on scientists and their research findings to help me educate our community about wildlife, plants, environmental concerns, and conservation practices. Professional scientists are experts in their field and devote incredible time and energy to their research. Sometimes these professionals need our help and we, the general public, get the chance to

be community scientists.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST?

These special scientists are community members just like you and me. No advanced degrees or long hours required. All that's needed is passion for science, a desire to help with research and the willingness to volunteer.

Researchers often have limited funding and staff to help them collect information. This is where community scientists come in. They help collect and monitor data on various topics so scientists have more extensive data to analyze.

In 2024, Story County Conservation hosted a few programs to assist with community science projects.

MONARCH TAGGING

In September, an enthusiastic group met at Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor (TELC) to help tag monarchs through Monarch Watch, an organization that invites community scientists across North America to assist with catching and tagging monarchs. Tags are stickers with unique codes, gently placed on the butterfly's wing. Data such as location, date, and sex is recorded before releasing them.

Each fall, monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains migrate to central Mexico. In the spring, their offspring complete the annual migration by returning to the U.S. and Canada. Tagged butterflies may be recaptured along the journey, providing valuable data for research. Volunteers in Mexico also capture living and collect dead monarchs.



In 2024, the 13 community scientists at TELC tagged only one monarch. Was it a slow migration evening in Ames? Or do low numbers indicate a bigger population problem for monarchs?

When continent-wide data is combined, scientists can better answer these questions. They use the collected data, from both tagging sheets and recaptured butterflies, to study population trends, understand migration patterns, and find solutions. Monarch populations have drastically decreased in recent years, prompting discussions about classifying them as threatened.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

SCC also takes part in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), another important community science project. Each February, Cornell Lab, Audubon Society and Birds Canada host a worldwide, four-day bird count. Community scientists around the world dedicate at least 15 minutes on one of the four days to watch and count birds. Data is submitted online to help scientists learn about global bird populations.

Last February, SCC hosted two programs during the GBBC. Together participants counted and recorded a total of 120 birds, representing 17 different species! Our data was combined with data from around the world, giving scientists a snapshot of how bird species are doing on both a local and global level. Similar to the monarch, bird species worldwide are declining at an astonishing rate, making this research critical for protecting our feathered friends.

Join us on this year on February 14 at McFarland Park for another year of Great Backyard Bird Count fun! Details below. Can't make it to the event? No problem, set out on your own adventure anywhere outdoors or get cozy and watch bird feeders indoors for at least 15 mins between February 14-17. Visit www.birdcount.org for more info. Happy counting!

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Story County's robust water quality monitoring program is another example of citizen science, including over 40 volunteers and 50 stream sites. Engaging volunteers to monitor public stream sites is part of the goals outlined in the county-wide 10-year water monitoring plan.

We are entering the fifth year for this program. This monitoring program is a year-round commitment allowing citizens to take water samples and test for nitrate, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, pH and more. Additionally, we monitor 15 sites for e. Coli. Data is then entered into an online database under the Izaak Walton League. Anyone can access the data through the "Clean Water Hub" website.

Interested in becoming a volunteer (or joining wait list)? Or want to check out the new citizen water quality backpack, including testing supplies and family-friendly activities? Contact Sara Carmichael at scarmichael@storycountyowa.gov.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday, Feb. 14, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Participants will set out to identify, count and record Iowa's amazing birds. Whether you are a novice or a seasoned "bird nerd", we welcome your help.

HOW TO BECOME A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST

1. Decide what you're interested in and find a project that's right for you! A quick Internet search will show you numerous projects and explain how to get involved. Scientists need your help to better understand topics anywhere from nesting birds to disappearing bumble bees, to water quality testing.
2. Follow steps the project outlines on how to get started. You may need to register or complete training to participate; while others allow you to start collecting and submitting data immediately.
3. When submitting data, always double check that what you are submitting is accurate. False data won't help anyone!
4. Have fun and enjoy learning while you're helping with valuable research!



One of last year's Great Backyard Bird Counters watches intently out the bird feeding window at the Conservation Center at McFarland Park.

CHRISTIANSSEN FOREST PRESERVE BRIDGE

SERVICE PROJECT HONORS MAN'S BEST FRIEND



For roughly two years, a blown-out trail bridge on Christiansen Forest Preserve's woodland loop restricted access to a portion of the park. A project that would require engineering and consume considerable work hours, it simply hadn't yet made its way to the top of Story County Conservation's (SCC) project list. That is, until local business owner Ross Naylor saw an opportunity for his business to collaborate with SCC and solve this problem – in memory of a special hiking partner.

ROSS'S STORY:

“Christiansen Forest Preserve holds a special place in my heart. Being so close to Huxley, it is a favorite spot for Elizabeth (my girlfriend), me and our dogs (Lemon and Tater) to get some exercise. After finding this hidden gem, hiking and exploring the trails quickly became part of our daily routine. No one appreciated these moments more than my dog, Tater. Tater would sit by the door, insisting we take him to the woods. He knew when it was time, and he knew where he wanted to go. While Elizabeth and I enjoyed the fresh air and exercise, Tater and Lemon enjoyed the sticks, squirrels, and endless scents.

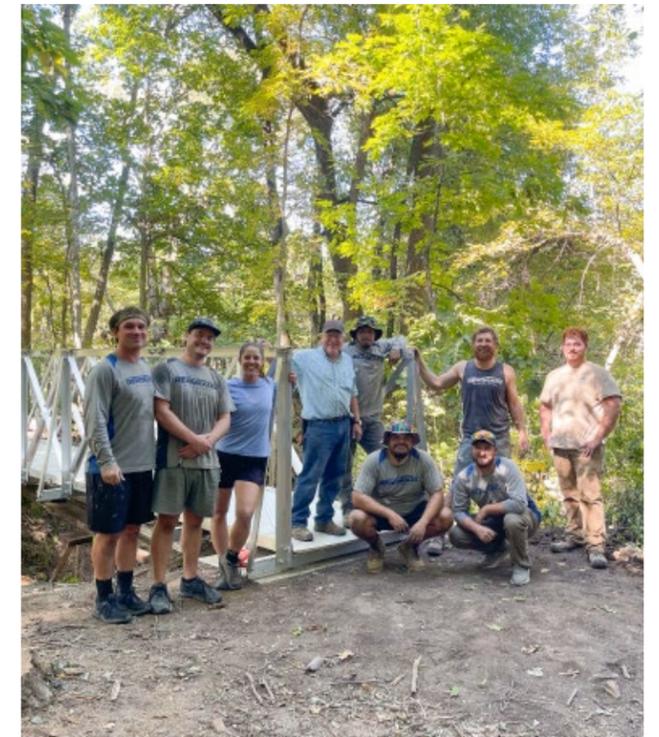
“One day on our walk, we found the back trail was closed due to a fallen bridge. Although the lack of a bridge didn't deter the dogs or us, after some time, we started talking about what it would take to construct a new bridge to reopen the trail.

“I've always loved building, engineering and problem-solving, so after several walks and many conversations about the bridge, we decided we might be able to help. My brother and I own Renomads, a local building company. Elizabeth contacted Story County and got in touch with Trails Technician Derek Seward, and before we knew it, SCC purchased a bridge kit, and we had a meeting set and a date on the calendar for the installation.

“The project took on a new layer of meaning when we unexpectedly lost Tater. His last walk was at the preserve only hours before his passing, and the bridge became a way to honor him. It is a place that will always hold special memories for us.

“Renomads is grateful to be part of community efforts to protect and improve places like Christiansen Forest Pre-

◀ SCC park enthusiasts, Lemon (left) and Tater (right), provided inspiration behind a recent collaborative bridge installation at Christiansen Forest Preserve near Huxley. To some, the bridge will be unofficially known as “Tater's Bridge.”



serve for everyone to enjoy. The bridge project felt like a fitting way to give back to a place we cherish, and support the work that SCC consistently does to keep these natural spaces accessible and beautiful.”

Ten Renomads employees volunteered a total of 65 hours for this project. The crew spent several hours assembling aluminum bridge pieces and bolting them together. Four large, deep holes for bridge footings were dug by hand – 4' deep and 6' wide! For the last step, Renomads worked beside several SCC employees to pour footings and install the bridge in September.



THE TRAVELING TRADESMEN

Is your business interested in giving back to county parks? Schedule a Volunteer Time Off (VTO) work day for your employees/co-workers. Or, inquire about how your business can help support projects like this through [monetary donations](#), donated services, and more. Call (515) 232 - 2516.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

FEB., MAR., APR.

FOR REGISTRATION, VISIT:

Scan QR code or visit
www.storycountyconservation.org



Fly Tying

Saturday, Feb. 8, 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Roll up your sleeves and give fly tying a try! Great for those passionate about fly fishing or those interested in learning about it. Instructor Marty J McVey will walk through five different flies that participants will take home with them. Register online by February 2.

Cocoa Picasso

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Join naturalist Amber Carpenter to unleash your inner Picasso! She will provide step-by-step painting instructions and hot cocoa. Family-friendly for ages 8+. Register online by Feb. 6.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday, Feb. 14, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Enjoy a quiet morning learning about Iowa birds and a special citizen science project, the Great Backyard Bird Count. We will start with a short presentation about this global volunteer project and birding basics. Then, friends can choose between a self-led hike to search for birds, or watch from our bird viewing window to count birds. Bird nerds and beginner birders both welcomed. Register online by February 13.

Outdoor Alliance Annual Meeting with Guest Mike Cox

Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Ames Public Library

Hosted by Outdoor Alliance of Story County

SCC Director Mike Cox will lead us across the county on a tour of recent projects, on-going projects and upcoming projects and plans. No registration required.

Botanical Press Workshop

Saturday, Mar. 1, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Join Naturalist Amber Carpenter to explore this timeless craft and learn to press flowers and leaves to preserve their color. Participants will create a picture frame or pressed flower journal to take home. Register online by February 26.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Sunday, Mar. 8, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park OR
Tuesday, Apr. 1, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Nevada Public Library

Become a water conservationist! Naturalist Clair Pfantz will discuss the importance of rain barrels, then create a 55-gallon barrel of your own so you can reduce water usage and protect local drainage systems at home! This workshop can be done independently or bring a group/partner to create one. Register online by March 2.

Campfire Pi Making

Friday, Mar. 14, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Happy Pi Day! Bring a hungry belly and join Naturalist Bobbi Donovan to make some delicious pie iron creations over a campfire. Participants will be able to make one pie iron pizza and one dessert. Register online by March 10.

Animal Encounters

Wednesday, Mar. 19, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Meet and greet our education animals with Naturalist Bekah Beall. Get a brief intro to Iowa's reptiles and amphibians, followed by casual Q&A opportunity with the animals. Possible encounters include turtle, salamander, and/or snake. No registration required.

Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

Tuesday, Mar. 25, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Grow your own mushrooms after this hands-on program about the wonders of fungus. Each participant will inoculate a log with oyster mushroom spawn to take home. Register online by March 11.

Being in Nature

Saturday, Mar. 29, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Christiansen Forest Preserve

Co-Sponsored by Brooks Witter, MA, LMHC

Leave the busyness of the world at the trailhead and prepare to open your mind to the natural world in ways that strengthen intuition and promote sense of connection to a larger world. Your guide is a psychotherapist by trade who also teaches mindfulness. Register online by March 23.

Wild Tots: Bird Bonanza

Sunday, Mar. 30, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

The seasons are changing! Join us to learn about birds with your tot and discover what they do to get ready for warmer weather. Program includes story, short hike, craft and lots of nature activities. Register online by March 24. Program intended for tots 18 months to not yet in school.

Afternoon with the Birds: Iowa Bird Rehabilitation

Sunday, Mar. 30, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Since it was founded in 2012, Iowa Bird Rehabilitation (IBR) in Des Moines has taken in over 14,000 injured birds. Join IBR founder Jenni Bookjakuakul for heartwarming rescue stories and to learn ways to protect and support wildlife. Register online by March 28.

Gardening for Beginners Series

Part 2: Spring Planting
Sunday, Apr. 6, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park
Co-Hosted by Mustard Seed Farms

Join us for a beginner gardening workshop to learn all the basics, split up between seasons, to learn all you need starting out! Great for complete beginners or those looking for some direction. This season's "Part 2" will cover planting your garden, transplanting seed starts, water and weeding. We will explore maintaining a healthy garden once established and some tools to make tasks more efficient. Register online by April 4.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, Apr. 26, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Robison Wildlife Acres

Spring is wildflower season in the woods! Join us for a leisurely walk to enjoy the blooms and other signs of spring. Register online by April 24.

Nature Play: Not a Stick!

Saturday, Apr. 26, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Is it a magic wand? A fort? Whatever it is, it is NOT A STICK! We will take inspiration from children's book *Not a Stick* and see where our creativity leads as we explore the forest. Basic craft supplies provided. Register online by April 24.



O.W.L.S. has moved to page 10.

Walk the Trails! Series

Tuesdays April 29 - May 27, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Walk 1: Hertz Family Woods & Nature Preserve

Join Environmental Education Coordinator Jerry Keys as we walk the county's trails in this series! Explore new places, meet new hiking pals, and ask nature-related questions. For hikers 16 and up. No registration required. Watch for more details on the May dates later this spring.

Iowa Master Naturalist returns to Story County for Spring 2025

The Iowa Master Naturalist (IMN) program offers an opportunity for individuals passionate about nature to deepen their knowledge of Iowa's flora and fauna, while actively contributing to conservation efforts.

The program provides 40 hours of hands-on education, including labs, field trips and presentations about Iowa's birds, mammals, insects, fungi, foraging and more. Training covers a wide range of topics related to Iowa's natural heritage, with most sessions taking place outdoors.

Course Details:

March 22 to June 7

Saturdays, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Registration opens on February 1. To register or for more info, visit www.iowamasternaturalists.org or contact info@iowamasternaturalists.org.

NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Inquire about NatureConnect for 75% off the cost of program registrations, camping and more. Call (515) 232-2516 for more info.

Partners Update

As of December 3, we've raised \$20,815 toward our FY25 goal of \$45,000 for oxbow restoration at Wicks Wildlife Area.

The Story County Water and Land Legacy bond has passed, opening up exciting new opportunities for Story County Conservation. However, we still need additional funding and the continued support of our *Partners* to bring many of our community's projects to life.

We're thrilled to announce that one of the first projects we'll tackle is the restoration of up to five oxbows at Wicks Wildlife Area, just north of Story City. This essential work aligns with Story County Conservation's greenway mission, preserving crucial habitat along the South Skunk River. We're incredibly grateful for your ongoing support in making this vision a reality.

Haven't yet sent in your renewal envelope? There's still time to contribute! And don't forget to spread the word—encourage friends and neighbors to join us in supporting conservation efforts in Story County. Together, we can accomplish incredible things for our community's natural heritage!

Learn how to become a *Partner* on page 2.

Kestrel program continues to grow

As you may know, Story County Conservation restarted the kestrel nesting box program last year by putting up boxes along the Praeri Rail Trail. This year we are continuing our efforts by adding more boxes throughout the county. We have installed 15 out of 25 boxes that are to go up.

Kestrel boxes need to be at least a half mile away from one another. If boxes are too close together, a male may "claim" multiple boxes by not allowing another mating pair to utilize the box. Nesting will not begin until spring and the new boxes will be monitored closely over the next few years for successful nests. If a kestrel box appears unused or used by another bird species, the box may be relocated in hopes of a successful nesting of kestrels.

We would like to thank our donors who have helped make this possible. **The Story County Pheasants Forever chapter and Big Bluestem Audubon Society generously donated \$1,000 each towards our program.** This funding was crucial to our efforts and made it possible for us to purchase telespar posts that have been installed along prairie roadside restorations to hold the kestrel boxes.



Location: McFarland Park, Conservation Center

Sweet, Endearing Honey

Thursday, Feb. 6, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Join in conversation about honey bees with owner and beekeeper, Dean Coleman, who began beekeeping with his wife in 2017. Now they manage nearly 100 hives in the area, producing honey, candles, and more. Program will feature info on bees, photos and videos of hives and more!

Raising Young Birds at McFarland Park

Thursday, Mar. 6, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Teresa Testroet, local photographer and frequent park-goer, will take you on a photographic journey of some birds that breed and raise young at McFarland Park. This includes Cedar waxwings, American redstarts, Northern cardinals, American robins, and her favorite, the Ruby-throated hummingbird.

Tulip Time in the Netherlands

Thursday, Apr. 3, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Do you mark the progression of spring with arrival of blooming flowers? Enhance spring joy by experiencing tulip time adventures in the Netherlands with Dr. Nancy Franz. Warning: this presentation may give spring fever and a hankering for chocolate.

BOARD & STAFF

The Story County Conservation Board typically meets the second Monday of each month at the Story County Conservation Center at McFarland Park (56461 180th St.). Meetings are open to the public.

Conservation Board

Dr. Jim Pease, Chair
Craig Meyers, Vice Chair
Christine Laumer, Secretary
Erica Place, Member
Linda Murken, Ex-Officio Member

Conservation Center Staff, Ames

Michael Cox, Director
Ryan Wiemold, Parks Superintendent
Pat Shehan, Special Projects Ranger
Marianne Harrelson, Financial Data Mgr.
Jess Paulin, Administrative Assistant
Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coord.
Rebekah Beall, Naturalist
Bobbi Donovan, Naturalist
Amber Carpenter, Naturalist
Clair Pfantz, Naturalist
Madi Nolte, Community Engagement Coord.

McFarland Park Shop, Ames

Russ DeWall, Operations Supervisor
Logan Heissel, Park Ranger
Dillon Schmidt, Conservation Technician II
Kallie Judson, Conservation Technician I
Derek Seward, Trails/Natural Resources Tech.

Hickory Grove Park Shop, Colo

Jake Smith, Operations Supervisor
Olivia VanderHart, Park Ranger
Hunter Simmons, Conservation Technician II
Maxwell McCarty, Conservation Technician I
Brandon Clough, Natural Resources Specialist

IRVM Office & Shop, Nevada

Ty Hamiel, Vegetation Mgmt. Biologist
Nathan Schmitt, Veg. Mgmt. Specialist

Administration Bldg., Nevada

Sara Carmichael, Watershed Coordinator

Thank You!

We are grateful to all those who support Story County Conservation with donations of time, funding, and materials.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROSITY:

All Partners & Volunteers
Bricktown Bakery (Paula Feltner)
David Williams
Richard & Naomi Smith Legacy Fund
Mark Taylor
Renomads



Annual
PHOTO CONTEST
FEB. 1 - MARCH 15

For more information or to submit photos, scan QR code or click here.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ames Repair Café

Saturday, Jan. 18 – Ames Public Library

Monday, Feb. 24 – Memorial Union, ISU

Saturday, Apr. 19 – Ames Public Library

For more info or to sign up as a volunteer, contact amesrepaircafe@gmail.com or [find them on Facebook](#).

Annual Dakins Lake Ice Fishing Derby

Hosted by Zearing Fire Department

Saturday, Feb. 15

Dakins Lake, Zearing

Bring the whole family out for some fishing fun. Bait, poles, and holes available. Tagged fish and youth categories, too. [Register here](#).

Winter Seminar - “For the Love of Prairie”

Iowa Prairie Network

Saturday, Feb. 15, 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Ames High School

Prairie enthusiasts of all levels welcome! Doors open and registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Sessions begin at 9:45 a.m. Agenda and more info can be [found here](#).

Symposium on Sustainability - Iowa State University

Hosted by ISU's Live Green!

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Memorial Union at ISU

The Symposium on Sustainability celebrates diversity of sustainability efforts taking place on campus and extending into Ames. This event will feature a keynote speaker that has not yet been announced. [Watch here](#) for updates.

Eco-Chat: “Creating Buzz: The Joy, Ease, and Challenge of Supporting Pollinators

Hosted by City of Ames Pollinator Committee

Co-Sponsored by SCC

Saturday, Mar. 1, 10:00 a.m.

Ames Public Library

Pollinators need our help! Speaker Jamie Beyer, Lifetime Master Gardener and President of Central Iowa Beekeepers Association, will lead this lively presentation diving into the fun of planting nectar-rich flowers

and shifting attitudes about weeds and wild spaces. Gardeners, renters, and all pollinator-curious people welcome! No registration required.

Spring Fever Symposium

Iowa Arboretum & Gardens

Saturday, Apr. 5, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Attend the Arboretum's largest education event of the year, focused on Iowa gardening, from tree care to garden design, with an incredible lineup of speakers. Register at www.iowaarboretum.org.

ISU Xi Sigma Pi Maple Syrup Day

Iowa Arboretum & Gardens

Saturday, Apr. 12, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate maple syrup at this family friendly (breakfast) event! Educational displays, hands-on activities, woodturning and wood chopping demonstrations included. Visit www.iowaarboretum.org for more info.

Spring Wildflower Walks

Outdoor Alliance of Story County

Thursday, Apr. 24, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

North River Valley Park, Ames

Join our friends with Outdoor Alliance for a leisurely hike to enjoy spring's welcoming wildflowers. More wildflower walks to follow in May. Contact outdooralliancesc@gmail.com for more info.

Arbor Day Celebration

Iowa Arboretum & Gardens

Saturday, Apr. 26, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Celebrate trees and the wonders they bring through hands-on activities, guided hikes, crafts, snacks and more at this family-friendly event. Register at www.iowaarboretum.org.

Looking to connect with other young families who enjoy the outdoors?

Check out Wild Roots, a new local group. They host fun story time, discovery walks, and other nature-based activities in local parks. Events are geared toward young children - but the whole family is welcome!

For more info, request to join the (private) “Wild Roots” Facebook group.





STORY COUNTY
CONSERVATION
56461 180th Street
Ames, Iowa 50010-9451

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Ames, Iowa
Permit 301

BE A SMART SALTER

SHOVEL | SCATTER | SWEEP



SHOVEL

Shovel driveways before snow can turn into ice.



SCATTER

A 12 oz cup of salt can treat 20 ft of driveway, 10 sidewalk squares, or 2 parking spaces.



SWEEP

Sweep excess salt that doesn't melt and reuse it.

While it's important to use salt for safety, excess use can pose a threat to fish, wildlife, human health, and even cars. So be a SMART SALTER this year.

