

Cedar Valley Visions

Conservation News

Mike Dauber, Director

Article by Rick Rouse, Conservation Board Member Photo by Sarah Subbert, Naturalist

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Mike Dauber, Director

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When I started working for Cedar County Conservation in 1990, one of the first things I did was to hire Mike Dauber as an intern through Kirkwood Community College. That year was my first as a Conservation Director and our entire staff, including myself, learned a lot. We managed to make it through without scaring Mike away from wanting a career in conservation.

After Mike graduated college, he explored some options and worked for Palisades Kepler State Park near Mt. Vernon and later for the Jones County Conservation Board. Fortunately, we were able to hire Mike on as a Cedar County Park Ranger when the position came



open. Besides working for us, Mike also served as a Reserve Deputy for the Cedar County Sheriff's office and with the Stanwood Fire Department and Ambulance Service. Mike and I worked together for several years, and he excelled as a Park Ranger. Together we made several improvements throughout Cedar County.

In 2007, I left the Cedar County Conservation Board Director position, and Mike was promoted to take over. Within a year of taking over, the flood of 2008 hit, and Mike was, as they say, "Baptized by Fire". He was able to use his leadership skills to navigate through the aftermath and make the Conservation System in Cedar County even better than it was when he took over. I for one am very impressed with the leadership and direction Mike has provided! This past year, Mike became the longest-serving Cedar County Conservation Board Director in Cedar County history. With the help of his staff throughout the years, Mike has made many improvements to the conservation system and added a few areas for the people of Cedar County to enjoy.

Mike's knowledge of Cedar County and the people who live here has been invaluable! I for one am very proud of the job Mike has done for Cedar County and I am proud to call him my friend. When you see Mike, be sure and thank him for his years of service to the people of Cedar County and his unbelievable dedication.

Rick Rouse, CCCB Director, 1990-2007

Creature Feature~ Bald eagle

Article Jacob Wilbourne



The bald eagle is a bird of prey native to North America, with its range including most of Canada and Alaska south to northern Mexico. It is also the national symbol of the United States. This species spends its summer in Canada and can be seen overwintering here in Iowa.

Starting with an entirely brown body, bald eagles develop their white headed appearance over time, typically over the span of four to five years where they become mature adults. Bald eagles have the largest nests of all North American birds, with the largest nest being thirteen feet deep and over eight feet wide. Females are larger than males by about 25%.

Bald eagles are an excellent example of the Endangered Species Act. They were once on the brink of extirpation, the local extinction of a species, in the United States. Through conservation efforts and the banning of the pesticide DDT, which caused eggshells to become extremely fragile, bald eagle populations have recovered significantly!

Year In Review

Article and Photo by Chip Brown, Park Technician

This year saw many improvements in our parks. The first major one was the remodel of the Cedar Valley “Little Campground.” This remodel spaced out the sites, moved the back sites, and put in a new road through the campground to improve access. Rochester Shelter received a major facelift with a new metal ceiling, gable end upgrades, and improved lighting at the entrance door and under the shelter awning. We continued our shelter upgrades with Cedar Valley Shelter One, which received new countertops and lighting, and Bennett Park Shelter One received the same lighting upgrades as Cedar Valley. Cedar Valley Shelter Two completes our regular park upgrades with a new bathroom, including a new handicap-accessible stall.

This year also saw significant prairie work at Bennett Park and our wildlife areas. A lot of work went in at Bennett to remove invasive autumn olive, and it seems to be paying off for now. Controlled burns were also conducted at Bennett Park, River Valley Wetland, and Townsend Wildlife Area. This work promotes the health of our native prairie species and helps wildlife with improved habitat and other resources.



Ice Fishing Safety

Article by Jacob Wilbourne Photo by Sarrah Subbert

1. It's getting to be that time of year again, the weather turns colder and the water begins to freeze. For some people this means the end of the fishing season but it doesn't have to be! Ice fishing is a great way to beat some of those slower winter days and is a fun activity to enjoy with family and friends.
2. Ice fishing is here to stave off your fishing blues! Below are some general tips for new ice fishers and experienced alike.
3. 1. Dress in layers and bring something to sit on. The cold weather and conditions can take a lot of the fun away from fishing, dressing in layers allows you to stay comfortable while out on the ice. Keep in mind it's not just cold for you but the fish also, this can often mean slower and less aggressive bites.
4. 2. Check the ice! No ice is 100% safe but a general rule of thumb is to stay off the ice if it's less than 2", 4" or more is ideal for ice fishing. Check ice thickness using an ice auger to make hole and then measure the thickness with a tape measurer. Remember that snow can act as an insulating layer on ice and can actually act to weaken ice due to trapping heat.
5. 3. Tell someone where you'll be. Let someone know where you'll be and how long you'll be out. In addition bring a buddy along, not only does this share the fun but it can help minimize risks if an accident occurs.
6. 4. Stay away from open water and slush on the ice. These can be signs of potentially dangerous ice conditions and should be avoided.
7. 5. Use the right gear. This typically includes bright colored jigs and baits. Typical live bait include wax worms, but if using minnows remember to bring along a scooper to keep your hands from getting wet. Bring along and wear a personal flotation device for extra safety. A tip up, a device that holds your line in the water and has an attached flag to alert when you have a bite, can be a great tool to have along.
8. 6. Have fun!



Kids Corner

Cedar Valley Visions

Bird Seed Cookies

Please have an adult help you with the following project

Materials

- 2 cups bird seed (any type)
- cookie cutters
- 1 packet unflavored gelatin
- 2 tablespoons cold water
- 1/3 cup boiling water
- string
- skewer
- non-stick cooking spray
- Wax paper
- A baking sheet



Photo Credit: Jacob Wilbourne

Instructions

1. In a bowl mix one package of unflavored gelatin with two tablespoons of cold water and let sit for one minute.
2. After a minute has passed mix in 1/3 cup of boiling water and stir gelatin until dissolved.
3. After the gelatin has dissolved add two cups of bird seed, mixing thoroughly.
4. Spray your cookie cutter shapes thoroughly with cooking spray and line a baking sheet with wax paper.
5. Lay your cookie shapes down on the wax paper and pour your seed mixture into the shapes being sure to press the mixture in firmly. Poke a hole with a skewer for you string.
6. Place your baking sheet in the refrigerator for a few hours until the seed mixture to set, see the gelatin package for time. After setting warm to room temperature before removing the "cookies" from the baking sheet.
7. Carefully pop your "cookies" out from their molds, thread your string through the hole and hang outside!

Winter Nature Scavenger Hunt

- A snow drift
- A tree changing color
- A bald eagle
- An ice dam
- Frost
- Frost on tree branches
- An owl



Word Scramble

OWNS

RDZBLIZA

NGSDDILE

HTO OCOAC

ALCARDIN

MERI STFRO

TERIWN

TYFOSR

Nature Word Search

S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	E
O	G	E	I	R	A	X	E	C	V
H	O	T	C	O	C	O	A	E	E
L	V	P	E	S	B	T	A	D	R
P	I	N	E	T	T	Q	L	A	G
C	S	B	E	C	I	O	V	R	R
E	J	L	S	N	R	Y	R	X	E
D	G	F	E	G	R	I	T	M	E
E	V	A	R	D	N	P	S	O	N
G	O	O	S	E	M	Z	W	P	I

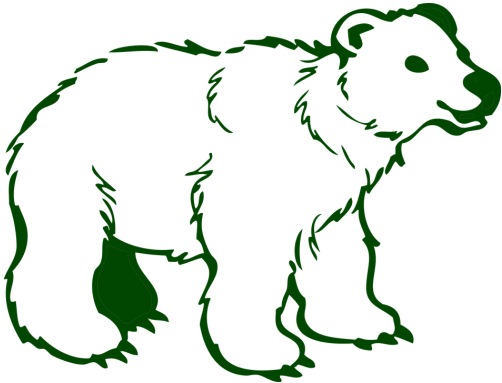
Snowflake, Frost, Storm, Hot Cocoa, Ice, Goose, Evergreen, Sled

Answers: Snow, Blizzard, Sledging, Hot Cocoa, Cardinal, Rime Frost, Winter, Frosty

Tuesday, December 2nd, Roving Retirees

Stanwood Library, 2:30 pm.

Roving Retirees unite! Come for a surprise program. It's always a blast!

**Wednesday, December 17th, Upcycled Crafts**

Mechanicsville Library, 3:30 pm.

We have totes and totes of stuff that you can use to create your own masterpiece! Bring your imagination!

Sunday, December 21, Winter Solstice Skate

Tipton City Park, 2:00 pm.

We have several pairs of ice skates of various sizes. Try your luck at the outdoor arena. No experience necessary! We even have walkers to help you stand and skate. It is recommended to wear layers as it helps cushion your fall.

Wednesday, December 3rd, Tundra Animals

Bennett Library, 1:00 pm.

What is a tundra and where is it located? What animals live there? These are some of the questions that will be answered as we touch and feel various animal furs and antlers.

Monday, December 22nd, Minute-To-Win-It Games

Durant Library, 2:30 pm.

Come learn and play these silly and simple games. These are super easy to re-create and perfect to play with your family and friends during the holidays.

Monday, December 8th, Recycled Paper

Durant Library, 3:30 pm.

We will be turning recycled paper into masterpieces! With endless color combinations, add ins, shapes, and sizes. We will be using a blender with water to make our new creations.

Tuesday, December 30, Tipton City Park Ice Skate

Tipton City Park, 11:00 am.

Come skate around the outdoor arena with Miss Sarah. We have lots of different sizes of ice skates and no experience is necessary. This is not just for kids! We have size 10 ice skates too!

Friday December 12th, Cedar County Christmas Festival

Cedar County Fair Grounds, 4:00 – 8:00 pm.

We will be doing a craft for this event.

Saturday, December 13th, Cedar County Christmas Festival

Cedar County Fair Grounds, 12:00 – 8:00 pm.

We will be doing a craft for this event.

Sunday, December 14th, Cedar County Christmas Festival

Cedar County Fair Grounds, 12:00 – 4:00 pm.

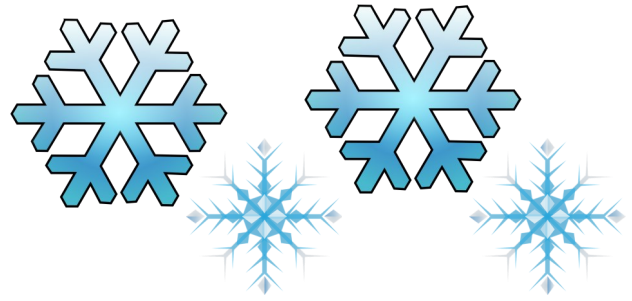
We will be doing a craft for this event.



Monday, January 12th, Giant Snowflakes

Durant Library, 3:30 pm.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. We will be making giant paper snowflakes to take home.

**Thursday, January 15, Tipton City Park Ice Skate**

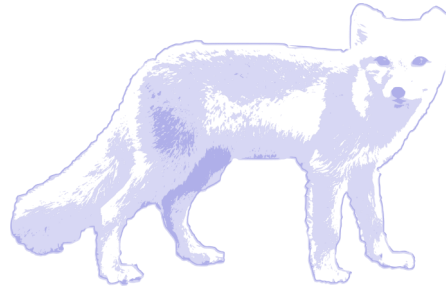
Tipton City Park, 4:00 pm.

After school ice skate! This is not limited to kids, anyone can join! We have various sizes of ice skates.

Saturday, January 17, Saturday Ice Skate

Tipton City Park, 11:00 am.

Glide gracefully into your Saturday with a morning ice skating program. Open to all ages.

**Wednesday, January 21, Tundra Animals**

Bennett Library, 1:00 pm.

What is a tundra and where is it located? What animals live there? These are some of the questions that will be answered as we touch and feel various animal furs and antlers.

Saturday, January 24th, Fish and Skate

Bennett Park (1378 Yankee Avenue, Bennett), 11:00 am.

No, you can't do them at the same time, but you can participate in both things on Saturday. No registration necessary, but this is a weather dependent program. If the weather or ice conditions are not good enough, we will post on Facebook if we will be canceling. No fishing license required, mandatory catch and release. Dress for the weather and bring your own water and snacks. All fishing equipment and ice skates will be provided. This is a family friendly event. We will have the aerator going on the pond, which creates open water, please make sure you can watch your children VERY CLOSLY!



Photo Credit: Sarah Subbert

**Monday, January 26th, Coco and Cookies**

Durant Library, 5:30 pm.

We will talk about the cocoa plant while we drink some hot chocolate and eat some cookies.



Friday, February 6, Tipton Ice Skate

Tipton City Park, 4:00 pm.

After school ice skate! This is not limited to kids, anyone can join! We have various sizes of ice skates.

Saturday, February 7th, Ice Fishing and Skating

West Rochester Sand Pits (208 W Rochester Avenue, Atalissa), 11:00 am.

Here fishy, fishy, fishy.... See if you can catch the big one at the pits! Come explore the pits on ice skates or your normal boots. We will provide all the fishing and skating equipment. No fishing license required, mandatory catch and release. Dress for the weather and bring your own water and snacks. This is a family friendly event. This is a VERY weather dependent program. If the weather or ice conditions are not good enough, we will post on Facebook that we will be canceling.

Friday, February 13, After School Ice Skate

Tipton City Park, 4:00 pm.

After school ice skate! This is not limited to kids, anyone can join! We have various sizes of ice skates.

Saturday, February 14th, Cupid Shuffle Snowshoe and Sledding

Massillon Park Shelter One (206 Hoover Highway, Lowden), 11:00 am.

Cupid, you can forget about the flowers, we want SNOW! Shetler One will have the heat on to warm up a bit. We will also bring out the snowboards too! We have lots of snowshoes and a few sleds for this family friendly program. Dress for the weather. This is a VERY weather dependent program. If the snow or weather is not good enough, we will post on Facebook that we will be canceling.

Wednesday, February 18th, Burrow Buddies

Bennett Library, 1:00 pm.

Lots of animals dig in the soil, but some call the soil home. Some borrow burrows that other animals make, like bumble bees!

Friday, February 20th, Owls

Durant Library, 5:30 pm.

WHO'S there? Come learn about Iowa's owls and play some fun games.



Photo Credit: Jacob Wilbourne

Saturday, February 21st, Sled and Shoe

Massillon Park Shelter One (206 Hoover Highway, Lowden) 11:00 am.

Come sledding, snowboarding, and snowshoeing! Fingers crossed for good snow! Dress for the weather. This is a VERY weather dependent program. If the snow or weather is not good enough, we will post on Facebook that we will be canceling.

Sunday, February 22nd, Ice Fishing and Skating

Bennett Park, 2:00 pm.

Slide into a good time at Bennett Park! We will provide all the fishing and skating equipment. No fishing license required, mandatory catch and release. Dress for the weather and bring your own water and snacks. This is a family friendly event. This is a VERY weather dependent program. If the weather or ice conditions are not good enough, we will post on Facebook that we will be canceling.



Photo Credit: Sarah Subbert

Monday, March 2nd, Bird Eggs

Durant Library, 3:30 pm.

Eggs vary in size, color, shape, and even texture! Come see our collection of real bird eggs.

Saturday, March 7th, Ice Skating

Bennett Park, 11:00 am.

Fingers crossed the ice will still be thick enough! We will try to give it one last go for the season!

Wednesday, March 11th, Nests

Bennett Library, 1:00 pm.

Some nests are big, some are small, some are messy, some are tidy, some are strong, some are fragile. Come see some real nests from all sorts of animals.

Saturday, March 21st, Easter Egg Hunt

Red Oak Park, 10:00 am.

Our massive 2,000 + egg hunt is back! PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. This is for ALL ages, and when we say ALL ages, we mean ALL AGES! You are NEVER too old for free candy! Small prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most eggs! Bring a big bag to collect all the eggs! We will have a little kid area, so they don't get plowed down by the older kids. Please email Sarah at naturalist@cedarcounty.iowa.gov or call 563-886-6930 to register. Deadline to pre-register is Friday, March 20 at 8:00 pm. We will have A FEW extra bags in case people forget to register, but please try to register.

Monday, March 23rd, Easter Egg Hunt

Durant Library, 5:30 pm.

Meet outside the library for an egg-cellent time! We will line up on the sidewalk behind the library for this free, family friendly program. All ages welcome! No registration necessary.

Saturday, March 28th, Easter Egg Hunt

Cedar Valley Park Shelter Three, 10:00 am.

This egg hunt is quite the spread as it covers the main campground area with 2000 + eggs! This program is for people of ALL ages. So drag those teens along for some fresh air! Small prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most eggs! We will have a little kid area, so they don't get plowed down by the older kids. Please email Sarah at naturalist@cedarcounty.iowa.gov or call 563-886-6930 to register. Deadline to pre-register is Friday, March 27 at 8:00 pm. We will have A FEW extra bags in case people forget to register, but please try to register.



Photo Credit: Sarah Subbert

Wild Recipe: Rose Hip Syrup

Recipe and Picture from Alan Bergo | Forager Chef

Equipment

- 3 quart sauce pot
- hand blender or food processor
- Cheesecloth
- Strainer
- 8oz mason jars

Ingredients

- 1 lb. rosehips (any kind)
- 2 ¾ cups honey
- 3 cups water
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 slices of fresh ginger (optional)
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice



Method

1. Wash and clean the rosehips.
2. Put the rosehips in a pot and add the water and vinegar. Bring the mixture to a boil, then carefully puree the rosehips using a hand blender, pulsing until they're all broken up and the mixture is smoothish.
3. If using ginger add it now. Simmer for another 5 minutes. Turn the heat off and set the rosehip tea aside to infuse for 15 minutes.
4. Strain the rosehip liquid through a double thickness of damp cheesecloth in a colander over your sauce pot. When cool enough to handle squeeze the remaining liquid from your rose hips.
5. Add honey and bring the mixture to a rolling boil for 10 minutes, skimming impurities that rise to the surface if you can.
6. Reduce the syrup until you have about 3 cups, this should take around 15 minutes.
7. When you have three cups, add the lemon juice, pour the boiling syrup into sterilized 8 oz mason jars leaving a ½ inch headspace. Screw on the lids and process for 10 minutes in a water bath canner .
8. Remove the jars and allow to cool, then label and store in a pantry.

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Dylan Haub
Rick Rouse
Teresa Wendt
Duane Moeller

Staff

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Jacob Wilbourne, *Park Technician*

Contact us by phone at: 563-886-6930

Email address: cedarcbb@cedarcounty.iowa.gov

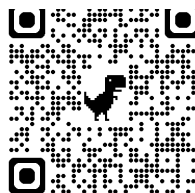
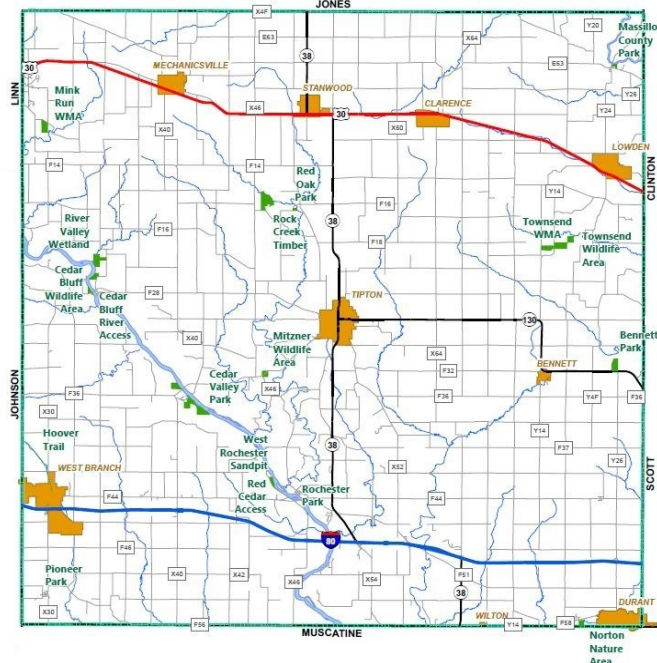
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jwilbourne@cedarcounty.iowa.gov with the subject “newsletter”.

Cedar County Conservation Parks and Wildlife Areas



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