

# Looking Out the Back Door...

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

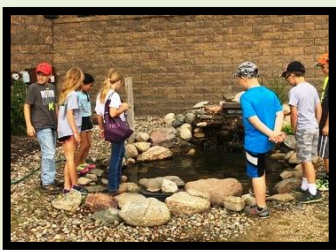
A publication of the Sac County Conservation Board

## Spring 2018



### Newsletter Line Up

- 2....Fact Files
- 3....Upcoming Events
- 4....Kid's Korner
- 5....Nature News
- 6....Summer Event Preview
- 7....Nature Camp Information
- 9....At-a-glance Calendar



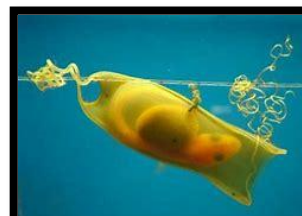
### Conservation Center Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### What is Oviparous?

Spring is on the way and many animals will be starting their families! To do this many of the animals in Iowa will be laying eggs to then hatch out babies; when an animal hatches from an egg it is called oviparous. Some take much care in keeping eggs warm and babies fed like birds, while other lay eggs and leave the babies to fend for themselves like snakes and turtles. Birds and reptiles are not the only animals to lay eggs. All major animal groups have at least one species that lay eggs, even mammals! Below are some photos of baby animals that come from eggs. If you want to learn more register for the family friendly public program on March 29<sup>th</sup>!



Turtles, Sharks,  
Snakes, Squid,  
Frogs, Stink Bugs,  
Platypus, Robins



## Eyes to the Skies!

### March 2018

#### 2- Full Moon

[Worm or Sugar/Sap Moon]

#### 17-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.]

#### 31-Full Moon (Blue Moon)

The second full moon during a calendar month is known as a Blue Moon.

### April 2018

#### 16-New Moon

#### 22-23- Lyrids Meteor Shower

[Best viewing after midnight up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak]

#### 30- Full Moon

[Sprouting Grass Moon]

#### 21- International Astronomy Day!

#### 26- New Moon

### May 2018

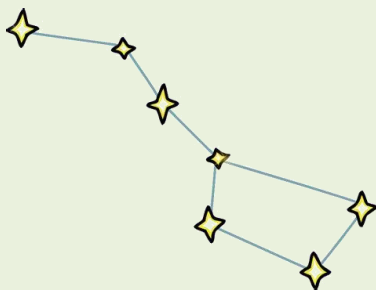
#### 6-7- Eta Aquarids Shower

[Best viewing after midnight up to 60 meteors per hour at the peak]

#### 15- New Moon

#### 29- Full Moon

[Flower Moon]



## Fact Files!

### Blue Jay

(*Cyanocitta cristata*)



- A member of the Corvidae family which includes Crows and Ravens.
- Has the ability to mimic sounds that they hear.
- The blue color we see is actually a trick of light, their feathers are black.
- They lay 2-7 eggs per clutch.
- Nests are made out of sticks in crooks of trees.
- Store food in caches to eat at a later time when food may be hard to find.

Have an idea for a future file? Email me at [sccbnat@frontiernet.net](mailto:sccbnat@frontiernet.net) and it could be next!

## Thank You!

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

ISU Extension, Iowa DNR, Mike Cook and attending adults for help with the ice fishing clinic.

Melena, Grant, & Amelia Hinrichs for donation of books, gift cards, and crayons towards the environmental education program in lieu of Christmas presents for themselves from their grandparents.





# 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](mailto: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 2018

### **Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> Summer Camp Registration Opening Day-10:00 AM**

Spring is near and summer is just around the corner so register for summer nature camps today! See page 7 for registration details and page 8 for camp descriptions.

### **Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> Knee High Naturalists: "Hide and Snake" – 10:00-10:45 AM OR 5:00-5:45 PM**

Knee High Naturalists are children ages 2-4 and have an accompanying adult attend the program. This month we will be reading the story "Hide and Snake" and participating in related activities, crafts, and a snack! **Program is free of charge, but registration is REQUIRED.**

### **Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> Oviparous: Animals From Eggs- 5:30 PM**

With the arrival of spring many animals will start families and a lot of them lay eggs to do so! Come learn what animals come from eggs in this family friendly program that includes activities and snack.

**Program is free of charge, but registration is required by 4:30 PM on March 26<sup>th</sup>.**

## APRIL 2018



### **Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> Spring String Art & Wildflowers - 6:30 PM**

Many wildflowers emerge in the spring, come get a brief introduction to Sac County spring flowers, take a short hike if weather and time allow and then make a string art piece to take home! Geared towards an adult audience. **Program is free of charge, but registration is required and limited to 12 participants.**

### **Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> Knee High Naturalists- "The Lorax"- 10:00-10:45 AM OR 5:00-5:45 PM**

Knee High Naturalists are children ages 2-4 and have an accompanying adult attend the program. This month we will be reading the book "The Lorax" and participating in related activities, crafts, and snack! **Program is free of charge, but registration is REQUIRED.**



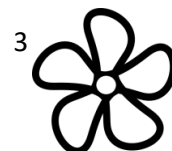
## MAY 2018

### **Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> 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. **Program is free of charge, but registration is REQUIRED by May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> Knee High Naturalists- "We're Going on a Bear Hunt -10:00-10:45 AM OR 5:00-5:45 PM**

Knee High Naturalists are children ages 2-4 and have an accompanying adult attend the program. This month we will be reading the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" and participating in related activities, crafts, and have a snack! **Program is free of charge, but registration is REQUIRED.**





# Kid's Korner

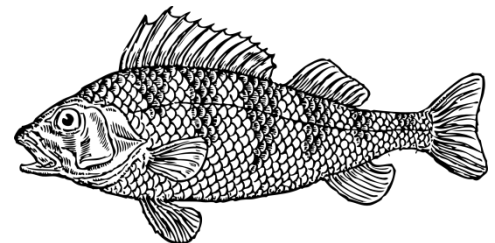
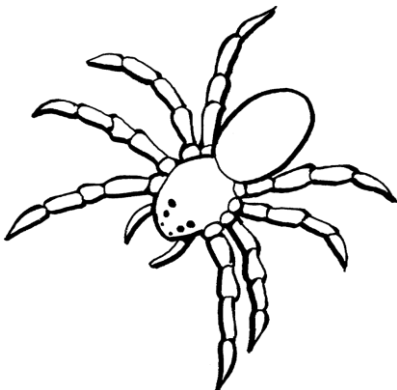
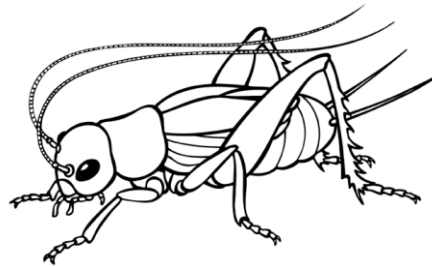
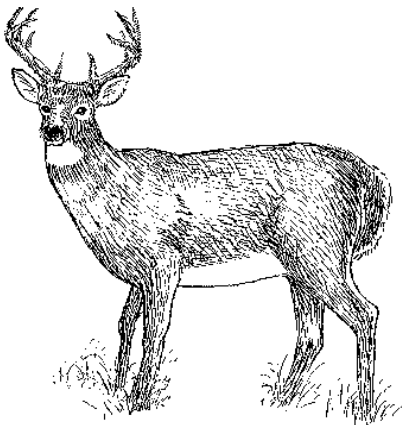
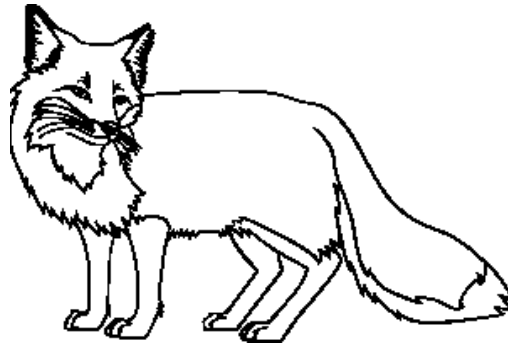
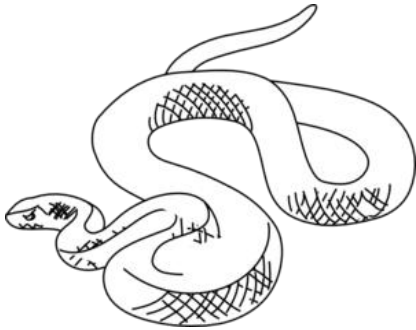
## Oviparous Animals

### 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. Want to learn more?

Come to the Oviparous Animals program on March 29<sup>th</sup>!



# Nature News

## Winter Program Review

### Knee High Naturalist Programs

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

#### December: Tall Grass Prairie Exhibit



#### January: Birds in Winter



#### February: Signs in the Snow



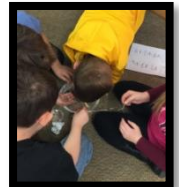
### Winter Camp 2017

Day Camps for various ages during winter break.



### School Programs

Archery, owl pellets, snow and more were topics for classroom visits and field trips to the park this winter. Here is the ESC Sac City Building 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade dissecting owl pellets.



### Youth Ice Fishing Clinic

Co-sponsored by the ISU Extension and the Iowa DNR; we host a free ice fishing clinic.



### Minnesota Avian Adventure

Bus trip to Minnesota to see birds and winter scenery; co- led by Sac and Carroll County Conservation Boards. This year 6 Sac County residents came along for the adventure!



# Sac County Conservation Summer Events Preview

## Library Summer Reading Program Visits

Come to your local library to learn about nature noise!

Schaller Public Library- 6/5/2018 @ 9:30 AM

Early Public Library- 6/6/2018 @ 10:30 AM

Lytton Public Library – 6/8/2018 @ 1:00 PM

Wall Lake Public Library- 6/11/2018 @ 1:00 PM

Odebolt Public Library-6/5/2018 @ TBD

Auburn Public Library- 6/6/2018 @ 1:00 PM

Somers Public Library- 6/9/2018 @ 10:30 AM

Lake View Public Library- 6/18/2018 @ 3:00 PM

Sac City Public Library- 6/22/2018 @ 1:00 PM

## WILD WEDNESDAYS 7:00-7:45 PM

### NATURE NOISE!

Nature provides many sounds for us to hear. From bird songs, a running river, or even a cricket singing a night song. In these free, family oriented programs at Hagge Park participants will learn about the topic and participate in related activities.

June

6<sup>th</sup> – Bird Songs

13<sup>th</sup> – Frog Calls

20<sup>th</sup> – Buzzing Bugs

27<sup>th</sup> – Mammals



## Fishing Clinic

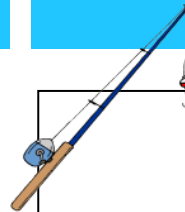
June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

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.





# 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 Center in Hagge Park and via email by calling the office.



**Registration will open on 3/19/2018 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: \$45

Contact us if you have additional questions.

Office Phone: 712-662-4530

Email: [sccbnat@frontiernet.net](mailto:sccbnat@frontiernet.net)

### Ages 5-7

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

June 12-14: Spider Camp

June 19-21: Nature Explorers

### Ages 8-10

**10:00 am-2:00 pm\***

June 26-28: Jr. Naturalists-Reptiles

July 10-12: H<sub>2</sub>O Camp

### Ages 11-14

**10:00 am-10:00 am**

July 17-18: Predator/Prey Campout

*\* Indicates camper brings sack lunch.*

## 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 (2-4 years old) and one adult (16 years and up). \*Extra children ages 2-4 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 child will receive a camp shirt. Campers may attend both sessions, depending on availability.

**10:00 – 11:00 AM**

**June 8<sup>th</sup> – Sac County Safari**

**July 13<sup>th</sup> - Messy Mud**



## Summer Nature Camp Descriptions



### **5-7 Year Olds AM or PM**

Limit 10 per session

#### **Spider Camp**

Curious about our eight legged, web making friends? Come to spider camp and learn all about how they live, catch food, build webs, and go on hikes to search for them daily!

#### **Nature Explorers**

Each day we will go on hikes to discover all the sights, sounds, smells, and even tastes of the nature around us!



### **8-10 Year Olds**

Limit 10 per session



#### **Jr. Naturalists-Reptiles**

Snakes, lizards, and turtles, oh my! In this camp we will learn all about our scaly friends as well as take daily hikes to search for wild ones in the park!

#### **H<sub>2</sub>O Camp**

For all things water this camp is for you! We will learn about and explore lakes, rivers, and creeks and the animals that live in them. There will be a canoe trip on the last day of this camp. \*\*Be prepared to get wet and muddy each day of camp!!\*\*

### **11-14 Year Olds**

Limit 10



#### **Predator/Prey Campout**

Do you have what it takes to be outside for 24 hours? In this campout we will explore, cook our meals, and sleep (in tents) outdoors. Canoeing and archery will be a part of this camp all while learning about predator/prey animal relationships in the wild!



### **Knee High Naturalist Camps**

Limit 12 pairs per session

#### **Sac County Safari**

We will put on our safari gear and take to the trails to see what wild creatures we can find!

#### **Messy Mud**

Let's get muddy! Come prepared to learn all about mud, what lives in it and have hands-on mud exploration.





## Events At A Glance

Date	Time	Event
<b><u>March 2018</u></b>		
Monday the 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM	Camp Registration OPEN
Wednesday the 21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 AM or 5:00 PM	KHN "Hide and Snake"
Thursday the 29 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Animals From Eggs
<b><u>April 2018</u></b>		
Friday the 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Spring String Art
Wednesday the 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM or 5:00 PM	KHN: "The Lorax"
<b><u>May 2018</u></b>		
Sunday the 6 <sup>th</sup>	1:00-4:00 PM	Nature's Kitchen
Wednesday the 16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM or 5:00 PM	KHN: Nature Noise

### Special Events

Sac County Sportsman's Fish Fry  
Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
4:30-7:30  
4-H building Sac County Fairgrounds



Sac County Pheasants Forever 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Banquet  
Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Doors open 5:30 PM  
Sacred Heart Gym, Early, IA



### Conservation Center Notes

\*The center will be closed in observance of holidays on the following days:

Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> @ Noon- Good Friday  
Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – All Day- Memorial Day

\*When visiting the conservation center, calling ahead is advised as duties sometimes require all staff to be out of the office.

\*Reservations for 2018 calendar year (classroom, library, sleep cabin, and shelter houses) are currently being taken on a first come, first serve basis.

\*Don't forget to renew your Sauk Rail Trail passes for the upcoming warmer months!

## Sac County Conservation Board

### Board Members

#### Chairperson

Kenny Bentsen, Sac City

#### Vice Chairperson

Andy Meredith, Lake View

#### Secretary

Rich Feilmeier, Early

#### Member

Dean Stock, Lake View

#### Member

Elizabeth Partridge-Blessington, Auburn

### Staff

#### Executive Director

Chris Bass

#### Office Manager

Jessica Meredith

#### Naturalist

Megan Cook

### Meetings

Board meetings are held monthly at the Sac County Conservation Center. These meetings are open to the public, contact the office for time and date if interested in attending.

### 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