



THE TRIBUTARY

Spring 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR MITCHELL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MITCHELL COUNTY



Spring green-up at Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area Cabin

Who's excited for Spring hunting season?! We are - and hope you are too after joining us at the Deer & Turkey Expo! We want to see your deer, antlers, beard, and spurs no matter how big or small! Mounts/sheds/beards/spurs can be from any year. Local lockers, taxidermists, hunting experts, and conservation professionals will be on hand to help with any of your hunting-related needs.

Love to "hunt" with your camera? We have a contest for you too - the Trail Camera Photo Gallery. Bring a copy, or email Chelsea your best trail camera photos whether they are big bucks/toms, local wildlife, funny pics, or something else.

WIN PRIZES! Enter our archery shoot to try to win a new bow!

Fun for all ages! We will be having a kids shed hunt throughout the day. Find a shed and turn it back in for a prize!

THE CONTEST

The contest will feature local certified scorers to score your rack /shed /beard/spurs. Think your buck or tom is biggest? Enter it into our contest!

RULES

- \$5 registration to enter contest
- Legally harvested animals
- White-tailed Deer and Eastern Wild Turkey only
- Skull plate must be intact, unless entering shed
- Skulls must be clean (European mount) and dried
- Entries accepted until 2:30

DEER & TURKEY EXPO

Official scoring - WIN PRIZES - Hunting Experts - Local Lockers Iowa DNR - Hunting & Outdoor Vendors - Kids Shed Hunt - and MUCH MORE!

MARCH 25TH, 2023

9:00-4:00

MILTON R. OWEN NATURE CENTER 1879-3 HWY 9, OSAGE, IA

Animals from ANY YEAR will be accepted! Previous winners can be entered into the "Hall of Fame".

Categories for contest entry:

- Biggest Buck/Turkey/Shed/Matched Shed
- People's Choice
- Biggest Youth (Turkey and Buck)
- Trail Camera Photo Contest

For questions, call Chelsea e (641) 732-5204

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MITCHELL COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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SPRING INTO THE OUTDOORS!

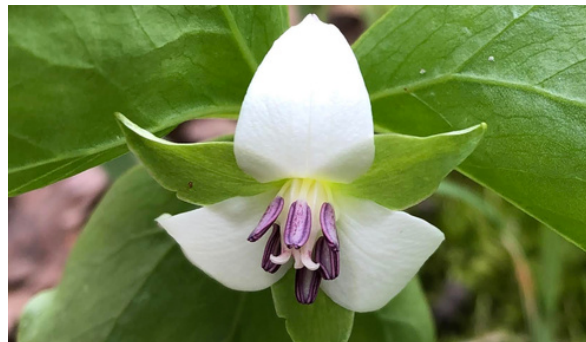
Spring fever has hit here at Mitchell County Conservation and we are ready to get OUTSIDE! We have big plans for habitat work, including burning, planting, and tree maintenance this spring. We are also just as excited as you to go camping, hit the trails, and explore the great natural spaces we have here in Mitchell County. Check out the next pages and the calendar for upcoming MCCB programs, nature events, and local happenings.

A few things to keep in mind as you enjoy Mitchell County Conservation areas this Spring:

- Much of our spring work is weather dependent - we may be burying one day and planting trees or prairie another. We'll try to keep you posted on what fun things we're up to via our social media outlets.
- Spring Turkey season starts in April. Hunters need to keep good hunting safety and ethics in mind, and wildlife area users need to be aware that hunters may be sharing the woods with you, so don't forget to wear something bright!
- Walking trails are sensitive to heavier traffic if the weather has been wet - help us keep our trails in good condition and do not ride bikes or horses on muddy trails.
- Spring is the time for ticks - be vigilant and practice good tick prevention tactics (long sleeves, socks over long pants, thorough checks after visiting the woods, etc.)

A few things to keep your eyes open for as you venture out this spring:

- Tapping maples for syrup (days above freezing and nights below)
- Multitudes of spring migrating birds (a great time to fill those feeders and don't forget the hummingbird nectar and jelly/oranges for the Orioles)
- ALL the spring babies! Please keep wild babies wild and do not disturb or remove them from their habitat! Often, wild moms will leave their babies in a safe place during the day and return later to tend to their young.
- Visit the spring woods in search of spring wildflowers and a maybe even a few morel mushrooms!
- Make plans to show some love to Mother Earth for Earth Day and plant a tree on Arbor day.
- Don't forget to share your outdoor adventures with us! We love to hear about your favorite Mitchell County Conservation area, outdoor activity, or nature find.



March Public Programs



OLLI AT ISU

Mitchell County Naturalist Chelsea Ewen has been selected to partner with Iowa State University and lead a special class for seniors through the OLLI Program. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University (OLLI at ISU) is a membership organization that offers a variety of courses selected to appeal to many interests and backgrounds. MISSION OLLI at ISU provides intellectual, cultural, and social adventures through lifelong learning experiences for all persons age 50+ as they grow and thrive on their life's journey. Courses are offered in-person, online, and as hybrid classes. Anyone age 50+ may join OLLI at ISU and members from all backgrounds are welcome; neither a college education nor previous affiliation with a college are required. The only requirement is a desire to learn!



Naturalist Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe will be leading course #35 - Lunching on the Landscape
Four weeks: Wednesday, March 22 - 29 & May 3 - 10, 2023
1 - 2:30 p.m. CT - Class limit 25 - Blended (Online with Zoom and Off-site)

There is an entire grocery store of delicious, local, wild foods waiting outside your back door! This course will be two Zoom sessions and two in-person, hands-on foraging excursions. The excursions will be near Ames, focusing on how to identify key features of wild edible plants, knowing when and what to sustainably harvest, and how to prepare wild foods. Join us as we forage flavors from flowers, greens, roots, shoots and more!

For more information on the OLLI program, how to become a member, or other questions, please contact the ISU Alumni Center Monday - Friday, 8-5
 You may also contact: Jerilyn Logue, Director @ 515-294-3192 or jlogue@iastate.edu or visit <https://olli.iastate.edu>

If you enjoy participating in the programs Mitchell County Conservation/Environmental Education Foundation offers, appreciate the use of outdoor equipment and trails, or just want to ensure the youth, families, residents, and visitors to Mitchell County get to spend time in and understand the importance of conserving our natural resources - **please consider joining the Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation!**

Your membership, donation of time & talents, and/or monetary support can make an even larger impact when used for grant matches and opportunities like those listed here.

See how to become a member on page 6.



“The Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation creates public awareness, promotes responsible stewardship, and expands support for the conservation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.”

March Public Programs



Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden



Learn on Saturdays
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
March 18th



Mitchell County Naturalist Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe will be partnering with the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden for a "Learn on Saturdays" session in March!

Join us for weekly educational lectures on a range of topics focusing on Wild Landscapes. This lineup of speakers will inspire and inform you on how to prioritize revitalizing natural landscapes in your own backyard and community.

Tickets include in-person, virtual, and recorded viewing options.

Visit <https://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com/event/learn-on-saturdays/2023-03-18> for more information on this and other events.

Foraging 101 @ 11:30AM

Discover the wild world of wild edibles! This introduction course will hopefully pique your curiosity for the culinary discoveries awaiting just outside your backdoor!

MARCH 22

WORLD WATER DAY

Save water. Secure the future!

World Water Day is an annual United Nations Observance focusing on the importance of water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. The 2023 theme is Accelerating Change. Learn more at <https://www.worldwaterday.org>

MCEEFScholarship!

The Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation (MCEEFF) is offering three (3) \$500 scholarship to High School Seniors currently living in, or attending school in Mitchell County and who plan to further their education in the degrees of environmental education, wildlife, fisheries, and environmental management, forestry, earth science/biology environmental studies, natural resources, outdoor recreation, or other outdoor/environmental related field. One scholarship will be awarded per school district.

- Must be a resident of or attend school in Mitchell County
- Must plan to attend an in-state university, college, or community college.

• Applications must be received at the MCCB office by April 3rd, 2023.

Applications available @ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Lz-LI-YiLAfbsftbRYUckk0cMimZPsBn/view?usp=share_link or from Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe, Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation Ex-Officio, at chelsea@osage.net or 1879-3 Highway 9, Osage, IA 50461

Earth HOUR

March 25th
8:30 PM

Earth Hour aims to increase awareness and spark global conversations on protecting nature, tackling the climate crisis, and working together to shape a brighter future. Simply switch off all non-essential lights for an hour to participate! You could also have a candle-lit board game party, go on a night hike, look at constellations, have an acoustic jam session, or research more ways you can help our earth at <https://www.earthhour.org>

Spring 2023 Calendar of Events

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MARCH			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1st - May 1st** - Iowa DNR Light Goose Hunting Season
- 2nd** - Environmental Education Foundation Meeting - 7 PM
- 7th** - Full Worm Moon
- 17th** - Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 18th** - "Foraging 101" program (Zoom & in person) @ Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
- 20th** - First Day of Spring!
- 22nd** - Wild Edibles Zoom class for ISU OLLI program
- 22nd** - World Water Day
- 25th** - Deer & Turkey Show - 9:00-4:00
- 25th** - Earth Hour - 8:30 PM
- 29th** - Wild Edibles Zoom class for ISU OLLI program
- 31st** - End of Crow Hunting Season



Trout Lily

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MAY						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					

- May 1st** - End of Light Goose Hunting Season
- 3rd** - Wild Edibles in-person class for ISU OLLI Program
- 5th** - Full Flower Moon
- 6th** - Iron Horse Marathon @ Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail
- 10th** - Wild Edibles in-person class for ISU OLLI Program
- 14th** - Happy Mother's Day!
- 14th** - End of Spring Turkey Season 4
- 20th** - Wild Edibles @ Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area 9-1PM
- 27th** - Building Better Birders Program - Hike (7-10AM) and Birdhouse Build (10AM - 1PM)
- 29th** - Happy Memorial Day
- Memorial Day-Labor Day** - Trailhead Welcome Center Open – Saturday & Sunday 2-4PM



Tapping Maples for syrup!

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
APRIL						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 1st-May 1st** - Iowa DNR Light Goose Hunting Season
- All month** - Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail work days
- 6th** - Full Pink Moon
- 7th-9th** - Youth Spring Turkey Season
- 9th** - Happy Easter!
- 10th-May 14th** - Resident Archery Only Spring Turkey Season
- 10th-13th** - Spring Turkey Season 1
- 14th-18th** - Spring Turkey Season 2
- 19th-25th** - Spring Turkey Season 3
- 21st-23rd** - Spring Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop
- 22nd** - Happy Earth Day!
- 26th-May 14th** - Spring Turkey Season 4
- 28th** - Arbor Day
- 28th-30th** - Wander Women Wild Edibles Trip @Pinicon Alders Wildfie Area



Eyelash Cup Fungus

MITCHELL COUNTY



With our ever increasing “plugged-in” world, exposure to and understanding of our natural world is more important than ever. The Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation strives to support quality environmental education programs for ALL residents and visitors of Mitchell County. Our goals include providing financial support through memberships for programs that educate and train the public, as well as increase access to such programs through interactive displays, events, and volunteers. Program topics include ecology, local plants and animals, geology, outdoor recreation skills, recycling, human & land relationships, and many more. Consider supporting environmental education by becoming a member today!

“The Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation creates public awareness, promotes responsible stewardship, and expands support for the conservation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.”



Recent projects funded through the MCEEF:
 New Cross-country ski equipment
 Hunter Education Supplies
 Boundary Waters Expedition Equipment

**INTERPRETIVE PLAN FOR THE NATURE CENTER!
 YOUR DONATION can make it a reality!!!**

Benefits of being a member...

- Early signup for camps, trips, and limited classes
- Recognition on our donor wall for \$50+ donation
- Tax-deductible donation
- Input on Projects, Events, & Programs
- Volunteer opportunities
- Reduced registration prices for classes, or “members only” programs



BECOME A MEMBER

Yes! I want to join MCEEF!

Additional Family Names/Memorial Inquiries:

Name/Organization

Address

City State Zip Code

Phone

Email

Membership Levels

- Student \$10
- Individual \$25
- Family (2+ people) \$40
- Senior (60+) \$20
- Memorial **Ask about options**
- VOLUNTEER!**
 - Fundraising
 - Nature Center Host
 - Event/Program Volunteer
 - Other Talent?

Donor Levels

- Sugar Creek \$50
- Spring Creek \$51 - \$100
- Turtle Creek \$101-\$250
- Little Wapsi \$251-\$500
- Burr Oak \$501-\$1000
- Little Cedar \$1000 +
- Red Cedar \$5000+

Make checks payable to:
 MCEEF
 1879-3 Highway 9
 Osage, IA 50461

This is a TAX EXEMPT Donation!

April Public Programs

Foray into Foraging

April 28th-30th @ Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area

Wander WOMEN



Wander Women guides, connects and empowers women on camping, backpacking & paddling trips across the Midwest.

Mitchell County Naturalist Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe is partnering with the Wander Women organization to offer a unique foraging experience in Mitchell County this April!

The class will begin with a lesson identification, rules, and tools, and then transition to a leisurely collection hike. In the field, we will identify local edible plants, collect appropriate parts, have lunch on the trail, and return to camp to prepare and cook our foraged finds for a WILD supper!

Trip Details

Visit <https://wanderwomenmidwest.com> for more information on this class and other Wander Women events!

- Adventure Rating: Beginner
- Main activities: Learning, hiking
- Camping Details: We'll be staying in and around a remote, primitive cabin — participants can choose to sleep in the cabin or in tents — with primitive restrooms (pit toilet and no showers). There is no running water at the cabin, but there is a tested cold water spring that is safe for drinking water. The cabin has wood and electric heat. Note: Participants without gear will still need to rent gear for this trip.
- Skills learned on this trip: Fire building & starting, hiking preparation & safety, Leave No Trace, edible plant identification, harvest & cooking

Spring B.O.W. - Iowa DNR



Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) is an international program aimed primarily at women, but is an opportunity for anyone 18 years or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits. The workshop is for you if...

- you have never tried these activities, but have hoped for an opportunity to learn.
- you are a beginner who hopes to improve your skills.
- you know how to do some of these activities, but would like to try your hand at some new ones.
- you are looking for the camaraderie of like-minded individuals.

The workshop is being held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, IA. Workshop fees include instruction in all sessions, program materials, use of demonstration equipment, t-shirt, session takeaways, meals and lodging. There is a scholarship (Due March 20, 2023) offered to women 18 years old and older who would be unable to attend without financial assistance.

Mitchell County Naturalist Chelsea will be teaching session on "Foraged Flavors" (Spring wild edibles). Other sessions highlights include: Introduction to Firearms, Explore Bowhunting, Fishing, Kayaking, Camping, Hiking, and more! Check out the BOW Brochure for more information! www.iowadnr.gov/bow

May Public Programs



Building Better Birders



Are you a beginning birder, expert in avians, or somewhere in between? Then this is the program for you! We offer a variety of high-quality workshops designed to prepare you for the next step in your birding education. Building Better Birders is a programming series designed to improve the bird identification skills of local citizens & promote a greater interest in citizen science programming. This workshop will be conducted by Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center) in conjunction with Mitchell County Conservation. Kelly McKay is a recognized leader in the birding field throughout the Midwest. His 40 years of experience in the field as an avian researcher and educator makes these workshops special!

Workshops are presented free of charge & supported by the Resource Enhancement and Protection - Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP). These programs are open to all ages but are geared toward participants age 12 & over.

This programming series will feature 3 events in Mitchell County. **PLEASE CALL TO PRE-REGISTER** to ensure supplies for all attendees. Attendees may register for all programs or may select the ones that most interest them.

1.) Saturday, May 27th
Milton R. Owen Nature Center
 7 AM-10 AM Bird Hike
 10 AM-10:15 AM Break
 10:15 AM-Noon "Floodplain Forest Birds of Iowa" Presentation
 Noon-12:30 PM Lunch Break
 12:30 PM-2 PM Birdhouse Build!

2.) Friday, June 30th
Milton R. Owen Nature Center
 Session 1: 6 PM-7:30 PM "Wetland Birds of Iowa" Presentation
 7:30 PM-7:45 PM Break
 Session 2: 7:45 PM-9 PM "Nocturnal Raptors of Iowa" Presentation
 Session 3: 9 PM -10:30 PM Owl Prowl Hike!
Saturday, July 1st
New Haven Potholes, 3748 Shadow Ave., Osage
 Time: 6 AM -9AM Bird Hike

3.) Saturday, February 3rd, 2024
Milton R. Owen Nature Center
 Session 1: 8:30 AM -10 AM "Common Feeder Birds of Iowa" Presentation
 Session 2: 10 AM-Noon PM Build Your Own Bird Feeder
 Noon -1 PM Lunch Break
 Session 3: 1 PM-2 PM Bird Hike

Where Passion for Birds Meets Education - Building a Community of Lifelong Learners and Citizen Scientists!

SPRING WILD EDIBLES
MAY 20TH
9-1PM
 PINICON ALDERS WILDLIFE AREA
 3133 470th Street, McIntire, IA 50455

Join Naturalist Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe to discover the flavors of the forest! There is an entire grocery store of delicious, local, wild foods just waiting outside your backdoor! This HANDS ON class focuses on how to identify key features of wild edible plants, knowing when and what to sustainably harvest, and how to prepare wild foods. Flowers, greens, roots, and shoots are just a few of the things that will be on the menu! Come ready to help dig, cut, cook, and most importantly EAT! The class will begin with a lesson identification, rules, and tools, and then transition to a leisurely collection hike. In the field, we will identify local edible plants, collect appropriate parts, and return to the cabin. Then it's time to prepare, cook and sample the flavors of spring! Please bring a water bottle, notebook and/or camera for taking notes, a writing utensil, and your curiosity! Chelsea will have recipes, notes, and ID sheets to share.

Please CALL TO REGISTER - \$10 for MCEEF Members/\$20 for non-members - (641) 330-0765 or (641) 732-5204

RECENT RECYLING NEWS & THE LANDFILL LATEST

FMC Landfill - 3354 330th Street Elma, IA 50628

www.fmclandfill.org



HOURS

MONDAY: 7AM-3PM
 TUESDAY: 7AM-3PM
 WEDNESDAY: 7AM-3PM
 THURSDAY: 7AM-3PM
 FRIDAY: 7AM-3PM
 SATURDAY: CLOSED
 SUNDAY: CLOSED



The FMC Landfill is turning 50!
 Follow us on Facebook or visit
 our new website to stay tuned
 for celebration announcements!
<https://fmclandfill.org>

Household Hazardous Materials (HHM)
 Mobile Collection

What are Household Hazardous Materials? They are used in cleaning, home improvement projects, automobile maintenance, lawn and garden care, and a variety of other tasks. HHMs are products which pose a health threat when disposed of improperly. HHMs usually have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Corrosive or Caustic:* They eat or wear away at most materials.
- Flammable:* They easily ignite.

- Reactive:* They can react with other chemicals and produce deadly vapors.
- Toxic:* They are poisonous to humans and animals.

Signal words printed on the label like CAUTION, DANGER, WARNING, or KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN indicate that a material is probably a HHM.

The Floyd, Mitchell, & Chickasaw County Landfill will safely dispose of your HHMs for **FREE** once a month April-October at the mobile site, located at the Mitchell County Recycling Center.

However, to ensure staffing at the site, the mobile site services are available by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Make your appointment or get more recycling and landfill information now by calling (641)982-4288, 7:00-2:00, Monday - Friday.

Can't make the monthly day? You may bring your HHMs to the landfill's new Regional Collection Center year-round! An **appointment is needed** to bring this to the landfill. 24 hours in advance is advised, as same day appointments are not guaranteed. Businesses and farms are also eligible for this service, but may be subject to forms and pre-approval. Give us a call to find out if you qualify!



- Oil Based Varnish
- Pool Chemicals
- Rug Cleaner
- Pesticides
- Motor Oil
- Weed Killers
- Furniture Polish
- Paint Thinner
- Antifreeze
- Fertilizers
- Spot Remover
- Furniture Stripper
- Wood Preservatives
- Cement
- Rat Poison
- Household Batteries
- Aerosol Cans
- Oven Cleaner
- Kerosene
- Vehicle Batteries
- Drain Opener
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Photo. Supplies
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Ballasts
- Air Fresheners
- Fuels
- Sharps

WAPSI-GREAT WESTERN LINE

Trail Events

TRAILHEAD

Wapsi-Great Western Line

110 EAST MAIN STREET (U.S. HWY #9)

RICEVILLE IA 50466

WWW.WGWLTRAIL.COM

APRIL - Spring Cleanup on the Trail!

Call (641) 220-2685 to sign up

Trailhead Welcome Center Open

Saturday & Sunday from 2:00-4:00

Memorial Day – Labor Day

May 6th - Iron Horse Race! Marathon (Boston Marathon qualifier), Half-marathon, and 5K. Register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IA/Riceville/TheIronHorse>



Mitchell County Conservation Board

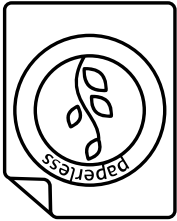
1879-3 Highway 9

Osage, IA 50461

Office: (641) 732-5204



All TOGETHER now!
For Earth Day 2023, for everyone,
everything, every day, let's
#InvestInOurPlanet!
What Will You Do?
<https://www.earthday.org>



Help us keep costs down and save resources by going paperless. If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, please send an email to chelsea@osage.net.



Keep up to date with our events and nature happenings by liking and following us on: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and at <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Mitchell.aspx>



Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation:

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- Dave Goodale—Vice Pres.
- Jessica Bohannon—Secretary
- Danielle Dorsey—Treasurer
- Bridget Chatfield
- Jonathon Cramer
- Gary Huffman
- Ed & Joanne Kleinwort
- Milt & Linda Owen
- Chelsea Rowcliffe (ex-officio)
- Andy & Sam Taets

Staff:

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