

Hamilton County Conservation Board 2021 Public Naturalist Programs

Full Moon Snowshoe Night Hike

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2021

Time: 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Conservation Office, Brigg's Woods Park, Webster City, IA

If you love trekking through snow join us on a snowshoe night hike in the park under the full moon. We will go over snowshoe instruction and snowshoe outside together. If there is no or little snow, we will still have a night hike under the full moon. Feel free to bring your own snowshoes. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing.

Whitetail Deer Antler Shed Talk & Hike

Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021

Time: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Location: Conservation Office Briggs Woods Park, Webster City, IA

Enjoy a short talk about deer antler sheds and then hike on the park trails with our County Naturalist. We will be looking for deer antler sheds, tree rubbings, and scrapes, droppings, and deer beds. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing.

Earth Day - Spring Trash Pick Up at Briggs Woods Park

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Conservation Office at Briggs Woods Park, Webster City, IA

Celebrate Earth Day by joining our Hamilton County Naturalist John Laird and Brigg's Woods Park Officer Bailey Morton for a springtime trash pickup at Briggs Woods Park. Come join us for a hike as we enjoy the spring sights, sounds, and smells as we hike the park roadsides and pick-up trash. We will also look for springtime wildflowers as we pick up trash together. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing

Fireside Chat at Camp WaNoKi / Lyme Disease / Morel Mushroom Hike

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Camp WaNoKi Lodge, 2401 WaNoKi Camp Road, Fort Dodge, IA

Don't let the elusive deer tick spoil your spirit of adventure. Learn some preventative measures to enhance your hikes in the outdoors. Participants will hear personal testimonies from people who had Lyme Disease or are still dealing with precarious symptoms. An optional guided hike will be offered in search of morel mushrooms during the second hour of the fireside chat. On the hike we will put the tips into practice on how to avoid deer ticks and possible Lyme Disease transmission. This is a joint program between Hamilton and Webster County Conservation. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing

Bee Keeping Basics & Free Honey Samples

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2021

Location: Shelter 1 at Brigg's Woods Park, Webster City, IA

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Mark Moberly of MOBEEZ a local bee keeper will be presenting on the basics of bee keeping. He will be discussing what can be done in city limits and out of city limits for bee keeping. We will be discussing the benefits of raising and eating local honey. Honey can be substituted for sugar sometimes when cooking. Some honey recipes for cooking will be available for people to take. Bee keeper concerns and costs will also be discussed in this presentation. Find out some of the flowering plants that bees prefer for planting your own back yard butterfly and pollinator flower garden. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing

Cops & Bobbers Fishing Derby

Date: Saturday, June 5, 2021

Rain Date: Sunday, June 6, 2021

Location: Saturday Shelter 2 Briggs Woods Park

Location: Sunday Beach Picnic Shelter Briggs Woods Park, Webster City, IA

Time: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am to 11:00 am Fishing Derby

Come and meet Hamilton County Law Enforcement Officers and refine your fishing skills during the Cops & Bobbers fishing derby at Brigg's Woods Park beach area. This family event is free to the public. Iowa residents do not need a fishing license since it is held on the Iowa DNR free fishing weekend. (June 4-6, 2021) This program is for kid's ages 3-14 years of age but adults can fish with their kids. Prizes will be given only to kids ages 3-14 that participate and each participant of that age will go home with a prize.

The goal of this program is to get kids hooked on fishing instead of drugs, crime, and to show law enforcement in a positive and friendly manner. This program is intended to break down barriers and teach law enforcement and citizens to trust each other. We will discuss fishing pole maintenance, fish ID, fishing regulations, water safety, and other basic fishing instruction. Feel free to bring your own fishing pole and bait. We do have a limited supply of fishing poles. If you have questions feel free to contact Deputy Ryan Rupiper at 515-832-9500 or you can call Hamilton County Conservations at 515-832-9570 or John's work cell at 515-297-0423. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are, possible people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing. This is all subject to change or cancellation depending on the Covid-19 situation at the time of the program.

Stargazing Night Hike

Date: Saturday July 10, 2021

Time: 10:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Location: Beach Amphitheater at Briggs Woods Park, Webster City, IA

Explore the universe as we discover the basics of Astronomy and observe stars, constellations, planets, moon craters, and orbiting satellites. Bring your curiosity and binoculars to the amphitheater so we can observe the night sky. We will go on a short night hike in the park for sky observation. Bring your smart phone with a star finder app loaded on it to assist us in night sky observation. This program is for all ages of people who are curious about the observing the night sky. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing.

Boone River Clean Up

Date: Saturday, August 7, 2021

Rain Date: Saturday, August 14, 2021

Time: 7:30 am to 8:00 registration

8:00 am to 1:00 pm River Clean Up

Location: Briggs Woods Park at Shelter 1

Come and help clean garbage out of our river as we canoe the Boone River. Meet at Shelter # 1 at Brigg's Woods Park to register and we will start from there.

What to bring: Sunscreen, water, bug spray, shovel, gloves, hat, sunglasses, and canoes. Park your vehicle in the canoe access parking lot located next to the campgrounds. We will be cleaning up the 7.6 Miles of river from Beavers Bridge to Tunnel Mill Canoe Access. We will be providing a shuttle bus back from Brigg's Woods Park. Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt. A limited number of canoes are available on a first come first serve basis. Feel free to bring your own canoe. Children under 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Parents must sign a waiver and medical information form for all youth under 18. All volunteers must abide by IA DNR boating laws. No alcohol consumption is allowed. We hope to be on the river by around 8:00 am. RSVP required and limited to the first 30 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation

Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 30 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing.

Fireside Chat at Camp WaNoKi / Primitive Weapons

Date: Thursday, August, 26, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Camp WaNoKi Lodge, 2401 WaNoKi Camp Road, Fort Dodge, IA

A little history lesson at the fireside on weapons from the past will start this active evening. Join the fun as we offer participants the chance to use a variety of weapons from the past into the present, starting with early atlats used to throw long darts at targets. Tomahawks and knife throwing along with slingshots, bows and arrows will be demonstrated and supervised by the Webster and Hamilton County Naturalists. This is a joint program between Hamilton and Webster County Conservation. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing

Night Wings Night Hike

Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021

Location: Brigg's Woods Park, Beach Amphitheater

Time: 9:30 pm to 10:30 pm

What animals fly around Brigg's Woods Park at night? Come join us for a brief discussion at the amphitheater on bats and owls of Iowa. We will hike the park trails together in search of these winged animals of the night. We will look at a bat house in the park and try to call owls as we hike on the trails. We will discuss what things threaten these predators of the night. We have a limited number of flashlights so feel free to bring a flashlight. Red covers will be available to cover all the flashlights so we have better night vision. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing.

Brigg's Woods Park Halloween Fundraising Event

Trick or Treating / Hayrides / Kids Games / Meal / Night Hike

Location: Brigg's Woods Park, Campgrounds & Shelters Brigg's Woods Park

Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Brigg's Woods Campgrounds Trick or Treating

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Hayrides start at Beach parking lot and go to campgrounds.

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Kids Games at Shelter 1 in Campgrounds.

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Meal at Beach Shelter by Webster City Church of Christ.

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Luminary Night Hike starts at Shelter 2 (Ends at 9PM)

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Hayrides start at the beach and go to Shelter 2 for night hike.

Bring your camper out ahead of time and decorate your campsite as there will be awards for the best two decorated campsites. Hay rides, Trick or Treating in campgrounds, and kids' games at Shelter1 will be free to all who attend.

Park at the beach parking lot to start and walk or join a hayride to the events. Come on a Self-Guided Luminary Night Hike from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and discover some interesting facts on Iowa's wildlife. There will be various presenters telling you about Iowa wildlife at each trail station. This is a fundraiser event so a \$5.00 donation per person is requested at Shelter #2 to help raise funds for Naturalist Programming. You will receive a wrist band that lets you pass to walk on the self-guided trail. There is no charge for campgrounds trick or treating or kid's games at Shelter 1. If you have questions you may call John at 515-297-0423 or the Conservation Office at 515-832-9570. No alcohol consumption is allowed at the event. This is all subject to change or cancellation depending on the Covid-19 situation at the time of the program.

Fireside Chat at Camp WaNoKi / Luminary Night Hike /Critters of the Night

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Camp WaNoKi Lodge, 2401 WaNoKi Camp Road, Fort Dodge, IA

Have you ever hiked in the woods after dark? Come and check it off your bucket list as we take a guided night hike and follow the luminary pumpkins on the woodland trails.

We will learn about nocturnal woodland animals and their special adaptations for night time survival. Bring your own headlamp or flashlight with a red-light option if you wish.

We will supply some lights and red-light coverings but numbers are limited. This is a joint program between Webster and Hamilton County Conservation Boards. RSVP

required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570

Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at

jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements

due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing

Little Wall Lake Halloween Event

Trick or Treating / Hayrides/ Kids Games

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 **Time:** 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: Little Wall Lake Park Picnic Shelter and Campground

Celebrate the fall by participating in this family-oriented event. Bring your camper and decorate your campsites as there will be awards for the best two decorated campsites. Trick or treating and hayrides in the campgrounds will be from 4 pm to 7 pm and meet at the picnic shelter. The local 4H Club will be at the picnic shelter for fun outdoor kid games and serve people hot cocoa, cookies, and hot dogs.

No alcohol consumption is allowed at the hayrides or activities at the picnic shelter. Non camping visitors should park in the big parking lot on the north end of the lake. Wear your favorite costume to the event. If you have questions feel free to contact John Laird my email jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org or call the office at 515-832-9570 or call John's work cell at 515-297-0423. This is all subject to change or cancelation depending on the Covid-19 situation at the time of the program.

Skillet Creek Indian Mounds Night Hike

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Skillet Creek is managed by the Webster County Conservation Board. To reach the area, follow Highway 175 west of Stratford about 4 miles. Just after crossing the bridge over the Des Moines River, turn right (north) onto River Road. Then turn onto Skillet Creek Road (left at the Y intersection. Just beyond the first curve will be a parking lot on the right. The area is signed from Highway 175 at the end of the bridge.

Join us for a night hike to the Skillet Creek Indian Mounds as we walk through the leaves. Come and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the night as we hike this moderately to difficult hiking path up the hillside. We will discuss the area history and observe the burial and ceremonial mounds on the hill top. This program is for all ages of people who enjoy hiking at night. Feel free to bring a flashlight as red covers will be provided. There are also a limited number of red covered flashlights provided to use. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing

Candy Cane Hike

Date: Saturday, December 4, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Location: Shelter 2 Briggs Woods Park

Bring the family and hike the park trails at Brigg's Woods Park together with the County Naturalist in search of hidden candy canes on the trees, bushes, and logs. We will discuss the history of the candy cane and what is going on with the animals in the woods during the winter. Dress appropriately for the cold weather conditions. RSVP required and limited to the first 20 people by contacting John Laird at 515-832-9570 Conservation Office or 515-297-0423 cell phone by calling, texting, or emailing at jlaird@hamiltoncounty.org to make your reservation. Program attending requirements due to Covid-19 are RSVP to register, 20 people limit, face masking, and 6 feet social distancing.

