

# Nahant News

Winter 2018

Volume 12, Issue 1

4220 Wapello Ave. • Davenport, IA 52802

[www.nahantmarsh.org](http://www.nahantmarsh.org) • 563.336.3370



Photo by Nahant Marsh AmeriCorps  
Naturalist, Kinsey Nielsen. January 2018.

## About Nahant Marsh



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#### NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIANS

- Kory Darnall
- Zach Strong
- Madeline Kull

Nahant Marsh preserve is one of the largest urban wetlands on the Upper Mississippi River. It is comprised of marshy areas, mesic, wet and sand prairie, and bottomland forest. A spring-fed quarry, known as Carp Lake, and the surrounding grounds are part of the Nahant Marsh preserve as well. The 305-acre preserve is owned by the City of Davenport and the Nahant Marsh Board, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Conservation and restoration efforts on the preserve are directed by the Nahant Board. The educational programming is overseen by Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC). EICC's Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center (ATEEC) is also a critical part of Nahant Marsh.



Nahant Marsh Education Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) education agency. As such, many services provided by Nahant Marsh rely heavily on donations from generous folks like you! Your donations are tax deductible. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please send a check to Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, IA 52802.

You may also donate securely online at [www.nahantmarsh.org/donations](http://www.nahantmarsh.org/donations). Donations are also needed in the form of supplies and tools. Our online donation page includes our wish list. If you have something not on the list you think we could use, please let us know! Email us at [nahantmarsh@eicc.edu](mailto:nahantmarsh@eicc.edu).

In addition to donations, there are many ways you can support Nahant Marsh:

- Join as a member
- Sponsor an animal ambassador
- Personalize an education center patio paver
- Purchase Nahant merchandise
- Join the Friends of Nahant Marsh
- Volunteer at events or cleanups
- Attend programs
- Share your experiences on social media
- Host a birthday party at Nahant Marsh
- Spread the word about the beauty of Nahant Marsh

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## Another Successful Year with More to Come

*by Brian Ritter, Executive Director*

I've been fortunate to serve at Nahant Marsh for over 10 years now and have observed remarkable growth and change occur. From seeing species like river otters, bobcats, and sandhill cranes return to the Marsh after decades of absence, to seeing the incredible impact our educational programs have on both children and adults, we've accomplished a great deal.

With tremendous support and generosity from volunteers, families, businesses, and community partners, we were able to reach two major milestones this year. For the eighth year in a row, our staff provided programming for a record number of people: 17,960. And with the acquisition of a new property at the end of the year, the amount of land in the preserve grew from 265 acres to 305 acres.



Left and middle by Julie Malake. Right from a Nahant Marsh trail camera.

Despite these achievements, we still have challenges ahead. This year, we will begin the hard work of cleaning up and restoring the newly acquired parcel. This will be a multi-year effort that will ultimately improve the marsh ecosystems and the many plants and animals that call it home. Additionally, we have begun to study future improvements and extensions to our network of trails. These improvements will ultimately provide better public accessibility and safety while still protecting the most sensitive areas of the marsh and we will also not forget our existing areas. Our staff continues to find creative ways to combat invasive species and protect biodiversity. In addition, we will continue to improve and expand our educational offerings in 2018 and beyond.



The newly acquired Nahant Marsh property. Jevonnah Foster

Education, research, and conservation are what Nahant Marsh does. And we are able to do them well because of all of you. We have a lot of work ahead of us still, but we are up to the challenge. We thank all of you for your continued support and look forward to working with you to make Nahant Marsh a better and more resilient place.



## With Appreciation

*by Tim Murphy, Nahant Marsh Board President*

I have been asked to write a reflection of 2017 at Nahant Marsh Education Center, and as I reflect, one word keeps bouncing around: volunteers. There is a good staff at Nahant—dedicated, organized, and committed to provide outdoor education and to preserve the ecological integrity of the marsh. For their efforts, we are grateful. But, the word volunteer continues to revolve in my mind.

I reviewed the quarterly newsletter and the number of logos representing organizations that have provided gifts, financial assistance, planning, and labor seems to have grown exponentially. All of this, of course, is voluntary. We had volunteers from Local 4 News WHBF, United Way, and John Deere among others help us complete major projects in spite of blazing heat and torrential downpours.

I look at the growing numbers of financial supporters, and wish to thank them. Without these volunteer contributions, we have no means to support programming or the ecological integrity of the marsh.

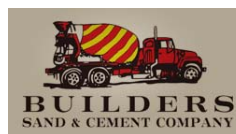
The Nahant Board of Directors has also added volunteers. New Board members include Amy Kay, Denise Bulat, Steve Gustafson, and Josh Hoffman. These four have brought energy, expertise, and enthusiasm, and we are thankful they have participated. Of course our more established volunteers, Friends of Nahant Marsh, Master Naturalists, and our esteemed Board continues to provide consistent service and assistance.

Finally, I continue to run into people who have a connection to Nahant Marsh. Most have told me they have helped with one project or another. Not only have they helped, but they have enjoyed the experience. The magic of nature surely lends to this. It is worth working for. We must be doing something right.

### CORPORATE SPONSORS



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## With Appreciation (Continued)

### 2017 DONORS

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Linda Goff  
Dick's Sporting Goods  
Trey and Claire Gordon  
Max and Jacki Guinn  
Emily Gutzmann  
Chelsea Haley

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*Each gift, no matter the size, is used to fund educational programming and research and is critical in restoring, enhancing, and protecting the dynamic, yet fragile Nahant Marsh ecosystems.*

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Patricia Halverson  
Kelly Harrouff  
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Ronald Lang  
Marion Lardner  
Stephen Leese  
Kathleen Lenaghan  
Linwood Mining and Minerals Corp  
Live Well Chiropractic & Wellness Center  
Julie Malake

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## With Appreciation (Continued)

Susan McPeters  
Michael's Fun World  
Miller Trucking & Excavating  
Mumford Family Foundation  
Tim Murphy  
Cindy Nagel  
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium  
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Jack Wiley  
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Betty Wood

### 2017 HONORARIUMS

Dawn Anderson Rascher in Honor of the Anderson Family  
Marsha Loving in Honor of Bill Loving  
Heather Cox in Honor of Caleb Cox  
Jane Cox in Honor of Aryanne Encarnacion-Cox  
Patty Gillette in Honor of Guthrie, Laithe, Juniper, & Cort  
Christopher Swanson in Honor of Julie Lindbeck  
Vince and Melissa Lamb in Honor of the Lamb Girls  
Curtis Lundy in Honor of the Liam Lundy Family  
Adam and Kristin Pruitt in Honor of Grayer, Olive, & Talon  
Deborah Robertson in Honor of Reece & Kendall Kuhlman  
Joe Stewart in Honor of Sally Stewart  
Susan Stiles in Honor of Bridgette, Kailin, & Sadie  
Curtis Lundy in Honor of Theodore Boucher  
Ann Werner in Honor of Hannah, Lizzie, & Sarah McVey

### 2017 MEMORIALS

Audra Ramp in Memory of Sandy Coussens  
Roland Caldwell in Memory of Anne Corbi  
John Conley in Memory of Laura Calhoun  
Terry Ousley in Memory of Terry and June Ousley  
Schiller Family Foundation in Memory of Mike Flaherty

## With Appreciation (Continued)

### 2017 ANIMAL AMBASSADOR "ADOPTIONS"

#### Bob the Three-Toed Box Turtle

- The Lamb Girls
- Liam Lundy Family

#### Captain the Blanding's Turtle

- Theodore Boucher
- Mark and Lisa Cleve
- Bill Loving
- Lizzie McVey

#### Ethel the Red-eared Slider

- Grayer, Olive and Talon Pruitt

#### George the Three-toed Box Turtle

- Girl Scout Troop 5299

#### Leia the Ornate Box Turtle

- Lydia Rohner

#### Micheline the Three-Toed Box Turtle

- Cindy Nagel

#### Pancake the Spiny Softshell Turtle

- Terry Collins
- Patti Holmlund
- Kendall Kuhlman
- Sally Stewart

#### Picasso the Painted Turtle

- Reece Kuhlman
- The Wille and Rakus Families

#### Porky the Hognose Snake

- Sarah McVey

#### Rizzo the Black Rat Snake

- Caleb Cox
- Shirley Horstmann

#### Rocky the Bull Snake

- Caleb Cox
- Shirley Horstmann

#### Sid the Musk Turtle

- A Kind-Hearted Quad Citian

#### Squirtle the Ornate Box Turtle

- Hannah McVey

#### Sunny the Fox Snake

- Bridgette, Kailin, and Sadie
- Aryanne Encarnacion-Cox

#### Tigger the Tiger Salamander

- Rescued



When you're here enjoying Nahant Marsh, don't miss saying "hello" to our Animal Ambassadors like Captain, the Blanding's turtle. Our resident turtles, snakes, and salamander represent native species of Iowa's wildlife. They provide unforgettable hands-on experiences for visitors. All are available for "adoption," which helps to pay for their care, feeding, and veterinary check-ups. Visit [www.nahantmarsh.org](http://www.nahantmarsh.org) to learn more.



Maddie with Rocky. Nahant Staff

### HAVE YOU MET MADDIE?

Madeline Kull, a Morrison, Illinois native, is a senior Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration major at Western Illinois University—Quad Cities (WIU-QC). She was originally introduced to Nahant Marsh while helping WIU-QC professor Dr. Rob Porter celebrate his fiftieth birthday in 2016 by installing prothonotary warbler boxes at Carp Lake. Since then, she has been volunteering on the

natural resources crew, and began overseeing animal care for our ambassadors last year. For her, Nahant is a safe haven and beautiful place to escape and refocus. Her volunteer experiences have confirmed that her chosen career path is absolutely the one for her. When asked which is her favorite animal, she laughed and replied, "You can't choose a favorite child!"



Dinner time for Squirtle. Madeline Kull



## 2017 “Beginning Birder Cruises” at Rock Creek Park: Building Better Birders and Hopefully Better Citizen Scientists

by Guest Contributors Kelly J. McKay And Mark A. Roberts

During the spring season of 2017, the Clinton County Conservation Board (CCCB) developed an idea to train better birders, and possibly develop a core group of new citizen scientists, by conducting “beginning birder cruises” in the wooded backwaters of the Mississippi River at Rock Creek Park on the Blue Heron pontoon boat. These cruises were free to the public. The hope was that participants in this program would get involved in various “citizen science” projects (e.g., Christmas Bird Count, Statewide Spring Bird Count). The program was funded by CCCB (\$1,575) along with a grant from the Iowa Ornithologists’ Union (\$750). The cruises were co-led by Mark Roberts (CCCB), who served as a birding guide and boat pilot, as well as Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center), who was involved as the primary birding guide and instructor.



Stephen Hager

Originally, six cruises were planned during the summer breeding season of 2017, alternating between Saturday and Wednesday mornings (June 10 and 21, July 8 and 19, August 5 and 16). Eventually, we added two additional cruises during the fall migration season (September 13 and 27). Cruises began shortly after sunrise (6:30–7:00 a.m.) and lasted anywhere from two and a half to five hours, depending on availability of the boat as well as interest from the participants. Furthermore, participants had the option of birding on foot throughout the park with Kelly for an additional hour or two after the cruise.

Overall, 83 people participated on the eight cruises (slightly over ten per trip), with a low of five participants on trip one (June 10) to a high of 16 participants on trips four and six (July 19 and August 16). During these eight cruises a cumulative total of 105 species were identified, ranging from a low of forty-seven species (September 27) to a high of seventy-two species

(September 13). This produced an average of nearly 60 species per cruise. Approximately half of the species (52) were observed on six or more of the trips, while 28 species were encountered on all eight cruises. During these birding



Prothonotary Warbler  
Stephen Hager

### Beginning Birding Class at Nahant Marsh May 2 | 6:30–9 a.m.

Learn how to identify birds and their habitats with expert ornithologist, Kelly McKay. Kelly will lead birding tours to various areas of Nahant Marsh. Participants will learn how to identify birds by sight and call and will learn how to properly use the equipment.

Cost: \$6 for Members or \$12 for Guests

cruises, ten species of waterfowl and other waterbirds were reported, along with six species each of raptors and shorebirds, and all seven species of woodpeckers occurring in Iowa. Furthermore, these trips yielded eight species of flycatchers, five species each of vireos, thrushes, and blackbirds, as well as a notable 17 species of warblers. Highlight species encountered in noteworthy abundances included: wood duck, yellow-billed cuckoo, spotted sandpiper, double-crested cormorant, turkey vulture, bald eagle, red-headed woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, Eastern wood-pewee, great crested flycatcher, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, tree swallow, Northern rough-winged swallow, brown creeper, house wren, prothonotary warbler, American redstart, and Baltimore oriole. Although we believe this first-time effort at beginning birder cruises was a success, illustrated by the fact that several people participated on multiple trips, the definitive proof of success for this program will be demonstrated by the involvement of participants on various citizen science

programs in the future. We are hopeful that additional years of this program may produce a reliable source of citizen scientists throughout the local area.

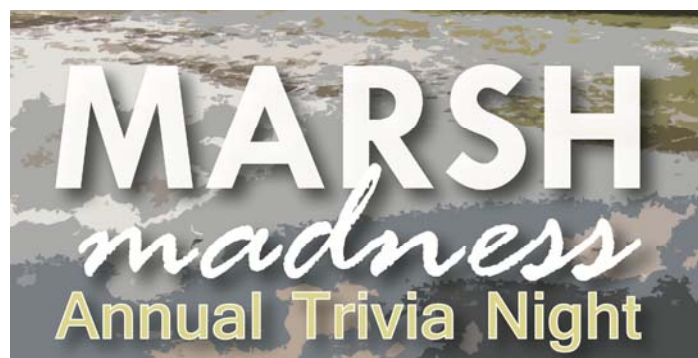


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## Upcoming Special Events

### Trivia Night Fundraiser with Silent Auction Saturday, March 10 | 6–10 p.m.

Trivia Night helps to raise funds for the Nahant Marsh Education Center and Friends of Nahant Marsh. Without community support, we would not be able to provide environmental education programming to people of all ages, promote ecological stewardship, or continue restoration efforts of the amazing treasure we have in Southwest Davenport.



Held at Center for Active Seniors, Inc. (CASI) in Davenport: 1035 W Kimberly Rd, Davenport, IA 52806.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Trivia with Mr. Trivia begins at 7 p.m. All beverages must be purchased from the bar, but attendees are welcome to bring their own food. A silent auction is included.

Cost: \$80 for a table of 8 or \$70 for Nahant Marsh members. 10 mulligans can be purchased for \$10 and one Doubler can also be purchased for \$10.

Contact Lindsey with questions, to register, or to donate auction items: [lmkenedy@eicc.edu](mailto:lmkenedy@eicc.edu) / 563.336.3374.

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### Spring Celebration and Eco Egg Hunt Saturday, March 24 | 9 a.m.-Noon

Celebrate spring at Nahant Marsh! Children ages 3–12 can participate in either a hide-and-seek egg hunt (great for younger children) or a GPS scavenger egg hunt (best for older children). There will also be a variety of hands-on activities where children and their families will learn about local wildlife and upcycling.



Refreshments will be available for purchase. Each child that participates in the egg hunts will receive a bag of eco-friendly goodies. Registration is recommended and appreciated. This is an open-house style fundraising event and all proceeds go to support environmental education and natural resource projects. The egg hunts will run from 9–11 a.m. at your leisure. Bring your own basket!

Cost: \$5 for Child Members or \$7 for Child Guests. Children 2 and under are free.

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### Earth Day Spring Cleanup Saturday, April 22 | 8:30–11:30 a.m.

Nahant Marsh invites you and your family to join us for our Annual Spring Cleanup on Earth Day Saturday, April 22, 2018 from 8:30–11:30 a.m. Volunteers at the cleanup will be picking up litter along the roadways of South Concord and Wapello Avenue in Southwest Davenport and possibly Nahant Marsh's newly acquired land.



Gloves, tongs, and safety gear will be provided as well as water stations, fruit, and granola bars. Please wear comfortable, durable clothes, a hat, and shoes that can get dirty. There may be wet areas, so rubber boots or water-resistant shoes are recommended. You may also want to bring a reusable water bottle.

## Upcoming Adult Programs

### Breakfast Nature Club

Held on the first Friday of each month from 8–9 a.m.

A continental breakfast is included.

Cost: \$5 Members, \$10 Guests

#### February 2 | Woodpeckers

Explore the amazing world of woodpeckers. Participants will learn about their adaptations, life cycles and how to identify and attract species that are found in our area. You will also be able to make and take your own suet from our suet bar which will be set up with a variety of tasty treats.

#### March 2 | What's New at Nahant

What's New at Nahant Marsh: Brian Ritter will discuss the present and future of Nahant Marsh. We will discuss plans for the newly acquired land, future restoration projects, and trail and amenity development.

#### April 6 | Lawn Reform

##### Changing Lawn Expectations in Your Neighborhood

Our discussion will begin with information on the public education campaign, Good Neighbor Iowa, and changing the way you look at lawn care. Whether you are a gardener or have a brown thumb, we will go over easy ways to ensure that your yard benefits wildlife and the environment, mistakes to avoid, and common lawn concerns. You will also leave with resources for more information on natural lawn care and gardening for the environment. Guest Speaker, Tara Witherow.

#### May 4 | Ferns of the Quad-City Region

Bob Bryant (retired director/naturalist of the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and fern enthusiast) will conduct a mini-fern workshop. Using his PowerPoint program, "Ferns of the Quad-City Region" and pressed fronds, the following topics will be briefly covered: field guides and keys, morphology, life cycles, identification, distribution, uses, folklore, and photographing ferns.

### Winter Tree Identification

February 17 | 10–11 a.m.

Cost: \$5 Members, \$10 Guests

Trees are fairly easy to identify when their foliage is full force, but identifying them in winter, well, that can be a bit tricky! In this class, participants will learn skills to identify trees based on twigs and bark.

### The Art of Beekeeping\*

February 22–March 29 | 6–8 p.m.

Cost: \$95 for the 6-week session on Thursdays

Discover the world of beekeeping and learn everything you need to get started on this fascinating hobby. Participants will learn how to assemble a hive, how to care for the hive, and how to harvest honey. Textbook and notes included in the fee. Taught by Phil Crandall of Crandall Farms Inc.

### Invasive Species Workshop

March 1 | 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Cost: \$35 Location: The Watchtower Lodge at Black Hawk State Park in Rock Island, IL

Invasive species threaten farms, preserves, parks, and even our backyards. In this workshop, experts will share the latest tools and research and showcase how you can prevent, control, and contain invasive species. The workshop is open to any member of the public including land managers, natural resource professionals, restoration specialists, landowners, and homeowners. Workshop fee includes lunch.

### Design Your Own Native Landscape\*

March 6–27 | 6–8 p.m.

Cost: \$80 for the 4-week class on Tuesdays  
Plus Optional Text

Landscapes utilizing native plants are all the rage, but where to begin? Learn about the various native plants that are ideal for landscapes and how they can benefit wildlife and pollinators. The class will cover all aspects of design, development, installation and how to maintain your native plant landscape. Taught by Master Gardener, Dan Mays. Optional text: Designing Your Gardens and Landscapes: 12 Simple Steps for Successful Planning by Janet Macunovich.

### Handmade Paper

March 7 | 6–8 p.m.

Cost: \$20 for Members, \$30 for Guests

Learn how to make handmade paper from recycled materials. You will be able to take home the paper you make during class. Participants will also make their own mold and deckle to take home. Call ahead to reserve your spot.

### Iowa Butterfly Survey Network Training

April 7 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Cost: No Program Fee  
Lunch Available for \$10

Do you like butterflies? If so, this workshop is for you. The Iowa Butterfly Survey Network is a citizen science project coordinated by Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University. This training will teach you how to identify common butterfly species. Participants will adopt a specific area to survey throughout the growing season.



\* Registration is through Eastern Iowa Community Colleges.

## Upcoming Family and Youth Programs

### K-9 Homeschool Program

Held on the last Friday of the month (September through May) from 2:30–4 p.m. to provide homeschool students with the opportunity to learn and explore nature.

Students will be able to examine the value of nature, effects of humans on nature, and how to conserve nature. Each month presents a different topic and grades are separated and taught at appropriate levels.

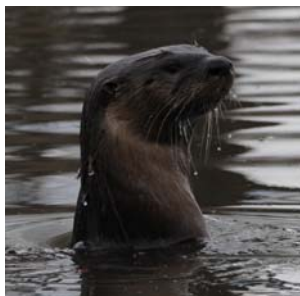
**Cost: \$6 Members, \$8 Guests**

#### January 26 | Reptiles

Students will learn about the various reptiles found at Nahant. We will explore the adaptation, behavior, ecology of these reptiles, and how our coldblooded friends survive the winter.

#### February 23 | Otters

Students will learn about otters and their special adaptations that allow this playful mammal to spend so much of its time in the water and survive cold Iowa winters. They will also learn why otters were trapped so heavily and how they made a comeback.



Julie Malake

#### March 30 | Owls

As nocturnal raptors, owls have many amazing adaptations to hunt prey at night. Learn about the habits of these birds by looking at skulls, wings, and mounts. Students will also get to study and dissect owl pellets.

#### April 27 | Mussels

Mussels are the most endangered species in the U.S. Learn about the adaptations, diets, life cycle, and history of these shelled creatures. Mussel shells will be shown and students will learn to identify species.



### Toddler Tales

Toddler Tales is a great way to introduce young children, ages 3–5 years old, to the wonders of the outdoors! Each second Tuesday of the month (March through October), Nahant Marsh educators will lead a nature-themed story, craft, and outdoor adventure. There are two sessions available for your convenience, one from 10–11 a.m. and one from 2–3 p.m. Children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

**Cost: \$3 Members, \$5 Guests**

#### March 13 | Native American Stories

Many Native American stories teach important lessons. We will read a Native American story and learn about their culture.

#### April 10 | Mud

April showers bring MUD! We will read about mud and learn about all things muddy!

### Family Program: Owls

**February 10 | 10–11 a.m.**

**Cost: \$3 Member, \$6 Guest.**

No fee for adults accompanying children.



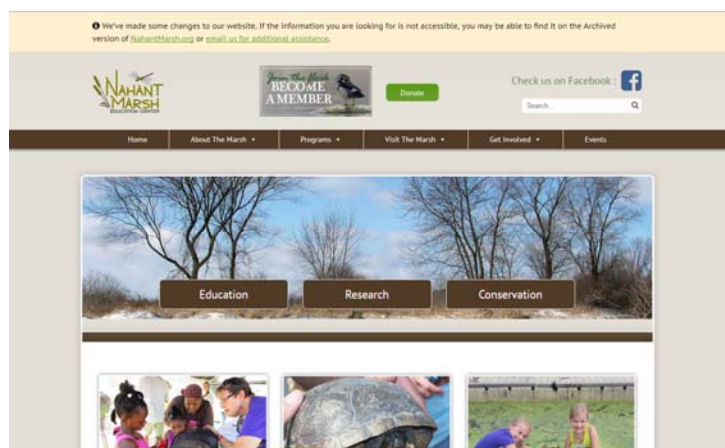
In this family-friendly program, we will learn about owls. As nocturnal raptors, owls have many amazing adaptations to hunt prey at night. Learn about the habits of these birds by looking at skulls, wings, and mounts. Students will also get to study and dissect owl pellets.

REGISTER  
NOW

To reserve your place in our programs and classes, please register online at [www.nahantmarsh.org](http://www.nahantmarsh.org) or call us at 563.336.3374.

## Our Website has a New Look!

We've made some changes to our website and are still working out a few of the final kinks. If you experience difficulties registering for an event, or are unable to find the information you are looking for, please email us at [nahantmarsh@eicc.edu](mailto:nahantmarsh@eicc.edu) or call 563.336.3370.





## Animal Adaptations



by Jenna Skopek, AmeriCorps Naturalist

### Who am I?



- I hunt at night.
- I can leap up to ten feet.
- I hunt alone and if hungry I will travel up to 25 miles for food.
- I can go three days without eating and store food in caches.
- I prefer meat but will also eat beetles, eggs, and even carrion if food is scarce.
- I have a short “bobbed” tail.
- I have recently been spotted on trail cameras at Nahant Marsh!

*Turn to page 13 to see if you guessed right!*

## 2018 Guided Hikes

### SATURDAY GUIDED HIKES

February 3 at 9 a.m.

March 3 at 9 a.m.

April 7 at 9 a.m.

May 5 at 9 a.m.

Join a Naturalist for a guided hike along the trails at the Marsh. Hikes are offered on the first Saturday of the month and give visitors an opportunity to experience the environmental changes as the plants and wildlife adapt to the seasons. Whether you are a regular visitor or first-timer, there is always something to learn and experience at the Marsh.

Suggested donation \$5.

### SPRING MIGRATION HIKE

Thursday, March 22 at 5 p.m.

As the largest urban wetland on the upper Mississippi River, Nahant Marsh serves as a resting spot on the great spring migrations. This creates the perfect opportunity for nature enthusiasts to see a wide range of migrating waterfowl. Please feel free to bring a camera and remember to come dressed for the weather.

Suggested donation \$5.

Pre-registration for hikes is appreciated, but not required. Give us a call at **563.336.3370**.

## Summer Camps

**Eco-Art Camp** – Connecting nature, art, and doing your part to protect the earth. Campers get to take home their creations, like handmade paper and grapevine wreaths. The campers will also create a sculpture from natural and recycled materials to be displayed at Nahant Marsh. Ages 8–12. June 13–14 or July 12–13 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Cost: \$70.

**From Tadpoles to Frogs** – Hop on over to Nahant Marsh for a morning of frog catching, tadpole scooping, and salamander spotting. Campers will meet live amphibians and explore their wondrous world through hands-on activities followed by an amphibian-themed snack. Ages: 3–4. June 21 or July 19 from 9–11 a.m. Cost: \$18.

**Critter Camp** – Connect your child with nature as they learn about insects, reptiles, and other critters. Children will be fully engaged with activities like live animal encounters and outdoor exploration. Camp includes a snack. Ages 5–6. June 21 or July 19 from 1–4 p.m. Cost: \$24.

**Nature Adventure Camp** – Explore wetlands, woodlands, and prairies with the naturalists at Nahant Marsh. Campers will get hands-on experience learning about wildlife and practicing outdoor skills. This camp offers youth an opportunity to create memories and dig-in to nature. Ages 7–10. June 25–29 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Cost: \$180.

**Wilderness Skills Camp** – In this camp, youth will explore the wetlands, woodlands, and prairies while learning practical survival and outdoor skills. Activities will include fire building, fishing, canoeing, and much more! Ages 11–14. July 23–27 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Cost: \$180.

**NEW! Gettin' Buggy with It** – Explore wetlands, woodlands, and prairies with the naturalists at Nahant Marsh. Campers will get hands-on experience learning about wildlife and practicing outdoor skills. This camp offers youth an opportunity to create memories and dig-in to nature. Ages 7–12. August 16–17 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Cost: \$70.

## Animal Adaptations (Continued)



by Jenna Skopek, AmeriCorps Naturalist

### That's right I am a bobcat!

Bobcats were Endangered in Iowa in 1977, but began to rebound over time. The status moved to "threatened" in 2001 and "protected" in 2003. Ten years ago numbers had improved to a point where Iowa could sustain a limited season on bobcats. This year, bobcat season runs November 4 to January 31 in select counties with the bag limit being one bobcat per licensed fur harvester.



Bobcat's tails are short "bobbed" tails usually smaller than ten inches. Bobcats tend to be light brown with black spots on their belly and stand at three feet tall weighing twenty to thirty pounds. Bobcats usually live three to five years as adults in Iowa but can live up to ten years. Studies done on Iowa on bobcats showed their diet consists of ninety-five percent rabbits, mice, voles, and squirrels, especially during the fall and winter months, with little to no evidence of game birds found in their diet. If given the chance, a bobcat would eat a game bird but bobcat populations have no significant impact on game bird populations. Bobcats claws are retractable, to keep them sharp. Bobcats keep their claws retracted unless needed for hunting, climbing a tree, or defending itself.

## 2018 Master Conservationist Program



Experience Iowa's diverse natural resource—the prairies and grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and waterways, and abundant wildlife.

### DISCOVER

The Master Conservationist program uses field experiences and online training to cover a broad range of conservation issues and topics. These experiences help Iowans make informed, intelligent choices for a lifestyle of stewardship.

### TOPICS

Physical environment, wildlife diversity, prairies and grasslands, woodlands, waterways, conservation practices, and planting the seeds of conservation.



Nahant Staff

### EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Designed for adult learners, participants receive at least 32 hours of online and outdoor hands-on education led by professionals trained in their field. The range of topics provides information that can be useful in service to the community and in their own backyards. Service learning opportunities are encouraged, but not required to complete the program.

### 2018 SCHEDULED DATES

March 21, April 11, April 28, May 16, June 9, July 11, August 1

**Registration Deadline: March 9, 2018**

**Program Cost: \$130 for Nahant Members/ \$175 for Guests**

For more information, contact Liz Schramm at Nahant Marsh by email: [eschramm@eicc.edu](mailto:eschramm@eicc.edu).

## Kids Corner: Bald Eagles

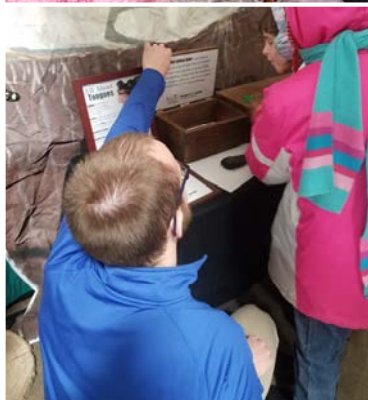


by Kinsey Nielsen, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*

Winter is a great time to look for bald eagles! One of their favorite meals is fish so they gather along the Mississippi River in large groups looking for food. We often see eagles flying over Nahant Marsh, so stop by and borrow some binoculars to view them up close!

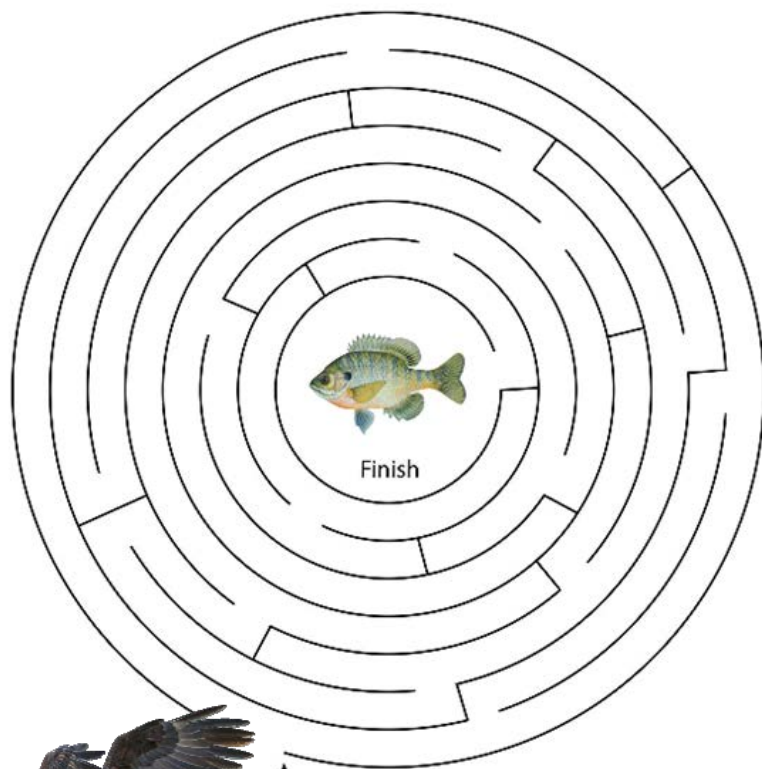
### Fun Facts

- Bald eagles aren't actually bald! They develop white feathers on their head as they get older.
- The world's largest bird nest was built by a pair of bald eagles in Florida. It was twenty feet deep and nine and a half feet wide.
- They can reach speeds of up to 100 mph when diving to grab a fish.
- The bald eagle has been the national emblem of the United States of America since 1782.
- They only live in North America!



### Bald Eagle Days

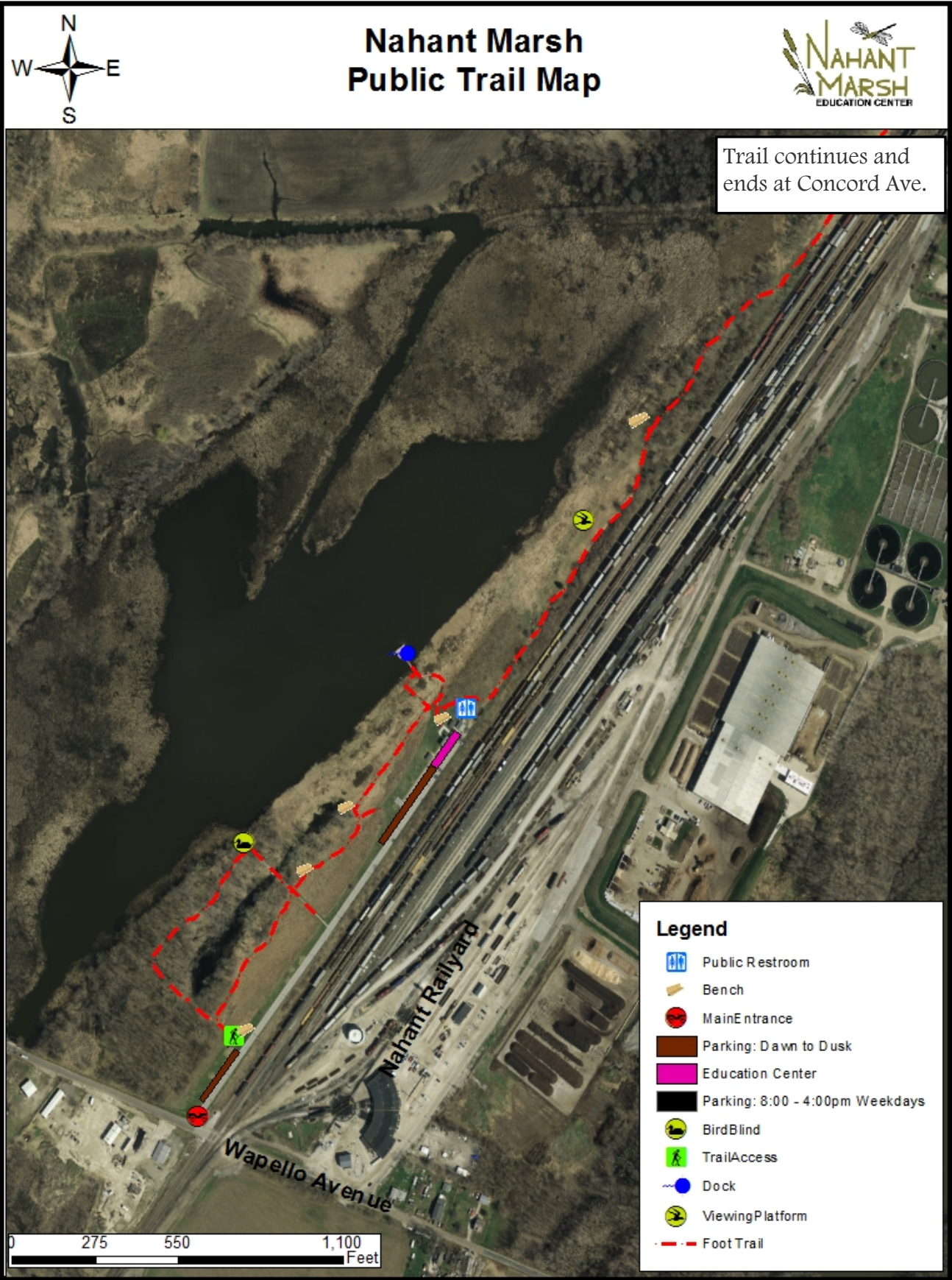
The 2018 Nahant Marsh booth, "The Better to Eat You With" provided visitors with information on adaptations that help animals eat. Squirtle and Leia, our two ornate box turtle Animal Ambassadors, were a hit with both children and adults! We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped staff the booth throughout the weekend.



**Can you help the hungry bald eagle find a fish for lunch?**



Map Your Adventure





## Education Center Hours

**Monday–Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon (or to 3 p.m. April–October)**

*There is no fee to visit the Education Center, but donations are always appreciated.*

## Preserve Hours

**Open Daily from Sunrise to Sunset.**

If the main gate is locked, trails are accessible from the front parking lot. Look for the opening in the fence near the kiosk.



## Getting to Nahant Marsh

**Nahant Marsh  
4220 Wapello Ave.  
Davenport, IA 52802**

*From Davenport, Iowa—Take Highway 22 south (Rockingham Road), turning left on Wapello Avenue (the last turn before the I-280 overpass).*

*From Rock Island, Illinois—Take I-280 into Iowa to the Highway 22/Rockingham Road exit. Turn right onto Highway 22, and then right onto Wapello Avenue.*

**Follow Wapello Avenue toward the river.  
Nahant Marsh will be on the left just before the railroad crossing.**