



# Nahant News

**SUMMER 2019**

Volume 13, Issue 3

4220 Wapello Ave. • Davenport, IA 52802  
[www.nahantmarsh.org](http://www.nahantmarsh.org) • 563.336.3370

Photo by J. Wiebler



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Natural Resources Technician I

## ABOUT NAHANT MARSH

### Thank you Target!



Target in Davenport, Iowa graciously donated \$1000 in gift cards to Nahant Marsh. This donation will be used for flood relief at the marsh after this year's record-breaking flood.



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 Education Center (ATEEC) is also a critical part of Nahant Marsh.



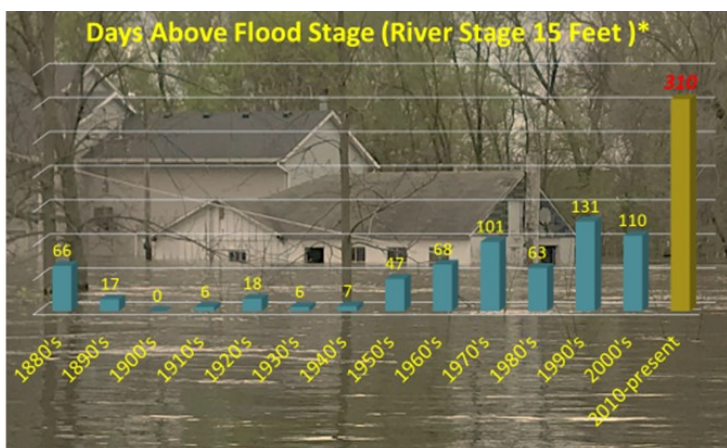


## 310 DAYS AND COUNTING

by Brian Ritter, *Executive Director*

The Great Flood of 2019 is far from over. We recently experienced another major crest and the river will probably not be back in its banks for several weeks at the earliest. It is too early to determine the full impact this flood will have on Nahant Marsh and on farms, towns, businesses, and natural areas up and down the river.

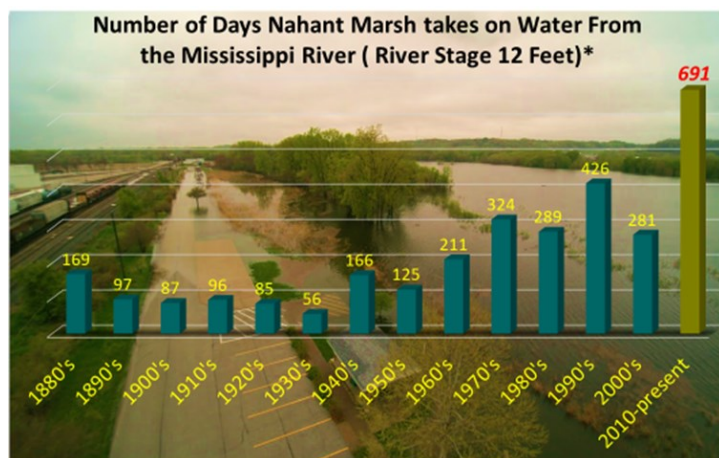
What we do know is that flooding along the mighty river is increasing. This decade stands out like a sore thumb. As I write this on June 4, 2019, according to the US Army Corps of Engineers stream gauge data at Rock Island, there have been 310 days this decade that have been above flood stage. And the flooding is far from over. By comparison, the closest decade was the 1990s, with 131 days of flooding.



Flooded Nahant Marsh. Photo by J. Wiebler

More than ever before, we need wetlands to be able to deal with the increase in flooding. Wetlands help to absorb and store excess water and help to slow floodwaters, preventing larger crests. Over the past 150 years, the people of Iowa and Illinois destroyed an estimated 90% of their wetlands. Restoring wetlands to our landscape would not only help to mitigate future floods, but would also help to improve water quality, provide valuable habitat to a multitude of species, and create new recreational opportunities for communities.

Long before the river reaches flood stage (15 feet), Nahant Marsh begins to take on excess water from the river. Water starts pouring into the marsh when the river swells to 12 feet. So far this decade, Nahant Marsh has served as a release valve for the Mississippi River on an astonishing 691 days! Had Nahant Marsh been destroyed, like so many other wetlands, that water would be forced into other places where we don't want it. As we look to mitigate future disasters like this one, we need to design resiliency back into our landscapes. Wetlands are a crucial tool for protecting the economy and ecology of our mighty rivers.



Flooded Nahant Marsh. Photo by J. Wiebler



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECTS

by Kinsey Nielsen, *AmeriCorps Naturalist and Natural Resource Manager*



Many students got the opportunity to help plant gardens at their schools this spring with the help of Nahant Marsh staff. At Frances Willard Elementary, the K-5 students in the Spring Forward program helped plant four raised vegetable gardens. They will get to pick the produce and enjoy it all summer long! In Davenport, the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at McKinley Elementary helped plant a pollinator garden at their school. They learned about how to take care of flowers and what types of butterflies might visit the garden. Overall, the students at both schools had a great time and loved finding worms during the planting process.



Planting lettuce at Frances Willard.



Planting flowers at McKinley Elementary.



Watering plants at McKinley Elementary.

## MEET SHANNON!

Shannon Bernhard is the new part-time Marketing/Events assistant at Nahant Marsh. She received her bachelor's degree in business management with a concentration in entrepreneurship from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She recently moved to Iowa from her hometown of Joliet, IL and enjoys cooking, hiking, kayaking, and playing games.



Photo by C. Druhl



## VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

By Cassie Druhl, *Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator*

New and experienced volunteers have helped with many projects this year, both for the marsh and for our neighbors at the Fairmount Cemetery Prairie. They came to our aid when we needed to sandbag around the Education Center, and again when it came time to remove them. When we needed extra help with large school groups, they were there to help with logistics and program support. Volunteers also contributed several hours to removing invasive species at the Fairmount Cemetery Prairie, helping to restore it to its former glory. Thanks for all of your hard work!

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities that will be available at the marsh this year, contact Cassie at [cdruhl@eicc.edu](mailto:cdruhl@eicc.edu).

**THANK YOU  
VOLUNTEERS!**





## UNIQUE ANIMAL SIGHTINGS

by Jimmy Wiebler, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*



Nahant Marsh is always full of wildlife, but we had some rare and exciting visitors in the last couple of months. Just as spring migration was beginning in early April, we had a cattle egret stop by for several days. Cattle egrets are in the heron family, Ardeidae. They have a 36-inch wingspan, which is much smaller than the great blue heron, a common wading bird with a wingspan of about 70 inches. Cattle egrets are all white with orange-brown plumes on their head, back, and chest during the breeding season. They often forage for small critters in dry areas of grass.



Cattle egret. Photo by B. Vickstrom

During mid-April, a common loon landed briefly on the water by our floating dock. Common loons are long-distant migrants that breed at northern latitudes, from central Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan to northern Canada and Alaska. Loons are well-known for their unique—some would say eerie—calls and yodels in the summer. These birds are fantastic divers and feast mainly on fish.



Common loon. Photo from the Audubon Field Guide

In May, a group of seven American avocets were found loafing on one of our floating islands. These large shorebirds have a distinctive long and upturned bill. They are relatively rare to find in Iowa, as the bulk of their range covers the western United States. Avocets feed by sweeping their heads back and forth in shallow water to catch aquatic invertebrates.



American avocet. Photo from [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)

May is also a great time to find hatchling turtles at Nahant Marsh. Hatchling painted turtles are emerging from hibernation by the dozens and can be found crawling across our trails from their underground hibernacula to the marsh. One visiting student even found a baby snapping turtle!



Painted turtle. Photo by S. Hilby



Painted turtle. Photo by K. Nielsen



Common snapping turtle. Photo by K. Nielsen



## INSECT INSPECTION: DAMSELFLIES

by Kelsi Massengale, *AmeriCorps Educator*



On a nice summer day you're likely to find a number of species hanging around you, or rather, flying around you. One of the most recognizable of species is the dragonfly, with its long, graceful body and beautiful wings. There's another organism, however, that is just as beautiful as the dragonfly and often mistaken for it. This overlooked invertebrate deserves a highlight too, so I present to you, the damselfly.

Damselflies begin their lives as eggs resting in a body of water. They spend the majority of their lives in this habitat, as they grow to a larval stage. At this point, damselflies are easily recognizable by their wide head, long body, and three tails. They range in color from a bright green to a mud brown and are found under rocks, plants, and other materials near the water's floor.



Damselfly larvae up close and at the marsh.

Damselflies continue to morph into their adult stage right around summertime. They have long, skinny bodies and large wings similar to a dragonfly. The two species differ in body size, body weight, and wing size, but these contrasts are often subtle. To confidently distinguish a damselfly from a dragonfly, observe the way they hold their wings at rest. A damselfly will hold their wings behind their bodies, while a dragonfly holds them out to the side.



Damselfly with wings back; dragonfly with wings out

The damselfly is not just a cool insect to watch, but an important part of the food web too. They are a fan favorite when it comes to fish, frogs, birds, and other insects. Damselflies can also be used to study water quality in places like Nahant Marsh, based on their preferred habitats. So on the next summer's day when you see what may be a damselfly, remember to check their wings and enjoy what makes this species so special.



Canada geese. Photo by J. Malake.



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## SUMMER CAMPS AT NAHANT MARSH

Summer camps are offered for youth ages 3-14 from mid-June to the end of July. Campers must register by calling Eastern Iowa Community Colleges at 1.888.336.3907 or register online at [eicc.edu/summercamp](http://eicc.edu/summercamp).

### TOADSTOOLS CAMP FOR AGES 3-4 | COST \$20

Hop on over to Nahant Marsh for a morning of nature exploring. Campers will meet live creatures and explore their wondrous world through hands-on activities followed by an animal-themed snack. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

June 19, 9a.m.-11a.m. –OR– July 17, 9a.m.-11a.m.

### CRITTER CAMP FOR AGES 5-6 | COST: \$20

Connect your child with nature as they learn about insects, reptiles, and other critters. Children will get to be fully engaged with activities such as live animal encounters and outdoor exploration.

June 19, 1p.m.-4p.m. –OR– July 17, 1p.m.-4p.m.

### MARSH EXPLORER CAMP FOR AGES 7-10 | COST: \$45

Campers will be running amuck while exploring the marsh and the creatures that live in and around the water. Be sure to bring your rubber boots! Snacks will be provided. Please bring a sack lunch.

June 20, 9a.m.-3p.m. –OR– July 18, 9a.m.-3p.m.

### NATURE ADVENTURE CAMP FOR AGES 7-10 | COST: \$200

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. Snacks will be provided. Please bring a sack lunch.

June 24-28, 9a.m.-3p.m.

### WILDERNESS SKILLS CAMP FOR AGES 11-14 | COST: \$90

In this camp, youth will explore the outdoors while learning practical survival skills. Activities will include fire building, shelter building, and navigation skills. Snacks will be provided. Please bring a sack lunch.

July 10-11, 9a.m.-3p.m.

### PRAIRIES AND FAIRIES CAMP FOR AGES 8-12 | COST \$45

Discover enchanting wild things and wildflowers as we immerse ourselves in the prairie. Campers will create fairy houses, learn about wildflowers, and collect beautiful, winged creatures.

July 23, 9a.m.-3p.m.

### TASTE THE WILD CAMP FOR AGES 8-12 | COST \$45

Getting back to the basics, kids will learn about local wild foods and how to safely identify them. We will also be creating dishes to flavor and savor.

July 25, 9a.m.-3p.m.

### GETTING BUGGY WITH IT FOR AGES 7-12 | COST: \$90

Summer day camp focusing on butterflies, dragonflies, native bees, aquatic insects, and more. Through a variety of hands-on, interactive field activities, this camp will teach kids how amazing insects are. Campers will gain skills in the field and lab settings and will learn about insect conservation and the vital relationship between humans and insects. Snacks will be provided. Please bring a sack lunch.

July 31-August 1, 9a.m.-3p.m.





## UPCOMING FAMILY & YOUTH PROGRAMS

### Youth Programs

#### TODDLER TALES

A great way to introduce young children, ages 3-5 years old, to the wonders of the outdoors! The second Tuesday of each month from April-October, Nahant Marsh educators will lead a nature-themed story, craft, and outdoor adventure. Programs are held on the second Tuesday of the month from either 10-11 a.m. or 2-3 p.m.

**July 9: Hooked on Fishing**

**August 13: Sensing Nature**

**September 10: Befriend a Tree**

**October 8: The Need for Seeds**

Cost: \$3 Members / \$5 Guests. No fee for adults accompanying children.

### Family Programs

#### POND STUDY

Discover the fascinating creatures that live in the marsh. Using dip nets, we will catch ghost shrimp, dragonfly nymphs, water boatman, and more!

**July 13 from 10-11 a.m.**

Cost: \$3 Members / \$6 Guests. No fee for adults accompanying children.

#### PRAIRIE INSECTS

Lead by a naturalist, families will learn about the habitats, food sources, and adaptations of prairie insects. Participants will use nets to catch various species of dragonflies, butterflies, grasshoppers, and more. Monarchs will be migrating at this time and tags will be available for any captured monarchs.

**August 10 from 10-11 a.m.**

Cost: \$3 Members / \$6 Guests. No fee for adults accompanying children.

### Programs for All Ages

#### SATURDAY GUIDED HIKES

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.

**July 6, August 3, September 7, and October 5 from 9-10 a.m.**

Cost: \$5 suggested donation

## Moth Party



**Celebrate National Moth Week at Nahant Marsh. The evening will begin with a presentation on moths. Following the presentation, participants will observe how black lighting is used to document and identify moths. There is no fee for this program, but registrations are appreciated. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. The event is held in cooperation with the Scott County Master Gardeners.**

## July 27, 8-11:30 p.m.

**Pre-registration for programs is strongly recommended, either online at [www.nahantmarsh.org](http://www.nahantmarsh.org) or by phone at 563.336.3370.**



Help Nahant Marsh recover from the Flood of 2019!

This event is recommended for ages 13 or over. Join in on the heavy debris removal and be prepared to get dirty for a good cause. Waterproof shoes/boots, bug spray, and sunscreen are recommended for this day of action.

No previous experience is necessary to get involved and make a difference. Those who'd like to help with flood recovery are asked to register at [www.XstreamCleanup.org](http://www.XstreamCleanup.org).

Cleanup supplies such as gloves, dust masks, garbage bags, etc. will be provided by Xstream Cleanup. Volunteers should be prepared to get dirty and are asked to wear old clothes and closed toe shoes. Due to limited parking, carpooling is encouraged.

**June 29 from 8-11a.m.**

## Adult Programs

### BREAKFAST NATURE CLUB

Learn the secrets of Iowa's wildlife during this monthly class at Nahant Marsh. A continental breakfast is included in the fee. Feel free to bring your own coffee mug or travel container. Programs are held on the first Friday of the month from 8-9 a.m.

**July 5: Aquatic Macroinvertebrates**

**August 2: Dragonflies and Damselflies**

**September 6: Native Bees**

**October 4: TBD**

Cost: \$5 Members / \$10 Guests

### BIRDING TOURS

Learn how to identify birds and their habitats with expert ornithologist Kelly McKay. Kelly will lead 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. The tours will continue into fall and you may register for all or one tour.

**June 22, July 6, July 20, August 24, August 31, September 7, September 21, October 19, and November 2 from 6:30-9 a.m.**

\$5 Member / \$10 Guest per tour

\$5 Member / \$100 Guest for all

### HERB ALL ABOUT IT

During this creative workshop learn to make a fragrant, decorative, and useful fresh herbal wreath or swag. Fresh herbs include locally grown lavender, sage, and thyme. We will also learn about the many uses of these herbs. All materials will be provided.

**July 16 from 2-4 p.m.**

Cost: \$25 Members / \$35 Guests

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS (continued)

### Adult Programs (continued)

#### WILDFLOWER WALKS

In this series, participants will learn basic techniques on how to identify wildflowers. We will explore various prairies at Nahant Marsh through the growing season. This is a field-based class, so please come dressed for the weather. Participants are also encouraged to bring a notebook and/or camera. You may choose to attend all or one class.

**June 29, July 20, August 3, August 31, and September 21 from 9-10:30a.m.**

\$5 Member/\$10 Guest

#### INTRODUCTION TO MUSHROOM COLLECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

Although DNA testing is the only way to tell with absolute certainty what mushroom you have found, this class will cover the basics of mushroom identification and collection. Learn the basic characteristics of fungi including cap, gill, and stipe features along with how to make a spore, print and what to carry with you in the field. Where, when, and how to collect in a sustainable way will also be covered. A portion of the class will be spent outdoors, so dress accordingly and bring a basket and pocketknife.

**August 3 from 8:30a.m.-12p.m.**

\$25 Members, \$30 Guests

#### INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP



This workshop at Scott Community College will cover a variety of invasive species in woodland, wetland, and prairie habitats. There will also be sessions on control methods, identification, and native alternatives. Participants should dress for the outdoors, as a large portion of the day will be spent in the field. Presented by Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and other partners.

**August 8 from 9a.m.-3p.m. at Scott Community College**

Cost is free, however registration is required (includes lunch). To register online, go to [www.eicc.edu/continuing-education](http://www.eicc.edu/continuing-education) or call 563-441-4100. Reference class ID #4436.





**BEST WISHES, SIGNEY!**

Congratulations go out to Signey Hilby, AmeriCorps Naturalist with Nahant Marsh. She has accepted a full-time naturalist position with Benton County Conservation District. Good luck, Signey; you will be missed at the marsh!



Photo by J. Malake

# PLEASE JOIN US

## Wednesday, August 7, 2019

from 5-7 p.m.



for a **PUBLIC POSTER SESSION & RECEPTION**

Our 2019 LSAMP IINSPIRE Program student researchers will share what they've been working on this summer at Nahant Marsh. The Iowa Illinois Nebraska STEM Partnership for Innovation in Research and Education (IINSPIRE) is a National Science Foundation (LSAMP) alliance among 16 two-year and four-year colleges and universities. The institutions work together to broaden the participation of underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in the Midwest.

Nahant Marsh Education Center • 4220 Wapello Avenue • Davenport, IA 52802 • 563.336.3374

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## MONARCH RELEASE PARTY

September 14, 10a.m.-12:30p.m.

Join us at Nahant Marsh for this **FREE** event, with fun for the whole family! We will be tagging and feeding monarchs for the Monarch Watch Citizen Science Program throughout the morning. There will also be education stations and other insect-related activities available. 200 monarchs will be released from the site at noon.

Photo by S. Thompson

# WITH APPRECIATION

## SUMMER '19 BIRDIES FOR CHARITY DONATIONS

Mark Bawden  
Barbara Biggs  
Naomi DeWinter  
Candace Egger  
Linda Goff  
Pat Halverson  
John Jurich  
Curtis Lundy  
Julie Malake  
John McEvoy Jr.  
Barbara Palen  
Susan Schwartz  
Mary Ann Stoffel  
Pat Tandy  
Sue and Bob Thorensen  
Brian Tugana  
Gretchen Waters  
Cal Werner  
Spin and Mindy Williams

## SUMMER '19 GENERAL DONATIONS

Christine Caves  
Jane Cox in honor of Nicki  
and Neal Turner  
J Hobart and Roberta  
Darbyshire  
Frankie and Ella Davison  
Cassie Druhl  
Michael Duffy  
Peg Iglehart

## SUMMER '19 MEMBERSHIPS

Glen and Janet Anderson  
Jennifer Broder  
Cynthia and John Campbell  
David Cooney  
Brock Earnhardt  
Ann Gaydosh  
Les Holmstrom  
Robert Loch  
Pat Lyngholm  
Heather and Eric Perry  
Pennie Tebockhorst  
Lisa Wooldridge

## SUMMER '19 ANIMAL "ADOPTIONS"

Mark and Lisa Cleve  
adopted Captain  
Cassie Druhl adopted  
Franklin  
Patrice Holmlund adopted  
Pancake  
Shirley Horstmann adopted  
Rocky  
Rakus and Wille Families  
adopted Picasso  
Caden and Elysa Huynh-  
Smith adopted Ethel  
Christopher Johnson  
adopted Bob

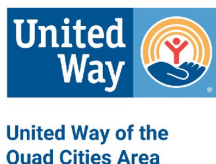


Bob. Photo by M. Kull

## CORPORATE SPONSORS



## PARTNERS





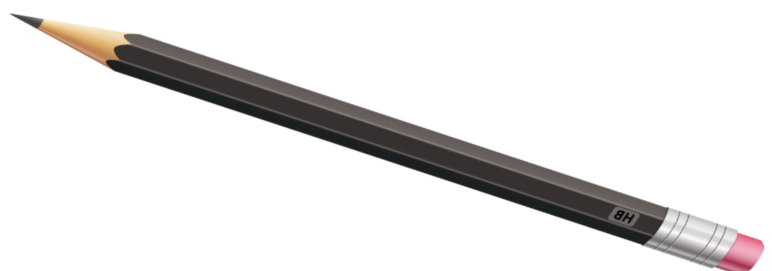
# KIDS CORNER: BACKYARD SCAVENGER HUNT

by Signey Hilby, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*



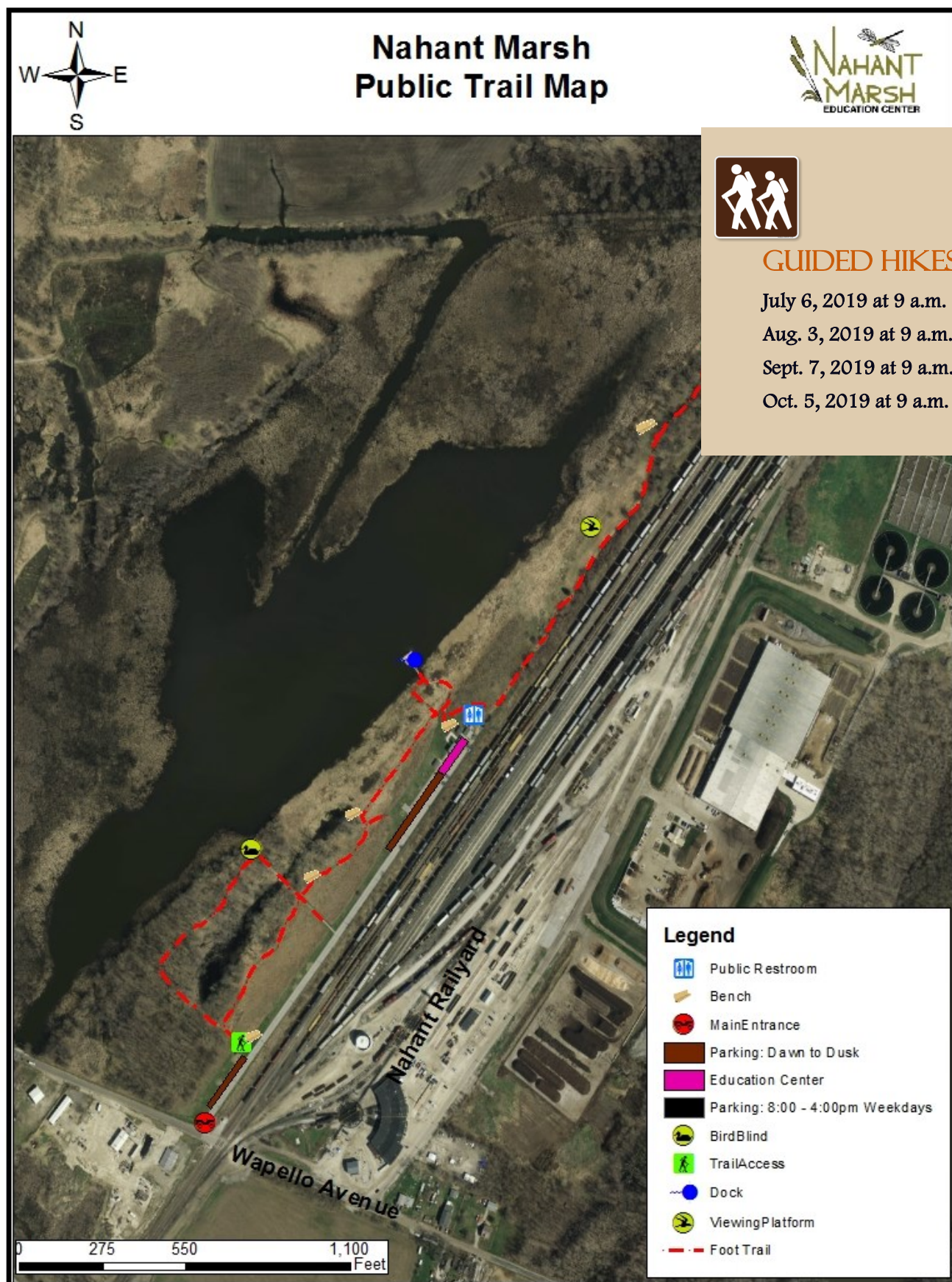
## Can you find all 12?

<p>Ant</p>	<p>Brown Leaf</p>	<p>Purple Flower</p>	<p>Butterfly</p>
<p>Cloud</p>	<p>Clover</p>	<p>Pinecone</p>	<p>Bird</p>
<p>Rock</p>	<p>Ladybug</p>	<p>Grass</p>	<p>Yellow Flower</p>
<p>Feather</p>	<p>Box Elder Bug</p>	<p>Green Leaf</p>	<p>Sticks</p>





## 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 (extended 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.**