



Nahant News

SPRING 2021

Volume 15, Issue 2

4220 Wapello Ave. • Davenport, IA 52802

Photo by J. Wiebler

ABOUT NAHANT MARSH

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Natural Resources Technician I



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.



HELP NATURE (AND YOURSELF)

by Brian Ritter, *Executive Director*

Spring is exciting in the natural world. As life begins to re-emerge after the long winter, the world seems to transform itself overnight. Spring is a great time to get outside and explore. Just getting outdoors after a long winter is a great mood and energy booster.

If you want to take it a step further, you can volunteer to help Mother Nature. Whether you're planting trees, picking up trash, or gathering data, volunteering is a great way to learn more about the natural world while working to protect it. And these activities are almost always good for your body, mind, and soul. Here are a few ways to get involved this year:

- Become a Nahant Marsh Volunteer—<https://nahantmarsh.org/volunteer-opportunities/>
- Get involved with an XStream Clean-up Event— <https://www.xstreamcleanup.org/> (Nahant Marsh's Spring Clean-up is May 1)
- Become a water quality testing volunteer—<http://www.partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org/>
- Help gather data at a BioBlitz: Illiniwek Park— *June 25-26, 2021 (More details coming soon!)*
- Become a citizen scientist and help monitor birds, frogs, butterflies, and more: Project Feeder Watch is just one example— <https://feederwatch.org/>



Photo by J. Malake

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." — Rachel Carson

GEARING UP FOR SPRING

by Amy Loving, *Director of Education*

Over the past couple of months, the education team has been busy with online trainings, virtual programs, and webinar presentations. We have also continued to create winter-themed nature kits that are being distributed at the Davenport libraries every two weeks. Kits activities included owl pellet dissection, terrariums, kite experiments, and more. To date, 450 kits have been distributed in the community. Our AmeriCorps Naturalists have continued to create new educational videos for Facebook and teachers. Check out our YouTube and Facebook pages to view the videos.

Another exciting project is the development of a new program, Adventure Team Retreat. This program is a partnership with EICC's Continuing Education department. Companies who are interested in an outdoor and adventurous retreats can schedule a day or half a day to learn outdoor skills, participate in adventure challenges, and engage in mindfulness activities. Lastly, another budding project is a collaboration with the Davenport Community Schools to provide outdoor education to high school students.

Looking forward, youth-serving agencies like preschool and after school programs are ready to schedule spring and summer programs. Our education team is really looking forward to seeing more children in person! Be sure to check our upcoming events like Toddler Tales, Master Conservationist, Birding with Jimmy, Woodworking for Wildlife, and a week of Earth Day events. Summer camps will also be here before we know it! Camps are offered for PreK-6th grade. Check out our website for more info and to register.

Special thanks to the Friends of Nahant and a grant from the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) for funding archery equipment! This new addition increases our recreational program offerings and allows us to teach basic archery to students.



Nahant is now taking applications for summer research interns! Research is an integral part of the work we do to preserve and maintain the amazing natural areas that we have at Nahant.

Nahant's research interns are funded through the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP). We have had many different projects in the past including turtle monitoring, goat grazing studies, mushroom surveys, wildlife monitoring, and various water quality projects. Students will be responsible for designing their project, carrying out the research, and making a poster of their results.

The deadline to apply is **April 1!** Any student is allowed to participate, but there is compensation available for students that meet the qualifications of the LSAMP grant. For more information, please contact Jimmy Wiebler at jwiebler@eicc.edu or visit our website at www.nahantmarsh.org/programs/research.



Blanding's turtle.

2021 SUMMER CAMPS

All programming will be conducted outside to encourage social distancing. Masks are encouraged but not required. Pre-packaged snacks may be offered. In the case of inclement weather, the small class sizes will allow us to conduct the program inside instead. Masks will be required in the building. Please register at www.nahantmarsh.org. Members will receive a 15% discount.

Toadstools Camp (Grades PreK-K) Hop on over to Nahant Marsh for a morning of nature exploring. Campers will meet live creatures and their wondrous world through hands-on activities. Maximum 16 children per session.

June 8, June 22, July 6, July 20, Aug. 3. 9- 11 a.m.

Cost: \$20 per session

Critter Camp (Grades 1-3): Connect your child with nature as they learn about insects, reptiles, and other critters. Children will be fully engaged with activities such as live animal encounters and outdoor exploration. Maximum 16 children per session.

June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 5. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$45 per session

Nature Adventure Camp (Grades 2-6): 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. Maximum 24 children.

June 28 - July 2. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$225

Outdoor Survival Camp (Grades 3-6): Getting back to the basics, campers will learn skills like fire building, shelter building, and navigation. They will also learn how to safely forage, harvest, and prepare wild foods. Maximum 15 children.

July 27-29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$135

Junior Naturalist Camp (Grades 3-6): Dive deep into the world of plants and animals. Campers will engage in various research techniques that are used by wildlife biologists to study insects, birds, plants, fish, reptiles, and mammals. Maximum 16 children.

June 15-17, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$135

Prairies and Fairies Camp (Grades 2-6): 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. Maximum 16 children.

July 13-15. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$135

Getting Buggy With It Camp (Grades 2-6): 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 setting and will learn about insect conservation and the vital relationship between humans and insects. Maximum 18 children.

August 10-12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$135



Photo by Amperage

NATURAL RESOURCE PROJECT UPDATE

by Kinsey Nielsen, *Natural Resource Manager*

Who's ready for spring? I know I am! This past winter was a blur of moving snow, filling up the bird feeders, and getting caught up on office work. Our spring projects always depend on river levels, weather, and possible flooding. The main projects we plan to work on include: finishing up invasive brush removal along the East trail, planting new trees, clearing debris and invasive plants from several prairies, and preparing trails to be ready for hiking traffic after the spring mud season passes. Spring is a great time to see animal tracks on the trails and view migrating wildlife, along with spotting animals emerging from hibernation.

On March 3rd, we had 12 awesome volunteers help us carry invasive brush and logs to burn piles. This helps us prepare the area for new oak and hickory trees to be planted later this spring. We are looking forward to accomplishing many projects with the help of volunteers again this year! If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, you can fill out an application at <https://nahantmarsh.org/volunteer-opportunities/>. Natural resource volunteer projects run approximately from May to November, depending on the weather.



Tim Murphy, Becky Hartman, and Dick Potter collect debris near the trail. 3-3-2021. Photo by K. Nielsen.



Cindy Slater, Sherrie Blott, and Al Blott working hard! 3-3-2021. Photo by K. Nielsen.



Britt Vickstrom, Jan Jackson, and Art Jackson cleaning up an invasive mulberry tree. 3-3-2021. Photo by K. Nielsen.

EASTERN REDBUD

by Allison Nodurft, *AmeriCorps Educator*



The Eastern redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, is one of the first flowering trees. Blooming in April, this ornamental tree can be easily identified by its bright, pink flowers. The flowers form in tight clusters along the branches before the heart-shaped leaves appear. They grow 15 to 30 feet tall. Redbuds are a member of the pea family; the pods and flowers are edible. Harvest the flowers when they are still tightly closed. These buds make a great addition to salads of mixed greens or added to potato salad, chicken salad and tuna salad. Cooked buds can be added to muffins, breads and vegetable stir-fries. Young green pods can be eaten but tend to be tough and stringy. Watch for these blooming trees this spring, and add a fun spin to some of your favorite dishes.



Photo by www.northernridgenursery.com



Photo by L. Reis

Sources:
https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ceca4

Backyard Foraging, Ellen Zachos

Thanks for the support!

#SavetheBlandings

—
Due to the generosity of our supporters, we sold **200** tees and **100** stickers to spread awareness about the threatened Blanding's Turtle this February.



WILD TURKEY

by Jimmy Wiebler, AmeriCorps Educator



Spring thunder—one of my favorite sounds as day length increases and temperature rises. I'm not talking about thunderstorms, but rather the firing off of gobbles in the springtime woods.

Adult male Wild Turkeys have many nicknames: gobblers, toms, long beards, rope draggers, thunder chickens, butterballs—the list goes on. Males typically begin their mating ritual in March. To attract a mate, they will puff up their iridescent feathers, fan out their tail feathers, and strut while gobbling. The female turkey, or hen, will communicate with the gobblers using a variety of sounds, including yelps and clucks. Some research shows that hens will choose a mate based on the length of the male's snood, a fleshy protuberance that typically hangs over the beak but can erect during arousal. The snood serves as an indicator of fitness, and its length appears to be associated with parasite resistance. The hen will lay one egg a day until she has about 9-14 eggs in a shallow depression on the ground. The eggs are incubated for about 28 days, and within a couple weeks, the poults are flying and beginning to roost in trees. A turkey that makes it to six weeks old is a lucky one. Turkeys and turkey eggs are consumed by many predators, such as raccoons, coyotes, foxes, opossums, snakes, skunks, hawks, and owls, to name a few.



Photo by L. Weis

Although turkeys are now abundant in North America, it wasn't that long ago that we almost lost this bird forever. Habitat loss and unregulated market hunting nearly drove turkeys to extinction, and less than 30,000 birds remained in the 1930s. Today, about 7 million Wild Turkeys are in the United States, thanks to efforts put forth by conservation organizations such as the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Sportsmen and women were essential in financially supporting recovery efforts, as the initiative was funded in large part from dollars funneled through the Pittman-Robertson Act (1937), an excise tax placed on guns, ammunition, and other hunting equipment. With hunting regulations established and funding in place for research and habitat restoration, the Wild Turkey now thrives in much of its native range. I like the sound of that!

Big River Long Beards is Davenport's local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Check them out on Facebook @NWTfDAVENPORT to learn more.



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Nahant Marsh

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

by EmiLee Novak, *AmeriCorps Educator*



Spring is a special time of year for many, especially after a long, cold winter. Warmer weather provides opportunities to see many different bird species migrating back to their breeding habitats. One of the first birds that many look forward to seeing in the spring is the Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*.

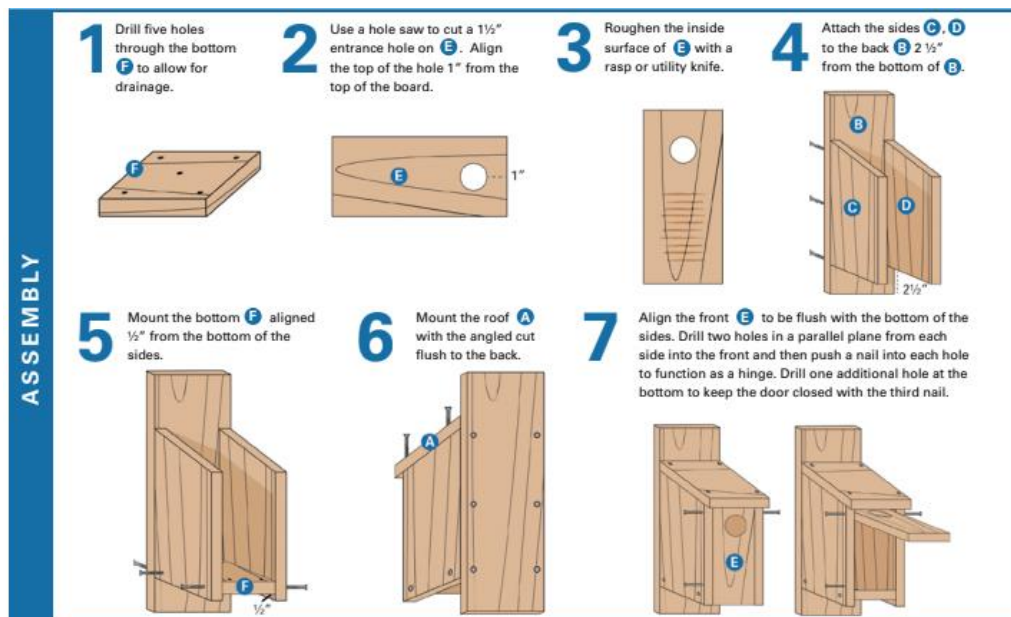
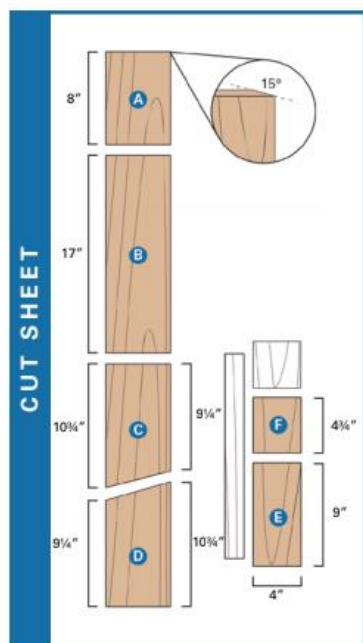
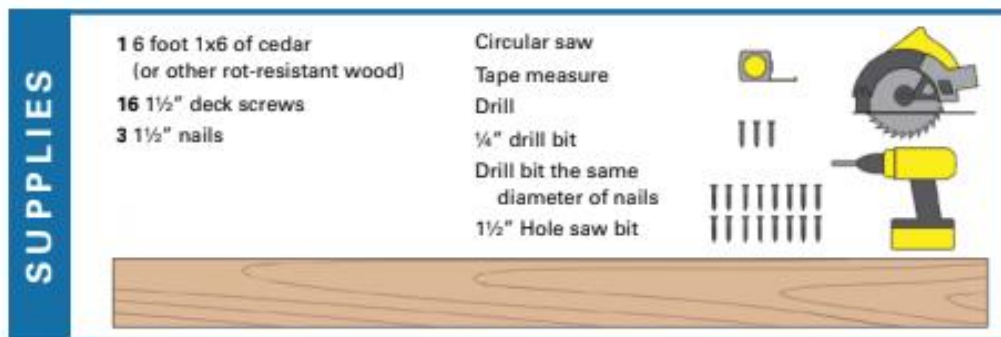
This Bluebird can be identified in a few ways. First, the E. Bluebird has a plump body with a rounded head and larger eye. It's one of the smaller members of the Thrush family, so its size is going to be between a Sparrow and a Robin. Second is the color. Color on the Eastern Bluebird can vary based on light and time of year. In the spring, males will have a deep blue color on the top of their heads, backs, wings, and tails. They will also have a reddish-brown color on their breast, up to their throat, and around the neck.



Photo by H. Erickson/Audubon Photography Awards

The typical preferred habitat for the Eastern Bluebird is open country with larger trees, with woodpecker holes for nesting opportunities. You will often see them sitting on power lines, posts, or low branches. Their primary diet in the spring is a wide variety of insects. In previous years, the Eastern Bluebird's population was in decline due to loss of habitat and nesting sites. Fortunately, individuals who provide Bluebird boxes or birdhouses have helped increase population numbers for the Eastern Bluebird. If you are interested in making your own Bluebird box, check out the plans below!

Design from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach



UPCOMING YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAMS 2019-2020

Nahant Marsh Education Center provides a monthly program specifically geared towards homeschool children. Each session is held the last Friday of the month (except for holidays). The purpose of the programs is 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.

Our homeschool program runs during the months of a typical school year from September – May and is geared towards grades K-8th. Each month presents a different topic and grades are separated and presented at appropriate levels. Depending on the subject matter, lessons will include slideshow, outdoor exploration, and engaging in hands-on activities.

March 25, 26 from 2:30-4 p.m.: Best Nest. Students will survey the number and locations of bird nests along the trails. Then, they will create a model of a bird's nest and test its durability. In-person. Limit 15 per class.

April 29, 30 from 2:30-4 p.m.: Bird is the Word. Students will learn about spring migrants, like warblers and other songbirds by conducting a field survey. In-person. Limit 15 per class.

May 27, 28 from 2:30-4 p.m.: Finding Direction. Through engaging activities, students will learn about the basics of a compass and the four cardinal directions. In-person. Limit 15 per class.

Cost: \$6 Member / \$8 Guest

TODDLER TALES

Explore the wonders of the natural world with your early learner! Each month, we will learn about the outdoors through a story, craft, and snack. Ages. 3-5.

April 7 from 10-11 a.m.: Looking at Leaves. Practice your observation skills by joining our leaf investigation hike! Learn how to identify leaves based on their shape, color and size. Children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

May 5 from 10-11 a.m.: What Lives Here? What critters live at Nahant Marsh? Join us in the discovery of different organisms that live in nature. Children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

June 2 from 10-11 a.m.: Pollinators. Kick off National Pollinator Month by joining us in exploring pollinators at the Marsh! Learn how insects pollinate and the importance of pollination. Children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Cost: \$4 Member / \$8 Guest



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.

April 3, May 8, June 5 from 9-10 a.m.

Cost: \$5 Goodwill Donation

EARTH DAY SUNSET HIKE

Celebrate Earth Day by discovering the wonder of the wetlands during this guided hike. Visitors are bound to hear a chorus of frogs and see a variety of songbirds and flowering trees.

April 22 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5 Goodwill Donation

SPRING CLEANUP

Celebrate warmer weather by helping to spruce up Nahant Marsh during our annual cleanup. Projects will be both light and heavy duty. Gloves and bags will be provided. Volunteers will receive a T-shirt.



May 1 from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

To learn more and to register, visit www.xstreamcleanup.org.



Photo by J. Malake

Due to COVID-19 capacity limits, pre-registration is strongly recommended, either online at www.nahantmarsh.org or by phone at 563.336.3370.

UPCOMING ADULT PROGRAMS

BIRDING WITH JIMMY

Experienced and beginner birders will enjoy this series of exploring bird populations at Nahant Marsh led by Jimmy Wiebler, AmeriCorps Environmental Educator. Each season brings in new visitors to the Marsh, and the hikes will allow you to learn more about bird identification and behavior. Hikes will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month beginning in May and ending in November.

March 27, April 24, May 22 from 8-10 a.m.

Cost: \$5 Goodwill Donation



WEBINAR: FROGS & TOADS OF IOWA & WESTERN ILLINOIS

Explore the biology of frogs and toads in the Midwest and what role these cold-blooded creatures play in conserving natural habitats. Participants will also learn how to identify species by call and physical traits.

March 24 from 12-1 p.m. via Zoom

Cost: \$5 Goodwill Donation

Visit www.nahantmarsh.org for more details.

WILD WOODWORKING

Join Naturalist Allison to build your own birdhouse for your backyard! There are 2 birdhouse options to choose from. All tools and materials will be provided. No woodworking experience necessary.

March 30 from 6-7 p.m.

Cost: \$15 Member / \$20 Guest



WEBINAR: GLADYS BLACK, THE LEGACY OF IOWA'S BIRD LADY

The late Gladys Black of Pleasantville was widely known throughout Iowa as a conservationist, educator, and amateur expert on birds. Larry Stone and co-author Jon Stravers have written a book about Gladys. Join us as Larry Stone tells the story of this colorful woman's impact on so many Iowans.

April 9 from 10-11 a.m. via Zoom

Cost: \$5 Goodwill Donation

Visit www.nahantmarsh.org for more details.

WILD WOODWORKING

Join Naturalist Allison to build a versatile three-tiered planter! This planter is great for herbs, strawberries, and flowers. All tools and materials will be provided. No woodworking experience necessary.

April 20 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$40 Member / \$50 Guest

WEBINAR: SPRING WILD GREENS

Learn about wild foods that grow under your feet! Many plants we think of as weeds are actually very nutritious and tasty. This virtual class is designed to give participants basic skills and knowledge to identify, harvest, and prepare spring greens, herbs, and flowers. Many of the plants covered in the class can be found in your backyard.

April 21 from 12-1 p.m. via Zoom

Cost: \$5 Goodwill Donation

Visit www.nahantmarsh.org for more details.

SIMPLE SUSTAINABILITY

This Earth Week, join us at Nahant Marsh for the Simple Sustainability workshop. In this workshop, we will create products to help you be more sustainable in your home & health, including a laundry scent booster, sugar scrub, and produce bag!

April 24 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$10 Member / \$15 Guest

Participants will need to bring a repurposed 12 oz. or 16 oz. jar, a 4 oz. jar, and an old T-shirt. Visit www.nahantmarsh.org for more details.

FORAGING FORAY

Join Director of Education Amy Loving as we explore the fascinating world of wild foods and medicines. In this foray, we will focus on seasonal plants and discuss how and when to harvest, prepare, and preserve.

May 6 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$5 Goodwill Donation

BREAKFAST NATURE CLUB

Warbler Walk: In honor of World Migratory Bird Day, we will take participants on a guided hike to survey the birds that are visiting the Marsh. The tour will also include information on the phenomenon of bird migration. Refreshments will be provided.

May 7 from 8-9 a.m.

Cost: \$10

Due to COVID-19 capacity limits, pre-registration is strongly recommended, either online at www.nahantmarsh.org or by phone at 563.336.3370.

WITH APPRECIATION

THANKS, ALMA

In appreciation of Alma Gaul's dedicated reporting on many worthy causes. Thank you for shining light on our collective efforts to make the Quad Cities a great place to live.



Happy Retirement From All of Us,

NAHANT MARSH
EDUCATION CENTER

Scott County Historic
Preservation Society, Inc.

Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Waste
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of Scott County



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Richard Ryan
Nathan and Elizabeth
Schramm
Joyce and Tony Singh
Sherry Staub
Mary Ann Stoffel
Larry Stone
Susan Tate
United Way QC
Cathy White

2021 ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Elizabeth Van Camp "adopted" Squirtle
Cathy White "adopted" Squirtle, Sunny, and
Captain

2021 HONORS & MEMORIALS

Linda Baxley in honor of Melonee
Docherty
ATEEC in honor of Melonee Docherty

WITH APPRECIATION

2021 MEMBERSHIPS

Lifetime Members:

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Amy and Kevin Kay

Steve Kull
Judith Lee
Kathleen and Andy Lenaghan
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Susan McPeters
Leo Moench
Tim Murphy
Lorrie Newman
Pam Ohnemus
Barbara Palen
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Rita Rawson
Gail Rinkenberger
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Betty Wood

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SPRING NATURE NOOK

by Kelsi DeNoyer, Graduate Assistant

Welcome to the Nature Nook! This is a place where you can find tips to be more sustainable, interesting nature facts, new places to check out to get out in nature, and more; the only rule here is to be all about nature!

Ingredients:

- Citrus fruit peels (can be from lemons, limes, grapefruits and/or oranges)
- White vinegar
- Mason jars with lids, or any airtight container
- Spray bottle
- Mesh strainer
- Distilled water

Directions

Make the base

Before peeling any fruit, be sure to clean it with warm soapy water and remove any stickers.

Next, carefully peel the fruit! Be sure that the peel doesn't have any pieces of fruit stuck to it, as this will cause mold.

Place the peels into the mason jar and pack them tightly. Save a large piece for the top to help keep any smaller pieces down.

Once the jar is packed, fill with vinegar until the peels are completely covered.

Screw the lid on tightly, and store in a dark, dry place for two weeks (*Check on it every few days to make sure the peels have stayed covered. If any have floated to the top, open the jar, push down the peels, and cover with more vinegar. Any exposed peels will likely grow mold*).

Spring Cleaning

As the weather warms up, many of us find ourselves participating in the classic spring cleaning! During this time however, many harsh chemicals can be used around the house, ultimately ending up in our air, water, and overall environment. For a more eco-friendly option this spring, check out this easy recipe for an all natural, all purpose cleaner!

Image & recipe from toriavey.com



Make the cleaner

After two weeks, open the jar and remove the peels using a strainer. Once strained, your base is ready!

Fill a spray bottle halfway with the citrus base.

Fill the rest of the bottle with distilled water and stir the mixture.

Once mixed, your cleaner is ready! Use on just about any surface in your home, including glass, plastic, and countertops! Note that this cleaner is not recommended for porous surfaces, such as marble or granite countertops.

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.