

Iowa Project AWARE 2022

Educational Program Schedule

Programs are open to the public – bring a lawn chair

Sunday, July 10

- **2:00 pm – Afternoon Campground Programs** (Wolden County Park, Wallingford)
 - *Poison Ivy: Plant Identification, Prevention, & Treatment* – Dan Boelman (Zanfel Laboratories, Inc.)
- **3:00 pm – Afternoon Campground Programs** (Wolden County Park, Wallingford)
 - *Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic* – Nate Hoogeveen and John Wenck (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) and Rick Dietz (Iowa Project AWARE Volunteer)
 - *Natural History of Anderson Prairie State Preserve* - John Pearson and Rob Patterson (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)
 - *Identifying the Bones We Find Along the River* - Elizabeth Reetz and Cherie Haury-Artz (Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa)
 - *Arts and Crafts Project – Making Tree Cookie Nametags*
- **4:00 pm – Afternoon Campground Programs** (Wolden County Park, Wallingford)
 - *Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic* – Nate Hoogeveen and John Wenck (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) and Rick Dietz (Iowa Project AWARE Volunteer)
 - *Identifying the Bones We Find Along the River* - Elizabeth Reetz and Cherie Haury-Artz (Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa)
 - *Iowa Ambassador Animals* - Ashley Reed (Naturalist, Emmet County Conservation)
 - *Knots for Paddlers and Campers* - Jeff White (Iowa Project AWARE Volunteer)
- **7:00 pm** – Welcome and Introductions

Monday, July 11 (14.2 miles)

- **4:30 pm – Concurrent Informal Afternoon Activities** (Wolden County Park, Wallingford)
 - *How to Organize a River Cleanup Event*
 - *Earth Echo Water Challenge* - Laura Semken (Louisa County Naturalist; Iowa Project AWARE Staff)
 - *Knots for Paddlers and Campers* - Jeff White (Iowa Project AWARE Volunteer)
- **7:30 pm – Concurrent Evening Sessions** (Wolden County Park, Wallingford)
 - *Frontier Forts of Northwest Iowa* - Bill Whitaker (Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa)
 - *A Rockin' Good Time: Surficial Geology of the Des Moines River Watershed and the Critical Mineral Potential of Northwest Iowa* – Kata McCarville (Upper Iowa University) and Ryan Clark (Iowa Geological Survey)

Tuesday, July 12 (17.0 miles)

- **6:00 am - Morning Session** (Wolden County Park, Wallingford)
 - *Morning Birding*- Jamie Tigges (Green Iowa AmeriCorps and Iowa Lakeside Laboratory)
- **7:30 pm – Concurrent Evening Sessions** (Wolden County Park)

- *History of the “Estherville Meteorite”* - Bob Jensen (Estherville Meteorite Center)
- *Long Distance Solo Travel (with dog) in Northern Canada* - [Alan Gage](#)

Wednesday, July 13 (9.5 miles; shift to new camp)

- **4:30 pm – Concurrent Informal Afternoon Activities** (Harrison Park, Emmetsburg)
 - *Tour the Little House on the Prairie Replica* – Howard Argabright (Builder and Owner of the Little House on the Prairie Replica) and Jeremy Tilges
 - *Iowa Project AWARE Outdoor Skills Challenge*
- **7:30 pm – Concurrent Evening Sessions** (Harrison Park, Emmetsburg)
 - *Follow The Water: Local to Global, We Are All Connected* - David Thoreson (Okoboji Protective Association)
 - *Northwest Iowa Archaeology* - John Doershuk (State Archaeologist, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa)

Thursday, July 14 (13.0 miles)

- **12:00pm – On-River Session** (Mile 10)
 - *1883 Pratt Truss Bridge and Streambank Stabilization Projects* - Jeremy Tilges (Palo Alto County Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- **4:30 pm – Informal Afternoon Activities** (Harrison Park, Emmetsburg)
 - *Live Animals with Palo Alto County Naturalist* - Kaitlin Anderson (Palo Alto County Naturalist)
- **7:30 pm – Concurrent Evening Sessions** (Harrison Park, Emmetsburg)
 - *A Quick Tour of Iowa Wetlands*- Paul Weihe (Central College, Biology Professor)
 - *History and Highlights of the West Fork of Des Moines River in Palo Alto County and Iowa’s River Restoration Toolbox* - Jeremy Tilges (Palo Alto County Natural Resources Conservation Service) and Nate Hoogeveen (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)

Sunday, July 10

Program Title: *Poison Ivy: Plant Identification, Prevention, & Treatment*

Program Description: How to positively identify poison ivy, decontaminate gear and clothing, and prevent and treat the risk.

Presenter: Dan Boelman RN, BSN (Zanfel Laboratories, Inc.)

Bio: Dan Boelman is the customer service manager at Zanfel Laboratories. Dan provides education on poison ivy for patients, healthcare providers, and groups like the Boy Scouts of America, the U.S. military, U.S. Forest Service, CAL Fire, and others. Dan has written articles published in peer-reviewed journals, and has appeared on TV and radio to help spread awareness and educate people on this very common allergic skin reaction.

Program Title: *Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic*

Program Description: Can't keep that canoe straight? Worried about the rapids, dams, and other hazards on this year's Iowa Project AWARE route? Then this clinic is for you! We'll focus on simple boat control techniques, hazard identification, and learning to "read the river" in order to stay upright while finding that trash.

Presenters: Nate Hoogeveen, John Wenck, and Rick Dietz

Bio: Nate Hoogeveen, River Programs Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is an American Canoe Association certified instructor. He coordinates the Protected Water Areas, Water Trails, and low-head dam safety programs for the Iowa DNR.

Bio: John Wenck is the water trails coordinator at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He works with communities across the state to enhance and improve access to Iowa's rivers. He coordinates the development of interpretive materials and manages and maintains the interactive paddling map. He's also an ACA certified canoe instructor and co-instructs DNR's paddling clinics for trip leaders and naturalists.

Bio: Rick Dietz began paddling canoes and kayaks over 40 years ago and has both bad habits (standing up in a canoe is just one) and good practices to share. He first participated in Project AWARE only to show his support and bolster the numbers, but hasn't been able to stay away. Rick lives just outside of Ames on the edge of the South Skunk River valley where he spends a great deal of his time. Rick lives with his wife Carol just outside of Ames.

Program Title: *Natural History of Anderson Prairie State Preserve*

Program Description: Anderson Prairie contains native prairie on glacial topography along the Des Moines River. We will explore the geology and vegetation of this state nature preserve.

Presenters: John Pearson and Rob Patterson

Bio: John Pearson has been an ecologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for 37 years with interests in plants, lichens, insects, geology.

Bio: Rob is the Wildlife Biologist at the Prairie Lakes Wildlife Unit for the Iowa DNR. Rob and his team are tasked with managing publicly owned land in a 5 county area in NW Iowa. Rob has been making management decisions on the Anderson Prairie Wildlife Management Area for the last ten years and considers it one of the most unique wildlife areas in his coverage area.

Program Title: *Identifying the Bones We Find Along the River*

Program Description: Cherie will have sample bones from animals that are commonly found on gravel bars along the river and will talk about how identifications are made. Elizabeth will work with kids and anyone else interested in laying out bones in anatomical position on a life-sized illustration of a deer skeleton.

Presenters: Elizabeth Reetz and Cherie Haury-Artz

Bio: Chérie E. Haury-Artz has an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Kansas. She has been involved in archaeological research focusing on the Great Plains for more than 40 years. Her research interests include analysis of fauna from archaeological sites, use and identification of lithic resources, rock art, and environmental adaptation of prehistoric cultures. She also has a special interest in public education and outreach and has more than 20 years of experience teaching classes and writing interpretive material on archaeology for a variety of venues and groups of all ages. She currently works at the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City.

Bio: Elizabeth Reetz is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist and has been doing archaeology fieldwork and research in the Midwest on and off since 2000. Her archaeology career has also taken her to Nevada, Ireland, coastal Washington, and most recently before Iowa - three field seasons in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in far northern Minnesota. Not only does she have a background in archaeology, but she has been an environmental educator for the past 10 years. She completed a second Masters (M.Ed. in Environmental Education) to gain credentials in curriculum building and outdoor education, with the ultimate goal of using archaeology to connect youth with nature.

Program Title: *Iowa Ambassador Animals*

Program Description: Get the opportunity to learn about and meet some of our live animals at the Nature Center! We will focus on animals that are from Iowa and the Midwest. Have you ever seen a box turtle or touched a salamander? Join Ashley for this interactive program that you won't forget.

Presenter: Ashley Reed

Bio: Ashley has been the Emmet County Naturalist since June of 2017. She loves all the animals that other people tend to think are "creepy and crawly" and has made it her mission to break those stigmas! Ashley graduated from Iowa State University and is originally from the Cedar Rapids, IA area.

Monday, July 11

Program Title: *Earth Echo Water Challenge*

Program Description: Explore how to test water quality, share your data and protect your waterbodies with Louisa County naturalist Laura Semken. The Earth Echo Water Challenge builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. This program is designed for all ages!

Presenter: Laura Semken

Bio: Laura Semken has been involved with environmental education since 2001. Her favorite animals include otters, turkey vultures, box turtles, tree frogs, mussels and some would argue fungi. She has earned a masters degree in Environmental Education and Interpretation, a bachelors of fine arts in

printmaking and an associates degree in Parks and Natural Resources. Laura loves to share her passion for stewardship with as many people as possible. It all begins with soil and water!

Program Title: *Knots for Paddlers and Campers*

Program Description: Quickly tie your bow line to your canoe? Two canoes together? A stack of tires? Your kayak to the top of your car? Learn the most useful paddling knots and receive a free 8-foot bow line.

Presenter: Jeff White

Bio: Jeff is a Skunk River Paddler, geologist, Eagle Scout, retired DNR. He has taught knot tying at the State Fair, paddler's meetings, college classes, previous AWARE events, Boy Scout camps, and around campfires. This is his fourteenth Iowa Project AWARE.

Program Title: *Frontier Forts of Northwest Iowa*

Program Description: During the period of American settlement of Iowa, relationships with Native Americans were often fraught. The U.S. Army, local militias, and private citizens built defensive forts. This talk will review the history and significance of these forts, including ones built in Northwest Iowa for the 1863 Dakota uprising.

Presenter: Bill Whittaker

Bio: Bill Whittaker is the research director of the Office of the State Archeologist. He is editor of the Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society, and weather of *Frontier forts of Iowa* and *The Archaeological Guide to Iowa*.

Program Title: *A Rockin' Good Time: Surficial Geology of the Des Moines River Watershed and the Critical Mineral Potential of Northwest Iowa*

Program Description: The glacial history of Iowa strongly influences the topography and soils in the surrounding area. Kata McCarville will discuss how glaciers influenced the landscape associated with the Des Moines River Watershed. The U.S. Geological Survey began a program called Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) in 2018 aimed at identifying domestic sources of critical minerals. The Earth MRI program has provided funding for many state geological surveys, including the Iowa Geological Survey, to study their local geology and characterize potential critical mineral deposits. Ryan Clark of the Iowa Geological Survey will discuss a new Earth MRI project that will use airborne geophysical survey techniques to assess the critical mineral potential of the deep Precambrian geology of northwestern Iowa.

Presenters: Kata McCarville and Ryan Clark

Bio: Kata McCarville is a Professor of Geosciences at Upper Iowa University. She lives in the watershed of the Volga River.

Bio: Ryan Clark is a bedrock geologist with the Iowa Geological Survey. He constructs geologic maps, assists well drillers to understand where to find the best aquifers, and recently he's been collaborating with other state geological surveys to search for domestic sources of critical minerals.

Tuesday, July 12

Program Title: *Morning Birding*

Program Description: Birding is an amazing way to begin your day! Join us on a meditative walk through the local woods and learn bird identification skills!

Presenter: Jamie Tigges

Bio: Jamie is a graduate from the University of Iowa and current Green Iowa Americorps employee where he focuses on environmental outreach programs. He was born in Dubuque and has lived all over the state enjoying outdoor activities in each city that he has landed. A childhood love of dinosaurs led him down the path of birding, and a passion for conserving the dinosaurs which still live with us today.

Program Title: *History of the “Estherville Meteorite”*

Program Description: History of the “Estherville Meteorite”. North America’s Largest Meteorite.

Presenter: Bob Jensen

Bio: American Family Insurance. Owner – “Estherville Meteorite Center”. Resident of Estherville. Lifetime - “Natural History Cool Stuff Nerd”!

Program Title: *Long Distance Solo Travel (with dog) in Northern Canada*

Program Description: Discussion with slideshow of a 43-day solo trip beginning on Wollaston Lake in northern Saskatchewan. A laid back and free flowing discussion including pre-trip prep, building the canoe for the trip, what we saw and did, and plenty of Q&A. As a native of this area (living ½ mile down the road) I’d also like to talk a little about what makes it so special.

Presenter: Alan Gage

Bio: Alan is 44 years old and has lived within 13 miles of the Ingham/High Lake area his whole life. Despite some far-flung travels he keeps returning. He owns an automobile repair shop in Estherville and spends his free time enjoying the natural areas of Emmet County and working on a never-ending list of construction and woodworking projects.

Wednesday, July 13

Program Title: *Tour the Little House on the Prairie Replica and Tour of Prairie*

Program Description: Little House on the Prairie is located off of Highway 18 behind Subway on the west edge of Emmetsburg. This replica, privately owned and built by Howard Argabright, is a reproduction of the house seen on the TV program with the same name. Howard Argabright constructed the house by hand and without blueprints. The Little House on the Prairie replica is surrounded by several acres of natural prairie grasses which were planted in 2000. It is open during the warm weather seasons by appointment only. Jeremy will describe how the prairie was restored and the USDA programs used to assist Howard with his conservation desires.

Presenters: Howard Argabright and Jeremy Thilges

Bio: Howard grew up in Palo Alto County and has spent most of his life in Emmetsburg. He always admired the ability of our forefathers to work dawn to dusk. He built the Little House on the Prairie house in 2003 and the associated barn in 2004.

Bio: Jeremy has been employed by the USDA NRCS in Palo Alto County for 25 years and is currently the District Conservationist. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, kayaking and raising show rabbits. I grew up on a farm by Algona and have moved around working for the IDNR and County Conservation Boards before coming back to this area. I not only work in conservation, but it is a big part of my life and volunteering is one of my core beliefs. I am a past National Wild Turkey Federation president, have instructed Hunter Education for over 25 years, coach the Algona High

School Trap Shooting Team, leader of the Whittemore Warriors 4-H club and coach the Algona FFA Soils and Envirothon Teams. Winning the Envirothon in Iowa this year and getting to take the team to Ohio for the International Envirothon in July will be awesome.

Program Title: *Follow the Water: Local To Global, We Are All Connected*

Program Description: Our local impacts to soil and freshwater resources are interconnected to the greater ocean, weather and climate systems. I'll connect our local streams, rivers and lakes to the larger environment through my personal explorations leading to the Arctic and sailing through the Northwest Passage, now greatly altered by climate change.

Presenter: David Thoreson

Bio: David Thoreson is a professional photographer, sailor and explorer documenting the environment locally, in the Iowa Great Lakes region, and globally, sailing 70,000-miles across the world's oceans and polar regions. David is a water quality, climate and outdoor recreation advocate who works to inspire others to create their own connections to nature and protect the outdoors for future generations. Please view his book and work at davidthoreson.com

Program Title: *Northwest Iowa Archaeology*

Program Description: An overview of important discoveries in northwest Iowa archaeology will be covered with commentary on trends in cultural adaptations through time. Particular attention will be given the emergence of settled village life and importance of corn agriculture to Native Americans. Information stemming from Iowa Lakeside Lab's summer 2022 archaeological field school excavations at the Abbie Gardner Sharp State Historic Site will be presented.

Presenter: John Doershuk

Bio: John has been State Archaeologist and director of the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) since 2007. OSA is a research center at the University of Iowa where John has also held an adjunct faculty position since 1995 in the Department of Anthropology. John received a B.A. in 1980 from Carleton College in anthropology and a M.A (1982) and Ph.D. (1989) in anthropology from Northwestern University, specializing in Midwestern archaeology. John regularly teaches archaeology courses at the University of Iowa and Cornell College, including archaeological field schools, most recently through the Iowa Lakeside Lab. John is a registered professional archaeologist, has served as president of the Association of Iowa Archaeologists, is past president of the Midwest Archaeological Conference, has served on several Society for American Archaeology task forces, and is an *Ex officio* Board Member of the Iowa Archeological Society.

Thursday, July 14

Program Title: Streambank Stabilization- Before and After and History of 1883 Pratt Truss Bridge - On-River Program

Program Description: Jeremy will discuss the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services' program and design of the stream bank stabilization project and the importance of protecting that area of the river. Discuss the historical significance of the 1883 Pratt Truss Bridge and its renovation.

Presenter: Jeremy Thilges

Bio: Jeremy has been employed by the USDA NRCS in Palo Alto County for 25 years and is currently the District Conservationist. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, kayaking and raising show rabbits. I grew up on a farm by Algona and have moved around working for the IDNR and County Conservation Boards before coming back to this area. I not only work in conservation, but it is a big part of my life and volunteering is one of my core beliefs. I am a past National Wild Turkey Federation president, have instructed Hunter Education for over 25 years, coach the Algona High School Trap Shooting Team, leader of the Whittemore Warriors 4-H club and coach the Algona FFA Soils and Envirothon Teams. Winning the Envirothon in Iowa this year and getting to take the team to Ohio for the International Envirothon in July will be awesome.

Program Title: *Live Animals with Palo Alto County Naturalist*

Program Description: Iowa has drastically changed its ecosystem since settlement. The animals that have adapted to the different landscape are common sights, but what do we really know about some of them? Get a hands on lesson with some of Iowa's common critters.

Presenter: Kaitlin Anderson

Bio: Kaitlin has been working with Palo Alto County Conservation since January 2018 as the Naturalist. Growing up, she was always outdoors exploring what nature had to offer. In her free time, she enjoys running, reading, and spending time with my dogs outside.

Program Title: *A Quick Tour of Iowa Wetlands*

Program Description: What are wetlands, and why are they important? Is Iowa a wetland-rich State? What's happening to our wetlands today, and what might be their future?

Presenter: Paul Weihe

Bio: Paul Weihe has lived in Pella and taught ecology and environmental science for over 20 years. He also enjoys exploring northwest Iowa with students from Lakeside Lab.

Program Title: *History and Highlights of the West Fork of Des Moines River in Palo Alto County and Iowa's River Restoration Toolbox*

Program Description: Nate will discuss Iowa's River Restoration Toolbox. Iowa's River Restoration Toolbox is a series of best management practices developed to assist designers in stream stabilization and restoration projects in Iowa with proven techniques with emphasis on incorporating natural materials, such as logs, stone, and live plantings. Among the dozens of techniques described in the Toolbox are longitudinal peaked stone toe protection, j-hook vanes, rock arch rapids, oxbows, riparian corridor restorations, and tree/shrub plantings.

Presenters: Jeremy Thilges and Nate Hoogeveen

Bio: Jeremy has been employed by the USDA NRCS in Palo Alto County for 25 years and is currently the District Conservationist. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, kayaking and raising show rabbits. I grew up on a farm by Algona and have moved around working for the IDNR and County Conservation Boards before coming back to this area. I not only work in conservation, but it is a big part of my life and volunteering is one of my core beliefs. I am a past National Wild Turkey Federation president, have instructed Hunter Education for over 25 years, coach the Algona High School Trap Shooting Team, leader of the Whittemore Warriors 4-H club and coach the Algona FFA Soils and Envirothon Teams. Winning the Envirothon in Iowa this year and getting to take the team to Ohio for the International Envirothon in July will be awesome.

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