

Calendar of Events

All programs meet at the Benton County Nature Center unless otherwise noted.
Programs are all FREE of charge unless a price is listed.

Wednesday, February 27th, 7:00PM — 8:00PM, Benton County Rocks

Benton County has a rich geologic history ranging from Devonian seaways nearly 400 million years ago to the frigid, windswept landscape of the last ice age. This talk will give a brief history about the bedrock beneath your feet and the glacial sediments, and then discuss their effect on the modern landscape. If you have ever wondered why there are boulders in your fields, why there are tall tree-covered hills southeast of the Cedar River, when the last time Vinton was under an ocean, or what a paha is, then your questions will be answered!



Friday, March 1st, 10:00AM — 11:00AM, Toddler Time: Crayfish!

Join our naturalist as we explore the exciting world of the crayfish. The kids will get the chance to see and touch real crayfish! Learn about the habits and life cycle of this interesting creature.

Saturday, March 30th, 9:00AM — 10:30AM Falconry

Join Park Ranger Scott Bahmann, President of the Iowa Falconer's Association, and his Red-tailed Hawk as he talks about the history of Falconry and what it takes to get involved in the sport of kings. Other birds might be available depending on conditions. We will start indoors and then do some walking to get to a location to watch the hawk in action.



Saturday and Sunday, March 23rd and 24th,
Hunter Education Course at Izaak Walton
League. Register for course through Iowa DNR
at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Hunter-Education>.

Saturday, April 13th, 11:00AM, Easter Egg Hunt at Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area

Please join us as Benton County Conservation welcomes you to our first ever Wildcat Bluff Easter egg hunt. There will be Easter eggs loaded with goodies and prizes. Be

sure to get there early to register so we can get an accurate count of our egg hunters. This event is FREE and open to all children ages 12 and under. Keep posted on our Facebook page at “Benton County Conservation” for more details. Contact Ranger Jon Geiger with any questions at (319) 560-9802.

Saturday, April 20th, 10AM — 1PM, Eco-Extravaganza!!!

Celebrate Earth Day a couple days early at our 3rd annual Eco-Extravaganza! There will be fun for all ages, including meeting live animals, nature crafts, and trying out outdoor activities. Bring the family out for an afternoon of Earth Day excitement! Keep posted on our Facebook page “Benton County Conservation” for more details on time and activities!

Summer Camps

River Raiders, Monday, July 22nd—Wednesday, July 24th (overnight)

Age: Youth entering 6th-8th grade

Adventure awaits around every bend! We are once again partnering with Buchanan County Conservation to explore the Upper Iowa River from Kendallville to Decorah. Campers will canoe, camp, cook outdoors, and learn other wilderness skills on this two-night, three-day excursion. Participants will paddle their way around winding bends, rapids, scenic waterfalls, cold springs, and 200-foot chimney bluffs. The trip fee includes use of tents, food, canoes, life jackets, paddles and transportation. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants. Participants must attend the training day on July 15. The training will include camping and paddling basics, menu for the trip itinerary and what to pack.



Cost: \$90/youth. Register for this camp by visiting <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Buchanan.aspx> and search the “Events” page for River Raiders.

We have summer camps for kids of all ages coming up! Join us for nature exploration, outdoor recreation, and fun activities! Keep posted on our Facebook page at “Benton County Conservation” for more camp details. Registration for all other camps will open in March.