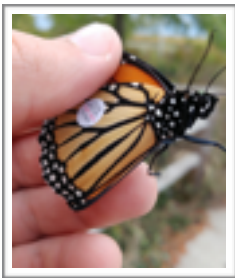


Calendar of Events

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

Saturday, September 15th, 10:00AM — 2:00PM, Kayak Demo Days at Rodgers Park

Join CrawDaddy Outdoors to test kayaks on Rodgers Lake. Finding the correct kayak for you will add to your enjoyment of this fun sport! Test a fleet of 16+ kayaks to find the one that is right for you. Let CrawDaddy Outdoors' knowledgeable staff teach you the features and benefits of each kayak and help you choose the right PFD and paddle to enhance your kayaking experience. Demo days are free and no preregistration is required.



Tuesday, September 25th, 4:30 — 5:30PM, Monarch Tagging at Hannen Lake Park

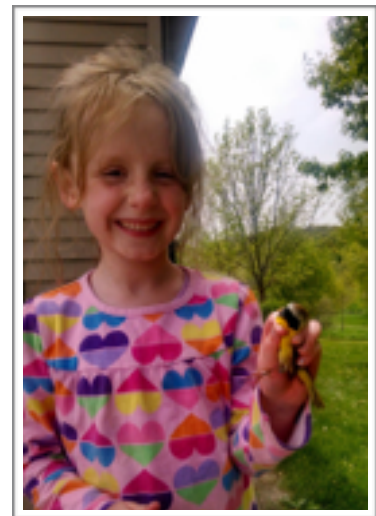
Discover more about monarchs and their amazing migration! Find out how we tag monarchs and how this helps scientists learn more about their migration and life cycle. We will also have insect nets available to try and catch some monarchs to tag and release. Meet at the beach parking lot at Hannen Park.

Wednesday, September 26th, 6:00 — 8:00PM, Dutch Oven Cooking

Join us for an introduction to Dutch Oven Cooking and the delightful dishes you can create. Participants will learn how to prepare a variety of dishes and how to season and care for your cast iron dutch ovens. Sampling is encouraged and participants will not leave hungry! Cost is \$5/adult and \$2/child (12 and under). There is limited space, so please preregister by calling 319-472-3592 or emailing info@bentoncountyparks.com.

Saturday, September 29th, 8:00 — 11:30AM, Public Bird Banding

Get the chance to learn more about the citizen science project of bird banding. Watch the birds being banded and find out how it helps scientists study them. You'll get the chance to see wild birds up close, and you may even get to release a bird or two back into the wild! Stop by the Nature Center anytime from 8-11:30am.



Friday and Saturday, October 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th, 7:00 — 11:00PM

Terror on the Trail at Rodgers Park!

The name says it all — join us for the Rodgers Park annual Halloween hike! Participants gather at the grilling garden for a ride to the trail head. Tickets are available to purchase at the gate. \$10/adults, \$5/child (12 and under).

Wednesday, October 24th, 6:30 — 7:30PM, Intro to Trekking

Are you interested in pursuing more outdoor adventures? Join Jay Lash, local Boy Scout troop leader and wilderness trip leader, to learn more about backpacking and canoe trekking, and how easy it is to get started. This class is geared towards beginner campers who would like to learn more about backpacking or canoe treks. Learn about the basics of these trips, including how to plan a trek, gear needed, food planning, and health and safety. Class is \$5/person (children under 15 are free). The proceeds from this class will go towards providing children with outdoor recreation experiences through the Boy Scouts and Benton County Conservation.

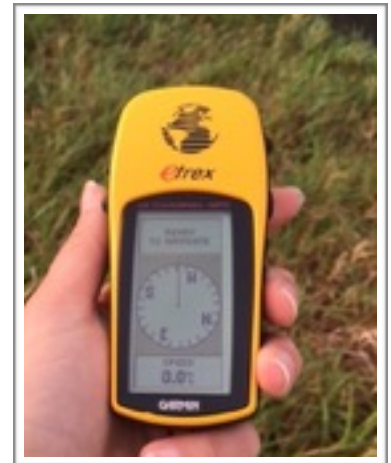
Thursday, October 25th, 10:00 — 11:00AM, Toddler Time: Nocturnal Animals

Halloween is getting closer, and that means owls, bats, and other nighttime critters! Bring your tots to learn about these cool creatures. Feel free to dress in costume! This program is geared towards young children but all ages are welcome.

Thursday, October 25th, 3:00 — 4:00PM,

Geocaching Trick-or-Treat (Vinton-Shellsburg Early Out)

Use GPS units to find treats hidden around the Nature Center, although there may be a few tricks along the way! We will have GPS units available for you to use and will provide instruction on how to use them. You can dress in your Halloween costume, but some of the treats will be off the beaten path, so you might get a little dirty! This program is free, but please preregister by calling 319-472-3592 or info@bentoncountyparks.com.



Saturday, October 27th, 9:00AM — 1:00PM,

Lunching on the Landscape: An Introduction into Wild Foods

Join guest Naturalist Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe from Mitchell County Conservation board to discover the flavors of the forest! We will focus on how to identify key features of wild edible plants, knowing when and what to sustainably harvest, how to prepare, and even sample some wild flavors. Space is limited, so please CALL AHEAD to register. Cost is only **\$10** per adult. Children are welcome to attend the class for free with a parent or guardian. This is a HANDS ON class, so come ready to help dig, cut, cook, and most importantly EAT! Please bring a water bottle, notebook and/or camera for taking notes and wear weather appropriate clothing and shoes. We will be outside as much as possible and this class will take place rain or shine. Chelsea will have recipes and notes to share. To register, or if you have questions, please call 319-472-3592 or email info@bentoncountyparks.com.

Thursday, November 15th, 10:00 — 11:00AM, Toddler Time: Turkeys

Gobble gobble gobble! Celebrate Thanksgiving time by bringing your tots to find out about Iowa's wild turkeys. This program is geared towards young children but all ages are welcome.