

## Calendar of Events

**Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:30 – Snowshoeing at the Nature Center-** Enjoy an afternoon of snowshoeing at the Nature Center with the Benton County Naturalists. We will explore the wetland behind the Nature Center and then come inside to warm up with some hot chocolate. Register for the program by February 11<sup>th</sup> by calling 319-472-4942. **FREE**

**Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30pm- Full Moon Snowshoeing at the Nature Center-** Walk on the wild side with Benton County Naturalist Aaron Askelson. If the conditions are right we won't even need flashlights. After our adventure we will meet back at the Nature Center for some hot chocolate. Register for this program by February 19<sup>th</sup> by calling 319-472-4942. **FREE**

**Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. Birding at the Nature Center-** Join our volunteers and explore the outside world of birds. After a brief demonstration on the use of binoculars, our volunteer birding expert will lead you outdoors to see who's been visiting our feeders and surrounding wetlands. **FREE** - no registration required.

**Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.-**Nature Center Open to public

**Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm, Native Vegetation Seminar at the Nature Center**

Join a host of local professionals as we discuss topics covering prairie, woodland, and storm water management. We will also give a brief history of the Old Creamery Nature Trail and current trail projects. We'll wrap up with insight into the Monarch butterfly and milkweed as well as take a look at the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and other cost share opportunities. This is a **FREE** event and all are welcome to attend.

**Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> , 6:30 - 8:00 Woodworking for Wildlife at the Nature Center-** Join our naturalists in making your own Eastern Bluebird house and decorating it by wood-burning on the outside. There is a \$15 fee for this program. Call to register for this program by March 14<sup>th</sup> 319-472-4942. Pyography kits may be purchased for an additional fee.

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am, Rodgers Park Easter Egg Hunt-** This **FREE** event is sponsored by Ehlinger's Express 66, there will be a children's and an adult Easter Egg Hunt.

**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.-**Nature Center Open to public

**Unless otherwise noted, to register for programs:  
319-472-4942 or email us at: [info@bentoncountyparks.com](mailto:info@bentoncountyparks.com)**

## Calendar of Events continued

**Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, NRCS Soil Reduction Field Day-** The Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project will be hosting a field day on March 30, 2016 at the Benton County Nature Center (5718 20th Ave Dr, Vinton). Rick Juchems, a farmer from Plainfield and a member of Practical Farmers of Iowa, will give a presentation about the use of cover crops on his farm. There will be a diverse group of local farmers and landowners sitting on a panel to answer questions about terminating cover crops and how to manage cover crops in a corn/soybean rotation. There are also cover crop plots on-site to demonstrate how various cover crops work in this part of the state. Practical Farmers of Iowa is sponsoring a free lunch for those in attendance. The program will start at 10 am and is anticipated to wrap-up around 12:30. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Project Coordinator Shannon Mitchell at 319-472-2161, extension 3, or email at [shannon.mitchell@nacdn.net](mailto:shannon.mitchell@nacdn.net).

**Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 8:30 pm Wood-burning Canoe Paddles@ the Nature Center** Whether you want to hang it on the wall or use it for paddling your canoe around, we will help you personalize your own canoe paddle. Participants will be taught how to wood-burn their own paddle that they will get to take home. \$25.00 small paddle / \$35.00 large paddle. Participants are not required to purchase the pyrography tool, but may do so for an additional charge. Registration and payment is required by March 31st. Space is limited.

**Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Kayak Demo Days, Hannen Lake Park, Blainstown.** Join the professional staff of Crawdaddy Outdoors and try out any kayak you like at this **FREE** event. Ever wonder if the kayak you've been dreaming of will fit you just right and handle great in the water? This event is for you. Darrin and his staff will be able to answer all your questions when it comes to kayaks.

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am, 1st Annual Two-Person Best Shot Golf Tournament at the Vinton Country Club**

Help celebrate 60 Years in County Conservation with this fun golf tournament. Watch for more details on our website ([www.bentoncountyiowa.org](http://www.bentoncountyiowa.org)) and follow us on Facebook®

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