



Naturally LOUISA COUNTY

Rich in Nature, History and Culture

SPRING 2024
VOLUME 17
ISSUE 1

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 *Preventing a Cat-astrophe*
- 3 *Auto Tour Loop Opens*
- 5 *Thank you, Schlutz Foundation*
- 6 *Upcoming Events and Summer Camps*
- 8 *News from ISU Extension*
- 11 *Scholarships Available*

INDEX OF CONTRIBUTORS

- 3 *US Fish and Wildlife Service*
- 5 *Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency*
- 8 *ISU Extension*
- 9 *Iowa DNR*
- 10 *PF/QF/DU*
- 11 *Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation*

EDITED BY
Lana Artz-McComb

Putting the 3Rs into Practice

By: Lana Artz-McComb, Interim Director

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We've all heard the refrain and we've all tried our best to implement it in our daily lives. Today we focus on **reduction**.

This will be the last edition of the *Naturally Louisa County* newsletter to be printed for our bulk mailing list. There are multiple reasons behind this decision - paper resources, staff time, budget - it all leads back to **reduction**.

It is no secret that budgets are a challenge federally, statewide, and locally. Everyone is being challenged to do the same or more with less financial resources. If eliminating the cost of this printed newsletter can allow for an improvement somewhere in the natural resources of Louisa County, that's the way it needs to be.

Paper resources are not infinite. Besides being costly, in dollars, they are costly in their effect on our natural resources. Even recycled paper is not without issue. The resources used in manufacturing, transportation, and printing are significant. One quarterly edition of the *NLC* Newsletter uses over 3,000 sheets of 11x17 paper with ink printed on both sides.

We hope you will be on board with this major shift from print to electronic editions of this newsletter. Change is not easy but change is often necessary. Thank you.

Action Needed

If you would like to continue receiving the electronic version of the *Naturally Louisa County* Newsletter via email, please call 319-523-8381 or email us at conservation@louisacountyia.gov.

If you value a paper copy of the newsletter, we are happy to print one out for you at the Louisa County Conservation Office.

Printed copies will also be available at partnering organization offices. The electronic version will always be posted on the Louisa County Conservation website.

www.LouisaCountyConservation.org

Cat-astrophic Problem

By: Sarah Martinez, Naturalist

As conservationists, we often teach about the devastating effects invasive species have on native flora and fauna, such as Emerald Ash Borer, European Starling, and Bighead Carp. Another animal has been added to the list, and it might be in the same room with you right now...the domestic cat.



A common, beloved house pet and longtime pest control agent on family farms, is responsible for much more than afternoon catnaps in the sun.

In the U.S., [cats kill an estimated 2.4 billion birds every year](#). This alarming statistic is more than double the number of birds killed by cars, windows, power lines, wind turbines, and other man-made structures combined!

Now, we could deal with this problem more easily, if it wasn't for the overwhelming population size of our outdoor feline friends.

The Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service branch of the USDA estimates there are nearly 100 million stray and feral cats in the United States. This is not counting another 46.5 million cats that live inside our homes. Combine this with a female cat's ability to birth as many as five litters a year and that's a fast-and-simple recipe for a cat-astrophe!

So how exactly are these cats invasive species? To be designated an invasive species, there are two criteria cats need to meet. 1) They had to be non-native and 2) they had to "cause economic or environmental harm and/or harm to human health". Domestic cats were bred from small wild cats and introduced into North America. Free-ranging cats hurt native species populations and they have an even larger effect on the entire predator-prey ecosystem. This causes trophic cascades that can hurt prey abundance for other native predator species.

I know what you must be thinking...This is informational and all, but why should I care? Free-ranging and feral cats also pose risks to human public

health and safety. Not only are cats the most common vectors of rabies (in domestic animals), but cats can transmit other diseases and parasites including, cat scratch fever, ringworm, hookworm, and *Salmonellosis*. It is important to note, this is only concerning our free-ranging, unowned, and/or feral, outside cats.

So yes, cats are invasive species and yes, they are causing significant harm and decline to our native Iowa bird, small mammal, reptile, and amphibian populations. They are super spreaders of disease to livestock, our pets, and us, and their population size is only increasing! For the record, I love cats. I have cats at home, lazing around my house as I write this. But, as a naturalist and conservationist, I care about ecological diversity and the truth is, free-ranging, unowned cats are the largest human-caused threat to wildlife in the U.S.. But all hope is not lost!

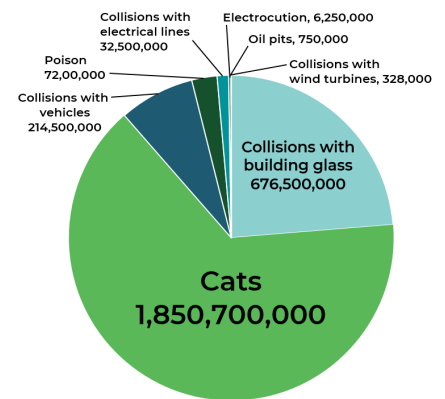
Keeping indoor cats as indoor cats is an easy first step. The primary source of predation is done by outdoor cats, including both pet and feral, so simply keeping your cat inside, will reduce the problem.

It is also important to prevent pet cats from becoming strays. You should never release any pet, regardless of species, into the wild (it can even be illegal), instead rehoming or giving them to a shelter, is always the better option. Finally, you could look into local TNR programs. Trap-Neuter-Return or TNR, is a method of managing feral cat populations.

The process, as simply put, involves live-trapping the cats, having them neutered/spayed, and releasing them back into the outdoors. This is a humane and effective approach to addressing free-ranging cat populations by ending their breeding cycle.

This method does not address the concern of outside competition and predation from feral cat populations but it does prevent reproduction among free-ranging cats and creates a slightly more stable and controlled population. There's no easy solution and no "right" way to do it, but educating yourself on the issues is a perfect first step!

LEADING CAUSES OF HUMAN-RELATED THREATS TO BIRDS



Source: U.S. Fish, Wildlife, and Parks - based on multiple studies
<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>

Flyway Fridays at the Refuge

By: Nate Barnett, USFWS Wildlife Biologist

Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge will open the 5.5-mile tour loop to vehicles, on a limited basis, beginning next month. With only a handful of openings over the last few years, the refuge will now offer once-monthly openings through August. The refuge's visitor center and Facebook page will have updated information ahead of each opening.



On the third Friday of each month, beginning in March, the tour loop on the Louisa Division will be open to one-way vehicle traffic from 8 am to sunset. Visitors will be able to view the habitats and wildlife of the refuge throughout the Spring and Summer from the comfort of their own vehicle. All cars, trucks, and road-legal side-by-side UTVs are welcome but ATVs are not permitted. While you can explore the entire refuge on foot, vehicles are required to stay on the tour loop road. **Note:** In the event of flooding, the refuge may be closed for public safety considerations.

As you explore the refuge in the Spring, look for the different species of diving ducks on the water preying on fish or dabbling ducks foraging in the shallows. In open grassland areas look for colorful and distinctive Spring migrants such as yellow-headed blackbirds and bobolinks. Please pay attention to the road while driving the loop as the refuge is home to

many reptiles and amphibians that frequently bask on the roads or travel across them; this advice applies to most roadways in Louisa County.

Later in the Spring, and into the Summer, visitors will be able to both hear and see many different breeding birds on the refuge. Common sights are pairs of prothonotary warblers flitting around, groups of wood duck hens leading an army of ducklings, and sandhill crane pairs raising new colts.

As water levels drop and mudflats are exposed, fields of annual seed-producing plants will begin popping up out of the wetlands and growing fuller with each visit. Come Fall, these plants become the favored foods of migrating waterfowl, so the refuge dedicates a large percentage of its acreage to managing for this high food-value habitat.

Ahead of each monthly opening, the refuge will share detailed information on its Facebook page. Make plans to visit on one or more of these Flyway Friday events and experience the refuge throughout the 2024 field season!

Spring Auto Tour Loop Dates

- Friday, March 15th
- Friday, April 19th
- Friday, May 17th
- Friday, June 21st

PORT LOUISA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



10728 Cty Rd X61,
Wapello, Iowa 52653
319-523-6982

Office Hours:

M-F, 7:30 - 4:00 PM

fws.gov/refuge/port_louisa
facebook.com/portlouisaNWR

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.



**Fire, Smoke & Water
Cleanup & Restoration**

24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Wapello.....(319)527-2835
Toll Free.....(800)754-8050

Symbolic Migration

By: Sarah Martinez, Naturalist

Louisa County Conservation reached an important goal! In September 2023, every third grader in Louisa County participated in the Symbolic Migration Project!

This program, a project through Journey North, brings students from across the country and all of North America to create symbolic (paper) monarch butterflies to send to Mexico. These symbolic butterflies build bridges of communication between participants in Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

Louisa County Conservation spent time in third grade classrooms at Louisa Muscatine, Morning Sun, Wapello, and Roundy Elementary Schools. Students collaborated with each other to decorate one large butterfly folder to represent their school and community and colored their own butterflies with pictures and little messages to be sent as well. We also took time to explore the extraordinary journey monarchs make each year and the importance of their continued conservation and protection.



Louisa Muscatine Elementary School



Wapello Elementary School



Morning Sun Elementary School



Roundy Elementary School

These paper butterflies are delivered to youth who live around the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Mexico. The mailing of the symbolic butterflies' flight is timed to correspond with the real monarchs' journey south.

All four Louisa County butterflies arrived at Lazaro Cardenas Elementary in El Capulin Community near the Cerro Pelon Sanctuary in the State of Mexico. Located around two hours from Mexico City, the sanctuary has a variety of tree species and mountain springs. Elementary students took a conservation class with Journey North and learned about monarch migration, looked at posters, read books, and highlighted other unique animals that live in their community.



Come spring, when the real monarchs prepare for their journey back North, students in schools surrounding the sanctuary will make their own symbolic monarchs to be sent right back to us!

To read more about the Symbolic Migration Project and the journey our butterflies took, visit www.symbolicmigration.org and type in any of our area school's name into the search bar, to read the blog.

Schlutz Foundation Supports Environmental Education

By: Lana Artz-McComb, Naturalist

SCHLUTZ FAMILY FOUNDATION

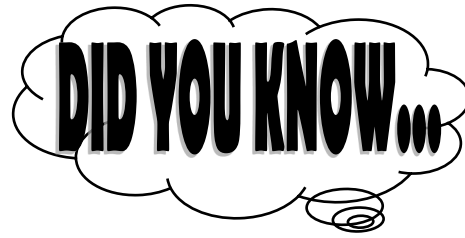
Louisa County Conservation wishes to thank the Schlutz Family Foundation for their generous support of environmental education in 2024. We have received \$356.77 to purchase an outdoor drinking fountain for Langwood Education Center that can be mounted and connected to the existing water source for field trips, public programming, and summer nature camp.

\$1500 was awarded for LCC's camp for visually impaired youth, in partnership with the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI). The grant award will be used to improve accessibility at Langwood's facilities and improve the accessibility of outdoor recreation programming. This award will not only directly impact the IESBVI summer camp but also impact all other users of Langwood.



Chad Brown assists Taylor Jack with archery at Langwood in 2023

Both grants were made at the recommendation of the Marillyn M. and Robert W. Schlutz Family Fund. Thank you for your support of Environmental Education in Louisa County!



LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION does programming for the LOUISA REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AGENCY?

Louisa County Conservation provides educational outreach, in partnership with the Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency (LRSWA), that brings topics in waste reduction into schools and to your communities.

Do you have a program idea not listed below?

Let us know!

Topics: The 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), Worm Composting, Upcycling, Sustainable Practices.

For program inquiries or any questions, please contact us at conservation@louisacountyia.gov or call us at 319-523-8381.

RECLAIM YOUR LAND!



- FORESTRY MULCHING • CRP CLEANUP •
- PASTURE CLEARING • INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL •

CALL US: 319-318-2134
RIVERFORKSLC@GMAIL.COM

Louisa County Transfer Station

Drop Off Recycling and Waste Disposal

Monday thru Friday...8:00am – 4:00pm

Saturday...9:00am – 12:00pm

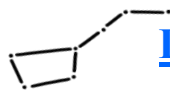


14048 70th Street, Wapello, IA 52653

Questions? 319-523-5013

louisacountyia.gov

LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION EVENTS



Digital Planetarium

Friday, March 8

Columbus Junction Library

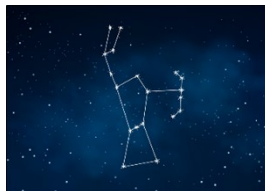
Join us for a digital journey through space!

There will be 4 different "showings":

9:00 am, 10:00 am,

2:00 pm, 3:00 pm

No registration required



Hunter Education

The March class is full. Mark your calendar for our next class: August 8 and 10!

Langwood Education Center

This free class includes classroom lessons and field experiences. Students must be 11 years or older to attend. **Registration required through the Iowa DNR website: license.gooutdoorsiowa.com.**

Spring Break Picnic in the Park

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday, March 15; Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area

Friday, March 29; Virginia Grove Recreation Area

Celebrate Spring Break at a park near you! Have lunch with the box turtles, feel furs and skulls, and enjoy the fact that Spring is here!

Bring your lunch and a drink. Be sure to dress for the weather (we do still live in Iowa...)

No registration required



Unless otherwise stated, all registration and program information can be found at

LouisaCountyConservation.org

Call our office: 319-523-8381

Send an email: conservation@louisacountyia.gov



Stay Connected with LCC

Langwood Comes Alive

Monday, April 1; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Langwood Education Center

Spring is all around! Let's get outside and enjoy it! Hike, scoop in the pond, bird watch. Come and go as you please to this free family event.

No registration required

Mother's Day on the Marsh

Sunday, May 12; 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Port Louisa Inlet Tubes

\$10 canoe, \$5 kayak, \$2 bring your own boat

Prepare to see birds and other mothers as we leisurely paddle, viewing wildlife and listening to the sounds of nature.

Pre-registration required by Friday, May 10.



Langwood Adventure Day

Saturday, June 1; 8:00 am - Noon

Langwood Education Center

Come and explore Langwood Education Center! Find adventure fishing, paddling, hiking, pond scooping, shooting bows and arrows and more! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is requested for this FREE event!

LOUISA COUNTY
CONSERVATION



12635 County Road G56, Suite 101
Wapello, IA 52653

319-523-8381; Conservation@louisacountyia.gov

LCC STAFF

Noah Robb
Jacob Ewart
Lana Artz-McComb
Dani Boysen
Sarah Martinez

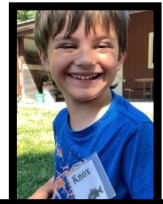
BOARD MEMBERS

Elizabeth Kling
vacant
Joellen Schantz
Shawn Maine
Josh Hardin



Louisa County Conservation 2024 Summer Nature Camps

Camps include nature exploration, hiking, games, crafts, and hands-on activities. Included in the camp fee are a daily snack and camp t-shirt



Nature Camp Registration Information

Registration begins on **Wednesday, April 10 at Noon.**
Unless specified, camps are held at Langwood Education Center
Contact Lana at lmccomb@louisacountyia.gov or 319-523-8381.

Online registration and payment can be made through **MyCountyParks.com.**

Caterpillar Camp

June 3-7; 8:30 am-11:30 am
Entering K-1st Grade; Cost: \$40

Let's learn about animals! Explore furs, skulls, feathers, and scales as we learn about the animal kingdom.

Families are invited for fishing day on Friday!

Tadpole Camp

June 10-14; 8:30 am-11:30 am
Entering 1st-2nd Grade, Cost: \$40

Nature, nature, all around! What will we see today? Bring all 5 senses and get ready to explore up, down, under, and through the habitats at Langwood.

Nature Detectives

June 24-28; 8:30 am-12:00 pm
Entering 2nd-3rd Grade, Cost: \$45

Take an up close look at plants, animals, soil, and the critters that live in the pond! Grab your magnifying lens and get ready to focus on the tiny things.

Outdoor Explorers

July 8-10; 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Entering 3rd-4th Grade, Cost: \$50

Hike and paddle your way through every corner of Langwood! We'll explore the woods, prairie, and pond to learn about the secrets of nature.

Great Escape

July 11-12; 9:00 am pm - 2:00 pm
Entering 4th-5th Grade; Cost: \$50

Practice your outdoor skills by building a campfire, practicing archery, and paddling in canoes and kayaks! Lunch is included in the cost, we will cook over the campfire both days of camp.

River Raiders Upper Iowa River

Training day: June 5, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Trip dates: July 1-3

Entering 8th- 12th Grade. Cost: \$90
Campers will paddle, camp & cook outdoors during this three day, two night trek plus an additional training date in June. Priority is given to youth going for the first time. If you've gone before, mail us to be put on the waiting list.

NEW!

Adults on the River

July 16; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost \$20, includes lunch on the river

Who says kids should have all the fun! Paddle 8 miles from Wapello to Cappy Russell and enjoy a day on the river! All supplies + shuttle included.

River Paddlers Louisa County

July 18, 9:00 am overnight to July 19, 4:00 pm

Entering 6th- 8th Grade. Cost: \$65

Paddle the beautiful Iowa River through Louisa County and spend the night at Langwood Education Center.

Louisa Development Group Welcomes New Director

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is excited to welcome Cori Milan into the position of Community and Economic Development Director with Louisa Development Group.

As Executive Director, Cori will encourage entrepreneurship, building upon local resources, and bringing people together to work towards common goals.

Cori recently relocated to Washington after working under the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain for one of their international public diplomacy programs.

Cori has a degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Iowa State University, as well as an international certification to teach English as a foreign language. She has previous experiences in the non-profit sector in Des Moines, as well as higher education instruction and administration with DMACC and the University of Iowa.



Cori brings a passion for developing nourishing livelihood opportunities, creating inclusive local economies, nature conservation, and enhancing the health of Iowans.

We are thrilled to have Cori on board. Stop by the ISU Extension office at 317 Van Buren St in Wapello to welcome her or contact her directly at camilan@iastate.edu to schedule a time to meet!

Women's Woodland Stewardship

The Women's Woodland Stewardship Network (WWSN) seeks to empower women to become more involved in woodland stewardship and forestry-related activities in Iowa. The program supports women by giving them the knowledge to be active in woodland management decision-making and expanding their connections with other women who own or have influence over woodlands in Iowa. All women who are interested in woodland stewardship are encouraged to participate.



Women's Woodland Stewardship Network Workshop

Thursday, March 21;

Washington County Conservation Marr Park
Women from Louisa, Washington, Muscatine Counties are invited to join this day-long workshop. Held mostly indoors, topics will be basic tree ID, and general woodland management information. Participants will also meet the relevant and local staff to assist in their woodland management goals. This workshop is hosted in partnership with the DNR and ISU Extension.

For more information, please call or text Lisa Louck, DNR District Forester.
319-759-1108 or email lisa.louck@dnr.iowa.gov.

Save the trees,
enroll in eStatements today!
Call us today to learn more.



Invested in You.
Washington State Bank



Columbus Junction
134 Main Street
319-728-2436
www.washsb.com



MEDIAPOLIS
SAVINGS
BANK

MEDIAPOLIS | MORNING SUN | WAPELLO



MEDIAPOLIS....319-394-3191
MORNING SUN....319-868-3125
WAPELLO....319-523-2131

www.GoMSB.bank

Winterkills in Ponds

By: Vance Polton, Fisheries Management Technician

After last year's drought, most if not all, farm ponds are going into the winter several feet below being full. I feared that there would be a record number of winterkilled ponds even if we had just a "normal winter". And then two big snow falls came and if there had been thick ice on the ponds that would have been it. Instead, most of the snow fell into open water and we lucked out. And then we got back into warm weather and the ice and snow started to melt opening up the edges of the ponds and we dodged another bullet by the end of January. With a little luck by the time you read this article, we should be nearly at ice out and the threat of winterkills should be over for another winter.

What is a winterkill? A winterkill simply is when the oxygen level in an iced over pond becomes too low to support fish. Fish do the best when oxygen levels are at least 5 ppm (parts per million) or higher. Most fish can survive temporary drops below this level but only for short periods of time. During a normal Southeast Iowa winter, this is a rare event.

Why and How a winterkill occurs: After ice cover occurs, a lake or pond becomes stratified just like in the summer. This means that the heavier and warmer water on the bottom does not mix with the



colder water at the top. Of course, the ice on top also prevents the pond water from absorbing any oxygen from the air, which is its main source of oxygen during the rest of the year. At the start of winter, fish live in the deeper warmer water but since there is no new oxygen being produced down in the dark, they use the oxygen there first and are forced to move up the water column. But if the sunlight penetrates the ice they only have to move up into water where the plants and algae keep the oxygen levels up. If there is only a thin layer of snow on the ice, light penetration

keeps the plants alive and produces oxygen all winter and the fish are happy. When you get a heavy snow cover on the ice that blocks the light, the plants and algae die. No plants or algae equals no new oxygen. If the pond is big with lots of water volume, meaning more oxygen to be used, the fish can survive the winter, but if the pond is small and it doesn't go into winter with a full load of oxygen, there is a risk that the fish will run out of oxygen. As the water runs out of oxygen the fish move shallower and shallower until they are right next to the bottom of the ice, where the algae is probably still getting enough sunlight to survive. After that oxygen runs out they die.

In Southeast Iowa because we normally don't freeze over as early as NW or NE Iowa, where pond aeration systems are more common. Winterkills are somewhat rare here. The easiest thing you can do to prevent winterkills on your pond is, if you have safe thick ice, to go out and remove the snow cover from at least part of your pond. This is not something you need to do all the time, just when a thick snow cover has been on the ice for a couple of weeks or more. Once you let the light back in, the algae and plants will start producing oxygen again. Some people ask me if they should put an aeration system in; most of the time I tell them no. I just don't think it's worth the expense of several thousands of dollars for the equipment. Winterkills down here don't happen often enough and most of the ones that do happen are not complete and the fish that survive are normally more than enough to repopulate the pond. If you have a pond that just keeps winterkilling it probably just isn't worth saving because I bet it also summer kills and running an aeration system 24/7-year-round is very expensive. Sometimes you just must cut your losses, put up a few wood duck boxes, and call it a marsh.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Conservation Officer - 563-260-1225
Joseph.Fourdyce@dnr.iowa.gov



District Forester - 319-523-2216
Lisa.Louck@dnr.iowa.gov

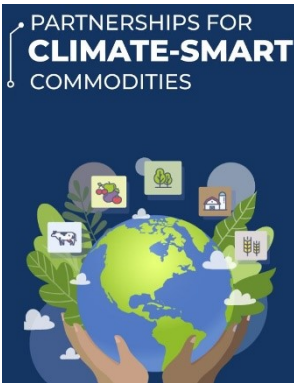
Fisheries Biologist - 319-694-2430
Chad.Dolan@dnr.iowa.gov

Wildlife Biologist - 319-551-8459
Andy.Robbins@dnr.iowa.gov

www.iowadnr.gov

Climate-Smart Commodities Grant

As part of the USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, the Advancing U.S. Pork Sustainability Grant is an exciting new opportunity for commodity crop and livestock producers in Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri to receive *financial incentives* and *technical assistance* for six climate-smart agriculture practices.



Producers enrolling in the Grant will also be provided a Pork Cares Farm Impact report that documents the greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration associated with a handful of on-farm practices, tracking progress toward climate-smart goals on any given farm.

The 5-year, \$35 million Advancing U.S. Pork Sustainability Grant is funded by the USDA and Nestrade and administered by the National Pork Board (NPB) in collaboration with five other organizations: Ducks Unlimited, Sustainable Environmental Consultants, Millborn Seeds, Trust in Food (a Farm Journal initiative), and Farm Credit Council. The NPB, devoted to conducting research, education, and promotion of pork on behalf of U.S. hog farmers, is leveraging funds to support the collection of on-farm data and increase adoption of regenerative and climate-smart agriculture practices that will continue to grow the sustainability of U.S. pork.

Biologists with Ducks Unlimited are providing technical assistance and practice verification for four of the six Advancing U.S. Pork Sustainability Grant practices: 1) *multi-species cover crops*, 2) *livestock integration on cover-cropped acres*, 3) *no-till systems*, and 4) *edge-of-field/perennial grass buffers*. These regenerative agriculture practices improve soil health, air and water quality, and create wildlife habitat.

Ducks Unlimited, the leading organization in wetlands and waterfowl conservation, recognizes that to expand its mission in Corn Belt States—a high-priority region for waterfowl conservation

dominated by agricultural land use—greater adoption of regenerative agriculture practices is imperative to achieve meaningful downstream effects in the wetlands, rivers, and lakes that North American waterfowl rely upon. Sustainable Environmental Consultants (SEC) is assisting producers interested in the two remaining Advancing U.S. Pork Sustainability Grant Practices: *replacement of traditional in-barn lighting with LED lighting*, and *manure management—pumping manure pits a second time per year*. SEC is also working with producers to complete the Pork Cares Farm Impact Report, and offering a Sustainable Continuous Improvement Plan and a Return on Investment Tool.

Producers in Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri who are interested in learning more can visit www.porkcheckoff.org/grants and sign up for a Pork Cares Farm Impact Report. The Ducks Unlimited Working Lands Biologist in your state may also be contacted directly for further questions. In Iowa, please contact Holly Shutt.



Holly Shutt
Working Lands Biologist
Iowa

785.264.2004
hshutt@ducks.org

Save the Date:

Louisa County Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Banquet - June 22, 2024



If you are interested in joining the committee, we meet the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 P.M. at the Mediapolis Savings Bank in Wapello. If you would like more information on the banquet or the chapter you can contact the president Matt Shutt at 785-294-1954

Conservation Scholarships Available

Tri-Rivers will be giving out two \$1,000 scholarships. Winners will be announced in April and honored at a later date. Both will be given to applicants who are either high school seniors or college students, pursuing a degree in natural resources or a related field.

A person could receive both scholarships if qualified and candidates are eligible to receive the scholarship more than once.

If your field is not conservation or natural resources, explain to us on the application how you will use conservation in your future career.

William (Bill) Paris Scholarship is for students living in Louisa County or attending a Louisa County High School who plan to attend an Iowa college or university.

This legacy started in 2009 to honor the life of William “Bill” Paris, a lifelong outdoor enthusiast. His family will be present at the scholarship awards presentation.

Tri-Rivers Director’s Scholarship is for students who live in the Louisa Resource Area (a little bigger circle, including Louisa County and neighboring cities). Participants may attend any college or university for this scholarship, applicants are not limited to an Iowa school.

Fillable scholarship applications can be found on the Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation website at: Tri-rivers.org/scholarships/

Applications due at noon on March 15th!



12635 County Road G56, Suite 106
 Wapello, Iowa 52653
 319-523-8381
tri-rivers@louisacountyia.gov
www.tri-rivers.org

The Mission of Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation is to provide funds for the protection and enhancement of the natural resources in the environmentally rich area of the confluences of the Cedar, Iowa and Mississippi Rivers in eastern Iowa.

The Foundation will employ enjoyment and use of these resources to educate and instill an appreciation for good land stewardship. It will seek to distribute these funds to carefully chosen public, civic, institutional and quasi-public programs.

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN LOUISA COUNTY

Enclosed is my donation for:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250
 \$500 \$1,000 Other _____

Name or Business _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Return this form and payment to:

Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation
 12635 County Road G56, Suite 106
 Wapello, IA 52653

Please earmark my donation for:

- Langwood Improvements
- Louisa County Trails Council
- TRCF Scholarship
- Environmental Education
- Use my donation where needed most
- Other: _____

General Donations are payable to:

Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation

Endowment Funds are payable to:

- Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine* (for Iowa Tax Credit)
- Tri-Rivers Endowment Fund
- Trails Endowment Fund
- Paris Scholarship Endowment



12635 CTY Rd G56, SUITE 106
WAPELLO, IA 52653
WWW.TRI-RIVERS.ORG

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
WAPELLO IA
PERMIT NO 23



“Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.”
—Doug Larson



NEW Louisa County Tourism Videos!

Watch and learn at
www.tri-rivers.org/great-river-road

Created by the Grimm Company, the videos were made possible by the Community Foundation of Louisa County and an Iowa Tourism Grant from Travel Iowa.

There will be no more printed and mailed copies of the *Naturally Louisa County* Newsletter. Please read more inside.

Action Needed

If you would like to continue receiving the **electronic version** of the *Naturally Louisa County* Newsletter via email, please call 319-523-8381 or email us at conservation@louisacountyia.gov.

If you value a paper copy of the newsletter, we are happy to print one out for you at the LCC Office.

Naturally Louisa County is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

It is provided free to the public as an innovative collaboration between government agencies, private organizations and individuals interested in showcasing the natural and cultural resources of Louisa County, Iowa.