



# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## Educational Program Schedule

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Project AWARE

August 2-9, 2008

### Saturday, August 2 – Rockford Golf and Country Club (Rockford)

- **2:30 – 5:30 pm** – Concurrent Sessions
  - *Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic* – Nate Hoogeveen (Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, Water Trails Program)
  - *Project WET Festival*

### Sunday, August 3 – Fossil and Prairie Park (Rockford)

- **On River Program** – *Shale, Slumps, and Shallow Seas at Claybanks Forest State Preserve* – John Pearson (Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, State Preserves Program)
- **On River Program** – *Project WET Activities - Sand-bar Sideshows!*
- **7:00 pm** – Concurrent Sessions
  - *The Changing Iowa Landscape; Discovering the Prairies and Kilns of the Rockford Brick & Tile Company* – Doug Schroeder and Laura Elfers (Floyd County Conservation Board)
  - *Geologic Tour of Rockford Shale Pit* – Ray Anderson (Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, Iowa Geological & Water Survey)
- **8:15 pm** – Dusk Program
  - *What The River Has Taught Me* – Robert James Waller

### Monday, August 4 – Winnebago Scout Reservation (Marble Rock)

- **On River Program** – *Project WET Activities - Sand-bar Sideshows!*
- **7:30 pm**
  - *The Cedar River: A Video Snapshot* – Brian Emerson and James Martin (Watershedsunite Project)
- **Dusk**
  - *What's Up in the Sky Tonight* – Ed Engle (Ames Area Amateur Astronomers)

### Tuesday, August 5 – Camp Comfort (near Greene)

- **On River Program** – *Project WET Activities - Sand-bar Sideshows!*
- **7:30 pm** – Concurrent Sessions
  - *A Glance at Biological Monitoring* – Travis Morarend, Mike Birmingham, Seth Zimmermann, and Matt Watters (University of Iowa Hygienic Lab)
  - *What Ordinary Citizens Can Do to Improve Water Quality* – Jon Gisleson, Rick Juchems, Rob Lawson, and Wayne Petersen

### Wednesday, August 6 – Shell Rock Recreation Area (Shell Rock)

- **On River Program** – *Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society Conservation Tent*
- **On River Program** – *Project WET Activities - Sand-bar Sideshows!*





## PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



### Saturday, August 2

**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 Project AWARE route? This 2-hour primer 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.

**Presenter:** Nate Hoogeveen (Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, Water Trails Program)

**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, low-head dam safety, and Streamkeepers programs for the Iowa DNR.

**Program Title:** *Project WET Festival*

### Sunday, August 3

**Program Title:** *Shale, Slumps, and Shallow Seas at Claybanks Forest State Preserve*

**Program Description:** A stay-in-your-boats, riverside stop at this preserve will interpret the geological significance of a slumping hillside of soft, white, fossil-rich shale - a remnant of the shallow Devonian (375 million year old) sea that once covered Iowa.

**Presenter:** John Pearson (Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, State Preserves Program)

**Bio:** John Pearson is a DNR ecologist who oversees the network of state preserves, which represent special lands with outstanding biological, geological, historical, archaeological, and scenic values.

**Program Title:** *Project WET Activities - Sand-bar Sideshows!*

**Program Description:** Learn the ins and outs of water quality and watersheds and how we are all connected! Students from the University of Northern Iowa will provide "info-tainment" to paddlers each day as they traverse down the river. Stop by, stretch your legs and watch out -- you just might learn something while you're having fun.

**Presenter:** Rebecca Kauten, Kimberly Proctor, UNI students and Project WET Facilitator (Black Hawk SWCD, University of Northern Iowa, Iowa Project WET - Water Education for Teachers)

**Bio:** Water Education for Teachers is a multi-faceted classroom based program that has been modified for outdoor educational purposes for this event. Students receive one credit hour for participating in training and facilitation of the activities during Project AWARE. Co-facilitators and guides include SWCD watershed project coordinators and existing Project WET classroom facilitators.

**Program Title:** *The Changing Iowa Landscape; Discovering the Prairies and Kilns of the Rockford Brick & Tile Company*

**Program Description:** After a long day of canoeing, join us as we hike through the native prairie at the Fossil & Prairie Park discovering its unique flora and fauna. Follow the gently rolling hills to the hidden kilns of the Rockford Brick & Tile Company that uncovered the remains of an ancient ocean.

**Presenter:** Doug Schroeder and Laura Elfers (Floyd County Conservation Board)

**Bio:** Doug has been employed by the Floyd County Conservation Board for 15 years. Laura has been the naturalist for the Floyd County Conservation Board for 7 years.



## PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



**Program Title:** *Geologic Tour of Rockford Shale Pit*

**Program Description:** We will tour the shale pit at the Rockford Fossil and Prairie Park, briefly discussing the geology of exposures of the Devonian Lime Creek Formation and the Owen, Cerro Gordo, and Juniper Hill members. The participants will be able to collect fossils of the famous "Hackberry Fauna," including diminutive brachiopods, pelecypods (clams), corals, bryozoans, and other species. Others may want to visit the century-old brick kilns being preserved at the site.

**Presenter:** Ray Anderson (Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, Iowa Geological Survey)

**Bio:** In the 38 years that Dr. Raymond Anderson has worked for the Iowa Geological Survey he has developed an interest in all aspects of Iowa Geology. Among the many projects on which he has worked, Ray has investigated Iowa's oldest rocks (the Precambrian), the gypsum-bearing Jurassic rocks near Fort Dodge, and the Manson Impact Structure. He has been active in the Geological Society of Iowa, working with other Survey geologists on nearly 50 geologic field trips in Iowa. He has also been an active member of the Iowa Academy of Science, serving on numerous committees, the Board of Directors, and as the President of the Academy.

**Program Title:** *What the River Has Taught Me*

**Program Description:**

**Presenter:** Robert James Waller

**Bio:** Robert James Waller grew up in Rockford, Iowa, a town of 900 people, where his mother was a housewife and his father operated a small produce business. He was educated at the University of Northern Iowa and Indiana University where he received his doctorate. He taught management, economics, and applied mathematics courses at the University of Northern Iowa from 1968 to 1991, except for one year (1975-76) spent on leave at the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, and from 1979 to 1986 served as dean of UNI's College of Business. He has lectured and published widely in the fields of problem-solving and decision making and has worked as a consultant to business corporations and government institutions throughout the United States and around the world. He was an all-conference basketball player in college, worked for over twenty years as a musician (guitar, flute, singer/songwriter) playing nightclubs and concerts, and is a serious photographer.

Among his publications is the best-selling novel, *The Bridges of Madison County*, with 12 million copies in print in 36 languages, which also was a major film and has been presented as a theatrical production in twelve countries, including a recent opening in Paris and forthcoming productions in both Mandarin and Cantonese. Taken together, his books have sold approximately 17 million copies. He also has published six other novels, has published five additional books on various topics, and has completed a photography-poetry book. His novel *Puerto Vallarta Squeeze* has been made into a motion picture starring Harvey Keitel and Scott Glenn, is available on DVD, and presently has been running on various movie channels. His most recent novels are: *A Thousand Country Roads* (2002), *High Plains Tango* (2005), and *The Long Night of Winchell Dear*, which was published in November 2006.

Robert lives on a small farm in the Texas Hill Country and, as the spirit moves him, pursues his various interests in economics, mathematics, photography, music, and fly fishing for trout in locations throughout the United States. Currently he is working on his magnum opus, a book he judges will require about four years to complete. He is married to Linda Bow, and his daughter, Rachael, is a professional photographer.



## PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



**Monday, August 4**

**Program Title:** *Project WET Activities - Sand-bar Sideshows! (see above)*

**Program Title:** *The Cedar River: A Video Snapshot*

**Program Description:** In September 2006, Brian Emerson and James Martin navigated the entire Cedar River from Austin, Minnesota, to its confluence with the Iowa River near Columbus Junction in southeast Iowa. During the 300-mile canoe trip they collected hours of geographically referenced video and information. This presentation will include video highlights of their trip and discussions of their observations.

**Presenter:** Brian Emerson and James Martin (Watershedsunite Project)

**Bio:** James Martin is the Johnson & Iowa County watershed coordinator for the Clear Creek Watershed and Brian Emerson is a Research Gardener for the University of Wisconsin Madison. Both grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and attended the University of Iowa.

**Program Title:** *What's Up in the Sky Tonight*

**Program Description:** If the weather is cooperating, we'll observe some planets, pretty double stars and a few deep sky objects, as well as a tour of the constellations. If the weather does not cooperate, we'll look at those same things on a projection screen. We'll also talk about the challenges of light pollution.

**Presenter:** Ed Engle (Ames Area Amateur Astronomers)

**Bio:** Ed Engle was born and raised in southwest Colorado. He got his bachelors degree in chemical engineering from New Mexico State University in 1986. He's been working for the last 15 years as an engineer at the Iowa Department of Transportation. In the last four years, Ed's been studying for a masters degree in environmental engineering and environmental science. He's been an avid amateur astronomer for close to 25 years. Ed's wife Julie is an optometrist and they have two daughters, Emily and Hannah. The girls sometimes help Ed with his (probably too infrequent) IOWATER sampling.

**Tuesday, August 5**

**Program Title:** *Project WET Activities - Sand-bar Sideshows! (see above)*

**Program Title:** *A Glance at Biological Monitoring*

**Program Description:** A basic description of the methods and reasons for biological monitoring in Iowa's streams. Stream-side demonstrations of electroshocking fish, and techniques for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates. Field identification of common fish and bug species.

**Presenter:** Travis Morarend, Mike Birmingham, Seth Zimmerman, and Matt Watters (University of Iowa Hygienic Lab)

**Bio:** Travis Morarend, Mike Birmingham, Seth Zimmermann, and Matt Watters are all limnologists from the University of Iowa Hygienic Lab. As limnologists, they are responsible for collecting both chemical and biological data on Iowa's rivers, creeks, and lakes for various projects around Iowa.

**Program Title:** *What Ordinary Citizens Can Do to Improve Water Quality*

**Program Description:** This 3-person panel has experience in conservation education, delivery, and implementation on working agricultural and urban lands. They will discuss experiences and offer suggestions on conservation practices, effecting change, and establishing a watershed organization.



## PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



**Presenter:** Jon Gisleson, Rick Juchems, Rob Lawson (moderator), and Wayne Petersen

**Bio:** Jon is a 51 year old farmer who lives and farms in northern Floyd County. He has no-tilled soybeans for eighteen years and corn for six years. This is his fourth year as a soil commissioner for the Floyd County Soil and Water Conservation District. Starting this year he is part of the Iowa Learning Farm as a conservationist promoting farming practices that conserve soil and protect water quality.

**Bio:** Rick is 1978 graduate of South Dakota State University and moved to Butler County to farm. Has been married to his wife Jane for 30 years and has two grown children Nat and Liz. He has a diversified farm with cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans and alfalfa. Elected as a Butler county SWCD commissioner in 1999, elected as region 3 director in 2004 and vice president in 2005 for the Conservation Districts of Iowa. He is now serving as president for CDI. He is involved with the Cedar Valley Resource Conservation and Development since 2000. He is involved with the Iowa Learning Farm with nitrogen trials and cover crops.

**Bio:** Rob Lawson grew up on a cattle and crop farm near Bloomfield, Iowa. He is a graduate of Iowa State University and is President of the Iowa Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society. He has worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for 5 years and is currently in the Elkader Field Office.

**Bio:** Wayne is retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (1976 - 2008) where he held multiple positions; Soil Conservation Technician, Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, and Urban Conservationist. He is currently the Urban Conservationist with IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation where he promotes construction site erosion and sedimentation controls, improved stormwater management, and low impact development.

### Wednesday, August 6

**Program Title:** *Soil and Water Conservation Society*

**Program Description:** At the conservation tent (located on Mel Bohner's property) there will be information and practical displays for Project AWARE volunteers regarding the work agencies at the local, state, and federal level are doing to improve Iowa's natural resources. Ground water flow models, pervious paving displays, and agricultural - based conservation practice examples will be on hand. Then stop downstream at Dennis Hart's residence to see a restored wetland. Several professionals will be on hand to discuss conservation needs and opportunities on privately owned land. Volunteers will have the opportunity to write a message home on conservation-themed stamped post cards and pick up a free snack.

**Presenter:** Iowa Chapter - Soil and Water Conservation Society

**Bio:** Iowa Chapter - Soil and Water Conservation Society is a scientific and education based organization dedicated to conservation of land, water, and other natural resources. We are 320 members strong in Iowa and our membership comes from a broad spectrum of conservation practitioners, researchers, students, and educators. To learn more about the Iowa SWCS chapter and see what our other yearly activities are visit [www.iaswcs.org](http://www.iaswcs.org)

**Program Title:** *Project WET Activities - Sand-bar Sideshows! (see above)*

**Program Title:** *Wildflower Walk at Heery Woods*

**Program Description:** Explore the flora of this bottomland forest with a botanist. We will look for all kinds of plants, including wildflowers, trees, mosses, and lichens.

**Presenter:** John Pearson (Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, State Preserves Program)

**Bio:** John Pearson is a DNR ecologist who oversees the network of state preserves, which represent special lands with outstanding biological, geological, historical, archaeological, and scenic values.



## PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



**Program Title:** *U.S.G.S River Gaging in Iowa*

**Program Description:** Aimee will discuss what a river gage is, how data are collected at these gages, and the importance of this information.

**Presenter:** Aimee Donnelly (U.S. Geological Survey)

**Bio:** Aimee Donnelly has been working for the USGS for 9 years. She has been involved extensively in both surface water and ground water sampling. She has been in charge of a stream gaging field trip for 7 1/2 years located in the Iowa River basin. She is the Iowa City field office ground water level monitoring expert. She is also the Iowa Water Science Center assistant safety officer.

**Program Title:** *Using a Hand-Held GPS Unit / Geocaching*

**Program Description:** These units (at least 27 will be available for hands-on learning) can be used for a variety of functions including marking your favorite fishing hole, hunting spot, canoe route or wildlife sightings. Geocaching has become a very popular treasure hunt for individuals or families and many geocaches are bringing more tech-savvy people into natural areas and parks.

**Presenter:** Heather Gamm (Bremer County Conservation)

**Bio:** Heather Gamm graduated from Iowa State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Ecology and Environmental Studies. She began her career as a Park Ranger/Naturalist in Boone County. She has worked for Bremer County Conservation as a Naturalist since 2001. Her primary naturalist duties involve developing environmental education programs and presenting these programs to the public.

### Thursday, August 7

**Program Title:** Alternative Land-Based Improvement Project Option – Wolter's Prairie Preserve (Clarksville)

**Program Description:** In 1984, captured by beautiful wildflowers found there, the Butler County Conservation Board purchased the first half of this 40 acre native prairie area from John Wolters. In 1990, the local Chapter of Pheasants Forever purchased the remaining 20 acres on behalf of the Conservation Board. The result is a well preserved island of native grasses and forbs that represent Iowa's past. Today this native prairie is used to teach about the natural and cultural history of Iowa. The group will depart Shell Rock Rec Area at 9 am. While at Wolter's Prairie, Steve Martin (Butler County Conservation Board Naturalist) will give a prairie program after which the group will do a prairie plot improvement project. At 1:30 pm, the group will return to the Shell Rock Recreation Area.

**Presenter:** Butler County Conservation Board and Steve Martin (Butler County Conservation Board Naturalist)

**Program Title:** *U.S.G.S River Gage Demonstration*

**Program Description:** Aimee will be demonstrating the equipment and operation of a river gage on the Shell Rock River in the town of Shell Rock at the end of the day's paddle.

**Presenter:** Aimee Donnelly (U.S. Geological Survey)

**Bio:** see above

**Program Title:** *Fly Casting Demonstration*

**Program Description:**

**Presenter:** Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

**Bio:**



## PROGRAM INFORMATION & PRESENTER BIOS



**Program Title:** *Staying Current: The Art of Becoming AWARE*

**Program Description:** Explore the preparatory artworks for the new Project AWARE Raccoon River Gates and collaborate with David Williamson as we create a piece of music celebrating the work of Project AWARE volunteers.

**Presenter:** David Williamson (Sculptor and Poet)

**Bio:** David Williamson is an artist who lives with his family in a handmade house and studio in central Iowa. For the past four years, David has been the collaborating artist with Project AWARE. He travels nationally as a creativity consultant to corporations, professional associations, and government agencies.

### Friday, August 8

**Program Title:** *Cedar Valley Osprey Project*

**Program Description:** For eight years, Hartman Reserve Nature Center has introduced juvenile Osprey to the area with hopes of establishing nesting pairs in the Cedar Valley. Through an interactive activity, participants will learn about the biology of the beautiful birds, how they are tied to water quality, issues our feathered friends encounter as they migrate south, and the success Hartman Reserve has seen over the past few years.

**Presenter:** Vern Fish (Black Hawk County Conservation Board)

**Bio:** Vern is the Executive Director of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board.

### Saturday, August 9

Project AWARE Final Celebratory Event, Gateway Park, Cedar Falls