



Whiterock Conservancy 2012 Bio-Blitz

June 8-9, 2012

Come for one day or two and explore our seven-square-miles of prairies, timber, and river bottoms with expert scientists as they seek to identify all the varieties of insects, plants, birds, animals, etc. that can be found within a 24-hour period (Friday noon-Saturday noon). This is a fun opportunity for family learning and a wonderful chance for our volunteer land stewards to broaden their knowledge. Whiterock is also looking for additional volunteer land stewards, so if you or someone you know is interested, this would be a great way to get to know what Whiterock has to offer.

A Biodiversity Blitz or “Bio-Blitz” is a snapshot assessment and census of a specific place during a defined time period. The Bio-Blitz teams will be led by Iowa professionals as they take part in forays, using the “more eyes will find more diversity” approach. Participants can go out on as many teams as they wish. Each team reports back on their discoveries and, at the end of the 24-hour period, a comprehensive inventory of the plants, birds, insects, fishes, mammals, bats, amphibians, reptiles, and archeology and geology identified during the Bio-Blitz will be compiled. This inventory will give us a record of the species present at Whiterock as a specific point in time and will provide a baseline for future decisions on managing Whiterock’s diverse habitats.

The first Bio-Blitz held at Whiterock on Memorial Day, 2008 identified 442 “living things,” including several types of plants, birds, mollusks, and snails that had never been observed on the property before.

Registration & Questions: The event is free and open to the public. If you already know you’ll be attending, please call Chris Troendle at (712) 684-2697 ext. 114 or email Chris at landmanager@whiterockconservancy.org before the event or fill out the Registration Form and mail it to Whiterock. This helps us with meal planning. Walk-ins will still be accepted each day of the event.

Location: Whiterock Conservancy’s Main Campground on Fig Avenue (across from 1313 Fig Ave).

Directions: From Highway 141, turn south onto Fig Avenue (*look for the sign for the River House*) and drive 2.3 miles. The campground is located on the left just before the Middle Raccoon River.

Meals (optional): Complimentary meals will be provided to all participants

What to Bring: Sturdy shoes and weather appropriate clothes, tent, camping gear, water bottles, binoculars, camera, flashlight

Accommodations: **FREE TENT CAMPING** (Bring camping gear) or reserve a room at Whiterock Resort by calling (712) 684-2697 x112

Schedule for 2012 Bio-Blitz

Friday, June 8th

- 11:00 am -12:00pm:** **Registration/Check In/Welcome to Whiterock Conservancy**
- 12:00 -3:00 pm:** **Field Session 1 (choose 1 of 3)**
 Butterflies - Stephanie Shepherd, Biologist, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
 Fish – John Olson, Watershed Monitoring & Assessment, Iowa DNR
 Botany and Ecology - Tom Rosburg, Dept. of Biology, Drake University
- 3:00 - 6:00 pm:** **Field Session 2 (choose 1of 3)**
 Reptiles and Amphibians - Rebecca Christoffel, Natural Resource Ecology &
 Management, Iowa DNR
 Butterflies - Stephanie Shepherd
 Small Mammals and Predators – Bill Clark, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and
 Organismal Biology, Iowa State University
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm:** **Dinner**
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm:** **Field Session 3 (choose 1 of 3)**
 Birds - Rachel Simmons, Animal Ecology, ISU student
 Bats - Russell Benedict, Chair of Biology Dept., Central College
 Geology and Archeology – Joe Artz, Director, Geospatial Program, Office of
 the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa
- 9:00 pm - Midnight:** **Field Session 4 (choose 1 of 2)**
 Bats - Russell Benedict
 Moths - James Durbin, President, Cedar Rapids Audubon Society

Saturday, June 9th

- 6:00 am - 9:00 am:** **Field Session 5 (choose 1 of 3)**
 Birds - Rachel Simmons
 Botany and Ecology - Tom Rosburg
 Small Mammals and Predators – Bill Clark
- 9:00 am - Noon:** **Field Session 6 (choose 1of 4)**
 Reptiles and Amphibians -Rebecca Christoffel
 Dragon Flies and Damsel Flies - James Durbin
 Fish - John Olson (Fish)
 Geology and Archeology -Joe Artz
- 12:00 - 1:00pm:** **Lunch and Closing Comments!**

***Check Whiterock Conservancy's website for last minute changes and weather related information.**

THANK YOU for your participation

Our 2012 Professionals

John Olson

Watershed Monitoring & Assessment Section
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Des Moines, IA

John has worked in the Iowa DNR Watershed Monitoring & Assessment Section since 1985. His primary responsibility has been overseeing preparation of the state's biennial lists of impaired streams, rivers and lakes as required by the federal Clean Water Act. He also coordinates Iowa's annual fish contaminant monitoring program. John has a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University with an emphasis in fisheries biology. Over the past 30 years, he has conducted fish surveys at over 500 locations on streams throughout Iowa and has collected a number of state-threatened and endangered fishes.

James O Durbin

President of Cedar Rapids Audubon Society

I am retired from Rockwell Collins (April 2006). I was employed there for 40 years, leading a group at the airport that designs, documents and installs avionics equipment into airplanes. I have been involved with Cedar Rapids Audubon since 1989. I am currently the president, membership chairman, and treasurer. I also do volunteer work with the Linn County Conservation department doing bird classes and studies of species in some of the parks. I have also been involved with the DNR doing Henslow's Sparrow studies in 2004/5/6 at Pleasant Creek Lake State Recreation Area. I continue to monitor the Henslow's population. Since 1989 I have increased my photography activity a tremendous amount, primarily with flowers, birds, butterflies and dragonflies. Since 2002 I have also starting black lighting for moths. I also do a lot of landscaping in my backyard including ponds.

In 2007 I created a website www.insectsofiowa.com that has pictures and collection data of moths, butterflies, and www.birdsofiowa.com that has birds, fungi, mammals and amphibians. If you are interested in programs on any of the above, contact me at 319-721-1593 or email me at durbinjames@imonmail.com

Rachel Simmons

Animal Ecologist
Iowa State University Student

I have been birding intermittently since the tender age of nine. At this point in my life, birding is not merely an interest; it has morphed into an all-consuming obsession. I was born and raised in central California and I currently reside in Carroll. For the past few years, I have been a volunteer for SOAR (Saving Our Avian Resources) and Carroll County Conservation, an experience which has enriched my birding skills and has allowed me to share my passion and knowledge with others. At present, I am enrolled in the Animal Ecology program at Iowa State University. I am slated for graduation in the spring of 2014.

Joe Alan Artz

Director, Geospatial Program
Office of the State Archaeologist,
University of Iowa / Geo-archaeologist

I'm a geo-archaeologist, which means I study the soils and sediments in which archaeological sites are buried. I'm interested in how the landscape would have looked when ancient people were living on the land and also how their material culture came to be buried. My particular interest is in how stream valleys have developed through the millennia through flooding and meandering. In the past 12 years, I've also gotten interested in using computer mapping and modeling for geological mapping and for finding the most likely places to find archaeological sites. I grew up in Kansas, got an MA at the University of Kansas, and worked five years as an archaeologist at the University of North Dakota before coming to Iowa. I've been with the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist since 1989. I've done fieldwork or mapping projects in 12 states as well as in Belize and Portugal. Recently, I've been heading up an investigation of the bedrock geology, soils, and river sediments of the Whiterock Conservancy. My wife is an archaeologist, too, and we have released two daughters upon an unsuspecting world, one working in interpretive natural history and the other in plant and animal ecology.

Bill Clark

Iowa State University (Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology)

Dr. Bill Clark, of the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Program at Iowa State University, has been studying Iowa wildlife populations for more than 30 years. His most recently completed project was on bobcat re-colonization of Iowa but he has studied subjects ranging from viability of Iowa Pleistocene snails to the effects of predators on nesting waterfowl and pheasants. He has been an active collaborator with many of the biologists from the Iowa DNR as well colleagues from many federal agencies and NGOs. He organized some of the initial bird surveys conducted at Whiterock. He has trained many students who now work in Iowa and is currently teaching population principles to sons and daughters of former students who also aspire to become wildlife ecologists.

<http://www.eeob.iastate.edu/faculty/ClarkW/homepage.html>

Thomas R. Rosburg

Department of Biology, Olin Hall
Drake University, 2507 University Avenue

EDUCATION

Ph.D./Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 1994; Iowa State University, Department of Botany, Ames, IA
M.S. Plant Ecology, 1990; Iowa State University, Department of Botany, Ames, IA
B.S./Fish and Wildlife Biology, 1977; Iowa State University, Department of Animal Ecology, Ames, IA
Professor of Biology at Drake University since 1996.

Research Interest

Research encompasses many areas within plant ecology. A primary interest is prairie and grassland ecology (plant community studies, fire ecology, effects of management in restorations, landscape ecology of prairie remnants, and prairie plant biology and ecophysiology). Substantial work has been done investigating ecology of seed banks. Forest community work has been directed at the effects of deer herbivory on forest composition and structure, and on the effects of dredge placement on floodplain forests. Avian ecology is also an interest, particularly the bird community composition studies.

Russell Benedict, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology and Chair of the Biology Department at Central College

Dr. Russ Benedict spent most of his childhood in eastern Nebraska and was introduced to birds by his sixth grade teacher. This led to a lifelong fascination with all aspects of nature. While in college, he worked as a ranger and naturalist at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center near Omaha, Nebraska, which further fueled his interest in biology. Dr. Benedict earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree, both from University of Nebraska at Omaha. He then completed a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL) in May of 1997. He taught at UNL for two years and spent an additional three years as an Assistant Professor at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. In 2002, Dr. Benedict arrived at Central College in Pella, Iowa, and now is a Professor of Biology and Chair of the Biology Department. Russ Benedict conducts research on the ecology of bats, and recently began a long-term project examining the potential of incorporating diverse prairie reconstructions in the agricultural landscape (the Prairies for Agriculture Project). He is married and has two daughters.

Stephanie Shepherd
Biologist with the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program
Wildlife Research Station
1436 255th St
Boone, IA 50036

A native of Virginia, Stephanie received a BS in Biology from the University of Richmond in 1995. She has a Master of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Iowa State University performing a research project focused on the evaluation of restored prairies using the butterfly community as an index. In her 15 year career as a wild lifer, she's worked primarily for state wildlife agencies in Virginia, Missouri, and is currently a biologist with the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity program where she has a variety of duties all related to conservation of Iowa's non-game wildlife. Her primary interests are in restoration ecology and conservation biology. She serves as the DNR's butterfly specialist, which consists of providing trainings on identification to field survey crews around the state and consulting with land managers on managing habitat for Iowa's imperiled butterflies.

Rebecca Christofel
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Department: Natural Resource Ecology & Management
Office: 339 Science II

Research Interests:

My current research interests include the effects of increasing human-wildlife interactions and related conflicts with wildlife management and conservation; participatory natural resource management, including the roles of outreach and communication in such efforts; risk perception and analysis in conservation; and the effects of personal networks and community-level factors on individual beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors associated with natural resources.



Whiterock Conservancy Bio-Blitz—Registration Form

June 8th –June 9th, 2012, Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids, IA

Please mail or email this form by June 1st to:

Whiterock Conservancy - Attn: Chris Troendle, 1390 Highway 141, Coon Rapids, IA 50058

Chris Troendle: landmanager@whiterockconservancy.org

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell: () _____

Participants (please indicate how many):

_____ # of Attendees

Camping and Food (please indicate your food and tent-space needs):

_____ Tent Camping (free)

_____ Friday Dinner (free)

_____ Saturday Breakfast (free)

_____ Saturday Lunch (free)

*Check Whiterock Conservancy's website for last minute changes and weather related information.

Thank you for your participation!