

# The Oak

A Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Black Hawk County Conservation Board

2410 West Lone Tree Road  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613  
Fall 1991 Vol. 11 No. 1



## OH DEER!

by Vern Fish, Nature Center Director

"We saw a doe and her fawn!" "I saw a doe with twins!!" "We saw a doe with triplets!!!" The Hartman Reserve Nature Center (HRNC) staff have been hearing these comments all spring and summer.

Yes, the deer that live in the Cedar River Valley have become very visible. When I first started working at HRNC over a decade ago, I felt privileged to see maybe one deer a year. Now it is not unusual to see groups of 6 or more deer at one time.

Why have the deer become so visible? First, by the construction of barriers to deer migration. Deer fences along the new Highway 218 bridge and around George Wyth State Park keep the deer from being hit by cars. They also prevent the deer from leaving the park and migrating to the north. The deer are also trapped on the south, east or west by homes and city streets.

A second key factor is the ability of deer to rapidly reproduce. These high reproductive rates, combined with barriers to migration, have created a situation where deer have been pushed into a small natural area between Hartman Reserve Nature Center and George Wyth State Park along the Cedar River. Since the deer are trapped with no place to go, they have become very visible to the public.

As more and more deer are forced into this restricted space, their food supply has begun to dwindle. In their search for food they have begun to invade the urban areas around HRNC. At first it was a special treat for the neighbors to see a deer browsing in their backyard. The novelty wore off when every Hosta plant in the yard was clipped off to the roots.

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board has formed a Deer Task Force to address concerns about the local deer herd. This task force will compile information on the deer and their impact on HRNC and adjacent urban areas. They will also review the actions taken by other midwestern cities to manage urban deer. This task force will include among others: HRNC neighbors, the state deer biologist, George Wyth State Park rangers, interested groups and representatives of both Cedar Falls and Waterloo city governments. Public input will be encouraged throughout the process.

Meanwhile, what can you do to reduce the impact of deer in your yard? Naturalist Intern Brent Seegers offers some helpful ideas on page seven.



printed on recycled paper

## TREE SEED COLLECTION

The BHCCB will again provide a collection site for tree seed purchased by the State Forest Nursery. The drop site will be the parking lot at the entrance to Black Hawk Park. Please deliver seed on Mon., Tues., Thurs., or Fri. between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm. Early morning deliveries are very much appreciated.

The Nursery asks that all seed be cleaned of twigs and leaves, and not be a mixture of seeds. Seed prices are:

Black Walnut \$1.60/bu. Red Oak \$20/bu.  
White Oak \$20/bu. mixed Oak \$5/bu.  
Bur Oak \$5/bu. Wild Plum \$10/bu.

Call 266-6813 for an up-to-date list of accepted seeds every Monday pm.

## TRAIL DONATIONS

The **Harold Hilton** family of LaPorte City will build a rest bench on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail this fall. Mr. Hilton was a regular figure on the nature trail before his passing away this summer. Any monies left over will go to buy trees and shrubs for landscaping.

**Beverly Ruth**, a lover of nature, passed away this past year and a memorial was donated in her behalf to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

The **Northeast Iowa Homebuilders** will construct a second shelter along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail this fall.

## SEEDLING ORDERS

It is time to prepare your tree and shrub seedling order from the State Forest Nursery for planting in the spring of 1992. These seedlings can be used for interplanting into existing timber, Christmas tree production, wildlife habitat improvement, and erosion control. The order forms will be available in November, and are accepted throughout the winter. To obtain technical assistance with planning, ordering, planting, and managing your seedlings contact BHCCB at 266-6813.

## HICKORY HILLS PARK UPDATE

*by Daryl Parker, Park Ranger*

As summer winds to a close at Hickory Hills Park we can reflect on an excellent summer. Camping numbers are up and park usage seems to be on a rise as well. This activity has kept the park staff on their toes all summer long.

Fishing in Casey Lake started off on a high note with excellent crappie and bluegill fishing in early summer, but as the heat turned up the fishing in general turned down. Hopefully with cooler weather the fishing again will pick up. A few larger bass have been taken in the last two weeks. This should be a sign of good things to come in the fall.

One new item of mention is a new boat ramp constructed in late June at the parking lot of the Program Center. This ramp hopefully will hold more water and make boat launching a little easier in Casey Lake.

Summer did bring new life to Hickory Hills with young born in all our wildlife pens. Two new buffalo, two new whitetail deer, and one new elk calf have all been added to the wildlife exhibit. It's always a pleasant sight to see new life and watch it grow as summer progresses.

Fall is an excellent time for a relaxing campout with cool nights and warm days. Enjoy the beauty of the changing season by making a trip down to Hickory Hills this fall.

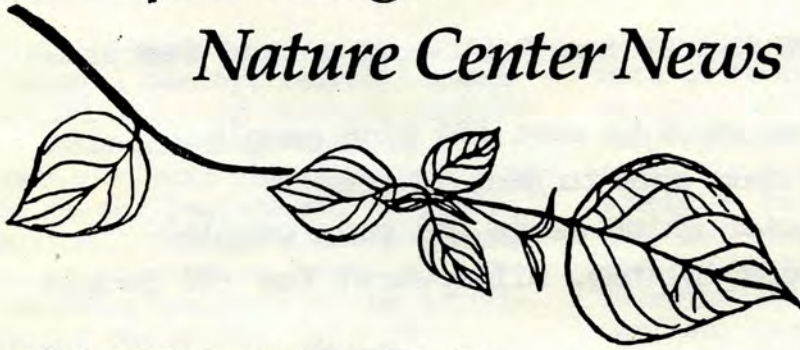
Your BIRD FEED Headquarters:



- ... Sunflowers
- ... BARGER Wild Bird Mix
- ... Safflower
- ... Medium Cracked Corn
- ... Ear Corn

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# Sproutings – Nature Center News



by Vern Fish, Nature Center Director

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**TAKE A HIKE** and enjoy the programs and services offered by HRNC this fall. Also consider joining the Friends and supporting these programs and services. If you wish to learn more about the Friends, attend the **Friends Open House** scheduled for Sunday, September 29, 1991 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

## THE LAST ROUNDUP

November 2, 1991 from 9:00 am to noon has been scheduled as the second cleanup day for the new addition to HRNC. We will focus our efforts on those areas missed on our first cleanup day. Please call to register if your group is interested in helping.

## APPLE DONATIONS!

This fall the Hartman cider press will go through a lot of apples to create apple cider for everyone to enjoy on Sunday afternoons. If you have extra apples in your yard, please consider loading up a few boxes and dropping them off at the Hartman garage.

## THE ACORN GIFT SHOP

The Acorn Gift shop is open M-F from 8:00-4:30 and Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm. Purchase educational or nature related Christmas gifts and items including recycled greeting cards!

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

For the last two years **John Burgher** has served as the McElroy Graduate Intern of Environmental Education and Interpretation at HRNC. During his stay, John became an important component in the success of the HRNC program. John has completed his internship and is pursuing a career in resource management and interpretation. Thank you, John!

We have also said goodbye to our summer undergraduate interns. **Jeff Hagg**, **Ericka Buchholz** and **Brent Seegers** have produced dozens of programs and served hundreds of people. Thanks for a great summer! Jeff will continue working at HRNC as a part-time maintenance person this fall.

The newest addition to the HRNC program is **Leslie Smith**. Leslie will complete a degree in community recreation at UNI by serving as an undergraduate intern this fall. In January, she will become our third McElroy Graduate Intern!

## SPECIAL THANKS

\*\*\* **Tye House** of Quakerdale for contributing hundreds of hours of trail maintenance labor!

\*\*\* **Marian Rappaport** and **Ruth Mahon** for creating and maintaining our butterfly garden this summer!

\*\*\* **Nathan Howard** for trail construction for his Eagle Scout project.

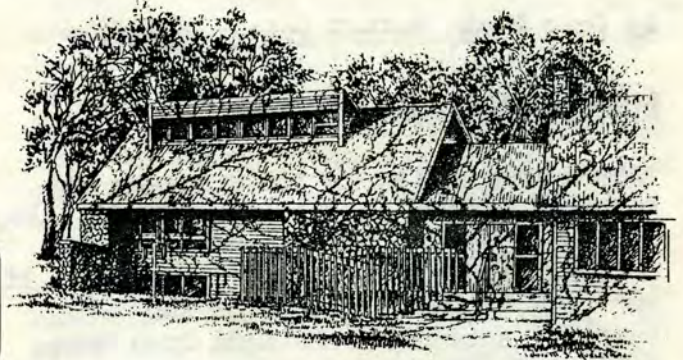
\*\*\* Everyone who presented a Sunday program, helped with Heritage Days & Game Fair or have helped maintain our trails this summer!

# RENT THE INTERPRETIVE CENTER!

The Hartman Interpretive Center has following unique features:

- \* **Large assembly** room able to seat 100 plus people
- \* **Small conference room** able to seat 12 people
- \* **Outside amphitheater** which seats 150 plus people
- \* **Table service** (cups, plates, silverware) for 100 people
- \* **Complete kitchen**
- \* **Distinctive ambiance:**
  - Fireplace*
  - Separate exhibit wing*
  - View of an upland forest*
  - Scenic trails and bridges*

Call Hartman Reserve Nature Center  
at 319-277-2187 and ask about our  
reservation policy!



## ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE LAWN CARE AVAILABLE THIS FALL

As more citizens voice their legitimate concerns over the tremendous amounts of toxic chemicals used every year by homeowners in an attempt to obtain and maintain lush landscapes, one company has come to the forefront with a legitimate alternative. AgRestore, Inc., the parent company of Harmony Soil and Plant Products has spent many years developing and marketing agriculture products that meet the needs of organic growers all over the United States. Further, their staff was the first to offer viable "step-down" programs for the chemical farmer as an alternative to quitting chemicals "cold-turkey". AgRestore, Inc. has become a recognized expert in the area of biological soil fertility and has more recently brought their expertise to the horticulture arena under the Harmony label.

Harmony Products are available for the "do-it-yourself" homeowner; or for local residents, Harmony also offers a lawn care service where the products are applied by their own technicians. Either way, Harmony will come to your home, give you a free estimate and complete recommendations for self application or detailed information on the services they provide.

Harmony differs from other so called natural or organic lawn services/products in two important ways. First, they have a strong agricultural background where mistakes are not tolerated. Recommendations and products absolutely have to work. Livelihoods depend on it! Second, they have a long history of working with organic standards all over the United States and have developed an enviable reputation for supplying products that absolutely support biological soil activity. Many products available to homeowners that are labeled natural or organic do not meet that basic requirement. For example, there are a number of products labeled natural or organic that contain Muriate of Potash. "For a lot of reasons, muriate is not considered an acceptable potash source in organic certification. However, because it is cheap, many companies use it anyway. We simply will not compromise our principles in that way. There are many other examples of this type of mentality", says Harmony president, Paul Homan.

For further information about Harmony products or services call their office at 319 233-6607 or write to P.O. Box 846, Waterloo, Iowa 50704.

## ADVERTISEMENT

## HICKORY HILLS PARK: PLAYGROUND ON A PAHA

by Jeff Hagg, *Naturalist Intern*

Hickory Hills Park is a unique area in terms of natural beauty, recreation and leisure activities, and unusual geologic features. Established in 1969 and centered around a 55 acre lake, the park's 665 acres provide for year-round, multiple use recreation. Skiing, sledding, boating, fishing, picnicking, camping, hiking, and swimming are some of the activities a visitor can enjoy.

While Hickory Hills Park is physically located in Tama County, it is owned and managed by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. The park takes its name from the large stands of hickory, oak and locust hardwoods that cover the numerous hills and ridges. These are not your average, everyday hills, however. They are paha! Paha is an ancient Indian name meaning high ground, and the diverse topography of the area is characteristic of a paha.

During the Great Ice Age, Iowa was repeatedly covered by thick blankets of ice called glaciers. The tremendous weight of these glaciers slowly crushed huge rocks into a fine powder called rock flour. When the final glacier began to retreat, its rock flour was blown by westerly winds into eastern Iowa and Tama County. Wind-blown rock flour is called loess (pronounced luss), and much of this loess settled in thick layers in the valleys and on the ridges of eastern Iowa.

Loess that settled into stream valleys was carried away by the stream. Loess that settled high on top of ridges between the streams was protected from the washing action of water and accumulated to depths of 15-40 feet on ridges called Paha. Casey's Paha, located within Hickory Hills Park, is one of about forty of these structures found in northeast Iowa and nowhere else in the world.

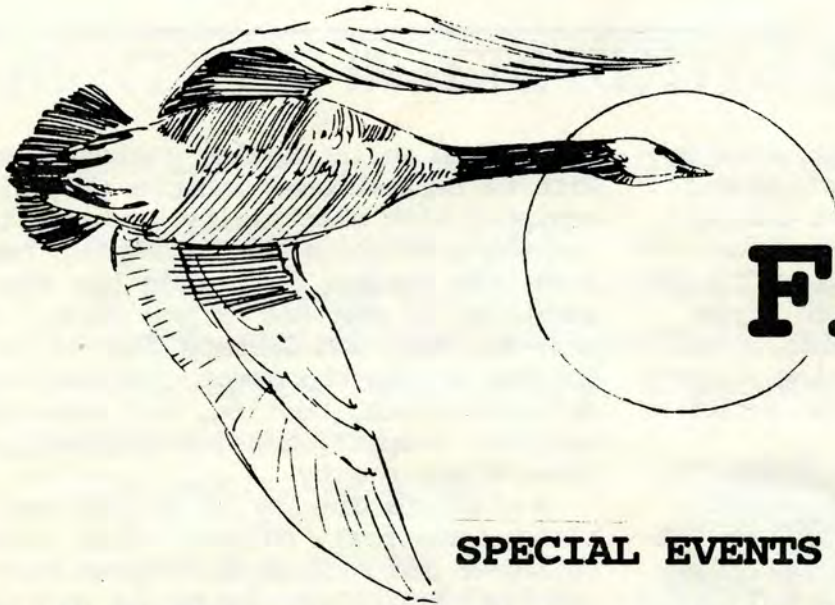
Because of the uniqueness of this geologic structure, a portion of the park has been declared a state preserve by the Iowa Preserves Board. An interpretive sign located on the edge of the beach parking lot and facing the Paha provides the visitor with a detailed explanation of this feature.

Hickory Hills Park has much more to

offer than an intriguing geology lesson. With 80 recreational vehicle (RV) sites equipped with electricity, a large tent camping area and a separate group camping area, the visitor can't help but find something to meet his or her needs. Showers, toilets, and laundry facilities are located within the campground, while a swimming beach, boating, and excellent catfish, crappie, bass, and bluegill fishing are nearby.

A wildlife display of upland game birds, waterfowl, buffalo, elk, white tail deer and raccoon is located near the camping area. This display of native wildlife is complemented by a reconstruction of a tallgrass prairie along the entrance road and an area east of the wildlife display. Hiking and bridle trails, along with 175 acres of public hunting, are bound to provide fun for all. So, the next time you want to recharge your battery, get back to nature, or just have fun, head out to Hickory Hills Park, our playground on a Paha.





# FALL SC

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**CONCERT ON THE TRAIL** - Sat., Sept. 14, 5-6:00 pm. The **Con Brio Consort** will be providing music at Buzzard's Glory Quarry. Come join us on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Call 266-6813 for more information.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM WORKSHOP** - Sat., Sept. 21, 9-3:00 pm. The new Hartman curriculum will be presented to teachers, youth leaders and volunteer naturalists. Stipends available for participants. For more information call 277-2187.

**HUNTER SAFETY** - Thurs. Oct. 3, 6-9:00 pm and Sat. Oct. 5, all day. Conservation officer Mike Bonser will teach this small class. Pre-registration required. \$1 fee.

**FALL PORTRAITS** - Sun. Oct. 6 & 13, 1-5:00 pm. **Cole Photography** will have sittings in the Hartman forest for your family or individual portrait this fall. A portion of the sitting fee is donated to the Friends of Hartman Reserve. Call 235-1563 for details.

**BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING** - Thurs., Oct. 17, 7:00 pm. **Weir Nelson**, a wild bird specialist from Cedar Rapids, will speak about bird feeding, food preferences and feeding challenges. \$1 fee.

**HALLOWEEN HIKES** - Mon., Tues. & Wed., Oct. 21, 22, 23, 6:30-8:00 pm. Someone has lifted the **LORAX** away. The enchanted characters in the Hartman forest will help you discover who did it and why. Ticket sales begin Tues. Oct. 8, 5:30 pm. Cost \$3.50 per person, one adult/3 children. NO phone orders or rain checks.

**ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE** - Sun., Oct. 27, 1-5:00 pm and Fri., Nov. 29, 10-5:00 pm. Buy your sunflower, thistle and Hartman mixed seed at our annual sale. No pre-order required.

**THE LAST ROUNDUP** - Sat., Nov. 2, 9-12:00 noon. Wrangler Vern will lead the last big roundup of garbage from the new addition. Call to reserve a place on the garbage trail drive. Help lasso the last garbage strays.

**TURKEY TROT** - Sat., Nov. 23, 9:00 am, HRNC. This roughly 5K "trot" or walk will follow a course through the Hartman trails and Cedar Heights area. Registration at 9:00 am, race begins at 10:00 am. \$5 entry fee.

**SNOWSHOE MAKING WORKSHOP** - Sun., Dec. 8, 1-5:00 pm. Construct a pair of Ojibwa snowshoes. Kit \$60 complete. Call 277-2187 to register.

**NATURE'S GARAGE SALE** - Fri., Nov. 29, 1-5:00 pm. From nature magazines to pine cone wreaths and "critter" food you can find it all at this garage sale. Bird seed will also be on sale. Share the wealth and help support the Hartman programs.



# EDULE

## FOR KIDS



**JUNIOR NATURALIST** - The following special events are designed for 4th-6th graders. Call to register, \$3 fee/event.

**\*\*\*PRAIRIE PLANTS and PLAY** - Sat., Sept. 14, 10-12:00 noon. Help celebrate Iowa Prairie Heritage Week by learning about prairie flowers, listening to stories, and making prairie crafts. This is a cooperative program with the Hearst Center for the Arts.

**\*\*\*FROM ACORNS & SEEDS to BANGLES & BEADS** - Sat., Oct. 12, 10-12:00 noon. Explore the woods this fall by examining the various seeds and acorns, play games and create jewelry incorporating natural and manufactured materials. This is a cooperative program with the Hearst Center for the Arts.

**\*\*\*WAITING for WINTER** - Sat., Nov. 9, 10-12:00 noon. Do the animals and birds wait for winter? Come out and see what the forest creatures are doing this time of year.

**\*\*\*TURKEY TRACKS** - Sat., Nov. 23, 10-12:00 noon. Learn about turkeys in Iowa and "trot" along in the annual "Turkey Trot".

**RANGER RICK** - For youngsters in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. Call to register, \$5 fee for the series. Saturdays, Sept. 14 & 28, Oct. 12 & 19, 9-11:00 am. Topics include bird feeding and migration, fall in the forest, and Halloween at Hartman. Don't miss the fun!

## CLASSICAL APPLES

Our old-fashioned, hand-cranked apple cider press will be in operation from 1 - 5:00 pm. during the peak of the fall colors. Drink a cup of fresh-pressed apple cider while enjoying the sounds of local musicians. Apple donations are needed. \$1 program donation.

**\*\*CHEMICAL FREE LAWN** - Sun., Sept. 29, 1-2:00 pm. Paul Homan will explain how you can have an excellent looking lawn without the use of toxic chemicals. \$1 fee. **ROGER LASLEY, GUITARIST**, 2-3:00 pm. Roger plays original and traditional music on acoustic guitar.

**\*\*RALDO'S RANGERS** - Sun., Oct. 6, 2-3:00 pm. Old time bluegrass music will fill the forest.

**\*\*DULCIMER WORKSHOP and CONCERT** - Sun., Oct. 13, 1-2:00 pm. **Holly Williams** will conduct a fun workshop for beginners. Ten dulcimers available, no musical experience necessary, \$10 fee. Concert at 2:00 pm following the workshop will feature Holly on her mountain dulcimer.

**\*\*UNI FLUTE QUARTET and FLUTE CHOIR** - Sun., Oct. 20, 2-3:00 pm. Listen to the lovely sounds of these UNI flute groups.

**\*\*UNITUBA** - Sun., Oct. 27, 2-3:00 pm. The internationally known tuba and euphonium ensemble of UNI students will play.

## PHOTO EXHIBITS

**IOWA'S WOODLAND HERITAGE AND FOREST COMMUNITIES** by Carl Kurtz and Gary Hightshoe, produced by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Photos on display Sept.-Oct.

**IOWA GAME FAIR PHOTO EXHIBIT** - 83 wildlife photos from the Iowa Game Fair Contest can be viewed at HRNC in Nov.

**NATURE WALK THROUGH A PASTURE GRASSLAND** - by Tom Rosburg, prairie ecologist at ISU. These photos focusing on Iowa's grasslands will be at HRNC Nov.-Dec.



# Hartman Reserve Nature Center Fall 1991 Birdseed Sale

Sunday, October 27, 1991 1:00-5:00 pm

Friday, November, 29, 1991 10:00-5:00 pm

\*PLEASE NOTE: NO ADVANCE ORDERS: Purchase seed at these times only.

Hartman Bird Mix  
25 lb. \$6.50

This specially prepared recipe contains sunflower seeds, cracked corn, white and red millet. These ingredients are blended to appeal to a variety of birds by the Gilbertville Milling Co.

Sunflower Seed  
25 lb. \$8.00

Sunflower seeds are a high oil-bearing seed which is an important source of calories for winter survival. They are popular with most winter birds such as chickadees, nuthatches, cardinals and many others.

Thistle Seed  
5 lb. \$5.50

Thistle seed is the favored food of the American Goldfinch, the state bird of Iowa. Putting this food in your feeder also attracts redpolls, pine siskins, chickadees, juncos and mourning doves.

## NATURE'S GARAGE SALE

\*Are you are willing to make craft items to benefit the Hartman programs ?

\*Do you have items to donate for the garage sale such as:

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| *nature books          | *nature magazines |
| *pine cones            | *bittersweet      |
| *babies breath         | *gourds           |
| *baskets               | *sports equipment |
| *plants                | *camping gear     |
| *herbs                 | *grapevines       |
| *bird feeders          | *bird houses      |
| *garden tools          | *planters         |
| *potpourri             | *dried flowers    |
| *cedar and birch logs  |                   |
| *corn, acorns, walnuts |                   |

Call Jeannine Claus: 266-4787 or HRNC: 277-2187 if you can help or have items to donate.

## WANTED:

actors  
actresses  
guides

The ONCE-LER is biggering, the LORAX is mad, and the BAR-BA-LOOTS have taken a hike. Help us put on great **HALLOWEEN** performances, Oct. 21, 22, 23 by acting, guiding on the hikes or making costumes. Please call 277-2187 by Sept. 30 if you would like to help.





## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Ericka Buchholz, Naturalist Intern

As I drove up to Mary Norton's farm, I could see native prairie grass on each side of the gravel road. Further on were trees, acres of them, and as I pulled up to the house, a horse was in the front "mowing the grass." The farm used to be her father's; now Mary owns it. She is not farming it commercially, but is letting it go back to woodland and prairie. The Nortons have planted 5,000 trees and are thinning the pine forest. For the past eight years, they have been restoring their prairie by planting five native grasses and by burning it. When it comes to environmental awareness, Mary does not stop with only conservation practices. She is one person who has made a difference in the community.

Mary has developed an Outdoor Environmental Education Curriculum specifically for North Cedar School where she teaches. The curriculum has complete lesson plans based on critical thinking for each grade, from kindergarten to jr. high. When the students reach 5th and 6th grade, they then become mentors for the younger grades.

"The decisions are about a habitat, and to get them involved we give them issues like, 'Do you know we burn our prairies? Do you know why?' She added, "Some of the kids come in to class knowing almost nothing about Environmental Education. But, by the end of the year, they pass their knowledge on to their family."

Mary had one first grade girl bring in an old root she wanted to grow instead of throwing away, and another brought in a spider. The children are also introducing recycling to their parents. The exciting part for Mary is seeing how she can make a difference in the community.

Mary is developing a video, "Life-Style Land Stewardship of Iowa", to try to teach more people about Environmental Education. The video is being made with help from a REAP grant. It will be used as background for the curriculum and will be viewed by schools state-wide.

Through her community projects, Mary has seen a change in the last five years. "It's thrilling watching the children



grow. They've become very open about our environment. They have a lot of hope, are more caring and knowledgeable. And when I share myself with the children, I see how I have also grown," she said.

A part her of growing process includes admiration for her role models. Her role models are her father, who practiced conservation farming, and two UNI professors in the Environmental Education dept. She loved the enthusiasm her role models had. They opened up a new world to her. She hopes she is that role model for her students.

She added, "I want them to see how one person, me, made a difference. Then, hopefully, they will see that they can also make a difference."

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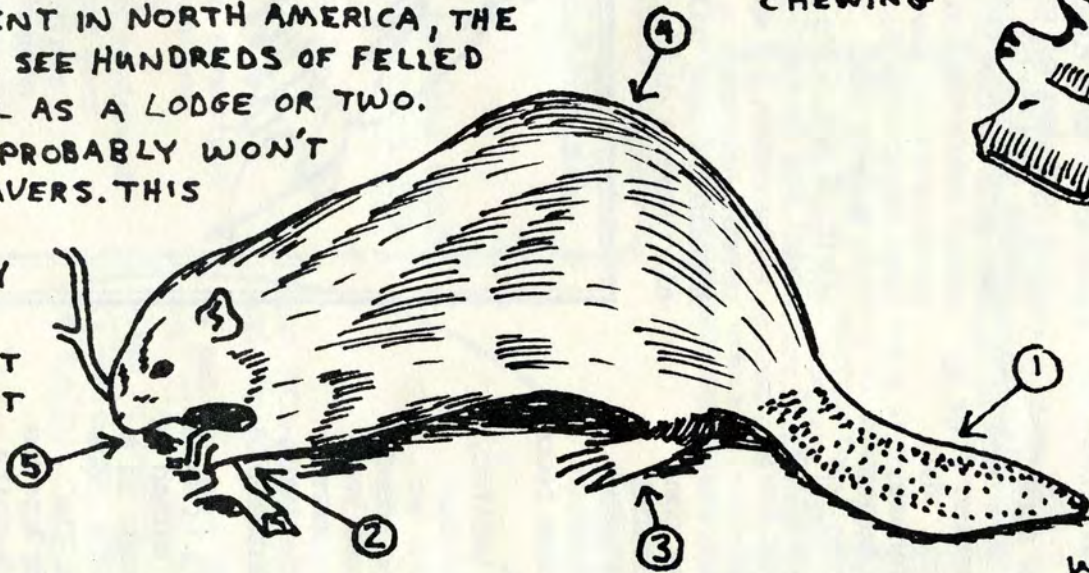
# BUSY AS A BEAVER

IF SOMEDAY, YOU FIND YOURSELF EXPLORING THE LOWLANDS OF HARTMAN RESERVE, YOU ARE LIKELY TO SEE EVIDENCE OF THE LARGEST RODENT IN NORTH AMERICA, THE BEAVER. YOU'LL SEE HUNDREDS OF FELLED TREES AS WELL AS A LODGE OR TWO. HOWEVER, YOU PROBABLY WON'T SEE ANY BEAVERS. THIS IS BECAUSE THEY USUALLY COME OUT TO WORK ONLY AT NIGHT WHEN IT IS SAFE.

BACK TEETH ARE FOR CHEWING

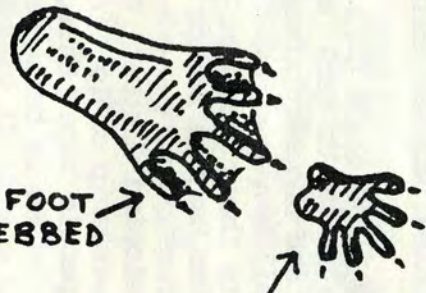


INCISORS ARE FOR CUTTING



THE NUMBERED CIRCLES POINT TO VARIOUS ADAPTATIONS WHICH HELP THE

BEAVER TO SURVIVE. SEE IF YOU CAN MATCH THE ADAPTATIONS WITH THEIR USES BELOW. SOME CAN BE USED TWICE.



REAR FOOT IS WEBBED

FRONT FOOT DESIGNED FOR GRIPPING

- SMACKS WATER TO WARN OF DANGER.
- KEEPS BODY WARM AND DRY.
- USED FOR CARRYING MUD FOR DAMS.
- HELPS BEAVER TO SWIM FAST.
- USED FOR CUTTING DOWN TREES.
- USED AS A PROP WHEN CUTTING TREES.

ANSWERS: 1, 4, 2, 3, 5, 1

## WHITETAIL DEER CAFE

by Brent Seegers, Naturalist Intern

As stated in the article on page 1, the deer in the Cedar River Valley are becoming more visible than in past years. With these frequent sightings of deer, neighbors have noticed that their yards have been grazed upon. Some grazing should be expected, since we are the ones who moved into deer habitat.

Deer are grazing mammals that need open spots for gathering food. They use the forest as shelter and for browsing, while neighboring yards serve as grazing patches. Deer need this habitat to survive. Neighbors with yards adjoining the forest however, may determine the impact the deer will have on their yard. Here are some ways to discourage the deer from grazing.

The first, and most important issue, is to never feed the deer at anytime throughout the year. This means no corn, hay or salt blocks. Deer are wild animals, not pets. When people feed deer it overrides their natural instinct to search for food. When deer are fed repeatedly they come to depend on people for food and they won't take care of themselves. When people feed deer in the winter, the deer come back to the same spot in the summer. If no food is set out, the deer start to eat flowers, gardens and other plants in the neighborhood yards. The yards become a buffet table. If a deer has fawns it will bring its young to the spot, and the problem is compounded. Deterrents are available, however.

Deterrents for deer include fencing, repellents and noisemakers. Although fencing seems like a lot of work and can be relatively expensive, it is the best known way to discourage grazing in certain areas. Fencing off the whole yard works well, but fencing of individual areas, such as gardens, is equally effective.

Not many people are aware that deer repellents can be used effectively to keep deer out of certain areas. Two kinds of repellents are available: those that repel by taste and those that repel by sight, smell or sound. Taste repellents are any of the commercial



products that use bittering agents, such as Hinder or Deer-Away. These solutions are sprayed onto or applied to trees, plants or other restricted areas. The taste and smell keeps deer away from the treated area. Other smell/taste associated repellents include hanging old nylon stockings filled with human hair or soap.

Various types of noisemakers can also be used. For example, a hanging sheet flapping in the wind may scare deer away. Wind chimes are another type of noisemaker. Basically anything that creates noise will help in repelling deer. The best noisemaker of all is a dog. Sight repellents include the use of hanging mirrors, scarecrows and other silhouettes. Remember, however, that deer, like most wild animals, can adapt and will ignore nonharmful stimulus.

These are just a few ways of keeping deer away. The best thing to do is to experiment with a variety of repellents and find out what works the best. The actions of individuals will determine the impact deer have on their yards.



#### BOARD

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Sandy Fulcher, Secretary  
Rachel Fulton  
Dennis Huisman

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Daryl Parker  
Al Weber

**Resource Management:**  
Kevin Alpers

**Park Custodians:**  
Peg Truair  
Bernie Watters

#### HISTORY AND PURPOSE

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) was authorized by the people of the county at the general election in 1956, for the purpose of purchasing and developing land for parks, hunting and fishing access and other recreational use within the county. Currently the BHCCB manages over 6,000 acres of land in Black Hawk, Buchanan and Tama counties.

#### BOARD MEETINGS

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board is scheduled to meet at 7:00 pm on Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5. Please note, these dates are subject to change.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

City of Waterloo Print  
Shop  
R.S.V.P.

#### INFORMATION

**Black Hawk Park**  
2410 W. Lone Tree Rd.  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-6813  
Hours: M-F, 8 am to 4:30

**Hartman Reserve  
Nature Center**  
657 Reserve Drive  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 277-2187  
Autumn Hours  
Hours: M-F, 8 am to 4:30 pm  
Sundays, 1 to 5 pm  
(when programs scheduled)  
Closed: Saturdays &  
major holidays  
Trails open everyday sunrise to sunset.

Located at the intersection of Greenwood Ave. and Timber Dr. in Cedar Falls.

#### NEWSLETTER FUND

Though the newsletter is available without subscription, your contribution towards its publication does help defray costs. Any donation is appreciated. Please let us know of any change of address.

Hartman Reserve Nature Center  
657 Reserve Drive  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Bulk Rate  
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Non-profit Org.  
Cedar Falls, Ia  
Permit No.351

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