



21st Annual Project AWARE Detailed Agenda

July 7-12, 2024

[Skunk River](#), 74.5 Miles

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Sunday, July 7

Meet & Greet at Lake Darling State Park

- Statewide Event Shuttles - Grand View University (Des Moines) and Midwest Old Threshers Campground (Mount Pleasant)
- Iowa Project AWARE Event Kickoff
- **Camp** – Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

Monday, July 8 – 15.3 Miles

Skunk River Wildlife Area to Brighton Access

- **Start** – Skunk Wildlife Area (5 miles north of Richland, IA - Iowa DNR)
- **Support Stop** (7.2 Miles) – McKain Access (2971 Dogwood Ave, Brighton, IA 52540 - Washington CCB)
- **Takeout/End** (8.1 Miles) – Brighton Access (3167 IA-1, Brighton, IA 52540 - Washington CCB)
- **Camp** – Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

Tuesday, July 9 – 18.8 Miles

Brighton Access to Mac Coon Access

- **Start** – Brighton Access (3167 IA-1, Brighton, IA 52540 - Washington CCB)
- **Support Stop** (8.1 Miles) – Coppock Access (3392 Locust Ave, Wayland, IA 52654 - PRIVATE)
- **Takeout/End** (10.7 Miles) – Mac Coon Access (3285 Macoon Rd, Lockridge, IA 52635 - Jefferson CCB)
- **Camp** – Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

Wednesday, July 10 – 16.3 Miles

Mac Coon Access to Water Works Access

- **Start** – Mac Coon Access (3285 Macoon Rd, Lockridge, IA 52635 - Jefferson CCB)
- **Takeout/End** (16.3 miles) – Water Works Access (2547 Franklin Ave, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641 - Henry CCB)
- **Camp** – Water Works Area Oakland Mills Park (Water Works Dr, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641)

Thursday, July 11 – 14.3 Miles

Faulkner's Access to Stephenson Access

- **Start** – Faulkner's Access (1672 265th St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641 - Henry CCB)
- **Support Stop** (8.3 miles) - Lexington Ave Access (3220 Lexington Ave, Salem, IA 52649 - PRIVATE)
- **Takeout/End** (6.0 miles) – Stephenson Access (205 1st Street, Lowell, IA 52645 - Henry CCB)
- **Camp** – Midwest Old Threshers Campground (1365 S Walnut St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641)

Friday, July 12 – 9.8 Miles

Stephenson Access to Upper Skunk River Access

- **Start** – Stephenson Access (205 1st Street, Lowell, IA 52645 - Henry CCB)
- **Takeout/End** (9.8 miles) – Upper Skunk River Access (18691 Skunk River Rd, Wever, IA 52658 - Des Moines CCB)

Detailed Daily Agenda

Sunday, July 7 (Meet & Greet)

Lake Darling State Park

10:30 am – Shuttle departs from Grand View University Campus (1200 Grandview Ave, Des Moines, IA 50316) (2-hour and 4-minute shuttle)

12:30 pm – Shuttle departs from Midwest Old Threshers Campground (1365 S Walnut St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641) (54-minute shuttle)

1:00 pm – Arrive at Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

Ongoing – Registration

2:30 pm – Afternoon Campground Programs

- *Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic* - John Wenck (Iowa DNR and ACA Certified Instructors), Rick Dietz, Jim Dodd, and Shelly Weeks, (Iowa Project AWARE Volunteers)

3:00 pm – Concurrent Afternoon Campground Programs

- *Corridors of Conservation: How INHF works to protect and restore Iowa's land, water and wildlife* - Erica Place (Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation)
- *Knots for Paddlers* - Jeff White (Iowa Project AWARE Volunteer)

4:00 pm – Concurrent Afternoon Campground Programs

- *Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic* - John Wenck (Iowa DNR and ACA Certified Instructors), Rick Dietz, Jim Dodd, and Shelly Weeks, (Iowa Project AWARE Volunteers)
- *Mississippi River Unique Fish and Turtles/Commercial Fishing* - Denny Weiss (Retired Iowa DNR Fisheries)
- *Bugs, Fish, and Water Quality* - Louse Biderman and Mike Birmingham (State Hygenics Lab)

6:00 pm – **Dinner** at Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

7:15 pm – Welcome & Introductions

Lake Darling State Park

- Portable toilets and flush toilets
- Showers available on site
- Running water available
- Electricity available
- Emergency Storm Shelter: in-camp shower houses

Monday, July 8 (15.3 miles)

Skunk Wildlife Area to Brighton Access (Skunk River)

6:15 am – **Morning Yoga**

7:00 am – **Breakfast and lunch distribution** at Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

8:00 am – **Morning Safety Program** (Iowa Department of Natural Resources Rivers Program)

8:15 am – **Bus Shuttle** volunteers to Skunk Wildlife Area (5 miles north of Richland, IA) (19-minute shuttle)

9:00 am – **Depart** from Skunk Wildlife Area (concrete, river left–east side of river)

7.2 miles – **Halfway Point & Trash Pickup Location** – McKain Access (2971 Dogwood Ave, Brighton, IA 52540) (concrete, river right–south side of river)

8.1 miles – **Endpoint & Takeout** – Brighton Access (3167 IA-1, Brighton, IA 52540) (paved, river right–southwest side of river)

Bus shuttle volunteers from Brighton Access to Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540) (13-minute shuttle)

4:30 pm – Concurrent Afternoon Campground Activities

- *Turtles of Iowa* - Megan Jorgensen (Washington County Conservation)
- *A Travelogue of Water in the Skunk River* - Dan Haug (Prairie Rivers of Iowa)

6:00 pm – **Dinner** at Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

7:30 pm – Concurrent Evening Campground Programs

- *Unraveling the Mysteries of the Ho-Chunk Nation's Dugout Canoes in Lake Mendota* - Bill Quackenbush (Ho-Chunk Nation)
- *A Whiff of Skunk River Geology* - Ryan Clark (Iowa Geological Survey) and Joe Artz (University of Iowa)

Lake Darling Camp Amenities

- Portable toilets and flush toilets
- Showers available on site
- Running water available
- Electricity available
- Emergency Storm Shelter: in-camp shower houses

Tuesday, July 9 (18.8 miles)

Brighton Access to Mac Coon Access (Skunk River)

6:15 am – Morning Yoga

7:00 am – **Breakfast and lunch distribution** at Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

8:00 am – **Morning Safety Program** (Iowa DNR Rivers Program)

8:15 am – **Bus Shuttle** volunteers to Brighton Access (3167 IA-1, Brighton, IA 52540) (13-minute shuttle)

9:00 am – **Depart** from Brighton Access (paved, river right–southwest side of river)

8.1 miles – **Halfway Point & Trash Pickup Location** – Coppock Access (3392 Locust Ave, Wayland, IA 52654) (paved, river left–east side of river)

10.7 miles – **Endpoint & Takeout** – Mac Coon Access (3285 Macoon Rd, Lockridge, IA 52635) (paved ramp, river right–west side of river)

Bus Shuttle from Mac Coon Access to Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540) (28-minute shuttle)

4:30 pm – Concurrent Afternoon Campground Activities

- *The Lake Darling State Park and Friends Connection* - Don Kline (Friends of Lake Darling)
- *Flora, Fauna, and Fun with Archaeologists* - Elizabeth Reetz and Cherie Haury-Artz (University of Iowa)

6:00 pm – **Dinner** at Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

7:30 pm – Concurrent Evening Campground Programs

- *Mammals of the Skunk River* - Austin Roe and Lauren Snyder (Jefferson County Conservation Board)
- *Evaluating Risks for Recreators in Iowa's Lakes and Streams* - Claire Hruby (Drake University)

Lake Darling Camp Amenities

- Portable toilets and flush toilets
- Showers available on site
- Running water available
- Electricity available
- Emergency Storm Shelter: in-camp shower houses

Wednesday, July 10 (16.3 miles)

Mac Coon Access to Water Works Access (Skunk River)

7:00 am – **Breakfast and lunch distribution** at Lake Darling State Park (111 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540)

8:00 am – **Morning Safety Program** (Iowa DNR Rivers Program)

Announcements - Announce afternoon programs. Put out signup for 25 people for Lewelling Quaker Museum trip. Announce that those who sign up will need to try to get back a bit earlier.

8:15 am – **Bus Shuttle** volunteers to Mac Coon Access (3285 Macoon Rd, Lockridge, IA 52635) (28-minute shuttle)

9:00 am – **Depart** from Mac Coon Access (paved ramp, river right–west side of river)

16.3 miles – Endpoint & Takeout – Water Works Access (2547 Franklin Avenue, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641) (paved, river left – north east side of river)

Bus Shuttle - not needed, we will end at our campsite

Van Shuttle from Water Works to Lake Darling to retrieve personal vehicles

4:30 pm – Concurrent Afternoon Campground Programs

- *The Big Bird Sit* - Kelly McKay (BioEco Research Monitoring Center)
- *Lewelling Quaker Museum* - Kay Wesley (location - Lewelling Quaker Museum)

6:00 pm – Dinner at Water Works Area Oakland Mills Park (Water Works Dr, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641)

7:30 pm – Concurrent Evening Campground Programs

- *Birds of the Floodplain Forest* - Kelly McKay (BioEco Research Monitoring Center)
- *Clean Water Advocacy - Save Bloody Run Case Study and Other Uncomfortable Truths* - Steve Veysey (Protecting Outstanding Iowa Waters)

9:00 pm – Concurrent Evening Campground Programs

- *Night Sounds Prowl* - Kelly McKay (BioEco Research Monitoring Center)

Water Works Area Oakland Mills Park Amenities

- Portable toilets and pit toilets.
- Showers on site at South Shore campground and at the Top of the Hill
- Running water available
- Electricity available
- Emergency Storm Shelter: Henry County Conservation Nature Center

Thursday, July 11 (14.3 miles)

Faulkner's Access to Stephenson Access (Skunk River)

BREAK CAMP

7:00 am – Breakfast and lunch distribution at Water Works Area Oakland Mills Park

8:00 am – Morning Safety Program (Iowa DNR Rivers Program)

8:15 am – Bus Shuttle volunteers from Water Works Area Oakland Mills Park to Faulkner's Access (1672 265th St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641) (6-minute shuttle)

8:30 am – Depart from Faulkner's Access (1672 265th St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641) (paved, river left– east side of river)

8.3 miles – Halfway Point (NO TRASH) – Lexington Ave Access (3220 Lexington Ave, Salem, IA 52649 - PRIVATE) (paved and steep, river right–south side of river)

6.0 miles – Endpoint & Takeout – Stephenson Access (205 1st Street, Lowell, IA 52645) (paved, river left–north side of river)

Bus Shuttle from Stephenson Access (205 1st Street, Lowell, IA 52645) to Midwest Old Threshers Campground (1365 S Walnut St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641) (19-minute shuttle)

4:30 pm – Concurrent Afternoon Campground Programs

- *Snakes aren't Scary* - Kendall Prehn (Henry County Conservation)
- *Meet a Live Animal* - Jacklyn Goodman (Des Moines County Conservation)

6:00 pm – Dinner at Midwest Old Threshers Campground (1365 S Walnut St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641)

7:30 pm – Concurrent Evening Campground Programs

- *Iowa Mussel Blitz over the years* - Scott Gritters (Iowa DNR)
- *Honey Bee and Pollination* - Tony Kempker (Friends of Conservation in Henry County LTD)

Midwest Old Threshers Amenities

- Portable toilets and flush toilets
- Showers on sight
- Running water available
- Electricity available
- Emergency Storm Shelter: Old Threshers Theatre Museum

Friday, July 12 (9.8 miles)

Stephenson Access to Upper Skunk River Access (Skunk River)

6:15 am – Morning Yoga

7:00 am – Breakfast and lunch distribution at Midwest Old Threshers Campground (1365 S Walnut St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641)

8:00 am – Morning Safety Program (Iowa DNR Rivers Program)

8:15 am – Bus Shuttle volunteers to Stephenson Access (205 1st Street, Lowell, IA 52645) (22-minute shuttle)

8:30 am – Depart from Stephenson Access (205 1st Street, Lowell, IA 52645) (paved, river left– north side of river)

9.8 miles – Endpoint & Takeout – Upper Skunk River Access (18691 Skunk River Rd, Wever, IA 52658)

Bus Shuttle from Upper Skunk River Access to Midwest Old Threshers Campground (1365 S Walnut St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641) (29-minute shuttle)

Wash canoes

Organize volunteers and equipment for shuttle home (depart – TBD)

~late afternoon – Post-event shuttle arrives in Des Moines