

Conservation Corner

By Corinne Peterson
Pocahontas County Naturalist



September 5, 2018

Summer is quickly winding down, complete with a send-off hailstorm, and another Fall Fest is in the books. Thanks to all who braved the wind and rain to help celebrate our faith, family, and farming heritage at the Wiegert Prairie Farmstead on August 26. A special thank-you to Carol Markstrom and R. K. Welander who cheerfully kept strumming and singing in the rain.

Following are most, I hope, of the many volunteers who willingly give their time and talents to keep the Fall Fest tradition alive for 35 years and counting! Thanks for bringing the farmstead back to life each year. Displays and Gate: Megan Cook, Gretchen Tiedemann, Roger Eichelberger, Marcia Leu & grand-daughters, Daryl & Sally Butcher, Tom & Martie Olson, Melanie Klaassen, Dorothy Lamberti, Connie Dallenbach, Marge Spear, Brian Reis & Emma, Kyle Scheidegger, Aaron Samuelson, James Conway, JoAnn Peters, and Casandra Lenz. Grillers and Servers: Justin Waller and the PAC FFA members, Myrvin Samuelson & Mary Mattoon, Jeff & Becky Ives, Carl & Sue Hubbell, Doc & Jill Hubbell, and Aimee Devereaux. Horse Rides and Farm Animals: Bailey Vainreb, Kelsey Janssen, Cody Condon, Tom & Amy Domek, Kerry Peterson, and the Andy Tolan & Denny Lindgren families.

We thank Lay Pastor Marlene Nimke, Rick Sale, Carolyn Berglund, pianist Connie Dallenbach, song leaders Carol Markstrom and Corinne Peterson, and everyone in the congregation who helped bring the Pioneer Church to life. We also thank Leon Johnson and Myrvin Samuelson for the great paint job on the crib. Last but not least, I'd like to acknowledge our conservation staff for the many hours spent bringing the farmstead back to life - mowing the grounds, repairing and cleaning the buildings, hauling tables, making ice cream and baking pies - it takes many hands to put on Fall Fest!

Now it's time to turn towards fall – library, school, and afterschool programs, Clay County Fair, Honey Days, Wagon Rides on the Trail, and hunting seasons. On Saturday, Sept. 15, we'll be tagging Monarchs at the Sundholm Log Cabin located on the west end of the Clay County Fairgrounds. On Tuesday, Sept. 18, we'll have our annual Honey Day workshop. Save the date and join us as we extract and bottle honey collected from our hives in Pocahontas County. Learn more about honeybees, pollination, and beekeeping, enjoy some honey snacks, pour a beeswax candle, and take home a free bottle of honey to enjoy. The Come & Go Workshop runs from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. Bee seeing you!

I'll close with several verses from Helen Hunt Jackson's poem "September."

The golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.

From dewy lanes at morning
The grape's sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.

