

CONSERVATION CORNER



SUMMER 2025, ISSUE 3

41st Annual Wiegert Prairie Fall Fest



Plans are underway for the 41st Wiegert Prairie Fall Fest. The event will be held Sunday, August 24, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Wiegert Prairie Farmstead in SE Pocahontas County. Don't miss this chance to visit an original 1900 farmstead and prairie and experience firsthand what life was like on the farm back in the day.

Gates open at 10:00 am for you to begin exploring the house, barns, one-room school house and church. Morning church services will begin at 10:30 am. After church be sure to enjoy a lunch meal served by the PAC FFA from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. You and your family will also be able to explore the farm and see the farm animals, a variety of craft vendors and demonstrations, a working smokehouse and enjoy fresh apple cider. Don't forget to stop by the pie stand to purchase a slice of homemade pie with ice cream or a root beer float.



Frederick and Maria Wiegert arrived in 1870 from Germany with their young family and homesteaded 80 acres in Section 4 of Bellville Township, Pocahontas County. In 1877, they purchased the Alonzo Cody farm in Section 24. It is this farm that has become known as the Wiegert Prairie Farmstead. Son Frederick, Jr., married Martha Kalsow in 1897 and they became the second generation to live on the farm. Their son Harry (1905-1980) was the third generation to live on the farm. Harry remained single and so there was no fourth generation to carry on the family farm. Many people, including Robert Peterson, estate administrator, didn't want to see the farmstead bulldozed or the virgin prairie converted to cropland. Several heirs donated their share to the county. Today the Pocahontas County Historical Society and Conservation Board, guided by the Wiegert Farm Committee, manages and maintains the farmstead, farmland, and events. With the help of many faithful volunteers, they work together to preserve the old ways of living and farming for future generations.



The fall fest is an annual celebration of the Wiegert family and a way of life now largely passed but still a deep part of our heritage here in rural Northwest Iowa. The Wiegert farm is an historic pioneer era farmstead that never had electricity or running water and was farmed with horses. Stepping onto the farmstead is like stepping back in time 100 years. If you want to go even farther back in time, take one of the horse-drawn wagon tours of the thirty acre 8,000 year-old remnant prairie across the road.

Admission to fall fest is free, but donations are appreciated.

KIDS SUMMER DAYCAMP

WITH NATURALIST ADAM

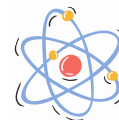
Have you gotten your kid or grandkid signed up for our summer day camp yet? If not there is still time! Sign up today by going to our website or by [clicking here](#)

We have also added a fun camp for our littlest future naturalists. Join us July 25 and August 15 for Critter Camp!



July 22 from 10 AM - 2PM

- Ages 5-6
- "Can the sun cook my food?" at the PCCB Nature Center



July 23 from 10 AM - 2PM

- Ages 7-9
- "Can my egg fall off the roof?" at the PCCB Nature Center



July 24 from 10 AM - 2PM

- Ages 10-12
- "If a tree falls in the forest." at Cooper's Cove



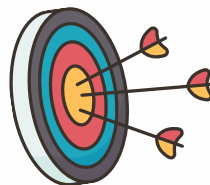
August 12 from 10 AM - 2PM

- Ages 5-6
- Bear Hunt: Starting at Elbert Park



August 13 from 10 AM - 2PM

- Ages 7-9
- Double Ball and other Native American Games at Rosenberger Park



August 14 from 10 AM - 2PM

- Ages 10-12
- Archery and Air Rifle Shooting Competition at Rosenberger Park



Friday, July 25
Friday, August 15



For ages 3 & 4

10:00 - 10:45 AM at the Nature Center



“Home is where your camper is”



Summer camping season is in full swing!

Need a place for your summer vacation or just a long weekend inside the camper? We've got you covered. PCCB has four campgrounds spread throughout the county. All campsites include 50-amp electricity, water hook ups (some locations water is shared), dump station and modern restrooms/showers. Plus, playground equipment and plenty of open green grass for kids.

The fee is \$20 per night. No reservations are accepted and spots are on a first come first serve basis.

For more information on our campgrounds [CLICK HERE](#).

Don't have a camper but enjoy camping life? Check out our Cabin at Meredith Park. This one room cabin has heat and air conditioning, a full-size bunk bed and a futon for sleeping for 6 guests. Plus, a fridge and microwave for your convenience.

For reservations, please call us at: 712-335-4395.

For more information on our cabin [CLICK HERE](#).

Naturalist Chat – Adventures with Adam

When he isn't doing summer camps or taking care of our Nature Center animals Naturalist Adam is spending his time putting programs together for different groups, organizations and schools in the county.

Adams puts on roughly 120 programs per year for a variety of ages. Not only does he do field trips for local schools but he also does monthly programming at the libraries in Pocahontas County, Arlington Place, and Vacation Bible Schools.

If your group, organization, class or company would like Adam to put a program together for you, give him a call at: 712-335-4395 or email amann@pocahontascounty.iowa.gov

Programs can include anything from an animal meet and greet, canoeing/kayaking, nature hikes, story time and more. The possibilities are endless!



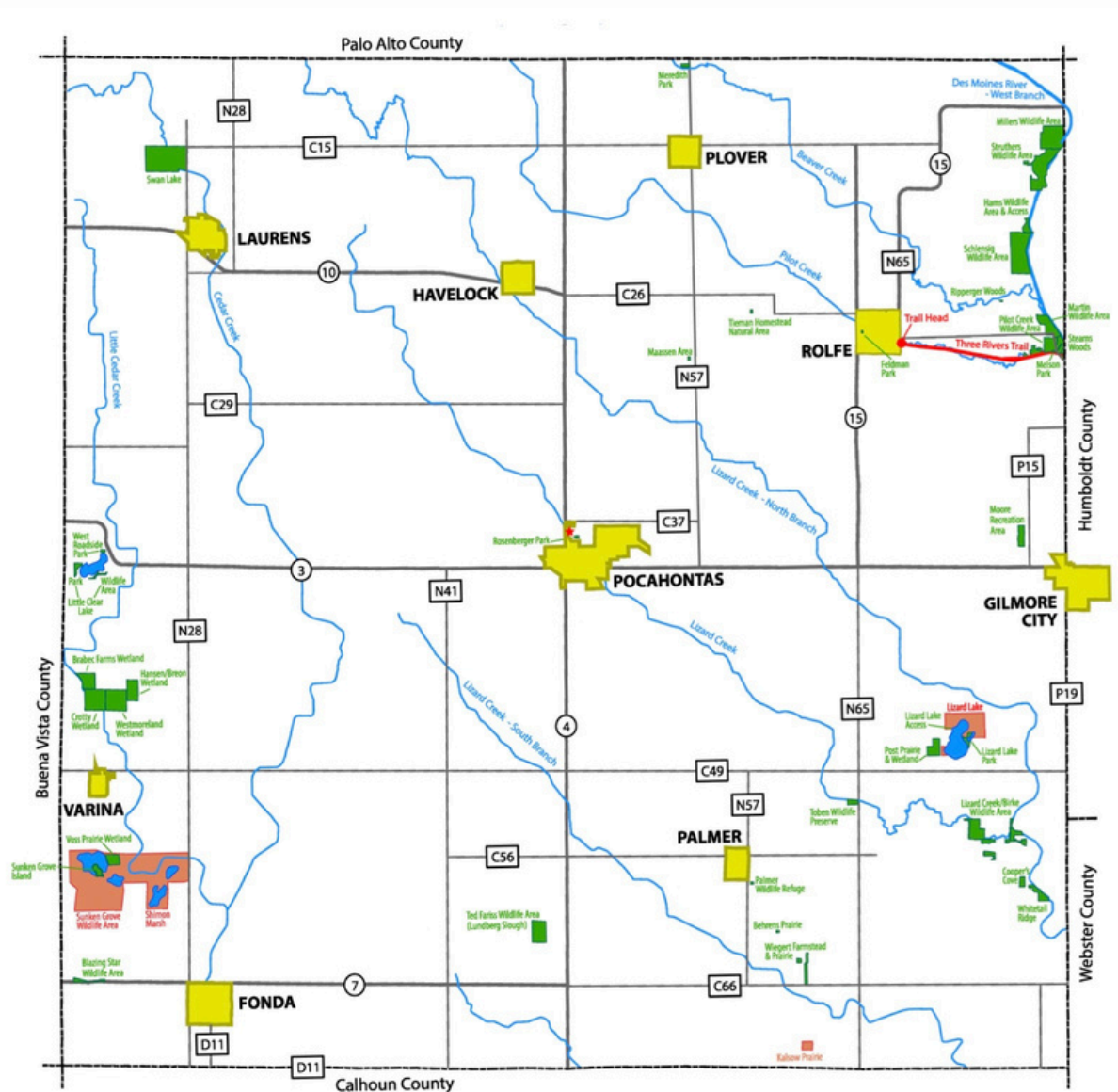
Earth Day 2025 School Program

Staff

- **Director**
 - Brian Reis
- **Maintenance Tech**
 - Aaron Samuelson
- **Office Manager**
 - Alicia Kopriva
- **Naturalist**
 - Adam Mann
- **Park Ranger**
 - Dallas Heuton
- **Operation Supervisor**
 - Kyle Scheidegger
- **Natural Resource Manager**
 - Mason Stall

Board

- Dean Zuetlau - Pocahontas
- Avery Aden- Palmer
- Shawn Behrendsen - Rolfe
- Ray Wolf - Varina
- Randy Gustafson - Laurens



702 NW 7th St. Pocahontas, IA 50574

712-335-4395

conservation@pocahontascounty.iowa.gov