

Readlyn Chronicle



Home of **857 Friendly People** and **One Old Grump**

Volume 13, No. 7, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, July 29, 2020



The Bo-bo hydrangea is featured in this garden.



Mary Chapin, 209 Highland, is August's Yard of the Month winner.

Mary Chapin is the August Yard of the Month winner

Regarding winning the Yard of the Month award sponsored by Weeds on

Fire, Mary Chapin exclaimed that she was surprised yet honored. Four years ago 88-year-old Mary moved her belongings and many of her flowers to Readlyn from her farm. During this four-year span, she has created her abundant gardens on her own. Mary gladly shares her expertise: she knows which flowers are invasive and should be avoided, the best time to transplant flowers, and much more. She has to wait until fall to move her mother's fern leaf peonies from the farm to further enhance her gardens.

Lilies, lilies, lilies ... hydrangeas, and roses are Mary's favorite flowers. This is clearly evident as you stroll with Mary admiring her flowers. Most of the flower species names are printed on signs with labels, although, she rarely refers to them as she recites the names from memory.

In addition to tending her own gardens, this spritely lady and a friend have created and maintain the garden outside Faith United Church of Christ in Tripoli. As if that is not enough, she is an active member helping with the Extension Garden also in Tripoli. What a blessing it would be if we could all have her energy at her



On the right is the Exotic Starfish, one of Mary's newest lilies.



Mary guesses she has 30-50 different types of lilies; most of them have labels she created with her label maker. Photos contributed



The Bass Gibson has a "pie crust" edge.

Ice Cream Social slated for August 9

The Readlyn Historical Society is inviting everyone to their 18th annual Ice Cream Social at the Historical Museum on Sunday, August 9 from 5-7 PM. Sundaes will be \$.25.

We will practice social distancing, but feel free to get one or more to go!

We will also be dedicating a bench that was given in memory of Robert W. Moeller (RHS Class of 1943) by his wife, Mary, and family. We want to thank them for this nice addition to the front of the museum.



It's kind of a big dill! This summer, Community Lutheran School is keeping our community fed AND supporting our local farmers by participating in the 2020 Iowa Farm to Summer Campaign, "Crunch into Cucumbers!" Saturday, June 20, members of the CLS staff and Board of Education helped pack up 20 bags of produce from the Waverly Farmers' Market. The Picnic Packs included lettuce, kale, strawberries, potatoes, eggs and a cookie. Ten bags were handed out to families driving up to the parking lot, five bags were home-delivered, and five bags were left for congregation members to pick up after Sunday worship. We thank God for the generosity and fellowship in our community! Thank you, Waverly Farmers' Market and #IowaFarmtoSummer.

Photos contributed
Readlyn in Bloom
 City Gardens



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MEMBER FDIC

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, August 4: School registration for Community Lutheran School at St. Paul's, Readlyn, 11 AM-1 PM and 5-7 PM

Sunday, August 9: Ice Cream Social at Readlyn Historical Society Museum, 5-7 PM

Monday, August 10: Happy 80th birthday, Judy Henn!

Thursday, August 13: Deadline for Aug. 26 Chronicle, 5 PM

Wednesday, August 19: Senior Citizens' meeting, 11:30 AM at Inspired

Community Lutheran School

2020-2021

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Tuesday, August 4th
11am- 1pm & 5-7pm
 St. Paul's Readlyn
 120 West 4th Street, Readlyn
 Registration paperwork can be found on www.communitylutheralschool.com

3 & 4 year old Preschool,
 Kindergarten through sixth grade

Mission Statement: Community Lutheran School exists to provide a Christian environment for a quality education while inspiring students to go forth living Christ-centered lives as witnesses of the one true faith in God's Kingdom.

Readlyn Community Happenings

Auxiliary meets

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Auxiliary #5661 of Readlyn met at the home of Wilda Albrecht at 7:30 p.m. with 6 members present.

The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. General orders and Chairman reports were read. Volunteer hours were turned in. We received some member dues.

Some information was read from National.

A thank-you was read from Jackie Clemon who had surgery. Letters were read from some members who sent dues and some extra. We contribute to the hospital fund and each \$1 feeds 10 veterans and their families.

A motion was made by Darlene Peters and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to adjourn, carried. Hostess was Wilda Albrecht.



Violet Schuldt

90th Birthday

Violet Schuldt will celebrate her 90th birthday in Tripoli.

She was born August 1, 1930 near Readlyn to John and Louisa Tiedt on the family farm. Violet was married February 2, 1947 to Lorraine Schuldt, at St. Matthew's Church, Readlyn. Their family is Sharon (Loren) Sommerfelt of Sumner, Larry (deceased) and Val Schuldt, Waverly, and Judi (Mike) Tripolino of Denver, along with 12 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to 700 3rd St SW, Tripoli, IA 50676.

Thank You

I want to thank my family, friends and everyone for all the beautiful cards, notes, flowers, visits, gifts and the party at the V.F.W. for my 90th birthday. It was truly a very memorable day. God's blessing and love to all.

Joan Matthias

Sr. Citizens meet

On July 15, 2020, 16 members attended the 11:30 a.m. meal at Inspired for the Senior Citizens lunch and meeting. We all practiced our social distancing because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ron Leistikow led everyone in prayer.

After our delicious meal, the meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow.

The Treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$229.00.

Lois Thacher read the Secretary's minutes from the February 19, 2020 meeting. Both the Treasurer's report and Secretary's minutes were approved as read. Motion was made by Larry Ladage and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to approve. Motion carried.

The members all sang "Happy Birthday" to the people listed below as they had all celebrated birthdays in previous months:

- March: Don Billhorn
 - April: Mary Lou Billhorn, Roland Schmidt and Wilbert Huebner
 - June: Roger Deterding
 - July: Marilyn Lampe
- Anniversaries in June had been celebrated by Don and MaryLou Billhorn and Roger and Marlys Deterding.

Old Business

The Annual Community Club Meeting that was to have been March 28, 2020 was canceled due to the pandemic. The Grump candidates, Maryls Deterding and Larry Sauerbrei, will be carried over into 2021 for voting to see who the new 2021 Grump will be. The Queen candidate couldn't be carried over into 2021 as they have to be a junior in high school to qualify.

The Freedom Rock dedication will be postponed until next year because of the pandemic. The Freedom Rock dedication was to have been on June 14, 2020.

New Business

August 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. will be the Annual Historical Society's Ice Cream Social event. Social distancing will be practiced.

The *Chronicle* will be publishing old-time favorite recipes each month from various persons. If you have an old-time favorite recipe, please give it to MaryLou Billhorn and she will get it into the *Chronicle* each month to share.

The next Senior Citizens' meeting will be August 19, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. at Inspired.

Motion was made by Marlys Deterding and seconded by Don Billhorn to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
Lois Thacher, Secretary



Judy Henn

80th Birthday

Judy Henn will be celebrating her 80th birthday on August 10 with a card shower and a family dinner at a later date.

Her family includes daughters Lynnette (Brad) Biermann, Bondurant; Denise (Mike) Ritzman, Readlyn; Kim (Wayne) Brocka, Readlyn; stepsons Greg (Jo) Henn, Nashua; Jeff (Bonnie) Henn, New Hampton; and Mike (Bertha) Henn; eight grandchildren, nine step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and six step-great-grandchildren.

Judy retired as secretary from Wapsie Valley - Readlyn Elementary. Cards may be sent to P.O. Box 252, Readlyn, Iowa 50668.



ICE

Cream

Social

Readlyn Historical Museum

Sunday, August 9

5:00-7:00 PM

Ice Cream Sundaes

25¢

We will be practicing social distancing,
but feel free to get some to go!

SPECIALS:

Mondays
Tenderloin \$3.00

Tuesdays
Hamburger \$1.75

Wednesdays
Maid-Rite \$2.50

Thursdays
Taco \$2.00 Taco Salad \$6.00

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In Memory of Diane M. Johnson
Marlys Deterding

Thank you for your generosity

Foot Clinics Are Back

The Bremer County Health Department holds foot clinics at the Readlyn Library on the 3rd Thursday of every month.



The Call of the Wild
Trolls World Tour
The Hunt

Baby's First Book

The Readlyn Library strives to promote a lifetime of reading. If you know anyone in the Readlyn area that is expecting, stop by the library and register them to receive a free book. Help us welcome new Readlyn's newest residents to the world and also to the world of reading!

Hours:

Monday	10:00 - 5:00
Tuesday	10:00 - 5:00
Wednesday	10:00 - 5:00
Thursday	10:00 - 5:00
Friday	10:00 - 5:00
Saturday	9:00 - 12:00



Thank You! Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa



The Readlyn library is happy to announce that we have received a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa is a place of connection, where generosity and community action meet to create powerful impacts improving the quality of life for all. They connect inspired people to causes they care about most, make grants to strengthen effective nonprofits, and provide leadership on key community issues to make Iowa communities better places. Since 1956, they have been "here for good," working side-by-side people and organizations as a catalyst for positive community change. Today, CFNEIA is a public charitable nonprofit working in 20 Iowa counties to meet local needs and fulfill a vision of creating a vibrant region of thriving people.

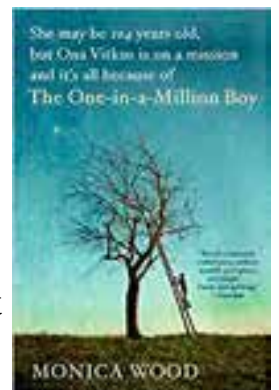
The grant that we have received will go towards purchasing safety and security equipment for the library. Most notably, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). An AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in adults over the age of 40. Unfortunately, the survival rate from cardiac arrest is currently poor – only around 10% of people survive, however, the initiation of early CPR and AED, can raise a victim's chance of survival to almost 80%.

Please help us in thanking the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa for their continued support. Visit their website <https://www.cfneia.org/> and checkout their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CFNEIA/>.

Readlyn Reads - Book Talk

Aug's title: The One in a Million Boy by Monica Wood
Pick up a copy at the library and join us for discussion on **Aug 27th**

So says 104-year-old Ona to the 11-year-old boy who's been sent to help her out every Saturday morning. As he refills the bird feeders and tidies the garden shed, Ona tells him about her long life, from first love to second chances. Soon she's confessing secrets she has kept hidden for decades.



One Saturday, the boy doesn't show up. Ona starts to think he's not so special after all, but then his father arrives on her doorstep, determined to finish his son's good deed. The boy's mother is not so far behind. Ona is set to discover that the world can surprise us at any age, and that sometimes sharing a loss is the only way to find ourselves again.

We are Empty Without You!

Do you have any interesting hobbies or collections you would like to share? Please ask us about having a month long showcase in the library display. This is a great opportunity to share an interesting passion with the community.





Compiled by Bob Thran

Readlyn, Long Ago

Living without electricity and running water

Put yourself back before we had electricity and running water in homes in Readlyn or Denver. Electricity came to Readlyn in circa 1911. Electricity came to Denver circa 1903. Electricity was used to power the WCF@N Railroad through Denver. The water tower went up in Readlyn soon after the 1913 Readlyn fire. Prior to these dates, people lived with kerosene lamps and candles for light. They had none of the many electrical appliances we have today. A well near the back door with a hand pump was the water source. Families used outdoor toilets, winter and summer. All water used for cooking, bathing, washing dishes and clothes was brought into the house with water pails.

There was a special pail used only for drinking water. Usually, a dipper hung in the pail. Everybody drank out of the same dipper.

In 1936, Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration. At this time, electricity was commonplace in cities and towns but largely unavailable on farms, ranches and other rural areas. Funds were provided by the REA to extend electric power lines to isolated areas. Even though lines were available, some farms did not partake because of the cost of hooking up. A long line inflated the cost.

Three individuals in our community experienced growing up with no electricity or running water in their homes. Marge Wittenburg Degelau 95, and Duane Schlo-man, 91, both living in the Willow Winds Assisted Living in Denver, and Laverne Brase 91, formerly of Readlyn now living in Waverly, lived their youth under conditions which are difficult to imagine.

Duane Schlo-man

Duane Schlo-man was raised on a farm three miles east of Readlyn and one-half mile south. His son, Gary, now owns the farm. He had one brother and one sister. His family had no electricity and no running water in their home until Duane was a sophomore in high school. Kerosene lamps provided light on the farm. Lamps furnished light for milking and other chores where necessary especially in winter. Duane said, "When we went upstairs to bed at night we never had a lamp, we had to feel our way in the dark. We felt our way back down in the morning."

Water was brought into the house for washing clothes, cooking, and taking baths



in a bucket. Dirty water was poured down a drain in the basement leading outside to a 55-gallon barrel dug deep into the ground. The barrel served as a septic tank. The washing machine was powered by a gas engine. Clothes were hung outside on the clothesline to dry. A battery-powered radio was their entertainment and kept them informed of the news. The radio batteries were huge and needed to be recharged in town.

A ceramic covered pail with a lid was



used to dispose of human waste accumulated during the night. Duane called the pail a thunderjug. The thunderjug was emptied each morning into the outside toilet. During the day, the outside toilet was used. I asked Duane to describe his reaction when water and electricity came into their home. His reply, "We felt we were living high on the hog. We didn't have to empty the thunderjug."

Duane attended the Klinger Lutheran School and graduated from Denver High School in 1948. He married Evelyn Krueger in 1950. They had three children, Gary, Becky and Bradly. Duane is retired from John Deere.

Laverne Brase

Laverne Brase's parents farmed one mile south of Tripoli and one-and-a-half miles west. There was a cluster of farms in their neighborhood that the REA electric lines had not yet reached. Laverne was in seventh grade country school when electricity came to their farm. They did have water in the house from a small pressure tank, but water was used sparingly. Whenever they needed water, a pump powered a gasoline engine out by the windmill forcing the water into the house. The toilet in the indoor bathroom was used only when the temperature reached 10 to 20 degrees below zero.

For light at night, his mother would bring Laverne and his two older sisters up to bed using a kerosene lantern. When older, they managed the lantern by themselves.

The family had a radio powered by a car battery, not often used because it ran down the battery. I asked, "What was like when you finally had electricity in the house?" Lavern answered, "We thought we were in heaven!"

The country school Laverne attended had an outdoor toilet. Students went to a neighbor every day for drinking water. Two students carried the water back to the school in a pail with a cover. The school had no electricity and lamps were never used for lighting.

Lavern graduated from Tripoli High

School in 1946. Laverne and Jeanette Maurer were married in 1961 and had eight children. They first farmed the Brase home place near Tripoli, next move was to a farm near Westgate, and finally to the Louie Maurer farm east of Readlyn. In 2016, they built a house in Waverly and are now living near two of their children.

Marge Wittenburg Degelau

Marge Wittenburg Degelau, age 95, daughter of Jack and Rosetta Sell Wittenburg, experienced the luxury of electricity and running water in her home for the first time when she was in high school. The farm the family was on was located northwest of Artesian toward Tripoli. There were six children in the family, Marge was number four.

Marge stressed that many other families in the neighborhood were in the same situation as her family, no electricity or running water. She had no complaints about her life in her early years. That was the way of life then. They adapted to it.

The house was lit by kerosene lamps with the children sharing lamps for use at night. Chores were carried out at night by the light of kerosene lamps. They had a battery-operated radio.

Their water was pumped by hand from a nearby well. All the water used in the house for cooking, bathing, cleaning etc. was carried into the house in pails and the dirty water was carried back out. There was no bathroom in the house. If you had to get up at night, you went to the outside toilet.

The family, like many others, had a shed away from the house in which clothes were washed. A wooden stove heated the water. The washing machine was powered by a gasoline engine. Clothes were hung outside to dry even in winter.

Marge said when electricity finally came to their farm. "We thought we were in seventh heaven."

Marge Degelau graduated from Waverly High School in 1942. She married Harold Degelau in 1944 while he was in service in World War II. Harold died in 1981. Marge has one daughter, Connie. Marge attended Pitzes, a cosmetology school in Waterloo, after high school. She operated a beauty shop in her home in Denver until she retired at age 68.

Edna Bast Dietz

Edna's younger life is unique! She had lived on a farm near Waverly that had electricity and running water but, when Edna was in fifth grade, her father, Otto Bast, moved the family of six children still at home to the farm located a half mile east of the Wapsi on Highway 3. Here they had no running water in their house. An outhouse was close by.

When asked about the lifestyle change, Edna said, "It wasn't so bad, they left all the lamps, it was something we knew we had to do and get used to."

Their farm had a unique water supply, an artesian well. Water was forced by nature to a big tank in the haymow. Overflow from the tank furnished water for livestock and ran into a small pond. When the Wapsi left its banks and went back down, the pond would be full of carp. Mother and a neighbor lady canned the fish. Through canning the bones would dissolve.

There was a faucet on the well which opened to fill the pails of water carried into the house. All dirty water was carried back out. The family used a wringer washing machine powered by a gasoline engine mounted under the bowl of the machine. The wash was carried outside to dry.

Kerosene lamps furnished light at night. Edna said, "It was hard to do our homework by the dim light of the lamps. The lamp's glass chimneys would smudge over and we always had to clean them. We had a battery-operated radio. Dad listened to The Grand Ole Opry every Saturday night and to Paul Harvey at noon."

An outside toilet was nearby. At times a chamber pot was used at night. The Bast family lived without the convenience of light and water in their house for two and one-half years. In 1951, a power line was strung from the east past the Wapsi. Later, Otto installed plumbing that forced water from the faucet by the well to the basement, kitchen and bathroom of the house.

Edna said when they again had electricity, "It was special. We had electricity before near Waverly and, after more than two years without, it was great to have."

To satisfy my own curiosity, I asked Edna, "What about rattlesnakes, living so close to the Wapsi?" Her answer, "When we walked on a path to the Wapsi, we saw some and we could hear them rattle, but we were a smart bunch of kids, we left them alone."

Enda graduated from Readlyn High School in 1956. She attended Wartburg, earned a teacher's certificate, and taught in Janesville two and one-half years. She married Burton Dietz in 1960. She and Burton live on their farm near Nashua, retired, but still help at times with their son's farming operation. They have five children, Dan, Steve, Linda, Debra and Allen.

Comment by Bob

I am grateful to these four friends, Marge, Duane, Edna and Laverne, for sharing their early lives. Those of us who have always had the convenience of a light switch and indoor bathrooms appreciate you being so candid. The sharing of your childhood has enabled us to learn about the harsh living conditions you endured many years ago. MANY THANKS TO THE FOUR OF YOU!



RECIPE: Sour Cream Raisin Pie
 From the kitchen of: *Martha Rathe*

Ingredients:

1 C. sour cream	3/4 C. sugar
1 C. chopped raisins	2 egg yolks
2 T. flour	1/2 tsp. cloves cinnamon
1 unbaked crust	1/2 tsp. salt

Directions:

Beat sugar and eggs, and rest of the ingredients. Bake at 350°F for one hour.

Beat egg whites. Add 2 T. sugar and 1/2 tsp. vanilla. Put on top of pie. then bake until golden brown.

What's Cooking?

Compiled by *MaryLou Billhorn*

We are starting a new feature in the *Chronicle* this month. We will share a recipe of long ago and one of today.

If anyone has an old recipe or favorite that you would like to share, and any comments that make it special, we would like to hear those too. They will then be printed in a future issue of the newspaper.

Barb Meyer shared this Sour Cream Raisin Pie recipe of Martha Rathe who was born in 1890 and lived until the age of 96, passing away in 1986. This was Barb's husband, Bob's, favorite pie.

Jessica Anderson shared her hubby's baked bean recipe and said, "This recipe is special to me because my hubby makes them and they are absolutely delicious. His beans are a meal in itself. Hope you all enjoy."

My Hubby's Baked Beans
 From the Kitchen of: *Jessica Anderson*

2 Large cans of Bush Hickory or Maple Baked Beans
 Hickory BBQ Sauce
 Mustard, Ketchup, Garlic
 1 lb. hot sausage
 1 lb. hamburger
 1 lb. Maple or Hickory Bacon
 1 jalapeno
 1/2 c. brown sugar
 Salt and pepper

Put beans in a deep 9x13 aluminum pan. Cover beans in a generous coat of BBQ sauce. Drizzle with mustard and ketchup in 4-5 thick lines both directions in the pan. Fry up bacon, burger, and sausage. Drain and add to beans after the meat has cooled, save some bacon to add to the top of the beans. Add brown sugar. Sprinkle bacon on top. Dice jalapeño and sprinkle on top. Cover with aluminum foil, cut small slits in the foil and smoke at 225 for 4 hours.



Readlyn Gardeners would like to welcome new members Ruth Happel and Deb Sauerbrei. Please contact Pat Wehr @ 319-415-2001 if you would like to join this ambitious group. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Roger and Marlys Detterding, Ruth Happel, Bonnie Erickson, Pat Wehr; back row: Sam and Daniel Platte, Deb Sauerbrei; not pictured: Velda Hagenow, Ruth Wittenburg and Gene Thurm.



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Readlyn

Outdoors

By: Eric Johnston

“The Trail Camera Advantage”

ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

It's the middle of summer and it's hot! But long before fall arrives, I've been preparing for the upcoming deer season. Over the years, I've made hunting white-tails a 365-day-a-year process, there's always something you can be doing to make your deer season a more successful one. There's literally not a day goes by of the year that I don't think about something that has to do with my deer hunting and ways to improve. From shed antler hunting in late winter/early spring to planting spring and fall food plots, there's always something on my mind for a better deer season.

This month I'm going to talk about trail cameras and how to use them to your advantage. For those who don't know what a trail camera is, it's a camera you place in the woods that snaps a picture when game walks in front of the built-in sensor. Now, trail cameras have come a long ways since I first started using them amongst my tactics. When I bought my first trail camera it used 35mm film, took 24 pictures and had a flash on it that could spook a rhino! I was always so excited to take a roll of film to the one-hour photo developer usually to end up disappointed with a few deer pictures and some random squirrel and weeds pictures. These days technology has taken these cameras to do things I never would have imagined. Today we have twenty mega pixel capability, the ability to take video, infrared flash and, believe it or not, you can even buy cameras that run on a cellular signal and send you the pic by email or text the moment it's taken! Also, instead of the days of the 35mm film rolls, we now have SD cards that can store thousands of images and battery life to leave cameras out year-round. I don't have the cellular cameras, while I would love to, I'm sure I would never get anything else done but stare at my phone all day!

Let's start with a couple different ways I use cameras. First off a trail camera is a great way to do an inventory, so to speak, of the deer in your hunting area. I use them as inventory tools through the summer and then again in winter as the Iowa gun seasons close. I will usually start to

put my cameras out in June of each year to begin to see what's around. I try to pick high percentage areas in the summer to get my pictures, such as a water source with a high concentration of deer activity around it. Or, I like to place it along a fence crossing into a hay or bean field. The deer, especially bucks, spend most of their summer in open areas feeding on hay and beans. As we move into fall, around late-September, scrapes and rubs will start to appear in the woods. This is when my cameras move from summer spots to these scrape and rub lines in the timber. This is the time you can really start to pattern a deer using a camera. The camera will tell you exactly what time a deer has been moving past your stand. You will begin to see patterns of deer movement as you check your cameras. By placing your camera over a scrape (a roughed-up patch of dirt made by deer to mark territory by scent), you will see how often a buck is checking the area and whether or not he's doing it in daylight. It's also a lot of fun to see all the different bucks that will check a scrape. You will start to see new bucks move into your area as their core area expands looking for does during the rut. As the season winds down, I will once again move my cameras back to food sources. This time of year (January through March), I will use the cameras to see what bucks made it through the season to begin to set my sights on a particular deer for next season. Also, I like to watch and see when the bucks start to drop their antlers. This tells me the best time to start shed antler hunting.

As far as camera set-up goes, a few tips I have for you include, set your cameras approximately four to four and a half feet off the ground. Any lower you'll have a lot of squirrel and raccoon pictures, any higher and you'll have pictures of ears and antler tips. Always make sure you have weeds and debris clear of the camera. There's nothing more annoying than an SD card full of weeds blowing in the breeze! Also, never set your camera facing direct sunlight either rising or setting. Warmth from direct sun can trigger some cameras, and, again, you have pictures of weeds. Always give yourself the highest percentage to get a good pic. If you're planning to get pic-



tures on a deer trail, aim it down the trail as opposed to across the trail. This will give your camera time to trigger and still have the deer in view. Use these tips and you should get good pictures.

In closing, checking cameras, seeing the deer in the area, and dreaming of getting

a chance at a big buck you have pictures of adds to your whole hunting experience! Add a couple cameras to your deer hunting arsenal this year and I guarantee it will make you more successful and add another element of excitement to your deer hunting! Until next time, Get Outdoors!





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4,068 prairie plugs planted at the Readlyn Stormwater Wetland

The City of Readlyn received funding from the State Revolving Fund and IDALS Water Quality Initiative funding with the building of the new sewer plant. The City submitted a project request to improve water quality runoff. This project involved turning ag land on the south side of town into a wetland. Two-thirds of Readlyn's stormwater runoff go to the southwest corner of town and across several acres of

farm ground. The City saw this as a great opportunity to improve water quality with this project.

Wapsie Valley 5th grade wrote a grant to Northeast Iowa RC&D in May 2019 to purchase \$5000 worth of prairie plugs to work with the community to plant at the Readlyn Stormwater Wetlands. The schedule of planting was delayed due to weather im-

Continued on next page



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Prairie plugs planted at the Readlyn Stormwater Wetland

Continued from previous page

pecting construction of the wetland. Then the planting was planned for May 2020, but COVID-19 caused another delay. Bremer County Conservation staff worked together to create a planting event for June 24. Wapsie Valley students and families, Readlyn

residents, Iowa State Extension, NRCS, SWCD, Bremer County Nature Alliance, Boy Scout troops, 4-H groups, and public were all invited to come plant. Fifty-six people helped plant the 4,068 prairie plugs from June 24-26, for a total of 167 hours dedicated to this project. Bremer County

Conservation naturalists are planning on using the wetlands for education classes along with future monarch tagging events. The City of Readlyn is a great example of how communities can positively impact our environment and water quality. Enjoy a walk at the wetland later this fall!



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Rain Garden planted at Wapsie Valley Fairbank Elementary

Wapsie Valley 5th grade wrote a grant to Northeast Iowa RC&D in May 2019 to build a rain garden on the southwest side of their basketball court. The rain garden will serve as a way to stop water from sitting on the basketball court which is a problem for the school. The area was planted with native plants that will provide an area to study insects.

Wapsie Valley combined this project with the Readlyn Stormwater Wetland planting to save cost on shipping the plants. The schedule of planting was delayed due to weather impacting construction of the wetland. Then the planting was planned for May 2020, but COVID-19 caused another delay.

Thanks to Wapsie Valley staff, they removed the sod from the rain garden site. Then on Tuesday, July 7, Mrs. Bockholt and the Auel family planted the rain garden. Wapsie Valley staff will help water the garden in the summer months, then the 6th grade class will help with maintaining the site once school begins.

The rain garden will be a great outdoor classroom for teachers to use.



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Ava and Fred Auel helped plant a rain garden at Wapsie Valley Fairbank Elementary's basketball court in July. Photos contributed



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