

Farewell to all Eco-Bus trip friends,

After 34 years as a Naturalist/Environmental Educator for Polk County Conservation it is time to retire and start a new chapter.



It has been quite a ride over the past 25 years of planning Eco-bus tours and discovering the many wonders of Iowa with all of you! Thanks for the laughs, friendship, kindness and many, many happy memories! You helped me see the world thru a new lens. Thanks for stepping on the bus with me! Keep on exploring.

With gratitude,

Lori Foresman-Kirpes

Naturalist & Eco-bus trip planner 1998 to 2024



Fees include, motorcoach transportation, meals and all tour fees.

Cancellation Policy:

Reservations are fully refundable prior to registration deadline. After deadline, registration may be refunded less the \$10 cancellation fee if space can be filled.



Step on board...re-discover Iowa with us!

**Eco-Bus Trip Registration opens
March 30, 2024
8:00 a.m.**

*Register online at:
www.leadingyououtdoors.org
Go to calendar tab*

Eco-Bus 2024 Group Tour Contact:
Patrice Petersen-Keys
515-323-5359
patrice.petersen-keys@polkcountyiowa.gov

Polk County Conservation 2024 Eco-Bus Tours



Polk County Conservation
12130 NW 128th Street
Granger, IA 50109
515-323-5300

www.leadingyououtdoors.org



Barns, Bees, Moos, and Kangaroos

Thursday, June 13
7:00 am to 6:30 pm
Cedar Falls, IA



Explore a variety of unique stops in the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. Start the day at Hansen Dairy Farm with a tour of the cows/calves and kangaroos too! Try a sample of their homemade ice cream. Next stop is the Tall Grass Prairie Center for a tour of their unique operation and insight into their many educational projects. Lunch will be at Barn Happy and time to shop in this one-of-a-kind barn boutique. The afternoon stops include touring the exotic plants at the UNI Botanical Center followed by a tractor/wagon ride thru the Cedar Valley Arboretum. We will tour the butterfly garden and the Sesquicentennial Forest. Come enjoy the day exploring North Central Iowa.

Fee: \$120 per person

Depart from Prairie Meadows NW parking lot 1, Altoona, IA

Registration Deadline: May 30



Music on the Mississippi

Thursday July 11
7:00 am to 6:00 pm
Moline, IL



Journey to the mighty Mississippi River with a fun group of explorers. Enjoy the live music of the “Classic Oldies” while cruising down the river aboard the Celebration Belle. Music and food will both be bountiful! The cruise will begin with the “famous sticky rolls” and fruit, then a full buffet lunch followed by an afternoon snack. Bring your dancing shoes, binoculars and sense of adventure for this day cruise on the Mighty Mississippi.

Fee: \$140 per person

Depart from Prairie Meadows NW parking lot 1, Altoona, IA

Registration Deadline: June 28

Pearl Buttons & Historic Pine Grist Mill

Thursday, August 22
7:00 am to 7:30 pm
Muscatine, IA



Button, button, who’s got the button? Travel with Polk County Eco-bus trips as we discover the history of the Pearl Button Capital of the World. Muscatine produced 1.5 billion pearl buttons annually in the early 1900’s. Hear the story of this unique industry. Explorations will also take us to the oldest working Pine Grist Mill west of the Mississippi River. Other stops include: Wild Cat Den State Park, the Environmental Learning Center, Muscatine Art Center and Wilton’s Candy Kitchen.

Pearl Buttons & Historic Pine Grist Mill trip (cont’d)

Fee: \$115 per person

Depart from Prairie Meadows NW parking lot 1, Altoona, IA

Registration Deadline: August 8

Autumn, Apples & Adventure

Thursday, September 12

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Jefferson, IA



Journey to historic Greene County. We will step back in time at the RVP~1875 Historic Furniture Shop and Museum and learn the art of custom furniture making. Ride the elevator to the top of the 168 ft Carillon Bell Tower and view Iowa’s rural landscape from a “bird’s eye” view. Tour the Jefferson Gardens and Sally’s Bird Alley. Eat lunch at The Centennial and hear the history of the “Why not us group”. We will also tour Deal’s Orchards, have homemade apple pie and enjoy the bounty of Fall produce. Join us for a fun day of exploration and discovery.

Fee: \$115 per person

Depart: Jester Park Nature Center, 12130 NW 128th Street, Granger, IA

Registration deadline is August 29

Register online at:
www.leadingyououtdoors.org