

American School of Wild Life Protection

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DR. PAMMEL'S CLASS IN BOTANY

Twelfth Annual Session "The Wild Life School"

August 4th to 16th, Inclusive, 1930

Executive Committee:

F. G. Bell; C. M. Brooks; W. B. Pilkington
K. D. Bickel; P. K. Kossack

McGREGOR, IOWA

May 15, 1930

To all Lovers of Nature:

It is a pleasure to invite you to come to the "Wild Life School" because we know you will have a very enjoyable time, and a vacation that is well worth while. We anticipate having a very attractive program and a large attendance, and hope you may be with us in August. If there is any further information you would like, will be pleased to hear from you.

Respectfully,

F. G. Bell, Chairman

The Executive Committee

Ruth Suckow, Iowa Author, Describes "The Pocket City" and "The Wild Life School"

71 Bedford Street
New York City
April 19, 1930.

Mr. F. G. Bell,
McGregor, Iowa.
Dear Mr. Bell:

You asked me to write something about the Wild Life School. I don't mean to attempt any detailed description of the classes and their scope, since it has been some years after my visit to McGregor, and I was only a visitor. But I shall be glad to try to mention a few of the things that made my two weeks there such an interesting holiday.

I like the whole idea of the Wild Life School. Although I have never taken any part in the state conservation program, I am most heartily grateful that it is in existence, and has succeeded in keeping for us even a portion of the irreplaceable wild life that our practical civilization has been in such a hurry to obliterate. If any place in the Middlewest could be chosen as the natural center for such a movement, it ought to be McGregor. It has everything—unspoiled woods, a lingering wild beauty, remnants of the old Indian civilization, birds and wild flowers, a more obviously romantic history than most of our Iowa towns, some natural curiosities—such as the "pictured rocks"—thrown in for good measure, and one of the loveliest river views to be found along the whole course of the Mississippi. I find myself entertaining the conflicting hopes that McGregor will always remain somewhat set off and not too crowded, and that everyone in Iowa will take advantage, some summer, of a delightful and unique local institution.

I doubt if I enjoyed any part of my visit to McGregor more than the drive there, through rich, rolling farming country, with big barns set on slopes, and wooded hills. I am not going to go into the details of the outing—the classes, the walks, the river trip, the corn roast and the native foods dinner—because, enjoyable as they all were, they belong to the School program, and its officers can describe them so much more adequately. I would rather speak of some of the by-the-way things that I am afraid they might forget. One of these was the sight of people from all over the state, all kinds of people, come here spontaneously, without the call of a convention. Another was a trip through the old stone Dousman mansion in Prairie du Chien with its dilapidated splendor that cried out for preservation and appreciation. Another was the pleasure of eating breakfast in the morning on the screened porch of the inn up above the river mists that made the coffee taste so good.

To me, by no means the least charm of the place is the town of McGregor itself, built down in a pocket of the bluffs and up the hillsides, a pioneer river town, with all its local quaintnesses and its individuality—the long Main Street characteristic of river towns, the ferries, the old livery stable owner with his dozen white cats, the pearl shop, the bottles of colored sand in the stores made into flags and ships and flowers, the park with the iron animals, the spring with its soft-tasting mineral water, the golf course on that wonderful high point of land surrounded by woods and purple clover, the paths up the sides of the bluffs, and the old houses backed up against the hill or set high above the street with a wall to keep the old-fashioned flowers from spilling out of the lawns. When I mention all these things, I almost wish I hadn't. McGregor is not an exploited resort town. It is still itself. It should be discovered, not described.

Sincerely,

RUTH SUCKOW.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF WILD LIFE PROTECTION, better known as the "WILD LIFE SCHOOL," will hold its twelfth annual session on McGregor Heights, McGregor, Iowa, Aug. 4th to the 16th, 1930.

The school was founded in 1919 by Rev. George Bennett, and teaches a better understanding and a higher appreciation of nature subjects, and conservation in its many forms.

THE SCHOOL CAMPUS includes The Heights, Ridgewood, the wooded hills about McGregor and the Mississippi River with its many islands. These unspoiled areas furnish the reason why the school exists at this point. The natural working material is here in profusion: Birds, plants, trees, animal life, fish, stone outcroppings, springs, waterfalls, sinkholes, Indians, Indian Mounds and earthworks, historical sites—in fact, everything needed for an out-of-doors class room.

THE WILD LIFE SCHOOL is sponsored by the citizens of McGregor in appreciation of their natural scenic heritage, and by the Iowa Conservation Commission and the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund, of which Dr. W. T. Hornaday is chairman. This School is not operated for profit, and is made possible by the generous contribution of time and service by the members of the splendid faculty.

THE IOWA BOARD OF CONSERVATION are members of the Wild Life School and strongly endorse the movement.

SUBJECTS TAUGHT, AND MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY selected from the best Universities and Colleges in the country.

Geology	Astronomy
Botany	American Indians
Ornithology	Forestry
Archaeology	American History
Zoology	Amateur Photography
Entomology	Conservation
	Ecology

GEOLOGY—Dr. Geo. F. Kay, University of Iowa; Dr. Stookey, Coe College; Dr. A. O. Thomas, University of Iowa.

BOTANY—Dr. L. H. Pammel, Iowa State College; Dr. Bohumil Shimek, University of Iowa.

ARCHAEOLOGY—Dr. Charles R. Keyes, Cornell College.

AMERICAN INDIANS—Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore, University of Michigan.

FORESTRY—Prof. G. B. MacDonald, Iowa State College; Prof. I. T. Bode, Iowa State College.

INSECTS—Prof. F. B. Paddock, Iowa State College.

ECOLOGY—Dr. J. N. Aikman, Ames, Iowa.

ASTRONOMY—Dr. D. W. Morehouse, President, Drake University.

BIRDS—Dr. Paul Reddington, Chief, U. S. Biological Survey; Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the Audubon Societies; Jesse L. Smith, Supt. of Schools, Highland Park, Illinois.

AMERICAN HISTORY—Captain W. A. Blair, Davenport, Iowa.

ON "INDIAN DAY," the program will be in charge of W. F. Dickens, Superintendent Indian Field Service, U. S. Department of the Interior.

CONSERVATION—Mrs. Francis E. Whitley, Chairman, Committee on Forestry and Natural Scenery, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Webster City, Iowa.

WILD LIFE REFUGE—Ray C. Steele, Superintendent of the Upper Mississippi Wild Life Refuge, U. S. Biological Survey.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS—Mrs. Henry Frankel, Des Moines, Iowa, Member of the Iowa Conservation Board; C. F. Culler

and Harry L. Canfield, U. S. Fisheries Bureau; W. F. Dickens, Indian Field Service, U. S. Department of the Interior; Benjamin H. Hibbard, University of Wisconsin; Prof. Homer R. Dill, Director of the University Museum, University of Iowa; Chief Baker, Dubuque Area Boy Scouts; John D. Clinton, Fayette, Iowa, and many others.

We anticipate having Glenn Frank, President of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, with us.

Students come in direct contact with the instructors and may ask any questions they desire. The morning sessions are informal talks on nature subjects and conservation. There are no books and no examinations. Field trips start from the Pavilion in the afternoons. In the evenings there are usually two or three lectures, illustrated by slides or moving pictures. Occasionally there are musical numbers and special features.

AUTOMOBILE TRIPS are frequently made by the students to the many interesting places in the McGregor region.

RIVER TRIPS are a part of the school program. Classes make trips to the great lotus lily beds, fish rescue stations, clam and pearl fishing beds, water fowl breeding grounds, the Nelson Dewey State Park of Wisconsin and the famous Winnishiek Bottoms. Cruisers, launches and boats are available for excursions, fishing parties and field trips.

THE STEAMER CAPITOL, the largest steamboat on the river, will run an all day excursion to Lansing, on Saturday, August 16th. This trip will take you past the Winnishiek Bottoms and the quaint river town of Lynxville. The boat is wonderfully equipped for making the day enjoyable. A twelve piece orchestra furnishes music, and a wonderful dance floor extends the full length of the second deck. The three decks are equipped with comfortable seats and chairs. The cafeteria service is excellent, or you may take your own picnic lunch. Everything is provided for your comfort and enjoyment. The Steamboat Trip has become an annual affair and is a fitting climax to the school session. Tickets: 75c for adults, 35c for children. The trip lasts from 9:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M.

On this excursion, Capt. Blair of the Steamer Capitol, will deliver his illustrated lecture, "Mark Twain and His River."

OTHER FEATURES are being provided but cannot be listed at this early date. The Faculty Committee and the Executive Committee are arranging an unusually fine program which will keep you interested during the time you are here.

NO EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS are required for registration. Certificates of attendance are issued to teachers or others desiring them at the close of the session.

TUITION is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children under fifteen. Special rates made for organized groups of Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls.

EQUIP YOURSELF with comfortable out-of-door clothing, tramping shoes, binoculars, magnifying glass, notebook and camera. Come prepared to have a good time.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS are reasonable. Furnished cottages, capacity from four to six people, are available at \$15.00 to \$21.00 per week. Rooms in private homes, 75c to \$1.00 per day; rooms in hotel, \$1.00 to \$2.00 per day. Meals can be secured at hotels or restaurants.

We have new restaurants that would do credit to a much larger city and three good hotels. Cottages are equipped for cooking and preparing meals. Cottage renters are asked to bring their own linen.

THE HEIGHTS INN, on the school campus, furnishes excellent meals and puts up lunches for field trips.

TENT SPACE FOR CAMPERS is free.

MAKE RESERVATIONS for rooms and cottages early.

A number of the broadcasting stations, in the Mississippi Valley, will broadcast news of the school from time to time.