

# Quarterly Newsletter

WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY  
March 2025

## 2024 Whiterock Bumble Bee Survey Results

### Data summary

Total bumble bees identified: 42

Average number of bumble bees per survey: 7

Number of species identified: 4, *Bombus auricomus*, *Bombus fervidus*, and *Bombus griseocollis* and *Bombus pensylvanicus*



*Bombus auricomus*  
(Photo by Wyoming Field Guide)



*Bombus fervidus*  
(Photo by Clay Bolt)



by Alex Surcica

*Bombus griseocollis*  
(Photo by Alex Surcica)



*Bombus pensylvanicus*  
(Photo by Salvador Vitanza)

16 species of bumble bees have been found in Iowa. One categorized as endangered with many other species facing declining numbers.

Whiterock was excited to partner with research students at Iowa State University to study bumble bee activity within our prairie strips which create micro-habitats located in our agricultural fields.

🐝 In 2024, Whiterock Conservancy partnered with an ISU research study on bumble bee species, specifically those in habitats or micro-habitats in or near agricultural practices. Bumble bee species have experienced a dramatic decline in the past decade due to habitat loss, pathogen exposure, pesticides and more.

Adding native prairie strips into agricultural fields helps provide valuable habitat, nesting space and forage for bees. We are excited to note that our location exceeded the average 4.57 bumble bees per survey with an average of 7 at the Whiterock site!

Stay tuned, this survey is being extended into 2025! 🐝

WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY IS A 5,500-ACRE NON-PROFIT LAND TRUST WHOSE MISSION IS TO DEMONSTRATE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE LAND THROUGH REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION OF IOWA'S NATURAL RESOURCES AND BY PROVIDING EXPOSURE THROUGH RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

STRETCHING ALONG A SEVEN-MILE SECTION OF THE MIDDLE RACCOON RIVER VALLEY, THE CONSERVANCY OFFERS 40+ MILES OF HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, AND EQUESTRIAN TRAILS, PADDLING OPPORTUNITIES BENEATH SANDSTONE CLIFFS, AND EPIC STAR PARTIES. SPEND THE NIGHT AT ONE OF THE SCENIC CAMPSITES, THE HISTORIC FARMHOUSE, OR ONE OF OUR SPACIOUS RENTALS AND EXPERIENCE IOWA'S UNIQUE LANDSCAPE.



**WEARY  
RAMBLERS  
CONCERT**

**WHITEROCK  
CONSERVANCY RIVER BARN**  
7TH JUNE, 2025 - 7:00PM - \$10  
1313 FIG AVENUE, COON RAPIDS, IA  
[WHITEROCKCONSERVANCY.ORG](http://WHITEROCKCONSERVANCY.ORG)



## Canoe and Kayak Rentals

The scenic 6 mile Middle Raccoon River water trail begins at the Riverside Park in Coon Rapids and ends at Whiterock Conservancy River Campground.

Floats are by reservation only - weather and river conditions may prevent floats. (see [whiterockconservancy.org](http://whiterockconservancy.org) or our Facebook page (for up to date information.)

Cost: \$50.00 first Canoe/kayak  
Each additional is \$30.00  
Canoes hold 2-3 people, kayaks hold 1 person.  
Included: life vests, paddles

The float takes 2-4 hrs depending on the river stage and the amount of paddling dependent on the water levels.

Departure times:  
9:00 am and 1:00 pm from River Campground 7 days a week. Please call Guest Services at 712-790-8221 ext. 1 to reserve your float. Please arrive at the River Campground no later than 15 minutes prior to your departure time.

Whiterock offers shuttle service if you would like to bring your own kayak/canoe. Cost is \$15.00 per person.



## Slow Sunday Drives at Whiterock Conservancy

Beginning at 1pm at the Historic Garst Farmhouse (1390 Hwy 141) This will be a 2-3 hour ride along the scenic trails of Whiterock Conservancy. Parking is available for trailers in the overflow lot of the Bur Oak Visitor Center. Price per vehicle is \$30 cash paid upon arrival. Please bring exact change. Proof of insurance and valid drivers license is required. Please arrive early so we can start the drive at 1 pm. Questions? 712-790-8221 ext. 1



## Whiterock Conservancy 2025 Trail Passes

Now is the perfect time to purchase your 2025 Whiterock Conservancy Trail Passes! We offer passes for hiking, biking and equestrian usage.

To purchase visit our website [www.whiterockconservancy.org](http://www.whiterockconservancy.org) or call 712-790-8221 ext. 1.



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Send us your favorite outdoor photos of Whiterock!



Entries can be submitted April 1, 2025 to November 1, 2025!

**4 Categories:**

**1) People and Nature**

Images can show a person or people in an outdoor setting, displaying interactions between people while at WRC.

**2) Landscape on Whiterock Conservancy**

Images can include pictures of the night skies at Whiterock Conservancy.

**3) Animals in their natural environments**

Capture their behaviors, habitats, or relationships with other species.

**4) Plants, Fungi, & Flowers**

Images of any plant, fungi, or flowers in its natural environment. Images should highlight their ecological roles, importance, unique features, or incredible beauty. Includes flowers, trees, shrubs, and vegetation in general.

**We are looking for striking color and black and white images of nature, and land, from anywhere on Whiterock Conservancy grounds.**

**In entering the competition, you acknowledge that you agree that Whiterock Conservancy may publish at their sole discretion any photos for marketing purposes, which could include all media, including social media, online, and print. Entries found to conflict with the rules will be disqualified.**

**Winner to receive a 1-Night Stay at Hollyhock Cottage**

**For complete rules and information, please visit:  
[www.whiterockconservancy.org](http://www.whiterockconservancy.org)**



**Donate:**

Your gift is extremely important to our work at Whiterock. Donations provide resources that make an immediate impact - whether you make your commitment annually, as a monthly sustaining gift, or to honor a loved one with a tribute or memorial gift.



**Online:**

[Whiterockconservancy.org/donate](http://Whiterockconservancy.org/donate)

**By Mail:**

Make your contribution payable to Whiterock Conservancy, and mail to the following address:

Whiterock Conservancy

1436 Highway 141

Coon Rapids, IA 50058

**By Phone:**

(712) 790-8221 ext 2

**Whiterock Conservancy Staff:**

**Executive Director:** Kate Compton

**Accountant:** Audi Sorber

**Administrative Assistant:** Shelly Schlake

**Land Stewardship Director:** Tyler Bruck

**Land Operations Manager:** Matt Reiling

**Land Facilities Staff:** Dave Burmeister

**Natural Resources Technician:** Matt Wagner

**Guest Services Manager:** Laura Larson

**Outdoor Recreation Manager:** James Johnston

**Housekeeping:** Debbie Davis

**Housekeeping:** Shelly Overton

There is an additional way to help Whiterock Conservancy achieve our goals for 2025!

Please consider donating an item from our wish list. A full list of items can be found on our website: [www.whiterockconservancy.org](http://www.whiterockconservancy.org)

Please bring or ship items to the Bur Oak Visitor Center: 1436 Hwy 141, Coon Rapids, IA 50058



Kate Compton, Executive Director & Todd Coffelt, Board Secretary at Iowa State Capital for Environmental Advocacy Day

**Upcoming Events:**

**Garst Farmhouse Tours:**

First Saturday of every month,

1pm-3pm, 1390 IA-141, Coon Rapids, IA

**Slow Sunday Drive:**

May 11, 2025 1PM-4PM

1390 IA-141, Coon Rapids, IA

**Whiterock Annual Free Fishing Derby:**

May 25, 2025 9AM

1390 IA-141, Coon Rapids, IA

**Weary Ramblers Concert:**

June 7, 2025 7PM

River House 1313 Fig Ave, Coon Rapids, IA

**Backcountry Horsemen Scavenger Hunt:**

June 14, 2025

Oak Ridge Campground 1564 125th St Coon Rapids, IA

**Slow Sunday Drive:**

June 22, 2025 1PM-4PM

1390 IA-141, Coon Rapids, IA

**Whitrock Ultra Run 50 Mile and 50K:**

July 25th-28th 2025

1436 IA-141, Coon Rapids, IA

*Thank you for reading!*