



# The Otter Creek Quarterly

Winter, 2014-15  
Vol. 29 No. 4

*A Newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board*

*Check out the 2015 Extreme Outdoors Activities on Page 6!*

## ***New Campsites – in the Pines!***

Dan Cohen, BCCB Director

The campground at Fontana Park was given some special attention this fall. All electric boxes have been upgraded, and the dump station and fill hydrant were relocated to allow campers to use these services while traveling one-way on the campground loop. Most notable of all the changes are seven new reservable campsites – each nicely nestled in the pine plantings.

For several years, the Conservation Board has had a policy allowing people to reserve seven sites. The reservable sites are appreciated by people who like to know they have specific places to camp when they arrive. However, the sites located along the west side of the campground presented some problems.

Following large rain events, the area most prone to flooding is the west side of the campground, which is closest to the creek. The occurrence of these partial-floods has been increasing. People who reserve a campsite, pay for their site in advance. Wanting to honor these reservations, Conservation Board staff scrambled to find high, dry alternative places. Another issue with past reservations was shared electrical pedestals, and length of each designated site. The sites were not all the same length, so office staff had to explain possible limitations to each person who called about a reservation. At times, this led to confusion when people arrived.

The new and improved reservable sites alleviate all the issues listed above. Each site contains a 65-foot long pad, with

ample space for a picnic table and fire ring. For those wishing to use a tent, there is space beyond the pad for staking down into the earth. Each site has its own electric service. All sites are high and dry.

Funding for the campground improvements largely will come from camping revenues. A \$1,500 grant also was received from the Hazleton Housing Corp

Reservations can now be made for all of 2015. The sites are available on a first-call basis. If a given site is not reserved in advance, it becomes open for drop-in use. The rest of the campground is available for use on a first-come basis. To reserve the new sites for dates in 2015, make your reservations as soon as possible by calling 319-636-2617. Site locations can be seen by visiting [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com).



**Above:** New campsites will be available in the Fontana Park Campground when it opens in 2015. People can make reservations for the sites now.

## Help the Monarch Butterfly – PLANT MILKWEED!

Sondra Cabell, BCCB Naturalist

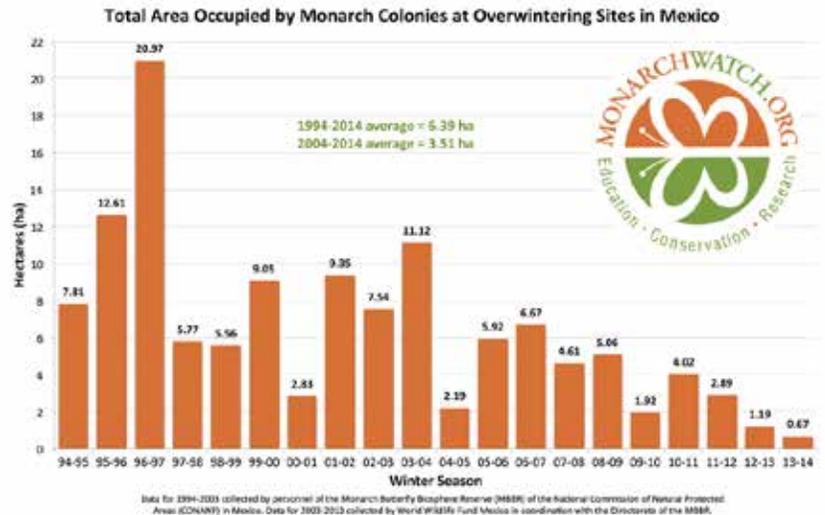
In August, a petition was filed with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list the monarch butterfly as a “Threatened Species.” (See <http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Monarch-ESA-Petition-QA.pdf>). By late November, we will know their response. A population decline of 90 percent from the 20 year average was one of the main concerns addressed in the petition.

Each fall, monarch butterflies migrate from the eastern two-thirds of the United States and Canada to overwintering areas in Mexico. As they congregate, an annual count is determined, usually in January, in hectares (ha) used by monarchs. Official counts began in 1994. Last winter, the count covered .67 ha, the lowest number ever recorded (see graph). As a migratory species, monarchs require suitable habitat from Canada to Mexico. Logging in Mexico, drought in Texas and the southern US, and temperature extremes in the upper Midwest have been factors in declining monarch survival. The biggest factor, however, has been loss of milkweed in agricultural lands.

ISU Professor John Pleasants shared his calculations during a recent presentation, “*Why Has the Monarch Butterfly Population Declined and What Can We Do About It?*” Using data from previous studies and citizen science (in which Buchanan County Conservation participates), he determined that current milkweed numbers can sustain a maximum overwintering population of only four ha. To increase that capacity to just 4.5 ha., requires an additional 23 million milkweed plants in Iowa alone!

It is time to start planting milkweed (and letting it grow in ditches and CRP land)! You can look for the fluffy down on pods and collect your own seeds, or you can get seed from three common milkweed varieties at the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. Common, Swamp & Butterfly milkweed seed and instructions on how to plant are available free for anyone who will plant (donations are accepted). Seeds do best if overwintered outdoors in the growing area, so it is best to get it now.

Monarch Watch has also developed Monarch Waystation planting information about how to create the best habitat for monarchs. Information is available on their website at <http://monarchwatch.org/waystations/> or by calling (800) 780-9986. Your Waystation can officially be certified by Monarch Watch. Upon certification, sites are included in the international Monarch Waystation Registry and are eligible to display a sign. “The sign helps convey the conservation message to those who visit your Waystation and may encourage them to create their own monarch habitat,” Taylor said.



### Plant, Grow, Fly

Buchanan County Conservation has partnered with Blank Park Zoo’s “Plant, Grow, Fly” (PGF) program for 2015. PGF’s mission is to encourage citizens and organizations to become aware of pollinator issues and to take action to preserve them. To help in that mission, we have materials at the nature center regarding PGF and gardening for pollinators. We also have a link to the PGF site on our website. BCCB has been actively promoting the planting of native habitat, including prairie, through landowner assistance programs and plantings, Prairies to Schools/ Prairies to Business program, and citizen science programs like monarch tagging and monarch larvae monitoring. As a partner in the PGF program, we have committed to work toward getting more than 50 local PGF gardens registered in 2015. We are also continuing to host educational programs (see Roadsides for Wildlife on page 5) and citizen science training (information will be in the spring newsletter).

## Congratulations to UNI's Native Seed Program

The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) recently presented a 2014 Excellence in Action Award to UNI's Native Seed Distribution Program. The Native Seed Distribution Program secures native, Iowa source-identified seed for county roadside management programs. For about two decades, a concentrated statewide effort has been in place to increase quantities and varieties of Iowa's native plant species. Buchanan County has benefited greatly from this program. Roadside Manager Sherlyn Hazen stated, "Seeds distributed through the Native Seed Program have been planted on many Buchanan County roadsides, providing native prairie beauty that largely excludes weeds".



## Chickadee Check-off

The Fish and Wildlife Tax Check-off, affectionately called the Chickadee Check-off was created to allow people to make a charitable donation to wildlife conservation in Iowa out of their tax refunds or by tacking a few dollars on to any taxes owed. When filling out the state income tax form, just look for the contribution line (usually somewhere between lines 55-60) and write in any dollar amount next to Fish/Wildlife. All the money contributed through the chickadee check-off helps support the Wildlife Diversity Program at the Iowa DNR. This program has statewide responsibility for all the wildlife that can't be hunted, fished or trapped. You can learn more about the program at: [www.iowadnr.gov/wildlifediversity](http://www.iowadnr.gov/wildlifediversity).



Please consider donating to the Chickadee Check-off this tax season and supporting wildlife



## Reflections from the Fontana Cabins

Winter is a great time to enjoy a stay in a Sustainable Living Cabin at Fontana Park. The cabins feature overnight comfort with sustainability in mind, and include two bedrooms, a full bathroom, dining area,

and kitchenette. All the electricity comes from a solar panel system, and other sustainability features are found throughout the cabin construction. The excerpts, shown to the right, are from the cabin journals, written by cabin renters during their stay this past year. **Call to reserve a cabin – 319-636-2617.**

*"There is a wonderful display of birds outside. So far, I've seen a woodpecker, cardinal, finches, and blue jay... Sunday morning we saw three does (deer) and beautiful sunrise."*

*"Got the cabin for a sibling gathering. Had a great time. Enjoyed our snowshoeing"*

*"A nice change from a hotel room. The beds are very comfortable, and the location is scenic. The energy efficiency was well documented and fun to watch. We liked to be able to see if we can make our amps positive instead of negative."*

*"Visiting – a Fontana Haiku:  
Green cabins. White snow.  
Scary stories in the dark.  
Wearing the black crown"*



## NASP Basic Archery Instructor Training

Saturday, Dec. 20, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Fairbank Elementary School Gymnasium; cost - \$40; free to teachers  
Preregistration Required through the Iowa DNR website:  
<http://naspbai.org/ClassSearch.aspx?country=US&state=IA>

The National Archery in the Schools (NASP) course content is designed to teach archery instruction techniques to archery novices and experienced archers. In Buchanan County, NASP is coordinated by Conservation Board naturalist Angie Auel, who provides training to educators who will teach the kids. Training is offered at no cost to school teachers who will commit to leading two-week in-school NASP curriculum. The Conservation Board also provides equipment to check out for the two-week P.E. course.



## Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, Dec. 28, 7:30 a.m.  
Casey's gas station on Hwy 150, north of HWY 20 in Independence (1906 3rd Ave SE).

Join a group of bird enthusiasts as they explore Buchanan County. Beginning birders and experts alike are invited to join the search for bird species that call Buchanan county home in winter. Groups will be birding by car and foot. Those Independence and Quasquetion residents who will not travel with the group, may submit bird observations of their home feeders to [naturalist@iowatelecom.net](mailto:naturalist@iowatelecom.net) or by calling 319-636-2617. Observation information helps determine the health of bird populations locally and nationally. Go to <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html> for more information about the Christmas Bird Count.



## Sleigh Rides at Cortright

Saturday, Jan. 3, 1 p.m. – Cortright Wildlife Area  
Preregistration required.



Experience Cortright Wildlife Area in a unique way – by horse-drawn sled. Participants register for 15-minute ride slots,

and are asked to arrive at Cortright 15 minutes before their scheduled ride. The sleigh typically holds two participants at a time (or two adults and two children). A fire for warming will also be offered. Space is limited, so call now. Directions to this property can be found on Google Maps, <http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Buchanan/Park/Cortright-Wildlife-Area.aspx>.

***Unless otherwise indicated, programs are free. To preregister, call 319-636-2617 or email [naturalist@iowatelecom.net](mailto:naturalist@iowatelecom.net).***

## Mountain Lions, Wolves and Black Bears OH MY!

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Preregistration required

Although there are no wild tigers in Buchanan County, a wolf was spotted in the county last winter, and black bears and mountain lions are known to visit the state. Learn about mountain lions,



wolves, and black bears in Iowa from furbearer and wetlands biologist Vince Evelsizer of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Find out how these large predators have been moving around the state.

## Moonlit Snowshoe

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 6:00 p.m.  
 Crumbacher Wildlife Area, southwest entrance off 250th St.  
 Fee - \$5 per participant  
 Preregistration required

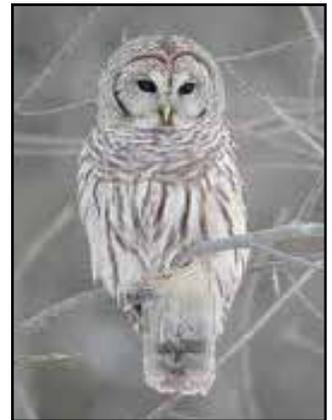
Strap on a pair of snowshoes and explore the beauty of a winter evening at the Crumbacher Wildlife Area southwest of Independence. If the sky is clear, the full moon will light our way. For more information on Crumbacher, visit [www.mycountyparks.com/County/Buchanan/Park/Cortright-Wildlife-Area.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Buchanan/Park/Cortright-Wildlife-Area.aspx). No prior snowshoeing experience is necessary. All ages are welcome.



## Calling All Owls

Wednesday, March. 4, 6:00 p.m.  
 Fontana Park Campground  
 Preregistration required

The hike will begin around a bonfire, with hot chocolate, as people are introduced to the owls of Buchanan County and their signature calls. Hikers will venture out on the woodland trails to call for owls. If successful, participants will experience the thrill of hearing an owl answer back. Nights in the woods will never be the same after having "talked" to an owl!



Barred Owl

## Bald Eagle Bus Tour

Saturday, Feb. 28  
 Visit <http://www.buchanancountyiowa.org/services/conservation/index.php> for a copy of the registration brochure. Registration is limited. \$55/person.  
 6:30 a.m. Cedar Rapids pick up; 7:30 a.m. Fontana pick up



If you enjoy watching bald eagles, visiting the Prairie du Chien area is a must. Prairie

du Chien is along the migration route, and is a normal wintering area for bald eagles in the Mississippi River valley.

This one day bus tour will take include viewing locations along the river and educational activities (including a presentation with a live bald eagle) at Prairie du Chien's Bald Eagle Appreciation Days. Following lunch (on your own) at the exhibit hall, the group will travel along the Great River Road to Guttenberg's lock and dam for additional eagle viewing opportunities before returning home. Your eagle knowledge will be tested with a trivia contest on the return trip home.

## Roadsides for Wildlife

Wednesday, March 11 6:30 p.m.  
 Fontana Nature Center  
 Pre-registration required.

Buchanan County Roadside Manager, Sherlyn Hazen is a great resource for residents who live along a county road. Prairie seed is available for improving roadside habitat for pollinators (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and more) through a program with the Living Roadway Trust Fund, but county staff is stretched too thin to prep all the areas for planting. This program will present how and when people can prep their own roadside for seeding. Seed may be applied, or provided with instructions for planting in the ditch. Maintenance of the prairie during establishment and beyond also will be covered.



## Extreme Outdoors

Check [http://www.buchanancountyia.org/services/conservation/extreme\\_outdoors.php](http://www.buchanancountyia.org/services/conservation/extreme_outdoors.php) for details about adventures offered through the year.

Extreme Outdoors is a series of adventurous, fun, challenging, exhilarating and safe outdoor activities sponsored by naturalists in Buchanan, Benton, and Chickasaw Counties. Activities are led by experienced professionals. There are exciting opportunities for all ages and skill levels.



Whitewater Kayaking through the rapids in Charles City during a 2014 Extreme Outdoor adventure.

Scott Graham, author of *Extreme Kids*, describes "extreme" this way: "It is about excitement, but in a fully safe manner. It is about personal growth through new accomplishments. It is not about defying death. Just the opposite, in fact. Extreme is about reveling in life."

These activities are generally geared for participants age ten to adult. You may participate in one or all events, but registration for each event is separate and limited. Transportation to the adventure locations is generally the responsibility of the participant(s), but may be available from local county conservation boards.

### 2015 Extreme Outdoors Schedule

- Jan 17 – Snowshoeing; 1 p.m.; Pike’s Peak State Park: Pike’s Peak is well known for its fantastic views overlooking the Mississippi River as well as its beautiful limestone bluffs. Be prepared for a workout as the terrain is not flat! If there is not enough snow, we will enjoy the weather with a winter hike around the park. We will meet at 1 p.m. at the parking lot of 32264 Pikes Peak Rd., McGregor, IA. Minimum age 10. Registration fee is \$10/person.
- May 9 – Wildlife Biologist Day; 10 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.; Bremer County (Sweet’s Marsh Area): Join Biologists and experience their ways of learning more about the habits and population status of massasauga rattlesnakes, game fish, and aquatic invertebrates. Get hands-on experience with techniques like radio telemetry, fish shocking and invertebrate sampling. Minimum age 12. Registration fee \$10/person.
- June 19 – Whitewater Kayaking; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Riverfront Park, Charles City: Participants may kayak through the Dam Drop, Doc's Drop, and Exit Exam courses. All three have pools below for recovery and alternate "safer chutes" on the left to bypass the bigger wave action. The event will be led by a certified instructor from Crawdaddy Outdoors. Participants will be taught the basics of kayaking and whitewater kayaking. Kayaks, life preservers and all other equipment will be provided. Minimum age 10. Registration fee \$40/person.
- August 1 – Cedar River Canoe; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Benton County: Enjoy a leisurely float down the scenic Cedar River while observing local plants and animals. You will have time to do some beach-combing and then fix a simple lunch on a sandbar. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Registration fee \$10/person (includes lunch).
- August 29 – Rock Climbing; Backbone State Park: Details to come
- September 26 – Survival Skills; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Benton County: Could you survive in the outdoors without all your electronic gadgets? We'll show you how. Participants will learn how to build a shelter, make a simple fishing kit, start a fire, and make survival bracelets, just to name a few. Come prepared to learn the basics; basics that could save your life. Cost includes all materials and lunch. Minimum age 12. Registration fee \$20/person.
- November – Wild Cave Spelunking: Details to come



Chloe Even bowfishing during a 2014 Extreme Outdoor adventure.

**Unless otherwise indicated, programs are free. To preregister, call 319-636-2617 or email [naturalist@iowatelecom.net](mailto:naturalist@iowatelecom.net).**

## Congratulations Photo Contest Winners!

Winners in the 2014 Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest were recently chosen by photographer Bill Witt of Cedar Falls. After sharing some stories and photos, Bill provided comments on this year's entries and selected the winning photos. Many new photographers entered the contest this year and for the first time in a long time the table was full with photos from each of the four categories. Thanks to everyone who entered one or more pictures, and congratulations to the winners.

**Linda Moon** of Waterloo, was chosen the overall winner for her photo of two cedar waxwings on a rock in the creek at Fontana Park. Bill commented on the unique behavior of the birds captured and the color contrast of the birds to their background. **Carol Thyer** of Independence won in the People Enjoying Nature category with a photo of her grandson peeking out of the wood pile. **Trenton Cabell** of Independence won in the Plants & Wildflowers category with a photo of ice covered grass. **Rob Maricle** of Fairbank won in the Landscapes category for his photo of an Amish Farm Gathering. And **Tom Moon** of Waterloo won in the Wildlife category with a photo of a great blue heron.



2014 Overall Winner by Linda Moon

The photo contest was sponsored by the Friends of Fontana Park and Conservation Board. The overall winner received a \$100 prize and winners in each category received \$50. The photos are on display in the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center.

**It is never too early to start taking and selecting photos for next year's contest!**

2014 Contest winners and 2015 Contest Rules will be online soon, as well as information about our 39 county properties at our website: [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com) or by contacting Sondra at [fontanapark@iowatelecom.net](mailto:fontanapark@iowatelecom.net) or at 319-636-2617. We look forward to seeing new photos from all of this year's participants and from other amateur photographers in next year's contest.

## Volunteer Workshop

Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Preregistration required

This workshop is for everyone, from seasoned volunteers who would like a refresher, to those who may be newcomers; from nature center receptionists to those who like outdoor projects. All are welcome! Conservation Volunteers are involved in a wide variety of activities. Of most immediate need are volunteers who act as weekend receptionists in the nature center. Other volunteer activities may include monitoring wildlife, pulling invasive species, serving as campground hosts, and much more.



## Old Time Meals

Wednesday, May 27 and Sept. 9, 5 p.m.  
Richardson-Jakway House, Jakway Forest  
\$20 per person - registration is limited to 26 people!

Enjoy a delicious meal topped off with a wonderful dessert. Also enjoy a special program provided to you by the Richardson-Jakway



Gladys Richardson, and Rich and Barb Roepke, enjoy a past Old Time Meal.

Foundation and Conservation Board. Checks should be made payable to the Richardson-Jakway Foundation, which is a nonprofit group organized to raise funds for the preservation of the Historic Site. More information on presenter and meals will be advertised in the March

# Great Backyard Bird Count - February 13-16



Join the more than 144,000 people who last year reported 4,296 species and over 17.7 million individual birds in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

The GBBC is an annual, four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time

snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You may also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in more than one location on any day.
2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time. You may find it helpful to print out your regional bird checklist to get an idea of the kinds of birds you are likely to see in your area in February. You could take note of the highest number of each species you see on this checklist.
3. When you are finished, enter your results through the GBBC web page. (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>) You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count. It will remain active until the deadline for data submission.

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery.

## Volunteer Recognition

(as of 11/19/14)

<i>Edith Biddinger</i> .....	74.5
<i>Ruby Bodeker</i> .....	30
<i>Joye Bower</i> .....	93
<i>Dan Brinkmann</i> .....	47
<i>Margaret Damge</i> .....	14
<i>Jan Franks</i> .....	5
<i>Ellen Gaffney</i> .....	61
<i>J'Andrea Gibney</i> .....	115
<i>Joy Hintz</i> .....	529
<i>Helen Hoefler</i> .....	721
<i>Elaine Hughes</i> .....	85
<i>Marybeth Jaggard</i> .....	742
<i>Kathy Karsten</i> .....	4
<i>Frankie King</i> .....	110
<i>Karen Larkin</i> .....	9
<i>Bob Mieke</i> .....	126
<i>Jeff Niemann</i> .....	21
<i>Patti Olmsteadt</i> .....	248
<i>Jessica Paige</i> .....	28
<i>Judy Porter</i> .....	274
<i>Joann Rowe</i> .....	175
<i>Shirley Rozendaal</i> .....	142
<i>Faith Rulapaugh</i> .....	318
<i>Ruth Schlitter</i> .....	45
<i>Steve Schulke</i> .....	88
<i>Sue Schulke</i> .....	9
<i>Lorene Shonka</i> .....	103
<i>Laurie Trenkamp</i> .....	20
<i>John Vogel</i> .....	28
<i>David Voigts</i> .....	365
<i>Jane Watson</i> .....	87
<i>Jane West</i> .....	149

**Yes, I want to donate to the Friends of Fontana Park!**

*Enclosed is my donation. I am glad to be able to contribute at the level shown below.*

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor (\$1-99)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (\$250-499) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$1,000-4,999)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor (\$100-249) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$500-999)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Founder (\$5,000 or more) |

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me regarding making a donation as a memorial to a friend or relative. | <input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me regarding making a donation as a gift in the name of a friend or relative. |
|---|---|

Names) as you wish them to read on recognition: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
Friends of Fontana Park and Mail to: Fontana Interpretive Nature Center, 1883 125th St., Hazleton, IA 50641

## Nature Shopping

### Reclaim Your Holidays!!

This year, consider making your holiday gifts reflect one of the main wishes we all have - spending quality time with family and friends.

Do you enjoy camping? Purchase campground certificates for Buchanan County campgrounds. Give these to kids in your life and take them camping with you, or give them to a spouse and give the gift of time together in a natural place. Campground certificates are available in increments of \$18.

Maybe camping is not your style? Consider gift certificates for the sustainable living cabins at Fontana Park. This gives a more modern experience with a minimal energy footprint through solar panels and energy efficient components. Right outside the door is the beauty of the natural world. Cabin Certificates are \$75 per night.

If you visit Fontana Park with your young children, then maybe your gift could be a sponsorship of an animal in the wildlife display. For a donation ranging from \$35-\$150 you can place their name(s) on a sponsorship plaque by the animal enclosure for the 2015 calendar year. Sponsors also receive a photo of the animal, a certificate, and an informational letter in mid December that can be wrapped for something to open.

Stop in the nature center and look at our selection of nature books and field guides. Consider a gift of a book and then spend the time reading to a youngster in your life or a field guide could lead to time spent together exploring the outdoors together.

Need something more extreme for your teen? The Extreme Outdoor Experience could be what you are looking for (see page ). The first scheduled 2015 Extreme Outdoor Experience is Pike's Peak Snowshoeing. Cost is \$10 per person.

Someone less mobile on your list? Buy a bag of fair trade coffee and a mug from the nature center gift shop and give the gift of a monthly coffee date at their place.

Certificates, sponsorships and program registrations can be purchased at the Nature Center. Hours of operation are on page 10. Cash and personal checks are accepted.



## Conservation Calendar!

Dec. 18	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Bill's Restaurant in Independence, 5 p.m. (subject to change).	Feb. 16	<i>President's Day</i> (Nature Center closed)
Dec. 20	<i>NASP Basic Archery Instructor Training</i> Fairbank Elementary, 8 a.m. (P. 4).	Feb. 17	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Park, 7 p.m. (subject to change).
Dec. 24	<i>Christmas Eve</i> (Nature Center closed in afternoon)	Feb. 28	<i>Bald Eagle Bus Tour</i> Northeast Iowa, (P. 5).
Dec. 25	<i>Merry Christmas!</i> (Nature Center closed)	March 4	<i>Calling All Owls</i> Fontana Campground, 6 p.m. (P. 5).
Dec. 28	Christmas Bird Count Independence (P. 4).	March 11	<i>Roadsides for Wildlife</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6:30 p.m. (P. 5).
Jan. 1	<i>Happy New Year!</i> (Nature Center closed)	March 28	<i>Volunteer Workshop</i> Fontana Nature Center, 9 a.m. (P. 7).
Jan. 3	<i>Sleigh Rides at Cortright</i> Cortright Wildlife Area, 1 p.m. (P. 4).	May 9	<i>Extreme Outdoors: Wildlife Biologist Day</i> Sweet's Marsh, 10 a.m. (P. 6).
Jan. 14	<i>Mountain Lions, Wolves, and Black Bears OH MY</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6:30 p.m. (P. 4).	May 27	<i>Old Time Meal</i> Richardson-Jakway House, 5 p.m. (P. 7).
Jan. 17	<i>Extreme Outdoors: Snowshoeing</i> Pike's Peak State Park, 1 p.m. (P. 6).	June 19	<i>Extreme Outdoors: Whitewater Kayaking</i> Riverfront Park, 9 a.m. (P. 6).
Jan. 19	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	Aug. 1	<i>Extreme Outdoors: Cedar River Canoe</i> Benton County, 9 a.m. (P. 6).
Jan. 20	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Park, 7 p.m. (subject to change).	Aug. 29	<i>Extreme Outdoors: Rock Climbing</i> Backbone State Park (P. 6).
Feb. 3	<i>Moonlit Snowshoe</i> Crumbacher, 6:00 p.m. (P. 5).	Sept. 26	<i>Extreme Outdoors: Survival Skills</i> Benton County, 9 a.m. (P. 6).
Feb. 13-16	<i>Great Backyard Bird Count</i> (P. 8).		

# The Otter Creek Quarterly

1. Fontana Park and Jarrett Slater Addition (134)..... Hazleton
  2. Jakway Forest (315)..... Aurora
  3. Lime Creek Area (45)..... Brandon
  4. Boies Bend Area (26)..... Quasqueton
  5. Buffalo Creek Area (81.5)..... Winthrop
  6. Otter Creek Roadside Park (13)..... Hazleton
- Buchanan County Natural Areas (acres)**
7. Mickey Fox Area and Anderson Addition (118)..... Jesup
  8. VanLaningham Area (3)..... Independence
  9. Otter Creek Wildlife Area (100)..... Hazleton
  10. Hoover Area (20)..... Troy Mills
  11. Sand Creek Area (80)..... Quasqueton
  12. Niebeck Nature Preserve (32.5)..... Hazleton
  13. Pine Creek Area (40)..... Quasqueton
  14. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area (60)..... Winthrop
  15. Rowley Fen (43)..... Rowley
  16. Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods (106)..... Brandon
  17. Putty Root Preserve (17)..... Quasqueton
  18. Blazing-Star Prairie (7.5)..... Rowley
  19. Crumbacher Wildlife Area (368)..... Independence
  20. Bearbower Sand Prairie (40)..... Brandon
  21. Swartz Preserve (4)..... Aurora
  22. Bryantsburg Prairie Preserve (1.5)..... Hazleton
  23. Frogville Access (135)..... Troy Mills
  24. Iron Bridge Woodland and Access (33)..... Quasqueton
  25. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area (20)..... Troy Mills
  26. Newton Township Natural Area (158)..... Quasqueton
  27. Patton Prairie (45)..... Aurora
  28. Hodges and North Wildlife Area (67)..... Jesup
  29. Fairbank Fen (40)..... Fairbank
  30. Anderson Addition to Cutshall (24)..... Jesup
  31. Ham Marsh (54)..... Independence
  32. Wehner Woods (30)..... Lamont
  33. Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings (186)..... Quasqueton
- Buchanan County River Accesses (acres)**
34. Troy Mills Wapsi Access (63)..... Troy Mills
  35. Wapsi River Access (51)..... Independence
  36. Three Elms Area (75)..... Independence
  37. Cutshall Area (85)..... Jesup
  38. Cortright Wildlife Area (190)..... Littleton
  39. Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Access (6)..... Littleton

## Board Members

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 Don Shonka..... Vice President  
 Karen Stephenson..... Secretary  
 Pat Fencil..... Member  
 Loren Hamilton..... Member

## Conservation Staff

- Dan Cohen..... Executive Director  
 Sondra Cabell..... Interpretive Naturalist  
 Angela Auel..... Interpretive Naturalist  
 Mike Van Raden..... Park Ranger  
 Jeremy Whittle..... Park Ranger  
 Karen Ott..... Wildlife Caregiver/Park Tech  
 Chris Hansen..... Park Technician  
 Elaine Walker..... Office Manager  
 Diane Johnson.. Secretary/Volunteer Coordinatior

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For more information regarding Conservation Board activities, call 319-636-2617/[bccbdan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bccbdan@iowatelecom.net)



A group of nature enthusiasts explored the Rowley Fen during a public program in early September. The fen is a unique type of wetland, and is home to some specially adapted wetland and prairie plant species.