



# The Otter Creek Quarterly

Spring, 2015  
Vol. 30 No. 1

A Newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board

**Win two red cedar Adirondack chairs (page 3)!**

## Conservation Board Welcomes New Members!

Dan Cohen, BCCB Director

Two Buchanan County residents were appointed to serve on the Conservation Board this winter.

Ronnie Wolfe of Quasqueton filled a position vacated when Jim Klever's term expired December 31. Wolfe owns and operates Wolfey's Outback restaurants in Quasqueton and Hopkinton. He is an avid outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hunting, fishing, and being outdoors. Wolfe helped establish a private nonprofit group called Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers and promoted and hosted previous Whitetails Unlimited Banquets. He also is a member of Pheasants Forever. Wolfe says, "conservation and the outdoors have always been my biggest love. I am interested in what happens locally to our environment."

On January 23, Don Shonka resigned his position on the Conservation Board due to his election to the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors. Being a Supervisor, Shonka felt it would be more appropriate to resign and allow



*Past Conservation Board President Jim Klever's (left) term ended in December. His position was filled by Ronnie Wolfe (right)*

another county citizen the opportunity to serve.

On February 2, Andy Crump of Independence was appointed to fill the remainder of Shonka's term. Andy Crump works for Consolidated Energy, and he and his wife Carissa are owners/operators of Wapsie River Rentals - a canoe and kayak livery businesses. Crump enjoys all activities related to the river, including fishing, hunting, and paddling. He recently was involved in the effort to allow ATV's and UTV's to ride on gravel roads and within some cities' limits. Crump is a member on the Buchanan County Wildlife Association and Pheasants Forever. He enjoys being involved in his young son Drew's pursuits, including archery, soap box derby, and basketball. Crump said, "I am proud to be part of the Conservation Board, and will work to continue the legacy of providing quality education and conservation programs to the



*Past Conservation Board member Don Shonka (right) recently resigned after being elected to the Board of Supervisors. His position was filled by Andy Crump (left).*

**Continued on page two...**

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citizens of Buchanan County."

The Conservation Board and staff are happy to welcome these two new Board members, and express their gratitude to Jim Klever and Don Shonka for their dedication as Board members.

Klever served ten years on the Conservation Board, and was Board President. Klever stated, "I really enjoyed my time on the Conservation Board, and would like to serve again sometime. I am especially proud of the important natural areas we were able to acquire that will be a legacy for current and future generation."

Shonka served more than five years on the Conservation Board, and stated, "I really enjoyed working with a great group of people, all of whom have the best interests of conservation and the residents of Buchanan County in mind."

Conservation Board members are appointed to five-year terms by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors. For more information about the Conservation Board, visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com).



## Reduce Financial and Environmental Footprints – Get Your e-Newsletter Quick and in Color!

It is likely that most of you who have asked to receive the Otter Creek Quarterly newsletter have some interest in the outdoors and the environment. Here is an opportunity to help with environmental and financial savings!

Printing and mailing this newsletter four times a year generates more than 50,000 sheets of paper annually, and costs more than \$5,000. Associated environmental costs include the resources needed to produce or recycle the paper, fuel for transportation and shipping, etc. The Conservation Board has a goal to cut costs – financial and environmental – associated with the newsletter.

Those of you who are able to change your newsletter subscription to an electronic format, are encouraged to make the change. **The goal is to reduce printing and mailing by 25 percent.** For this to happen, we need 600 households that currently receive the newsletter via "snail-mail" to switch to an email version.

There are personal benefits to making the switch. The email version has COLOR photos and highlights not seen in the black & white print version. It usually arrives 3-4 days BEFORE the mail version arrives. And you can save it to your computer to easily access it and double check program dates and other information. People also have the OPTION of getting reminders and other information that might pop up between issues by signing up to be on a listserve.

To make the switch to email newsletter, send an email to [bcdbdan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bcdbdan@iowatelecom.net) or call the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center at 319-636-2617. Be sure to provide the email address you would like to add, and the mailing address you would like to delete. Indicate if you wish to take advantage of the listserve option. Watch for the next issue of the newsletter to learn if the goal is achieved!

## Make Reservations Now!

There are several facilities that can be rented at Fontana Park. With the beginning of warm weather, bookings for cabins, camp sites, and shelters fill quickly. To get your first choice of dates and sites, call now to make a reservation - 319-636-2617.

Reservable campsites at Fontana Park now are located along the east side of the campground - nicely tucked in along the pine trees. The change was made to provide more spacious sites with individual electric pedestals, in a location not prone to flooding. For a layout of the campground and information about cabins, and to download all reservation forms, visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com).



# Win Two Red Cedar Adirondack Chairs!

A Buchanan County Pheasants Forever Raffle  
All proceeds to support

## Friends of Fontana Park!

Here is a great opportunity to win something truly special!

These chairs are hand crafted and specially contoured for ultimate comfort! The seats have narrow slats that allow for a special form-fitting curve. The backs also are curved for back comfort. The chairs were made and donated by Loren Hamilton of Hamilton Construction in Independence, with materials donated by Spahn and Rose. People may view the chairs at the Fontana Park Nature Center.

This raffle is being sponsored by the Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, with all proceeds going to support the Friends of Fontana Park – a nonprofit group that provides financial assistance to the Conservation Board's education programs. FFP provides funds for distribution of this newsletter, the live animal displays at Fontana Park, various camps and programs, nature center displays, and more!

### To order raffle

tickets, complete the form to the right, and mail it with your payment. Tickets also are available for purchase at the nature center or Spahn and Rose in Independence. The winner will be drawn on June 29. The lucky winner will have a comfortable seat during the July 4th weekend!



### Raffle ticket Order Form

I would like to support Friends of Fontana park and local conservation education efforts. Please enter me in the special Pheasants Forever raffle for chances to win two red cedar Adirondack Chairs:

Number of raffle tickets @ 1 for \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of raffle tickets @ 3 for \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a receipt (mark with X) \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Buchanan County Pheasants Forever:  
Mail to: Friends of Fontana Park, 1883 125th St., Hazleton, IA 50641

[Call 319-636-2617 or email fontanapark@iowatelecom.net to preregister for programs!](mailto:fontanapark@iowatelecom.net)

## Calling All Owls

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

This 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

## Roadsides for Wildlife

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Fontana Nature Center

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 Roadside Trust, but county staff is stretched too thin to prep all the areas for planting. This program will present to participants how and when to prep their own roadside for seeding. Then seed can either be applied for you or given to you with instructions for planting in the ditch. Maintenance of the prairie during establishment and beyond will also be covered. Preregistration required.



## Night Prairie Burn

April 6-17; Time, Date and Location TBD



Buchanan County Conservation Staff will light up the night sky with a spectacular prairie fire. Observe this dramatic management practice up close. Before the burn, staff will share why this technique is used and how the area is prepared. Please note: This program is dependent on specific weather conditions and will be scheduled accordingly. Preregistration is required and we will notify you of time and location as early as possible on the day of the burn.

## Monarch Butterflies - Can a Common Species Become Threatened and How Can I Help?

Monday, March 30, 7 p.m.  
Our Savior Lutheran Church Meeting Room, Manchester, Iowa

Monarch population estimates over the last 20 years show a constant trend for smaller numbers and overall reduction in size of nearly 90%. Habitat loss is the primary reason for the population drop. Monarchs need our help - we need to be aware of our role in their decline and do what we can - locally and politically - to help make that impact known to the broader public and work to make our impact helpful going forward.



## Orchids by Bill Witt

Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m.  
Fontana Nature Center

Longtime photojournalist and former state representative Bill Witt is retired from University of Northern Iowa. His photos and essays have been published in the Iowan, Iowa Heritage Illustrated, Sierra, Nature Conservancy, and the Sun. The Sierra Club named him an "American environmental hero" in 1991. He is the author of *Orchids in Your Pocket: A Guide to the Native Orchids of Iowa* (Iowa, 2006). This program is sponsored by the Fontana Herb Society. The public is invited and there is no fee.



### *Poker Walk*

Wednesday, April 8, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Preregistration required

Draw your first card at the Fontana Nature Center. Then walk or run throughout the 134 acres of Fontana Park to four other areas identified on the map by an X. Draw a card at each station. Return to the Nature Center to submit the tracking sheet and see if you have the winning hand to win a PRIZE! Preregistration is required.



### *Spring Wildflowers Walk and Rescue!*

Wednesday, April 29, 6 p.m.  
Putty Root Preserve - Meet at the Iron Bridge Access (Nolen Ave.) near Quasqueton; Preregistration required.

Enjoy an evening walk through one of the County's finest woodland understories, and see and learn about the splendor of spring wildflowers. Following the walk, participants will help remove invasive garlic mustard which otherwise would take over wildflower habitat. Participants will carpool from Iron Bridge Access to the nearby Putty Root Preserve, and should bring gloves.



### *Community Water Walk*

Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Oelwein High School Track

Oelwein Middle School sixth graders are sponsoring a Community Water Walk to educate people about the lack of accessible, clean water worldwide and to raise funds to help build a well in Sudan. For more information about this project, view the website <https://sites.google.com/a/oelwein.k12.ia.us/walk-for-water/> or contact Karla Duff at [kduff@oelwein.k12.ia.us](mailto:kduff@oelwein.k12.ia.us) or Lori Leo at [lleo@oelwein.k12.ia.us](mailto:lleo@oelwein.k12.ia.us).



### *Herb Society Plant Sale*

Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Fontana Park Nature Center

The Fontana Herb Society has long been a great friend to the Conservation Board. The group of volunteer garden enthusiasts spend time tending the gardens at Fontana Park and hosting educational programs the first Thursday of the month (see page 4). Each year they conduct a plant sale and donate some of the proceeds back to the Friends of Fontana Park.



### *Archery for Beginners*

Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.  
Fontana Park Youth Camping Area- across from Cabins

Have you watched the Hunger Games? Or Brave? Did you think "I want to try that!" We will be shooting at block targets and learning a few techniques along with safety. Come shoot a Matthew Genesis Bow. This program is for 3rd grade through adults. Preregister for this event.



### *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!

May 27 – Enjoy a delicious meal of pork chops, garden greens, creamed asparagus, mashed potatoes, Amish bread with honey and huckleberry jam, topped off with a rhubarb crisp. Also enjoy a special program about cooking during the civil war.

Old Time Meals are sponsored by the Richardson-Jakway 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.



[Call 319-636-2617](tel:319-636-2617) or email [fontanapark@iowatelecom.net](mailto:fontanapark@iowatelecom.net) to preregister for programs!

## Extreme Outdoors!

We invite you and your family to get off the couch, put away the electronic games and get out and experience these adrenaline filled opportunities to experience the Iowa Outdoors in ways you may not have tried or even known were options. There are exciting opportunities for all ages and skill levels.

Extreme Outdoors is a series of adventuresome, fun, challenging, exhilarating and safe outdoor recreational activities sponsored by naturalists with Buchanan, Benton, and Chickasaw Counties. Each of the remaining activities will be led by experienced professionals, and are geared for participants ages 10 or 12 and up. You may participate in one or all events, but registration for each event will be separate and will be limited. Transportation to the adventure locations is generally the responsibility of the participant(s), but may be available from local CCB's.

Check out the Extreme Outdoors website at [www.buchanancountyiowa.org/services/conservation/extreme\\_outdoors.php](http://www.buchanancountyiowa.org/services/conservation/extreme_outdoors.php) for additional details and registration information. The Extreme Outdoors upcoming event is...

### Wildlife Biologist Day

Saturday, May 9, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Bremer County (Sweet's Marsh Area)  
\$10 per person - minimum age 12



Join Wildlife and Fisheries 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. Specific details will be sent to those who register. Preregistration is required and limited to 12 participants.

### Whitewater Kayaking

Friday, June 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Riverfront Park, Charles City, Iowa  
\$40 per person - minimum age 10

Take advantage of this opportunity to brave the rapids of Iowa's 1st whitewater park. The course is built on the Cedar River as a means to mitigate the danger of the old low flow dam at the site and now provides a safe - but challenging - whitewater experience. There are three main features to the course: Dam Drop, Doc's Drop and Exit Exam. All three have pools below for recovery and have 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. All participants will need to bring their own sack lunch and of course plenty of water to drink throughout the day. Limited to 14 participants




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## Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest

Entries must be postmarked by September 10  
Complete rules at [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com)

Keep your camera handy as you visit Buchanan County's natural areas this spring and summer and keep in mind the four categories: Landscapes, Wildlife, Plants & Wildflowers, & People Enjoying Nature. Overall winners will receive \$100 and category winners will receive \$50. For more information on the contest or for a copy of the official rules, visit our website at [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com) or call 319-636-2617.



## Summer Programs for Kids Ages 3 to 14

Now is the time to register for the Conservation Board's popular series of summer programs. Registration for each program is limited, so call (319-636-2617) or email (fontanapark@iowatelecom.net) soon to get your child registered.

### Wee Nature Tales

Ages: 3-5 yrs, Fontana Park Nature Center Classroom.  
Mondays, June 8 - July 27 10 a.m.-11 a.m. OR  
Tuesdays, June 9 - July 28 10 a.m.-11 a.m. OR  
Thursdays June 11 - July 30 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Cost: \$30; Registration limited to 15/class

This hour-long session combines all new age-appropriate nature stories with simple nature projects and explorations. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



### Young Naturalists

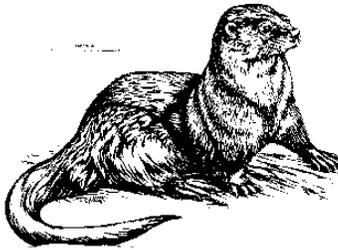
Ages: 9-12 yrs, Fontana Park Nature Center Classroom.  
Tuesdays, June 9 - July 29 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. OR  
Wednesdays, June 10 - July 29 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Cost: \$30; Registration limited to 20/class



Children will discover the world in which they live, and their relationships with plants and other animals. All new activities will bring participants face to face with environmental issues, problems, and solutions.

### Nature Explorers

Ages: 6-8 yrs, Fontana Park Nature Center Classroom.  
Mondays, June 8 - July 29 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. OR  
Wednesdays, June 10- July 29 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Cost: \$30; Registration limited to 20/class



This all-new program encourages an early interest in science and nature through hands-on exploration of the Fontana Park environment. Adults are welcome to attend.

### River Raiders Program for Youth

Ages: students entering in 6th-8th grade  
Tuesday - Thursday, June 23-25  
Fontana Nature Center (Kendallville to Decorah)  
Cost: \$80; Registration limited to 12 participants

Adventure awaits around every bend! Join us as we explore the Upper Iowa River from Kendallville to Decorah. Campers will canoe, camp, cook outdoors, and learn other wilderness skills on this two night, three day excursion. Participants will paddle their way around winding bends, through rapids, past scenic waterfalls, cold springs, and 200-foot chimney bluffs. The trip fee includes the use of tents, food, canoes, life jackets, paddles and transportation. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants.

Participants must attend the training day on June 10, 5-8 p.m. at Fontana Nature Center. During this time we will be covering camping and paddling basics, menu for the trip, trip itinerary and what to pack.



***\$5 per child discount on youth summer programs for members of Friends of Fontana Park!***



## Volunteer Workshop

Saturday, March 28, 9:00 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.



## Attention Bicyclists!

The annual **Fools' Ride** returns for 2015! The April 4 bicycle ride will begin in La Porte City at P n B's Brew Pub (208 Main Street) at 11:00

a.m., travel to Phat Alberts Sports Bar in Brandon (203 East St.), then Back to P n B's. For more information visit [www.bacciowa.com](http://www.bacciowa.com). The annual **RASH Ride** will be held June 13. Bicyclists ride at their own pace around Buchanan County. There are 25 or 50 mile ride options, and stops every 10 miles or so with plenty of food and beverages. To register, visit [www.rashride.org](http://www.rashride.org)!

## Conservation Scholarships

Application Deadline: March 7!

The Buchanan County Area Conservation and Natural Resources Scholarship Committee will award a limited number of scholarships to area residents currently enrolled as seniors in high school or at accredited colleges or universities. The top scholarship award will be \$1,500. Scholarship recipients also will receive complimentary tickets to the Buchanan County Pheasants Forever Banquet held on April 4. Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Will major in a conservation or natural resources-related field;
- Have a demonstrated interest in conservation and natural resources;
- Have been active in their communities; and
- Have academic records that indicates a likelihood of success at their chosen schools.

Applicants must reside in one of the following School Districts: East Buchanan, Jesup, Independence, North Linn, Oelwein, Wapsie Valley, or Starmont. All applicants must complete an application form which must be received prior to the March 7 deadline. Application forms may be downloaded at [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com). For more information, call or email Dan Cohen at 319-636-2617/[bccbndan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bccbndan@iowatelecom.net).

## Nature Center Volunteer Receptionists Hours

(as of 2/12/15)

<i>Edith Biddinger</i> .....	82
<i>Ruby Bodeker</i> .....	36
<i>Joye Bower</i> .....	99
<i>Dan Brinkmann</i> .....	47
<i>Margaret Damge</i> .....	14
<i>Ellen Gaffney</i> .....	67
<i>J'Andrea Gibney</i> .....	115
<i>Joy Hintz</i> .....	529
<i>Helen Hoefler</i> .....	723
<i>Elaine Hughes</i> .....	108
<i>Marybeth Jaggard</i> .....	745
<i>Kathy Karsten</i> .....	4
<i>Frankie King</i> .....	113
<i>Karen Larkin</i> .....	15
<i>Bob Miede</i> .....	129
<i>Kristy Miller</i> .....	10
<i>Patti Olmsteadt</i> .....	248
<i>Judy Porter</i> .....	296
<i>Joann Rowe</i> .....	175
<i>Shirley Rozendaal</i> .....	149
<i>Faith Rulapaugh</i> .....	324
<i>Ruth Schlitter</i> .....	48
<i>Steve Schulke</i> .....	92
<i>Sue Schulke</i> .....	9
<i>Lorene Shonka</i> .....	110
<i>Laurie Trenkamp</i> .....	20
<i>David Voigts</i> .....	374
<i>Jane Watson</i> .....	87
<i>Jane West</i> .....	149

### 2015 Sponsors of the Conservation and Natural Resources Scholarship

- Buchanan County Pheasants Forever
- Buchanan County Wildlife Association
- Lower 40 Sportsmen
- Friends of Fontana Park
- Littleton Hookanliners
- Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers
- Wapsi Flyway

## Conservation Calendar!

March 4	<i>Calling All Owls</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. (P. 4).	May 19	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. (subject to change)
March 7	<i>Scholarship Deadline</i> (P. 8).	May 20	<i>Archery for Beginners</i> Fontana Park, 6:30 p.m. (P. 5).
March 11	<i>Roadsides for Wildlife</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6:30 p.m. (P. 4).	May 25	<i>Memorial Day</i>
March 24	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m.	May 27	<i>Old Time Meal</i> ; Jakway Park, 5 p.m. (P. 6).
March 28	<i>Volunteer Workshop</i> Fontana Nature Center, 9 a.m. (P. 8).	June 8	<i>Wee Nature Tales</i> on Mondays begins Fontana Nature Center, 10 a.m. (P. 7).
March 30	<i>Monarch Butterflies</i> Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7 p.m. (P. 4).	June 8	<i>Nature Explorers</i> begins on Mondays Fontana Nature Center, 1 p.m. (P. 7).
April 2	<i>Orchids by Bill Witt</i> Fontana Nature Center, 7:00 p.m. (P. 4).	June 9	<i>Wee Nature Tales</i> on Tuesdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 10 a.m. (P. 7).
April 4	<i>Fool's Ride</i> ; La Porte City, 11 a.m. (P. 8).	June 9	<i>Young Naturalists</i> on Tuesdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 1 p.m. (P. 7).
April 4	<i>Pheasants Forever Membership Banquet</i> call 319-334-0255 for tickets	June 10	<i>Young Naturalists</i> on Wednesdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 9 a.m. (P. 7).
April 6-17	<i>Night Prairie Burn</i> Time, Date, and Location TBD, (P. 4).	June 10	<i>Nature Explorers</i> on Wednesdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 1 p.m. (P. 4).
April 8	<i>Poker Walk</i> Fontana Nature Center, 4 p.m. (P. 5).	June 10	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. (subject to change)
April 21	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. (subject to change)	June 10	<i>River Raiders Training Day</i> Fontana Nature Center, 5 p.m. (P.7)
April 29	<i>Spring Wildflowers Walk and Rescue</i> Putty Root Preserve, 6 p.m. (P. 5).	June 11	<i>Wee Nature Tales</i> on Thursdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 10 a.m. (P. 7).
May 2	<i>Fontana Herb Society Plant Sale</i> Fontana Nature Center, 8 a.m. (P. 5).	June 19	<i>Whitewater Kayaking</i> Charles City, 9 a.m. (P. 6).
May 2	<i>Community Water Walk</i> Oelwein High School Track 8 a.m. (P.5.)	June 23-25	<i>River Raiders</i> Upper Iowa River (P. 7).
May 9	<i>Wildlife Biologist Day</i> Sweet's Marsh, 10 a.m. (P. 6).	Sept. 9	<i>Old Time Meal</i> ; Jakway Park, 5 p.m. (P. 5).
May 10	<i>Mother's Day</i>	Sept. 10	<i>Photo Contest Deadline</i> (P.6).

### State Butterfly Initiative



Iowa has an official bird, flower, rock and tree, but no butterfly. Blank Park Zoo, Reiman Gardens, BCCB and other local and regional partners are teaming up to encourage the state of Iowa to declare the regal fritillary Iowa's official State Butterfly. Why the regal, you ask? It is native to Iowa prairies, it is found state-wide and it has a unique life cycle that represents the hardiness of our state!

It is hoped that the State Butterfly Initiative will increase awareness about the plight of all butterflies and other pollinators in Iowa. It's easy to help these pollinators thrive by planting a butterfly garden in your yard.

### Register Your Butterfly Garden

Buchanan County Conservation has partnered with Blank Park Zoo's (BPZ) "Plant, Grow, Fly" (PGF) program for 2015 ([www.blankparkzoo.com](http://www.blankparkzoo.com)). As a partner in the PGF program, we have committed to work toward getting more than 50 local PGF gardens registered in 2015. Registering a garden is easy: Go to the BPZ website and click on the PGF icon in the center of the page. Then click on the register my garden tab to the right. Enter your information and submit. All you need is one host plant and one nectar plant on the list to qualify. Pick up **free milkweed seed** at the Nature Center while supplies last!



## Buchanan County Parks (acres)

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 (25)..... 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. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area (20)..... Troy Mills
25. Newton Township Natural Area (158)..... Quasqueton
26. Patton Prairie (45)..... Aurora
27. Hodges and North Wildlife Area (67)..... Jesup
28. Fairbank Fen (40)..... Fairbank
29. Anderson Addition to Cutshall (24)..... Jesup
30. Ham Marsh (54)..... Independence
31. Wehner Woods (30)..... Lamont
32. Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings (186)..... Quasqueton

## Buchanan County River Accesses (acres)

33. Iron Bridge Woodland and Access (34).....Quasqueton
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" McGlauighlin Access (6)..... Littleton

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*Two cedar waxwings were photographed by Linda Moon as they frequented Otter Creek below the dam at Fontana Park. The photo was judged overall winner in the 2014 Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest. People are encouraged to start taking photos now for this year's contest (see page 6).*