



The Otter Creek Quarterly

Summer, 2016
Vol. 32 No. 2

A Newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board

Meet "Alone" star Lucas Miller at Conservation Supper (Page 3)!

A Home for the Birds!

Dan Cohen, BCCB Executive Director

The Conservation Board, with fundraising assistance from Friends of Fontana Park, is working to build a new home for the birds.

The project is a big part of upgrades to the Fontana Park Wildlife Display anticipated for this year. The new building will provide much improved winter



living quarters for waterfowl and their winter pond. There also will be space for some birds of prey and the rabbits. Window viewing will allow children and adults to see the animals during the colder months (typically November to April). During the summer months, the building will feature some displays and other information related to Iowa wildlife. The building also provides much needed storage areas for straw, animal feed, and some equipment, and a place for animal caretakers to prepare feed and care for the animals.

The Winter Birds Building is largely being paid with donor dollars through Friends of Fontana Park, Buchanan County



Pheasants Forever is sponsoring a raffle drawing for a hand-made cedar bench with proceeds going to FFP for this project. **Ticket purchases and donations are much appreciated (see page 3)!**



The other change underway in the Fontana Park Wildlife Display is replacement of the current boardwalk system with concrete sidewalks. Old boardwalks became slippery when wet or after a frost, and were difficult to keep cleared of snow in winter. Sidewalks are expected to be completed early this summer. The outdoor raptor display building will be getting some attention, as much of the wood and metal bars are in need of replacement.



The popular Wildlife Display is worth the investment. Last year, the Conservation Board conducted a survey of county residents, which identified the Wildlife Display as being among the most popular Conservation Board offerings.



New Faces in the Conservation Department

Meet the Conservation Board seasonal workers!

Two seasonal conservation technicians are working with field staff on management techniques and park maintenance, and two are assisting naturalists with educational programs and projects.

Mack Kleitsch of Fairbank has returned for his third year as a seasonal conservation technician. He is attending Upper Iowa University, majoring in Environmental Science. Mack grew up on a small farm, and



Seasonal Conservation Technicians Mack Kleitsch (left) and Dalton Koch



*Naturalist Interns
Dakota Popp (left) and Alex Kelly*

has always enjoyed outdoor pursuits, including hunting, fishing, and camping.

Dalton Koch lives in Elgin and is enrolled at Upper Iowa University, majoring in Conservation Management. He wants to eventually work in wildlife, fisheries, or some other aspect of conservation. His hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Dakota Popp from Adel, Iowa attends Buena Vista University, majoring in Environmental Science Conservation Education, and plans to be a naturalist. She grew up enjoying the outdoors - camping and fishing. She hopes to spread her love for nature with others and get them excited about being outdoors.

Alex Kelly is a Workforce Development employee living in Oelwein. She attends North Iowa Community College and plans to go to Upper Iowa University for graphic designs. She was born in Texas, raised in Georgia, and now lives in Iowa.

The commitment of all Conservation Board workers is apparent when people visit conservation areas and attend education programs!

Naturalists and Teachers in Need of Supplies

Conservation board naturalists are in need of some supplies you might consider to be garbage, or you no longer use and would donate to a good home. They would love to get the following items:

- Canning jars – standard jars are needed for the Preserving Local Foods programs (see page 4). Jelly/jam jars, pint and quart jars – both wide mouth and regular – are needed;
- Metal coffee cans – large with lids (not many brands still come in metal cans);
- Peanut butter jars – clean with lids (for many projects including measuring and bugs);
- White or black 55 gallon drums (for spinning compost bins and rain barrels);
- Styrofoam or paper egg cartons;
- Frosting containers with lids



TV's "Alone" Star Lucas Miller to Speak at Conservation Board Fundraiser!

Enjoy a great meal and a very special evening with Lucas Miller, a native of Quasqueton, Iowa and one of last year's finalists on the Alone television series on the History Channel. The show is about ten men in the Vancouver Island wilderness carrying only what they could fit in a small backpack. Left alone in harsh, unforgiving terrain they had a single mission – stay alive as long as possible. To survive, these men would hunt, build shelters and fend off predators, all while enduring unending solitude. No camera crew. No producers. It is the ultimate test of will.

Miller will speak about his experience on the television show, and other life experiences. He also will answer questions from the audience. His bio before the start of last season stated Miller studied "traditional medicine, indigenous living skills, rites of passage, homesteading, and wilderness living. After being diagnosed with Lyme disease, he combined a vegetarian lifestyle with his practice of yoga and curative therapies to help himself heal. Healthy again, Lucas embarked on a trip into the Rocky Mountains, without food, to partake in a vision fast".

The event will be held at Wolfey's Outback in Quasqueton sometime in June. When this newsletter went to print, dates and time were still being determined. **Contact the Conservation Board Office (bccbdan@iowatelecom.net/319-636-2617) for date, time and ticket cost.**



Above: The cedar bench will be raffled on June 29. The bench was built by Loren Hamilton (left), with materials donated by Spahn & Rose in Independence. Also pictured is Mark Scheckle from Spahn & Rose. The bench is spacious for two adults and features a custom engraved pheasant feather on the back.

Make checks payable to
Buchanan County
Pheasants Forever.

Win a 54-inch Cedar Bench A Buchanan County Pheasants Forever Raffle - all proceeds to support the Winter Birds Building (see page 1)

To order raffle tickets, complete the form below, and mail it with your payment. Tickets also are available for purchase at the Nature Center or Spahn and Rose in Independence. The lucky winner will be drawn June 29!

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 a red cedar bench with engraved feather:

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

Unless otherwise indicated, call 319-636-2617 or email fontanapark@iowatelecom.net to preregister for all programs!

Preserving Local Foods

Thursdays, June 9, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church, Independence; \$40 for the 5 session series (\$15 for single sessions)



June is berry season. Preserve the flavor of summer to enjoy year round as jam, frozen fruit, or dry your own fruit leather strips (roll-ups). Participants

will get hands-on practice in the techniques and safety considerations for canning, freezing, and drying summer fruit, and will go home with a sampling of each. Preservation equipment (pressure canners, etc.) will be available for class participants to check out for use in their home through a past Buchanan County Community Foundation Grant. Classes are sponsored by Buchanan County Conservation Board and the Buchanan County Food Work Team. Pre-registration is required and limited to 15. Register now for the full series of classes or single sessions (see below). All ages welcome. Youth age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

- June 9 – Jams, Jellies, Frozen Fruit, Dried Fruits
- Aug. 11 – canning & freezing summer vegetables
- Sept. 8 – Pickles
- Oct. 13 – Fall fruits – juices, canning, freezing and drying
- Nov. 10 – Canning meats & jerkys

Hungry, Hungry Animals

Saturday, June 4 and 11, 9 a.m.
Fontana Park Wildlife Display



Watch and learn about animals in the Fontana Park live wildlife display, as they are being fed. The display contains black bear, red fox, raccoons, rabbits, owl, bison, eagles, vultures, and ducks – all of which are, or were, native to Iowa.

Canoe Float

Sunday, June 12, 4 p.m.
Fontana Park
Fee \$5 per person

The water is calm and reflective - a perfect time for an excursion to the wetlands and creek upstream of the Fontana Park lake. Paddlers are likely to see and learn about wetland plants and animals. Registration is limited.



Goose Banding

Late June - Date and Location TBD



Have you ever wanted to get up close to a giant Canada goose, or wondered why they are banded? Here's your chance to do hands-on work with the DNR Cedar-

Wapsie Iowa Wildlife Unit to catch, determine sex, and band geese. You will be contacted within a day's notice with date, time, and location of where banding geese will occur. Short notice is due to variables necessary for banding.

Spirit of Chautauqua Iowa Music Tour

Friday, June 24, 6 p.m. Potluck, 7 p.m. Concert
Fontana Park- West Shelter
NO Pre-registration needed

The "Spirit of Chautauqua" is an outdoor concert series brought to you by Will Schmitt and Buchanan County Conservation Board. The music is a tribute to the lively Chautauqua festivals that for many years roamed the rural

America landscape. Schmitt will perform in 50 counties this summer! Bring the family, lawn chairs, and a picnic basket and enjoy some live folk music at Fontana Park.



Unless otherwise indicated, call 319-636-2617 or email fontanapark@iowatelecom.net to preregister for all programs!

Princess Adventures

Wednesday, July 13, 5 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center
Cost: \$5 per child

Do you know a little girl who loves princesses? Want to encourage her to dress up AND have fun



exploring the outdoors at the same time? Girls ages 3-8 are invited to come to the nature center dressed in "princess attire" (whatever that means to them). We will learn about butterflies, insects, Anna Comstock, and make a craft. This will be followed by a tea party with a snack.

Who Goes There?

Saturday, July 16, 8:30 p.m.
Fontana Nature Trails

Who Goes There provides an interesting method for tracking animals at night, using phosphorescent powder. Participants will find evidence of mammals and birds that they may not see during the day.



Star Party

Saturday, Aug. 6, 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center

Join Conservation Board staff and others in enjoying up-close views of the night sky. Highlights will include bright Jupiter with its cloud bands and moons before it sets. Saturn and Mars will be clustered near the bright star Antares in the constellation Scorpius (the Scorpion). Observe bright, reddish Antares. Antares means "rival of Ares" (Ares is the Greek name for Mars), and is Mars' rival in color and brightness.



Old Time Meals

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 5:00 p.m.
Richardson-Jakway House, Jakway Forest
\$20 per person - registration is limited to 26 people!

This Old Time Meal will feature choice of lamb or pork, garden greens, squash, peppers, Amish bread with honey and jam, topped off with a



Dutch oven apple cobbler dessert. A special after-supper program is being planned.

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 restoration of the Historic Site.

Monarch Tagging

Saturday, Sept. 10, 1 p.m.; Location TBD by blooming flowers
Cost: \$3 per person or \$7 per family



Join the naturalists catching, tagging, and releasing monarchs at the start of their fall migration to Mexico. The monarch population in Mexico last winter was up, but a mid-March storm occurred which may impact this year's population. Adults are late arriving, but hopes are for a good summer.

Registrants will be contacted with the tagging location to be determined by nectaring flowers by September 5. Nets and tags will be provided. It is possible to tag 100-200 butterflies in an hour!

Extreme Outdoors!

Visit http://www.buchanancountyiowa.org/services/conservation/extreme_outdoors.php for details about adventures offered through the year.

Extreme Outdoors is a series of adventurous, fun, challenging, 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 skill levels, geared for participants age ten to adult. You may participate in one or all events. Registration for each event is separate and limited. Transportation is the responsibility of participants, but may be available from local county conservation boards.

Call 319-636-2617 or email fontanapark@iowatelecom.net to preregister for any programs!

2016 Extreme Outdoors Schedule **Whitewater Kayaking – Whitewater Course**

June 17; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Manchester; Minimum age 10; Registration \$40/person.

Iowa's longest whitewater course, at more than 800 feet, is in Manchester. The course features six drops of about 18 inches, and provide a great opportunity to teach beginners and challenge the more experienced. To see the features explained, watch the video online at http://manchesterwhitewater.com/index2.php#/rtext_2/. Participants will meet at 9 a.m. Parking is available west of Burger King at 218 W. Main Street Manchester. Kayaks, paddles and life vests are provided. Participants may bring your own life vests. Everyone should bring sunscreen, water, and a lunch (or money for a quick bite at Burger King).



Overnight Canoe Float – Cedar River

July 19-20; 12 p.m.; Mt. Auburn boat ramp; Minimum age 10; Registration \$40/person

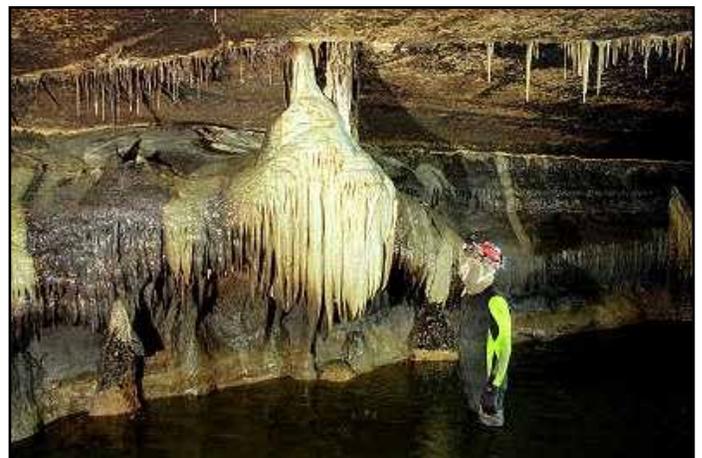
Enjoy an overnight canoe float with camping on a sandbar. Tents, canoes, and food will be provided (except for a sack lunch on Tuesday). Participants need to meet at the Mt. Auburn boat ramp on the Benton/Buchanan road at noon, and will stay overnight at Tobins Cabin on the Cedar river. Benton County Naturalists will present activities that evening. Supper on Tuesday, and breakfast and lunch on Wednesday, will be provided. A sack lunch is needed for Tuesday. [Register with Benton County by calling \(319\) 472-4942.](#)

Spelunking - Coldwater Cave

August 20; Winneshiek County; Minimum age 14; Registration \$40/person

Wet suits, helmets, and neoprene socks provide for a trip into Iowa's longest cave. This adventure involves walking in knee- to waist-deep water, and is dependent on weather and water level conditions (refunds will be given if the trip is canceled). The entrance is a 100 foot ladder going down a shaft into the cave. Getting back up is somewhat difficult. Please assess your physical ability as this is an extreme outdoor event.

One of Coldwater Cave's many formations
(Photo: S. Dankof)



Master River Stewardship Program featuring The Wapsipinicon River Watershed!

July 19 to August 23 (follow-up date TBD); July 12 Registration deadline (please still inquire after the deadline)
Locations are shown below; contact Sondra Cabell (fontanapark@iowatelecom.net/319-636-2617); cost \$50

Iowa Rivers Revival's Master River Stewards Program is a comprehensive river course that will focus on riverine systems, including skills to paddle and navigate rivers, restoring aquatic habitat, improving water quality, and understanding policies related to floodplains, river protection and restoration.

The Master River Steward Program will build on a network of river experts in various partner agencies and organizations. It will help adult learners collaborate to protect and improve Iowa's rivers, so that current and future generations can enjoy these resources.

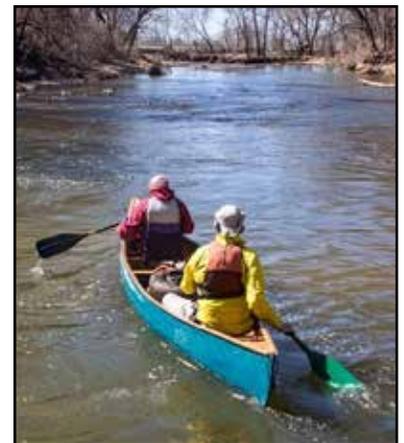
"This was a fantastic program. I came in with no expectations, but left every night excited to share what I learned with others... Thanks so much for putting this together. I will become active in the stewardship of rivers at a far greater level due to this program."

- one of many MRSP testimonials!



Registration cost includes program materials. Participants will be expected to attend each session and there will be "homework" assignments following each class.

There are opportunities for organizations and groups to sponsor aspects of the program, such as general program support, participant registration costs, a meal for one of the evening programs, or program materials and supplies. Funding for this program has been provided by the Iowa DNR's REAP, IOWATER and River Programs. Wolfey's Wapsie Outback in Quasqueton is the first local sponsor.



Schedule (Locations are subject to change)

| Topic | Date | Time | TENTATIVE Location |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Intro. Pre-Meeting | Tues., July 19; | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Okoboji Grill (Independence) |
| • Watersheds & Ag Policies | Tues., July 26; | 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Fontana Nature Center (Hazleton) |
| • River Form & Function | Tues., Aug 2; | 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Wolfey's Wapsie Outback (Quasqueton) |
| • Navigating Iowa's Waters/Wildlife & River Chemistry/Monitoring | Sat., Aug 6; | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Independence to Quasqueton |
| • Stream/Riparian Zone Restoration & Impacts on Fish/Wildlife | Tues., Aug 9 | 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. | UNI—Dry Run Creek (Cedar Falls) |
| • Agriculture Production & Farm/Wastewater | Sat., Aug 20 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Farm of Dick & Diana Sloan (Brandon) |
| • Review & Projects | Tues., Aug 23 | 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Heartland Acres (Independence) |
| • Post Training/Follow-up, Project Sharing & Evaluation | - date and location to be determined. | | |



Iowa Rivers Revival (IRR) is a statewide leader in river education and advocacy – committed to protecting some of our most precious natural resources – our rivers and streams. Since 2007, IRR has been working to engage individuals, organizations, communities and our government leaders in river awareness, responsibility and enjoyment in an effort to improve and enhance the condition of Iowa's waterways – ensuring a quality, safe and lasting resource for future generations.

Fire on the Prairie

Coralee Bodeker, program participant

The following is one of a series of essays by 13-year-old Coralee Becker in her "Prairie Girl's Notebook". It was written on April 4, 2016, following her recent attendance at the night management burn held as a public program at the Crumbacher Wildlife Area southwest of Independence.*



This past evening I watched a managed prairie fire in action at a nearby Buchanan County Conservation property. When we pulled into the drive at Crumbacher Wildlife Area just before sundown, we were greeted by one of the county's naturalists, Sondra Cabell. After finding a fistful of wild turkey feathers in the grass, we all headed down the drive to the burn site, a sturdy northeast wind pushing us toward the pond dike and staging area. We were told by one of the assembled rangers this wind was actually a good thing as it would counteract the fairly high humidity of the evening. As we waited, I began to notice several birds "readying" for the fire. Canada Geese flew in pairs overhead and a Great Horned Owl hooted from a nearby stand of white pines. A lone Red-winged Blackbird flew from his perch on last year's flower stem, marooned in the sea of grass about to be burned. A female wild turkey flushed from a clump of bushes. She was likely sitting on eggs hidden in the brush and I wondered if the fire would burn her nest. I was quickly reassured by Sondra that the flames and burning air would rise right up over the nest, leaving any eggs untouched.

By 7 p.m., everyone had assembled and it was time to start the fire. The rangers and park techs drove down to the far southern end of the field and began using a drip-torch to ignite strips of grass. Before long, a thin column of smoke drifted into the air and after another 45 minutes

had passed, the flames seemed to be lapping right at our feet. Standing so close was not a problem thanks to our upwind position. Now the crackle of the fire was mixing with the trill of the pond frogs. The flames sparked and danced behind cloaks of colored smoke. The fire did not remain in one place for long—winds quickly whipped the advancing front west, leaving behind a trail of charred grass that, because of the already black sky, almost looked like a glowing lava field. The men seemed to walk in and out of the leaping flames as they lay down new torch strips. After spying Orion's Belt aloft, it was time to leave. Hiking north back to the truck, I more than once glanced over my shoulder at the plumes of white smoke, curling and morphing into new shapes as they rose into the nearly-moonless sky. Our eyes sluggishly became accustomed to the dark (and our fingers to the sudden temperature drop); we stumbled over tiny dips and clumps of grass. I thought about the hen turkey, probably waiting out the fire in a nearby tree while her eggs stayed nice and warm in the waning smoke.

*A Prairie Girl's Notebook' is inspired by 'A Naturalist's Notebook' penned by John Schmitt & found in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Living Bird journal. [**Editor's note: management burns are conducted in early spring, prior to turkey and upland bird nesting]



Roots N' Shoots Garden Gets Growing

Behind the Independence Community School District Administration Office sit 14 raised beds that make up the Roots n' Shoots Garden. On Tuesday, May 10, many hands helped to plant the beds with items that will be donated to programs throughout the community.

Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach Executive Director Roxanne Fuller, stated "This was a team collaboration! Students of Rachael Emig's horticulture class started



growing the plants as part of

their curriculum; Chad O'Brien and Tom Zimmerly, with the Independence Community School district, filled the raised beds with compost; and the many hands of volunteers and the Earth, Too Clover Kids 4-H Club, led by Buchanan County Conservation Board naturalists Sondra Cabell and Angie Auel, transferred the plants from starter pots to the garden beds. It's important to teach younger generations where their food comes from; some may even realize they have a green thumb and pick up a new hobby."

The Roots n' Shoots garden are maintained by teachers from the Independence Community School District's elementary schools and community volunteers.



Nominate A Stewardship Volunteer

It is frustrating to see bad actions of people when visiting natural places – beer cans, fast-food containers and cigarette butts on the ground; vandalism of park structures; vehicle tracks from people going off-road. However visible these may be, it is important to remember they are from actions of a minority of park visitors. Most people take care of their trash and respect parks and nature.

During the coming summer months, the Conservation Board would like to recognize the good actions of many people who voluntarily act as stewards of natural resources. The public is invited to submit a photo of themselves, or other people, doing good things – picking up litter, cleaning a facility, pulling invasive species, planting trees or nature gardens, or anything else that indicates good stewardship.

In addition to a photo, please include the name of the nominee(s), where the photo was taken, and what is being done. Email photos and information to bccbdan@iowatelecom.net. The stewardship stories will be posted on the Fontana Park Facebook page. To follow the submissions, be sure to "like" Fontana Park on Facebook!



Right: Good stewardship volunteers – the Littleton Chatham Historical Society has sponsored cleanups of the Wapsipinicon River.

Volunteer Corner – Marybeth Jaggard

Diane Johnson, BCCB Volunteer Coordinator

It is with great happiness that Marybeth Jaggard will be receiving a Governor's Volunteer Award on June 28. Marybeth has been a devoted volunteer at Fontana Park since 1994, when the nature center first opened. She has over 800 hours volunteering as a nature center receptionist. Marybeth also devotes her time to the gardens at Fontana Park along with the Fontana Herb Society. Let us all congratulate Marybeth on her accomplishment!

The Conservation Board and staff would like to thank all our volunteers for a job well done. If you or someone you know are looking for new experiences, consider volunteering at Fontana! Nature Center volunteers enjoy meeting local residents and people from across the country, and across the globe. They help visitors to use displays and gather information. Come and be part of the Conservation Volunteer team!



Marybeth Jaggard

FY15 Annual Volunteer Award Recognition

In March, Conservation Volunteers were recognized during a special luncheon.

Although all were recognized, the following were given special volunteer awards (NC = Nature Center).

Elaine Hughes..... Most Hours as NC Receptionist
 Judy Porter..... 60 Hours NC Receptionist
 David Voigts..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 Lorene Shonka..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 Faith Rulapaugh..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 Shirley Rozendaal..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 Ruby Bodecker..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 Marybeth Jaggard..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Ellen Gaffney..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Frankie King..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Bob Miehe..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Jane Watson..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist

Steve Schulke..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Helen Hoefler..... 20 Hours NC Receptionist
 Joy Hintz..... 20 Hours NC Receptionist
 Edith Biddinger..... 20 Hours NC Receptionist
 Loren Hamilton..... Overall Volunteer
 Barb & Ken Roberson..... New Volunteer
 Elaine Hughes.... Special Project-Wapsi Watershed
 Vern Tiedt & Wanda-Williams Tiedt
 Campground Hosts
 Fontana Herb Society..... Special Project - Gardens
 Senior Meal Site..... Special Project - Newsletters

Three Elms Area Archery and Mountain Biking

Volunteers have been keeping areas at Three Elms maintained for some great trail use.

The 2016 Wapsie Bowhunters Archery Shoots are scheduled for July 17 and September 11. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for kids 12 and under. The course includes 40 Rinehart targets. For more information, contact Jess Ender (319-558-8255).

The mountain bike trails are open to the public. Trail riding is free, and trails map can be found on the new entry signs.

Annual RASH Ride – June 11.

Bicyclists ride at their own pace around Buchanan County. There are 25, 50, or 66-mile ride options, and stops every 10 miles or so with plenty of food and beverages. For more information and to register, visit www.rashride.org!



Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest

Entries must be postmarked by September 12
Complete rules at www.buchanancountyparks.com

Keep your camera handy and snap those photos of Buchanan County's natural areas – whether in your own backyard or at one of 40 Buchanan County Conservation areas. Enter your best images (up to six) in any or all of four contest categories: Landscapes, Wildlife, Plants & Wildflowers, & People Enjoying Nature. There always are many wildlife and plant entries, but not as many Landscapes and People Enjoying Nature. Capture the blossoms, family gathering, or share with us your photos from this past winter's snow, ice, and frost! The overall winner receives \$100 and category winners receive \$50. For more information on the contest, or for a copy of the official rules, visit www.buchanancountyparks.com or call 319-636-2617.



2015 Wildlife Category
Winning photo by Linda Moon

Register Your Butterfly Garden



Buchanan County Conservation Board has partnered with Blank Park Zoo's (BPZ) "Plant, Grow, Fly" (PGF) program for 2016 (www.plantgrowfly.com). As a PGF partner, the Conservation Board committed to work toward getting more than 50

local PGF gardens registered in 2016. Buchanan County Conservation Board was tops in 2015 with 36 gardens registered! Registering a garden is easy: Go to the PGF website and click on the register your 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. Be sure to list Buchanan County Conservation when asked "Did another organization encourage you to register this garden?"

Conservation Calendar!

| | |
|------------|---|
| June | <i>Alone Star Lucas Miller (P. 3).</i> |
| June 3-5 | <i>Free Fishing Weekend</i> |
| June 4 | <i>Hungry, Hungry Animals</i> Fontana Park Wildlife Display, 9 a.m. (P. 4). |
| June 7-9 | <i>River Raiders Program for Youth</i> Upper Iowa River, 8:00 a.m. |
| June 6-9 | <i>Summer Camp Classes</i> begin (call for details) Fontana Nature Center |
| June 9 | <i>Preserving Local Foods</i> First Presbyterian Church, 6:00 p.m. (P. 4). |
| June 11 | <i>RASH Ride</i> , Buchanan County, (P. 6). |
| June 11 | <i>Hungry, Hungry Animals</i> Fontana Park Wildlife Display, 9 a.m. (P. 4). |
| June 12 | <i>Canoe Float</i> Fontana Park, 4 p.m. (P. 4). |
| June 17 | <i>Extreme Outdoors: Whitewater Kayaking</i> Manchester, 9:00 a.m. (P. 6). |
| June 21 | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. |
| Late June | <i>Goose Banding (P. 4).</i> |
| June 24 | <i>Spirit of Chautauqua Iowa Music Tour</i> Fontana Park West Shelter, 6 p.m. (P. 4). |
| July 13 | <i>Princess Adventures</i> Fontana Nature Center, 5 p.m. (P. 5). |
| July 16 | <i>Who Goes There?</i> Fontana Nature Trails, 8:30 p.m. (P. 5). |
| July 17 | <i>Wapsie Bowhunters Shoot</i> Three Elms Area, Independence (P. 10). |
| July 19 | <i>Master River Stewardship Program (MSRP)</i> Fontana Nature Center, 5:30 p.m. (P. 7) |
| July 19 | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. |
| July 19-20 | <i>Extreme Outdoors: Overnight Canoe Float</i> Mt. Auburn Boat Ramp, (P. 6). |
| July 26 | <i>MSRP – Watershed and Ag Policies</i> Fontana Nature Center, 5:30 p.m. (P. 7) |
| Aug. 2 | <i>MSRP – River Form & Function</i> Wapsie River Outback, 5:30 p.m. (P. 7) |
| Aug. 6 | <i>MSRP – Navigating Iowa's Waters...</i> Independence to Quasqueton, 9 a.m. (P. 7) |
| Aug. 6 | <i>Star Party</i> Fontana Nature Center, 9 p.m. (P. 5). |
| Aug. 9 | <i>MSRP – Restoration and Impacts</i> UNI - Dry Run Creek, 5:30 p.m. (P. 7) |
| Aug. 11 | <i>Preserving Local Foods</i> First Presbyterian Church, 6:00 p.m. (P. 4). |
| Aug. 16 | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. |
| Aug. 20 | <i>MSRP – Ag production & Wastewater</i> Sloan Farm, 9 a.m. (P. 7) |
| Aug. 20 | <i>Extreme Outdoors: Spelunking</i> Winneshiek County (P. 6). |
| Aug. 23 | <i>MSRP – Review and Projects</i> Heartland Acres, 5:30 p.m. (P. 7) |
| Sept. 7 | <i>Old Time Meal</i> Jakway Park, 5:00 p.m. (P. 5). |
| Sept. 8 | <i>Preserving Local Foods</i> First Presbyterian Church, 6:00 p.m. (P. 4). |
| Sept. 10 | <i>Monarch Tagging (P. 5).</i> |
| Sept. 11 | <i>Wapsie Bowhunters Shoot</i> Three Elms Area, Independence (P. 10). |
| Sept. 12 | <i>Photo Contest Deadline (P. 9).</i> |

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 (201)..... Quasqueton
33. Quigley-Slattery Heritage Prairie (33)..... Winthrop

Buchanan County River Accesses (acres)

34. Iron Bridge Woodland (34)..... Quasqueton
35. Troy Mills Wapsi Access (63)..... Troy Mills
36. Wapsi River Access (51)..... Independence
37. Three Elms Area (75)..... Independence
38. Cutshall Area (85)..... Jesup
39. Cortright Wildlife Area (190)..... Littleton
40. Robert "Chic" McGlauughlin Access (6)..... Littleton

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The Buchanan County Conservation Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age, or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subject to discrimination, he or she may file a complaint with the Buchanan County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Nature Center Hours

Monday-Tuesday: 8 a.m. to noon
 Wednesday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Weekends: 1-5 p.m.

A sandhill crane walks her young colts in the sedge meadow at Ham Marsh, located northwest of Independence.

Photo by Tom Moon.

