



The Otter Creek Quarterly

Winter, 2016-17
Vol. 31 No. 4

A Newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board

Check out Volunteer Opportunities on Page 8!

The Game Changer for Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation in Iowa!

Dan Cohen, BCCB Director

The Iowa Legislature and Governor have an extraordinary opportunity to leave a legacy more enduring than anything the State has accomplished in decades – arguably the most profound legislative action benefitting the Iowa landscape since the state was founded. The question is whether or not they will boldly grasp this opportunity.

This Legislative Session's grand opportunity is to fund the State's constitutionally protected Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Accomplishing this measure requires fractionally raising the state sales tax – 3/8 of one cent. It doesn't seem like much, but for Iowans this will be huge. The Fund will provide needed enhancements to water quality, parks, trails, and public hunting. Iowa will no longer be ranked at or near the bottom among all states in investment in its natural resources and outdoor recreation.

Iowans want this more than most any other recent statewide initiative. In 2010, 63 percent of the Iowa electorate voted to change the Iowa Constitution by creating the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, and ear-marking the first 3/8 of one cent of the next sales tax increase to the Trust Fund. It is

rare to see this level of support in politics. For example, when Governor Branstad was said to have routed his opponent in the 2014 election, he did so with 59 percent of the vote.

Recent polling shows citizen approval has only grown since 2010. In 2014, 67 percent



of Iowans stated they would like to see the sales tax increase to provide money in the Trust Fund. Eighty-one percent of Iowans said they supported the Trust Fund. The recently approved gas tax increase to fund road infrastructure passed with 48 percent public support.

Iowans voted to change the constitution and establish the Trust Fund based on a distribution formula

defined in Chapter 461 of the Iowa Code. Many conservation, wildlife, sports, agricultural, business and other groups have officially endorsed the effort to fund the Trust and its funding promise. Iowa Soybean Association CEO Kirk Leeds recently stated, "Iowa soybean farmers are proud to stand in support of the long-term, dedicated funding that will enhance soil conservation, improve water quality, restore wildlife habitat and expand outdoor recreation."

Continued on P. 2...



Buchanan County Conservation Board members unanimously endorsed state funding of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (not pictured, Karen Stephenson).

...continued from P. 1

So, citizens have spoken – repeatedly. The question no longer is about public will. The question is about political will. Iowans changed the constitution to establish the Trust Fund and the mechanism for its funding. Iowa law requires political will of legislators and the Governor to implement the fractional tax increase.

Can the Legislature deliver on the wants and needs of its citizens? Will the Governor lend his support? Will this be the generation of Iowans who leave a legacy of improved water and lands – a legacy likely to be recognized as a natural resources turning point by generations to come? Iowans will continue to let their voices be heard, and wait to see if their politicians act.

[For more information about the Trust Fund, including the funding distribution formula, visit www.iowawaterandlandlegacy.org/resources/ or contact Dan Cohen at Fontana Park, 319-636-2617].



Above: Iowa citizens spoke clearly when they amended the constitution to establish the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Iowa citizens continue to speak (top to bottom): Buchanan County Trails Association; a gathering at the Kauten Farm in southern Fayette County; program attendees at Wolfey's Wapsi Outback in Quasqueton; Independence Chautauqua Literary Club; and Quasqueton Federated Garden Club.

Winter Reflections from the Fontana Cabins



Excerpts are from cabin journals, written by cabin renters during their stay this past winter. Call to reserve a cabin - 319-636-2617.

"Nice, peaceful weekend." 1-23-16

"Saw two deer on the morning constitutional. Cloudy and spring-like. I enjoyed my visit very much and will return. My alone time was much needed. Ahh, to be Wadsworth, Longfellow, Thoreau, or good old Aldo Leopold - if only for a weekend." 2/28/16

"We went snowshoeing. My sister's shoe fell off. It was so funny! We went hiking with B.J.'s dog [and] looked for animal feet. Happy New Year people!" 1-2-16

"...can hear turkeys as I wrap this up." 12-6-15



Chickadee Check-off

The Fish and Wildlife Tax Check-off, affectionately called the Chickadee Check-off, allows people to make charitable donations to wildlife conservation in Iowa. 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. Money contributed through the check-off helps support the Wildlife Diversity Program at the Iowa DNR, which addresses management of wildlife that can't be hunted, fished or trapped. Learn more at: www.iowadnr.gov/wildlifediversity.

Great Backyard Bird Count - February 17-20

The Great Backyard Bird Count (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 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. Take note of the highest number of each species you see on this checklist.

3. When finished, enter your results through the www.birdcount.org web page. You will 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.

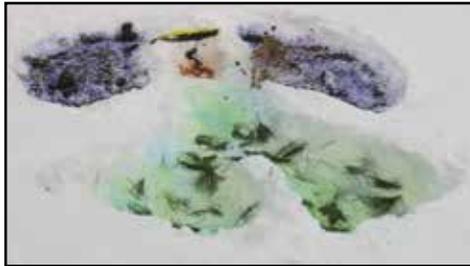
Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery.



Ice and Snow Creations Fun Day

Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.
Fontana Park

Are you great at making snowmen, or snow dinosaurs? What about snow angels? Maybe you are an expert at creating ice sculptures, or would like to try making an ice sun catcher. Regardless of what Mother Nature deals us (except perhaps a blizzard), we can find some way to turn it into an imaginative creation. Join the fun and see what can be made. Hot Cider and Hot Chocolate will be available for participants inside the Nature Center.



Unless otherwise indicated, programs are free, but preregistration is required. To preregister, call 319-636-2617 or email naturalist@iowatelecom.

Princess Adventures

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 5 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Cost: \$5 per child; ages 3-8

Do you know one or more little people who love princesses? Want to encourage them to dress up and have fun exploring the outdoors



Princesses enjoying the summer plants program

at the same time? Children ages 3-8 are invited to come to the nature center dressed in "princess attire" (whatever that means to them) and learn about snowflakes, make a craft to take home, and enjoy a tea party with a snack.

Moonlit Snowshoe

Saturday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Cortwright Wildlife Area
Fee - \$5 per participant

Strap on a pair of snowshoes and explore the beauty of a winter evening at the Cortwright Wildlife Area northwest of Independence. If the sky is clear, the full moon will light our way. No prior snowshoeing experience is necessary. All ages are welcome.



The Milkweed Community

Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church -
During Master Gardner Symposium (see below)

Each summer week from May to September for the past eleven years you could find Sondra Cabell looking at milkweeds as a citizen scientist monitoring monarch larvae. Among the monarch eggs and caterpillars, other interesting invertebrates were common. This past summer a camera was constantly with her. Through photos and gathered information, she will share the complex community – and amazing interactions - that she observed calling milkweeds home.



Milkweed Bug (Family Lygaeidae)

2017 Buchanan County Master Gardener Symposium

Saturday, February 25, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church -
Cost is \$30 if registered by February 1, \$35 thereafter.

The annual symposium will feature four main speakers, breakout sessions, breakfast items, hot lunch, vendor shopping, a silent auction, and door prizes. To register, call or email Buchanan County ISU Extension (319-334-7161 or xbuchanan@iastate.edu).

Recycled Denim Quilt Class

Monday, Feb. 11, 9 a.m. to noon
 Registration fee: \$10/person; limited to 8 participants
 Youth must be accompanied by an adult.
 Fontana Nature Center Classroom

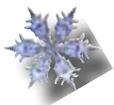
Quilting was traditionally a way to be creatively reuse available fabric pieces. Try your hand at recycling some of your old denim during an instructional workshop. Kelley Fischels guide you in recycling your old jeans and other denim into your choice of a cuddly quilt or a small pet mat. Participants must provide their own sewing machine and know how to operate it. Registrants will be given a supply list.



Landowner Workshop

Tuesday, Feb. 28 6:30 p.m.
 Fontana Nature Center Classroom

There are many ways that Iowa landowners and operators are implementing conservation practices. This workshop features resource professionals who will explain some of the practices and cost-share programs available to those who want their property to produce clean water, healthy soil, and wildlife. Information also will be provided about planning and project opportunities through a grant received by the Upper Wapsipicon River Watershed Management Authority.



Calling All Owls

Monday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.
 Fontana Nature Center Classroom

Everyone loves owls! Yet, how often do you get to see an owl up close? Perhaps you've glimpsed the shadowy form of a Great-horned Owl in the beam of your headlights as you traveled a back road at night. Come learn about Buchanan County owls, meet our resident barred owl up close, and try to call will owls from the nearby woods.



Barred Owl

Bald Eagles in Iowa

Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.
 Fontana Nature Center Classroom

The Bald Eagle is more than a national symbol. It is a fascinating raptor, which builds huge nests and bonds with a mate for life. Come learn about this amazing bird and its population status in Iowa from Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Biologist Stephanie Shepherd. Discover how you may be able to help biologists monitor the population, and then take a visit to an eagle nest. This program is most appropriate for ages 12 and up, and will consist of a 50 minute program followed by the field trip to an eagle nest.



Eagles in the winter

Conservation Board to Receive REAP Grant

A Conservation Board grant application to the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program received the top grant score and has been awarded \$185,500 for a project to protect habitat and water quality, and provide enhanced public outdoor recreation, in the Wapsipinicon River corridor. The Roberts Wildlife Area will connect Buchanan County's Cutshall Area northwest of Jesup to Wilson Woods in Black Hawk County. More about this project will be found in future editions of the newsletter, once the property opens to the public.

REAP invests in projects that enhance and protect Iowa's natural and cultural resources. A portion of REAP is set aside for county conservation boards, with very competitive grants to fund everything from land protection to trails and infrastructure projects. REAP funding is in high demand, and typically there only are enough funds to award 20 percent of applicants. Buchanan County has fared well, with many successful grant projects. To see how REAP dollars have benefited Buchanan County, visit www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/ProjectsbyCounty.aspx.

REAP provides important funds for county, city, and state projects, soil and water conservation on private lands, roadside management, historic preservation, environmental education, and more. In its 27 years, REAP has benefited every county in Iowa by supporting over 15,000 projects. REAP's investments leverage 2-3 times the amount in private, local, and federal dollars.



View at Roberts Wildlife Area.-

Successful Grants and Help from Friends

In addition to the REAP grant award (see article to left), the Conservation Board is making progress on other initiatives through grants and help from friends.



Planting More Prairie

With demand from local landowners for conservation planting assistance at an all-time high, the Conservation Board has been struggling to keep up with all the good work. A seed drill was needed to help keep up with demand. The **Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (PF)** stepped in to assist. With major funding from a grant from **Buchanan County Community Foundation**, the local PF Chapter purchased and donated the drill. In November, the new equipment began seeding acres that will protect soil and water, and provide habitat.

Winter Animals Building

During the past year, the Conservation Board made upgrades to the popular live wildlife display at Fontana Park. Sidewalks were installed and raptor cages were rebuilt. Plans were drawn for construction of a new building to house animals during cold weather months in a way that promotes viewing by the public. The building also will be able to house year-round educational displays and provide storage and caretaking space. **Friends of Fontana Park** committed major funding to this project, and also received grants from **Buchanan County Community Foundation Grant and Black Hawk County Gaming Commission**. Fundraising is ongoing. **Donations of \$1,000 or more** will be recognized on the outside of the winter animals building. Call 319-636-2617 for more information about the project, and about making a donation.

These projects are indicative of how big conservation efforts are accomplished in



Buchanan County. Conservation is something that takes many hands, and many friends!

Congratulations Photo Contest Winners!

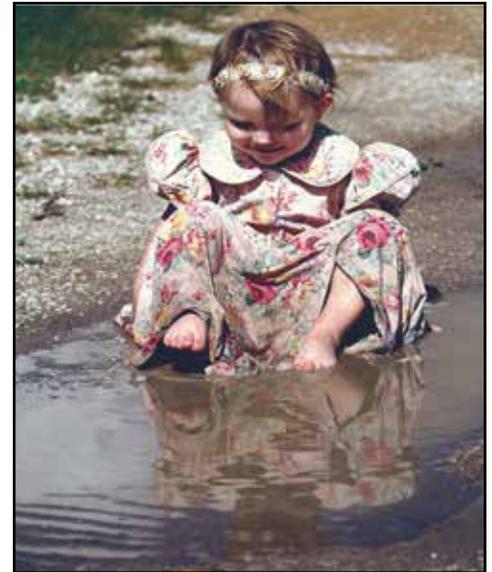
Winners in the 2016 Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest were recently chosen by Kip Ladage, professional freelance photographer. Kip shared some of his favorite images from 2015 and tips on what makes a good photo better before judging. He then offered comments on the images entered this year and selected the winning photos. Thanks to everyone who entered one or more pictures, and congratulations to all the winners.

We had a significant rise in overall entries this year and all four categories were full of good photos to make selection of the winners more challenging. However, we also had a number of those entries disqualified because they did not include all of the information needed on the back of the image. Missing phone numbers and/or failure to include the location where the image was taken were the items most often missing from the photo. We encourage everyone who entered to enter again and keep trying!

Tracy Belle of Independence was chosen the overall winner for her photo of a girl playing in the mud in a dress (and cheers to the adults that let her do so!) Tracy also won in the Wildlife category with a photo a bounding white-tail doe. Kim Wessels won in the remaining three categories. Her image of a thistle flower was selected in the Plants & Wildflowers category, a rosy cheeked girl sledding won in People Enjoying Nature, and a colorful fall image of Virginia creeper up an oak tree won in Landscapes.

Both Kim & Tracy have entered in previous years without producing winning photos, but have continued to enter and their work was rewarded this year. The photo contest was sponsored by the Buchanan County Conservation Board. The overall winner received a \$100 prize and winners in each category received \$50. The photos now are on display in the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center.

Start taking pictures (or looking through images you have that have not been entered previously) when you are out picnicking, hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, hunting, skiing, geocaching, etc. in Buchanan County for next year's contest. 2016 Contest winners and 2017 Contest Rules will be online soon at www.buchanancountyparks.com. You can always find information there as well about all our county properties and upcoming events (click on the newsletter link). We look forward to seeing new photos from all of this year's participants and from other amateur photographers in next year's contest.



2016 Overall Winner by Tracy Belle

Get the e-Newsletter – Quick and in Color!

The Buchanan County Conservation Board encourages newsletter subscribers to change from paper mailings to an emailed newsletter. The email version has COLOR photos, CLICK-ON LINKS, and highlights not seen in the black & white print version. It usually arrives 3-4 days BEFORE the mail version. And you can save it to your computer for easy access and to double check program dates and other information. People also have the OPTION of receiving reminders and other information that might pop up between issues by signing up to be on a listserve. By signing up to receive the newsletter electronically, you are participating in good conservation by saving energy, resources, and costs related to printing the paper version.

To make the switch to email newsletter, send an email to dljohnson@windstream.net or call 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. If you remain a paper subscriber, please be sure to notify the Conservation Board office of any address change.



Nature Center Receptionist Workshop

Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m.
Preregistration required

This workshop is for everyone interested in serving as a nature center volunteer —, from seasoned volunteers who would like a refresher, to newcomers considering joining this volunteer effort. All are welcome! A full orientation will be provided to new volunteers.



Volunteer Edith Biddinger is handed a turtle from the Nature Center Hands-in Pond.

Nature Center

Receptionists assist conservation efforts by:

- Keeping the Nature Center open to visitors Thursday-Sunday;
- Greeting local park users, and visitors from all over the world;
- Helping interpret displays and exhibits
- Answering phone calls, answering questions, and taking messages.

Receptionist are a vital part of the conservation team. If you would like to be a part of this extraordinary group, please pre-register. The workshop will begin with drinks and donuts in the Nature Center. Call 319-636-2617 to preregister, or email Diane at dljohnson@windstream.net.

Volunteer Recognition

(as of 11/17/16)

Edith Biddinger.....	152
Ruby Bodeker.....	135
Joye Bower.....	143
Margaret Damage.....	47
Jim Elliott.....	8
Ellen Gaffney.....	186
Helen Hoefer.....	814
Elaine Hughes.....	305
Marybeth Jaggard.....	858
Kathy Karsten.....	102
Frankie King.....	215
Bob Miehe.....	209
Patti Olmsteadt.....	268
Judy Porter.....	399
Barbara Roberson.....	86
Ken Roberson.....	61
Shirley Rozendaal.....	273
Faith Rulapaugh.....	461
Ruth Schlitter.....	82
Steve Schulke.....	111
Sue Schulke.....	15
Lorene Shonka.....	195
Michelle Smith.....	8
David Voigts.....	453
Jane Watson.....	228
Clark Willoughby.....	71

During winter months, driving conditions may be dangerous for weekend volunteers and staff to open the nature center. Please call ahead when weather may be considered hazardous for driving. The nature center may be closed.

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

Shopping at the Nature Cen-

This year, consider making your holiday gifts reflect one of the main wishes we all have - spending quality time with family and friends. Purchase campground certificates and/or gift certificates for the sustainable living cabins at Fontana Park. Perhaps your gift could be a sponsorship of an animal in the wildlife display. For a donation ranging from \$35-\$150 you can place the name(s) of your kids, family, or friends on a plaque affixed to an animal enclosure for the 2017 calendar year. Certificates, sponsorships and program registrations can be purchased at the Nature Center, or ordered by phone (319-636-2617).

Stop in the nature center and look at our selection of nature books, field guides, t-shirts, environmentally-produced coffee, and miscellaneous nature toys, mugs, and more. Cash and personal checks are accepted.



New Latrine at Three Elms – Porta Potties for Sale



© Can Stock Photo

The Buchanan County Conservation Board is placing a new latrine at Three Elms Area, and is accepting sealed bids for the sale of the **two porta potties** (toilets) at the park. Bids must be received at the

Conservation Board office no later than 4 p.m. on 12/14/16. The units may be viewed north of the picnic shelter at Three Elms Area, located on Three Elms Road, Independence, Iowa. Successful bidder will take both units and is responsible for picking them up. For further details, call 319-636-2617. Send sealed bids to: Porta Potties; Fontana Park; 1883 125th St.; Hazleton, IA 50641.

Conservation Calendar!

- Dec. 15 *Conservation Board Meeting*
Bill's Restaurant in Independence,
6 p.m. (subject to change).
- Dec. 23-26 *Merry Christmas!* (Nature Center closed)
- Jan. 2 *Happy New Year!* (Nature Center closed)
- Jan. 14 *Ice/Snow Creations Fun Day*
Fontana Park, 10 a.m. (P. 4).
- Jan. 16 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- Jan. 17 *Conservation Board Meeting*
Fontana Park, 6 p.m. (subject to change).
- Jan. 31 *Princess Adventures*
Fontana Nature Center, 5 p.m. (P. 4)
- Feb. 10 *Moonlit Snowshoe*
Cortwright, 6:30 p.m. (P. 4).
- Feb. 11 *Recycled Denim Quilt Class*
Fontana Nature Center, 9 a.m. (P. 5)
- Feb. 17-20 *Great Backyard Bird Count* (P. 3).
- Feb. 20 *President's Day* (Nature Center closed)
- Feb. 21 *Conservation Board Meeting*
Fontana Park, 6 p.m.
(subject to change).
- Feb. 25 *The Milkweed Community*
First Presbyterian Church, 11 a.m. (P. 4)
- Feb. 25 *Master Gardeners Symposium*
First Presbyterian Church, 9 a.m. (P. 4)
- Feb. 27 *Calling All Owls*
Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. (P. 5)
- Feb. 28 *Landowner Workshop*
Fontana Nature Center, 6:30 p.m. (P. 5)
- Mar. 11 *Volunteer Workshop*
Fontana Nature Center, 9 a.m. (P. 8).
- Mar. 11 *Eagle Program*
Fontana Nature Center, 10 a.m. (P. 5).
- Mar. 15 *Conservation Board Meeting*
Fontana Park, 6 p.m. (subject to change).

See Solar Energy in Action

The recently installed solar panels at the Independence Community School District Bus Barn are working to reduce environmental and financial costs. You can view their energy production by going to the web site: <https://monitoringpublic.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/p/site/public?name=Independence%20Schools%20Bus%20Barn#/dashboard>

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 (40)..... 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" McGlaughlin Access (6)..... Littleton

Board Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Loren Hamilton..... | President |
| Ronnie Wolfe..... | Vice President |
| Karen Stephenson..... | Secretary |
| Andy Crump..... | Member |
| Anita Miller..... | Member |

Conservation Staff

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dan Cohen..... | Executive Director |
| Sondra Cabell..... | Interpretive Naturalist |
| Angela Auel..... | Interpretive Naturalist |
| Mike Van Raden..... | Park Ranger |
| Jeremy Whittle..... | Park Ranger |
| Michael Maas..... | Conservation Technician |
| Chris Hansen..... | Conservation Technician |
| Elaine Walker..... | Office Manager |
| Diane Johnson..... | Secretary/Volunteer Coordinator |

The Otter Creek Quarterly is printed on Exact Offset paper manufactured by Wausau. This is a Green Seal paper - a mark of environmental responsibility. For more information about Green Seal paper, got to www.greenseal.org. The newsletter is edited by Dan Cohen. Contact the Conservation Department (319-636-2617/bccbdan@iowatelecom.net) for more information.

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.

For more information regarding Conservation Board activities, call 319-636-2617/bccbdan@iowatelecom.net

With winter comes ice fishing at Fontana Park, Koutny Pond, and elsewhere.

