



The Otter Creek Quarterly

Spring, 2018
Vol. 33 No. 1

A Newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board

New in 2018 – Nature Kids! (page 4)!

Nature as the Tie that Binds

Dan Cohen, BCCB Director

Much has been made lately of the divisiveness, tribalism, and differing realities among segments of our shared society. Although these differences are stark in our politics and many aspects of daily life, they are quite subdued when it comes to our outdoor experiences and relationships with nature.

Nature remains a tie which binds us. The human need and desire to be in natural places and seek out wildness is universal, likely stemming from a shared social-evolution which favored those who found comfort and solace in their natural surroundings. As the acclaimed scientist Edward O. Wilson put it, as a species, *“nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction”*.

Evidence of nature as a tie that binds is obvious in local parks and natural areas. Take a look at political bumper stickers on vehicles in parking lots, and visit with the people – it is obvious that political affiliation is of little consequence to the desire to seek out natural places. You will find a variety of economic classes; and perhaps a representation of race, ethnicity, and other elements that are at least as diverse as the general population. Men, women, and children are well represented. Universal appeal to public parks and natural areas likely also has to do with the very American tradition of these areas being protected in public domain – we all are part owners of our natural heritage!

Evidence of nature as a tie that binds also is apparent in recent polling, and in the 2010 vote to change the Iowa Constitution to include the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Sixty-three percent of Iowans voted in favor of this change – a greater favorable vote margin than the Governor or other statewide officials received. Understanding that the



Trust would be funded by a 3/8-cent sales tax increase, about 70 percent of Iowans still want the Legislature and Governor to act. Equally amazing is that this desire crosses nearly all political and demographic lines: A majority of republicans, democrats, conservatives, liberals, rural, urban, and suburban Iowans polled last November wanted to see natural resources and outdoor recreation funded under the Constitution.

Due to many conflicting values, politics and behaviors are sometimes at odds with the universal appeal of nature: State officials still have not funded the Trust Fund; for the first time since Teddy Roosevelt was President, national monuments are being decreased; and federal and state budgets increasingly do not reflect nature as a priority. This reminds me of another E.O. Wilson quote: *“I doubt that most people with short-term thinking love the natural world enough to save it”*. Nature may be a tie that binds, but politics and short-sightedness are not.

Regardless of short-term values and political winds, nature remains key in reminding us of universal connections to each other, and to the world outside – a tie to bind us all.

Get Your e-Newsletter Quick and in Color!



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. You can help reduce these costs by requesting to switch your mailing subscription to an email subscription. Simply email djohnson@co.buchanan.ia.us and request to receive the newsletter via email. Indicate the old mailing address to delete. Your environmental footprint will get a size smaller.

Conservation Scholarships

Application Deadline: March 12!

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 7. 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;
- 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, Starmont, or Wapsie Valley. All applicants must complete an application form which must be received prior to the March 12 deadline. To apply for the scholarship click [here](#). For more information, call or email Dan Cohen at 319-636-2617/dcohen@co.buchanan.ia.us.

Make Reservations Online Now!

Bookings for **cabins, camp sites, and shelters** at Fontana Park fill quickly. To get your first choice of dates and sites, click [here](#) to check availability and make reservations. Reservable campsites at Fontana Park are located along the east side of the campground – nicely tucked in along the pine trees. Non-reservable sites are available on a first-come basis. The online system will also be used to register for public programs, outings, camps, and classes. Click [here](#) and you can register for any program. Fill out your information, and make payment with a credit or debit card. It is that simple.



Attention Bicyclists!



The 24-mile **annual Fools' Ride** will be held April 7, 2018. The bicycle ride will begin in La Porte City at Getaway Bar & Grill at 11:30 a.m. and travel to Phat's Pub and Grub in Brandon and back. Live bands will be featured at both locations. **The annual RASH Ride** will be held June 9. 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. To register or for more information, visit www.rashride.org!

Sponsors of the Conservation and Natural Resources Scholarship

- Buchanan County Pheasants Forever
- Buchanan County Wildlife Association
- Brandon Fish & Game Club
- Friends of Fontana Park
- Littleton Hookanliners
- Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers
- Wapsi Flyway

Monarch Habitat Plant Sale

Oelwein FFA has started locally sourced milkweed (swamp, whorled, butterfly, poke, and common) and meadow blazingstar in their greenhouse. With successful germination and transplanting, they hope to have a good supply of these native monarch habitat plants available for sale during their spring plant sales which take place at the greenhouse on the north side of the high school. The date has not been set yet but will be early May. Please support the local chapter and pollinator habitat by buying and planting milkweeds from them. Please contact Megan McCleary at mmcclary@oelwein.k12.ia for details and dates.



Meadow Blazingstar



Butterfly Milkweed



Swamp Milkweed

Attention Landowners Interested in Conservation!

Two upcoming programs will feature great information for landowners and land operators interested in implementing conservation practices on their property.



CRP Management Workshop

Wednesday, February 28, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday, February 28 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Independence Public Library; registration not required; sponsored by Pheasants Forever

Learn how wildflowers, grasses, and pollinators impact pheasant populations. There will be discussion of how to get involved; costs to get enrolled in conservation reserve program (CRP); an update on CRP management; and explanations of CRP rules. Information is the same at both sessions, and there is no cost to attend.

Upper Wapsi Watershed Landowner Information Meeting

Thursday, March 8, 6 p.m. - Brandon Community Center;

Wednesday, March 14, 1:30 p.m. - Wolfey's Wapsi Outback, Quasqueton

RSVP by contacting Angie Auel, 319-327-7674 or angieauel@indytel.com

Upper Wapsi Watershed Management Authority (WMA) will be hosting two landowner meeting opportunities to learn about the Iowa Watershed Approach and sign up for technical assistance for conservation Best Management Practices (BMP) installation. The March 8 meeting will include a meal provided by Buchanan County Pheasants Forever. The March 14 meeting will include snacks provided by Wolfey's Wapsi Outback. Landowners are encouraged to attend either of the sessions to learn about eligible conservation practices, and 75% WMA cost-share availability in the Dry Creek, Sand Creek, and Smith Creek watersheds in southern Buchanan County.



Click below to register for public programs.

Tracking Spring Journey North!

Tuesday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Register [here](#)



Are you ready for spring? What signs do you look for – robins, tulips, or leaves on trees? Journey North is a citizen-based reporting system that tracks the arrival of spring across North America. By accessing a website, people can see where the robins or monarchs are, with reports available within minutes of posting. There also is a year-to-year log of spring arrivals to compare as you continue to participate. Bring your smartphone, tablet, and/or laptop, and see how easy, educational, and fun citizen science can be.

Nature Kids

Tuesday, March 13 - 10 a.m. Turtles- Register [here](#)
Monday, April 9 – 10 a.m. Furry Friend- Register [here](#)
Monday, May 14 – 10 a.m. Toads- Register [here](#)
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Ages 3-5;



Bring a child to the park to learn about and experience different Iowa animals each month. The program will start with a story, include an up-close encounter with a live animal, and end with time spent outside exploring (dress for the weather). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Kites Over the Prairie

Saturday, March 24 1 p.m.
Crumbacher Wildlife Area NE Parking Lot
1518 240th St, Independence
Register [here](#)



March winds are great for launching kites into the sky and enjoying family time outdoors. Participants will be able to make their own kites, bring their own kites to fly, and/or test out (or purchase) some special models provided by representatives from Crawdaddy Outdoors. Imagine dozens of colorful and diverse kites floating above the prairie!



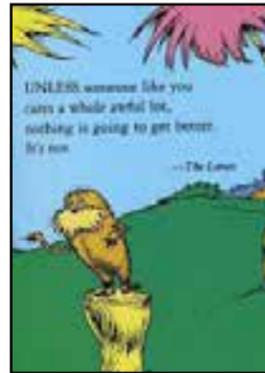
Coyote Club

Tuesday, April 3, 5 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Ages 6-10; Cost: \$5 per child
Register [here](#)



Coyote Club is for kids age 6-10 who are interested in nature, animals, and outdoor fun! Participants engage with the Naturalist at Fontana Park, with programs scattered throughout the year.

The upcoming Coyote Club Program features an interactive telling of the Dr. Seuss classic, *The Lorax* - presented by the Old Onceler himself! Each kid will have a role to play during the raucous re-enactment. Following the Lorax Story, Coyote Club will venture outside to the Nature Play Area. This is a designated area in the Fontana Woodland where we work to keep plants and poison ivy removed. Children will be able to use their imagination to create their own fun in nature. The program will conclude with snacks in the Nature Center. Be sure to dress for the weather, since Coyote Club always goes outside!



Photos with Kip Ladage

Thursday, April 12, 7 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center Classroom

The **Fontana Herb Society** will host Kip Ladage during their April speaker series. Kip will share his photos of wildlife and the outdoor world.

A wildlife photographer from Tripoli, Iowa, Kip's work has been used around the world in books, magazines, promotional items, and newspapers. He has been featured on Iowa Public Television's "Iowa Outdoors".



Fontana Herb Society Plant Sale

The Fontana Herb Society will conduct their annual plant sale May 5, 8-11 a.m., with some of the proceeds going to Friends of Fontana Park.

Click below to register for public programs.

Sponsor and Plant a Fruit Tree

Friday, April 27, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Fontana Park's Hwy 150 entrance area
Register [here](#)



Apple, cherry, pear and peach are among the planned tree species to be planted at the newly acquired front entrance to Fontana Park. For just \$25 and a bit of planting time, individuals, families, or groups can sponsor a fruit tree. Sponsors will be given instructions on planting the tree, and tools will be available for them to use. A sponsorship post will be placed by the tree, and Conservation Board staff will provide care as needed during establishment. Sponsors are encouraged to visit their tree and eventually harvest fruit, once the trees begin producing in a few years.

Leaf and Flower Printing

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Cost: \$5 per person
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Register [here](#)

Spring leaves and flowers are soft and full of colorful pigments. Try your hand at using them to create an artistic image or images for a t-shirt, wall hanging, or even a quilt.

A piece of reclaimed cotton cloth will be provided for practice/testing, or for a finished wall hanging product. Participants may bring their own 100% white, cotton, pre-washed T-shirts if desired. The noise level will be loud as participants pound pigments out of the plant materials (some foam ear plugs will be provided). Participants should bring a hammer, if they have one.



Old Time Meals

Wednesday, May 30 and Sept. 5, 5:00 p.m.; Richardson-Jakway House, Jakway Forest
\$20 per person - registration is limited to 26 people; Register [here](#)

The May 30 Old Time Meal will feature smoked ham, garden greens, squash, Amish bread with honey and huckleberry jam, and a handmade dessert. A special, after-supper program is being planned. Old Time Meals are sponsored by the Richardson-Jakway Foundation and Conservation Board, and raise funds for restoration of the Historic Site.



Wild Edibles

Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Cost: \$12 per person
Register [here](#)



Discover flavors of the forest with Mitchell County Conservation Board Naturalist Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe and Buchanan County Conservation Board Naturalist Michael Maas. This program focuses on identification and characteristics of plants available for harvest during the spring season and sampling of the forest delicacies. Flowers, greens, roots, and shoots are just a few of the items on the menu. All supplies will be provided. There will be a leisurely walk to observe and collect wild foods. Participants should dress for the weather, and may want to bring insect repellent, close-toed shoes, and a water bottle. Notebooks and a camera are also great for taking notes. Children are welcome to attend with an adult.

Morning Paddle

Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Meet at Fontana Interpretive Nature Center
Ages: 10 - adult; Cost: \$5 per person
Register [here](#)

Learn about kayak basics and join Naturalist Michael Maas for a guided tour of Otter Creek and its backwater wetlands.

Kayaks and life jackets will be provided. If there has been thought about buying a kayak this is a great time to see if it is what you have been looking for. The minimum age is 10, and youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



2018 Master River Stewards Program

Wapsipinicon River Watershed

Registration Deadline: May 4, 2018 (please inquire about availability after this date)

Click [here](#) to register for MRSP programs.

Contact: Sondra Cabell, Naturalist, scabell@co.buchanan.ia.us, (319) 636-2617

Iowa Rivers Revival's Master River Stewards Program (MRSP) is a comprehensive river course focusing 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 MRSP uses a network of river experts in various partner agencies and organizations. Participants will better understand how to collaborate to protect and improve Iowa's rivers, so that current and future generations can enjoy these resources.

Feedback from past participants:

- "Great class, thoroughly enjoyed each and every session."
- "Great leadership. Great resources/readings. Great speakers. Great group."
- "Really enjoyed class. Had zero expectations coming in. Was surprised by the amount of river experience/Project AWARE tie in. Really enjoyed meeting such passionate people. Each week gave me something to think about and discuss with co-workers."
- "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."



Registration Cost: Participants will pay a fee of \$60 which will include program materials. Participants will be expected to attend each session and there will be "homework" assignments following each class – materials will be provided.

Sponsorships: 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.

Program Details: Dates (T=Tuesday; S=Saturday) and locations are subject to change.

Session Topic	Date	Time	Tentative Location
• Intro. Pre-Meeting	May 15 (T)	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Okoboji Grill (Independence)
• Watersheds & Ag Policies	May 22 (T)	5:30 - 9:30 p.m.	
• River Form & Function	June 5 (T)	5:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Wolfey's (Quasqueton)
• Navigating Iowa's Waters/Wildlife & River Chemistry/Monitoring	June 23 (S)	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Three Elms to Quasqueton
• Stream/Riparian Zone Restoration & Impacts on Fish/Wildlife	July 17 (T)	5:30 - 9:30 p.m.	UNI—Dry Run Creek (Cedar Falls)
• Treatment Plant Visits/Ag Production	July 28 (S)	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Cedar Falls Waste Water Plant
• Review & Potential Projects	Aug. 7 (T)	5:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Heartland Acres Events Center (Ind.)
• Post Training /Follow-up, Project Sharing/Evaluation	TBD	TBD	TBD

Summer Programs for Kids Ages 3 to 14

It is time to register for the Conservation Board's popular series of summer youth programs. Registration is limited on all camps. Click below to register your child(ren) for summer programs.

Wee Nature Tales

Tuesdays, June 5 – July 24 10 a.m.-11 a.m. register [here](#) OR
Thursdays June 7 – July 26 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. register [here](#)
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Ages: 3-5 yrs; 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

Tuesdays, June 5 – July 17 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. register [here](#)
Wednesday July 25, 12 p.m. Picnic and Awards
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Ages: 9-12 yrs; 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



Wednesdays, June 6 – July 18 9:30 a.m. -11 a.m. register [here](#) OR
Thursdays June 7 – July 19 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. register [here](#)
Wednesday July 25, 12 p.m. Picnic and Awards
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Ages: 6-8 yrs; 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 – Kendallville to Decorah, IA

Fontana Training Day: July 9, 5-7 p.m.
Upper Iowa River: July 17-19 ; Age: youth entering grades 6-8;
Cost: \$90; Register [here](#) and is limited to 12 participants

Adventure awaits around every bend! 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, rapids, scenic waterfalls, cold springs, and 200-foot chimney bluffs. The trip fee includes use of tents, food, canoes, life jackets, paddles and transportation. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants. Participants must attend the training day on July 9. The training will include camping and paddling basics, menu for the trip itinerary and what to pack.





Volunteer Workshop

Saturday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.
Fontana Nature Center
Register by calling (319) 636-2617 or
e-mail bcbscheduling@gmail.com

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.

New Home for Wood Ducks

Jaryd Benson of Jesup completed his Eagle Scout project on February 21. He learned about wood ducks and what can be done to help them. Jaryd came to the Conservation Board office to request help with a wood duck nest box project, and where the Conservation Department might want some boxes placed on public land. The Roberts Wildlife Area (RWA) was selected as an area with excellent wood duck habitat. The area currently belongs to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, with the Conservation Board managing the property. Eventually, the Conservation Board will own and manage RWA, located just west and north of Cutshall Area. As an Eagle Scout, Jaryd needed to acquire donations to completely fund his project. He was able to get donations from Midwest Contracting and Heartland Technology. Jared and his dad, Mike, visited Roberts Wildlife Area with conservation staff and selected areas to place nest boxes. Jared's scout group made nine boxes, and seven of them were placed at RWA.

Nature Center Volunteer Receptionists Hours

(as of 2/12/18)

Edith Biddinger.....	189 hours
Ruby Bodeker.....	161 hours
Joye Bowers.....	165 hours
Margaret Damge.....	55 hours
Ellen Gaffney.....	225 hours
Helen Hoefer.....	836 hours
Elanie Hughes.....	347 hours
Marybeth Jaggard.....	892 hours
Rita Knutson.....	6 hours
Kathy Karsten.....	122 hours
Francis King.....	226 hours
Bob Mieke.....	210 hours
Duane Olsen.....	14 hours
Patti Olmstead.....	272 hours
Judith Porter.....	423 hours
Barb Roberson.....	91 hours
Ken Roberson.....	55 hours
Shirley Rozendaal.....	303 hours
Faith Rulapaugh.....	481 hours
Lorene Shonka.....	215 hours
David Voigts.....	491 hours
Karm VanLaningham.....	85 hours
Jane Watson.....	253 hours
Clark Willoughby.....	168 hours



Eagle Scout, Jaryd Benson (middle), Mike Benson (left), Collin Trumbauer (right)

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

Conservation Calendar!

February 28	CRP Management Workshop Independence Public Library 1:00 p.m. (P. 3)	May 5	Fontana Herb Society Plant Sale Fontana Nature Center, 8:00 a.m. (P. 4).
March 6	Tracking Spring - Journey North and Training Fontana Nature Center 6:30 p.m.(P. 4).	May 8	Leaf and Flower Printing Fontana Nature Center, 6:30 p.m. (P. 5).
March 8	Upper Wapsi Watershed Meeting Brandon Community Center 6:00 p.m. (P. 3).	May 12	Wild Edibles Fontana Nature Center, 9:00 a.m. (P. 5).
March 10	Volunteer Workshop Fontana Nature Center, 9:00 a.m. (P. 8).	May 13	Mother's Day
March 12	Nature Kids - Turtles Fontana Nature Center, 1 p.m. (P. 4).	May 14	Nature Kids - Frogs and Toads Fontana Nature Center, 10:00 a.m. (P. 4).
March 12	Conservation Scholarship Deadline (P. 2).	May 15	Master Rivers Stewardship Program Begins Okoboji Grill, 5:30 p.m. (P. 6).
March 14	Upper Wapsi Watershed Meeting Wolfey's Wapsi Outback 1:30 p.m. (P. 3).	May 15	Conservation Board Meeting Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. (subject to change)
March 20	Conservation Board Meeting Fontana Nature Center, 6:00 p.m. (subject to change).	May 19	Morning Paddle Fontana Nature Center, 9:00 a.m. (P. 5).
March 24	Kites Over the Prairie Crumbacher Wildlife Area, 1:00 p.m. (P. 4).	May 28	Memorial Day
April 7	Fools Ride LaPorte City 11:30 a.m. (P. 2).	May 30	Old Time Meal Jakway Park, 5:00 p.m. (P. 5).
April 7	Pheasants Forever Membership Banquet Independence; call 319-334-0255 for tickets.	June 5	Wee Nature Tales on Tuesdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 10:00 a.m. (P. 7).
April 3	Coyote Club - The Lorax Fontana Nature Center, 5:00 p.m. (P. 4).	June 5	Young Naturalists on Tuesdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 1:00 p.m. (P. 7).
April 9	Nature Kids - Furry Friends Fontana Nature Center 10:00 a.m. (P. 4).	June 6	Nature Explorers Wednesdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 9:30 a.m. (P. 7).
April 12	Photos with Kip Ladage Fontana Nature Center, 7:00 p.m. (P. 4).	June 7	Wee Nature Tales on Thursdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 10:00 a.m. (P. 7).
April 18	Conservation Board Meeting Fontana Nature Center, 6 p.m. (subject to change).	June 7	Nature Explorers on Thursdays begins Fontana Nature Center, 1:00 p.m. (P. 7).
April 21	Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers Banquet Quasqueton; call 319-350-9260 for tickets.	June 9	Rash Ride (P. 2).
April 27	Sponsor and Plant a Fruit Tree Fontana Park's Hwy 150 entrance, 4:30 p.m. (P. 4).	July 9	River Raiders Training Day Fontana Nature Center, 5:00 p.m. (P. 7).
		July 17-19	River Raiders Program for Youth Upper Iowa River, 8:00 a.m. (P. 7).
		Sept. 5	Old Time Meal Jakway Park, 5:00 p.m. (P. 5).
		Sept. 12	Photo Contest Deadline (P. 9).

Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest

Entries must be e-mailed to bcbscheduling@gmail.com by September 12; Click [here](#) for complete rules.

Don't Forget! Keep your camera handy as you visit Buchanan County's natural areas this spring and summer and keep in mind the 4 categories for our 29th Annual Photography Contest: Landscapes,



2017 People Enjoying Nature Winner by Kelly Mitchell

Wildlife, Plants & Wildflowers, & People Enjoying Nature. Entries are limited to 8 per photographer, and are free. Amateurs of all ages are welcome to enter and cash prizes are awarded. This year, preliminary judging will be done by Buchanan County Conservation staff, and final selection of winners will be done online. Mark the deadline date on your calendar and start (or continue) snapping pictures for the September contest. For more information on the contest or for a copy of the official rules, visit our website at www.buchanan-countyparks.com and click on photo contest or call 319-636-2617.



2017 Overall Winner by Kenneth Heiar

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)..... Quasqueton
- 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-Slatery Heritage Prairie (33)..... Winthrop
- 34. Roberts Wildlife Area/Cutshall Addition(109)..... Fairbank

Buchanan County River Accesses (acres)

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

Buchanan County Conservation Board

Board Members

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

Conservation Staff

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

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Trout Lilly