



# The Otter Creek Quarterly

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A Newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board

**Antarctica - A Window into Climate Change (Page 6)**

## Meeting the Challenge – In the Face of Rising Waters

Dan Cohen, Executive Director

As spring arrives, thoughts turn melting snow and rushing waters. An examination of flooding causes and effects indicates the urgent need for public and political action.

To a large degree, significant flood problems in Iowa are the result of an altered hydrology. Pre-settlement, the Iowa landscape was dominated by prairies and wetlands. Forests were more common along meandering river corridors and some upland bluff areas. Deep-rooted perennial plants provided the organic material, diverse animal life, moisture, and air channels necessary to produce the thick, dark soils that today are the basis for Iowa's agricultural economy. This thick layer of perennial ground cover overlying healthy soils captured rainfall, slowed or stopped surface runoff, and allowed water to slowly percolate through the ground or be retained in wetlands prior to entering creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater. Nearly all precipitation was ground-driven and flooding was far less common.

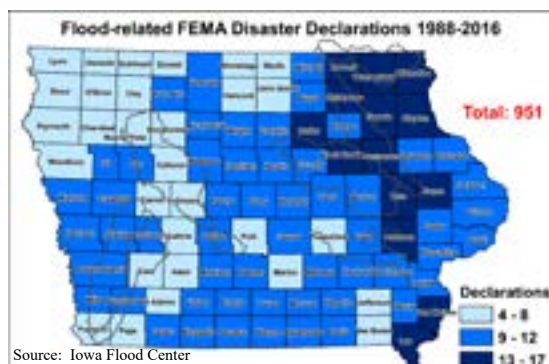
Today's hydrology is driven through an alternate, surface-driven system. Only about a tenth of one percent of the original prairie cover remains. Most precipitation falls on annual cropland, roads, short-rooted lawns, and pavement or other impermeable surfaces. This water, along with any chemical or particle pollutants, is quickly shed as surface runoff or through near-surface tile systems. It moves as quickly as possible to the nearest creek, river, or lake. Add to this new hydrology a changing climate with more intense rainfall events and

the results are not surprising.

The combination of altered hydrology and more intense rainfall events makes Iowa especially prone to flood disasters. From 1988 to 2016, Iowa had 951 federally declared flood disasters, ranking 4th highest in the nation (see graphic from Iowa Flood Center). Nine counties (including Buchanan!) were in the top 15% for the most declared disasters nationwide, and 79 counties were in the top 45% for declared disasters. All of this flooding translates into hardship and disrupted lives of Iowans, and financial impacts on communities. Damages to roads and bridges, public buildings, park amenities, water control structures, and other public infrastructure have been costly. Between 1999 and 2016, nearly \$2 billion in public federal assistance went to Iowa municipalities – 7th most in the nation. (Source: Iowa Flood Center).

A reassuring element of combating flooding and water pollution is we know how to alleviate it. Nearly all flood prevention and water quality techniques involve mimicking, to some degree, elements of Iowa's historic hydrology. Federal Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP), and other federal, state and local programs, are largely efforts to restore areas to perennial cover – whether it be cover crops, prairie, wetlands,

or forests – in blocks, buffers, strips, and waterways. Natural system mimicry also can reduce sedimentation of lakes and rivers, and even purify water, so long as the load and types of nutrients and polluting chemicals are not overly detrimental (another side of the water quality equation).



*Continued on page 2...*

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Wetlands, pond retentions, and healthy soils provide capacity to store water following extreme rain events. Each parcel of Iowa's remaining natural prairies, wetlands, and forests under long-term protection continues to provide flood control and water quality benefits.

Although the strategy to "fix" water quantity and quality problems is largely known, the scale of implementation is woefully inadequate. Iowa is a private lands state, with less than three percent of the landscape under public management. Federal and state conservation programs are almost entirely voluntary – using limited incentives to help pay for, and to compel landowners to adopt, conservation measures. The need to combat climate change is ongoing.

Conservation Board staff provide education and outreach critical in a state where individual decisions largely determine the fate of water quality and quantity. Buchanan County also is a chief participant in Watershed Management Authorities – cooperative groups largely consisting of municipalities that study, develop plans, and seek to implement projects in a given watershed. County parks and natural areas, although a mere one percent or so of the landscape, have oversized benefits to water quality and flood control. These are the protected places in which natural hydrology is restored, enhanced or protected. In a state that ranks near-bottom in public outdoor recreation spaces, these also are critical places to the health of Iowans, and make communities appealing places for people to live, work, play, and stay.

Iowa has never provided the natural resources and outdoor recreation investments necessary to the challenges we face. Current federal and state programs, and even the great work of counties, is not enough for the magnitude of the tasks at hand, and funding programs are subject to whims of politics. Currently, there are state legislative proposals that would fund the constitutionally protected Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund - a fund created by a vote of Iowans in 2010, but which remains empty. The Trust Fund, constitutionally protected with its own funding mechanism, will have the capacity to significantly move the needle for improved water quality, reduced flood events, and the quality of life of Iowans.

## Iron Bridge Access Upgrades

As the weather warms, keep an eye on work at the Iron Bridge Access (2707-2 Nolen Ave., Rowley). Last November's weather halted work at the access, but work is expected to resume as soon as possible. Last summer, the small parking and narrow boat ramp were transformed into a much larger gravel footprint of the new parking and boat ramp river access.

The completed project will include a universal access that accommodates people of varying boating, paddling, and physical abilities. Parking areas will be paved. There will be sidewalks, a restroom, and even a trail extending under the county road bridge to the Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings wildlife area (which also will have expanded parking).

Major funding for this project was made possible with competitive grants from Iowa's Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program, Wellmark Foundation, Black Hawk County Gaming Association, Buchanan County Community Foundation, and Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers. [For more information and updates on progress, visit www.buchanancountyparks.com.](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com)



*The footprint for upgrades at Iron Bridge Access can be seen now. Work is expected to be completed this spring.*

## Naturalists Need Supplies

Conservation board naturalists are in need of some supplies you might consider to be garbage. The following items are needed:

- Canning jars – standard jars are needed for the Preserving Local Foods programs (see page 8). Jelly/jam jars, pint and quart jars;
- Peanut butter jars – clean with lids (for many projects including measuring and bugs);
- Frosting containers with lids.

## Fontana Park Expansion! With help from our friends!

The Conservation Board has struggled for many years in its efforts to provide people with a wide array of amenities, experiences, and natural splendor within the relatively small confines of Fontana Park. The best and most likely space for expanding the park was identified as the Lohman Property adjacent to the northeast portion of Fontana. Communication with the Lohman Family about a potential property purchase was ongoing for several years, and their interest in seeing the land go to the park was appreciated.

On February 3, 2020, 16 acres of land was acquired for expanding Fontana Park. Funds to purchase the property came from some important friends. The bulk of the cost was covered by a gift from the **Orlan Snyder Trust, Friends of Fontana Park, Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and Buchanan County Wildlife Association** also provided substantial funds. No money for the acquisition came from tax asking.

The land is under a current crop rental agreement. The Conservation Board is taking the opportunity over the coming months to develop an updated Master Plan for park infrastructure. Details about future use of the expanded area will be available later in the year.



## Win a Cedar Bench!

Buchanan County Pheasants Forever is again sponsoring a raffle to support Friends of Fontana Park. This year's prize is a cedar bench built by Loren Hamilton with materials provided by Spahn & Rose in Independence. The bench currently is on display at Spahn & Rose, and tickets may be purchased at Spahn & Rose or at Fontana Park Nature Center. You may also arrange to purchase tickets by calling the Nature Center at 319-636-2617! **Support conservation and education efforts, and have a chance to win!**

### 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

## Conservation Scholarships

Application Deadline: March 10!

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

- Will major in a conservation or natural resources-related field;
- Have a demonstrated interest in conservation and natural resources;
- Have been active in their communities;
- Have academic records that indicate 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 10 deadline. Application forms may be downloaded at [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com). For more information, call or email Dan Cohen at 319-636-2617/[dcohen@co.buchanan.ia.us](mailto:dcohen@co.buchanan.ia.us).

## Pollinators and Butterflies

Monday, March 2 at 7 p.m.  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
116 Guetzo Ct., Manchester



Meadow Blazingstar

Populations of native pollinators, including bees, flies, beetles, wasps and butterflies, have been declining during recent decades. Learn how each garden oasis – from a few square feet to acres – can be planted to entice and support these vital players in our ecology and ultimate survival.

If we all do a part, these “canaries in the coal mines” will continue to find a home in Iowa. Plants can both compliment ornamental plantings and provide the nectar, pollen, and shelter needed by native pollinators.

## OWLS - Hike

### Older Wiser Livelier Souls

Monday, March 16, 10 a.m.  
Roberts Wildlife Area, 1016 160th St., Fairbank  
[Click here to register](#)



Join a naturalist and explore Buchanan County Conservation Board's newest park, Roberts Wildlife Area, during this featured program for "Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls" (OWLS). Enjoy about a mile of walking on a mowed path surrounded

by prairie, Wapsipinicon River, and woodlands. There is a chance it could be wet, so be sure to dress with the correct footwear.

OWLS is specifically designed for adults to learn and explore nature in and around Buchanan County. Several programs are offered each quarter.

## 2020 Master Conservationist Program

Monday, March 23 to May 11  
Location(s); Buchanan and Benton County  
Cost: \$45  
Preregistration required by March 16; [Click here to register](#)

Do you hunt, fish or farm? Do you garden, birdwatch or camp? Do you paddle, snowshoe or bike? Do you drink water and eat food? Then you are likely someone who cares about the natural resources of your community, state, country and world. You have more in common with each other than you think! And you might be a potential Master Conservationist.

Master Conservationists are individuals that share an interest in the sustainability of Iowa's natural resources (water, soil, prairies, forests, air and wildlife) and in becoming better stewards of those resources. They are recognized with official Master Conservationist designation.



The Master Conservationist is a collaborative program offered by ISU Extension and Outreach, Buchanan and Benton County Conservation Boards, and local conservation leaders and professionals with classes beginning March 23. The program will take place at several Buchanan and Benton county sites, providing participants with hands-on interaction with the diversity of the state's natural resources. Participants will learn more about Iowa's natural ecosystems and the diversity of conservation challenges and opportunities that exist in the region. Graduates of the course learn to make informed choices for their own land. They also develop behaviors and skills to share while educating others to improve conservation in Iowa.

### Program Dates

Monday, March 23 - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Monday, April 6 - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Saturday, April 18 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Monday, April 27 - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Saturday, May 9 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Monday, May 11 - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.



## Fontana Herb Society Program & Plant Sale

The April 2nd meeting of the Herb Society will be a program by Mark and Abby Rippe, owners of



Blueridge Orchard in Denver, Iowa. They have around 150 apple trees and enjoy the company of 40,000 honeybees in the hives on their property.

The program is an introduction to the stewardship of honeybees as seen through the lens of the 4 seasons. This meeting is open to the public and starts at 7 p.m.

The Fontana Herb Society will conduct their annual plant sale on May 2, 8-11 a.m., with some of the proceeds going to Friends of Fontana Park.



## Geocaching Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Age 3-14; Cost \$5 per child (children age 3-14 years old)  
[Click here to register](#) by April 7

Your family will love this exciting way to search for eggs. Learn how to use a GPS unit, then go search in Fontana Park for hidden treasures and treats. Keep your eyes open for the "golden egg", earning you a special prize!

Space is limited to one GPS per family. However, family size is unlimited. Families that are planning to bring eight or more individuals may wish to register as two groups.



## Compost Workshop

Thursday, April 16, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Cost: Fee \$25 per bin  
[Click here to register](#) by April 9

Discover how to turn your household food waste into valuable compost. During this program we will help participants make their own worm bin to take home. With Earth Day on April 22, why not be a little kinder to the earth by starting a worm compost bin!

Many different things from egg shells to apple peels to paper can go into a compost bin. There will be many tricks and tips to having a successful compost bin.



## OWLS - Landfill Tour

### Older Wiser Livelier Souls

Monday, April 20, 10 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. carpool from Fontana Park  
[Click here to register](#)

OWLS is a program specifically designed for adults to learn and explore nature in and around Buchanan County. Have you ever wondered where all of the

trash goes that gets put into the garbage? Tammy Turner from the Waste Trac Education team will be teaming up with a Buchanan County naturalist to give a tour of the Black Hawk County Landfill. During the tour there will be plenty of talk about how to reduce your trash to be a little more friendly to the earth. Participants also will learn about the status of recycling programs in Buchanan County.

A carpool will leave Fontana Park at 9:00 a.m. Limited seating is available in the Conservation Board van. Please note when registering if you would like a ride.



To register for programs, visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com). Click on **Public Events**.

## Antarctica - A Window into Climate Change

### - A Friends of Fontana Park Fund-raiser

Thursday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.  
Wolfey's Wapsi Outback - Quasqueton  
Cost \$20 per person  
[Click here to register](#) by April 20th

Stacey Snyder recently returned from an incredible adventure to Antarctica. During this special program, she will relay her experiences and lessons learned. A delicious supper will be served, with the program following.

Stacey Snyder, Expanded Learning Program Teacher with Waterloo Schools at Orange and Lowell Elementary, was selected as a 2019 Grosvenor Teacher Fellow and traveled with National Geographic & Lindblad Expeditions on a journey to Antarctica in late 2019! Stacey was one of 150 travelers who made the journey on the ship National Geographic Explorer to the frozen continent.

Stacey will focus on impacts of climate change on Antarctica and its wildlife and actions in Iowa can impact the world & its wildlife, in even the most remote areas. Stacey will present an audio-visual story, share how she is using her experiences in her classroom teaching, and will be happy to answer your questions at the end of the hour.

The event is a fund-raiser to support Friends of Fontana Park - a local nonprofit that supports education efforts of the Buchanan County Conservation Board. [Visit www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com) and [click on events to reserve tickets](#) or for more information call the nature center at 319-636-2617.



## Energy Games

Monday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
K-12 participants with school or homescool  
[Click here to register](#)

Each year, the Conservation Board sponsors Energy Games competitions (solar car races, wind turbine competition, and solar oven competition) for students from area schools. We encourage teachers and advisors to contact Conservation Board Naturalist Sondra Cabell ([scabell@co.buchanan.ia.us](mailto:scabell@co.buchanan.ia.us)) if you would like to get more information about your students competing in the 2020 Energy Games.

Through their design, assembly and testing of solar cars, wind turbine blades and solar ovens, students learn skills in engineering, problem solving and renewable energy concepts. Limited Materials are available for loan, and possibly from your local AEA. Kits and/or components can also be purchased online.



Boys trying solar cars

## Nature Kids - What's in the Creek?

Fontana Nature Center  
Monday, May 11 - 10 a.m.  
Ages 3-5; [Click here to register](#)

Bring a child to Fontana Park to learn about and experience the creeks that run through many of our yards. The program will start with a story and there will be plenty of time to get out and check out the creek. Children must be accompanied by an adult and have mud boots or shoes that can get dirty.

Nature Kids  
checking out what  
is in the net



To register for programs, visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com). Click on **Public Events**.

## Post-Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

Saturday, May 16, 9-10 a.m.  
Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings  
2720 Nolen Ave., Rowley  
[Click here to register](#)

If you happen to forget Mother's Day (which hopefully did not happen) you can make it up to Mom by coming out and enjoying a morning woodland walk in search of wildflowers! The walk will be at the stunning Guy Grover Timber on the Wapsipinicon River. While exploring, the group is likely to see Jack-in-the-pulpits, columbines, May apples, wild geraniums, blood root, and many others.



Jack-in-the-pulpit

## OWLS - Dutch Oven Cooking Older Wiser Livelier Souls

Monday, May 18, 10 a.m.  
Fontana Park  
Cost: \$5 per person  
[Click here to register](#)

Have there been times while camping or outside that you wondered about better ways to cook in the outdoors? Give a Dutch oven a try. It is a fun and easy way to cook delicious foods outdoors! Cooking in a dutch oven can be a little intimidating, but it is not as hard as it first seems. This program will provide time to make a main dish and dessert. Please be sure to bring your appetite!

OWLS is a program specifically designed for adults to learn and explore nature in and around Buchanan County. Several programs are offered each quarter.



## Forest Bathing

Saturday, May 23, 2-5 p.m.  
Fontana Nature Center  
Cost: \$20 per person  
Ages 16 and up - no pets; [Click here to register](#)

We invite you to unplug, slow down, and experience mindfulness in nature. This gentle three-hour walk will focus on using all your senses to explore Fontana Park. A certified guide with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy will lead you through nature explorations. The walk is designed to provide many positive health benefits such as lowered blood pressure, decreased anxiety, increased focus, relaxation, and a connection with nature.

Come prepared by wearing comfortable walking shoes and dress in layers for the weather. You might want to bring a light snack and drinking water. A small backpack, sunscreen, and bug repellent may be useful. You may wish to bring a mat to sit on or small camping chair. There will be small sit mats available for use. We will hike if there is light rain, so bring rain gear. Please meet in front of the nature center.



## Old Time Meals

Wednesday, May 27, 5 p.m.  
Richardson-Jakway House, Jakway Forest  
\$20 per person - registration is limited to 26 people  
[Click here to register](#)

The Old Time Meal will feature bison meatloaf, brussel sprout salad, garlic potatoes, Amish bread with jam, and a home-made rhubarb dessert. An after supper program is being planned. The Meals are a great way to experience the historic Richardson-Jakway House. Profits from the event help with interpretation and resoration of the Historic Site.



To register for programs, visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com). Click on Public Events.

### Preserving Local Foods – Early summer fruits



June 15, 6-9 p.m.  
115 6th Ave. NW, Independence  
Cost: \$10 per person  
[Click here to register](#)

This hands-on program will have you preparing summer fruits for dehydrating, freezing

or making jams and fruit leathers (roll-ups). Learn the proper handling techniques and tips for keeping fruits bright and flavorful. Preserving locally grown produce allows you control over the amount of sugar and additives in your food, supports local growers, empowers you to grow and save your own food, and reduces the carbon footprint of the food you eat. Participants may borrow equipment from Buchanan County Extension.

### Wapsi Wanderers

June 16, 1 p.m. to June 17, 12 p.m.  
Wapsipinicon River (meet at Fontana)  
Age: 10-14; Cost: \$35 per child; Registration limited to 12  
[Click here to register](#)

Join a naturalist and Iowa State Extension program coordinator on a great canoe trip down the Wapsipinicon River. The group will start at Knot's Landing and camp at Boies Bend Area. The group then will paddle from Boies Bend Area to Quasqueton. Along the way there will be plenty of time to explore the river, hike, and try a little Geocaching. While at Boies Bend, the kids will get to set up camp and maybe even try their luck at fishing.



### Summer Programs for Kids Ages 3 to 18

It is time to register for the Conservation Board's popular series of summer youth programs. Registration is limited on all camps.

#### Wee Nature Tales

Tuesdays, June 9 – July 28 10-11 a.m.; [Click here to register](#)  
Thursdays June 11 – July 30 10-11 a.m.; [Click here to register](#)  
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 9 – July 21 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.; [Click here to register](#)  
Wednesday July 29, 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 10 – July 22 9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.; [Click here to register](#)  
Thursdays June 11 – July 23 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m.; [Click here to register](#)  
Wednesday July 29, 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.

To register for programs, visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com). Click on Public Events.

### River Raiders – Kendallville to Decorah, IA

Fontana Training Day: July 9, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Upper Iowa River: July 14-16 ; Age: 11-13  
Cost: \$90; Registration limited to 12 participants  
[Click here to register](#)



Paddling the Upper Iowa River 200 foot chimney bluffs. The trip fee includes 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.

Adventure awaits around every bend! Explore the Upper Iowa River from Kendallville to Decorah. Campers will canoe, camp, cook outdoors, and learn wilderness skills on this two-night, three-day excursion. Participants will paddle their way around winding bends, rapids, scenic waterfalls, cold springs, and



### Youth Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Trek - NE Minnesota

Fontana Training Day: July 9, 12:30 - 4 p.m. (mandatory)  
July 26 – August 1; Boundary Waters Canoe Area  
Ages 14-18; Cost \$500; Registration limited to 5 youth  
[Click here to register](#)

Embark on an adventure of a lifetime in the largest designated wilderness in the lower 48 states! Participants will be guided through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness along the Minnesota - Canada border by Conservation Board Director Dan Cohen, Naturalist Michael Maas and Benton County Naturalist Signey Hilby. Cohen has led trips to this wilderness for decades, and was recognized with a National 4-H Award for this work.



Participants will paddle across wilderness lakes, portage canoes and packs over rugged land trails, fish for fun and food, read maps, use compasses, live in tents without leaving a trace, cook meals in wilderness areas, and learn about the ecology of this magnificent area. By week's end, youth will better understand the value of the wilderness to people, and to loons, moose, wolves, black bear, and other wildlife that inhabit this special place. Tents, backpacks, canoes, cooking gear, food, and transportation from Fontana Interpretive Nature Center are provided.



If you have some canoeing experience, are able to swim, and possess the strength and spirit to explore, this trip may be for you! Limited stipends and scholarships opportunities are available, and are listed with the website registration - [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com). For more information, call 319-636-2617.

**Nature Center Volunteer Receptionists Hours**  
(as of 2/20/20)

- Edith Biddinger.....269 hours
- Ruby Bodeker.....183 hours
- James Bond.....66 hours
- Sally Bond.....62 hours
- Joye Bowers.....178 hours
- Margaret Damge.....89 hours
- Ellen Gaffney.....311 hours
- Helen Hoefer.....899 hours
- Elaine Hughes.....495 hours
- Karla Kula.....15 hours
- Bob Miehe.....243 hours
- Duane Olsen.....108 hours
- Patti Olmstead..... 311 hours
- Faith Rulapaugh.....566 hours
- Lorene Shonka.....257 hours
- Joe Stalsberg.....3 hours
- David Voigts.....592 hours
- Jane Watson.....464 hours
- Clark Willoughby.....325 hours

**Volunteer Workshop**

Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m.  
[Click here to register](#)

This workshop is for everyone, from seasoned volunteers who would like a refresher, to newcomers who need an orientation to do volunteer work. All are welcome! Conservation Volunteers are involved in a wide variety of activities, including serving as nature center hosts and campground hosts, monitoring nest boxes, helping with park maintenance, pulling invasive plants, working on special projects, and more!

The Volunteer Workshop will provide an opportunity to meet other volunteers, learn about opportunities, and begin to receive volunteer training. The workshop will begin with drinks and donuts in the Nature Center. If you have questions, call Diane at 319-636-2617. Preregister at [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com)



**Campground Hosts Wanted!**

Conservation thrives with help from volunteers. Volunteer campground hosts are especially in need to greet and provide information to visitors. Campground hosts are needed at Fontana Park, Jakway Park, and Lime Creek Park. While camp hosting, the site is free and you get to enjoy the beauty of Buchanan County Conservations wonderful parks. Other volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. For more information, call 319-636-2617!



**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.**

- Donor (\$1-99)
- Supporter (\$250-499)
- Sponsor (\$1,000-4,999)
- Contributor (\$100-249)
- Patron (\$500-999)
- Founder (\$5,000 or more)

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

- Please contact me regarding making a donation as a memorial to a friend or relative.
- 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

**Make Reservations Now!**

Cabins, campsites, and shelters at Fontana Park fill quickly. To check availability and reserve your first choice of dates and sites, visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com). You can also take a virtual tour of a cabin, view photos of campsites and shelters, and watch videos about parks and natural areas on the web site.

Reservable campsites at Fontana Park are located along the east side of the campground – nicely tucked in along the pine trees. Non-reservable campsites at Fontana, Jakway and Lime Creek are available on a first-come basis. The online system also is used to register for public programs, outings, camps, and classes.



**Conservation Calendar!**

|          |  |                    |  |
|----------|--|--------------------|--|
| March 2  | <i>Pollinators and Butterflies</i><br>Manchester, 7 p.m. (P. 4).                             | May 18             | <i>OWLS - Dutch Oven Cooking</i><br>Fontana Park, 10 a.m. (P. 7).                          |
| March 10 | <i>Conservation Scholarship Deadline</i> (P. 3).   | May 19             | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i><br>Nature Center, 6 p.m. (subject to change)             |
| March 14 | <i>Volunteer Workshop</i><br>Fontana Nature Center, 9 a.m. (P. 10).                          | May 23             | <i>Forest Bathing</i><br>Fontana Park, 2 p.m. (P. 7).                                      |
| March 16 | <i>OWLS - Hike</i><br>Roberts Wildlife Area, 10 a.m. (P. 4).                                 | May 25             | <i>Memorial Day</i><br>(Nature Center Closed).   |
| March 19 | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i><br>Nature Center, 6 p.m. (subject to change).              | May 27             | <i>Old Time Meal</i><br>Jakway Park, 5 p.m. (P. 7).  |
| March 23 | <i>Master Conservationist Begins</i><br>Buchanan and Benton County (P. 4)                    | June 9             | <i>Wee Nature Tales</i> begins<br>Fontana Nature Center, 10 a.m. (P. 8).                   |
| April 2  | <i>Fontana Herb Society Program</i><br>Fontana Nature Center, 7 p.m. (P. 5).                 | June 9             | <i>Young Naturalists</i> begins<br>Fontana Nature Center, 1 p.m. (P. 8).                   |
| April 4  | <i>Pheasants Forever Membership Banquet</i><br>Independence; call 319-334-0255 for tickets.  | June 10            | <i>Nature Explorers</i> begins<br>Fontana Nature Center, 9:30 a.m. (P. 8).                 |
| April 11 | <i>Geocaching Egg Hunt</i><br>Fontana Nature Center, 10 a.m. (P. 5).                         | June 11            | <i>Wee Nature Tales</i> begins<br>Fontana Nature Center, 10 a.m. (P. 8).                   |
| April 16 | <i>Compost Workshop</i><br>Fontana Nature Center, 6:00 p.m. (P. 5).                          | June 11            | <i>Nature Explorers</i> begins<br>Fontana Nature Center, 1 p.m. (P. 8).                    |
| April 18 | <i>Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers Banquet</i><br>Quasqueton; call 319-350-9260 for tickets.         | June 15            | <i>Preserving Local Foods</i><br>Independence, 6 p.m. (P. 8).                              |
| April 20 | <i>OWLS - Landfill Tour</i><br>Black Hawk County Landfill, 10 a.m. (P. 5).                   | June 16-17         | <i>Wapsi Wonderers</i><br>Wapsipinicon River 1 p.m. (P. 8).                                |
| April 21 | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i><br>Nature Center, 6 p.m. (subject to change).              | July 9             | Youth BWCT Training Day<br>Fontana Nature Center, 12:30 p.m. (P. 9).                       |
| April 23 | <i>Antarctica - A Window into Climate Change</i><br>Wolfe's Wapsi Outback, 5:30 p.m. (P. 6). | July 9             | River Raiders Training Day<br>Fontana Nature Center, 5:30 p.m. (P. 9).                     |
| April 27 | <i>Energy Games</i><br>Fontana Nature Center, 9:30 a.m. (P. 6).                              | July 14-16         | River Raiders<br>Upper Iowa River, 8 a.m. (P. 9).  |
| May 2    | <i>Fontana Herb Society Plant Sale</i><br>Fontana Nature Center, 8 a.m. (P. 5).              | July 26-<br>Aug. 1 | <i>Wilderness Canoe Trek</i><br>Boundary Waters Canoe Area (P. 9).                         |
| May 11   | <i>Nature Kids - What's in the Creek?</i><br>Fontana Nature Center, 10 a.m. (P. 6).          | Sept. 20           | <i>Better with Age Tour</i> (of historic houses in Buchanan County)<br>Jakway Park, 1 p.m. |
| May 10   | <i>Mother's Day</i>  | Oct. 1             | <i>Photo Contest Deadline.</i>   |
| May 16   | <i>Post Mother's Day Wildflower Walk</i><br>Fontana Park, 9 a.m. (P. 7).                     |                    |  |

### Buchanan County Parks (acres)

1. Fontana Park and Jarrett Slater Addition (128)..... Hazleton
2. Jakway Forest (315)..... Aurora
3. Lime Creek Area (45)..... Brandon
4. Boies Bend Area (26)..... Quasqueton
5. Buffalo Creek Area (85)..... 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 (99)..... Hazleton
10. Hoover Area (20)..... Troy Mills
11. Sand Creek Area (80)..... Quasqueton
12. Nibeck Nature Preserve (33)..... Hazleton
13. Pine Creek Area (40)..... Quasqueton
14. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area (54)..... 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 (204)..... Quasqueton
33. Quigley-Slatery Heritage Prairie (33)..... Winthrop
34. Roberts Wildlife Area (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 (67)..... Jesup
40. Cortright Wildlife Area (190)..... Littleton
41. Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Access (6)..... Littleton

### Board Members

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Loren Hamilton.....      | President      |
| Ronnie Wolfe.....        | Vice President |
| Anita Miller.....        | Secretary      |
| Andy Crump.....          | Member         |
| Mary Jean Blaisdell..... | 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    |
| James Mount.....    | Conservation Technician    |
| Elaine Walker.....  | Office Manager             |
| Diane Johnson.....  | Secretary/Volunteer Coord. |

### 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.; 1-4 p.m. (through April 14)

### Winter Weather Closings

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.

For more information regarding the Conservation Board, call 319-636-2617/[dcohen@co.buchanan.ia.us](mailto:dcohen@co.buchanan.ia.us)

## Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest

Entries can be e-mailed to [bccbscheduling@gmail.com](mailto:bccbscheduling@gmail.com) or mail to 1883 125th St., Hazleton, IA 50641

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 30th Annual Photography Contest: Landscapes, 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. Mark the deadline date on your calendar and start (or continue) snapping pictures for the October 1 deadline. For more information on the contest or for a copy of the official rules, visit our website at [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com) and click on photo contest or call 319-636-2617.



*2019 Overall Winner by Callie Meyer*