



The Otter Creek Quarterly

Summer, 2017
Vol. 32 No. 2

A Newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board

Meet First Iowa Woman to Summit Mount Everest at Conservation Supper (Page 3)!

Wildlife and Animal Care Building!

Dan Cohen, BCCB Executive Director



Construction of a new building is underway! The Conservation Board, with grant and donation assistance from

some great partners, soon will have a new attraction in the Fontana Park Wildlife Display.

The facility will provide much improved winter living quarters for waterfowl and other wildlife kept on display. Window viewing will allow children and adults to see the animals during colder months (typically November to April). During summer months, the building will feature displays with information related to Iowa wildlife. The building also provides much needed storage areas and a place for animal caretakers to prepare feed and care for the animals. The project also will complete the handicap-accessible concrete sidewalk path for the entire display area. Last fall, Conservation Board staff completed a renovation of the raptor enclosures.

The Wildlife and Animal Care Building is being completed with no county tax asking.

Wildlife Display Open House and Dedication

Saturday, July 29 – 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Come out to Fontana Park and see the new facilities and upgrades that have been accomplished during the past year, and learn more about the animals on display! Programs are free (although donations will be accepted).

- See live birds, reptiles and amphibians up close.
- Learn about animal care during a Wildlife Display tour at 9 a.m.
- Play "Animals Trivia", with a chance to win.
- Learn about Project Partners who help make things happen.

Friends of Fontana Park (FFP), with funds raised through grant writing and donor contributions, is making the project possible. FFP is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for educational programs and projects of the Conservation Board. The group received major grant funding from the Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation, Black Hawk County Gaming Association, and Buchanan County Community Foundation. Major donations and pledges were made by

Buchanan County Wildlife Association, Prairie Rapids Audubon Society, Hazleton Housing Corp, Dorthea Sundquist, Spahn & Rose in Independence, Gissel Construction, and Klever Concrete. Friends of Fontana Park also will receive funds through a raffle drawing for a picnic bench/table sponsored by Buchanan County Pheasants Forever (see page 3).



Left: In early May, workers from Klever Concrete pour the floor and sidewalks for the new Wildlife and Animal Care Building at Fontana Park.

New Faces in the Conservation Department

Meet the Conservation Board seasonal workers!

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

James Mount of Jesup has been hired as a seasonal conservation technician. He recently graduated from Upper Iowa University, majoring in Conservation Management. James has always enjoyed outdoor pursuits, including hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping.

Dylan Hall lives in Palo and is enrolled at Kirkwood, majoring in Parks and Natural Resources. He wants to eventually work in conservation law enforcement. His hobbies include hunting, trapping, and fishing.



Seasonal Conservation Technicians James Mount (left) and Dylan Hall



Naturalist Intern Dylan Lampe

Dylan Lampe from Readlyn attends Iowa State University, majoring in Animal Ecology, and plans to work in the conservation field. He grew up enjoying the outdoors - camping, fishing, and backpacking. He hopes to get Buchanan County excited about being outdoors by providing fishing, survival skills, rock climbing, and whitewater kayaking programs this summer (see pages 5-6).



New Monarch Watch Citizen Scientist

Monarch Watch is seeking the immediate assistance of hundreds of monarch enthusiasts (citizen scientists) in collecting observations of monarchs in their area during the spring and fall. This project is an attempt to assemble quantitative data on monarch numbers at critical times during the breeding season. The data from these observations will be used to assess their value in predicting trends in the population.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

Here is what we need you, as citizen scientists, to do:

1. Register as a participant in this project by providing your name, location (including latitude and longitude), and email address via the form at monarchwatch.org/register
2. Record every monarch you see in your location (within 50 miles of home location) from April 1 - June 20 and July 15 - August 20 – 81 days & 37 days = 118 days total (or as soon as you start after April 1). Details on how to keep records are available at <http://monarchwatch.org/blog/2017/03/31/new-monarch-watch-citizen-scientist-project/>

First Iowa Woman to Summit Mount Everest to Speak at Friends of Fontana Park Fundraiser!

A special program featuring Jen Loeb, the first woman from Iowa to reach the summit of Mount Everest, will be held on Sunday, September 17. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. at Wolfey's in Quasqueton. A dinner will be served, with the program following.

Jen reached the summit of the world's tallest mountain on May 19 of last year, but the way was not easy. The climb is extremely demanding. It takes every bit of your mountaineering skills, endurance, and mental toughness. One mistake can cost you your life. Jen will give a pictorial presentation about her Mount Everest climb and other climbing adventures around the world. She will also show us some of the special gear that she uses and will discuss the training that is involved.

Loeb grew up on a small family farm near Jesup and graduating from Wartburg College with a degree in biology. Though not the typical start to mountain climbing, she will share how this helped her along the way.

Please join FFP Volunteers on September 17 at Wolfey's in Quasqueton for what will be an entertaining and unforgettable dinner and program. The event is a fund-raiser to support Friends of Fontana Park. **Contact the Conservation Board Office (naturalist@iowatelecom.net/319-636-2617) to purchase the \$20/person ticket.**



Win two 7-foot benches that convert to a picnic table!

A Buchanan County Pheasants Forever Raffle
- all proceeds to support the
Friends of Fontana Park (see page 1)

To order raffle tickets, complete the form below, and mail it with your payment. Tickets also are available for purchase at the Fontana Park Nature Center. The lucky winner will be drawn June 23!



Above: This bench that converts to a table will be raffled on June 23. The bench was built by Loren Hamilton (left), with materials donated by Spahn & Rose in Independence. Also pictured is Mark Scheckle from Spahn & Rose.

Raffle ticket Order Form

I would like to support Friends of Fontana Park and local conservation education efforts. Please enter me in the special Pheasants Forever raffle for chances to win a red cedar bench with engraved feather:

Number of raffle tickets @ 1 for \$10 _____

Number of raffle tickets @ 3 for \$20 _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please send me a receipt (mark with X) _____

Names: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Make checks payable to: Buchanan County Pheasants Forever:

Mail to: Friends of Fontana Park, 1883 125th St., Hazleton, IA 50641

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

Iowa Butterfly Survey Network & Monarch Larva Monitoring Program Workshop

Tuesday, May 30, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center
Fee \$5 per person



Become a Citizen Scientist!! Participants will learn how to be involved in one or both of these programs and contribute data for scientists worldwide. The Iowa Butterfly Survey Network (IBSN) aims to collect data on butterfly abundance along set routes over time. IBSN information will be shared from 5-7 p.m.

The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP) involves citizens in collecting data on monarch eggs, larvae, and adults during this summer reproduction. This citizen science data will help to explain the distribution and abundance patterns of monarch butterflies in North America at times other than migration. The MLMP workshop from 7-9 p.m. will train participants in the methods used by the MLMP program so that participants can monitor populations at the Nature Center and other local sites. Get involved in saving a once common, but rapidly diminishing species. Preregistration is required.

Summer Programs for Kids Ages 3 to 14

Now is the time to register for the Conservation Board's popular series of summer programs. Registration for each program is limited, so call (319-636-2617) or email (fontanapark@iowatelecom.net) soon to get your child registered. Fees are due within 10 days of registering.

Wee Nature Tales

Ages: 3-5 yrs
Mondays, June 5 – July 24 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Cost: \$30; Registration limited to 15/class

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



Young Naturalists

Ages: 9-12 yrs
Tuesdays, June 6 – July 25 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. OR
Wednesdays, June 7 – July 26 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
Cost: \$30; Registration limited to 20/class

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



Nature Explorers



Ages: 6-8 yrs,
Wednesdays, June 7 – July 26 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. OR
Thursdays June 8 – July 27 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center Classroom
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.

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

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

Any Fish In There?

Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m.
Fontana Park

Do you know someone who loves the water, and wants to learn more about fishing? Come fish with hands-on learning! Free Fishing weekend means no license is needed. Preregistration is required.



Goose Banding

Late June - Date and Location TBD

Have you ever wanted to get up close to a giant Canada goose, or wondered why they are banded? Here's your chance to do hands-on work with the DNR Cedar-Wapsie Wildlife Unit to catch, determine sex, and band geese. You will be contacted within a day's notice with date, time, and location of where banding geese will occur. Short notice is due to variables necessary for banding.



Backyard Theater

Saturday, June 10, 8:30 p.m.
Fontana Animal Display Area

Come to Fontana for movie night with the animals. Conservation staff will be showing the movie Madagascar. Admission is free, but don't forget to bring a lawn chair or blanket!



Rock Climbing

Friday, July 7, 8:30 a.m.
Backbone State Park
Minimum age 12
Fee \$30 per person

University of Northern Iowa Outdoor Recreation will be teaching rock climbing at Backbone State Park. All equipment is provided. Carpooling is available from Fontana Park. Preregistration is required and limited.



Survival Skills

Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fontana Park
Fee \$5 per person

Could you survive in the outdoors without electronics? Participants will learn how to build a shelter, start a fire, and shoot archery. Come prepared to learn the basics – basics that could save your life. Bring a pocket knife if possible. Lunch will be provided. Preregistration is required.



The Latest Buzz?

Wednesday, July 19, 6 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center

Carly Vannoy is the 2017 Iowa Honey Queen, and she travels the state giving presentations about honey bees, honey, and beekeeping! Come enjoy learning more about life in the hive, the color of mystery honey, the strange use of beehives in medieval times, how bees make mummies, and much more!



Prairie Marsh Walk

Saturday, July 22, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Ham Marsh

Ham Marsh is a unique BCCB jewel which includes the diverse habitats of freshwater marsh, restored upland prairie, native wet prairie, and with adjacent private forest land and pasture, we often encounter wildlife that utilizes those areas as well. Join Naturalist Sondra Cabell for a stroll along the mowed trail or through the prairie plants. Much of Ham marsh is wet ground even in drier months, so your feet may get wet. Preregistration is required.



Princess Adventures

Wednesday, July 26, 5 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center
Fee \$5 per child

Do you know one or more little people who love princesses? Want to encourage them to dress up and have fun exploring the outdoors 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 the outdoors, make a craft to take home, and enjoy a tea party with a snack. Preregistration is required.



Whitewater Kayaking

Friday, July 28, 8:30 a.m.
Manchester Whitewater Course
Minimum age 10
Limit to 14 people
Fee \$40 per person

The water can be a calm and reflective place, but it can also be a place for extreme sports. Conservation staff and Crawdaddy Outdoors will be hosting an excursion on the Manchester whitewater course. Carpooling is available from Fontana Park. Preregistration is required.



Reclaimed Denim Tote

Saturday, August 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center
Limit to 8 people
Fee \$35

Do you have unused fabric or denim jeans lying around? RECLAIM it into a beautiful, high quality tote bag! Join Kelley for a day of sewing. Class will begin at 9:00 a.m., break for your lunch, then finish by 3:00 p.m. Class fee includes a \$13 pattern and the fusible batting. Supply list will be sent when payment is received. Participants must bring their own sack lunch, sewing machine and know how to use the machine. Come join the fun! Preregistration required by August 4.



**Bag will be Denim*

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

Spelunking - Coldwater Cave

Saturday, August 19
Winneshiek County
Minimum age 14
Limit to 10 people
Registration \$40 per person

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



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

Old Time Meal

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 5:00 p.m.
Richardson-Jakway House, Jakway Forest
Limited to 26 people
\$20 per person

This Old Time Meal will feature bison roast, garden greens, squash, peppers, and Amish bread with honey and jam, topped off with a Dutch oven apple cobbler dessert. A special after-supper program is being planned.



Old Time Meals are sponsored by the Richardson-Jakway Foundation and Buchanan County Conservation Board. Checks should be made payable to the Richardson-Jakway Foundation, which is a nonprofit group organized to raise funds for restoration of the Historic Site.

Monarch Tagging

Saturday, Sept. 9 & 16, 1 p.m.
Location TBD by blooming flowers
Cost: \$3 per person or \$7 per family

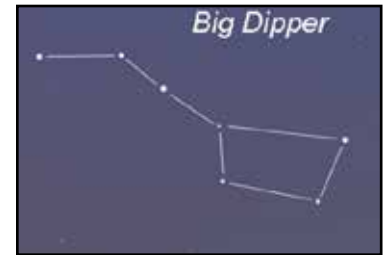
Join us during either or both of our fall migration events (at locations to be determined by nectaring flowers attractive to monarchs), to catch, tag and release these tiny travelers. Monarch Tagging is important to the research the University of Kansas' Monarch Watch program. Nets and tags will be provided. We will contact those registered with the tagging location by Sept. 6. Pre-registration is required.



Star Party

Friday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Fontana Nature Center

Join Conservation Board volunteer, David Voigts and others in enjoying up-close views of the night sky. Highlights will include bright Saturn, Lagoon Nebula and other deep sky objects.



Attention Civic Clubs!

Are you a member of a civic organization charged with planning a speaker for your group's meeting? Buchanan County Conservation staff are pleased to work with you to set up a conservation program. Programs are available on a variety of topics. To schedule a program, contact the Conservation Department well in advance, as schedules do fill up.



2017 Discover Wolves Bus Tour – A Weekend with Wolves!

International Wolf Center, Ely, Minnesota
September 21-24; Reservation Deadline is TBD
Registration information and trip brochure can be found at www.buchanancountyparks.com after June 10th



Buchanan, Benton, and Linn County Conservation Departments are offering opportunities to step into the wolf picture during a four-day journey. Participants will visit the International Wolf Center and take part in its programs as well as view other sites in Minnesota. The climax of the trip will be an experience of a lifetime – the chance to see and hear wolves in the wild during a guided evening wolf howl in the Superior National Forest. Complete information and registration materials can be found in the trip brochure available at the web site above, or by calling 319-636-2617 after June 10th.

Volunteer Corner – Fish Habitat Eagle Scout Project



Eagle Scout, James May constructed and placed fish structures in Fontana Lake.

FY16 Annual Volunteer Award Recognition

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

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

Elaine Hughes..... 80 Hours as NC Receptionist
 Jane Watson..... 50 Hours NC Receptionist
 Shirley Rozendaal..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 David Voigts..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 Marybeth Jaggard..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 Faith Rulapaugh..... 40 Hours NC Receptionist
 Kathy Karsten..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Judy Porter..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Ruby Bodeker..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Barb Roberson..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Ruth Schlitter..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Helen Hoefler..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Frankie King..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Ellen Gaffney..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist
 Lorene Shonka..... 30 Hours NC Receptionist

Edith Biddinger..... 20 Hours NC Receptionist
 Bob Miehe..... 20 Hours NC Receptionist
 Ken Roberson..... 20 Hours NC Receptionist
 Judy Porter..... Overall Volunteer
 Clark Willoughby..... New Volunteer
 Helen Hoefler.... Long Time Commitment (23 years)
 Fontana Herb Society..... Gardens and Programs
 Independence Senior Center... Folding Newsletters
 Coralee Bodeker.....Gardens and Serves meals at
 Richardson-Jakway Historic Site
 Faith Rulapaugh..... Monitoring Nest Boxes
 Rob Hughes..... Three Elms Trails
 Linda Ridihalgh..... Friends of Fontana Park
 Millie Jessen..... Newsletter Labels

Three Elms Area Archery and Mountain Biking

The 2017 Wapsie Bowhunters Archery Shoot is scheduled for July 9. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for kids 12 and under. The course includes 40 Rinehart targets. For more information, contact Dan Lawless (319-269-5505).

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

Annual RASH Ride – June 10.

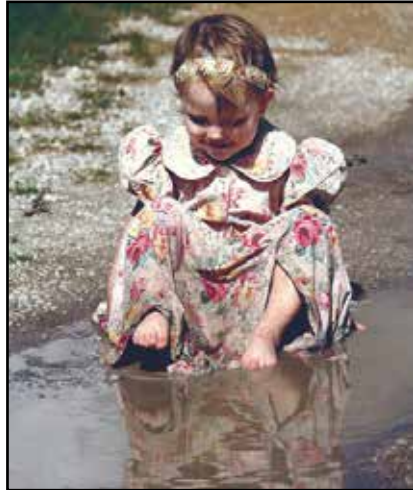
Bicyclists ride at their own pace around Buchanan County. There are 25, 50, or 66-mile ride options, and stops every 10 miles or so with plenty of food and beverages. For more information and to register, visit www.rashride.org!



Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest

Entries must be postmarked by September 13
Complete rules at www.buchanancountyparks.com

Don't forget to keep your camera handy as you visit Buchanan County's natural areas this spring and summer and keep in mind the four categories: Landscapes, Wildlife, Plants & Wildflowers, & People Enjoying Nature. The contest always



2016 Overall Winner by Tracy Belle

receives many wildlife and plant entries, but would like to see more landscapes and "People Enjoying Nature" – capture the blossoms, family gathering, or share with us your photos from this past winter's snow, ice, and frost! Overall winners will receive \$100 and category winners will receive \$50. For more information on the contest or for a copy of the official rules, visit our website at www.buchanancountyparks.com or call 319-636-2617.

What's in our ditch?



Prairie Phlox bloom from May to July

Buchanan County Roadside is excited about starting a new Facebook series of "What's in our ditch?" Throughout the summer we will be posting pictures of the vegetation and animals that are growing and living in the ditches of Buchanan County.

Roadside staff are hoping that landowners will see there are more to the ditches than the so called "weeds" and leave the vegetation without mowing or broadcast spraying. Keep an eye out on the Fontana Park Facebook page for the upcoming pictures!

Conservation Calendar!

May 30	<i>Citizen Scientist Workshops</i> Fontana Nature Center, 5 &/or 7 p.m. (P. 4).
June 2-4	<i>Free Fishing Weekend</i>
June 3	<i>Any Fish In There?</i> Fontana Park, 9:00 a.m. (P. 5).
June 5-8	<i>Summer Camp Classes</i> begin (call for details) Fontana Nature Center (P.4).
June 10	<i>Backyard Theater</i> Fontana Wildlife Display, 8:30 p.m. (P. 5).
June 10	<i>RASH Ride</i> , Buchanan County, (P. 8).
June 17	<i>Survival Skills</i> Fontana Park, 9:00 a.m. (P. 5).
June 20	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6:00 p.m.
Late June	<i>Goose Banding</i> (P. 5).
July 3	<i>River Raiders Training Day (FULL)</i> Fontana Nature Center, 5:00 p.m.
July 7	<i>Rock Climbing</i> Backbone State Park, 8:30 a.m. (P. 5).
July 9	<i>Wapsie Bowhunters Shoot</i> Three Elms Area, Independence (P. 8).
July 11-13	<i>River Raiders Program for Youth (FULL)</i> Upper Iowa River, 9:00 a.m.
July 18	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6:00 p.m.
July 19	<i>The Latest Buzz</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6:00 p.m. (P. 5)
July 22	<i>Prairie Marsh Walk</i> Ham Marsh, 10:00 a.m. (P. 6).
July 26	<i>Princess Adventures</i> Fontana Nature Center, 5:00 p.m. (P. 6).
July 28	<i>Whitewater Kayaking</i> Manchester, 8:30 a.m. (P. 6).
July 29	<i>Wildlife Display Open House and Dedication</i> Fontana Wildlife Display, 9:00 a.m. (P. 1).
Aug. 12	<i>Reclaimed Denim Tote</i> Fontana Nature Center, 9:00 a.m. (P. 6)
Aug. 15	<i>Conservation Board Meeting</i> Fontana Nature Center, 6:00 p.m.
Aug. 19	<i>Spelunking</i> Winneshiek County (P. 6).
Sept. 6	<i>Old Time Meal</i> Jakway Park, 5:00 p.m. (P. 7).
Sept. 9	<i>Monarch Tagging</i> Location TBD, 1:00 p.m. (P. 7).
Sept. 13	<i>Photo Contest Deadline (P. 9).</i>
Sept. 16	<i>Monarch Tagging</i> Location TBD, 1:00 p.m. (P. 7).
Sept. 17	<i>Mount Everest Fundraiser</i> Wolfey's, 5:00 p.m. (P. 3).
Sept. 21-24	<i>Discover Wolves Bus Tour</i> Ely, Minnesota, (P. 7).
Sept. 22	<i>Star Party</i> Fontana Nature Center, 8:00 p.m. (P. 7).

Buchanan County Parks (acres)

1. Fontana Park and Jarrett Slater Addition (134)..... Hazleton
2. Jakway Forest (315)..... Aurora
3. Lime Creek Area (45)..... Brandon
4. Boies Bend Area (26)..... Quasqueton
5. Buffalo Creek Area (81.5)..... Winthrop
6. Otter Creek Roadside Park (13)..... Hazleton

Buchanan County Natural Areas (acres)

7. Mickey Fox Area and Anderson Addition (118)..... Jesup
8. VanLaningham Area (3)..... Independence
9. Otter Creek Wildlife Area (100)..... Hazleton
10. Hoover Area (20)..... Troy Mills
11. Sand Creek Area (80)..... Quasqueton
12. Niebeck Nature Preserve (25)..... Hazleton
13. Pine Creek Area (40)..... Quasqueton
14. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area (60)..... Winthrop
15. Rowley Fen (43)..... Rowley
16. Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods (106)..... Brandon
17. Putty Root Preserve (17)..... Quasqueton
18. Blazing-Star Prairie (7.5)..... Rowley
19. Crumbacher Wildlife Area (368)..... Independence
20. Bearbower Sand Prairie (40)..... Brandon
21. Swartz Preserve (4)..... Aurora
22. Bryantsburg Prairie Preserve (1.5)..... Hazleton
23. Frogville Access (135)..... Troy Mills
24. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area (20)..... Troy Mills
25. Newton Township Natural Area (158)..... Quasqueton
26. Patton Prairie (45)..... Aurora
27. Hodges and North Wildlife Area (67)..... Jesup
28. Fairbank Fen (40)..... Fairbank
29. Anderson Addition to Cutshall (24)..... Jesup
30. Ham Marsh (54)..... Independence
31. Wehner Woods (30)..... Lamont
32. Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings (201)..... Quasqueton
33. Qigley-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" McGlauighlin Access (6)..... Littleton

Board Members

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

Conservation Staff

- Dan Cohen..... Executive Director
 Sondra Cabell..... Interpretive Naturalist
 Angie Auel..... Interpretive Naturalist
 Mike Van Raden..... Park Ranger
 Jeremy Whittle..... Park Ranger
 Chris Hansen..... Park Technician
 Michael Maas..... Wildlife Caregiver/Park Tech
 Elaine Walker..... Office Manager
 Diane Johnson..... Secretary
 Dylan Hall..... Seasonal Park Tech.
 James Mount..... Seasonal Park Tech.
 Dylan Lampe..... Naturalist

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, go to www.greenseal.org. The newsletter is edited by Angie Auel. Contact the Conservation Department at (319-636-2617/bccbdan@iowatelecom.net).

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.

Buchanan County Conservation hosted the 2017 Energy Games at Fontana Park on Friday, May 5. Participants from St John Middle School and Independence Junior/Senior High participated in three solar car categories – Stock car (all materials came from one car kit), Open division – cars could use more than one kit for materials including multiple panels or motors, and car pull – cars would need to pull a drag.

There were 14 stock entries and 15 open entries. Cars were raced on a slight incline for a distance of about 12 feet. As is often the case, cars that were able to maintain a straight course over the 12 foot distance had an advantage as they did not have to be re-directed.



Winning stock cars were:
 Shanna Kleve – 3rd
 Keegan Schmitt – 2nd
 Sawyer Wendling – 1st
 (all from St. John Middle School)



Winning open cars were
 Avery Hanaway – 3rd
 Grant Toale – 2nd
 Zoey Ratchford – 1st
 (all from St John Middle School)



These same cars could be entered in the pull event, where each car attempted to pull a sled for a 3 foot distance. Sleds had additional weight added for successful cars each round until a winner was determined.

Solar Pull winners were Jacob Elzey and Talon Rodriquez (Indee JSMS TAG) – 3rd, Grant Toale – 2nd, and Zoey Ratchford – 1st (both from St John Middle School)