

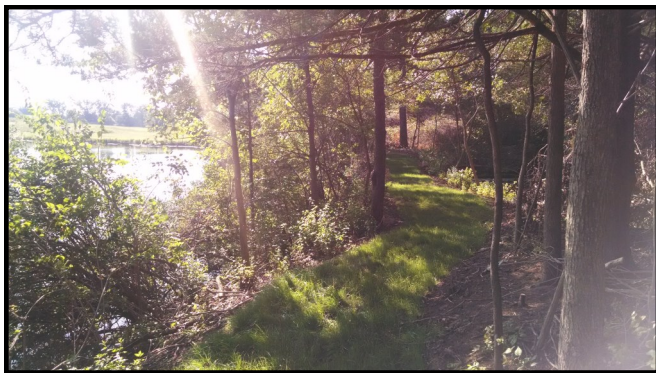
CONSERVATION NEWS



VOLUME 28
ISSUE 3
FALL 2015

A Walk Around the Lake

Mike Bode, Director



This summer, ICC received a grant through the DOT to hire four youth corps members to complete the remaining sections of the lakeside trail around Lake Iowa. Simply walking the few sections of the proposed trail that we were able to trudge through did not give us a good picture of just how daunting of a task the youth corps members would face. There were all kinds of invasives mixed in with large rocks and cement slabs that had to be removed, along with having to manipulate the soil to get it closer to level and wide enough for a trail.

Although Lake Iowa has a lakeside trail along more than half of the shoreline, getting it completed offers so much more to our park users. Up until late this summer, when walking or biking around Lake Iowa, you had to use the roadways for nearly half of the way around the lake. As many of you know, that consisted of climbing up and down many of the steep-grade paths connecting the lakeside trail to the road, which also added substantially to the distance you had to travel.

There are numerous benefits to completing this project. Besides the shorter travel distance when heading around the lake and the topography of the trail being relatively flat, areas where the trail runs through are nothing short of picturesque! Some of the old-timers had mentioned that there was a complete lakeside trail back when the lake was first constructed. There was some

evidence of that when blazing this new trail, but it was apparent that it probably was quite rustic, with substantial surface slope towards the lake. Four holes of our newly installed disc golf course also utilize the new lakeside trail below the campground.

Although we're still waiting for the grass to fill in and the dirt to settle, the trail is open for use. The trail runs along the dam of a hidden pond between the campground and the lake, so come check out the features in the park that are now accessible because of these new sections of lakeside trail.



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Paint Iowa Beautiful and Yo-Ho Tool Grant Award Announcement

Iowa County Conservation recently was awarded the Paint Iowa Beautiful grant through Keep Iowa Beautiful and their partnership with Diamond Vogel Paint. ICC received 8 gallons of paint from Diamond Vogel Paint in Iowa City for use at their conservation and recreation properties. It will be used to paint signage and buildings.



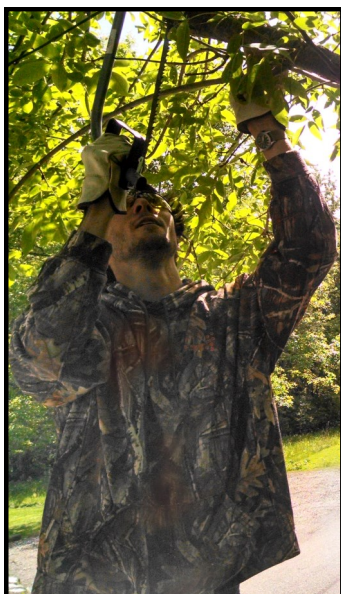
In 12 years of the program, Diamond Vogel has provided over 7,600 gallons of paint to 505 community projects. The grants were given in recognition of Governor Terry Branstad's proclamation of April as Keep Iowa Beautiful month.



Keep Iowa Beautiful and Iowa tool manufacturer Yeoman & Company have announced the awards for the 2015 Yo-Ho Tools for a More Beautiful Iowa grant program.

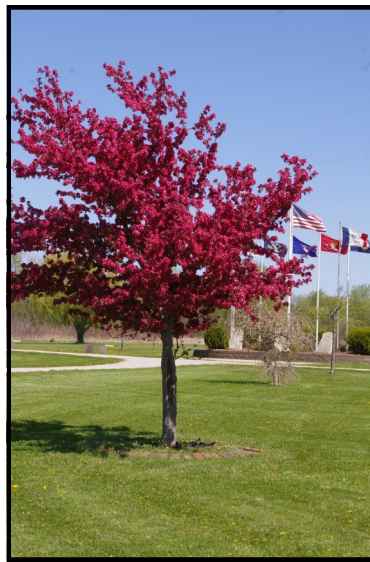


Community groups and organizations are eligible to receive grants of up to \$200 in Yo-Ho quality hand tools to assist volunteers in clean up and beautification projects in their communities. Yo-Ho Tools have been manufactured by Yeoman & Company in Monticello, Iowa for over 85 years. Iowa County Conservation was one of the organizations awarded a 2015 grant. The tools were obtained through Marengo Farm and Home in Marengo, IA. The tools included several heavy duty loppers and rakes for use by volunteer groups such as the Williamsburg Junior High and Friends of Iowa County Conservation Foundation. The loppers will assist greatly in trimming back invasives such as Autumn Olive and Honeysuckle on Iowa County Conservation properties. The rakes will help with landscape work and projects around the Lake Iowa Nature Center.



Thank You!

Every time we mention volunteers, dozens of people come to mind and we are overjoyed and most appreciative of every one of them! This summer, two volunteers stick out for the incredible amount of hours they have put in, allowing us to continue work on other projects. Every week Gene Atkins mows the entirety of Lake Iowa Park and Steve Wilhelm does the same with Gateway Park and Preserve. These two gentlemen contribute so much to Iowa County Conservation and we couldn't be happier to have them with us! Thank you Gene and Steve!



Iowa County Conservation Board

Gordon Dietze, Millersburg
John Gahring, Homestead
Shirley Messer, Ladora
Jim Scandridge, Victor
Marcia Wehner, Williamsburg

Iowa County Conservation Staff

Mike Bode, Director
Shelby Williams, Park Ranger
Caitlin Savage, Naturalist
Shelley Berger, PT Office Assistant
Dan Williams, PT Maintenance Tech

A Special Thanks to our Summer Staff!

Zach Ahrens, Conservation Tech
Kristen Geno, UYC Crew Leader
Robert Goss, Ranger Intern
Cecilia Hagen, GIS Specialist
Trevor Howe, Conservation Tech
Kayla Kuhnle, UYC Crew Member
Shianne Lindsay, WLC Intern
Michael Lopez, Naturalist Intern
Austin Roth, UYC Crew Member
Rachel Schnebbe, Lead Conservation Tech
Anthony Ward, UYC Crew Member
Molly Williams, Conservation Tech

Iowa County Board of Supervisors

John Gahring
Ray Garringer
Kevin Heitshusen
Vicki Pope
Dale Walter

New website coming soon!

We are currently in the process of working with a website design company to create a new web page. Watch for details as we get further along in the process. Our new website will be at <http://www.iowacountyconservation.org/>.

Recap on Iowa County Outdoor Adventure

Shelley Berger, Office Assistant

Iowa County Conservation together with Iowa County Pheasants Forever welcomed over 200 youth to the 2nd Annual Iowa County Outdoor Adventure on June 27th. Over 120 volunteers showed kids skills such as canoeing, fly tying and casting, and rifle target shooting, along with



12 other events. Five new events were added to the roster this year including duck calls, fishing, slack line, making bass lures and atlatl, which is a stick used by Eskimos and early American Indians to propel a long spear. Each event showed kids how much the great outdoors has to offer them, especially on a gorgeous day like we had June 27th. All youth went home with new skills and a bag full of donated goodies as well as show and tell items like their



own custom bass lure, their BB gun target sheet or a real duck call to provide parents lots of musical entertainment for the ride home. As the afternoon came to a close, youth and volunteers were already looking forward to next year's Outdoor Adventure!



IOWATER: A Citizen-Based Approach to Monitoring Iowa's Waters

Michael Lopez, Naturalist Intern

Water quality is something that affects all of us. All living things require water to survive and thrive, without it earth would be devoid of life. When considering that only 0.5% of the water on earth exists as freshwater, the importance of proper protection, management and monitoring becomes clear. Despite these facts, Iowa has repeatedly been ranked among the nation's highest in fecal bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.

Whether it is rural, forested, urban, or bluff country, one trait shared by each of Iowa's 99 counties is polluted waterways. According to the Iowa DNR, roughly 600 waters are listed as 'impaired' throughout the state. This means that whether it be from nutrient-overload, bacteria, or heavy metals many of Iowa's waterways are unfit for their designated purpose.

The influence of these contaminants are felt across Iowa and beyond. Pollutants such as excess soil, bacteria, and nutrients leave the state's rivers with more health-threatening pathogens, less fish and wildlife, and unpleasant odors and hues. As a result, Iowans pay more to clean their water before it heads to the taps. Regrettably these impacts are not confined only to the state. Iowa's position as a top fertilizer polluter indicates that the state is a major contributor to the annual Gulf of Mexico 'dead zone' – an annual area of low oxygen incapable of supporting marine life. Nutrients from activities upriver such as farming and urban runoff encourage the growth of algae which consumes oxygen as it dies.

In a 2014 water quality report made by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 1,455 (57%) of the 2,567 bodies of water in Iowa, were listed as having "insufficient data" to adequately assess their condition. This report made clear one of the most glaring obstacles in the protection of Iowa's waters: a severe lack of data.

Before any water quality improvement plans are made, scientists and policy makers need to know which waterways require the most immediate attention, as well as the actions needed to correct the problems. This is currently unfeasible given the limited number of state and federal employees testing all of Iowa's waters.



Enter IOWATER, a citizen-based volunteer water monitoring program that trains citizens to conduct basic chemical, physical and biological measurements. IOWATER is among a slew of new collaborative research undertakings that have gained a great deal of popularity in recent years known as citizen science projects. Programs like IOWATER allow public volunteers to assist scientists in their research by submitting data, sharing experiences or spreading valuable information. DNR scientists benefit from having supplementary data to analyze and a pool of volunteers willing to help.

IOWATER began in 1998 with the mission to "Protect and improve Iowa's water quality by raising citizen awareness about Iowa's watersheds, supporting and encouraging the growth and networking of Iowa's volunteer water monitoring communities, and promoting water monitoring activities, as a means of assessing and understanding Iowa's aquatic resources."

Continued on page 11

Urban Youth Corps (UYC)

Anthony Ward

Hi, I have been working at Lake Iowa for just this summer. I am 19 years old. I had a lot of fun working with all the people working there. I love to play video games and watch anime. I would like to be a video game developer. I do not have any plans to go to college right now, but I am looking for a good one.

I graduated at HLV community school in 2014. I live in Victor I have lived there my whole life. I would like to live in Seattle, Washington. I think living there would be very cool and pretty.

Kristen Geno

I am 17 years old. I have worked at Lake Iowa for two years now and I absolutely love it. It's kind of cool too, that I live right across the street. However I just got my first car so I'm not here all the time now and I can drive myself to school for my last year. I want to go to Kirkwood then to Iowa State to become

a Park Ranger. I'm just so excited to go out into the big world and see what it's all about!!!



Kayla Kuhnle

Working at Lake Iowa Park has taught me a lot of skills in the year and half that I have been here. Being 17, I have a lot to learn about the "real world" but working here is giving me a jump start ahead of my peers. Lake Iowa has a way to teach work ethic, and to take pride in all the work you do, even the little things. After my senior year in high school I plan to go to Kirkwood for agriculture and transfer to a 4-year school down the road. Working with the amazing people that I do, and getting all the advice that I get, I know that college and adulthood will be much simpler for me than anyone else out there. I love my job, and I wouldn't trade the people I work with or my bosses for the world.

Austin Roth

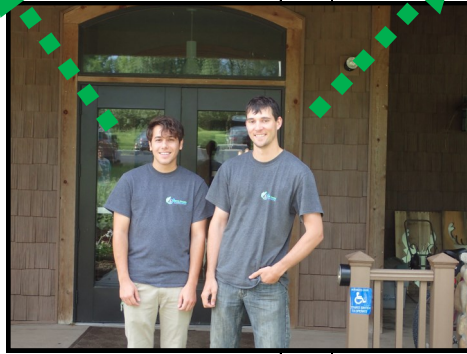
This is my first summer working as a UYC at Lake Iowa. So far I have loved working here with some great people. And it's for me, because I only live two miles away. I really like this job, because I've always loved working outside. We have got a lot done this summer with making the lakeside trail and the disc golf course.

Summer Interns

Michael Lopez

I grew up in Dyersville, Iowa and am currently living in Iowa City. I moved to this area to attend the University of Iowa, where I graduated with a degree in Environmental Science. Since graduating I've held a number of rewarding positions including working as a park ranger at Coralville Lake, as well as conducting research at a Costa Rican biological station and at the Iowa Department of Biology.

This summer I have been working as the naturalist intern here at Iowa County Conservation. My main responsibility has been to educate the public about Iowa's natural environment through school and public programs. It has been very gratifying to share my knowledge with others; however I feel I've personally learned so much more from the ICC staff and the people of this community. I've felt a strong sense of camaraderie at Iowa County Conservation, and I'm grateful to have met everyone I have worked alongside this season.



Robert Goss

I was the Park Ranger Intern with Iowa County Conservation over the summer. I chose this internship over many others because I believed it would give me the experience and skills that I need to gain employment in this field. I can, without a doubt, say that this has been the best job that I've ever had as well as the best summer of my life. I worked in a great environment with people who truly cared about what they did for the community. Lake Iowa would not be what it is without the hard work of these passionate people. My future plans are to finish my undergrad at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, continue doing internships similar to what I have done this summer, and hopefully start a career as a Park Ranger.



Shianne Lindsay

I am going to be a junior at Williamsburg Jr. Sr. High School in the fall of 2015. I am heavily involved in softball, Student Council, Robotics, Tech Team, Speech, and school plays. During the summer of 2015, I took on an academic internship at Lake Iowa, through a program called Workplace Learning Connection. WLC allows students to intern a host of a job they would like to pursue, and complete a set number of hours determined by the program and the intern's school. During my internship, I had to complete 90 hours of unpaid work. Every student who completes their set number of hours receives transferable college credit hours to any school of choice. Though these jobs are unpaid, it is definitely worth the experience, and will pay off in the end.

I chose to intern Caitlin, the Lake Iowa Naturalist, because of my strong interest in the outdoors, and desire to be an Entomologist. An Entomologist and a Naturalist have a very similar day to day schedule and course of schooling, however, with a different focus of topics. A Naturalist may study nature as a whole, and an Entomologist will study primarily insects.

Every day at work was enjoyable; however my favorite day was when all of the staff members went to an area of the lake to catch macro invertebrates to determine water quality of the lake. This internship was definitely a great learning experience, and I would highly recommend anyone doing an academic internship. I learned a lot about the job itself, as well as about nature in Iowa. I am looking forward to my future, eventually playing softball for Iowa State and studying Entomology.

Seasonal Conservation Techs

Trevor Howe

This has been my fourth year at Lake Iowa. I am currently attending Kirkwood for Liberal Science, and will later move onto a university to get some sort of environmental degree. I recently went to Costa Rica as part of some Environmental Science and Ethics classes. I feel passionate about environmental issues.

Rachel Schnebbe

I'm a senior biology major at University of Northern Iowa. I'm a member of the Panther Marching Band at UNI. Our band was able to perform in the London New Year's Day parade this year. I love traveling and have been to nine countries. In my free time I like to explore the great outdoors, hike trails, and kayak. This is my second summer at Lake Iowa. This year I am lead seasonal. Our seasonal crew is awesome, and they are my second family. We work together extremely well and have accomplished a lot this summer. Working here again this summer has helped me realize how much I love working outside and in conservation. After graduating next spring, I would love to work in conservation and find a job similar to the one here at Lake Iowa.



Zachary Ahrens

This is my third year working for Iowa County Conservation. I spend most of my time pondering life while playing Call of Duty. I plan on attending Kirkwood's Parks and Rec program in the fall.

Molly Williams

This is my 3rd year working for Iowa County Conservation. This year I am a seasonal. I graduated Williamsburg Community High School this May. My plan is to attend Kirkwood Community College this fall for a degree in Liberal Arts. Later I will be transferring to Coe College for marketing and business. While in high school I was very involved in the Robotics team. This year I hope to be a mentor for the new robotics students. Lake Iowa has always been an important part of my life, I have grown up here.

GIS Specialist



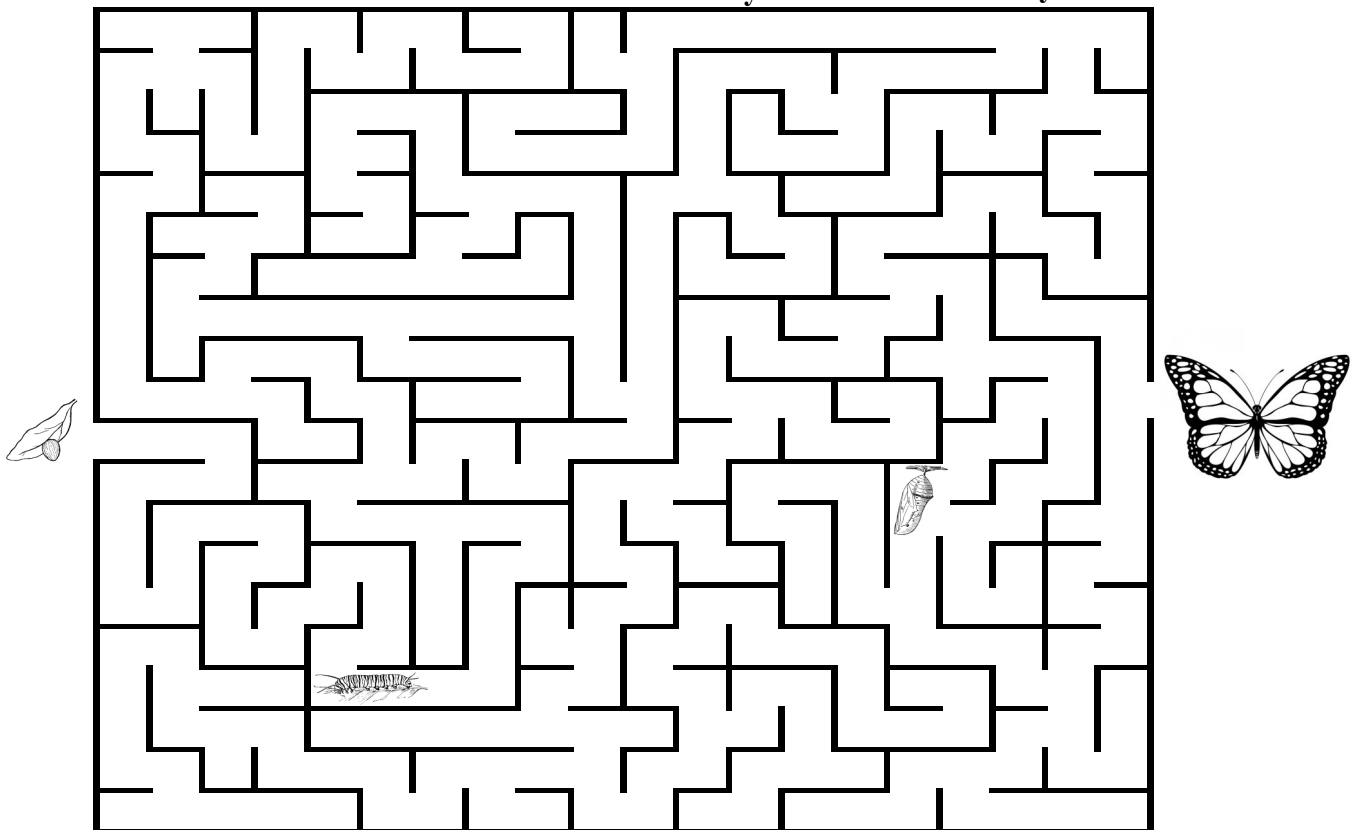
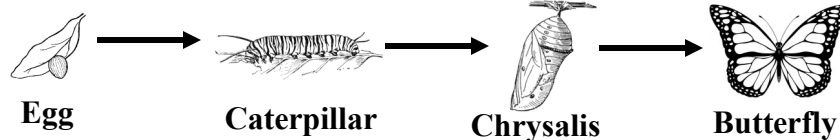
Cecilia Hagen

I will be graduating from the University of Iowa in December with a degree in Geographical and Sustainability Sciences. This is my fourth summer working for Iowa County Conservation. This year I have been making maps for all of the properties the ICCB manages. It has been a fun challenge to apply the new skills I have learned in college to real life situations. When I am not making maps I get to join the seasonal crew and continue to work on projects around the park.

Creature Feature: Monarch Butterfly

- ◆ Monarch butterflies are bright orange with black and white markings.
- ◆ You can tell the male and female monarchs apart because the males have a black spot in the middle of each back wing. The females don't have this.
- ◆ Monarchs are known for their amazing migration. In the winter, millions of monarchs move to California and Mexico, flying up to 3000 miles. It takes them up to 2 months to complete their journey.
- ◆ The monarchs that make the migration have never been on this trip before, but somehow they know how to get there! Scientists still are unsure how they do this.
- ◆ Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed.
- ◆ When caterpillars eat milkweed, they store a poisonous toxin in their body. This makes the monarch taste bad to predators.
- ◆ The butterfly has a tongue called a proboscis, which acts like a straw. It uses it to drink nectar and water.
- ◆ A group of monarchs is called a "flutter."

Help the butterfly complete its life cycle! Start the maze at the egg, then find the caterpillar, go to the chrysalis, and finish as a butterfly!



Programs will meet at Lake Iowa Nature Center if location is not listed. All are free (unless otherwise noted) and everyone is welcome. We will meet rain or shine!

Saturday, September 19th

Flutter into Fall, 10am

Fall is almost here, and that means many animals are preparing for or starting their journey south for the winter. Come to the Nature Center to discover more about these animals. You will also get a chance to make a bird food treat to bring home for the migrating birds!

Marvelous Monarchs, 2pm

Discover the amazing things the monarch can do! Candy Crane, a Friends



Foundation member and monarch enthusiast, will speak of her trip to Mexico to view their wintering grounds. Find out

more about the monarch, its life cycle, and its spectacular 3000 mile migration.

Creepy Camping Weekend!

Friday, September 25th

Dusk: Movie behind the Nature Center, movie title TBA. Enjoy popcorn for free will donation and pop and water for \$0.50.

Saturday, September 26th

12:30pm-finish: Dummy Board Registration and Competition at Park entrance. Register your team at 12:30, throw some bags at 1pm and get the chance to win some money!

1-3pm: Kid's games around the Nature Center. Enjoy great activities for the family. Have fun playing and crafting!

5-7pm: Trick or Treat throughout the campground! Be sure to bring candy for others and let the tricks or treats begin! We ask that vehicles remain parked at this time.

8pm: Hayrack ride closes the night for the Creepy Camping event! Popcorn will be available for free will donation and pop and water will be sold for \$0.50 along the wait line.

****For additional details about Creepy Camping, please check our Facebook page or bulletin boards at Lake Iowa Park****

Saturday, October 17th

Geocache Trick-or-Treat, 2pm

Come learn how to use a GPS and the basics of geocaching. Search Lake Iowa Park to find some treats! We have limited GPS units, so bring your own if you have them. Geocachers of all skill levels are welcome!



Monday, October 19th

Whooo's that Critter? 6:30pm

Williamsburg Public Library

Halloween is a time with lots of creepy animals: bats, owls, spiders, snakes! But are these animals really so scary? Meet at the Williamsburg Public Library for Family Fun Night to discover what makes these animals unique and decide whether they are really so creepy.

Wednesday, November 18th

Bison in Iowa, 7pm

Discover Iowa's hugest mammal, the bison. Get a chance to look up close at some of the parts of the bison used by Native Americans. Find out some of the amazing things that they were used for. Afterwards, kids will have the chance to make a bison craft!

IOWATER...continued from page 5

Citizens begin by attending workshops held by the DNR throughout the summer all over the state. IOWATER Introductory Workshops cover topics such as starting a monitoring plan, what to do with data, and networking with others concerned about water quality. Volunteers gain hands-on experience in the basics of testing waterways for a number of metrics including: pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrates and nitrites, phosphorus, turbidity, and temperature. Workshop attendees are also introduced to the IOWATER online database, where water quality data and observations are submitted and available to be reviewed by other volunteers and DNR employees. The DNR uses this online database as a tool to make water quality improvement plans, or in some cases, to decide if emergency action on a water body is needed.

IOWATER is a unique program that empowers citizens to take a hands-on approach to water quality. One of the hallmarks of the program is the flexibility it provides volunteers. Participants can decide where and how often to sample. By monitoring the waters in their own backyards, Iowa residents help assess and improve low quality or polluted waters, while helping to ensure the protection and endurance of Iowa's high quality rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands.

The program further connects people with their natural surroundings and the water resources that sustain them. This connection leads to a renewed sense of respect and understanding of these vital resources, and to a sense of belonging within the watersheds where Iowans live. With a greater knowledge of the condition of Iowa's waterways, significant strides toward a future with cleaner water will be made possible.

Wish List

The following items are needed by Iowa County Conservation. Please bring donations to the nature center. Thank you!

- ◆ Work gloves
- ◆ Bird seed (black oil sunflower or thistle)
- ◆ Dry erase markers (new)
- ◆ Safety glasses/goggles (new)

Visit us online at:

www.mycountyparks.com/county/iowa.aspx

Like "Iowa County Conservation" and "Lake Iowa Park" on Facebook.





Iowa County Conservation News

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Park Ranger
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319-655-8465 **swilliams@co.iowa.ia.us**
319-655-8466 **csavage@co.iowa.ia.us**

Thank you for supporting the Iowa County Conservation programs with your tax-deductible donation:

Enclosed is my donation for:

___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___ \$1000
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Please earmark my donation for:

- ___ Cabin Development
- ___ Lake Iowa Park Improvements
- ___ Environmental Education materials & equipment
- ___ Conservation News newsletter
- ___ Habitat improvement/development on ICCB areas
- ___ Use my donation where needed most
- ___ Other: _____

Send to ICCB, 2550 G. Ave, Ladora, IA 52251

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