

CONSERVATION NEWS



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ISSUE 1
SPRING 2018

Conservation News is Going Electronic!

In order to cut costs in printing and mailing, and to continually increase our reach to a broader public the Iowa County Conservation Board “Conservation News” newsletter is going electronic! What can you expect from the new e-newsletter format? More educational articles, video entries, sound bites, color photos and interactive fun. Many things that would never be possible in print media. We will be using MailChimp to help us deliver our quarterly newsletters and updates about programs, events and other goings on around our public areas & parks. If you are already receiving our PDF newsletter in your email you won’t notice a huge change beyond the format. If you are receiving a paper copy currently and want to stay up to date let us know your email. Contact us at iowacountyconservation@gmail.com to sign up, or check our website and Facebook page for entry forms. We hope you are as excited as we are about the changes coming to Iowa County Conservation!

Iowa Nature Notes: Your LINC to the Outdoors

Here at Iowa County Conservation we try to reach out to the public in diverse ways. One of the ways that we are trying is a monthly podcast we do through the website CastBox.fm. The name of the podcast is Iowa Nature Notes: Your LINC to the Outdoors. The LINC in the name is an abbreviation of Lake Iowa Nature Center. We wanted to communicate how the Nature Center is a place that we hope give you a better connection with the natural world around you. Each month we discuss a new topic among our staff and the occasional special guest. We have completed four podcast so far with topics ranging from wild turkeys, the winter solstice, owls and most recently bobcats. We would like the podcast to be interactive so if you have an idea for an episode, or a question about a park, plant or animal let us know. Send your questions and comments to iowacountyconservation@gmail.com.

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Northern Bobwhite Quail By: Phil DeJarnatt

I enjoy the fall and winter and spend most of it outdoors, but I can't wait to hear the familiar signs of spring, temps in the sixties, the longer days and the sweet song of the bobwhites in the rolling hills of Iowa!

Bobwhites are the native upland bird of Iowa and most of the midwestern US. Over the past decades quail numbers have been slowly declining. Why? There are many reasons for the decline in habitat loss, changes in farming practices, decline in trapping. How can you help quail and what do they need? It's as simple as habitat or food, water, and cover. The best thing you can do is help create habitat.

Food - The northern bobwhite's diet consists of plants and small invertebrates, such as ticks, snails, grasshoppers, and potato beetles. Plant sources include grass seeds, wild berries, partridge pea, and cultivated grains. They forage on the ground in open areas with some spots of taller vegetation.

Water - Quail get water from their food and the dew, so not much is required, if releasing pen-raised putting water may help, but it would also bring other wildlife in.

Cover is the main piece of the puzzle. Here are some different types of cover that quail require.

Types of Cover - Brooding cover - weeds, like ragweed, pigweed, foxtail.

Nesting cover - native warm season grasses, with forbs (flowers) close to an edge.

Roosting cover - ragweed, food plots, 12-36" with 25% bare ground.

Escape cover - brushy fence row, plum or dogwood thicket, brush piles, food plots.

Other key management tools may include controlled burns, strip disking, food plots, shrubs/brush piles, native warm season grasses with forbs, edge feathering.

Bobwhites will pair up male/female in the spring, and then hatch a clutch of 12 to 15 eggs. The pair will rear a brood of chicks in spring/summer. These chicks will weight approx. 7.5 grams when they hatch, and at maturity is 6-8oz. If they make it to the fall, the birds will mix up and create coveys during the "fall shuffle." Quail need this social group for survival, warmth, teamwork, and sheer numbers. In the winter when we get snow and ice, it can get tough fast for a ground bird so small. They need to have what they require all within 30-50 yard circle. When creating your upland habitat, make sure you add forbs to your grass mix. Forbs are the food; the native grasses are nesting/screening cover. Leave weeds, create edge, and mow/disk strips summer and winter.

I have been raising quail for several years now; this is the first year that I'm keeping some over winter to get my own eggs this spring. I have been releasing some on a couple farms. And this year I saw some quail. So I know some are making it. This upcoming year I will continue to release some more. It's important to have the proper cover types before releasing birds.

I use a callback house. This is a pen setup where there in an inverted reducing cone with a flap, so the birds can come back inside the cage but can't get out. So if you leave some quail in there or have a speaker with quail sounds they will come right in. You can use to train your dogs or just have the quail around. It's a lot of fun to watch and listen to the quail. Email me with any questions at pdejarnatt@co.iowa.ia.us. Have a great day, and Get Outside!



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

We would like to Thank those of you who help Iowa County Conservation accomplish our projects and goals. Some volunteer their time and others donate money or items. Thank You!

- All who donated to the Friends of Iowa County Conservation annual letter drive
- Janet Grafft for the donation of patio furniture for Lake Iowa Nature Center

Friends of Iowa County Conservation Foundation Banquet

April 7th, 2018

All proceeds from the banquet benefit Iowa County Conservation projects.

Silent Auction / Wine Tasting at 5pm

Dinner catered by P.H.A.T. Daddy's will start at 6pm with a Live Auction to follow

Tickets are \$25 and available for purchase at Lake Iowa Nature Center. Call 319-655-8465

Save the Date for 2018!

**Iowa County Outdoor Adventure -
June 16th**

Pollinator Festival - September 15th

**Creepy Camping Weekend -
October 5-6th**

Iowa County Board of Supervisors

Vicki Pope
Ray Garringer
Kevin Heitshusen
John Gahring
Neal Huedepohl

Iowa County Conservation Board

Chris Montross, Millersburg
John Gahring, Homestead
Rose Danaher, Amana
Justin Parsons, North English
Marcia Wehner, Williamsburg

Iowa County Conservation Staff

Chris Anderson, Director
Mary Bulger, Naturalist
Phil DeJarnatt, Park Ranger
Shelley Berger, PT Office Assistant
Dan Williams, PT Maintenance Tech

Wish List

The following items are needed by ICCB. Please call ahead to bring donations to the nature center. Thank you!

- Children's scissors, glue sticks, and manual pencil sharpeners
- Donations for education animal food and supplies

Visit us online at:

www.iowacountyconservation.org

www.mycountyparks.com/county/iowa.aspx

Like "Lake Iowa Park" on Facebook

Thank You Shirley For Your Service!



Shirley Messer has been a steadfast supporter of conservation and education in Iowa County for over a decade. She became a board member in October of 2006 just as the Iowa County Conservation Board was getting ready to celebrate its 50th anniversary. She completed her 2nd term in December of 2017.

In her years of service she has worked with fellow board members to help further a lot of improvements to Iowa County Conservation properties. If you enjoy the Lake Iowa Park Nature Center or cabins, the new shower house, the Dale Noyes Pavilion at Lake Iowa or all the flowers and all the pollinators that they support you can thank Shirley. She'll modestly tell you that it takes a team to get things done but thank her anyway!

She has constantly been on the lookout for ways to improve or promote Iowa County Conservation and she always had a newspaper, magazine, or newsletter clipping with her at board meetings that had a new idea to tackle. Her prevailing attitude was that Iowa County's parks, preserves, and wildlife areas could compete with any state level areas and she wanted everyone to visit them.

Her willingness to support conservation endeavors meant that if something needed picked up out of county or even out of state Shirley was the first person to call. She has helped haul fishing docks, picnic tables, and cabin furniture back to Lake Iowa.

Shirley is a long time member of the Friends of Iowa County Conservation Foundation and continues to help them find new ways to support conservation in our county. Shirley is also a Master Gardener and encourages the use of native plants that are especially beneficial to pollinators. She has helped keep the Lake Iowa Nature Center and Gateway Park weed free and, thanks in part to her, we have a thriving butterfly and native bee population.

With all her support of and leadership to the staff of Iowa County Conservation Shirley's years of service have gone by all too quickly. An open invitation has been extended to her by the staff for as long as she wishes. We hope to see her soon and expect to see a newspaper clipping or two.

Welcome Rose Danaher - New Conservation Board Member!

Hello and thank you for the warm welcome to the Iowa County Conservation Board! I have always had a special place in my heart for Iowa's County Conservation Board system. Some of my first memories are owl hikes with my dad in Whitham Woods, a Jefferson County Conservation park. My first real job, and the one that pushed me toward a career in conservation was working for the Story County Conservation Board managing habitat in the rights-of-ways and wildlife areas. Iowa is lucky to have such a wonderful network of parks, wildlife areas and people who care for them. I am looking forward to rejoining that community and contributing to the great work being done by the Lake Iowa staff and volunteers!



During the day, I work as an Environmental Specialist for the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District. I manage the Price Creek Watershed Project, a locally led effort to improve water quality in Price Creek and the Iowa River. I live north of Amana on a small farm with cattle, horses and my German Shorthaired Pointers, Brady and Sawyer. Some of my favorite activities involve following those bird dogs around, whether it be in search of pheasants, antler sheds or just a beautiful sunset.



2018 Summer Day Camps Lake Iowa Nature Center

Looking for a fun way for your kids to spend more time outdoors this summer? Sign them up for Iowa County Conservation's summer day camps!

Day campers will meet at Lake Iowa Nature Center each day. Camps meet different on mornings and times during the week depending on the age of the camper. Sessions are available for ages 3-13. During camp, we will explore nature, try out new outdoor activities, play games, and have fun! A snack will be provided daily. Each camp costs \$10 per session per child to help cover the cost of materials and snacks. Registration will be limited to 12 participants per session. If your information is received after the camp fills up, you will be put on a waiting list.

Registration begins on Monday, April 9th at 2:00pm. Registration information will be available on our website at <http://iowacountyconservation.org/summer-camps/>

Registration, payment, and a completed health form must be received at least one week prior to camp and are needed before participants are placed on the camp list. Make checks payable to the Iowa County Conservation Board. Once you are registered, you will receive confirmation information. Please call (319) 655-8466 or email mbulger@co.iowa.ia.us with any questions.



Storytime

(3-4 years old with adult)

Mammals - June 5th 9-10am

Prairie - June 19th 9-10am

Pollinators - July 10th 9-10am

Nestling Camp

(5-6 years old)

Mammals - June 7th 9-11am

Prairie - June 21st 9-11am

Pollinators - July 12th 9-11am



Fledgling Camp

(7-8 years old)

Mammals - June 12th 9-11am

Prairie - July 3rd 9-11am

Pollinators - July 17th 9-11am

Junior Naturalist Camp

(9-13 years old)

Nature Art- June 14th 9a-12pm

Nature Explorers - July 5th 9a-12p

Night - July 19th 6:30-9:30pm

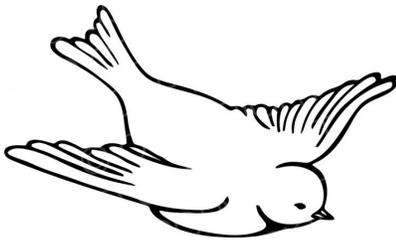


March brings spring back to Iowa, with the first official day of spring being March 20th this year. Search the word search below and color the pictures of some spring things. Then become a spring detective and go explore the outdoors using your eyes and ears to discover the many signs of spring!

Spring Word Search

R	V	Y	M	O	H	J	G	H	T	C	F	H	S	F
A	H	Z	I	J	G	H	Y	B	F	L	Z	H	Y	F
I	N	O	M	L	O	F	O	I	L	O	G	C	A	P
N	P	S	J	C	B	N	X	R	O	U	F	Y	J	Z
Z	U	U	N	I	E	I	B	D	W	D	O	E	P	U
W	M	N	T	U	E	B	N	S	E	S	G	B	Y	D
A	Z	S	S	F	S	U	P	Z	R	Z	A	O	H	A
R	W	H	T	D	Z	T	H	B	S	E	R	J	Z	H
M	V	I	O	O	D	T	O	O	Z	K	D	Z	Q	U
M	P	N	R	A	H	E	L	J	F	P	E	S	U	F
L	H	E	M	P	Z	R	K	X	T	Y	N	H	Q	V
N	N	M	Z	O	X	F	X	K	N	N	D	X	E	Q
Z	X	P	N	L	F	L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G
B	F	J	R	A	F	Y	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	R
M	X	E	C	O	U	L	B	O	U	B	T	M	W	U

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| BEES | BIRDS | BUTTERFLY | CLOUDS |
| FLOWERS | LIGHTNING | RAIN | STORM |
| SUNSHINE | THUNDER | GARDEN | WARM |



SPRING PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-registration is required by email to mbulger@co.iowa.ia.us
All are free (unless noted) and everyone is welcome.

Frog and Toad Survey Training Lake Iowa Nature Center April 10th 6:30-9:30pm

A frog and toad survey training will be held on April 10th, 2018 at Lake Iowa Nature Center. Participants in the workshop will learn how to identify Iowa's frog and toad species by sight and sound, how to locate survey sites, and how to collect and submit data to the Iowa DNR. The trainings are open to all adults with an enthusiasm for the outdoors and an interest in observing wildlife. Join us and become a citizen scientist!



There is a \$5 fee for this training. Pre-registration is required by April 3rd. Registration forms are available to download at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Iowas-Wildlife/Volunteer-Wildlife-Monitoring>



Freshwater Mussels of Iowa Lake Iowa Nature Center May 12th 1pm

Join us at Lake Iowa Nature Center for a program from Jennifer Kurth, Iowa DNR Natural Resources Biologist, about freshwater mussels of Iowa.

Freshwater mussels are good indicators of aquatic ecosystem health, as well as nature's water filtration system. Learn more about the unique life cycles of mussels, how to find mussels, and which species we have in Iowa.

Public Bird Banding Lake Iowa Park / Nature Center May 26th 9am-1pm

Come join us to observe bird banding of songbirds and woodpeckers, and to observe wild birds close up. Participants will learn about the purposes and benefits of banding, and will observe a demonstration of best practices. Local, federally-permitted banders hope to establish a long-term study of Lake Iowa Park's bird populations via this method. You may come and go at any time during the demonstration, and might very well have the opportunity to release a banded bird. Consider bringing a lawn chair if you think you would like to stay for an hour or more. In case of inclement weather, such as continual rain, the program may be canceled.

Earth Day Celebration Lake Iowa Park April 22nd

Cleanup 9-11am

We need your help! Join us on Earth Day to help make Lake Iowa Park a cleaner and greener place. We will be picking up litter, cleaning off the garden beds, and nature playscape area. Light refreshments will be served for all volunteers.

Bird Banding Presentation and Discussion 11a-Noon

How do you think a chickadee, nuthatch, or blue jay might respond to capture? Come and find out! Local bird bander Mark Bowman will give a power point presentation, first explaining the conservation benefits of bird banding, and then discussing the joys of banding and the amusing behaviors of wild songbirds in response to capture. Discussion and time for questions will follow.

RSVP by email to mbulger@co.iowa.is.us so we know the amount of refreshments to have.

Iowa County Outdoor Adventure Lake Iowa Park June 16th, 2018

A free family event hosted at Lake Iowa Park. Kids will get the chance to try a variety of exciting outdoor activities, such as canoeing, archery, trap shooting, fishing, and much more!



Check our website and Facebook page for more details.



Iowa County Conservation News

Lake Iowa Park
2550 G. Ave
Ladora, IA 52251

For more information about
Iowa County Conservation,
please contact us:

Director
Park Ranger
Office Assistant
Naturalist

319-655-8465 canderson@co.iowa.ia.us
319-655-8465 pdejarnatt@co.iowa.ia.us
319-655-8465 sberger@co.iowa.ia.us
319-655-8466 mbulger@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
 \$5000 Other

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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 ICC, 2550 G Ave, Ladora, IA 52251

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Yes, sign me up to receive Conservation News!

Conservation News is available electronically, go to www.iowacountyconservation.org to sign up.

OR

Send an email to
iowacountyconservation@gmail.com
with your name and email address you want the newsletter to be sent to.

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