

CONSERVATION NEWS



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SUMMER 2016

New Dock at Gateway



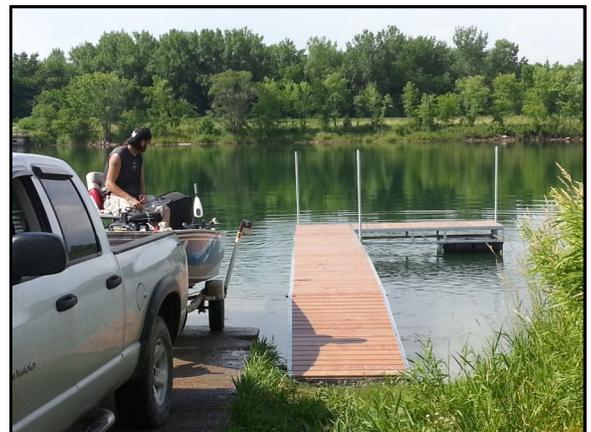
Iowa County Conservation staff pose for a picture after their hard work constructing the dock.

Mike Bode, Director

If you've ever tried to launch your boat into a lake or pond without a dock, you know exactly how tricky it can be not to end up in the water yourself. With the help of the Iowa County Community Foundation, we were finally able to install a dock on Gateway Pond (the old sand quarry on the north end of Marengo) at the very north end of Franklin Avenue. With the constant fluctuation in the water level, nearly in direct response to the Iowa River raising and lowering, a floating dock was really our only viable option. Just in the couple of days that we were installing and adjusting the dock, multiple boaters stopped and mentioned that they had gotten pretty good at launching their boats without one over the years, but how nice it was going to be to be rid of that headache and that they knew how much they were going to appreciate having it. Our hope is that

boaters that were deterred by the difficulty of launching their boats without a dock will now feel they can utilize the pond with ease.

Almost overnight, the new dock had people launching boats left and right off of it as well as people fishing from it. Just remember that Gateway Pond is electric motors only and that there is no swimming allowed at Gateway Park.



Trevor Gorsh and Adam Conway get ready to test out the new dock. They were the first of many to launch their boat that day.

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3rd Annual ICOA a Success!



The 3rd annual Iowa County Outdoor Adventure was hosted at Lake Iowa Park on Saturday, June 11th, in partnership with Iowa County Pheasants Forever. Overall, we had over 230 youth and their families attend this free event. Thank you to everyone who came! We would also like to extend a huge THANKS to our volunteers (pictured above). We appreciate you taking the time to make an impact on the youth of Iowa County!

Thanks to our sponsors for this event:

Wade's Golf & Mow
Marengo Memorial Hospital
Marengo Ready Mix
Pheasants Forever
A8 Chinese Restaurant
Elite Sports
Swenka Hardwood Floors
Eagle Eye Tactical
Izaak Walton League
National Wild Turkey Federation
Victor Lumber

Green Top Lawn & Landscaping
Friends of Iowa County Conservation
Marengo Body Shop
Cooperative Telephone
Marengo Farm & Home
Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co.
Williamsburg Foods
Freeman Foods (North English)
Big G Foods (Marengo)
Whitetail Legends Taxidermy
ITC Midwest

All photos courtesy of Rose Danaher. To see more pictures from this event, visit the "Iowa County Pheasants Forever" Facebook page.

IOWA COUNTY OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Iowa County Conservation Board

Gordon Dietze, Millersburg
John Gahring, Homestead
Shirley Messer, Ladora
Justin Parsons, North English
Marcia Wehner, Williamsburg

Iowa County Conservation Staff

Mike Bode, Director
Caitlin Savage, Naturalist
Shelley Berger, PT Office Assistant
Blaine Manning, Temporary Park Ranger
Emily McGuire, Lead Seasonal Cons.Tech
Trevor Howe, Lead Seasonal Cons.Tech
Warren Jennings Seasonal Conservation Tech
Kayla Kuhnle, Seasonal Conservation Tech
Danielle Sweet, Park Ranger Intern
Carlie Stanton, Naturalist Intern
Heather Stratton, UYC Project Supervisor
Anthony Ward, UYC Lead
Mary Cheney, UYC Member
Kyler Klesner, UYC Member
Shannon Foster, UYC Member
John & Ann Cole, Campground Hosts

Iowa County Board of Supervisors

Vicki Pope
Ray Garringer
Kevin Heitshusen
John Gahring
Dale Walter

Meet the Seasonal Staff!

Kayla Kuhnle, Seasonal Conservation Tech

I have been with Iowa County Conservation for 3 years. I think that Iowa County Conservation is a great place to work and teaches you some skills you didn't know you had. I just graduated from Williamsburg Jr/Sr High School. I am attending Kirkwood Community College in the fall of 2016, studying Ag Business.

Warren Jennings, Seasonal Conservation Tech

I'm a 2015 graduate of Williamsburg, IA, and am currently attending Iowa State with a major in Mechanical Engineering. I took this job because I have always loved this park and like working outside.

Emily McGuire, Lead Seasonal Conservation Tech

I grew up in North English. After high school I received my Associates of Applied Science in Parks and Natural Resources at Kirkwood Community College. I then obtained my Bachelor's degree in Conservation Management.

This is my third summer working with Iowa County Conservation. I love coming back to work here because it is such a beautiful park with a great group of people to work with!



Heather Stratton, UYC Project Supervisor

This is my fourth season with Iowa County Conservation. This past winter I was an invasive species technician for ICC, clearing out the invasives between the campground and the lake. I enjoyed it so much I was allowed to come back for the summer! I graduated with a B.S. degree in Forestry from Iowa State in 2013 with emphasis in conservation and restoration.

Trevor Howe, Lead Seasonal Conservation Tech (not pictured)

It's been my fifth season working here at Lake Iowa, and it has been cut a little bit up by a Service Learning Trip to Cambodia. I'll be going to the University of Iowa this next school year for a Bachelor in Computer Science, having finished my curriculum at Kirkwood.

I aspire to be the very best, like no one ever was.

MEET THE SEASONAL STAFF

Carlie Stanton, Naturalist Intern

I am from Maquoketa, IA. For two years I studied at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids and received my Associates' Degree. Afterwards, I moved to Iowa State University where I am currently continuing my education in Animal Ecology, with an option in Wildlife. I love the idea of working with kids and helping them understand the importance of conservation, while also having a lot of fun with it too. This summer is going to be so much fun and I can't wait to see you at Lake Iowa Park.



Danielle Sweet, Park Ranger Intern:

I grew up in Newhall. After high school I received my Associates of Applied Science in Parks and Natural Resources at Kirkwood Community College. After graduating I transferred to Upper Iowa University where I am currently studying Conservation Management and Criminal Justice. I enjoy talking to people that visit the park, so as you camp here this summer feel free to stop by and say "hey!"

Mary Cheney, UYC Member

I am a senior at EV High School. I am FFA president. I mow three cemeteries and one town yard for my SAE (Supervised Agriculture Education). I have one dog named Daisy who is a lab/husky and one indoor and one outdoor cat. The indoor one is named Iggy and the outside one is named Olie. I found this job in the newspaper, and a big plus is I like being outside.

Kyler Klesner, UYC Member

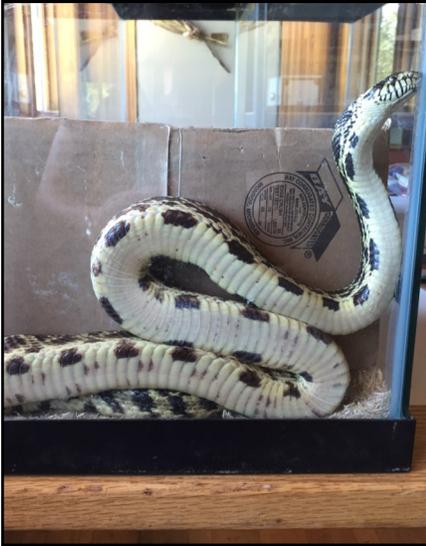
I am a senior at HLV High School. I live around the park and love the outdoors so I always wanted to work here. So far I really enjoy it.



Anthony Ward, Urban Youth Corps (UYC) Lead:

This is my second year of working with Iowa County Conservation. I graduated from HLV Community School. I'm going to Kirkwood for computer repair.

Meet our Animal Educators!

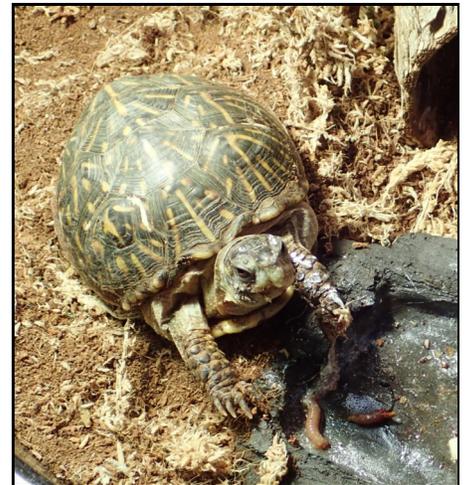


Bullwinkle

Bullwinkle is a male bull snake. Bull snakes are the largest snake species in Iowa — they can grow to 6 feet long! If alarmed, they may vibrate their tails, producing a buzzing sound against dried vegetation that sounds like a rattlesnake, but bull snakes are not venomous. They can make a very long, loud hiss if startled.

Samantha

Our female ornate box turtle is a threatened species in Iowa, due largely to the loss of the sand prairie habitats they use for nesting. Ornate box turtles are the most terrestrial turtle species in Iowa. They eat a wide variety of food, including earthworms, beetles, grasshoppers, blackberries, mulberries, dandelions, and seeds.



Foxy

Fox snakes are strong snakes, able to climb and swim. Like bull snakes, they are constrictors. When they find their prey (mostly rodents), they wrap around it quickly to kill it before swallowing it whole. If handled, they will sometimes release a mild musk from their scent glands that smells like that of a red fox.



Adopt an Animal Educator!

Our Animal Educators are housed at Lake Iowa Nature Center. We use these live critters for educational programming to inform people about reptiles and wildlife, as well as the importance of conserving their habitat. These animals have allowed us to expand our environmental education programs with school children and the public, allowing people to meet the reptiles up close.

The Animal Educators are a huge asset to our educational programs, but there are expenses due to feeding, bedding, and enclosure necessities and upgrades (such as heating, lighting, and enrichment items). It costs approximately \$150 for each animal educator per year. This does not include unexpected costs (ex: replacing a heating pad) or electricity and water for the animals. We appreciate any financial assistance we can get to take proper care of our animals and keep them as long as we are able.

How Can You Help?

Participate in our “Adopt an Animal Educator” program. Pick the animal that you would like to support, as well as the level that you would like to support them! Each level is good for one year, and can be renewed. You can adopt as an individual, family, or group.



Animal Ally: \$0-74

Your name(s) or organization’s name will be printed in our next quarterly newsletter.

Animal Assistant: \$75-149

Your name(s) or organization’s name will be printed in our next quarterly newsletter. You will receive a certificate of appreciation and an approximately 5”x7” color picture of the animal you chose to support.

Animal Ambassador: \$150 or more

Your name(s) or organization’s name will be printed in our next quarterly newsletter. You will receive a certificate of appreciation and an approximately 5”x7” color picture of the animal you chose to support. Your name will also be added to an appreciation plaque hung near our Animal Educators.

If you are interested in participating in the “Adopt an Animal Educator” program, please call Caitlin at (319) 655-8466 or email csavage@co.iowa.ia.us.

Thank You, Cory!

Our staff wants to give a shout-out to an integral member of our team, Cory Day. Cory's last day was in May, but we have been fortunate to work with him for nearly three years.

Cory worked with Iowa County Conservation through a partnership with REA (Rural Employment Alternatives, Inc.) of Conroy, IA. He came twice a week to clean Lake Iowa Nature Center, and his hard work ethic left it looking spotless each time. His positivity and smile always helped brighten the day. Anyone who knows Cory knows he has a heart of gold, an appreciation for good music, and is always game for socializing over lunch at the Landmark.

We wish Cory all the best in his future endeavors, but he will truly be missed!



Welcome Back, Blaine!

We are excited to welcome Blaine Manning as a temporary park ranger for Iowa County Conservation. Blaine is looking forward to working with ICC again, as he describes below.



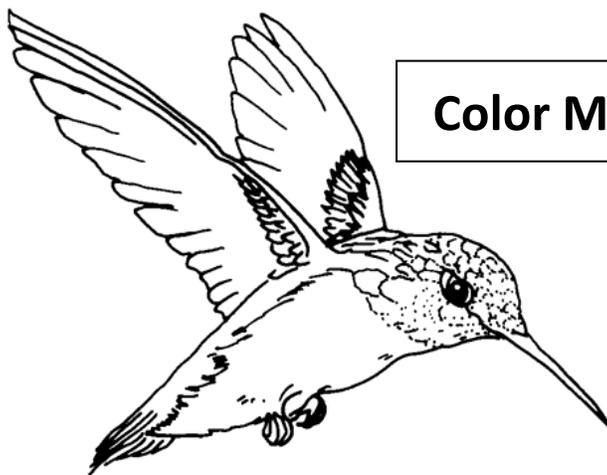
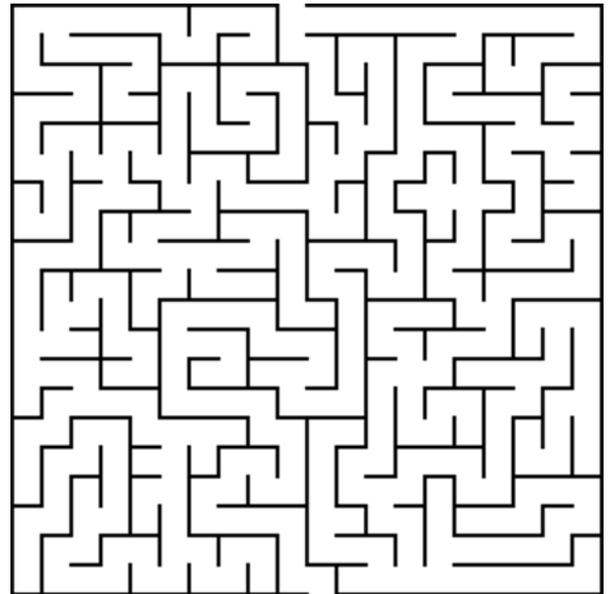
I was born and raised in Williamsburg, and after high school I attended Kirkwood Community College. At Kirkwood I got my associate's degree in Parks and Natural Resources. I've worked at Lake Iowa for three years as a summer seasonal, one year as a ranger intern, and two winters as an invasive species tech. There are numerous reasons why I love working at Lake Iowa: all the beautiful scenery from the native prairies, the beautiful oak/hickory timbers, and opening up your door and hearing all the birds singing. Ever since a very young age all I wanted to do was work at Lake Iowa. I love seeing all the expansion and progress going on at the lake and the other properties.

Creature Feature: Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

- The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is one of the smallest birds in the world and they can maneuver in all directions, even backwards!
- Hummingbirds eat nectar and small insects.
- In the summer they make Iowa their home, then they will fly down south for the winter.
- You can find the Ruby-throated Hummingbird in all sorts of places like the forest, meadows, gardens, and even in your backyard.



Help the hummingbird find the flower!



Color Me!

Hummingbird Food Recipe
Make sure to ask for an adult's help!
Ingredients:
4 cups water
1 cup of sugar
Directions:
In a sauce pan bring water to boil
Take water off heat
Add in the sugar
Stir until completely dissolved
Let cool

Visit Explore.org and search **Hummingbird** to see live camera images!

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

Saturday, July 23rd

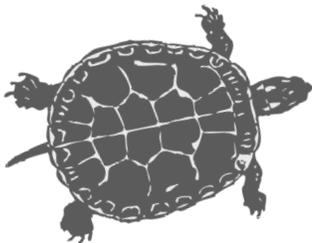
Geocaching Basics, 10AM
Victor Public Library

Come to the Victor Public Library to try out this fun activity that uses GPS units to find hidden treasures! Discover the basics of geocaching and get a chance to search for some caches. GPS units will be provided.



Terrific Turtles, 2PM

Can a turtle come out of its shell? Do all turtles live in the water? Come find the answers to these questions and more, and learn about the turtles that live in Iowa County. Get the chance to meet the newest



member of our Animal Educator team, an ornate box turtle! There will also be a turtle craft to make!

Saturday, August 6th

Wood-er-ful Trees!, 12-2pm

Join us in the Nature Center for tree-themed fun, including crafts, games, and tree ID. Come and go anytime

from noon until 2pm to enjoy these activities!

Saturday, August 13th

Snakes Alive!, 2PM

Join “The Snake Man,” Don Becker, to discover the snakes that live in Iowa. Don will bring several snakes for the audience to view. While learning about these slithery critters, you will get a chance to get up close and touch the snakes!



Saturday, September 3rd

Bison in Iowa, 10AM

Discover Iowa’s hugest mammal, the bison. Get a chance to look up close at some parts of the bison used by Native Americans and find out what they were used for. Afterwards, kids will have the chance to make a bison craft!



Saturday, September 17th

Monarch Madness, 10AM

Learn more about the beautiful monarch butterfly at this family friendly program. Participants will try to catch some monarchs, and tag the



ones we catch! Find out how tagging these insects can help us learn more about their populations.

Designing a Native Plant

Butterfly Garden, 2PM

Join biology instructor Jim Kessler to discover how native wildflower gardens can attract beneficial insects and bring beauty to both vegetable and flower gardens.

Kessler has been active in native

plant gardening and prairie restoration for 40 years. He has given presentations at the Blank Park Zoo, Reiman Gardens, and the Universities of Iowa and North Carolina.



Creepy Camping:

Friday, September 23rd -

Saturday, September 24th

Keep posted on our website and Facebook page for further details!

Wish List

The following items are needed by Iowa County Conservation. Please call ahead to bring donations to the nature center.

Thank you!

- ◆ 9"x13" baking pans (for papermaking - old/used are fine!)
- ◆ Bird seed (black oil sunflower, thistle, peanuts, or suet)

Visit us online at:

www.iowacountyconservation.org

or

www.mycountyparks.com/county/iowa.aspx

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





Iowa County Conservation News

Lake Iowa Park
2550 G. Ave
Ladora, IA 52251

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

Director
Office Assistant
Naturalist

319-655-8465 **mbode@co.iowa.ia.us**
319-655-8465 **sberger@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
 \$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!

If you want to receive *Conservation News* electronically, go to www.iowacountyconservation.org to sign up.

OR

If you would like to receive *Conservation News* by mail, send completed form to:

Iowa County Conservation
2550 G Ave
Ladora, IA 52251

Name: _____

Address: _____

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