

# CONSERVATION NEWS



*A newsletter of the Iowa County Conservation Board*  
**VOLUME 23 ISSUE 3**

**SUMMER 2010**

**Grand Opening**

## Lake Iowa Nature Center

**Saturday, July 24**

**Lake Iowa Park**

*Join us to celebrate the long-awaited Grand Opening!*

**7:00-11:00 am Pancake and Sausage Breakfast**

*Hosted by Williamsburg & Marengo Kiwanis*

**8:00-12 noon Silent Auction to benefit LINC**

**9:00-9:15 am Opening Remarks**

**9:15-12 noon Guided Building Tours**

*Led by Friends of ICC Foundation Board Members*

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### **The Realization of a Dream**

*By Jim Scandridge, Chairman ICCB*

We all remember December 31, 1999 at 11:59 P.M. The big fear was what could potentially happen to computer systems when the year 2000 arrives. All the fear and anxiety was, as we now all know, much overdone. So time moves on and we continue to improve our lives in many ways. We are always hoping for "better" ways of doing things and we must never give up on hope, as hope is eternal. We find ourselves often dreaming for things that we question the likelihood of happening. Many good things that we accomplish are often big dreams and with a lot of hard work and talents of a lot of people, those big dreams become

a reality.

That's exactly what happened at the Iowa County Conservation Board at Lake Iowa Park. A group of people in Iowa County came together in 2000 to work toward a dream. At that time the Friends of Iowa County Conservation was born with the objective of building a new nature center at Lake Iowa Park. This building would be a multi-purpose building with needs to be fulfilled for a teaching center, community gatherings, storm shelter, and office space. The Friends of Iowa County Conservation Board began the long uphill battle to raise funds for this new building.

Many people donated a lot of time

*(Continued on page 2)*

and hard work to raise the needed funds. In September 2009 construction began on this “once upon a time” dream. It would be impossible to name each person who has made this dream possible. There are so many to thank that I am going to attempt to summarize all of the groups I can to the best of my abilities. Thank you to Randall Betz and the Friends group, Maria Koshmeder for all of your work on the project and the Community Attraction and Tourism grant (C.A.T). Thank you also to the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, the staff at Lake Iowa Park, and the members of the Iowa County Conservation Board. And finally a special thanks to all of the people and organizations in Iowa County and surrounding counties who made the donations which ultimately made this dream a reality. As we near the final completion of the Lake Iowa Nature Center, I invite you all to join us in celebration the morning of July 24 at our Grand Opening event.



**Check us out online...**

Become a fan on **facebook**

Search 'Lake Iowa Park' to get the latest on park news, photos, events and more!

**New Website!**

Visit our website at [www.mycountyparks.com/County/Iowa](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Iowa) to learn more about our parks, facilities, and events.

# Nature Center Rental Policy

by Lee Sorenson, Director

Over the past 6 months we have had questions about renting of the Lake Iowa Nature Center for graduations, weddings, class reunions, birthday parties and more. Well the answer to those questions is yes this facility is open to rent for those special events.

The Lake Iowa Nature Center (LINC) is located at 2550 G Ave, Ladora, IA 52251; telephone is 319-655-8465. The Lake Iowa Nature Center is designed with two floors: Main floor approx. 960 Sq. ft. Great room and wildlife observation area with a comfortable meeting room, library and ADA restrooms facilities. A lower level is 960 Sq. ft. with a classroom at one end, ADA restrooms, a kitchen and is also a storm shelter for severe weather. There is a circular patio area out the back doors.

The primary purpose of the LINC is to provide storm shelter for severe weather, multipurpose rooms for educational/environmental interpretation activities, storage for materials and supplies, exhibits/displays associated with the conservation programs, and office space for the Conservation Board staff.

Secondary purpose for this building is for use by other entities, groups, and events sponsored and conducted by Iowa County Conservation Board, followed by public and private rental of the facility. The public rental fees for choice of floor are as follows:

Non alcohol rental \$150.00	Damage Deposit \$150.00
Alcohol rental \$300.00	Damage Deposit \$300.00
Library rental \$25.00/hr	Damage Deposit \$50.00

Payment and deposit are due within two weeks of booking the reservation. A reservation agreement will be signed and the rental policy will be provided to the renter at this time.

Clean up must be performed immediately after the rental and the facility must be returned to the condition it was accepted in. The renter is responsible for clean up and trash removal. Renter is responsible for the cost of removal of carpet stains, scratches in woodwork, marks on walls, etc. left during their rental. If you are interested in a reservation, contact the ICCB at (319) 655-8465.

# Christmas in July

July 23 & 24



## Friday Night Movie

Start the weekend out right with a Christmas-themed movie on the big screen! Movie will begin at dusk. Popcorn and pop will be provided for a free will donation. Be sure to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Movie screen is located across from the Lake Iowa Park shop.



## Family Activities

Lake Iowa Nature Center

1:00-3:00 pm

Bring the whole family out for goldfish races, water games (you will get wet!), balloon animals, the vortex, and more! Bring along a plain t-shirt or bag to try your hand at (rubber) fish printing. There is no cost to participate.



## Visit with Santa

6:30 pm

Lake Iowa Nature Center



## Kid's Christmas Crafts

After visiting Santa, head down to the lower level of the nature center to make Christmas-themed crafts, decorate cookies, and have your face painted!

## Lighted Hayrack Ride

-free admission-



Get in the Christmas in July spirit by taking an evening hayrack ride through lighted Christmas displays.

**Rides will begin at dusk.**

Also, be sure to take a trip through the campground to check out the creative displays put on by Lake Iowa campers!

# Creepy Camping Weekend

## Sept. 24 & 25



### Friday, September 24

#### **Outdoor Movie - starting at dusk**

Bring out your lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. Pop and popcorn will be provided for a free will donation.

### Saturday, September 25

#### **Potluck Lunch - starts at 11:30 am**

Lunch will be held in the basement of the Lake Iowa Nature Center. Bring a covered dish to share!



#### **Family Games - 1:00 to 3:00 pm**

Come out for face painting, mummy races, sling-shots, the vortex, balloon pump races, and more!



#### **Trick-or-Treating - 5:00 to 7:00 pm**

Kids: Pull out the costume a bit early and make your way through the Lake Iowa Park Campground.

Campers: Stock up on Halloween candy to share with all of the evening's Trick-or-Treaters.

#### **Halloween Trail Hayrack Ride - starting at 8:00 pm**

\$5/ person non-campers, registered campers will receive up to 4 free tickets per campsite (additional tickets \$5 each).

Tickets may be purchased or picked up from the nature center starting at 7:30 pm on Saturday evening.



#### **\*\*Reminder\*\***

Campers are allowed to stay for a maximum of 14 days. You may bring your campers and tents Sept. 12 - 25 for Creepy Camping.



## Get behind the scenes... Creepy Camping Hayrack Ride

**by Mike Bode, Park Ranger**

The busiest time of the year for our campground has quickly become our Creepy Camping Weekend. Many people that come out to the park looking for a camping spot during what would be considered the “slow season” are extremely surprised to find a full campground, even two weeks prior to the C.C. weekend. Out of all the great activities during the C.C. event, our hayrack ride is by far, the most popular. That’s why it was so disappointing to everyone when the ride had to be canceled last year because of the wet conditions.

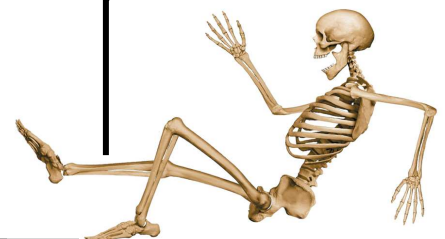
After the ride was canceled last year, we vowed to place gravel on the entire trail to avoid any future cancellations due to trail conditions. Sadly, as busy as we’ve been, we have yet to haul a load of gravel down to the trail. Because this trail area doubles as our Christmas in July hayrack route, getting rock on the trail continues to move higher on our priority list. So rest assured, the trail will be graveled, in its entirety, even before our Christmas in July trail ride.

Every year it’s always exciting and challenging to come up with different skits or scenes along the trail. We try to come up with scary scenes as well as ones for kids. Some scenes are all about humor, while some are strictly gore. One of our most popular scenes involved outdoor pyrotechnics and simulated gunfire. This makes for endless creative possibilities.

The biggest challenge we usually face, is trying to find volunteers to act, spook, and work behind the scenes. If you’ve always wanted to try out your acting skills in a laid-back and fun-filled setting, we would love to have you help with a scene the night of the Creepy Camping hayrack ride.

The Creepy Camping Hayrack Ride will be held Saturday September 25, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. If you would like to help be a part of this production, please contact Mike Bode, preferably by e-mail at [mbode@co.iowa.ia.us](mailto:mbode@co.iowa.ia.us) or call 319-655-8465 and ask for Mike.

<b>2010 Iowa County Conservation Board</b>	<b>Iowa County Conservation Board Staff</b>	
<p><i>Vic Rathje, Amana</i>  <i>Jim Scandridge, Victor</i>  <i>Marcia Wehner, Williamsburg</i>  <i>Gordon Dietze, Millersburg</i>  <i>Shirley Messer, Ladora</i></p>	<p><i>Lee Sorenson, Director</i>  <i>Mike Bode, Park Ranger</i>  <i>Laura Stephens, Naturalist</i>  <i>Dustin Graham, Americorps Volunteer</i>  <i>Jerry &amp; Glenda Eden, Campground Hosts</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Techs:</i>  <i>Blaine Manning</i>  <i>Erik Chapman</i>  <i>Nick Sorenson</i>  <i>Jon York</i>  <i>Travis Timm</i>  <i>Heather Stratton</i>  <i>Justin Chapman</i></p>



## Summer /Fall Program Calendar

### July 30

Lake Iowa Night Hike  
9-10 pm

*Come explore Lake Iowa Park in the dark! This naturalist led hike will allow you to see the park in a whole new light (or lack thereof).*

### July 31

Pioneer Kids  
10-11:30am

*Experience what it was like to grow up as a pioneer child in Iowa. Make candles, churn butter, and have fun with a few pioneer games! For children ages 6 and up.*

### August 7

Fire Starting Methods  
10:00-11:00 am

*Improve your campfire building skills while learning about a variety of fire starting methods. Fire structure, types of fuel, and survival fires will be discussed. Open to adults and children over the age of 12.*

### Campfire Cooking

1:30-3:30 pm \$5 fee for supplies

*Tired of eating hot dogs? Learn new ways of cooking over the campfire at this fun and tasty class. For adults and older children accompanied by an adult. Space is limited—call to reserve a spot at 319-655-8466.*



Corey Adams roasts a perfect marshmallow at Lake Iowa.

### August 13

Creatures of the Night  
7:00-8:30 pm

*Find out who whooo's out and about at Lake Iowa Park while we are sound asleep. Geared towards families- includes both indoor and outdoor activities.*

### August 20

Evening Prairie Hike  
7-8 pm

*Discover the beauty of a late-summer prairie on this naturalist led hike through the restored prairies of the park. Long pants and close-toed shoes are recommended.*

### August 21

Wild About Water  
10:00-11:30 am

*Come splish, splash, and learn all about the water around us! Be prepared to get wet, and maybe even a little dirty, in this hands-on program. Geared for kids ages 5-10. Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

### September 11

Family Orienteering  
10:00 am - noon

*Get your family together to learn the basics of map and compass and GPS navigation. Test your new skills and complete a geocache course around Lake Iowa Park. Space is limited- call to reserve a spot at 319-655-8466.*

### October 9

Fabulous Fall  
1-3 pm

*Head out to the park before the weather turns cold and find out how the plants and animals around Lake Iowa Park are preparing for winter. Geared for kids ages 5-10. Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

## New Faces at Lake Iowa Park!

This year the Iowa County Conservation received an Urban Youth Corp grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation. This grant is providing youth between the age of 16 and 21 opportunities to learn and develop in the area of transportation enhancement. All projects that are scheduled are transportation related projects such as hiking/biking trails, erosion control, parking areas, roadside management and many more. The four Urban Youth Corp members are Heather Stratton, Jon York, Justin Chapman, and Travis Kimm.



From left to right: Heather Stratton, Justin Chapman, Travis Kimm, Jon York

## 10 Tips for GREEN Camping this Summer

By Laura Stephens, Naturalist

In case you haven't heard, green is in. So while you go 'back to nature' camping this summer, try going green as well! These 10 tips will help you enjoy AND protect our natural environment.

### # 1 - Dump the Disposables

Avoid relying on paper plates and plastic cups and utensils. Instead, buy a set of unbreakable dishes, cups, and utensils.

### #2 - Be Water Aware

Take shorter showers and turn the water off while brushing your teeth. Dispose of waste water properly.

### #3 - Use Safe Soap

Use biodegradable soap to wash you and your dishes. Always wash at least 200ft from a water source and NEVER use soap to bathe yourself in a body of water.

### #4 - Say Farewell to Food Packaging

Minimize food packaging waste by buying in bulk. Plan out your meals and store ingredients in reusable containers. Avoid foods in single serving packages.

### #5 - Buy Used Gear

Only camp a few times a year? Try finding used gear- you'll save waste and money.

### #6 - Tote Your Trash

Don't litter- dispose of waste you do have according to campground rules. Keep your campsite clean to avoid attracting any unwanted wildlife.

### #7 - RECYCLE

Be aware of campground recycling rules and use bins if provided. Sort out recyclable materials from trash.

### #8 - Recharge Your Flashlights

Buy rechargeable batteries instead of using disposables. Consider purchasing energy efficient LED flashlights and lanterns.


### #9 - Get Off the OFF

Try organic bug spray that is less toxic to you and the environment. Burn citronella candles near your campsite. Wear long pants and sleeves during peak bug hours.

### #10 - Eco-Friendly Fishing

Use all lead free fishing equipment. Dispose of any broken line or tackle appropriately- don't litter. Only clean fish at provided cleaning stations.

**Iowa County Conservation News**  
 Iowa County Conservation Board  
 Lake Iowa Park  
 2550 G. Ave  
 Ladora, IA 52251

For more information about the  
**Iowa County Conservation Board,**  
 please contact us 

<b>Director</b>	<b>319-655-8465</b> <b>iaconservation@aol.com</b>
<b>Park Ranger</b>	<b>mbode@co.iowa.ia.us</b>
<b>Campground Hosts</b>	<b>319-655-8465</b>
<b>Naturalist</b>	<b>319-655-8466</b> <b>iccbee@netins.net</b>
<b>Fax number</b>	<b>319-655-8400</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>www.mycountyparks.com/County/Iowa</b>

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- Gateway Park Improvements
- Environmental Education materials & equipment
- Conservation News newsletter
- Habitat improvement/development on ICCB areas
- Lake Iowa Nature Center Project
- Use my donation where needed most

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