

CONSERVATION NEWS



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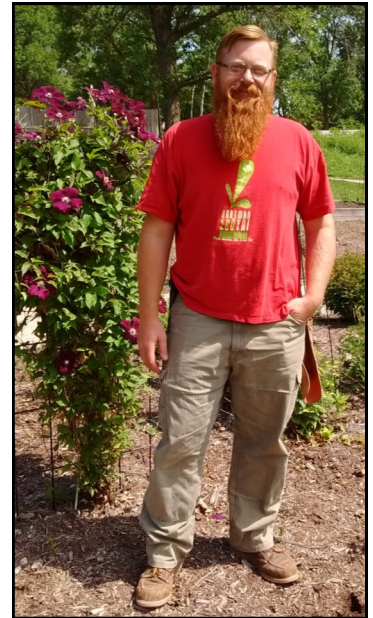
Welcome New Conservation Director!

Hello! My name is Chris Anderson and I am the new Executive Director for Iowa County Conservation Board. I was born, and largely raised in Iowa with a few years spent in Montana during my childhood. During the summers growing up I worked as a hired hand on dairy farms for friends and family in Northeast Iowa. I also spent a lot of time on my Grandparents farm in Allamakee county fishing for trout, looking for morels, and hunting squirrels, deer and turkey. Since graduating from Waverly-Shell Rock High School I have worked in factories, managed restaurants and worked as a chef.

I sought a career in natural resources because of my love of working with people and the words of Aldo Leopold. In the forward of his seminal work *A Sand County Almanac* Leopold said: ***“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”***

People are part of the natural landscape, not an invasive species. The key to conserving our natural resources is not in keeping people away from them, but it is in demonstrating the importance of caring and good stewardship through wise use. My approach to management, whether trees, prairies, staff, or volunteers is an ecological one. Each part of an ecosystem, organization, or partnership is equally important and must be nurtured to perform at peak function.

After a shared vacation to Ely, MN with my wife's sister and brother-in-law I fell in love with the Boundary Waters. I saw an opportunity to change careers and pursue my dream of working in the outdoors. My wife and I decided to move to Ely and enroll in Vermilion Community College (VCC). While attending VCC and getting my AAS in Wilderness Management I worked as a Wilderness Ranger for the U.S. Forest Service out of Kawishiwi Ranger District. After graduating from VCC I transferred out to the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID where I earned my BS in Conservation Social Science/Natural Resource Recreation & Tourism with a minor in Anthropology/Archeology.



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I started out my after-college career as a naturalist for the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission working at Ponca State Park just outside Ponca, NE. My first foray into the County Conservation Board (CCB) system was as the Resource Naturalist for Woodbury CCB. I was with Woodbury CCB for two years then I became the Program Coordinator for Black Hawk CCB at Hartman Reserve Nature Center for 7 years. I left BHCCB to work as the first Naturalist-Ranger that Tama CCB had and spent two years helping them develop the position before accepting the Executive Director position here. ***(continued on page 2)***

Welcome new Conservation Director continued...

In addition to my professional life I have an amazing family and loads of obscure hobbies. My wife, Shelley, and I have two daughters, Madilynne and Lucy. In my free time I am a blacksmith, a bowyer, a traditional archer, a greenwood worker, a hunter, a birdwatcher, an avid reader, a painter, and the list goes on...

As I sit here writing this I am in the middle of my 3rd week working for Iowa CCB and I don't think I could feel luckier. I have an amazing staff that seem able to work miracles on a daily basis. I am very excited to continue the successful events that are offered at Lake Iowa Park and to bring new ones about. If you are out camping, fishing or hiking at Lake Iowa be sure to flag me down, or stop by my office in the Nature Center, I would love to have a conversation with you soon.

Welcome New Park Ranger!

I was born and raised in Central Illinois, and come from a line of teachers and coaches on my dad's side, and farmers on my mom's. I was usually outside growing up, working on my grandpa's farm, playing sports, or playing in the creek. In middle school I got into pheasant hunting and fishing and really loved it. In high school I got my first bow and started deer hunting. I knew at that point I had found my passion, bow hunting the white-tailed deer. In college I studied Game Preserve Management and Shooting Complex Management at a small school in Southern Illinois. I had the opportunity to travel the United States and visit different ranches and shooting clubs as a referee for sporting clay shoots.

After school I worked in Kansas and Illinois, as a hunting guide, dog trainer, shooting instructor, and habitat manager. I enjoyed guiding deer and pheasant hunts, but I got more into the habitat management, native warm season grasses, food plots, and managing the deer and birds. Then I went back to college and studied Agriculture/Forestry at Western Illinois University. I needed to learn more about the soil and trees. During my time at WIU I worked with a forestry consultant for a couple years. I found there is nothing better than being in the woods and getting that hands on experience!

Then I had the opportunity to work as a consulting arborist, treating and identifying problems with trees in an urban setting. Taking care of an individual tree...instead of thousands of trees... "seeing the forest for the trees." After these great experiences, I got back into farm/habitat management. Then this opportunity presented itself to be a Ranger. I am an avid outdoorsman, hunter, fishermen, and conservationist, so this job is perfect for me.

I got married two years ago and moved to Williamsburg Iowa. My lovely wife, Dr. Mary is the owner of Agape Family Chiropractic and Laser Center on the square in Williamsburg. We have a 5 month old son Archer, our 9 year old nephew Andrew is also a part of our family, along with Miah, our 11 year old yellow lab. My hobbies are hunting, fishing, gardening, and hanging out with my family. We enjoy playing sports, hiking, grilling out, playing guitar, mandolin, and ukulele. I play and sing at church and enjoy most types of music. From our family to yours, God bless and stay safe! I'm thankful for the opportunity, to help you enjoy your experience here at Lake Iowa! Come check us out!



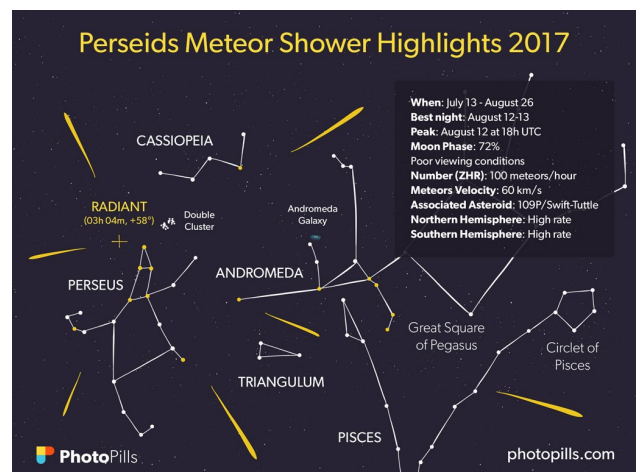
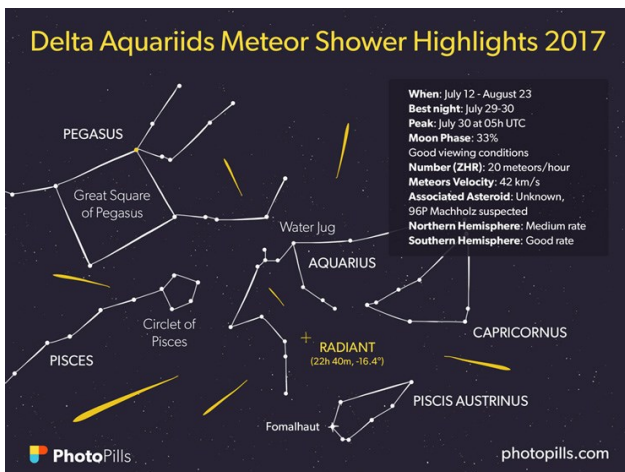
Astronomical Events Over The Summer

By: Molly Standard

There are two upcoming meteor showers over the summer in July and August, which are good times to get out to the parks with your family and friends. The first of these meteor showers is the Delta Aquarids. This meteor shower will peak July 29th to the 30th, and it will continue to produce meteors for a while after that. The Delta Aquarids will seem to be coming from the constellation Aquarius, which will be low on the horizon during the meteor shower in the east-southeast part of the sky, rising late at night. Aquarius is very large, but is made of faint stars. The second of the meteor showers is the Perseids, which will peak August 11 and 12th. While out watching this meteor shower, you could also see some meteors coming from the Delta Aquarids. Although the brightest meteors will come from the constellation Perseus, which will be in the north-northeast part of the sky low on the horizon late in the night. You can recognize Perseus by its unique wishbone shape.

Get away from the artificial light of cities and towns to get the best view these spectacular meteor showers. The darker your surroundings, the better your view will be. Since the Delta Aquarids are a lower meteor shower, find a spot with where the horizon is clear. You will see much more of the meteor shower if there are no trees or buildings blocking your view. Be sure to check the weather forecast before heading out and make sure that there are few or no clouds. The moon will not be in the way for the Delta Aquarids. The moon will be nearly full during the Perseids. Keep in mind that the Perseids are brighter meteors and the moon will set early in the evening, so it will not impede the viewing. Be sure to pack or wear enough layers for the chillier parts of the night. Meteor showers tend to peak late in the night so be prepared for a long night. It may take a long time to see a meteor, so it may be useful to bring a chair or other comfort items, such as snacks and water. It is helpful to have a flashlight that is covered with a red film or cling wrap to keep your eyes adjusted to the darkness. In order to know where to look, it is helpful to know the constellations that you are looking for. Some helpful resources you can use on your smart phones are Google Sky Maps for Android phones and Sky Map for iPhones. Both of these free applications will show what you are looking at and point you in the right direction for a constellation you are looking for.

If you cannot make it out to see the meteor showers, there are plenty of other astronomical sights to see. There is a full moon and new moon once a month, with the new moon making way for fainter stars and the full moon brightening the night. When away from city and town lights more stars make appearances, and if you look in the right spot you can even see the Milky Way, our own galaxy's arm, visible here on Earth. If you look at the right time, you may even see the International Space Station fly overhead. There are also more meteor showers throughout the year – these events happen annually, so if you miss them this year, the Perseids and Delta Aquarids will be back around the same time next year.



Molly Standard - Summer Naturalist Intern

My name is Molly Standard. I am from Burlington, IA right on the Mississippi River. Growing up my family spent most of the summer camping at Lake Geode State Park. When we were not camping, my sister and I would go to the various camps around Burlington, such as the Y-Camp, the day camps at Starr's Cave Nature Center or the Girl Scout Camp. I attended Burlington Community High School and received an A.A. degree from Southeastern Community College in West Burlington. Then I transferred to the University of Northern Iowa to complete an Earth Science degree with a minor in Air Quality.

I am the summer naturalist intern for Iowa County Conservation. I believe that the conservation boards all across Iowa are very important to help bring people closer to nature and provide fond memories for the future. The educational programs I attended when I was younger help to foster my interest in conservation and I hope to inspire future scientists to further these activities and continue down the path of environmental education and preservation.



Roy, Rondi, and Kappy Vest - Campground Hosts

Hello from Roy, Rondi, and Kappy Vest, new Lake Iowa Park Campground Hosts. Roy grew up in California. He joined the United States Coast Guard and retired after 21 years of service. Roy then spent 23 years working on cruise ships and off water supply vessels off the Alaskan and West Coasts, as well as the Gulf of Mexico. He met his wife Rondi when she was hired as hotel manager of a boat he was the captain of. And as they saying goes, it was a ship romance at first sight.

Rondi was born in a small town of about 3000 in rural NE Ohio. She started her career at Punderson State Park, and then went into the food and beverage management industry aboard paddlewheel steamboats and small cruise ships. She has been in customer service her whole life.



Kappy was a rescue dog from Colorado Corrections Institution. It is a program the rescues dogs, who are then cared for and trained by inmates. Kappy found his forever home with Roy and Rondi 3 years ago, and now are constant companions! His hobbies include anything to do with balls, swimming, or riding in the golf cart. Stop by and say Hi anytime, he is a very friendly guy!

Roy and Rondi are now both retired and live fulltime in their RV for fun and pleasure. They spend 6 months in Arizona during the winter, and are now up in Iowa for the summer. They hope to return next year as well! Stop by and say Hello anytime, and if they campfire going be sure to bring the marshmallows!

Dan Williams - Maintenance Tech

Welcome back Dan! Dan Williams has returned to ICC as our Maintenance Tech. He was raised in Iowa County, outside of Conroy. His love of the outdoors sparked his interest in working for conservation organizations, and he has worked for numerous county and state parks. Dan has a long history of trapping and enjoys camping, fishing, and his yearly visits to Colorado. And has been doing mechanic work for many years and he enjoys combining two of his passions, mechanics and the outdoors, in this part-time position.



Warren Jennings - Lead Seasonal Conservation Tech

This is my second year working as a seasonal for Iowa County Conservation. I'm a 2015 graduate of Williamsburg Comm. Schools, and am going to be starting my junior year this fall at Iowa State with a major in Ag Engineering. I took this job because I have always loved this park and like working outside. And I can fish at work!



Anthony Ward - Seasonal Conservation Tech

This is my third year working with Iowa County Conservation. The first two I worked as one of many Urban Youth Corps (UYC) crew members, and now as a Seasonal Conservation Tech. I graduated from HLV Community School.



Dakota Cooling - Park Ranger Intern

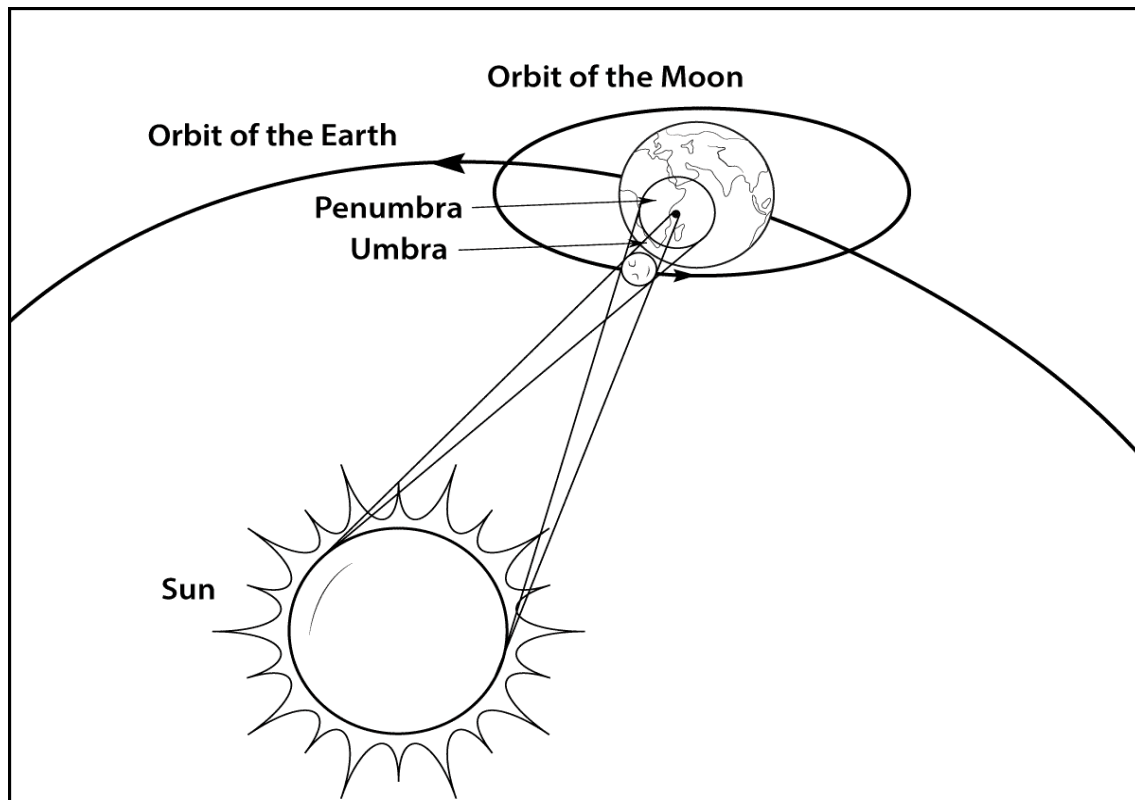
I am new here at Lake Iowa, but am very familiar with the area and the park itself. This will be my second year working in a park setting. I am from Marengo and have lived in the area my whole life. I recently graduated from Kirkwood with my AAS degree and plan to continue my education at Upper Iowa University. My main hobby is fly fishing in NW Iowa for trout, and my second is just enjoying the outdoors. That is what interested me in this job, helping make Lake Iowa a better place for people to enjoy.



Total Solar Eclipse

On August 21, 2017 at around 1pm a total solar eclipse will be visible here in Iowa! What is that you ask? A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon moves between Earth and Sun. The three celestial bodies form a straight line: Earth - Moon - Sun. The shadow of the moon moves across the earth. The last total solar eclipse visible in Iowa was June 30, 1954. Get outside that day and observe this rare and amazing event!

(Color the picture below of the total solar eclipse)



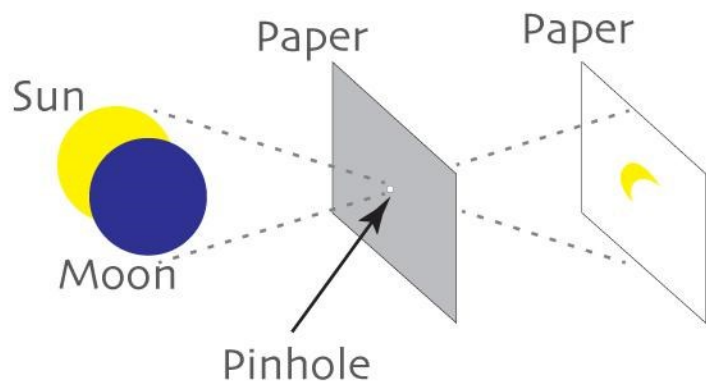
Safely Viewing the Eclipse

You should never look directly at the solar eclipse. You can purchase special glasses, or make this simple pinhole projector.

Visit the website below for other activities and information about the upcoming event!

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/activities>

Basic Pinhole projector



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PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Programs will meet at Lake Iowa Nature Center if location is not listed.
Pre-registration is required by calling Mary at 319-655-8466 or by email mbulger@co.iowa.ia.us All are free (unless noted) and everyone is welcome.

Make Seedballs for Milkweed Matters

June 22nd 5p - Lake Iowa Nature Center

Are you interested in helping promote monarch butterfly habitat in Iowa? Iowa County Conservation is joining Milkweed Matters in their efforts to make milkweed seedballs that will be tossed out along Iowa roadsides by RAGBRAI riders.

Join us for a program on monarchs, milkweeds and other beneficial native plants while we roll seedballs. All ages welcome!



Migrating Monarchs

September 16th

**10-11:30a @ Gateway Park
(meet at shelter close to the prairie)**

AND

1-3p @ Lake Iowa Nature Center

Come learn about the amazing Monarch Butterfly! We will have a presentation about the monarch life cycle, what they eat, where they live, what you can do to help this increase monarch numbers, and how we tag and track their long migration thousands of miles to Mexico!

We will have live caterpillars on hand, and possibly some adult butterflies to tag.

After the presentation we'll send you off in the park to catch and tag Monarchs. There will also be fun crafts for the kids!

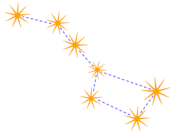


Star Gazing at Lake Iowa

July 15th 8:30p

Lake Iowa Nature Center

Would you like to learn more about summer constellations? Come out to Lake Iowa Park listen to constellation stories, make your own star map, and go on a star walk after the sun has gone down! We have a limited amount of flashlights, please bring one if you can.



Dutch Oven Cooking Program

August 26th 5p - Lake Iowa Nature Center

\$5 / person cover the cost of materials

Pre-Registration Required by August 23rd

Join us at Lake Iowa to learn about Dutch Oven Cooking! We will give a short program on Dutch Oven basics, then you will help prepare a delicious meal and dessert. Leave with a full stomach and recipes.



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www.iowacountyconservation.org

www.mycountyparks.com/county/iowa.aspx

<https://twitter.com/LakeIowaPark>

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Iowa County Conservation News

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\$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000
 \$5000 Other

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Please earmark my donation for:

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

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