

CONSERVATION NEWS



VOLUME 30
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2017

Enjoy the Outdoors at Lake Iowa Park!

By: Shelley Berger

Do you have a child in your life that is looking pale from spending too many hours indoors lately? Maybe you've spotted these creatures when they emerge from their den looking for food after a long winter of playing video games and watching YouTube videos. Perhaps you have a spouse that has logged in too many hours on Facebook or playing Candy Crush or binge watched season after season of Breaking Bad or The Walking Dead. Would you like to have a conversation with the people in your life that involves more than politics and the weather?

The solution lies in the Lake Iowa Park campground. You'll have to be prepared to dole out some tough love. Be prepared for a lot of squawking about internet connections and electronics. It may seem impossible but you can do it!



Step 1: Go to <http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Iowa/Facility/Search.aspx> and reserve a cabin.

Step 2: Tell your loved ones about a wonderful surprise family getaway you have planned. Don't give away too much information or they could make a hasty retreat back to their couches and futons to bask in the glow of their electronics. Definitely DO NOT tell them that there are no TV's or internet connections where you are taking them.

Step 3: Help them pack and drive them to Lake Iowa. You may need to create a distraction so they forget to pack their computers, Nintendo DS, or DVD player. If you succeed in leaving those items at home you may just be savvy enough to leave the cell phones there too. Instead, pack some board games and marshmallows.

Step 4: Arrive at the Lake View or Timber View cabin and put in your ear plugs. Watch them search for internet ports and TV's then watch them gnash their teeth and cry about how you've ruined their lives. Take a deep breath, let them get it out of their system. Give them a little quiet time to pout then lure them outside with the promise of S'mores and adventures.

Step 5: Explore! Take a hike, go fishing, start a campfire...together. Make some memories. If you're lucky they'll forget to complain about missing their favorite show. If you're really lucky they'll forget to try to post every minute of this getaway on Facebook.

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ENJOY THE OUTDOORS AT LAKE IOWA PARK CONTINUED...

Quite a few people have already enjoyed the wonderful view of the Lake View Cabin, or the quiet solitude of the Timber View Cabin. All of our staff have a favorite cabin (most say the Lake View Cabin since we all helped with construction in some way) and yet when we look back at past rentals, and rentals yet to come it appears that everyone's choice is split right down the middle. Even though the cabins are only about 30 feet apart each offers a different atmosphere for its visitors.

Lake View cabin has a spectacular view and gets more morning sunlight. It feels a little more energizing and lures you outside to explore. The trail down to the lake is in plain sight so why not take a stroll. Don't forget your fishing pole in case the fish are biting. Lake View cabin has hosted a family Christmas party, warmed up some cold ice fishermen, and been decked out in hearts for a Galentine's celebration. (For those who don't know, Galentine's Day is a day around Valentine's Day for girls to hang out with their gal pals.)

Timber View cabin feels like it is tucked into the woods and gets soft filtered sunlight throughout the day. It begs you to sit a spell and soak in the peaceful setting. Bring a long book and plan to curl up on the couch or deck chair when you visit this cabin. Timber View cabin has hosted a family reunion, a birthday party, and gave some wedding guests a place to put their feet up after dancing the night away. It was the perfect place for a family to have a winter getaway where they made a big batch of chili and played board games.

Both cabins are a short walk away from the Nature Center where you can catch one of our Naturalist Mary's programs or summer camps. Both cabins have plenty of family reunions planned for this summer. The 2017 holiday rentals filled up fast but don't forget that reservations can be made two years in advance so start plotting...er...planning your family getaway!



Iowa County Conservation Board

**Chris Montross, Millersburg
John Gahring, Homestead
Shirley Messer, Ladora
Justin Parsons, North English
Marcia Wehner, Williamsburg**

Iowa County Board of Supervisors

**Vicki Pope
Ray Garringer
Kevin Heitshusen
John Gahring
Dale Walter**

What is the Friends of Iowa County Conservation Foundation?

Iowa County Conservation Board and the Friends of Iowa County Conservation Foundation. Are they the same? No, they are not. FICCF is a independent non-profit consisting of a twelve member board who's function is to support conservation efforts, conservation education opportunities, and assist with other needs to encourage and enhance conservation in Iowa County.



They do this in many different ways including letter campaign fundraising drives, applying for grants, holding fundraising events like the annual Friends Banquet, volunteering their time at ICCB education programs/events, and giving funds they have been gifted or raised to purchase education materials for naturalist programs or park improvements.

All fundraising and gifts received are independent from the ICCB budget. FICCF board controls what projects and events are funded. Every penny goes back to numerous projects and events to serve the people of Iowa County.

Some recent projects they have helped fund are pictured on this page include the Dale Noyes Memorial Pavilion (*upper right*), three new educational animal enclosures for the Lake Iowa Nature Center (*middle left*), and a bison hide with other materials to be used for naturalist programs (*lower right*). One large project FICCF will be funding in the near future are new interactive displays at the Lake Iowa Nature Center! Keep your eyes on the this newsletter, ICCB facebook page, and website for details on the new displays!



FICCF would like to THANK the citizens of Iowa County for their generosity and support over the years, and ask for your continued support as we move forward to enhance the conservation efforts in Iowa County.

Trevor Howe - Lead Seasonal Technician

Hi there! My name is Trevor Howe, and I'm sometimes affectionately called "Tree House", "T-Howe", or "That Goofy Kid with the Glasses." I started my seasonal work in late January, and this will be my fifth year working at Lake Iowa. The three main draws for me are the people I work with, the public I work for, and the simple joy of the grand outdoors.

I grew up on a dusty gravel road between Marengo and Conroy, and went to school at Iowa Valley, graduating in 2014. I've spent the last couple years earning my A.A. degree from Kirkwood, working, and traveling the world! I've been to Costa Rica, Singapore, and Cambodia, and hope to expand that list in the near future. My four great passions are nature, music, video games, and traveling. My future is pretty open at the moment, but I hope to do Peace Corps or something of the sorts sometime soon. ***Editor's note: Trevor has recently accepted a job as an Arborist, and will be starting his new adventure in early April! We will miss you Trevor! :)***



Thank You Gordon!

Gordon Dietze, a member of the Iowa County Conservation Board, recently ended his term after serving for 12 years. He has been a dedicated supporter of Iowa County Conservation and we appreciate his enthusiasm and commitment to Iowa County.

His dedication to improve and expand recreation, especially within Lake Iowa Park is great. Board accomplishments during his tenure include: replacing both outdated shower houses, resurfacing the main road, constructing a double-wide dump station, helping to make the Lake Iowa Nature Center a reality, and most recently getting two cabins built. The new Lake Iowa Park cabin project was one that Gordon was very passionate about. During the planning stages, he visited many cabins for layout and planning ideas, as well as offered assistance in any way he could throughout the entire process. A lot of progress was made during his tenure.

Gordon was also a skilled mechanic, always giving great advice and help when it came to fixing a piece of equipment. Thank you Gordon for your many years of dedicated service to the people of Iowa County!

Chris Montross -

New Iowa County Conservation Board Member

I am a fifth grade teacher at English Valley Elementary in North English. When I am at school I teach math, science, and social studies. I have been a schoolteacher for the last 17 years. I live 3 miles southeast of Lake Iowa with my wife Stacy and my two daughters Brynn and Ansley. We raise cows and calves throughout the year on our small farm.

Our family uses Lake Iowa a lot throughout the year. In the spring we like to look for mushrooms and deer antlers. When the weather starts to warm we come to play on the playscape and go swimming. I also enjoy meeting the campers that come to Lake Iowa. It is neat to see that people come from all over the state and neighboring states to enjoy our park. I have met some wonderful people throughout the years. In the fall we enjoy Creepy Camping and driving around the park looking at the wildlife. We usually visit the park at least 1-2 times a week.

As a teacher we use the park for various educational tools. All the classes at English Valley come to the park during the year to use this great outdoor classroom. We are very lucky to have this available to us.

The people are the reason why I wanted to join the Iowa County Conservation Board. I want to see our park be liked by any person that comes to visit. Lake Iowa is a hidden gem in Iowa. I want the people of Iowa to know that Lake Iowa is a great place to come to camp and fish. I hope to help maintain the beauty and growth of Lake Iowa as we move into the future.

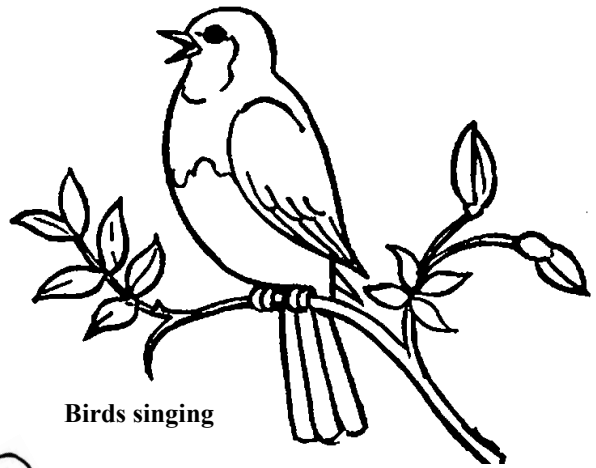


Be a Spring Detective!

The first official day of spring is March 20th, but you can find many signs of spring before then. Color the pictures below that are 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!



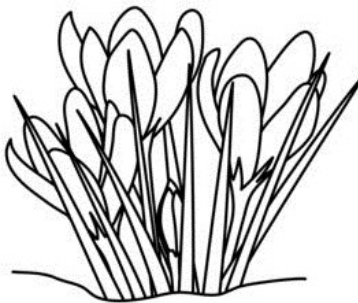
The sun shining or rain showers



Birds singing



Butterflies flying



Flowers starting to bloom



Bees buzzing

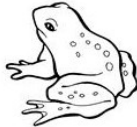


**Iowa County Conservation
2017 Youth Summer Day Camp Registration Form**

Registration begins on Monday, April 10th at 2:00pm. You can register on our website at <http://iowacountyconservation.org/summer-camps/> or fill out and return this form with payment. Registration must be received at least two weeks prior to camp. Payment is 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.io.us with any questions.

Story Time(3-4 years old w/adult) \$10/session

Topic	Date	Time
Birds	Wed June 7th	9-10:30a
Insects	Wed July 5th	9-10:30a
Pond Critters	Wed Aug 2nd	9-10:30a



Nestling Camp (5-6 years old) \$10/session

Topic	Date	Time
Birds	Tue June 13th	9-11a
Insects	Tue July 11th	9-11a
Pond Critters	Tue Aug 1st	9-11a

Fledgling Camp (7-8 years old) \$10/session

Topic	Date	Time
Birds	Thu June 15th	9-11a
Insects	Thu July 13th	9-11a
Pond Critters	Thu Aug 3rd	9-11a



Chickadee Camp (9-10 years old) \$10/session

Topic	Date	Time
Nature Art	Tue June 20th	9a-Noon
Nature Explorers	Tue July 18th	9a-Noon
Night Camp	Tue Aug 8th	6:30-9:30p

Hawk camp (11-13 years old) \$10/session

Topic	Date	Time
Nature Art	Thu June 22nd	9a-Noon
Nature Explorers	Thu July 20th	9a-Noon
Night Camp	Thu Aug 10th	6:30-9:30p

If mailing registration please return to:
Mary Bulger, Naturalist
Lake Iowa Nature Center
2550 G Ave
Ladora, IA 52251

Camper Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Parent / Guardian Name _____ Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Total Amount \$ Enclosed _____

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____

Are there any health or behavioral conditions regarding your child of which we should be aware?
(Food restrictions, allergies, medications, physical limitations - if so please list)

EMERGENCY RELEASE

In the event of an emergency, I give permission for Iowa County Conservation staff to administer first aid and/or obtain emergency medical treatment for my child. For minor medical occurrences ICCB staff will make a determination for proper care and contact you (headaches, basic first aid). I understand that every effort will be made to contact me and/or my emergency listing. I understand that if necessary, this child will be transported by ambulance to the nearest hospital. I agree that any cost incurred for transportation and/or treatment will be my responsibility.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

PHOTO RELEASE

I give permission for Iowa County Conservation staff to take pictures of my child _____. I understand that these pictures will be used only for educational purposes and to promote the programs of Iowa County Conservation Board. They will not be used in a commercial format and may appear in the ICCB publications (e.g. newsletter and brochures) as well as on the website and facebook page.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

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.

Summer Camp Registration Starts!

April 10th - 2pm

Registration for this years summer camps will begin April 10th at 2pm. Go to our website - <http://iowacountyconservation.org/summer-camps/> to checkout this years summer camp offerings. You can register online. Camps fill up fast so register early! Payment is needed before participants are placed on the camp list. Once registered, you will receive confirmation information.

Lake Iowa Park Earth Day Clean-up Saturday April 22nd, 2017 9a-Noon

We need your help! Join us on Earth Day to help make Lake Iowa Park a cleaned 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.

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

Lake Iowa Park Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday May 6th 2017

Check out the 18-hole disc golf course at Lake Iowa Park! This is the second disc golf tournament hosted at the park. There will be two divisions, featuring both professional players and beginners. Open to everyone! More details coming soon on our website and Facebook pages.

Friends Pancake Breakfast

Sunday May 28th 8a-noon



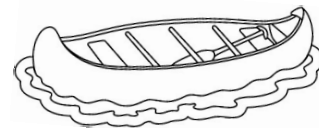
Enjoy a delicious start to your day at Lake Iowa Nature Center! For a free will donation, breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, and sausage. All proceeds will go to help fund conservation programs and projects in Iowa County.

Iowa County Outdoor Adventure June 17th, 2017



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!

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more details.



Wish List

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

- New or gently used pots and pans for the new cabins
- Bird seed (thistle, peanuts, black oil sunflower)
- New or gently used Rubbermaid totes of varying sizes

Visit us online at:

www.iowacountyconservation.org

www.mycountyparks.com/county/iowa.aspx

<https://twitter.com/LakeIowaPark>

Like "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
Park Ranger
Office Assistant
Naturalist

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

Conservation News is a quarterly newsletter of Iowa County Conservation. You can sign up to receive the electronic or hard copy of the newsletter. There is no charge for the newsletter, although contributions to help defray printing and mailing costs are greatly appreciated. By changing your subscription from a hard copy to electronic, it helps us save on printing and mailing! Make sure that you get your newsletters on time by keeping us informed of any change of address.

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: _____

The Iowa County Conservation Board's programs and facilities are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Iowa County Conservation Board or the office of Equal Opportunity, U. S. Department of Interior, Washington D. C., 29240.