



Newsletter

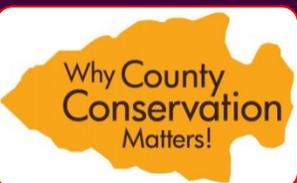
Volume 56, Issue No. 24
February 27, 2015

60
years

IMPORTANT DATES:

- * Mar. 11 – County Day at the Capitol
- * Mar. 12-13 – ISAC Spring School of Instruction
- * Apr. 2 – District 1 Mtg. – Story County
- * Apr. 8 – CCPOA Exec. Comm. Meeting – Ames
- * Apr. 10. – Equine Soft Trails Conf. – Des Moines
- * Apr. 18 – IACCB Spring Board Member Workshop, Clinton CCB

The IACCB Newsletter is produced on a periodic basis, and provided in digital format as a membership benefit to IACCB Members and stakeholders.



60th Anniversary of
County Conservation!
Sept. 17 – 19, 2015
Cedar Rapids

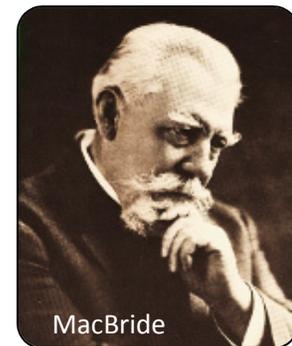
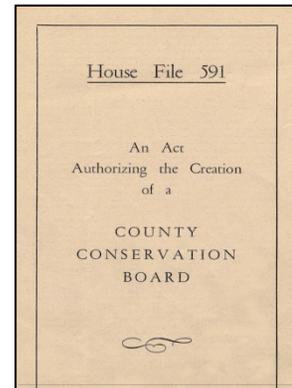
County Conservation had an auspicious start back in 1955 joining the likes of Disneyland, McDonalds, KFC and that Aflac duck thingy! (O.K., so the duck spokesperson came along a bit later!) The space race was getting started, we only had 48 states, milk was delivered to your doorstep, T.V. was cool (and new!), and automobiles were classics in their own time. Born in 1894, Representative Conway E. Morris (Dallas Co.) was serving his third term in the Iowa Legislature, and “.....probably did more than any other legislator to secure the passage of legislation creating Iowa’s county conservation board system.” And so, we were off and running – the next general election in 1956 would see creation of the first 16 county conservation boards, establishing the incredible success story that is still unfolding today!

Though our county conservation system was “birthed” in 1955 – this was hardly a new concept. Some 59 years previously, in February of 1896 – a paper entitled “**COUNTY PARKS**” was authored by Thomas H. Macbride – who, in 1914 would become the 10th President of the University of Iowa. He penned: “*The necessity for such parks seems to me to be threefold: 1) As directly affecting public health and happiness. 2) For proper education. 3) To preserve to other times and men something of primeval Nature.*” Now, nearly 120 years later – I maximize these quotes from MacBride in almost every presentation I make about county conservation in Iowa. These words resonate as much with audiences today as they did well more than a century ago.

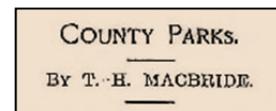
In 2015 we will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the legislation that enabled Iowa’s county conservation system to spring to life. MacBride and Morris were just two of the visionary and historical champions that have fostered the thinking and built the bridges that brought us forward with the successes we will recognize this year. We are entrusted by the citizens of each of our counties – to be good keepers of the land, educators of the out-of-doors and providers of public health and happiness – also known as quality of life. I am proud to serve with my fellow stewards of Iowa’s natural resources.



Morris



MacBride

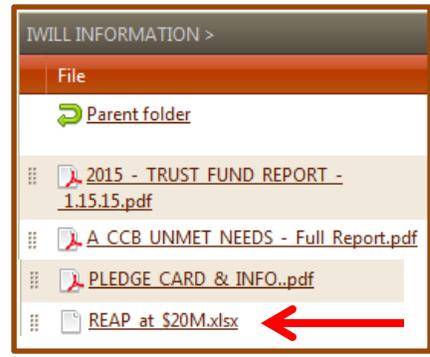




REAP DAY AT THE CAPITOL –
Another Great Show of Support!

Just a little over three weeks following the historic surge of a CCB presence at the state capitol – YOU brought it once again on **February 17th** for the 26th annual descent to rally for full funding of REAP! The focus for 2015 was to bolster the consistent messaging to “**FUND THE TRUST**” – the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWILL). Funding the trust would provide full-funding for REAP at \$20M in perpetuity. What would that mean to your CCB? An Excel file with numbers for each CCB and other information is available in the “**IWILL Information**” folder in the **IACCB FILES Portal**. Full-funding would also mean nearly \$1.6 million annually in the CCB competitive grant portion of REAP – forever!

As we await the introduction of a bill to support, our mission is to keep the conversation bubbling at the surface statewide – radio shows, letters to the editors of your local papers and engaging in those discussions at local legislative forums! Thanks for all your efforts so far... 😊 😊



Proudly provided at no cost to participants by IACCB

IACCB SUMMIT SERIES 2015 – November 3-5, Des Moines
 Mark your calendars for IACCB’s 3rd annual Summit Series this fall at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in Des Moines! The tentative schedule has lined up as follows:
Tuesday, November 3rd – New CCB Employee School
Wednesday, November 4th – That One Day for Directors
Thursday, November 5th – CCB Friends & Foundations Conference
 A small block of rooms has been reserved for these events – stay tuned to future newsletters for additional information – *hope to see you there!*

SPRING BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP – April 18th

Join us at the **Clinton CCB Eco-Tourism Center** for the **2015 IACCB Annual Board Member Spring Workshop** – Saturday, April 18th – 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. The agenda is near finalization, but the major subject matter will include: Legislative & IACCB Update; New U of I Geological Watershed Mapping Project w/Duane Sand (INHF), Panel Discussion: Parks to People 2015 - w/ Mark Ackelson; The CCCB Eco-Tourism Center – From Dream to Reality; as well as the great networking opportunities with other board members and staff – not to mention the grrreat locally catered food! IACCB hosts this event as a **FREE** benefit to all member county conservation boards. Look forward to a detailed flyer and online registration instructions in the next couple of weeks. Information will also be posted to the IACCB link on MyCountyParks.com.



Dashboard

Actions ▾

Cordova Park, Cabin - Mallard

Latitude:

41.429020



Longitude:

-93.088006



NEW VERSION UPDATE – V.4 ☺

Looking for something to do these waning months of winter? As we approach the early April launch of the all-new V.4 edition of the website – one of the new features will be that **each and every** facility that you have constructed on the website will have the opportunity to show up on a **GOOGLE MAP LOCATION** that visitors pull up when they select the “**Show as Map**” option when searching facilities.. This will immediately pull up Google Maps with the balloon located at the latitude and longitude coordinates that **you have uploaded** to that particular facility. So whatever the facility is – a cabin, boat ramp, lodge, nature center, campsite, etc. – visitors will be treated to an aerial view of that facility’s location relative to other park & regional facilities, amenities, attractions, etc. To prepare for this – a suggestion from your System Administrator is to get on to Google Earth and get all of these latitude and longitude coordinates looked up and recorded in advance so that you are ready to enter them into the updated website! **NOTE:** This new feature is not of the “required field” type – therefore it is optional. Should you not have the coordinates entered, then your facility WILL NOT come up



on the statewide map (as demonstrated here for a CABIN search) As **MyCountyParks.com** is primarily a marketing tool for your use – the assumption would be that you would like to have ALL of your facilities populating any search that is entered by the site visitors – so obtaining these numbers and getting them entered is important! ☺ Much like Expedia.com, visitors to the new site will also be able to **sort facilities by associated amenities and activities** – which we can now manipulate better than ever before. If you have not identified activities with your PARKS, they cannot be tagged to the facilities within those parks – perhaps one other late-winter chore for you to consider?! Stay-tuned, there is much, much more to come – your CCB peers are testing the new site now!

FACILITIES

REFINE SEARCH

Show as Map

Facility Name ▾

Availability ▾

LOOKING FOR A GREAT P.R. OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR COUNTY?

March 23, 2015 is the **Seventh Annual Gift to Iowa’s Future Recognition Day** held at the Iowa State Capitol. Has your County worked with a landowner who should be recognized by the Governor’s Office and the Iowa Legislature? To qualify, landowners must have donated land, land value or a conservation easement to your conservation entity to place permanent conservation protections on their natural land in 2014 in the form of fee title; bargain sales; full or partial conservation easement; or bequest of donation with reserved life estate. The Department of Natural Resources is charged with maintaining a continuing registry of landowners who donated land or land value for conservation purposes and coordinating their recognition annually. Please contact **Stacey Sipe** at the Department of Natural Resources at 515-725-8461 or Stacey.sipe@dnr.iowa.gov with any questions about this event.



Rights-of-Way Workshop:
Adding Value and Resilience to the Resource

RIGHTS-of-WAY WORKSHOP – March 18th – Kirkwood CC

Another excellent **Rights-of-Way Workshop in Linn County** scheduled for March 18th of this year. ISU Extension and Outreach will handle the registration. No charge to attend the program thanks to a grant thru Linn County from Iowa’s Living Roadway Trust Fund. There is great support once again from ITC Midwest and Alliant Energy, and they’re expecting a group from MidAmerican Energy as well. The program is open to the public and should be of interest to County Conservation Boards and staff. There is ample room in Ballantyne Auditorium for a large group. Looks like they have hit on some topics that would be of interest to a large diverse group of folks. The link below will access the Linn County Extension website with brochures, registration options, etc.

WORKSHOP LINK: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/rights-way-workshop-2015>



COUNTY CONSERVATION FRIENDS & FOUNDATIONS NETWORK

Once again, the concept is not new – the idea has been bantered around for several years.....time to get on with doing something about it! Bolstered by some discussions with the **Friends of Warren County Conservation** – we are going to commence with building a database of contact information to get the ball rolling. We suspect that there are scores of either “Friends” Groups or CCB Foundations across the state – in most cases, at least one for every active nature center or education program....so we start with a baseline of 70! We will initially include all CCB directors in this contact database, and will urge you to share those leaders and/or members of your local CCB support organizations that would like to be included in this evolving network.

Conceptually, this organization/network can serve as a wealth of information sharing amongst these organizations across the state. We can also orchestrate some specialized training/educational opportunities for members to participate in. To this latter point – we have tentatively scheduled an inaugural Conference for interested persons for **Thursday, November 5th at the Ramada Inn North Conference Center in Des Moines**. As we get the contact database developed further, we will start up with some communications amongst those with an expressed interest and who have provided accurate email addresses.

To assist us with developing this database, and to get some insight as to the needs out there, look forward to a special Survey Monkey coming your way soon! ☺



NEW COUNTY CONSERVATION DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED – Clayton & Van Buren Counties

IACCB has received information that the following new CCB Directors have been hired:

CLAYTON CCB – Jenna Pollock (will start in latter part of April)

VAN BUREN CCB – Andrew Mason

We hope to have contact information as well as some brief biographical information on each of these “new” additions in a future newsletter. Both of these individuals have some history in the CCB system already, so they are at least hitting the ground at a jog, if not running! **WELCOME ABOARD!**

CCB ALUMNI ALERT!!

There will be TWO invitations extended to our CCB Alumni to join in on anniversary celebrations this fall as follows:

60th Anniversary of County Conservation Boards

IACCB Fall Conference – Linn Co. – Friday, September 18th

30th Anniversary – Co. Conservation Peace Officers Assoc.

Ramada Inn – Des Moines – Tuesday, October 6th

If you have contact with alumni you know would be interested – be sure to share their email address with us. Alumni should look forward to more specific information coming to them directly soon with more details! ☺



2005 – County Conservation 50th Anniversary in Linn County turned out a great assemblage of CCB Alumni!

- LEGISLATIVE FORUMS - 2.27 to 3.14.15.pdf
- LETTER OF SUPPORT - Sample.pdf
- LOBBY UPDATE - 2.27.15.pdf
- PLEDGE CARD & INFO..pdf
- REAP at \$20M.xlsx

UPDATES IN THE "IWILL INFORMATION" FILE in the PORTAL

There is a fresh list of **LEGISLATIVE FORUMS** that has been placed in the Portal file – this list covers forums that will be held from **Feb. 27 – March 14**. (Please note that not all invited legislators are guaranteed to attend) The other addition is the "**2/27 LOBBY UPDATE**" that was reviewed during the conference call by the IWILL Coalition this morning.

THE DISTRICT MEETING CIRCUIT

THREE WEEKS – 4 DISTRICT MEETINGS – Even 2 in ONE Day! ☺

Over the last couple of weeks, I have had the privilege of being able to attend four county conservation District Meetings – encountering over ¼ of all the CCB employees in the state – PLUS a bonus of some conservation board members AND alumni! The agendas were vibrant, participants were energetic, venues were great and the host CCBs were proud to be hosting! The CCB districts were created in the early 1960s at a time there were very few employees statewide – existing primarily to create the first networking opportunities for the fledgling county conservation board system. Now some 55 years down the road – District Meetings are still fulfilling those essential networking and educational needs across the state. District representatives also provide critical representation and input to the IACCB Winterfest Planning Committee as well as the IACCB Board of Directors. Our statewide system is stronger and healthier today – due in part to the historic value of the CCB district set-up, and for the benefits it provides to those counties and individuals who take advantage of what district meetings have to offer. I am pleased to share with you some pictures and agenda topics from these **February 2015 County Conservation District Meetings** – many thanks to those of you who made the effort to participate! ☺

DISTRICT TALKING POINTS FROM IACCB

Most **District Meeting Agendas** provide for reports from all the affiliate organizations within the county conservation system (IACCB, IAN, CCPOA, CCDA and AFIRM). Time is also set aside for a report from IACCB – generally, if I cannot make a meeting – I endeavor to provide a list of "Talking Points" that can be presented and discussed at the meetings. Our February Talking points included the following:

1. IWILL & LEGISLATIVE UPDATES – Handouts & discuss bullet points
2. REAP & REAP DAY AT THE CAPITOL (2/17)
3. SPRING ISAC & COUNTY DAY AT THE CAPITOL (3/11)
4. 2015 IACCB USER FEE SURVEY – Tabulation coming soon!
5. HABITAT STAMP GRANT COMMITTEE CHANGES
6. IWLA HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AWARDS – Input sought on scoring
7. CCPOA SPRING WORKSHOPS – Locations & registration deadlines
8. VISITOR PROTECTION & EMPLOYEE SAFETY WORKSHOPS
9. IACCB BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP – APRIL 18th – Clinton CCB
10. INVITATION TO CCBs TO INVITE IACCB TO BOARD MEETINGS
11. JOB NOTICE LISTINGS IN THE IACCB NEWSLETTER – Changes
12. IOWA HORSE COUNCIL SOFT TRAILS CONFERENCE – April 10th
13. IACCB PORTAL – Emphasizing use for posting of info./networking
14. MCP.com TRAINING FORTHCOMING – You got a place to do some?
15. ANTICIPATE NEW DIRECTOR HIRES – Clayton, Van Buren & Buena Vista
16. GENERAL DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

IACCB is a strong supporter of District Meetings, and encourages ALL employees to support the efforts of their peer counties who take the time and effort to organize these historically important regional gatherings. YOUR best ideas are sometimes derived from concepts gleaned from just such networking opportunities right there in your own backyard! GO DISTRICT – GO OFTEN! ☺



**FAYETTE CCB
GILBERTSON NATURE CENTER**



**MAHASKA CCB
MAHASKA COUNTY NATURE CENTER**



Great to see Mahaska CCB Alumni Cole Nilson at the Dist.1 Meeting



**POWESHIEK CCB
DIAMOND LAKE PARK FOSTER CENTER**



STRONG AGENDAS MAKE FOR GOOD DISTRICT MEETINGS! 😊

It probably goes without saying that an interesting agenda will more-than-likely draw a larger attendance; OR, that the “off-season” meeting will have better participation; OR, if a meeting is centrally located in a district – there may be higher interest; OR, if the host CCB might check around for other conflicting meetings/events; OR, OR..... There is no one answer to why attendance at any given meeting is what it is – BUT, it is proven that if an agenda looks dull with not a lot of effort put into ithmmm. If you come across a great presentation, new service provider, new local DNR official, or hear of concept or program that would be of regional or statewide interest – SHARE that intel with your District Chairperson or next host county – it doesn’t have to be the sole responsibility of the hosting county to conjure up the agenda – that ol’ team concept can work pretty good! Here are some recent goodies: New IRVM Coord. from the Tallgrass Prairie Center; Iowa Wildlife Action Plan/IA Butterfly Mgmt.; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Issues & CCBs; Fisheries Dynamics at CCB Lakes; Invasive Species Updates; Parks to People Update; Emergency Location for First Responders, etc. ADVANCE NOTICE and perhaps an annual calendar of meetings has been known to be of great help too. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!



**DECATUR CCB
GRACELAND UNIVERSITY**



Grinnell Exit 182
BROWNELLS
Distribution and Retail Center

DISTRICT 1 – SPECIAL FIELD TRIP!

Quite frequently, the afternoon portion of any given District Meeting will include a field trip or tour of a new local CCB area/project or some local business or DNR operation. On February 12th, attendees to the District 1 meeting were treated to a guided tour of the new Brownells Distribution & Retail Center, and Corporate Offices. The five-acre building and operation center was amazing! The retail center and offices are still under construction and will open later this year. Distribution and shipping has moved in just recently – yep, another county conservation WOW moment! **Miss a meeting – miss a WOW!** 😊



**POWESHIEK CCB
BROWNELLS DISTRIBUTION &
RETAIL CENTER - GRINNELL**



**EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES**

<http://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx>

1. **POLK Co. – Parks Superintendent**
2. **GUTHRIE Co. – Conservation Roadside Technician**
3. **DES MOINES Co. - Naturalist**
4. **ALLAMAKEE Co. – Office Manager**
5. **EMMET Co. – Naturalist**
6. **FAYETTE Co. – Park Ranger**
7. **MITCHELL Co. – Parks Supervisor**
8. **DICKINSON Co. – IRVM Vegetation Specialist**
9. **BUENA VISTA Co. – Director**
10. **TEMPORARY POSITIONS – 100+ opportunities listed on website**



JOBS



NEWSLETTER JOB LISTINGS

Openings listed in this newsletter will include **ONLY PERMANENT POSITIONS.** **ALL positions** – both permanent AND seasonal, will continue to be posted under the **EMPLOYMENT link** at the bottom of every page on our website:

www.MyCountyParks.com

- Full Time Employment
- Seasonal/Part-Time – Listed on website