

Newsletter

Volume LVI

October 3, 2014

Issue VIII

IMPORTANT DATES:

- * Oct. 15 – MCP.com Training – Ames
- * Oct. 21-24 – IA Tourism Conference – Council Bluffs
- * Oct. 28 – District 1 Mtg., Polk CCB – Jester Park
- * Nov. 3 – REAP-CEP Grant deadline
- * Nov. 4-5 – IACCB Summit Series 2014 – Des Moines
- * Nov. 5-7 – IAN Fall Workshop – Iowa CCB
- * Nov. 12-14 – ISAC Fall School, Des Moines
- * Nov. 30 – Habitat Grant Applications Due
- * Dec. 17 – District 6 Mtg. Jackson CCB

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



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PLEASE forward or make copies of this communication for your Board Members.

97% YES! 2015 IWILL INITIATIVE RECEIVES STRONG ENDORSEMENT!

Balloting for the **2014 IACCB Annual Meeting** produced a 97% favorable endorsement for an “All In” effort during the 2015 legislative session to fund the Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. 61 counties cast 234 votes, 227 in favor! **The IACCB Board of Directors would like to thank and recognize those counties that participated in this very important vote:** Adams, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Carroll, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clay, Clayton, Crawford, Dallas, Decatur, Fayette, Floyd, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Harrison, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Madison, Mahaska, Marshall, Mills, Mitchell, Monroe, Muscatine, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Sac, Scott, Sioux, Story, Tama, Taylor, Union, Wapello, Wayne, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Woodbury, and Worth. IACCB representatives have been meeting weekly with the IWILL Executive Committee, and we will soon be sending out materials statewide for you to share with your elected officials and other stakeholders. We thank each of you for your momentous support, and look forward to working with you in the weeks ahead! ☺

LAST CALL FOR SALARY SURVEYS

Deadline for submission of your 2015 Salary Survey was Sept. 30th – MANY THANKS to the 77 CCBS that have returned your surveys by the deadline.....great job! Now comes the task of getting the remainder of them in! Data from the 22 CCBS that we have yet to receive is critical to making the survey as accurate as possible! If you are one of the following CCBS – **RETURN YOUR SURVEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** – your fellow CCBS are waiting!!! – **Adair, Allamakee, Appanoose, Audubon, Buchanan, Butler, Calhoun, Cass, Cherokee, Delaware, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Jackson, Jefferson, Lucas, Mills, Page, Taylor, Van Buren, and Webster.** Thanks in advance for following up and getting these returned ASAP!



Vern Fish (Black Hawk) and Bonnie Friend (Wayne) network with Anita O'Gara (INHF) in the Loess Hills on a bus tour last Friday at the IACCB Annual Conference in Sioux City.



Jim Hanson (Worth) and Fred Larson (CRETEX) pause as they inspect a concrete storm shelter at the conference BBQ. Cretex was a major sponsor of the 2014 Fall Conference.

IACCB ANNOUNCES MAJOR WEBSITE RENOVATION!

IACCB Board of Directors - Sioux City, IA

The IACCB Board of Directors approved the funding for the first major renovation of our MyCountyParks.com website since it was created back in 2008. The \$35,000 funding package will utilize set-aside dollars from FY2014 and FY2015 as well as matching funds from the IACCB reserve. The website will have an all-new look, friendly functionalities for smartphones and tablets, and a major infusion of new technologies for online reservations and user interface! We will also be streamlining many features that will improve the user-friendly aspects for both customers & administrators. The major categories of improvements in the project's RFP include:

- **UPDATED USER SIDE and RESPONSIVE (Mobile Friendly) DESIGN**
 - Updated logic for county-specific displays
 - Develop new Creative Responsive Website Design
 - Retrofit website into Responsive Design
 - Enhanced Events display for users (*calendar widgets, etc.*)
- **RESERVATION UPDATES**
 - Updated and simplified checkout process
 - Update Reservations listing to Hotel.com-like interface for enhanced usability
 - Updated and Simplified Administration of Facilities
 - Ability to set pricing for every single day for each facility



Please realize that these are relatively general categories, and there are many additional line items within each of them. Historically, there already exists an investment in the creation, development and maintenance of this website in excess of \$150,000 since 2007. Technology has been racing past us for 6 years....time to catch up a bit! ☺ (NOTE: *Input was sought and received from over 11 CCBs that actively utilize most features of MyCountyParks.com*)

In addition to approval of the V.4 (*Version 4*) funding, the Board also set a one-time \$1,000 "E-Commerce Fee" for any county that will be coming on board in the future to utilize the online reservation functionalities of the website. This policy went into effect immediately. If you have any questions concerning these renovations or changes, please get in touch with Tom at IACCB@mycountyparks.com or (515) 963-9582

NATURAL RESOURCES & OUTDOOR RECREATION TRUST FUND - Update

Just this week the **IWILL Executive Committee** has met twice – on Monday afternoon with organizational lobbyists (including our IACCB lobbyists), and this morning as our Executive Committee Team. Next Monday will launch our week of expanding the coalition in preparation for the 2015 legislative session. This will involve invigorating coalition members from the 2010 effort, and outreach to many potential new organizations. Follow-up in the weeks ahead will include media training, social media coordination and activist training. The committee has nearly finished the fact sheets, common message/talking points and other pieces of the puzzle that will be utilized statewide in the grassroots groundswell that it is going to take to accomplish this major push in 2015. Look forward to receiving this information via your inboxes soon.



OCTOBER 28th – NOW HERE'S A DISTRICT 1 MEETING WITH AN AGENDA!

Polk County Conservation is hosting the District 1 meeting on Tuesday, October 28th at the Jester Park Lodge. Following the District 1 Business Meeting, the morning features four sets of concurrent sessions as follows; #1 – 5 Steps to Great Contractor Relations / Partnering Up for a Watershed Experience; #2 – Importance of Master Planning / Mentored Hunts – Serving the Underserved; #3 – Effective Outreach Strategies and Ideas / Water Quality; and, #4 – Providing Access to our Natural Areas / Coming Soon....Jester Park Conservation Center. This will be followed by a luncheon presentation on the Polk County Water and Land Legacy Bond, and afternoon tours of the Cabins/Discovery Pond and Playscape/Elk&Bison Exhibit Tour! Complete list of agenda topics is available via link below:

http://mycountyparks.weebly.com/uploads/3/0/6/6/3066963/district_1_agenda_-_10.28.14.pdf

Please RSVP individually or by County to pccb_info@polkcountyiowa.gov or call

[515-323-5300](tel:515-323-5300). A \$10 fee per person for lunch will be collected at the door.



2014 SUMMIT SERIES REMINDER

While the registrations are trickling in, we wish to remind you to get your RSVP's in for these FREE training opportunities **by October 27th**! Registration is done online and is available via the site page at: <http://mycountyparks.weebly.com/summit-series.html> We currently have 8 employees signed up for the "New County Conservation Employee School", and 7 Directors signed up for "A Day for the Directors". Hope to see you there! Questions to: IACCB@mycountyparks.com



KEELBOAT & STEAMBOAT SALOON THEATER EXHIBITS – FOR FREE!

The **National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium** is going to exhibit a major international exhibit on the **Titanic** beginning in May. Because of this several current galleries will be dismantled including a keelboat theater and steamboat saloon theater. Rather than just sending both of these features to the local landfill, we wanted to offer them to any other center or museum that would be willing to dismantle and move them. I have attached several photos of both for you to get an idea of what is available. Right now the keelboat has been turned into a Civil War ironclad, but could easily be turned back into the wooden river keelboat. Of course none of the artifacts or AV equipment would be included, but basically the shell would be available. If anyone is interested they would need to plan a day or two to dismantle and number the pieces, and transport them off site. There would be no charge for these exhibits other than removing in a timely manner. If you are interested in coming to look at one or both of these exhibits, or if you want more information you can contact Marilyn Snyder at our museum, (563) 557-9545 Ext. 201 msnyder@rivermuseum.com (Thanks to our friend Mark Wagner for passing this information along to us – Mark is the Director of Education at the Museum & former CCB employee! ☺)

CCPOA RECOGNIZES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



The CCPOA presented plaques to the **2012-2014 Executive Committee** at their annual workshop at Camp Dodge earlier this week: (L to R) - C.J. Hughes (Monroe), Bob Fundermann (Woodbury), Pat Shehan (Webster), Charlie Finch (Polk), Nick Beeck (Plymouth), Matt Poirier (Scott), Tucker Anderson (Clayton), Rich Paris (Marion), Scott Bahmann (Benton) and Brian Lammers (Hamilton)



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

1. **HARDIN Co. – Roadside / Wildlife Technician**
2. **JONES – Campground Host**
3. **HAMILTON – Campground Hosts**
4. **BUENA VISTA – Campground Hosts**

 Full Time Employment
 Seasonal/Part-Time



Located at the bottom of each and every page of the **MyCountyParks.com** website.