

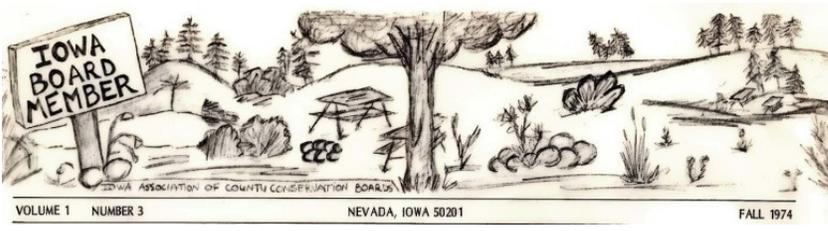
BOARD MEMBER

Iowa's County Conservation System Magazine



2013 REAP Day at the Capitol – Feb. 26th

Spring 2013
Volume 38/Issue 3



From The President....



**Darrell Frerichs, Clay CCB
President, IACCB**

Welcome to the **Spring 2013** edition of the Iowa Board Member Magazine from Iowa's County Conservation System! We hope that your spring season is finally off to a warm start – hafta say though – that those April/May spring snowstorms that many of us experienced were certainly memorable?! ☺ With each issue of the Board Member, we can never do justice to all that is happening across Iowa's County Conservation System, so we just bring you the snippets and best practices that have crossed our path since the last time we landed in your "inbox"!

The primary goals of the Board Member are to inform, share and educate county conservation board members, staff and partners – to facilitate that essential networking so vital to our diverse industry. We invite your articles, ideas, successes and photos to share across our system – as we want to celebrate each and every aspect that has brought us to where we are today!

Editorial Staff



2012-2013 IACCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President **Darrell Frerichs**, Board Member, Clay CCB
- Vice President **Dan Heissel**, Director, Clay CCB
- Secretary **Mike Runyan**, Board Member, Monroe CCB
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- Member **Richard Harms**, Board Member, Bremer CCB
- Member **Dean Mueller**, Director, Worth CCB
- Member **Mike Brandrup**, Board Member, Hamilton CCB

Hi from northwest Iowa! After what seemed like a year, we finally getting some rain in this part of the state. I live on Lost Island Lake (in Palo Alto Co.), and am glad see the lake coming up after being down close to 3 foot this past fall and winter. On the conservation side - I was in Ames in March to attend the IACCB Spring Workshop - it was very educational but would sure would have liked to see more county board members. I know we live in a fast paced and busy world, but it would be exciting to have more county conservation board members attending these great district and state meetings. There are challenges looming on the horizon - mostly good but some that will "test" all of us...we will need all the skills we can be informed about! The 2013 IACCB Fall Conference is not too far away, we hope as many of you as possible can attend. Should you ever have any questions or comments- feel free to give me a jingle at (712) 260-3227. Have a great remainder of your spring season!

Darrell



(Left) Mike Brandrup (Hamilton) takes the oath of office for the District 1 seat on the Board of Directors from Darrell Frerichs (Clay), President.



(Below) The IACCB Board of Directors regular January meeting in Ames.



(Left) IACCB Board of Director members network with Spring Workshop attendees in Ames – March 9th.



The IOWA BOARD MEMBER MAGAZINE is a periodic publication of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards.

mycountyparks.com 1775 Mackenzie Drive Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

IACCB@MyCountyParks.com (515) 963-9582



EXCITEMENT BUILDS! After many long months of planning meetings, design reviews and inaugural testing – we are now getting our first chance to “touch” the prototype version of the new **COUNTY CONSERVATION PORTAL**. With a collection of online tools that will be exclusive to our industry – this first ever statewide system will connect our 99-county conservation board system in ways we could only imagine a few years ago.

This secure portal will be accessible by signing-in via your **MCP.com profile** into one of several security levels as assigned by your local county administrator. Each level will have specific authority to view, manipulate, upload, download, etc. as assigned.

JOB OPENINGS – One of the great new features will be your ability to upload seasonal and full-time job openings which will be saved in the system year-to-year for simple updating the following year. Your postings will then appear on the **EMPLOYMENT** link on the MyCountyParks.com website. Postings will be sortable by job title, county, city, etc. *(A first test-draft of the upload template is shown below)*

PERSONNEL DIRECTORY – Each CCB will be responsible for the up-keep of their portion of our statewide personnel directory. You will also be able to create your own sub-groups and mail lists from this database. These can be exported to EXCEL, as a PDF, etc. and you can create your own personalized version of this directory by position title, etc. Therefore – our previous PERSONNEL DIRECTORY will be “live” all the time! 😊 *(A sample “CONTACT” upload template is in the next column)*

BEST PRACTICES BLOG – You know all those questions that periodically appear in our newsletters? Now you will be able to

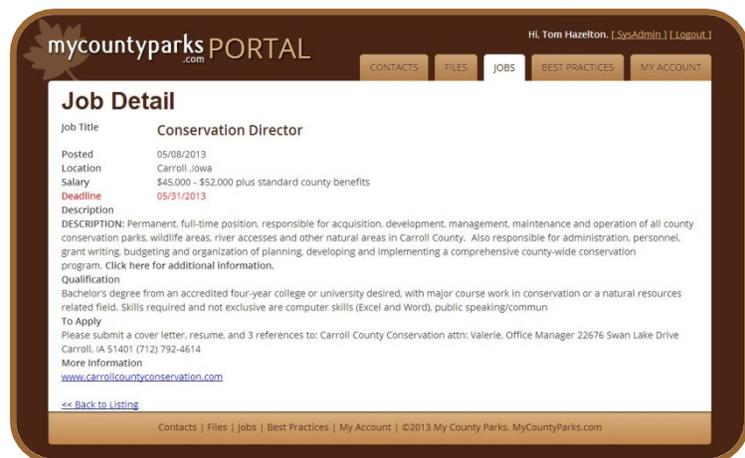
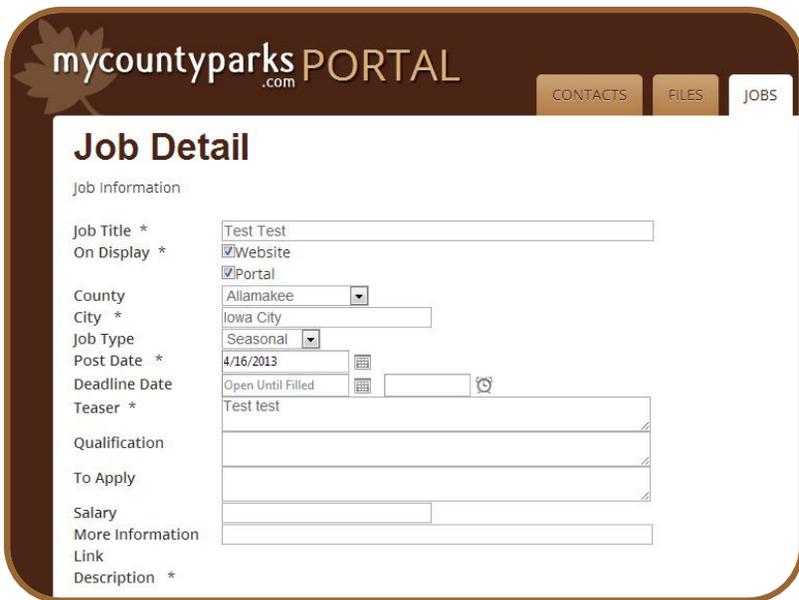


pose your questions on this secured private “blog” and await the responses from other CCB industry professionals. Better yet, these questions will remain in the database and will be sortable via keywords in perpetuity. When a question is posted, an email alert will be generated. *(Only certain security levels will have access to this blog)*

ARCHIVED FILES / FORMS – Policy statements, leases, management agreements, special use forms, contracts, rules & regulations, Attorney General opinionsall those “things” that we have been archiving and saving for years – will now be in one secure online location for all to use! These will be sortable by general subject file name, with detailed documents within. Each county will have the ability to upload and download information to/from this portion of the PORTAL. *(Only certain security levels will have access to these file folders)*

NEED FOR TRAINING – With all these new statewide features, it will become essential for ALL CCBs to get on board and utilize this system. We anticipate several training opportunities to emerge this fall, winter and at WINTERFEST next January. These will hopefully be regional in nature.

RELEASE DATE – Stay tuned to the IACCB Newsletter for information on the pending release dates for the new online PORTAL for Iowa’s County Conservation System! 😊 😊 😊



“EMPLOYMENT” link on

mycountyparks.com 3

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POWESHIEK CCB CELEBRATES CAMPGROUND EXPANSION AT DIAMOND LAKE



A plan to expand the number of campsites at **Diamond Lake Park** near Montezuma was launched in 2006, and the Poweshiek County Conservation Board will celebrate the opening of 32 new sites with electricity Friday morning, April 26, with a ribbon-cutting. April 26 is the start of the 2013 camping season, and campers are already planning to enjoy the weekend in the new area.

The conservation board decided to add 32 electrical campsites on land east of the original Diamond Lake Park acquired in 2006. The expansion took place in segments over four years as funds became available. “Basically there isn’t a lot of grant money available for this type of project,” explains Mark Vavroch, Poweshiek County Conservation Director. Funding for the new Diamond Lake campground came from the Brownell’s Family Foundation, a Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant, the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors, DeJong Manufacturing, Poweshiek County Alliance, and designation of Diamond Lake camping revenue by the Poweshiek County Conservation Board. The project to date has cost \$329,510.

Construction started on the new Diamond Lake campground during the fall of 2009 with a rough grade costing \$67,077, and work continued into the summer of 2010 with the completion of grading on the roads and camping pads for an additional \$48,884. In the summer of 2011 the electric lines and pedestals to all 32 new sites were installed at a cost of \$31,071, and installations of water lines and hydrants serving all the sites was completed, costing \$14,176. Also in 2011 a dump station costing \$12,649 was constructed at the east end of the new campground. The Board finished the new campground project in 2012 with concrete roads at a cost of \$132,951, summer grass seeding for \$1,482, picnic tables costing \$10,400, and fall grass seeding along with rock for the new road shoulders costing \$10,820.

The conservation board hopes to add a new shower house and restrooms to the new campground in 2014 or 2015. Long-range plans are to add four to six full-service cabins along Diamond Trail at the south edge of the park. Diamond Lake Park already had 50 primitive camping sites and 50 electrical sites, created in the 1970s before today’s longer camping trailers and motor homes became popular. The 32 new electrical campsites with gravel camping pads were designed for larger vehicles.

Continued.....

PICTURED ABOVE: The 2013 camping season at Diamond Lake started on April 26, with a ribbon cutting on the new 32 site electrical campground. Those attending the event included (from left to right): Gene Long, Conservation Board Member; Sandy Ross, Poweshiek County Treasurer; State Representative Dave Maxwell; Richard Geiger, Conservation Board Member; Mark Vavroch, County Conservation Director; Larry Van Ervelde, Conservation Board Member; Frank Brownell, Brownell Family Foundation; Cathe Wilson, Poweshiek County Alliance; Trevor White, Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors; Corey Simpson, County Conservation Park Ranger; Kevin Kudart, Montezuma Municipal Utilities; Lamoyne Gaard, Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors; and Diana Dawley, Poweshiek

DIAMOND LAKE EXPANSION *(continued)*

Vavroch says an average camping season consists of around 180 days, and normal occupancy for an Iowa campground is about 35 percent. Daily fee for camping at Diamond Lake Park is \$15. He calculates that the 32 new electrical sites will bring in an additional \$30,240 per year. Campers spend an average of just under \$60 per day in the surrounding area when camping, Vavroch says, bringing an additional \$120,150 to Poweshiek County from campers. "Factor in all camping sites at Diamond Lake, and the local economic impact is \$420,537 per year," Vavroch concludes. "If you consider the economic impact of fishermen, trail users and hunters using county conservation wildlife areas, that figure will jump to \$1,000,000 per year or more."

One of the first campers in the new electrical sites will be Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors member Trevor White, Vavroch says. White plans to attend the ribbon-cutting and get in line for the first-come, first-served camping sites.

The expansion project began in 2006 when the Poweshiek County Conservation Board acquired 86 acres of land, locally known as the Jordan Land, which lies directly east of the original Diamond Lake Park. Funding for the land acquisition project came from a federal Land and Water Conservation Grant with the remaining funds coming from the Brownell's Family Foundation, the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors and Diamond Lake camping receipts.

With the acquisition of the Jordan land which made the park 630 acres, the Board was able to enhance and protect the Diamond Lake watershed by constructing a seven-acre pond and a siltation pond as well as adding the 32 new camp sites and a hard-surface recreational trail for biking and walking.

(This article is reprinted courtesy of the Grinnell Herald-Register)



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Wouldn't 2013 be a great year for YOU to take on a statewide role in Iowa's County Conservation System?! There are plenty of opportunities for you to do just that – employees and Board Members alike! All of the positions listed below are fantastic leadership opportunities and a chance for you to “give a little bit back” to our great statewide network!

IACCB OPPORTUNITIES (Board Members only)

DISTRICTS 3 or 4 - REPRESENTATIVE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERM: Sept. 2013 to Sept. 2016

FREQUENCY: 5 to 7 meetings a year, including both the IACCB Fall Conference and Spring Workshops

REIMBURSEMENT: Board Members are reimbursed for their mileage (*at the Federal rate*) to and from meetings, lunch for one-day meetings, and one night lodging at the annual conference location.

DESCRIPTION: Representing your IACCB District to the nine member IACCB Board of Directors. Responsibilities are similar to those of a local CCB – financial oversight, long-range planning, policy & procedures, and oversight of the operations of the statewide IACCB office, services and programming.

For additional information: Tom.Hazelton@mycountyparks.com

IACCB OPPORTUNITIES (Employees only)

IACCB VICE PRESIDENT (serves a President in year #2)

TERM: January 2014 to January 2016

FREQUENCY: 7 to 8 meetings a year, including attendance at the annual WINTERFEST Conference in Waterloo.

REIMBURSEMENT: Support comes from local CCB. Lunch is provided for daily meetings and 1st day of Winterfest event.

DESCRIPTION: Serves on IACCB Executive Committee and Winterfest Planning Committee

For additional information: betzel@tamacounty.org (Bob Etzel)

IACCB SECRETARY/TREASURER (Two-year term)

TERM: January 2014 to January 2016

FREQUENCY: 7 to 8 meetings a year, including attendance at the annual WINTERFEST Conference in Waterloo.

REIMBURSEMENT: Support comes from local CCB. Lunch is provided for daily meetings and 1st day of Winterfest event.

DESCRIPTION: Serves on IACCB Executive Committee and Winterfest Planning Committee, responsible for taking & distributing minutes of all meetings, communications, etc.

For additional information: betzel@tamacounty.org (Bob Etzel)

Continued.....



IACCB Officers assist with Collegiate Regis. at Winterfest

IACCB REPRESENTATIVE TO IACCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERM: January 2014 to January 2017

FREQUENCY: 9 to 15 meetings a year, including attendance at the annual WINTERFEST Conference in Waterloo, the IACCB Spring Workshop & IACCB Fall Conference. Employees in this position should attend as many meetings as feasible with a priority service on the IACCB Board of Directors.

REIMBURSEMENT: Support comes from local CCB and IACCB. Lunch is provided for one-day meetings and 1st day of Winterfest event. Mileage reimbursement is available. One night lodging at the IACCB Fall Conference is paid.

DESCRIPTION: Serves on the IACCB Board of Directors representing IACCB & employee interests. Also serves on the IACCB Executive Committee and Winterfest Planning Committees. May also hold elected offices in either IACCB or IACCB as desired.

For additional information: betzel@tamacounty.org (Bob Etzel) or tom.hazelton@mycountyparks.com



*1994 IACCB Board of Directors @ Fall Conference
Village West - Okoboji, IA*



*2012 IACCB Board of Directors @ Spring Workshop
Reiman Gardens - Ames, IA 7*



IACCB Spring Workshop

March 9, 2013

Reiman Gardens – Ames, IA

47 representatives from 23 CCBs, **INHF**, **IACCB** and **Keep Iowa Beautiful** were rewarded for their attendance to the **Annual IACCB Spring Workshop** in March at Reiman Gardens in Ames! Participants received new insights on many subjects from top-notch presenters during the 4-hour seminar-like programming. Jim Pease provided in-depth review of the new **Iowa Master River Stewards** program; Mark Langgin (IWiLL) brought us up-to-date on legislative items and even provided some **“Developing Legislation 101”** education: Shawna Lode (Iowa Tourism Office) enlightened all of us on how we can **partner with the state tourism office**, as well as letting us know what resources and information is available from her office. Attendees also received some of the latest economic impact and other statistical information about our industry as well a few challenges from Tom Hazelton.

*A special thanks to the **Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation** for their sponsoring partnership!!*



Iowa
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CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP @ IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION



On May 1st, **Joe McGovern** became the third president of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Joe’s passion for Iowa and her natural spaces is contagious and inspiring. He also represents the culture of integrity, honesty and hard work the Foundation is built upon. In his fourteen years with INHF, he helped build the land stewardship program from the ground up, working with private landowners and our partners on permanently protecting and restoring Iowa’s water, land and wildlife, as well as managing their annual field intern crew. Before transitioning to the INHF, he worked with Story County Conservation Board after graduation from Iowa State University.

Mark Ackelson, current president, is not going far. Joe has invited Mark to serve as president emeritus. By stepping into his new role on May 1st, Mark will continue to further the mission of the organization. As Joe said, “The best days of INHF and Iowa are ahead of us, because of the great work Mark has done and the strong team we have.”

This important change comes after careful planning. Over the past three years, leaders within our board and staff planned for transition. We examined what makes the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation uniquely effective for Iowa conservation, and strategically strengthened the organization. Four months ago, Mark decided that he wanted to begin phasing into retirement, and the Board of Directors quietly started searching for the next person to lead and support the INHF team as president. After interviewing many qualified and skilled candidates from all over the country, the board found that INHF had the best leader within the organization.

There is much work left to be done and that’s why the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation exists – to protect and restore Iowa’s land, water and wildlife. The efforts today will be benefit not only the current generation but also “those who follow.”

You can learn more about Joe and about the transition process with INHF by visiting their website: <http://www.inhf.org/index.cfm>

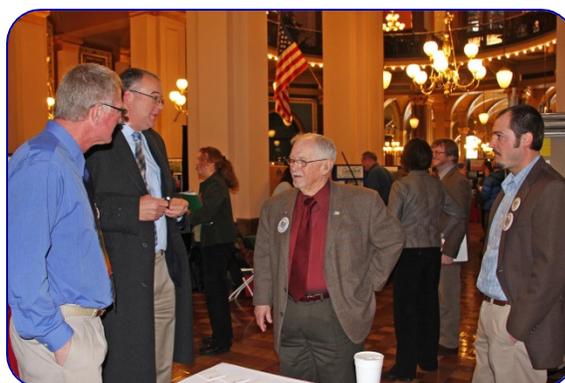
We have known and worked with Joe since his Story CCB days, and very much look forward to working with him in his new capacity in the months and years to come. **CONGRATS to both Mark AND Joe!**

TRUMPETER SWANS IN RINGGOLD COUNTY!

The Iowa DNR released four Trumpeter Swans at the Mt. Ayr Wildlife Area (Walnut Creek Lake) on Wednesday May 8th with the assistance of **Ringgold County Conservation Board**. They had great public participation!

The event includes a 20-minute swan/wetland presentation, a unique opportunity to touch and view the swans up close, and a historic photo opportunity with the kids. As the largest North American waterfowl, these magnificent all-white birds can weigh up to 32 pounds with an 8-foot wingspan.

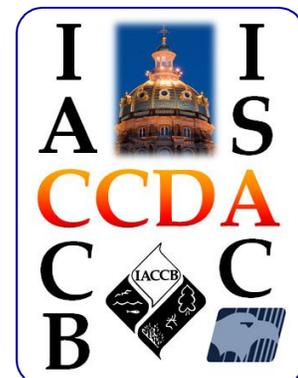
Trumpeter swans were once common in Iowa, but were gone from the state by the late 1880's. By the early 1930's, only 69 Trumpeter Swans remained in the lower 48 states. The trumpeter swans being released are part of the DNR's statewide trumpeter swan restoration effort, with hopes that they will help restore a wild free flying population to Iowa. Public support has been key to achieving this objective. Kate Zimmerman, Director for the Ringgold CCB – is pictured here assisting the public with this historic experience of a lifetime – for both young & old 😊.



REAP / ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY DAY AT THE CAPITOL & CCDA DIRECTOR'S RETREAT

February 26 & 27 were momentous days for Iowa's environment, REAP and our county conservation system. If nothing else, awareness was raised on many fronts about the various water quality, trail infrastructure and land use needs. The CCDA had their 3rd annual Director's Retreat which has grown into quite an excellent gathering – well respected by legislators and state leaders alike. 8 legislators joined in an evening forum for a good Q&A session; and the following morning there was a panel with leadership representatives from DOT, IDALS, Tourism and DNR – plus Agricultural Secretary Northey. *(A HUGE thanks to the leadership of the CCDA, Dennis Parker (Polk) and Don Brazelton for helping to pull all the pieces together for these two days)* Approximately ¼ of our CCB Directors were in attendance – hopefully this three-year-run of excellent retreats with great programming and interaction with the leadership of Iowa will generate interest, and improve participation in the years ahead. IACCB has forged a strong working relationship with the IWILL Coalition, Iowa Environmental Council and REAP Alliance, as well as the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation as we all work on coordinated legislative efforts.

Next on tap for our county conservation system to make a mark are the **REAP Assemblies** coming up this October! Eighteen of them across the state that you are encouraged to attend and participate in. Frequently, these serve a good barometers of the statewide interest in the REAP program.



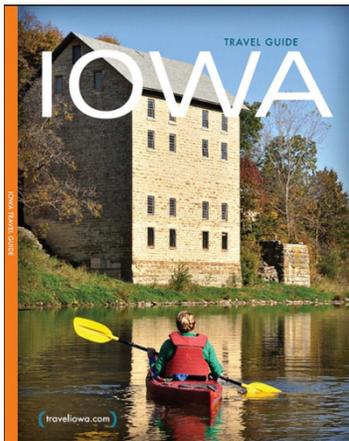


MOTOR MILL HISTORIC SITE BRIDGE GALA – May 4, 2013



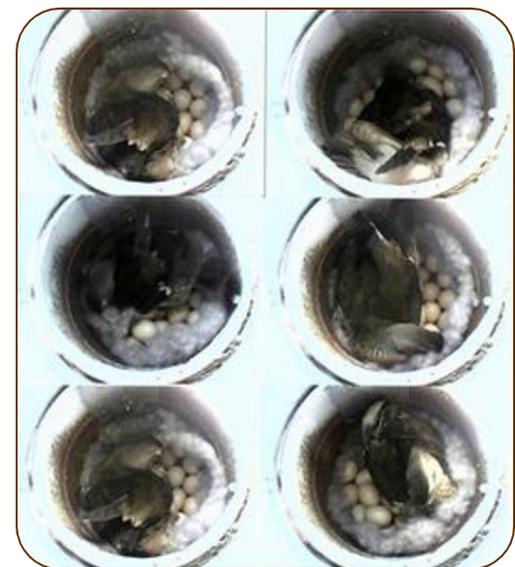
Listed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1977, the site is part of 155 acres managed by the **Clayton County Conservation Board**. Since the conservation board obtained Motor Mill in 1983, they have been active in preservation of the historic site. Following the floods of 2008, Silos & Smokestacks brought in representatives from Trillium Dell Timberworks to provide consultation to Motor Mill and the other mills of the Heritage Area regarding structural issues. Through the help of the Motor Mill Foundation and countless dedicated volunteers, the site has completed a long list of preservation work; including reroofing all structures, replacing broken or rotten flooring, installing historically accurate windows and restoring an oak savanna.

The most recent preservation project was the reconstruction of the site’s original pin and truss bridge, which had been destroyed during the floods of 1991 and 2008. The community’s support for the bridge restoration helped Motor Mill to win the Silos & Smokestacks’ 2013 Golden Silo Award for People’s Choice “Site of the Year” and the cover of the 2013 Iowa Travel Guide. To celebrate the recent completion of the bridge restoration and honor the dedication of volunteers who helped make it a reality, Motor Mill held a Gala on Saturday, May 4th. (Article is courtesy of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area) AND – if you are thinking that you recognize the gentleman in the top row of pictures – you are correct, that is **Don Menken**, past Director of the Clayton County Conservation Board....one more personality to add to the “Blast from the Past”!



WOOD DUCK BOX CAM by KOSSUTH CCB ! 😊

Speaking of tourism and other cool things you can find with Iowa’s County Conservation System - the **Kossuth County Conservation Board** has a live camera mounted inside a wood duck box. On April 27th, the first egg was laid. Shortly thereafter, it became a dump nest, with as many as 3 hens, and possibly more, trying to lay eggs in the same box. There are at least 22 eggs, and possibly more. Incubation began on May 4th. The hatch should take place between May 31st and June 4th. Visitors are limited to 5 minutes per session. What a cool idea! This news item was created and posted to the KCCB page on mycountyparks.com, and is also now a featured “DISCOVER IOWA” news story on the homepage of the website. If you have a similar exciting news story posted – let us know and we can highlight it too! (Visit the KCCB homepage on mycountyparks.com to view the “Duck Cam”!! 😊)





WELCOME! New Banner Ad Advertiser

Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitor Bureau is our newest advertiser on **mycountyparks.com** – selecting our website over other choices to promote their “100 miles of tails” system with Cedar Falls. Their banner ad will appear on the website homepage only, and will run until mid-November. Click on their ad, and you will be transported to a great promotional webpage for their trails! They should experience tens of thousands of “impressions” (views) and thousands of “click-thrus” during this time frame.

Our current pricing structure for advertising on the website is as follows: *(Rates listed are by-the-month)*

PEAK MONTHS (April thru October)

Home Page - \$250 / Run of Site - \$250 / Combination - \$350

NON-PEAK MONTHS (November thru March)

Home Page - \$125 / Run of Site - \$125 / Combination - \$200

FULL YEAR HYBRID RATE

Home Page - \$200 / Run of Site - \$200 / Combination - \$250

HOME PAGE refers to the main home page of the website only, does not include any other pages of the site.

RUN OF SITE refers to ALL other pages of the website in ALL counties where they are not currently running advertising of their own. *(Approximately 78% of the total web pages on the site)*

200 People Attend Rights-of-Way Habitat Workshop

On Wednesday April 17, more than 200 people gathered at Linn County Conservation’s Wickiup Hill Learning Center for a Rights-of-Way Habitat Workshop. This program was made possible with funding from Iowa’s Living Roadway Trust Fund, ITC and Alliant Energy.

Rick Tagtow, Executive Director of the Midwestern Chapter – International Society of Arboriculture, gave an overview of educational programs and certification opportunities thru ISA. Other presentations for the day long workshop included:

- Dr. Mark Harrell / University of Nebraska – Compartmentalization of Decay in Trees
- Martha Holzheuer / Environmental Consulting and Technology – Effects of Rights-of-Way Management on Rare Species Habitats
- Dr. Bob Hartzler / Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Controlling Invasive Plants and Herbicide Safety
- Mark Pingnot / Trees Forever – Iowa’s Living Roadways and volunteer efforts to enhance Iowa’s natural resources
- Mark Vitosh / Iowa DNR – Iowa Plant Health; Tree Disease and Pest Update
- Jean Wiedenheft / Indian Creek Nature Center – The Importance of Native Plants and Pollinators.

The audience included the ITC and Alliant Energy utility groups, contractors and planners, staff members from several county conservation and secondary road departments, the Iowa DOT, Green / Iowa AmeriCorps, and several engineering and environmental firms. Groups taking advantage of the seven display tables in the nature center’s “Hallway of Habitats” included the Hawkeye Cooperative Weed Management Association, the University of Northern Iowa’s Roadside Management Office and The Iowa Woodland Owner’s Association. This year’s program was the fourth annual, and the first at Wickiup Hill. Plans are underway for the fifth annual, sometime in April 2014.

(Article courtesy of Rob Roman, Linn County Secondary Road Department / Jones County Conservation Board)

ECONOMIC IMPACT NEWSLETTERS PREFERRED VENDOR FORMS NEW BOARD MEMBERS SPRING WORKSHOP

PREFERRED VENDOR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Iowa's County Conservation System provides the opportunity for businesses or organizations to support the broader county conservation industry in Iowa by becoming a member in the Preferred Vendor Program. Information about the program - member benefits, advertising rates and application procedures - are available through the PDF documents posted below. For additional information or questions about this feature of Iowa's County Conservation System - please contact Tom Hazelton, CEO at (515) 963-9582 or via email to: Tom.Hazelton@myCountyparks.com

PREFERRED VENDOR MEMBERS

We are very pleased to have the support of our 22 Preferred Vendor Members for 2013! You will find them listed alphabetically on the following four pages, and we encourage you to patronize them with your first choice when looking for services or products. You will see many of them at our fall conference, and the current online listing & links for all of them can be found through the “IACCB” link on **mycountyparks.com**, or at the following:

<http://mycountyparks.weebly.com/preferred-vendor.html>



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Association For Integrated Roadside Management Update

by Josh Brandt, Cerro Gordo CCB

15,000 and counting! That's the number of roadside acres Iowa's county Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) programs have planted with a diverse mix of native prairie seed since 1998. Planting these native species is part of an ongoing effort to improve soil and water conservation, enhance wildlife habitat, and control noxious weeds and brush in Iowa's roadsides. Thanks in part to funding acquired through the Iowa DOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), this year should be no exception.

TAP funds (formerly known as Transportation Enhancement [TE] funds) are allocated from the federal government and distributed in Iowa through a competitive grant process. For the past 15 years, the University of Northern Iowa's Roadside Program has applied for and received TAP funds to purchase native prairie seed for use in county roadsides. In 2013, 24 county IRVM programs requested enough seed to restore another 1,100 acres of roadside prairie. Local matching support is provided in-kind through labor and equipment costs associated with the preparation, establishment, and ongoing maintenance of the roadside plantings. *(continued on Page 13....)*

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CONTACT: John Cook, Sales Manager
jcook@huffcutt.com
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(800) 475-1846



The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation protects and restores Iowa's land, water and wildlife. The member-supported organization's priorities include protecting priority lands, connecting natural landscapes and natural corridors, restoring natural areas, and engaging Iowans with our natural heritage.

CONTACT: Mark Ackelson, President
mackelson@inhf.org
www.inhf.org

IOWA READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

380 SE Delaware Ave., Suite A
Ankeny, IA 50021
(515) 965-4575



The Iowa Ready Mixed Concrete Association was formed in 1949 as a state organization representing the ready mixed concrete industry. Its membership includes ready mixed concrete producers, material suppliers, equipment manufacturers, and other companies interested in promoting the use of ready mixed concrete.

CONTACT: Steve Mallicoat
smallicoat@iowareadymix.org
http://iowareadymix.org/

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AFIRM Article
continued

As prairie makes a comeback along county and state highways, we are not only restoring part of Iowa's natural history, but serving numerous practical purposes as well. These native species are naturally adapted to – and thrive in – Iowa's climate. While roadside conditions can be harsh – from extremely dry to flooded, with compacted soils and steep grades – native plant communities grow and persist there. Above ground, the diverse mix of native plants is not only visually interesting, but provides exceptional snow and water retention capabilities, reduces winter glare, and provides excellent habitat for insects, birds, reptiles, and small mammals. This roadside habitat has and will continue to play a critical role in Iowa, serving as connecting corridors between larger fragmented natural areas.

Perhaps the most significant functions of the roadside prairie occur below grade. The massive root structure of many native prairie species reaches deep into the soil creating a drought tolerant plant community that promotes water infiltration, slows runoff, and discourages weed growth.

For more information about IRVM and Iowa's efforts to establish roadside prairies, visit the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF) website: www.iowalivingroadway.com The LRTF funds UNI's Roadside Program and supports county IRVM efforts.



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County Conservation Peace Officer Association Update

by Pat Shehan, Park Ranger, Webster CCB

Our annual CCPOA spring workshops were hosted by Benton, Story, and Pottawattamie counties during March. Over 100 county conservation peace officers attended, representing more than 40 counties. Training sessions included trapping laws, vehicle stops and hunting scenarios, interviews and interrogations, driving tactics, crime scene/evidence preservation, and CWD updates. As long as an officer attended the Fall Conference and one of these spring workshops they have fulfilled their annual training requirements as mandated by the Code of Iowa for county conservation officers to maintain their law enforcement certification. This year we had two new counties step up to the plate and offer their services to host a Spring Workshop. We feel it is very important for the workshops to move around from county to county so everyone attending gets to see what their peers throughout the state have to offer. In my experiences, networking is vital to see what problems and/or situations that other counties have so we all can share on how they are dealt with.

In July the CCPOA Executive Committee will meet in Plymouth County for a two day retreat to plan the 28th annual fall conference. The annual retreat was started several years ago to help us finalize the details of the annual Fall Conference and to look into the future of the CCPOA. It also is a great way for us to meet and welcome any new committee members that have joined our ranks in the past year. According to our By-Laws we must have one committee member who is within only 2 years of service. This way we get to keep up with the times and don't become stale in the training that we offer. Curtis (Pie) Reighard from Keokuk County was gracious enough to step down from the Executive Committee to make room for our newest member. I have appointed Matt Poirier from Scott County Conservation to serve on our committee and we are all excited to see what he has to offer for us in the future. *(Continued on page 15)*

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Garry Brandenburg chimed in recently with his visual opinion of the recent May snowstorm!

(Garry is the retired past Director of the Marshall CCB, and apparently now removing nuisance snowmen critters ☺)



(CCPOA Update – continued from page 14)



Classroom Training at 2012 27th Annual Workshop

We will be hosting our 28th Annual Fall Conference this October 7th, 8th, and 9th at Camp Dodge. The first day will comprise of our annual firearms recertification and tactical refreshers. The remaining two days will consist of classroom training featuring a wide variety of presenters. It is shaping up to be another great conference with all the work the committee has completed since the beginning of the year.

Membership in the CCPOA remains strong with a 97% participation rate from the 163 county conservation board officers from across the state. Your support allows these officers to train together on a statewide and regional basis, and provides those invaluable networking opportunities to share common problems and solutions.

2012 firearms training



Squad Leader **C.J. Hughes** (Monroe) prepares his officers for their firearms training regimen.

2013 IACCB FALL CONFERENCE!



WATER ODESSEY - WANDERING THROUGH TIME[®] Sept. 26th-28th - Arrowwood Resort, Okoboji

hosted by Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien & Palo Alto CCBs & IACCB

Time for a group mosey to Iowa's Great Lakes!

The counties of **Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien and Palo Alto** would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to the 2013 Annual Fall Conference to be held at one of Iowa's premier tourism spots, The Iowa Great Lakes - September 26th – 28th, 2013. The conference will be based out of the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center in Okoboji, Iowa .

We are excited to have been able to secure this year's keynote speaker **David Thoreson**, a well know professional photographer and explorer. David has been all over the world exploring and taking photographs from Canada, New Zealand, to the Arctic Circle and the quest for the Northwest Passage. He will be sharing some of those adventures visually through storytelling and photography.

FRIDAY will be a day of concurrent sessions with something for everyone. From Geological Landscapes, Shallow Water lake management to Wild Edibles to name a few, the variety of sessions will make it hard to choose which one to attend. That night the barbeque will be held at the Dickinson County Nature Center where conference attendees will have time with exhibitors and be able to network with those they haven't seen for a while.

SATURDAY is our day of tours and following is just a snapshot of what you will see. The **Glacial Tour** will include stops at the State Fish Hatchery, Silver Lake Fen and the Freda Haffner Kettle Hole. The **Archaeological Tour** will include stops at Waterman Creek dig site, burial mounds near Spencer, the Chanyata archaeological site and the double ditch site at Mill Creek. The **Urban Development Tour** will visit sites in the Lakes area where minimal impact is critical. The **Watchable Wildlife Tour** will take you on a tour of the prairie pothole areas, shallow lake management areas, Lost Island Nature Center and the Prairie Flower . *(Register early to get your tour of choice!)*

We end the conference with a banquet at the Arrowwood Resort and we guarantee you do not want to miss this. A new twist on entertainment and a bonus for those who stay! Mark your calendars for September 26th – 28th and come visit us and see what Northwest Iowa has to offer!!

The Conference Motel is the **Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center** and make sure you mention it is for our IACCB Conference to get into our block and special rates. Their number is **1-800-727-4561**. When the Arrowwood fills up, we have a block at the Bridges Bay Resort & Water Park and the Arrowwood will handle those reservations for you as well. Conference registration materials and full packets with information will be posted online in just a few days.

Stay tuned – the full registration packet & program will be available online very soon!

