

# BOARD MEMBER

Iowa's County Conservation System Magazine

Summer 2013



54<sup>th</sup> Annual  
IACCB FALL  
CONFERENCE  
Okoboji, IA - 2013



WELCOME I.A.C.C.B. 2013

SMILE!  
YOU'RE ON CAMERA

WATER ODYSSEY

SMILE!  
YOU'RE ON CAMERA

- 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference – Okoboji, IA
- New IACCB Summit Series in November
- IACCB “PORTAL” to Launch Soon
- REAP at 25 Years in 2014!
- Don Brazelton Retirement
- Lobbying Tips
- 2013 Preferred Vendors



*Picture yourself  
here - at the 2013  
IACCB Fall  
Conference in  
Okoboji, IA*



Summer 2013

Volume 39/Issue 1



# From the President....



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

We find ourselves having arrived at the **Summer 2013** edition of the Iowa Board Member Magazine. Iowa's County Conservation System is pleased to bring you this "pre-conference" E-production just a little more than a month in advance of our **54<sup>th</sup> Annual IACCB Fall Conference** – this year in Okoboji, IA. Our strange springtime weather has continued on into the summer with autumn-like temperatures gracing our evenings in what should be the heat of the summer – but hey, this is Iowa, eh?

The **Arrowwood Resort** in Okoboji will play host to our Association next month as the anchor location for the fall conference. Our thanks-in-advance goes out to the four CCBs that have been working hard for many months to ensure an extraordinary gathering for us all – **Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien & Palo Alto**. This is a special part of Iowa that we will be visiting – and these "Great Lakes Region" counties, have put together a wonderful opportunity for you to learn, network and experience all that is great about who we are.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Board Member, and appreciate those individuals and organizations that have contributed articles and pictures during this busy warm recreation season. Have a great remainder to your summer!

*Editorial Staff*

Greetings from a dry NW Iowa - less than an inch of rain in the last 6 weeks. Not what need if you are trying to raise a lot of pumpkins - my daughter has a pumpkin, squash, and fall decor stand 8 miles away. We have been running a lot of water on them so they really look pretty good..... just a bunch more work!

My 3 years on the IACCB state board are up this fall, it has been very interesting and gone by fast. I'm running for another 3 year term so I hope to be able to serve at the statewide level through 2016! In our IACCB District 4 (in SW Iowa) they too are electing a new state board member to replace Gene Olsen, Jr. (Decatur CCB) – who is our past state president, and has served for 6 years. Many thanks to Gene for the work he has done for our state association and for helping me when I was a rookie ☺. We are still looking for a board member representative to run from District 4, so if there is someone from that district that is thinking about serving on the state board, I would certainly encourage them to do so! This is a very rewarding & educational experience, and really doesn't consume that much time of your time – come join us!

The **2013 IACCB Annual Fall Conference** is only 7 weeks away and roaring towards us fast.....*looking forward to seeing you there!* **Darrell**

## 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
- Treasurer **Curt Weiss**, Director, Muscatine CCB
- Member **Amy Bouska**, Board Member, Johnson CCB
- Member **Gene Olsen**, Board Member, Decatur CCB
- Member **Richard Harms**, Board Member, Bremer CCB
- Member **Dean Mueller**, Director, Worth CCB
- Member **Mike Brandrup**, Board Member, Hamilton CCB



**Arnold's Park  
Okoboji, IA**



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**



2012 - Mitchell and Chickasaw CCB Staff on hayrack for a trail tour in Jefferson County

BE A PART OF I.A.C.C.B. HISTORY THIS FALL.....

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>!**

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS HERE:  [HTTP://MYCOUNTYPARKS.WEEBLY.COM/](http://mycountyparks.weebly.com/)**



**PRE CONFERENCE – Canoes & Kayaks, Golf, Fishing, Biking, Shooting Sports**



**BUS TOURS – Glacial, Watchable Wildlife, Archaeological, Urban Development**



**CONCURRENT SESSIONS – Spirit Lake Massacre, Shallow Lake Management, Wild Edibles, For Monkey Flowers, Muskrats & Marshes..., Creative Funding & Foundations, Locally Grown Foods, David Thoreson Keynote**



**SPECIAL HAPPENINGS – Unparalleled CCB Networking, Fish Fry, Blue Water Margaritas, Queen II Excursion, IACCB Silent Auction, Raffles, Vendors Socials, Keynote Speakers, IACCB Annual Meeting, a Mystery Banquet Program, Exhibitors & More!! 😊**

**DO WE NEED TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU? .....**

**JUST DO IT!**

*See ya in Okoboji 😊*

# Outdoor Furniture

for your parks,  
campgrounds,  
and public spaces



Steel Benches



Recycled Plastic Benches



Athletic Benches



Accessible Benches



Custom Identification



Flat Benches



Wall Mount Benches



Standard Tables



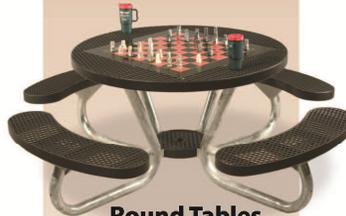
Universal Access Tables



Pedestal Tables



Accessible Tables



Round Tables



Square Tables



Kid's Tables



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**MCP.com WORLD HEADQUARTERS (AP) –**

Does it seem to you that we have been talking about this new IACCB online administrative “portal” for a very long time? Perhaps that’s because we have! From the early days of the internet, email and those old online “bulletin boards”, there have been those discussions on “Gee, wouldn’t it be great if county conservation could have.....”. That long-awaited day has arrived!

In the broader scheme of budgets and planning, it has taken two years for IACCB to set aside the necessary specific funding for this \$16K+ investment in our future. Then there was the planning and design portion of the project – which eventually culminated this past February in a 30-page specification document that would guide development. And, “as long as the hood was up” on the 100,000+ lines of HTML code – we are taking care of several needed maintenance items!

The many weeks of testing new pages and functionalities was completed on August 8<sup>th</sup>, and the upgraded site and new Portal were rolled out live on August 9<sup>th</sup>. (NOTE: Access to the Portal will be restricted until such time the basic data has been uploaded) Your patience has been marvelous all these months, and I think you will all appreciate utilizing these great digital products for many years to come!

Admin	County Administrator	Bremer
Admin	Portal Administrator	Bremer
Admin	Portal Users	Bremer

**WHAT ABOUT OUR LEARNING CURVE?**

.....you might ask. Yep – there is one ☺. First off, the PORTAL is an all-new, independent administrative ADDITION to the website. It is not inter-connected with any of the existing administrative structure, E-commerce functions, etc. Those of you with current administrative privileges will retain those “AS IS” – no change. The PORTAL was envisioned, and therefore designed – to be a statewide administrative resource for county conservation administration & operations.

We already have some 150 “County Administrators” that have administrative privileges to work on any aspect of their county’s general portion of the existing MCP.com website – this will not change. New “Portal Administrators” may or may not be the same as “County Administrator” persons in each county. County Administrators will have Portal access, but profiles created and designated as Portal Administrators will only have access to the PORTAL, not MCP.com in general. Portal Administrators OR County Administrators may then create additional Portal Administrators AND Portal Users at their own discretion. No matter which piece of the MCP.com internet presence you intend to enter (Portal or general), your admin access will be gained through the “Returning Member” sign-in link/pop-up window. It is envisioned that all employees and conservation board members could be assigned Portal User privileges to access the various resources within the new PORTAL.

Confused yet? Please don’t be ☺ Our hope is to have an instructional document for each feature of the PORTAL, and we most likely will not be assigning Portal Administrator privileges to any CCBs until the support structure is in place and some initial data is uploaded to the site. Your first/best opportunity to participate in some “hands-on” portal training will be on DAY TWO of the IACCB Summit Series (Wed., November 6<sup>th</sup>) – specifically being set up for new Portal Administration .....stay tuned!



**A FEW COOL STATISTICS TO SHARE**

- April 2013 – 187,000 site visitors – NEW RECORD
- May 2013 – 202,000 site visitors – NEW RECORD
- June 2013 – 235,000 site visitors – NEW RECORD
- July '13 - \$961.00 monthly hosting – NEW RECORD ☺
- 30,893 registered user profiles (8/7/2013)

☺☺☺ ZIPPITY-DO-DA ☺☺☺



..... are coming to you with the next MCP.com code roll out! Have you often wondered just how many folks are visiting your portion of MCP.com? And where they are coming from? It won’t be long until you can install the free Google Analytics HTML code on your MCP.com home page to find out!



# WINTERFEST 2014



January 21-23, 2014  
Waterloo, IA



by Denise Straw, President IACCBE  
Park Ranger, Chickasaw CCB

**Winterfest 2014** is set for January 21 – 23 at the **Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo, IA**. The Winterfest planning committee has been working diligently on getting Winterfest 2014 put together. I believe that we have another great agenda for everyone. Winterfest is a great time to learn new things, brush up on what you may have forgotten, meet new people and reminisce with friends. We have presenters for all aspects of conservation, including directors, rangers, maintenance, naturalists, etc. There will also be a variety of vendors on hand for you to visit with too. The ever-popular IACCBE Raffle will once again be in play for 2014 – so please bring along your donation items! The Conference Program and Registration Forms will be posted on MyCountyParks.com around mid-October. Whether you are a veteran Winterfest attendee or new on the block we would like to see your smiling faces at **Winterfest XLIII**.

*Denise*



## WHEN WINTERFEST WASN'T "WINTERFEST"

It really wasn't that long ago. The original IACCBE winter conference started in 1971 at the newly opened **Springbrook Conservation Education Center** near Guthrie Center. After a 27-year successful run, "**SPRINGBROOK**" was transformed into "**WINTERFEST**" in 1999 and moved to the **Best Western Regency Inn** in Marshalltown for a short 2 year stint. The event seemed to immediately outgrow the Marshalltown facility, and we landed at Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo in 2001 – home to WINTERFEST ever since! It's been a great run – *join us for the 44<sup>th</sup> edition!*



## COLLEGIATES & MORE ARRIVED IN 2006

There haven't always been those college "kids" at Winterfest, in fact 2014 will only be the 9<sup>th</sup> year that we have invited them to join us. The concept emerged from the **IACCBE Winterfest Planning Committee** in 2005 – an ambitious time for the organization. This was the same committee that launched the **New Employee Luncheon** at Winterfest, as well as creating the URL and establishing the temporary website of **MyCountyParks.com!** All three of these committee creations have become integral pieces of county conservation's presence – and have each flourished and expanded in their own way – success all around!

Occasionally we hear from new members to the committee that they are recently elected Vice Chairs from their District, and that they **HAVE TO SERVE** ☹ on this committee. In other Districts we observe that **NO ONE** will step up and serve their district because of the "responsibility"? I rather think that it is a privilege because one **GETS TO SERVE** ☺ in this capacity. **KUDOS** to all those who have served the broader good on one of the most significant and important committees in our industry – the benefits for the growth of an employee are endless!





**MORE BANNERS & MORE MARKETING IN THE OFFING**

Just in time for the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual IACCB Fall Conference in Okoboji, the 2013 REAP Assemblies, the inaugural IACCB Summit Series, Fall ISAC & CCPOA, REAP Congress 2014, Winterfest 2014, etc. – a new “family” of promotional and identity banners will be available from IACCB! The 7’ tall “Welcome” banner (*proof pictured on left*) is already on hand, and a couple of other “Promotional Banners” (6’ X 4’ in size) are in the design & production phase. As we get them “in house”, we’ll get pictures taken to share with you.

These are just some of the outreach pieces of re-establishing our identity wherever we go – even at District Meetings! ☺ IACCB has been working on that “internal marketing” aspect of bringing our employees and board members up-to-speed about who we are and what our presence means to Iowa – and now we begin to emerge and **TELL THE STORY** wherever we can establish an audience! It is critical going forward that we develop and maintain a heightened presence with legislators, businesses, stakeholders and other partnerships. No one is going to beat the drum on our behalf if we don’t share the facts & figures, our infrastructure needs and a vision for Iowa’s future. Who best to “carry the water” but US!

**A QUARTER CENTURY OF REAP in 2014!**

One of the longest-surviving bi-partisan programs – ever! Hard to believe that REAP will celebrate a **SILVER ANNIVERSARY** milestone in 2014! The formula has remained intact all these years, and county conservation has been a significant benefactor of the program in many, many ways. It is no accident that REAP has had such a successful history – from the beginning the 38 member organizations of the **REAP Alliance** have been a strong supporting cast. Each year, coalition members have rallied their “troops” to educate legislators (young & old) about the far-reaching value of the REAP program – urging full-funding.

Many of you have played a meaningful role in these processes over the past 24 years – thank you! We will press once again for full-funding of \$20 million during the 2014 legislative session, and in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> year – perhaps even \$25 million. Please plan to join us at your local **REAP Assembly** this fall to participate in the historical success of this great natural resource program!



**REAP CONGRESS – JANUARY 4, 2014 – STATE CAPITOL**



**2013 REAP ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE**

(Open House with Displays 6:00-6:30, 6:30-8:00 Assembly)

- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – Cedar Falls @ **Hartman Reserve**
- Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Calmar @ the Iowa Dairy Center
- Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Coralville @ North Ridge Pavilion
- Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Maquoketa @ **Hurstville Interpretive Center**
- Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – Mason City @ Ventura Community Center
- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> – Marshalltown @ **Grimes Farm Cons. Ctr.**
- Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – Correctionville Community Center
- Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – Spencer @ Clay Co. Regional Events Ctr.
- Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – Carroll @ **Carroll CCB Ed. Ctr. – Swan Lake**
- Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Muscatine CCB Environmental Learning Ctr.**
- Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Burlington Public Library
- Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> – Fairfield Public Library
- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – Shenandoah Chamber & Industrial Assoc.
- Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – Council Bluffs Public Library
- Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Fort Dodge @ **Kennedy Park Shelter**
- Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – Lovilla @ **Carmack Nature Center, Lake Miami**
- Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – Afton @ **Three Mile Lake Lodge**
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – W. Des Moines @ Raccoon River Park Lodge



1006NT

10' Planting Width  
Rugged Design

# HARVEST STARTS HERE

## 10' End Wheel No-Till Drill

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- **STANDARD WEIGHT BRACKETS** - Add standard tractor weights to the weight brackets for even better penetration in tough no-till conditions.
- **VERSATILE BOX COMBINATIONS** - Seed up to three different seeds at the same time (main seed box, native grass or fertilizer or second seed box, small seeds).
- **06 SERIES OPENER** - Utilizes the "Fluff and Plant" no-till system with an integrally mounted coulter to prepare a mini-seedbed for the trailing double disk opener.



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### Receiving the Award at June 27<sup>th</sup> Ceremonies include (L to R):

Jean Eells (E-Resources Group), Director Chuck Gipp (IDNR), Matt Purdy (Benton CCB), Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, Karen Phelps (Benton CCB), Dennis Goemaat (Linn CCB), Dan Biechler (Linn CCB), Governor Terry Branstad.

### CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED EDUCATION CAMPAIGN RECEIVES 2013 GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Following devastating flooding along the Cedar River in 2008, more than 20 County Conservation Boards partnered together with the goal of educating adults on their roles in managing and maintaining the Cedar River Watershed, which stretches from southern Minnesota diagonally through Iowa until meeting the Iowa River near Columbus Junction.

After receiving a REAP grant for funding, educational tools were produced including TV and radio spots, monthly articles submitted to local news outlets, watershed signs and an educational program. The theme of the outreach is "We're All in this Together," a message emphasizing that not one person or group is responsible for managing a watershed.

With nearly 1 million people to reach, data collected after the education program was delivered to community organizers and civic groups indicated the majority of people who had heard the message could explain it to someone else and planned to talk to their community leader(s) about best management practices for the watershed. **CONGRATS** again to everyone involved with the initiative and successful campaign.





**November 5-8, 2013 – Ramada Tropics Resort, Des Moines **COST: FREE!****

The **IACCB Board of Directors** is pleased to sponsor the first annual **SUMMIT SERIES** this November in Des Moines. It was difficult to find a slot in the annual calendar of natural resource happenings to plug in some new programming – so we did our best to find a week of lesser impact – for most? For 2013, the targeted participants are: **1) New CCB Directors; 2) Office Staff and/or Managers; and, 3) CCBs that are already involved with MCP.com online reservations , or those that have an interest in doing so.** Each day of the Series will start at 10:00 AM and conclude approximately 3:00 PM – breaks & lunch will be provided.

## **SUMMIT DAYS & TENTATIVE AGENDAS –**

### **TUESDAY, November 5<sup>th</sup> – “CCB Directors – A 2020 Initiative”**

Q&A Roundtable w/Seasoned Directors; Your Director Toolbox – Resources, Agencies, Contacts; Iowa Tourism Office Partnerships; Iowa DNR Programs & Partnerships; Building Your Personal Network; The 2020 Initiative, etc.

### **WEDNESDAY, November 6<sup>th</sup> – IACCB Portal Orientation & Training**

*(An all-digital experience – to be hands on, a wireless laptop will be most helpful, but not essential)*

Job Notice Posting & Maintenance; Contact Management of Personnel Directory, Integration w/MCP.com Registered Users, E-Communications; Uploading and File Sharing; Security Level Protocols; Best Practices/Survey Module & More!

### **THURSDAY, November 7<sup>th</sup> – MyCountyParks.com E-Commerce Summit**

History and Evolution of CCB Internet Presence/E-Commerce; Review of Participants E-Commerce Presence & Challenges; Roundtable Demonstrations/Discussions; Where To Go With E-Commerce in the Next 2-5 Years?

*(Potential of Informatics, Inc. developer to be on-hand)*

### **FRIDAY, November 8<sup>th</sup> – Office Management Summit**

Iowa Tourism Office Programs & Partnerships; Iowa DNR Programs & Partnerships; IACCB History & Operations; Marketing your CCB; Getting the Most out of EXCEL; Office Record Keeping, etc.

**SUMMIT SERIES 2013**

2013 FALL CONFERENCE   NEWSLETTERS   BOARD MEMBER   PREFERRED VENDOR   SUMMIT SERIES   more...

**NOVEMBER 5 - 8, 2013 - Ramada Tropics Resort - Des Moines, IA**

**ALL NEW PROGRAMMING from IACCB for 2013!!**  
 Stay tuned for full daily agendas and registration information soon!  
**TUESDAY, Nov. 5 - "CCB Directors - the 2020 Initiative"**  
**WEDNESDAY, Nov. 6 - IACCB Portal Orientation & Training**  
**THURSDAY, Nov. 7 - MCP.com E-Commerce Summit**  
**FRIDAY, Nov. 8 - Office Management Summit**  
*These training seminars are being provided at NO CHARGE to all IACCB Members.*

**ON-SITE LODGING AVAILABLE AT THE RAMADA**

ALL sessions and luncheons will be held at the Ramada Tropics Resort on Merle Hay Road, just south of I-80 in Des Moines. For those of you that may be attending more than one day, or wish to arrive the night before on any given day - we have a small block of rooms reserved for this Summit Series. Room rates are a bargain at \$55.00/night. Please contact the Ramada directly by calling (515) 278-0271 and referencing our room block name "County Conservation Summit Series".

Our plan is to have agendas/presenters finalized and registration materials available by mid-September. A web page has been established, and is available via the IACCB link on MCP.com, or the link provided to the left. Registration and additional information will be posted here.

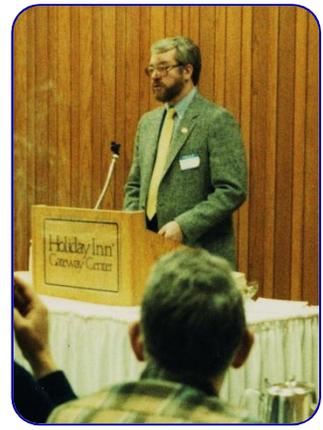
This is an exciting new piece of programming that we are able to bring to IACCB member CCBs. We hope that you will both support the effort by participating, as well as find the experience(s) valuable to your local CCB administration and operation.

Stay tuned for more information to come, and feel free to contact us with your questions or ideas: [IACCB@mycountyparks.com](mailto:IACCB@mycountyparks.com)



# RETIREMENT – COMPLETE!

Noting that “30 years at the State Capitol was sufficient”, our long-term legislative representative/lobbyist & past IACCB Executive Secretary has officially retired from one of his favorite passions. Don came on board with IACCB in 1983, and steadily gained the respect of legislators and other lobbyists during his three decade tenure. He was a key component in the development and ongoing support for REAP, as well as many other natural resource legislative efforts. Don was constantly on the lookout for proposals and legislation that could possibly impact county conservation and Iowa’s natural resources, and was a tremendous advocate of improving Iowa’s water quality and the wise use of the land. In a note from Don on August 9<sup>th</sup> – he comments..... “I’ve truly enjoyed working for the interests of CCBs as those interests mean so much to me.” Don retired from his IACCB executive position in June 2011, and now he and Sandra will have some well-earned free time for more wine tours and international travel. It has been a pleasure for many of us to have served with Don throughout these years, and we wish him well with his new enhanced retirement! ☺



The “early” years, mid-1980s



2010 Fall Conference  
Pottawattamie County  
(w/Harry Graves)



## FY2014 IACCB SALARY SURVEY – COMING TO YOUR IN-BOX SOON!

IOWA IACCB County Conservation System		FY2014 - I.A.C.C.B. SALARY SURVEY Audubon County Conservation Board													
JOB #	JOB CLASSIFICATION	EXP. 1	EXP. 2	EXP. 3	SALARY	VAC.	SICK	HEALTH	INS. F/S	LIFE	INS.	UNIE.	HOUS.	UTIL.	VEH.
.01	Director	21	21	21	\$43,200			Yes	F	5,000	300	Y	Y	Y	
.06	Maintenance Technician	6	6	3	24,000	10	18	Yes	S	5,000	200	N	N	Y	
.04	Naturalist ½ time	16	16	11				Yes	F			N	N	Y	
.12	Conservation Aide	3	3	3	\$9.50/hr.										
.12	Conservation Aide	1	1	1	\$8.50/hr.										

### A “RETRO” LOOK BACK – to 1985 ☺

POSITION	Avg. Yrs. Exp	Average Salary*
Director	9.0	\$19,250
Ops. Supvr.	7.0	\$16,700
Park Ranger	6.0	\$16,000
Rang./Naturalist	3.0	\$15,500
Maint. Tech.	7.0	\$13,900
Office Mgr.	7.5	\$12,400

#### TOTAL EMPLOYEES IN CCB SYSTEM

1985 – 340 full-time, 553 part-time (approx.)

2013 – 574 full-time, 425 part-time (approx.)

\* All numbers from the IACCB archives

Is it that time again already?? This is one of those great IACCB resources that EVERYONE gets to participate in, and EVERYONE utilizes the end-result! Last year was the first time that we were able provide a report with 100% of CCBs participating, and we are very optimistic that we will be able to repeat the same in FY2014.

Directors should anticipate an electronic document to arriving in their in-box by the end of August (*the exact same one they returned to me last fall!* ☺), with an expectation that it should arrive back to the IACCB in-box by the end of September. This will allow time for tabulation and distribution back to everyone in time for FY2015 local budget preparations. This is **THE #1** requested piece of statewide information that you all request – thanks in advance for your timely attention and response to it!

## IACCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2014 Position Statement on 3/8 cent Sales Tax Funding

The IACCB Board of Directors met in regular session on July 19, 2013 and discussed at length Iowa’s constitutional amendment to raise the state sales tax for the funding of the **Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund**. This included a complete review of Senate File 2310 and all aspects of the various new sections of the code.

Iowa’s County Conservation System has been a stalwart and long-term supporter of this initiative, and the IACCB Board of Directors reaffirms their support of not only the 2010 constitutional amendment, but the ongoing efforts to secure funding for the trust fund. The current desire within the legislature to not raise any taxes, coupled with 2014 being an election year - creates a climate wherein it most likely will be problematic and difficult to generate support to be successful in gaining a sales tax increase during the 2014 legislative session.

From this perspective, the IACCB Board of Directors will maintain their support of the various initiatives that move us in the direction of preserving and improving Iowa’s natural resources by way of securing funding for the **Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund**.

August 1, 2013

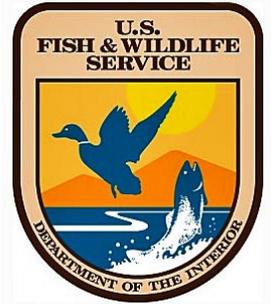
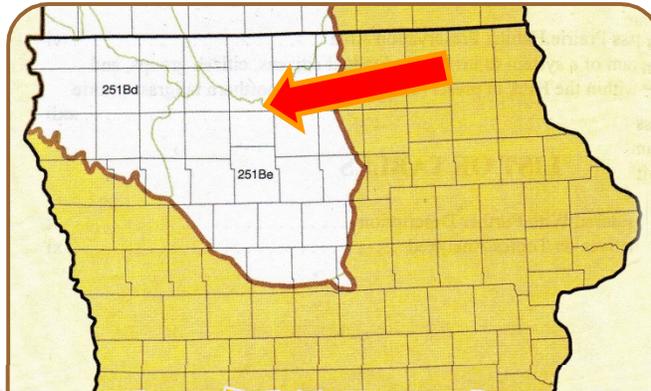


## **INHF ANNOUNCES "IOWA BY TRAIL" SMARTPHONE APP**

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is in the process of developing Iowa's only statewide, multiuse trail app and website, "Iowa by Trail." Once completed, the app will promote Iowa trails and help users discover the beauty of Iowa's greenways.

The app will feature an interactive map to allow users to geo locate their position and find the closest trail; find points of interest along the way; keep track of distance, weather, news and events; and communicate with friends and followers about their experience.

The app will also help connect trail users to the communities they are visiting by locating attractions and services along their route, like local restaurants, museums and natural resource information. You can find out more about this app and the funding strategy by visiting the INHF website at: <http://www.inhf.org/iowabytrail.cfm>



Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

# **NORTHERN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE**

**DES MOINES, IA** – With representatives from **IACCB, INHF, USFWS, IDNR** and **TNC** in the room – the inaugural meeting of the **Northern Tallgrass Prairie Conservation Plan Steering Committee** was underway on June 20<sup>th</sup>. 37 counties in Iowa fall within the boundaries of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota and Iowa. The refuge was established in 2000 to address the loss of America's grasslands and the declining grassland species populations. Estimates place the original northern tallgrass prairie in Minnesota and Iowa at approximately 25 million acres. The 25-year goal of the refuge is to protect 77,000 acres – approximately half in conservation easements and half through fee title ownership. The acquisition area includes 49 counties in Minnesota and those 37 counties in Iowa. Currently, 2,803 acres are owned in fee title; and, 2,452 acres are currently protected through habitat easements.

Our initial meeting centered on and around many of the general administrative challenges to this effort – as well as prioritizing the next steps in the process. **Rex Johnson** is an employee of the **USFWS** who is on an Interagency Personnel Agreement with the Iowa DNR for the next two years – tasked with developing a plan for the conservation of tall grass prairie in NW and central Iowa. He has toured some of the areas and has been extremely impressed with the opportunities to conserve prairie and virgin sod. As this mission progresses, I would like to bring a couple of interested/dedicated CCB staff to serve on the committee from within this 37-county region. These individual(s) would provide more of a "person on the ground" insight to the steering committee and project. If you have an interest in this possibility – please get in touch with me and I will get your name on the short list of potential participants. [IACCB@mycountyparks.com](mailto:IACCB@mycountyparks.com)

## **IWLA HABITAT IMPROVEMENT NOMINATIONS DUE AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> !!**

**DEADLINE IS THIS FRIDAY!** Award nominations for the FY2013 fiscal year were distributed to all CCBs in early July. There has been a better-than-average response this year so far, and we certainly encourage those of you still in the process of preparing nominations to get them in. We will be coordinating with the Iowa Chapter of IWLA to present the plaques to the top three winners in each category (+/- 20,000 population) at the IACCB Annual Meeting in Okoboji next month. This is great recognition for all CCB applicants – highlighting all that we collectively accomplish each year in the wildlife habitat improvement arena.



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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@IlyCountyParks.com

## PREFERRED VENDOR MEMBERS

We are very pleased to have the support of our 23 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](http://mycountyparks.com), or at the following direct linkage:

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



The Iowa Tourism Office recently made an enhancement to their website that gives you a better way to market your cabin to potential travelers. They have added a "Cabin" category under the Lodging searches.

To add your cabin to our lodging listings, please go to [www.traveliowa.com/register](http://www.traveliowa.com/register) and create a username and password. Then, scroll down to the bottom and click on the orange "Submit a Listing" button. Select "cabin" and complete the form.

As always, listings on the Travel Iowa website and inclusion in the **Iowa Travel Guide** are free.



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**CONTACT:** Mark Ackelson, President  
mackelson@inhf.org  
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**FIELD DAY in JONES COUNTY**

The **Annual Field Day for the Hawkeye Cooperative Weed Management Area** was hosted by Jones County on Thursday, June 6th. More than 70 people from 5 counties attended the event. County conservation staff and roadside managers from Johnson, Linn and Jones counties, IDNR Foresters and local experts presented program tours of the Eby's Mill Wildlife Management Area; and the Hamilton and Tapken Prairie Preserve in Jones County. The Twin Rivers and Linn County Chapters of Pheasants Forever helped sponsor the event. Woodland and prairie management related to issues associated with invasive species were the primary focus of presentations. *(Photos provided by Dustin Hinrichs, Trees Forever)*



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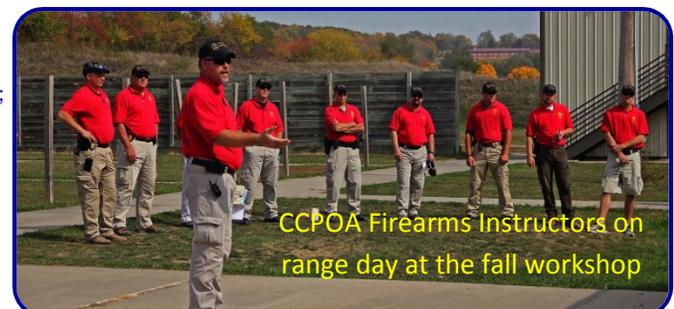
## **County Conservation Peace Officer Association Update**

*by Pat Shehan, President – CCPOA of Iowa, Inc.  
Park Ranger, Webster CCB*

Recently in July the CCPOA Executive Committee met in Plymouth County for a two day retreat to plan the 28th annual fall conference. During the retreat we worked at getting a final version of our agenda completed for our fall conference. Everything went as planned and we were able to come up with a great looking agenda. All the committee members brought ideas on topics that could be covered, and we actually ended up having too many for the allotted time. Some of these topics that wouldn't quite fit into this year's workshop can always be utilized during next year's workshop.

These annual workshops that we host are an integral part of every officers training. Between the workshop in October, and the spring workshops, officers obtain all the training mandated by the state to remain a certified officer. Over 14 years ago while attending the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy I remember listening to some of the ILEA instructors tell me how great the training is that the CCPOA offers to its members. At the time I really didn't give it much thought. But over the years, and especially after serving on the Executive Committee, it has really given me a sense of pride that the instructors that train all the other law enforcement departments throughout the state recognize CCPOA as being a step above the rest.

Registration materials for the **28<sup>th</sup> Annual CCPOA Fall Workshop** have already been distributed via email to the membership – but are also available on the **CCPOA website** at: <http://iowaccpoa.weebly.com/>



**CCPOA Firearms Instructors on range day at the fall workshop**

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**Belva Deer Lake** was designed as a high quality fishing lake. With over half of the lake drainage area owned and managed by Keokuk County, steps have been taken to insure excellent water quality. Many silt ponds were already in place when water began to fill the lake. At the upper end of the lake, a 35-acre wetland has been constructed to prevent silt from entering the lake.

Extensive planning was done to establish underwater structure habitat that provides ample structure to concentrate the fish for anglers. Hundreds of trees, culverts, rock piles, and pallet structures were placed in various areas. Underwater mounds, roadways, trenches, and miles of spawning beds were constructed to insure excellent fishing for years to come.

More than 1,309 acres of Belva Deer is open to public hunting. Species most frequently encountered are pheasants, deer, rabbit, squirrel, turkey and waterfowl. A mixture of timber, grassland, and wetland provide the avid hunter excellent natural habitat in which to pursue their favorite game.



[www.keokukcountyia.com](http://www.keokukcountyia.com)

