

Newsletter

Volume LV

February 28, 2014

Issue XIX

IMPORTANT DATES:

- * March 3 – CCPOA Workshop – Polk CCB
- * March 6 – CCPOA Workshop – Dickinson Co.
- * March 11 – Right-of Way Workshop – Kirkwood
- * March 12 – County Day at the Capitol
- * March 13-14 – Spring ISAC/CCDA – Des Moines
- * March 18 – REAP Day at the Capitol
- * March 18 – IACCBE Planning Meeting
- * March 19 – CCPOA Workshop – Tama Co.
- * April 5 – IACCB Spring Workshop – Ames
- * April 7-9 – IPRA Conference – Cedar Rapids
- * May 15 – REAP C.E.P. Grant deadline
- * September 25-27, 2014 – IACCB Fall Conference in Sioux City / Woodbury Co.
- * Sept. 29 – October 1 – CCPOA Fall Workshop

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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IACCB LEGISLATIVE BILL TRACKER

<http://www.ialobby.com/billtracker/bills.cfm?ClientID=18&NoHeader=0>

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



REAP DAY AT THE CAPITOL & ADVOCACY!!

REAP Day at the Capitol is just a bit over two weeks away on **Tuesday, March 18th**! Last year, 30 organizations and more than 100 Iowans came together in a snowstorm to let legislators know Iowans value the quality of life and economic benefits that come from protecting our natural resources and supporting outdoor recreation. Now, with a historic opportunity to fund Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection Program at a \$25 million level for its 25th anniversary year, members of the Iowa REAP Alliance and Iowa Environmental Council are working together for an even bigger turnout in 2014. Together, we can help "close the deal" for conservation this legislative session!



Please consider joining this effort that has had such a HUGE quarter century impact for Iowa's County Conservation System! To get into the loop and receive updated information – please register your email address here: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/commit-to-attend-2014-environmental-lobby-day-registration-9777485723> All the scoop, talking points and a full agenda for the day is posted on the REAP Alliance website at: www.REAPAlliance.org

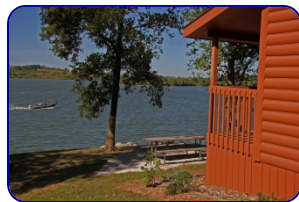


Most certainly you should be communicating with your legislator(s) in advance, and let them know you will be there and would like to visit with them. The exhibits, news conference, etc. is all scheduled between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and a special "training" session for public advocacy is being offered at 8:30 AM in Room 19 on the ground floor of the capitol building. Check out REAPAlliance.org for more daily schedule information.



Historically, county conservation partners up with the REAP Alliance booth in the capitol lobby with the other exhibits. Please let me know if you are planning to attend – or stop by our booth the previous week for County Day at the Capitol on March 12th. ☺ Your active presence and support for REAP is especially important in 2014 – \$25 million in funding would be a great means of celebrating and recognizing all the good that REAP does for Iowa!

*Be sure to wear **BLUE shirts** in support of Iowa's natural resources for the day!*



A CABIN RESERVATIONS MODULE IN THE OFFING?

Whereas there are 175+ cabins in 50 counties within the CCB system; and, Whereas 2 out of 3 of the publicly owned/managed cabins in Iowa are in the county conservation system; and, Whereas MyCountyParks.com desires to be THE “go-to” location for information and reservations of these cabins.....the time has come for website improvements to create that ultimate user and administrator-friendly experience.....sounds good on paper, eh?

MyCountyParks.com was launched in the spring of 2009 to provide a platform for Iowa’s County Conservation System to promote, educate and share with the world - the finest county conservation system in the country. Keeping pace with technological advances and demands for both new user features and administrative interfaces is no minimal task – and is limited primarily by available funding. In the meantime – there are 99 counties interested in having one website that can be everything for everybody - and then some. In 2011, IACCB assumed both the system administration AND financial management/operations responsibilities for this very large piece of our collective presence. In our first three fiscal years, IACCB has dedicated over \$43,000 to our website and networking needs. Approximately 40% to monthly hosting and maintenance, and the other 60% to site improvements. – the recent construction and rollout of the **IACCB Portal** consumed nearly \$16K of these dollars. Historically – MCP.com has received a net infusion of well over \$130,000.00 CCB dollars since 2007 (\$76,000 of which came from the Linn, Polk and Black Hawk partnership to generate the initial build in 2008 – thanks once again for your vision!) So, we find ourselves in 2014 with a 5-year-old website, and in some ways....older technology.

Prioritizing our needs and direction will always be challenging – and we certainly appreciate all the comments, concepts & suggestions that continually flow our way. One means of stretching our limited funding has been to partner financially with individual CCBs to effect their special operational/design requests, and I see more of these great opportunities in our future. Thanks for bearing with me on this brief stroll through our short financial history. ☺

In order to develop concepts and projections to further discussions about a “cabin module” – I need some feedback. FOR ALL CCBs that either currently reserve cabins online via MCP.com, OR WHO MAY conceivably consider doing so.....I request of you the following: I need to receive the nuts and bolts of your cabin reservation policies and procedures. (preferably in bulleted format). Please don’t ask me to comb through pages and pages of policy – what we need are “just the facts” that, if you were to reserve this facility online – what can you do, and what can’t you do. (Minimum # nights required – weekday, weekend, holiday, special events, packages provided; differentiated fee structure, pets allowed?, additional amenities for a fee; etc.) This will provide us a discussion framework to consider as we propose changes to the operational system. If you have an interest in responding – please do so no later than Friday, March 14th to: IACCB@MyCountyParks.com Let me know if you have any questions – thanks!

IACCB SPRING WORKSHOP – Saturday April 5th, Reiman Gardens

REGISTRATION for this great annual educational & networking opportunity is a simple visit to the IACCB online workshop registration location at the following website address: <http://mycountyparks.weebly.com/spring-workshop.html> Session descriptions, along with all the workshop information is also available on this page! Remember the best feature of this event is that it is FREE! We hope you can join your IACCB Board of Directors for this excellent professional development event.



In case you haven’t noticed – there are numerous BEST PRACTICES subjects awaiting your comments within the IACCB Portal: Volunteer Agreements, Firewood Policy Signage for Parks, Dog Doo-Doo Stations, Historic Military Bridge, Cabin Cleaning, Selling Park Land, Modular Home for Resident Ranger, Marketing Plans, Photo Contests, Special Events Policy, Policy on Donating Items, Trail Emergency Signage, Public Shooting Ranges, Weed Commissioners, Seasonal Intern Recruitment, Trail Usage, Endowments, Job Descriptions, Office Record Retention Policy and Shower Restroom Designs. If a member of your staff or Conservation Board can provide information on these requests – send ‘em to the Portal!



CCPOA SPRING WORKSHOPS – Dickinson, Polk & Tama Counties

REGISTRATION DEADLINES AT HAND! Please review these workshop schedules and determine which one best fits your specific needs. As a reminder, the CCPOA will cover the \$15/officer training cost for the mandatory training, but officers will still be obligated for any registration fees at the workshop sites.

Current workshop schedule/ Link to flyers: <http://iowaccpoa.weebly.com/spring-workshops.html>

WESTERN REGIONAL – Dickinson County – Thursday, March 6th

CENTRAL REGIONAL – Polk County – Monday, March 3rd

EASTERN REGIONAL – Tama County – Wednesday, March 19th

BUILD WITH BAGS GRANT PROGRAM *(Great for Playgrounds!)*

The grant program is available to any governmental entity, organization (i.e. service clubs, non-profit organizations) within Iowa that purchase the items for a park or school. The items must be made of recycled high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic (the base material for making plastic shopping bags). Those receiving grant awards must acquire the items and then show proof of purchase and payment before receiving reimbursement of the award.

GRANT LIMITS

A maximum grant of \$2,000 is available. Each entity applying for a grant is limited to one application or project per year.

GRANT DEADLINES

The deadline for application is March 30, 2014. Grant awards will be announced on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 (Earth Day). Notification will be made directly to each grant recipient and sponsoring Iowa Grocery Industry Association (IGIA) member, together with a press release and at the Iowa Grocery Industry Association's website – [Http://www.iowagrocers.com/build-with-bags-grant-program.cfm](http://www.iowagrocers.com/build-with-bags-grant-program.cfm)



MASTER RIVER STEWARDS PROGRAM – SPRING 2014

Iowa River Watershed / Iowa City Area

<http://iowarivers.org/education/river-stewards/>

(April – June): **Iowa Rivers Revival** is excited to bring the “**Master River Stewards Program**” to the Iowa River Watershed in the Spring of 2014. The program will be based out of the Iowa City area. Registration deadline is April 15, 2014. Please respond to jdreier@iowarivers.org with interest and contact information (address, e-mail and phone). This will be IRR's third year offering this comprehensive course. The program will focus on watershed awareness, paddling and navigating skills, river and stream dynamics, aquatic habitat, water quality and water monitoring, and policies related to floodplains, river protection and restoration. Stewards pledge to perform a service project as part of their program.



CLASS of 2017 – Tom Buckley (Lee) & Chris Ruhaak (Pott.) take the Oath of Office for their seats on the IACCB Board of Directors.




2014 IACCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS: *(Standing L-R)* Mike Brandrup (Hamilton), Darrell Frerichs (Clay), Mike Runyan (Monroe), Dan Heissel (Clay), Amy Bouska (Johnson), Tom Hazelton (IACCB); *(Seated L-R)* Curt Weiss (Muscatine), Tom Buckley (Lee), Richard Harms (Bremer) and Chris Ruhaak (Pottawattamie)



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

1. WASHINGTON CCB – Ranger
2. BENTON CCB – Park Ranger
3. FRANKLIN CCB – Resource Manager II
4. SIOUX CCB – Maint. Tech./Park Ranger
5. PALO ALTO CCB – Director
6. MILLS CCB – Conservation Technician
7. LYON – Seasonal Conservation Aide
8. TAMA – Season Park Ranger
9. CLAYTON – Seasonal Naturalist
10. BENTON – Seasonal Technician
11. CLAYTON – Seasonal Maintenance
12. DES MOINES – Naturalist Intern
13. DES MOINES – Conservation Intern
14. TAMA – Seasonal Conservation Aide
15. CHEROKEE – Seasonal Park Technician (X2)
16. CERRO GORDO – Conservation Educ. Intern
17. FRANKLIN – Seasonal Park Aide
18. DALLAS - Seasonal Maintenance Worker
19. JOHNSON – Naturalist Intern
20. POLK – Office Clerk
21. JOHNSON – Seasonal Park Worker (6 mo.)
22. JOHNSON – Season Park Worker (3-4 mo.)
23. CARROLL – Naturalist Internship
24. CLAY – Seasonal Conservation Aide
25. CHICKASAW – Conservation Aide
26. WEBSTER – OHV Trail Technician
27. WEBSTER – Park Ranger Intern
28. WOODBURY – Outdoor Skills Intern
29. MARSHALL – Temp. Conservation Aide
30. WOODBURY – Habitat Stewardship Intern
31. JACKSON – Youth Corps Assistant
32. BLACK HAWK – Seasonal Park Maintenance
33. HAMILTON – Park Internship
34. HAMILTON – Campground Hosts
35. OSCEOLA – Seas. Conservation Technician
36. PLYMOUTH – Seasonal Park Aide
37. PLYMOUTH – Seasonal Conservation Aide
38. PLYMOUTH – Seasonal Naturalist
39. SIOUX – Seasonal Park Technician
40. SIOUX – Summer Naturalist Intern
41. HARRISON – Museum/ Welcome Center Intern
42. HARRISON – Park Ranger Intern
43. HARRISON – Naturalist/Park Ranger

 Full Time Employment

 Seasonal/Part-Time



44. BUCHANAN– Naturalist Intern
45. POLK – Stable Laborer
46. POLK – Campground Aides
47. MUSCATINE – Summer Conservation Worker
48. BUCHANAN – Seasonal Park Technician
49. JACKSON – Seasonal Conservation worker
50. IOWA – Campground Host/Attendant
51. DICKINSON- Conservation Aide
52. BUENA VISTA – Campground Hosts
53. WOODBURY – Park Maintenance Worker
54. LOUISA – Conservation Aide & Naturalist Intern
55. WINNEBAGO – Natural Resource Technician
56. WORTH – Naturalist Intern
57. IOWA LAKESIDE LAB – Science Writing & P.R.
58. IOWA LAKESIDE LAB – Summer E.E. Position
59. S&WCD District Summer Interns

Located at the bottom of each and every page of the [MyCountyParks.com](http://www.MyCountyParks.com) website.