

# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter of the Page County Conservation Board

(Partially funded using REAP funds)

April – June 2009

## 2009 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

What is the oldest science in history? Astronomy is the right answer. It has played an important part in most, if not all, cultures over the ages. So, what convinced Galileo 400 years ago that the Earth orbits the Sun and not vice-versa? How did one man make such a startling discovery armed with just a two-inch lens telescope? How did one man and one telescope change the world forever and encourage more people to look with awe and enthusiasm at the night sky?

The General Assembly of the United Nations has designated 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy. This year-long world-wide education program coincides with the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first observation through a telescope. The global celebration is an activity for the citizens of planet Earth. It aims to convey the excitement of personal discovery, the pleasure of sharing fundamental knowledge about the universe and our place in it.

A website has been created to provide information to the public on events happening throughout the year at local, regional, national, and international levels. Go to [www.internationalyearofastronomy.com](http://www.internationalyearofastronomy.com). One of the biggest events planned during the year is "1000 Hours of Astronomy," scheduled for April 2-5, 2009. The goal is to have as many people as possible around the world look through a telescope just as Galileo did for the first time 400 years ago.

The 2009 International Year of Astronomy theme is "The Universe: Yours to Discover."

Viewing the sky at night is best in an open area with little "light pollution" and a clear sky. Try to observe the evening sky on moonless nights around either the New Moon or Last Quarter. One can also check out [www.sky-maps.com](http://www.sky-maps.com). This website is fantastic. It gives tips for observing the night sky—what objects can be seen with the naked eye, and what can be easily seen with binoculars and other telescopic objects. You can download the evening sky maps for the northern hemisphere free of charge.

Watch the sky April 21-22 for the Lyrids Meteor Shower. This shower can be seen from the 16th-25th, but will peak during the 21st and 22nd. This average shower will best be viewed after midnight and it will produce 20 meteors an hour at the peak, but meteors are known to have long tails that stay for several seconds.



We are on the web!  
[www.co.page.ia.us](http://www.co.page.ia.us)

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### PAGE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Spencer, Shenandoah  
 Don Priebe, Shenandoah  
 Tom Johnson, Essex  
 Bob Tunnicliff, Clarinda  
 Ron Bitting, Clarinda

#### BOARD STAFF

Rich Wallace, Co-Director/Park Ranger  
 Charly Stevens, Co-Director/Naturalist



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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### April

#### 4th – Wild Turkey Federation Banquet

Elks Lodge in Shenandoah. Contact Kenny Vail at 712.246.5304 for tickets or more information.

#### 15th – Opening of PCCB parks

This depends on the weather

#### 22nd – Earth Day

#### 30th – Arbor Day

### May

#### 25th – PCCB office will be closed

### June

#### 6th – Kids' Fishing Derby

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Pioneer Park. PCCB and Page County Optimist Clubs will host the annual Kids' Fishing Derby at Pioneer Park. Bring bait and fishing pole to see if you can catch anything. Whether you catch a big one or not, every child goes home with a prize. The event is held rain or shine. Sign-up sheets will be in schools shortly. See page 6 in this newsletter. This is also statewide free fishing weekend for Iowa residents, June 5-7.

#### 16th – Campus Kids Program

Going Green at IWCC, Clarinda Campus

#### 17th – Campus Kids Program

Get Batty at IWCC, Clarinda Campus. See article on day camps in this newsletter.

The Page County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public. Visitors are always welcome and encouraged to attend. The Board meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the Page Room at the Courthouse.

Please note these dates are subject to change:

April 14th

May 12th

June 9th

The *Conservation Connection* is the quarterly newsletter of the Page County Conservation Board and is mailed to those persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to be on our mailing list need only to send their name and address to our office. There is no charge for the newsletter, although contributions to help defray printing and mailing costs are always greatly appreciated. Please help us keep our costs down and make sure you get your newsletter on time by keeping us informed of any address change. The newsletter can also be accessed from our website – [www.co.page.ia.us/](http://www.co.page.ia.us/)

### Recommended Reading

*I Love Dirt*

by Jennifer Ward

52 activities to help you and your kids discover the wonders of nature

*“Underneath the surface appearance, everything is not only connected with everything else, but also with the one Source of all life out of which it came.”*

*Eckhart Tolle*

## KIDS' KORNER

Make your own constellation viewers and learn to identify some of them. Get an adult or older sibling to help you.

### Performing the Experiment

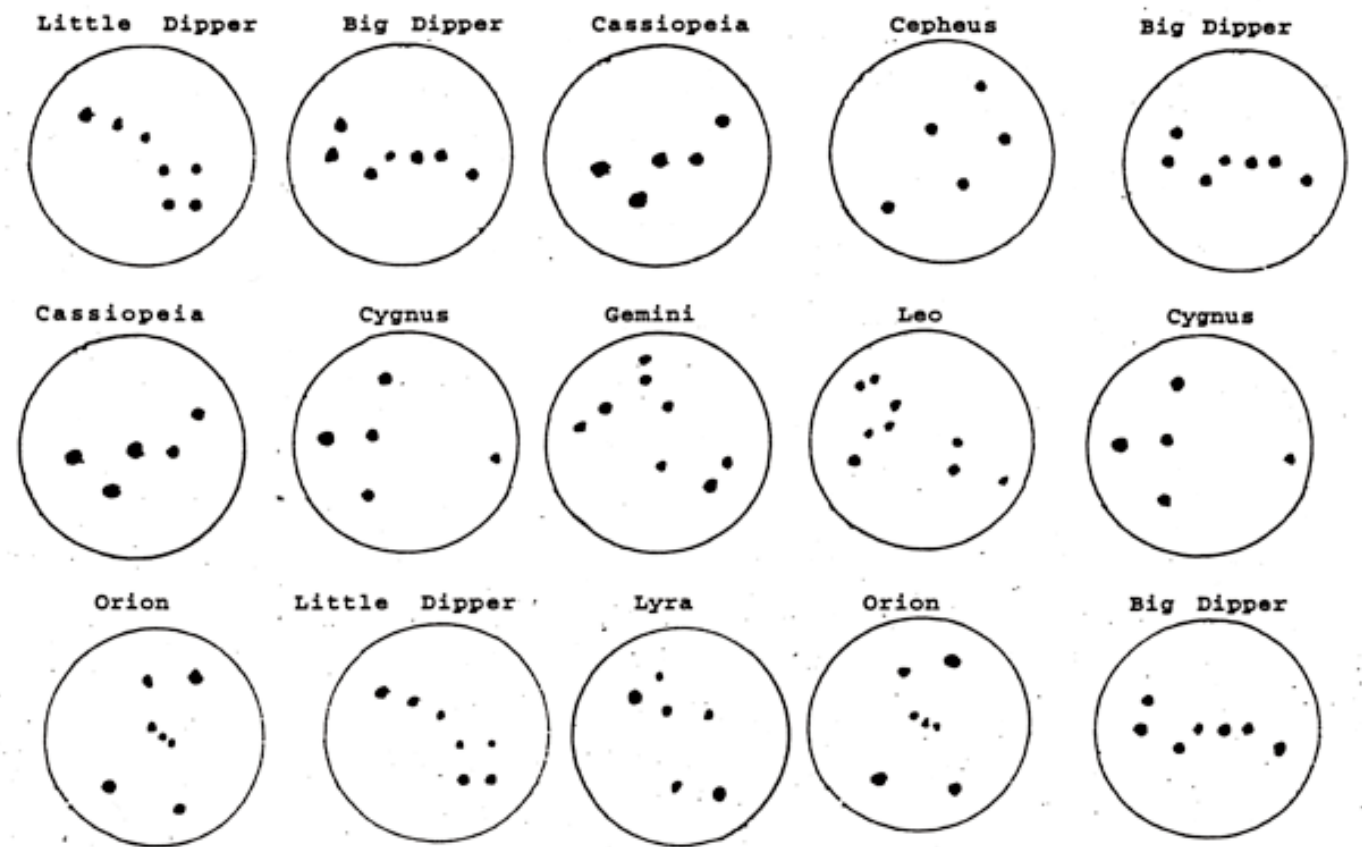
1. Cut out one constellation pattern. (The constellations in the patterns are the reverse of the way they appear in the night sky, but will appear correctly when observed through a viewer.)
2. Tape the constellation pattern to the outside bottom of a film canister.
3. Use a pushpin to poke a hole through the bottom of the film canister for each star in the constellation. Make larger holes for larger, brighter stars by wiggling the pushpin around a little.
4. Remove the constellation pattern from the film canister.
5. Remove the lid from the film canister, and use a marking pen to print the name of the constellation on the inside of the lid.

### Using the Constellation Viewer

1. Remove the lid from the film canister without peeking at the name on the inside.
2. Look through the open end of the film canister toward some light to see the constellation.
3. Try to identify the constellation, and replace the lid when you are finished.
4. Play a game to identify the constellations with your friends and family. Take turns picking out constellations for the others to view and try to name them.

### Equipment Needed

Black plastic 35 mm film canisters, push pins, constellation patterns (increased in size by 10-15% when printed from this pattern – the reverse of the way they appear in the sky), blunt-tip scissors, scotch tape and marking pens.



## FREE FISHING DERBY!!!

Rain or Shine

WHEN: Saturday, June 6, 2009 – 8:00 to 12:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Pioneer Park (Highway 2 between Clarinda & Shenandoah)  
WHO: YOU!!!

The Page County Conservation Board and the Page County Optimist Clubs are sponsoring an exciting fun-filled day of fishing at a **FREE** fishing derby for kids ages 5 thru 15. Youngsters can pre-register by filling out the form below and mailing it to the Conservation office. **Please be aware that a parent's signature is required.** All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and provide their own tackle and bait. **Participation is limited to the first 200 registrants.**

Prizes will be presented for the biggest fish, the smallest fish and numerous other drawings. The prizes include everything from fishing gear to gift certificates. There will be free kids fishing tips booklets and other items for each youngster attending the derby. Lunch will also be provided for the kids from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m., following park cleanup.

### COMPLETE THE FORM, HAVE A PARENT SIGN IT, THEN MAIL OR DROP IT OFF TO REGISTER FOR THE **FREE FISHING DERBY!**

Mail to Page County Conservation Board, Courthouse, Clarinda, IA 51632  
For more information contact:  
Charly Stevens  
Page Co. Cons Bd, 542.3864

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#### OFFICIAL KIDS FISHING DERBY REGISTRATION FORM

Sponsored by Page County Conservation Board & Page County Optimist Clubs  
**June 6, 2009 – Pioneer Park – Rain or Shine**  
**Participation limited to first 200 registrants!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### RELEASE OF LIABILITY/PHOTO RELEASE

As parent or guardian of above named child, I certify that said child has my permission to attend and participate in the above mentioned Kids Fishing Derby, held on June 6, 2009 at Pioneer Park. In signing this form, I hereby waive and release all other participants, the host, sponsors, and all other officials or parties involved in the Derby from all claims and/or damage incurred in connection with this Kids Fishing Derby. I also grant the sponsor and co-sponsors the unconditional right to use the name, voice, and photographic likeness of the child in connection with any of their audio/video productions, articles or press releases, but not as an endorsement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## IOWA DNR WORKSHOPS OFFERED FOR BOYS & GIRLS THIS SUMMER

The *Hunting and Conservation Camp* allows boys ages 12-15 years of age to experience many activities available in Iowa's great outdoors. It is three days filled with being taught a variety of outdoor skills including archery, waterfowl hunting, and .22 rifle shooting, to name a few. The camps fill up fast and registration is on a first come-first served basis with a limit of 83 participants per camp. For more information, please contact your Pheasants Forever Chapter liaison Mike Meseke at 542.2887 or Ajay Winter at 641.747.8383. The dates for boys are June 24-26, 2009 or July 29-31, 2009. The camps are held at Springbrook Conservation Education Center north of Guthrie Center.

The *Outdoor Journey* camp is for girls ages 12-15 and is aimed at introducing outdoor skills such as archery, camping and outdoor survival, firearm safety and basic shooting. This camp is also to be held at Springbrook Conservation Education Center north of Guthrie Center. The dates for the girls' camps are June 10-12, 2009 or August 5-7, 2009. For more information, contact Pheasants Forever Chapter liaison Mike Meseke at 542.2887 or visit the DNR's website [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) under "camps and workshops."

## PAGE COUNTY CONSERVATION & IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CO-SPONSOR TWO SUMMER CAMPUS KIDS PROGRAMS

Going Green - Green is IN. Learn the importance of being earth friendly by Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling! Students will learn great ways to help the environment and do projects they can use at home! This class is for ages K-4th grade. This Campus Kids program is scheduled for June 16, 2009 from 9-11 a.m. on the Clarinda campus in the gym area. Contact IWCC at 542.5117 for registration details. Cost is \$10 per class.

Get Batty - Bats (not the ones we use to hit a ball) are everywhere! Are they really a bad thing? Learn about bats native to Southwest Iowa, where they live, and how they help the environment. We will also



discuss those crazy, creepy bats found in other parts of the world. This class is also

for kids K-4th grade. This Campus Kids program is scheduled for June 17, 2009 from 9-11 a.m. on

the Clarinda campus in the gym area. Contact IWCC at 542.5117 for registration details. Cost is \$10 per class.

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## EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR WILDLIFE WATCHERS

Have you ever wondered what the frogs calling from every road ditch on the first warm night in April are? Or what the earliest nesting birds in Iowa are? Ever wanted to take a more active role in wildlife conservation in Iowa? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then the Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program (VWMP) is for you! The VWMP is a series of workshops that train volunteers to collect yearly data on frogs and toads and/or raptor and colonial water bird nesting.

Both types of workshops are presented by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and a second sponsoring entity, like a local county conservation board.

The raptor workshop will have participants learning how to identify Iowa's breeding raptors and colonial water birds (herons, egrets, etc.), finding of nests and rookeries and what observations to make and how to report those observations.

The frog and toad call survey training will have participants learning how to identify Iowa's amphibians by sight and sound and then how to collect data on calling frogs and toads and reporting the data to the Diversity Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Information presented at these trainings will appeal to individuals young and old with an enthusiasm for the outdoors and an interest in observing wildlife. To host a workshop, a minimum of 10 paid participants would be needed. Page County Conservation would be interested in hosting a workshop in our area if enough interest is shown. If anyone is interested in receiving this training, please contact Charly Stevens at the PCCB office.

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE?

Are you looking for a project that will memorialize your loved one? Did that person love the outdoors or activities like camping, bird watching, gardening, fishing, or hiking?

Page County Conservation Board has many parks and wildlife areas with opportunities for memorial projects. Contact Rich Wallace or Charly Stevens at the Page County Conservation Office at 542.3864.

We can discuss what projects are available and what would best suit your needs.

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## NEW BLUEGILL AND CRAPPIE DAILY LIMIT DOES NOT APPLY TO PRIVATE LAKES AND PONDS

DNR has released new daily bag limits on bluegills and crappies that became effective on January 21, 2009 for all public waters in the state. The new bag limit does not apply to private farm ponds or private lakes.

“We have been getting questions on the private water aspect of the rule and there is some confusion there, but we specifically excluded private ponds and lakes from the pan fish bag limit,” said Mike Mason, Interim Chief of the Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau.

He said some questioned that if the pond was stocked with fish from the IA DNR that they would be required to abide by the limit, but that is not the case. “The rule does not apply to private ponds or lakes, only public waters of the state,” Mason said.

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## N-O-T-I-C-E

## NO DUMPING OF DOMESTIC PETS, INCLUDING CATS AND DOGS!

## IT IS ILLEGAL AND SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION

## DNR CONTACTS

### Page County DNR Conservation Officer

Deborah Smith  
712.520.0507

### Fremont County DNR Conservation Officer

Marlowe Wilson  
712.520.0506

### District Forester

Jeremy Cochran  
712.482.6245

[jeremy.cochran@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:jeremy.cochran@dnr.iowa.gov)

### Environmental Protection Division

Dan Stipe—DNR Field Office #4

712.243.1934

[dan.stipe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:dan.stipe@dnr.iowa.gov)

### Fisheries Biologist

Gary Sobotka  
641.464.3108  
[gary.sobotka@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:gary.sobotka@dnr.iowa.gov)

### Wildlife Biologist

Carl Priebe  
712.374.3133  
[carl.priebe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:carl.priebe@dnr.iowa.gov)

## BOTTLED OR TAP WATER

Most people in the United States have clean, safe tap water to drink. And yet companies that sell bottled water spend millions of dollars each year trying to get people to believe that their water is somehow better.

It takes more than 10 million barrels of oil to produce the plastic water bottles used in the United States each year. It takes another 11 million barrels to transport bottled water from factory to store. Using that much oil adds more than 5 million tons of carbon dioxide to the air, which increases global warming.

Only about one out of ten water bottles are recycled. In the United States, people throw away 22 billion water bottles every year.

To find out more about bottled water, go to [nwf.org/rangerrick](http://nwf.org/rangerrick).

With the way that economics are, here are several more energy saving tips. For example, most of us do not realize that our appliances can draw electricity when they're not turned on.

The energy that appliances use is called a phantom load, and it adds up to wasted money over time. In fact, in the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power electronics is consumed while they're turned off! TV's, cell phones, VCR's, microwaves, computers and printers, and all those battery chargers draw phantom loads. Consider connecting your appliances to a power strip that can be quickly turned off when items are not in use. These tips are from [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov).

## RECYCLE HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Ever wonder where you can recycle electronics that no longer work, compact fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, paint and other household waste? To find out, visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com). Simply enter the item you wish to recycle and your zip code in the Start Recycling search engine and you'll receive a list of recycling centers in your area. Spend a little time on this site and you'll find many easy ways to help make every day—Earth Day. Also contact your local landfill; they will assist you in proper disposal methods.

*“There appears to be a deeply embedded uneasiness in our culture about throwing away junk that can be reused. Perhaps, in part, it is guilt about consumption. Perhaps it also feels unnatural. Mother Nature doesn't throw stuff away. Dead trees, birds, beetles and elephants are pretty quickly recycled by the system.”*

— William Booth

*“The case for recycling is strong. The bottom line is clear. Recycling requires a trivial amount of our time. Recycling saves money and reduces pollution. Recycling creates more jobs than land-filling or incineration. And a largely ignored, but very important consideration, recycling reduces our need to dump our garbage in someone else's backyard.”*

—David Morris

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## MORE RECYCLING FACTS

- If the pilgrims had six packs, we'd still have the plastic rings from them yet today.
- 600+ Iowa communities have curbside recycling.
- In 2002, 35% of all waste generated in Iowa was diverted from landfills.
- Every minute of every day over 120,000 aluminum cans are recycled in the U.S.
- Americans discard enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet every three months.
  - According to the EPA, aluminum cans represent less than 1% of the nation's solid waste stream.
  - Most bottles and jars contain at least 25% recycled glass. Glass never wears out—it can be recycled forever.
  - Americans throw away enough used motor oil every year to fill 120 supertankers.
  - If all used motor oil in the U.S. were recycled, it would result in a savings of 1.3 million barrels of oil per day.