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www.co.page.ia.us

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PAGE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Spencer, Shenandoah  
Don Priebe, Shenandoah  
Tom Johnson, Essex  
George Crawford, Clarinda  
Ron Bitting, Clarinda

BOARD STAFF

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

SEASONAL CREW

Tom Berrier, Conservation Aide  
Terry Broyles, Conservation Aide  
Don Robinson, Conservation Aide

**CONSERVATION CONNECTION**

*Quarterly Newsletter of the Page County Conservation Board*  
*(Partially funded using REAP funds)*  
April-June 2010

**CONSERVATION HEADQUARTERS HAS NEW HOME**

Yes, we have moved from the courthouse to the former AmVets facility located at 2039 Highway 71 (1 mile north of Clarinda). The move was initiated by the need to accommodate several other offices within the courthouse and since we have this building, the Conservation Board felt it would be a good and responsible move. The office was relocated during the last part of January.

The office is sitting on approximately seven acres of ground and to the west are the Nodaway River and a river access.

We have open spaces and have plans to alter the habitat by planting some additional trees/shrubs, flower beds and would ideally like to plant approximately two acres of prairie and include some educational components and a short walking trail. The west boundary needs cleared a bit to offer a river view.

This building isn't new to the general public; the staff of the Conservation Board has held summer day camps, general summer programs for adults and youth including snakes, bats, antler scoring, and beekeeping to name a few. The layout of the building may allow for extra exhibits, that due to restricted space in the former office were not able to be displayed. The staff hopes to include a few new displays and some touch/texture displays for the younger set. Stay tuned, we are planning on hosting an open house to show off our new office.

We just received word that Clarinda Trees Forever has been awarded a Trees For Kids grant which is sponsored by the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau, MidAmerican Energy, Alliant Energy, and Trees Forever, to name a few, that will allow a planting at the Conservation Headquarters of a mixed variety of trees, but most importantly the goal is to educate students about the value of

trees and to encourage tree planting projects at schools and other public areas around the state. The planting will involve Clarinda 4th graders, members of the Clarinda Trees Forever, and other volunteers as part of an Arbor Day activity scheduled for Friday, April 30th at 10 a.m. All are welcome to come and celebrate Arbor Day at the Conservation Center.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the grounds maintenance crew of Iowa Western Community College, Clarinda Campus, for the large donation and delivery of Prickly Pear Cactus which will be planted around the signage at the Conservation Center.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EARTH WEEK 2010 APRIL 17-24

Help protect planet Earth with proper medication disposal for Earth Week 2010! Every year, medications are being placed in the garbage or flushed down the drain into our water supplies, which can have harmful effects on our environment. Iowa pharmacies are participating in *TakeAway*, a medication disposal program, to offer a safe and environmentally friendly way to dispose of unused or expired medications. **YOU** are invited to participate. For additional information, go to [www.iarx.org/takeaway](http://www.iarx.org/takeaway) to locate one of 330 participating pharmacies. Iowa is the first in the nation to launch this statewide prescription drug disposal program.

### APRIL 24TH RAPP PARK CLEANUP DAY

May Mentoring group will be at Rapp Park conducting a cleanup at the park. We will gladly accept all volunteers.

### APRIL 30TH ARBOR DAY

Did you know that Arbor Day is the only federal holiday that looks to the future? Planting a tree shows faith in the future. It's also a terrific way to commemorate a birth, death, anniversary or other special event. Plan to attend the Arbor Day activity with Clarinda 4th graders for a morning of planting at the Conservation headquarters.



### MAY 31ST OFFICE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

### JUNE 4-6 FREE FISHING WEEKEND

During these three days, Iowa residents may fish and possess within legal limits, without a fishing license. All other fishing regulations shall apply.



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 13, 2010  
May 11, 2010  
June 8, 2010

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. Please help us keep our costs down and make sure you get your newsletter on time by keeping us informed of any address change. You may also request the newsletter electronically. Email [pagecocons@iowatelecom.net](mailto:pagecocons@iowatelecom.net) or call (712) 542-3864. The newsletter can also be accessed from the website at [www.co.page.ia.us](http://www.co.page.ia.us).

### JUNE 5 RICHARD GLASPIE'S FREE FISHING DERBY FOR KIDS

A free fishing derby will be held at Pioneer Park from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for youth ages 5 through 15. Prizes will be awarded for participation. Registration forms will be distributed to local schools in early May. A registration form is also included as an insert in this issue of the newsletter.

## KIDS' KORNER

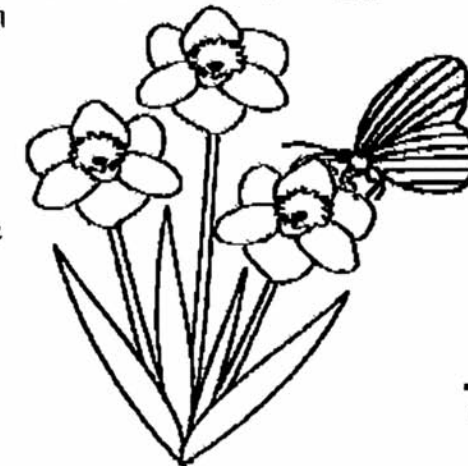
Spring is an exciting time of year. This year watch what the birds are doing by filling an onion bag with strings, cotton or wool. Check the bag everyday and notice how quickly the material disappears and watch to see who is making off with the nest filling material.

Start a nature journal- record when you notice things like the first Robins or goslings. When do the flowers in your yard start to emerge and when they bloom. When is the first time you are awakened by the birds outside your window? When did you hear your first frog song? Catch it and draw it.

Make a sunflower house! Ask your parents permission to dig a five foot circle in a patch of the yard. Buy a packet of tall sunflowers. Plant the seeds in the circle that you dug. Watch and water them every week. By the height of the summer you will have your own special area to play in.

Use the alphabet code to solve the secret message about spring. Name \_\_\_\_\_

A = 1	F = 6	K = 11	P = 16	U = 21
B = 2	G = 7	L = 12	Q = 17	V = 22
C = 3	H = 8	M = 13	R = 18	W = 23
D = 4	I = 9	N = 14	S = 19	X = 24
E = 5	J = 10	O = 15	T = 20	Y = 25
				Z = 26



1 16 18 9 12

19 8 15 23 5 18 19

Spring is full of new growth in both plants and animals. Color in and solve the spring search from Enchanted Learning.



2 18 9 14 7 13 1 25

6 12 15 23 5 18 19



©EnchantedLearning.com

Answers: april, showers, bring, may, flowers

## CONSERVATION BOARD HAS AN EDUCATIONAL MASCOT



Mike Anderson,  
Easter's True  
Value Manager,  
(left) and Bee

Maybe you've been to some Conservation outings where Charly Stevens, staff member, was accompanied by a very large bumble bee. Through a generous donation from Mike Anderson, store manager of Easter's True Value in Clarinda, the Page County Conservation Board has an educational mascot that will attend some programs at nursing homes, schools, etc. as given by staff members.

The bee costume was originally given to Mike Anderson several years ago from friends at the local radio station and then was made available for rental at the store. According to Mike Anderson, "Over the past several years Charly had rented the costume for her naturalist programs and when I was approached about selling or donating the costume towards her educational programs, I saw it as an opportunity for her to expand the programs and I donated the costume to the Board."

The bee is still nameless so a naming contest will be in the works. So, if you see a rather large yellow and black bumble bee at any County Conservation sponsored program, leave the fly swatter at home—this one is harmless.

## PROJECT AWARE COMING TO THE NISHNABOTNA RIVER



Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) will be coming to the Nishnabotna River in July. AWARE is a river cleanup that began in 2003 on the Maquoketa River in Eastern Iowa with approximately one hundred volunteers. Since this time AWARE, with the assistance of 1,500 volunteers, has cleaned up 500 river miles, removing 1,700 cubic yards of trash.

This year the Department of Natural Resources has selected the West and East Nishnabotna Rivers. Volunteers from all over Iowa and beyond will come to our part of the state to help remove trash from the river. In the past four years between 24 and 47 tons of trash have been removed from each river. 72% of that trash was recycled.

Project AWARE uses volunteers, canoes and kayaks to clean up rivers. As people move down the river they pick up trash. These pieces of trash can be as small as old cans and bottles to objects like vehicles and appliances. It takes a lot of teamwork to accomplish the trash removal. Dumpsters are placed in various locations along the route; whatever can be recycled is recycled. A route is set for each day. People will camp overnight and all meals are provided. The registration fee covers all catered meals. All camping equipment is loaded into a truck and transported to the next camping site. In the evenings, volunteers may sit around a fire and visit or have the option of attending some educational sessions.

The dates for 2010 are July 10-17. Volunteers can come along for the whole time or just one day. The schedule hasn't been finalized as of this printing, but more details will be available soon. If you are interested in joining Project AWARE 2010 please contact Brian Soenen at 515.205.8587 or Brian.Soenen@dnr.iowa.gov. You may also check the official Project AWARE website at [www.iowaprojectaware.com](http://www.iowaprojectaware.com).

## ATTENTION SOUTHWEST IOWA BOWHUNTERS

Come join in the fun! This will be our first full 3-D season and should be a fun one. We have a 40 target course that is located at Ross Park, which is about 5 miles southeast of Shambaugh, Iowa. There are also three ponds that are loaded with fish, so bring the whole family and make a day of it. There will be food and drinks available at the shoots. Be sure and check our website for directions and updates. Dates could change due to weather conditions.

Shoot times are Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

There are five classes in which to participate: Bow hunter – dates are closed, Traditional – April 24-25, Women – May 29-30, Youth – June 26-27, Cubs – July 24-25, August 28-29, and September 25-26.

For more information go to [www.swiowa bowhunters.org](http://www.swiowa bowhunters.org).

## MOVING? HELP US FOLLOW YOU!

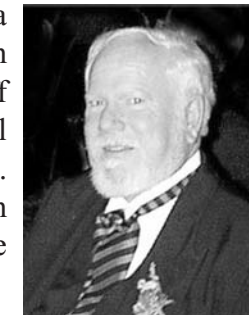


If you are moving or the post office is changing your address, please let our office know. We are anxious to keep you informed through our newsletter and want to continue to send it to you.

However, if we receive your newsletter back from the post office, we will assume you are no longer interested in receiving it and your name could be removed from the mailing list. A quick call, postcard or email to help us keep our records current allows us to continue to send you the newsletter. Our new email address is [pagecocons@iowatelecom.net](mailto:pagecocons@iowatelecom.net).

## LOSS OF A BOARD MEMBER

The Conservation Board lost a long-time board member in February. J.R. (Bob) Tunncliff was a board member from April 1985 through February 2010. His knowledge and interest in our natural resources will be missed.



## GEORGE CRAWFORD JOINS BOARD



George Crawford was appointed by the Page County Board of Supervisors to complete the term on the Page County Conservation Board left vacant by the death of Mr. Tunncliff. George is an avid outdoor enthusiast. He is active in many local organizations, including Pheasants Forever, where he is involved in efforts to protect and promote our valuable natural resources. We look forward to working with George in the years ahead.

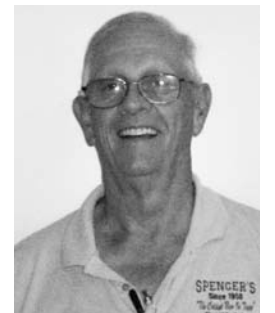
## CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS

The Page County Conservation Board is made up of five members who volunteer their time each month to ensure that the conservation program operates smoothly, is providing the best service possible and to conserve/protect our natural resources in Page County.



Don Priebe

Two members received service awards in late 2009. Don Priebe has been serving on the Conservation Board since 1999 (10-year service award) and Charles Spencer has been serving on the Board since 1984 (25-year service award). Thank you gentlemen for your service!



Charles Spencer

## RAPP PARK UPDATE

Fishing has been good at Rapp Park during the winter according to some all-weather fishermen who utilize the area. Rapp Park was an impressive site when the migration of Snow Geese and Pelicans came through. Progress has been made at running electricity into the park. There will be limited access off of Highway 48 this spring due to pending construction of a road to the campground. The southwest entrance into Rapp Park will be closed off at various times due to soft road conditions. We've also received word that the Conservation Board has been approved to receive a grant in the amount \$5,000 to be used for the purchase/installation of a handicapped fishing pier at Rapp Park also. The grant monies are awarded from the Page County Community Foundation.

## THE HISTORY OF JERKY

Drying meat and fruit is one of the oldest methods of preservation known to humankind. What was probably an accidental discovery allowed humans to both store food for long periods of time, as well as having an easily carried source of nutrition to take with them on journeys. Jerky is both flavorful, compact and almost any meat (and many other foods) can be made into jerky.

No one knows the true origins of dried meat, however it is assumed that early humans found that dried meat lasted a great deal longer than fresh meat and wasn't subject to decay and insect infestation that plagued the storage of fresh meat. While the dawn of jerky is mysterious there is evidence that it was being produced thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt. The word jerky comes from the Native (South) American Quechua term "ch'arki" (which means "dried meat") and was well received in Europe by the Spanish in the 1500's when it was introduced during the early conquest of the Americas.

Pemmican, a food made of dried meat, berries, and fat is a variation of jerky made by Native (North) Americans also and was valued by explorers of the New World. It was prized as a valuable source of nutrition by traders and explorers as they traveled areas without ready access to fresh supplies. Its light weight and longevity made it a superior food source as the world was tamed and settled. Today, jerky is done in carefully controlled environments with strict attention to the process due to modern sanitary requirements. It is no longer the hanging of a slab of meat on a line.

What is the shelf life of jerky? Up to 3 weeks at room temperature, up to 4 months in the refrigerator, and up to 8 months in the freezer.

Nutritional Facts Per Ounce: 94 calories, 12 grams protein, 1 gram carbohydrates, 4 grams total fat, 28 mg cholesterol and 398 mg sodium. (Source: Manataka American Indian Council)

## CAMPGROUNDS TO OPEN

It's about that time of year when calls start to come in asking about when the campgrounds will be opening. Our standard opening date is April 15, but it is all dependent upon weather conditions. Opening of the parks for the season will be posted on the website.

## DNR CONTACTS

### Page County DNR Conservation Officer

Deborah Smith  
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### Fremont County DNR Conservation Officer

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### District Forester

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### Fisheries Biologist

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### Wildlife Biologist

Carl Priebe  
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carl.priebe@dnr.iowa.gov

## SUPPORT CONSERVATION IN IOWA

Did you know that there are motor vehicle Natural Resource plates, also called REAP plates, available in two additional designs? The original plate features the Goldfinch (state bird) with the Wild Rose (state flower), another plate features a Pheasant and a third plate features the Bald Eagle. State officials have now released two more additional resource plates featuring a White-tailed Deer and Brook Trout.

The monies from the purchase of these plates support habitat, water quality, city, county and state parks, wildlife species of special concern and more. Contact your local county treasurer's office about obtaining these beautiful plates and supporting a good cause as well.



## IOWA RECEIVES AN ADDITIONAL 10,500 CRP ACRES TO BENEFIT QUAIL AND OTHER UPLAND BIRDS

Iowa producers can enroll up to 10,500 additional acres of cropland into the CRP program to benefit upland game birds and other small birds.

The program is designed to provide much needed habitat and brood rearing areas for quail, pheasant and songbirds in the state, while at the same time set aside programs to protect the most vulnerable land from soil erosion and improve water quality for everyone. Producers can sign up at any time at their local Farm Service Agency. However, it is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligible areas include cropland and cropland around the edges of existing grain fields. The average width of the enrolled areas must be between 30 and 120 feet wide. At least half of the field must be in crops. To be eligible, the land must have been cropped or considered cropped for four of the six years from 1996 to 2001.

Producers will not be able to enroll land that is used for turn rows, roads, or for storage of crops or equipment. In addition, cropland adjacent from a stream filter or buffer strip is not eligible. The enrolled areas must be seeded to a combination of native plants with at least four grass species and a combination of at least five wildflowers and legumes. Annual payments will be based on the average rental rates for the county. A combination of cost-share and incentive programs will pay up to 90% of the cost of establishing the field border. A sign-up bonus may also be available. The contract runs for 10 years.