We are on the web!
www.co.page.ia.us

The PCCB, in the provision of services and facilities to the public, does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, or handicap. If anyone believes that he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint with the PCCB at the address provided, or with the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

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

SUMMER CREW
Tom Berrier, Conservation Aide
Terry Broyles, Conservation Aide
Don Robinson, Conservation Aide
Terry Crowley, Conservation Aide
Charles Welch, Conservation Aide
Darren Kelley, Wabash Trace Crew Chief

Page County Conservation Board
112 East Main
Clarinda, IA 51632
Phone/Fax 712.542.3864

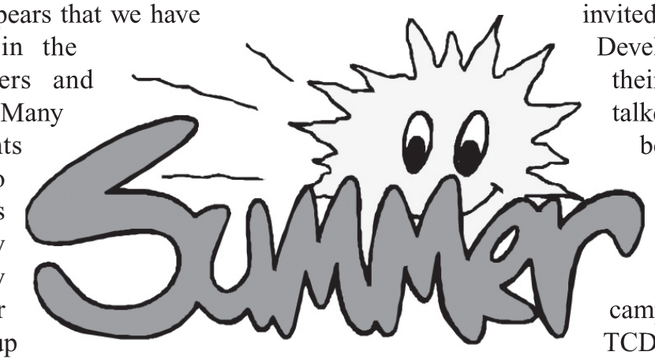
CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter of the Page County Conservation Board
(Partially funded using REAP funds)
August – October 2009

WHERE DID THE SUMMER GO?

The summer is almost over and the staff of PCCB has been working hard trying to keep up the mowing and other maintenance jobs at your county parks.

Once again, it appears that we have had an increase in the number of campers and other park users. Many of the comments from new visitors to our county parks were that they would be back; they enjoyed a particular park, etc. Or a group of people fishing and telling a staff member thanks for providing this service. I can't speak for the rest of the employees, but it makes me feel good knowing that what we're providing in an outdoor experience in Page County is appreciated.



Some updates on our county parks are warranted. We have installed some benches near the playground equipment so that parents can be extra close and watching their children at play. We have a contractor that will begin soon on repairing the roads in the parks. The weather the last few years has taken a toll on the asphalt.

At Rapp Park, the Board is continuing to work with the railroad to build a new crossing south of the existing one on Highway 48. If this crossing can be done, it will provide a smoother and safer transition into the park and the campground once they are established. Contractors will begin to lay out the road and rough out the campground sites. Work has also started on eliminating the steep dropoffs on the west and south banks.

Environmental education opportunities through the PCCB were few this summer. There were a lot of other activities for your child to be involved in and therefore day camps co-sponsored with IWCC and PCCB were cancelled due to low participation. Staff member Charly Stevens was invited to Turnbull Child Development Center for their day camps. We talked about bugs, read a book, watched a video and did a craft which was geared for 3 and 4 year olds. A second day camp was also held at TCDC for 5-12 year olds dealing with recycling and how we all can help the planet.

Late spring, in cooperation with the Iowa DNR, we hosted an antler measuring opportunity for deer hunters. Results and photos can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

The annual fishing derby co-sponsored by the Page County Optimist Clubs of Essex and Shenandoah and PCCB was a big hit again this year despite ominous weather prior to the start of the fishing derby. Those results and photos can also be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TURKEY COUNTING ANYONE?

The Iowa DNR is asking volunteers from across Iowa to participate in the **July-August Wild Turkey Survey**. The information gathered from the survey provides information into the status of Iowa's wild turkey population and the current nesting season. Observations should only be done during **July 1-August 31**. Most county conservation offices have forms or you can contact Todd Gosselink at (641) 774-2958. Forms should be returned to the DNR no later than September 15, 2009.

HUNTER SAFETY CLASS SCHEDULED FOR CLARINDA AREA

Classes will be held at the American Legion building at 107 West Washington in Clarinda beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2009 and continuing on the 15th, 17th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, and 26th. Hunter safety classes are mandatory for everyone born after January 1, 1972. Participants should be 12 years of age. For more information contact Charly Stevens at the PCCB office, 542-3864 or Maury Rarick at 542-3521. Classes are sponsored by the American Legion Post #98.

HUNTER SAFETY CLASS FOR SHENANDOAH AREA

Class is tentatively scheduled for September or October. Contact Charles Spencer at 246-4462 for more information.

REAP ASSEMBLY – OCTOBER 19, 2009

Plan to attend your REAP assembly at the Shenandoah Chamber and Industry Association located at 100 South Maple Street. The meeting is from 7-9 p.m. This meeting will include the counties of Page, Fremont, Mills and Montgomery. Regional REAP Assemblies are a must to attend for people interested in any facet of REAP. Seventeen assemblies are held every two years in the areas of Iowa's 17 Councils of Government. They are open public meetings at which information is given out regarding REAP expenditures, overall REAP budget is presented, as well as projects in the region that have been funded with REAP dollars.

Those attending shall identify opportunities for regional REAP projects and review/recommend changes to REAP policies, programs and funding.

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.

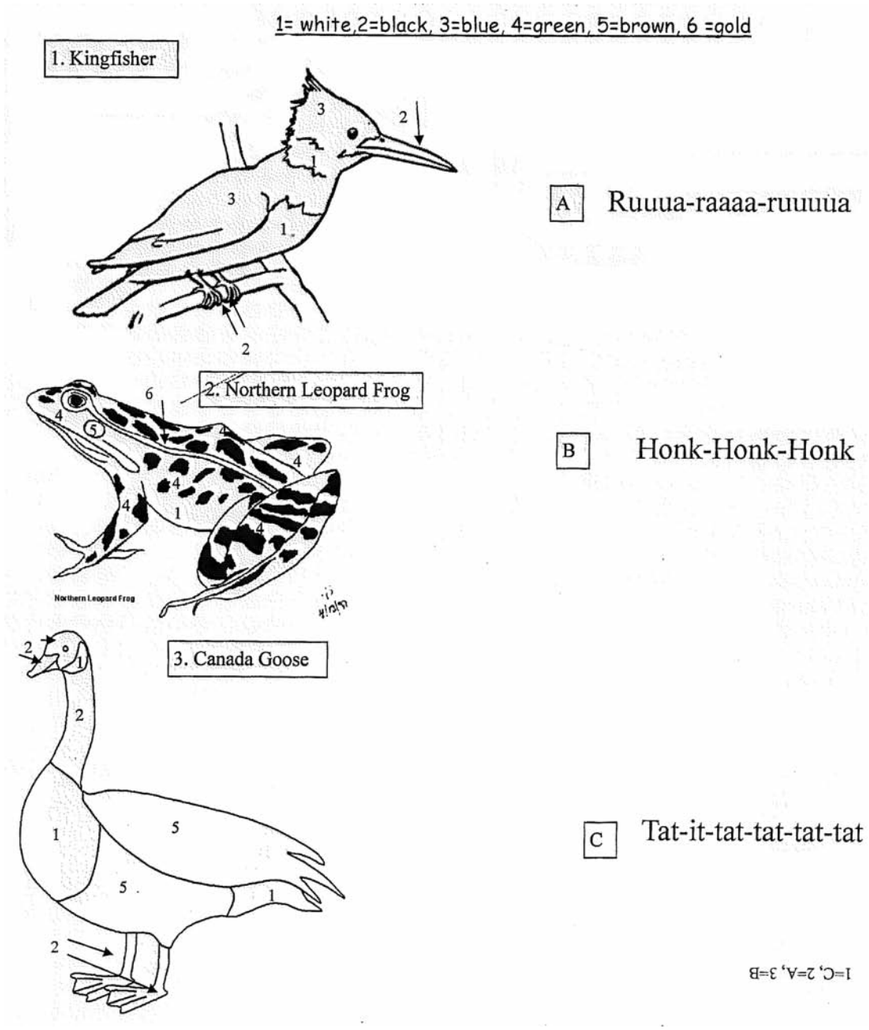
Please note these dates are subject to change:
August 11th
September 8th
October 13th

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 cstevens@co.page.ia.us or call (712) 542-3864. The newsletter can also be accessed from the website at www.co.page.ia.us.

Thank you to Derry Wolford for his donation of the bird nests and egg collection to the Page County Conservation Board as an educational exhibit.

KIDS' KORNER

Summer is full of catching frogs, fishing, swimming and enjoying other water loving activities. Can you match these water loving animals to the sounds they make? Color the animals by number.



FIREWOOD ALERT!

Keep exotic insect pests away from Iowa trees – Don't move firewood!

Exotic insect pests like the Emerald Ash Borer are major threats to Iowa's trees.

Emerald Ash Borer, a non-native beetle discovered in Michigan, kills ash trees. It can easily be transported to uninfested areas through movement of infested ash firewood.

To help protect Iowa from the Emerald Ash Borer and other exotic insects:

- **Use local sources of firewood**
- **Do not bring firewood from home**
- **If you have already brought firewood from home, do not take it back home or leave it here – burn it!**

For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer:

Contact the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau's Forest Health Forester at (515) 233-1161 or the Iowa Department of Ag & Land Stewardship's State Entomologist at (515) 725-1470

Visit Iowa DNR's website at http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/pdf/invasive/borer.pdf

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

Environmental Protection Division
Dan Stipe–DNR Field Office #4
712.243.1934
dan.stipe@dnr.iowa.gov

Fisheries Biologist
Gary Sobotka
641.464.3108
gary.sobotka@dnr.iowa.gov

Wildlife Biologist
Carl Priebe
712.374.3133
carl.priebe@dnr.iowa.gov

SAVE YOUR CORN COBS AFTER THAT PICNIC!

Set the cobs aside to dry, then twist a wire around the cob securely as a hanger, and then smear the center section of the cob with peanut butter or lard. Leave the ends bare so the birds have a place to perch. Hang the cob from a shepherd's hook for chickadees, wrens and other birds to discover.

BIRDS AND WINDOWS – NOT AN IDEAL COMBINATION

Every year thousands of birds die by colliding with windows. Birds can't see clear glass. They mistake reflected vegetation for additional habitat. You can help make windows more "bird-safe" by placing decals on the windows, soaping windows during migration periods or installing awnings or screens.

WILDLIFE AS PETS A REMINDER

Once again, a reminder is being sent that when you encounter wildlife – be it a newborn fawn or a nest of rabbits – just leave it alone. When we come across what we assume is an abandoned animal because we don't see the adult close by, we pick up the animal and take it home. This goodwill gesture is usually an automatic death sentence for our wildlife because we try to raise it; but only until it becomes a pest, gets sick, bites someone or we get tired of it. Then we're all for dumping it back into the wild, where it may not be able to fend for itself. Again, just leave it alone, more often than not, mom is close by.

If you come across an animal that is injured, please do not handle the animal yourself, but make contact with the local DNR officer or Conservation personnel.

SEEDLING CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

The 2009-2010 tree seedling catalog from the State Forest Nursery is now available. As in past years, Page County Conservation has taken orders and compiled them into a large order with delivery expected in April. The trees come in two sizes: 8-16" and 17"-larger. There are also specialty packets available including Turkey, Quail, and Songbird. For best selection, you should order early. If you're wondering about cost share assistance, please contact your District Forester, Jeremy Cochran, at (712) 482-6245 for available programs. Interested persons may start placing orders beginning August 1st. If ordering from PCCB, please contact the office at (712) 542-3864.

NEW SOUTHWEST IOWA BOWHUNTERS

Guest Columnist – Ron Wyllie

Finally, SW Iowa has a 3-D club up and running. Plans for shoots are being made as of this writing. SWIB hopes to hold at least one open shoot yet this summer with future plans for several open shoots starting in the spring of 2010.

Officers have been elected and volunteers have been assigned some start-up duties. The following officers have been elected: Chair–Ty Green, Vice Chair–Todd Weber, Treasurer/Secretary–Jeff Slaymaker, Board Members–Mike Summers, Kasey Herzberg, Alex Parrott, Kevin McCall, and Scott Downey.

SWIB would like to thank the Page County Conservation Board for allowing SWIB to set up at 3-D course at Ross Park. It is doubtful that we would have a 3-D course without the cooperation of the Conservation Board. Club members are currently clearing shooting lanes and getting the course ready for shoots. Anyone wanting to help out is certainly welcome.

SWIB members have been canvassing the committee asking for target sponsors and there are approximately 20 target sponsors thus far. If you would like to sponsor a target, please call Ty Green at (712) 523-3655 or Ron Wyllie at (712) 542-7779.

SWIB has held their club meetings at B&D Outdoors and Rob Marsh, owner of B&D Outdoors, will allow the club to hold indoor archery shoots, and it looks like there may be a winter archery league to be held at B&D Outdoors as well.

RESULTS OF OFFICIAL ANTLER SCORING

An opportunity to have antlers scored was March 21, 2009 at the Conservation Center north of Clarinda. DNR personnel assisting with the scoring were Carl Priebe, Doug Phillips, Dick Paul, Doug Clayton, Marlowe Wilson, Deb Smith, Michael Miller, Jeremy King and Toni Martin. The event was co-sponsored by the Iowa DNR and Page County Conservation.

Approximately 61 racks were measured using Boone & Crockett or Pope & Young methods. The ones that met the minimum standards were sent on to the Des Moines office to be entered in the Iowa Big Game Records and will be awarded a certificate. Those people were: Skip Davison - 181 4/8 (muzzle-loader), Brian Pratt - 154 3/8 (shotgun), Derrick Walter - 163 3/8 (shotgun), Mike Wheeler - 142 1/8 (archery), Jared Spunaugle - 155 1/8 (shotgun), Jerry Meyer - 157 3/8 (shotgun) and a non-typical with a shotgun at 173 2/8, Chad Wellhausen - 114 1/8 (archery), Nick Gray - 143 5/8 (archery) and Matt Kimpston - 145 (archery).

A **big thank you to George Crawford** for his donation towards the refreshments.

Hunting Seasons	2009-2010
Youth Rooster Pheasant[1]	Oct. 24-25
Rooster Pheasant	Oct. 31-Jan. 10, 2010
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 31-Jan. 31, 2010
Gray Partridge	Oct. 10-Jan. 31, 2010
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 3-Jan. 31, 2010
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Sept. 5-Feb. 28, 2010
Rabbit (Jack)	Oct. 31-Nov. 30
Squirrel (Fox & Gray)	Sept. 5-Jan. 31, 2010
Groundhog[5]	Jun. 15-Oct. 31
Crow	Oct. 15-Nov. 30 and Jan. 14-Mar. 31, 2010
Pigeon[4]	Oct. 1-Mar. 31, 2010
Coyote[5]	continuous open

[1] Residents age 15 or younger
[4] Within 100 yards of buildings & bridges, all year
[5] Hunted on small game or furharvester license

Furbearer Season	
Raccoon, Opossum, Badger, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red & Gray)	Nov. 7-Jan. 31, 2010
Bobcats	Nov. 7-Jan. 31, 2010

Trapping Season	
Coyote, Mink[3], Muskrat[3], Weasel, Striped Skunk, Badger, Opossum Fox (Red & Gray), Raccoon	Nov. 7-Jan. 31, 2010
Beaver[3]	Nov. 7-Apr. 1, 2010
Otter[1,3]	Nov. 7-Jan. 31, 2010
Bobcat[2]	Nov. 7-Jan. 31, 2010
Civet Cat (Spotted Skunk)	continuous closed
Gray Wolf	continuous closed

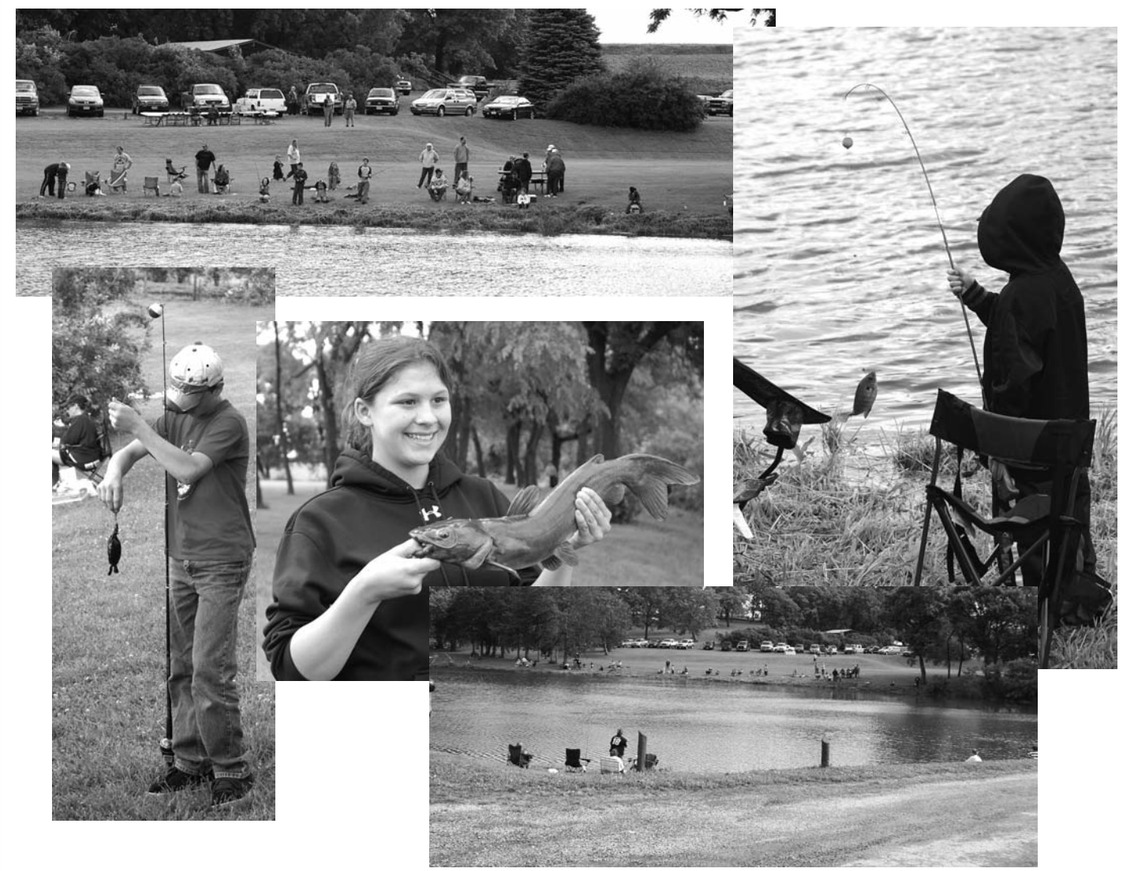
[1] Two per licensed furharvester
[2] One per season per licensed furharvester, hunted or trapped
[3] Trapped only

Deer Hunting Season	
Youth[6]	Sept. 19-Oct. 4
Disabled[1]	Sept. 19-Oct. 4
Archery	
Early Split	Oct. 1-Dec. 5
Late Split	Dec. 21-Jan. 10, 2010
Early Muzzleloader[2,6]	Oct. 17-25
Late Muzzleloader	Dec. 21-Jan 10, 2010
Shotgun	
Season 1	Dec. 5-9
Season 2	Dec. 12-20
November Antlerless[3,6]	Nov. 27-29
Resident January Antlerless[3,6]	Jan. 11-31, 2010
Nonresident January Antlerless[3]	Jan. 11-31, 2010
Nonresident Holiday	Dec. 24-Jan. 2, 2010

[1] Requires affidavit on file with DNR
[2] Until quota is reached (7,500)
[3] Until county antlerless quota is reached
[6] Residents only

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FISHING DERBY

Despite an earlier outburst of rain, 86 kids made it to Pioneer Park on Saturday, June 6, 2009 to participate in the annual Fishing Derby, co-sponsored by the Page County Optimist Clubs and Page County Conservation Board, and as part of the Iowa DNR's free fishing weekend.

Prizes were awarded for the largest and smallest fish in each age category. In the 5-7 year old group Remington Richardson, of Clarinda, reeled in a one pound, 2 ounce bass and R.J. Rost, of Farragut, brought in a two ounce bluegill. Also in that age group was Braden Knight, of Shenandoah, with a turtle weighing one pound, eight ounces. In the 8-10 year old group Ash Baumli, of Clarinda, caught a one pound catfish with Josh Stevens (Alexander) catching a two ounce bluegill. In the 11-13 year old group the big one was caught by Thomas Rice, of Shenandoah, with a one pound, two ounce bass and Austin Larson, of Shenandoah, had the small catch with a mighty one ounce bluegill. In the 14-15 year old group Felicia Monson, of Essex, caught a whopping three pound, thirteen ounce catfish and Brandon Meyers, of Clarinda, had a six ounce bluegill. In all, 62 fish were caught, measured, weighed, and released as per regulations, except for the catfish, which was legal length to keep.

The Optimist Clubs and the Page County Conservation Board would like to thank the following who donated to the fishing derby either with prizes, food, or volunteered their time to make it a good day for the kids; TierOne Bank (Shenandoah), McCoy Locker/Don McCoy (Northboro), Brownfield Brothers (Blanchard), Wal-Mart (Shenandoah), First National Bank (Shenandoah/Farragut), City National Bank (Shenandoah), Eaton's Community Involvement Team, and Charles Welch and B&D Outdoors (for having worms available). Every youth participating in the fishing derby took home a prize.