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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

FALL CREW

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

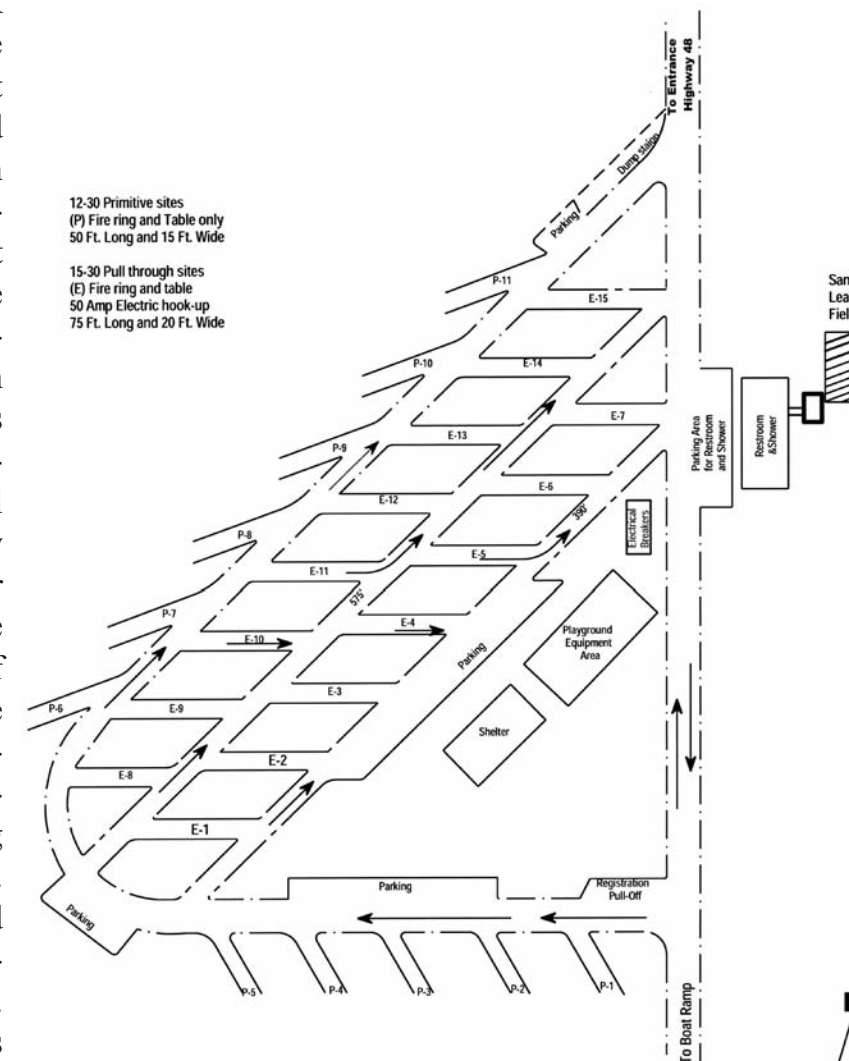
**CONSERVATION CONNECTION**

Quarterly Newsletter of the Page County Conservation Board  
(Partially funded using REAP funds)  
December 2009 - February 2010

**LANDSCAPE AT RAPP PARK IS CHANGING**

Have you been out to Rapp Park and Recreation Area lately to see the changing landscape? The largest body of water on the west side had the south and west banks cut down which were vertical walls with a 15-foot drop to the water's surface; it has now been sloped to a 45 degree angle and then large sections of rip-rap were placed for protection from the wave and wind erosion. This armoring of the shoreline will significantly reduce the erosion of the soil as well as provide habitat for many water species, including fish, other amphibians and shoreline birds. The west and south banks are also part of the trail being developed along the perimeter of the park. In the reshaping of the west bank, it was also leveled out making the future hiking and biking trails a smoother surface. It will be seeded to grass for now and in the future we hope to have a limestone surface. See photos on page 4.

Another project being developed is the park entrance off of Highway 48. Approximately ¼ mile of roadway is being built up to engineer grade specifications for use as the main entrance and park road to the future campground. The campground area has been laid out; tentative plans are to develop up to 30 pull-thru sites with 50 amp electrical service and the potential for 20 primitive sites. Both of the projects are still in the construction phase and have numerous other aspects, such as hauling gravel in for a road base, plus grading work to have a final surface before the road will be opened up for motor vehicles.



**RAPP CAMPGROUND  
Tentative Layout**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Conservation Board office will be closed on December 24-25 and January 1. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

### HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE

January 10 – remember to purchase your new hunting and fishing licenses and pick up a copy of the 2010 fishing regulations.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**FEBRUARY 20, 2010**

Annual Pheasants Forever banquet – for more information contact Stanley Johnson at 712.542.4544 or Steve Wichman at 712.303.7484.

### MARCH 20, 2010

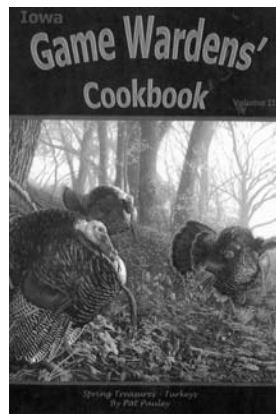
Bird Nesting Monitoring Workshop  
Workshop and registration materials are in this newsletter or available by contacting the Conservation Office at 542.3864. Pre-registration is required.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 110th Annual Christmas Bird Count begins on December 14, 2009 and continues through January 5, 2010. Go to [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc) for details if you want to take part in this adventure. For over 100 years, the Christmas bird count has made “citizen scientists” out of average bird watchers. This is the longest-running wildlife census.

### GAME WARDENS' COOKBOOKS AVAILABLE

Check out this cookbook filled with recipes ranging from salads and soups to desserts and main dishes, compiled by Iowa Conservation Officers statewide. These cookbooks are available for \$15 from any conservation officer. Make checks payable to IFG-COA. As of this printing, the Page County Recorder's Office and Page County Conservation Office each have a limited supply.



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:

December 8, 2009  
January 12, 2010  
February 9, 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 [cstevens@co.page.ia.us](mailto: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](http://www.co.page.ia.us).

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who have donated time, equipment and/or materials this quarter. Bill Annan – donation of man hours and equipment for project at Rapp Park. Helen Bosley – donation of seven taxidermy mounts to the Conservation Office. Clarinda Kum & Go – donation of approximately 155 bags of cedar mulch.

# KID'S PAGE

## WINTER

How many words can you  
make from the word  
**WINTER?**

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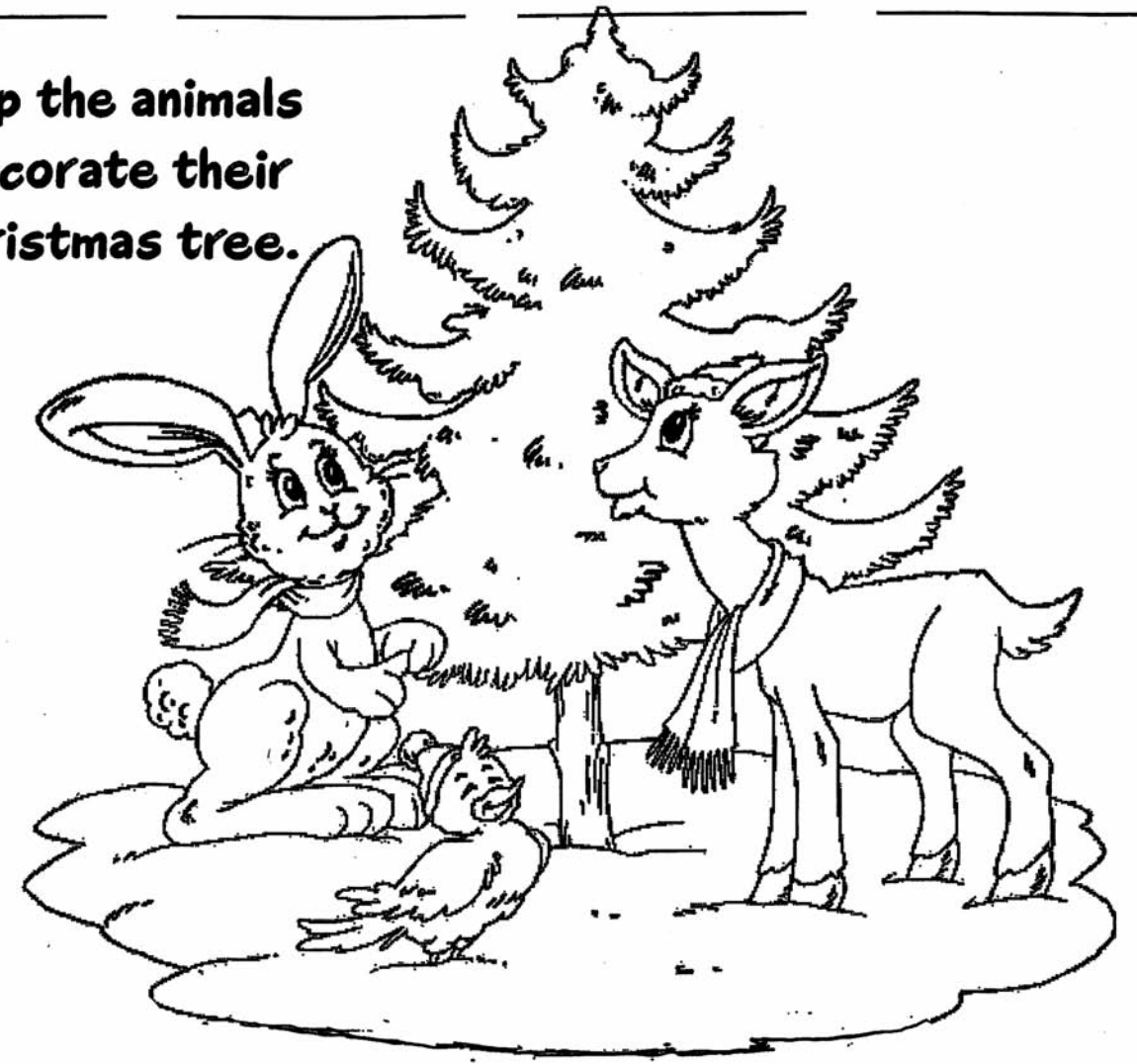
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**Help the animals  
decorate their  
Christmas tree.**



## EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR WILDLIFE WATCHERS

Ever wondered what the earliest nesting birds in Iowa are? Or why Herons nest in groups? Ever wanted to take a more active role in wildlife conservation in Iowa? If you answered yes to these questions, then Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program (VWMP) is for you! The VWMP is a series of workshops that train volunteers to collect yearly data on raptor and colonial waterbird nesting.

A bird nest monitoring training workshop will be put on by the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program and the Page County Conservation Board at the Conservation Center on Highway 71 north of Clarinda on March 20. The six hour Raptor and Colonial Waterbird Nesting workshop will be held from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Participants will learn how to identify Iowa's breeding raptors and colonial waterbirds (herons, egrets, etc.), how to find nests and rookeries, what observations to make and how to report those observations.

Information presented at trainings will appeal to adults with an enthusiasm for the outdoors and an interest in observing wildlife. Pre-registration is required with a \$5.00 fee. For information on how to register and other details, please visit [www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/diversity/vwmp.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/diversity/vwmp.html) or contact Stephanie Shepherd at 515.432.2823 extension 102 or [stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov). The registration form is also included as an insert in this newsletter.

## MYCOUNTYPARKS.COM

If you're planning a camping trip (or other outdoor adventure) next year in Iowa, there's a new resource you'll definitely want to check out: [www.MyCountyParks.com](http://www.MyCountyParks.com). This website is the gateway to information about parks and events in most of our 99 county conservation departments. People can gain information about the nearly 1,800 county parks, natural areas and historical sites in the state.

You can search for campsites, cabins and events by county or statewide. A few counties are even taking online reservations.

Not online? You can purchase an "Outdoor Adventure" guide featuring all 99 counties for just \$5.00 at the PCCB office.

## DNR CONTACTS

### Page County DNR Conservation Officer

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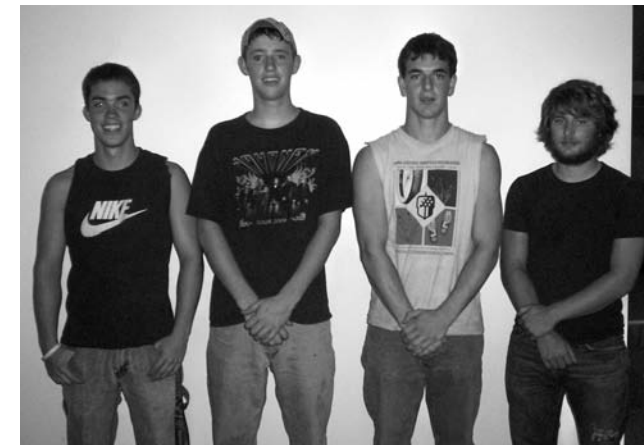
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## WABASH TRACE SUMMER WORK CREW

IA Natural Heritage Foundation Reprint  
Photo courtesy of PCCB



Five hardworking young men from Southwest Iowa maintained the Wabash Trace Nature Trail this summer.

This is an annual program managed by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Southwest Iowa Nature Trails and Page County Conservation Board. The program provides local youth with experience in the conservation field as well as a paycheck during the summer.

They trimmed trees, brush, and made flood damage repairs along the Wabash Trail and assisted with SWINT trail events. The crew is funded by a grant from the DOT's Youth Corp program.

Crew included (from left) Crew Leader Darren Kelley, Christian Olson, Jerry Irwin, Zach Wright and Eric Sorensen (not pictured).

## PAGE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD RECEIVES GRANT FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF SOUTHWEST IOWA

Page County Conservation Board was one of twelve non-profit agencies to receive a grant in one of the qualified areas of civic, cultural, health, education and social services.

Page County agency representatives received their checks mid-November. During a brief check distribution activity, the Foundation Board honored the non-profit agencies for their individual efforts to provide a better quality of life for the residents and for building stronger communities in Page County.

The Page County Community Foundation is a countywide community foundation. When there are countywide funds to distribute, the Board meets to make the grants. Board members are comprised of the Clarinda Foundation and the Greater Shenandoah Foundation. The Page County Community Foundation invests and administers these funds and makes the funds available each year for distribution to qualified organizations. According to Jan Billings, chair, "This is an annual granting process."

Page County Conservation Board applied for funding to replace some much needed picnic tables at Nodaway Valley Park. There has been an increase in usage at the shelter houses for family reunions, weddings, church gatherings, school field trips and Glenn Miller Festival visitors and we felt that this would be a valuable project, according to Charly Stevens, Naturalist, with the Page County Conservation Board. The Conservation Board received \$2,630.00 for picnic table replacement.

## RECOMMENDED MINIMUM ICE THICKNESS (GUIDELINES FOR NEW CLEAR ICE ONLY)

Practice ice safety at all times when on the ice. Look out for honeycombed or dark-colored ice and remember that underwater springs and currents can weaken the ice. Snow also insulates ice and may cause it to weaken. Watch for underwater structures which may retain heat and weaken the ice. No ice is without some risks...minimize your risk.

If the ice is 2" thick or less – STAY OFF!

4" thick – human weight

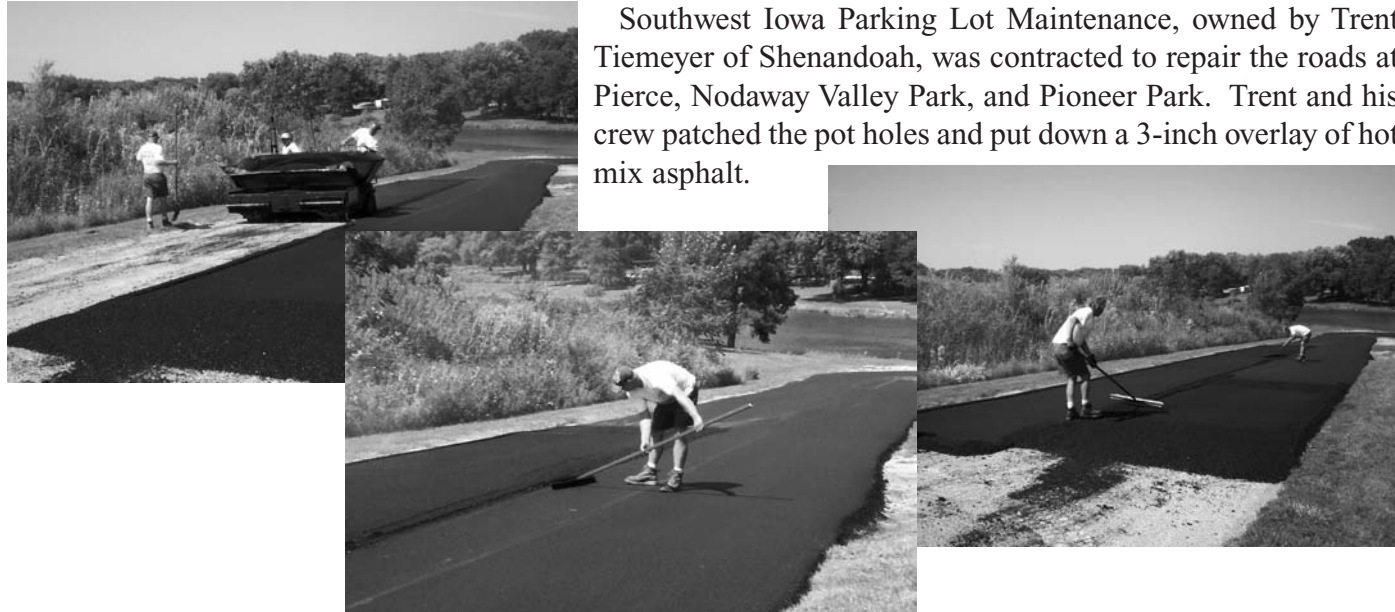
6" thick – snowmobile or ATV

8"-12" thick – small compact car

12"-15" thick – full size pickup

### ROAD REPAIR AT THE PARKS

Southwest Iowa Parking Lot Maintenance, owned by Trent Tiemeyer of Shenandoah, was contracted to repair the roads at Pierce, Nodaway Valley Park, and Pioneer Park. Trent and his crew patched the pot holes and put down a 3-inch overlay of hot mix asphalt.



### RAPP PARK WEST BANK CONVERSION

Work was started late August with the leveling of the west bank at Rapp Park. These photos were taken looking west bound and seeing the vertical bank that needed reducing to a 45 degree angle. With the leveling of that bank, it was then graded down as part of the hiking/biking trail, not to be used for vehicular traffic. Lastly, rip-rap was placed to reduce the erosion of the bank caused by wind and wave action.



### MEMORIAL BENCH DONATED AT RAPP PARK

A bench has been donated and placed at Rapp Park in memory of Jeff Bain, formerly of Essex. Jeff was an avid fisherman and could be found fishing at his favorite place. Pictured (left to right) Zo Anna Welchans (aunt), David Bain (father), and Judy Powers (aunt).



### AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM RECERTIFIES LOCAL FORESTLAND

The Page County Conservation Board knows that productive forestland with clean water, healthy wildlife habitat, and an opportunity for recertification benefits all Iowans and protects the environment. The Tree Farm sign at the entrance to Nodaway Valley Park proves it.

Nodaway Valley Park was first certified as a Tree Farm in 1988. The recent recertification demonstrates their commitment to practicing sound forestry by passing a rigorous inspection by a professional forester and pledging to continue the practice of sustainable forestry. Sustainable forestry means managing our forests to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic which integrates the reforestation, managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, wildlife and fish habitat and aesthetics.

American Tree Farm System is the world's oldest and largest volunteer sustainable forestry certification program. It includes a nationwide community of 24 million acres of privately owned forestland and over 90,473 family forest owners who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship, in 46 states. These forestland owners are key to forest resources for future generations.

More than 4,400 volunteer inspecting foresters help provide woodland improvement plans for tree farmers. Inspecting forester Jeremy Cochran, Iowa Department of Natural Resources says, "We need more forestland owners to care about improving their forests responsibly. Less than twenty percent of Iowa forestland owners manage their property with a forester's advice or a written plan. More tree farmers are needed to lead others in the right direction."

To learn more about forest improvement in Iowa, call 712.482.6245 or visit the Bureau of Forestry website at [iowadnr.gov/forestry](http://iowadnr.gov/forestry).

The green and white Tree Farm diamond is the sign of good forestry. Pictured are Naturalist, Charly Stevens and District Forester, Jeremy Cochran.



### 2009 YOUTH DUCK HUNT

*Submitted by Marlowe Wilson, Fremont County Conservation Officer*

On October 3rd, 2009 the Iowa DNR and Nishnabotna Chapter of Ducks Unlimited held the annual Youth Duck Hunt on the Riverton Wildlife Area. There were 24 youth hunters who participated. The youth attendance was up from 2008, the event was a success and the youth hunters appeared to have a good time.

The morning started with everyone meeting at the headquarters at the Riverton Wildlife Area. The youth hunters were checked in and assigned to their adult mentor hunters. The hunters were loaned a gun to use if they didn't have one and given a box of steel shot for the hunt. The groups then headed to the marsh to their chosen spots. The marsh held some ducks, but not large numbers as years' past youth hunts. The hunters met back at the headquarters at about 9:30 a.m. to show off their bounty and get firsthand knowledge on how to properly clean their birds. Some of the youth hunters had a duck or two, some had shots without connecting and unfortunately some did not have a chance to shoot at a duck. The group had an early lunch of Godfather's pizza and soda. The youth hunters were then given the opportunity to try their hand at shooting clay birds. There was a short informational seminar given on duck identification. Each youth hunter was given a mallard decoy and an Iowa DNR hat and duck whistle to take home. The youth hunters' names were also drawn to receive some great prizes donated by generous supporters. There was approximately \$900 in prizes given to the kids. Every one of them received a drawing prize. Prizes included full body duck decoys, gift certificates, hats, DVD's, games and miscellaneous hunting gear.

The numbers of ducks harvested during the 2009 annual Youth Duck Hunt was less than years past. The kids did have a great time and were introduced to the sport of waterfowling. The kids hopefully learned that hunting and the outdoors should not be measured by numbers and getting limits. The annual Youth Duck Hunt has been an ongoing success. The program is only successful because of the donating businesses and the D.U. members and other adult outdoors people from the area donating their time assisting with the events.