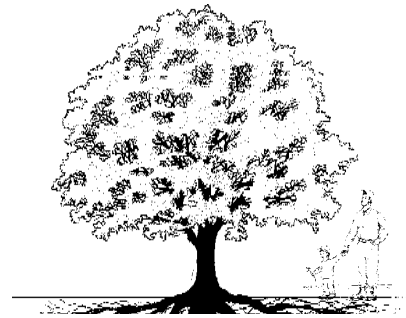


Buchanan County Conservation Board 2010-2011 Annual Report



*“Increasing our
quality of life
through programs of
conservation and
education.”*

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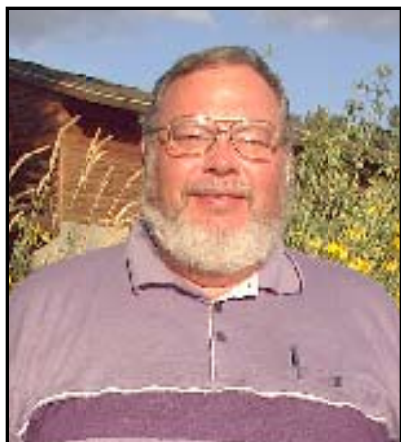
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Your Conservation Board, FY11: Conservation Board members are county residents who have an expressed interest in conservation. They are appointed by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors to staggered five-year terms. For more information about the roles of a Conservation Board member, contact the Executive Director (see below).



*Roger Johnson, Chair
Independence, IA*



*Jim Klever, Vice-Chair
Independence, IA*



*Gary Buresh, Secretary
Independence, IA*



*Pat Fencil
Independence, IA*



*Ranor Hoffman
Independence, IA
Through 2010*



*Karen Stephenson
Independence, IA
Beginning 2011*

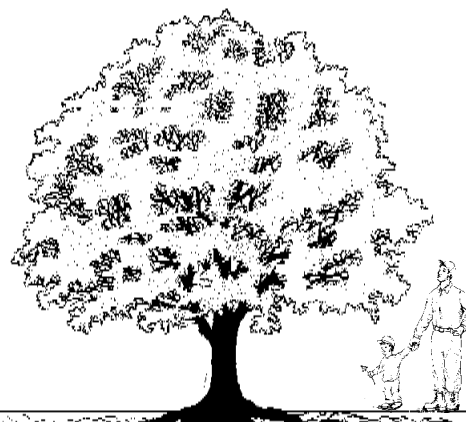


*Dan Cohen, Executive Director
Fontana Park, Hazleton, IA*

For more information about programs and activities of the Conservation Board, contact the Executive Director, Dan Cohen.

*Fontana Park
1883 125th St.
Hazleton, IA 50641
319-636-2617
bccbdan@iowatelecom.net*

*Visit us at
[www.buchanancountyparks.com!](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com)*



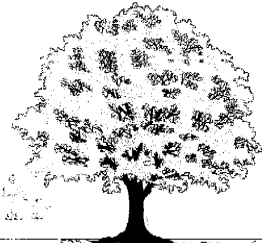
www.buchanancountyparks.com

BCCB FY11 Annual Report

Buchanan County Conservation Board

“Increasing our quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”

Executive Summary



2010-11 BCCB Board Members

Roger Johnson, Chair
Independence, IA

Jim Klever, Vice Chair
Independence, IA

Gary Buresh, Secretary
Independence, IA

Ranor Hoffman
Independence, IA

Pat Fencel
Independence, IA

Karen Stephenson
Independence, IA

Buchanan County Conservation Board

Send correspondence to:
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The Buchanan County Conservation Board is always eager to share the extent and quality of its programming, facilities, and management with other conservation boards and resource professionals. During the year, preparations were underway to showcase Conservation Board’s areas of progress and innovation when it was scheduled to host the 2011 Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (IACCB) Conference. It was an opportunity to truly evaluate progress in the areas of natural resources management, education and outreach, and parks and recreation.

The Conference theme will be the Teddy Roosevelt quote, *“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”* Few counties of any size, and particularly counties with populations and budgets similar to Buchanan County, are able to accomplish such a high level of land management or education programming, or consider such a broad array of innovative projects.

Two especially innovative projects were underway or completed during the year. The Conservation had long considered providing cabins at Fontana Park, but wanted to be sure that such facilities would be within its conservation and education mission. In May, work began on two “sustainable living cabins”. The cabins will be unique to the State of Iowa in providing overnight comfort in a park and a hands-on educational sustainable living experience. The cabins will feature: solar energy technology for all electrical needs; energy efficient walls, windows, and appliances; water-conserving faucets and toilets; and use of local resources. Another innovative project was completed at Cortright Wildlife Area. Wetlands were reconnected to the Wapsipinicon River – a first of its type project for an interior river in Iowa. The reconnection should result in improved fish habitat and fishing in the Cortright ponds and Wapsipinicon River.

Special projects such as the cabins and wetlands reconnection are examples of an overall philosophy that the Conservation Board proudly adopts. Prairies, forests, and wetlands are managed with specific goals in mind, often using a mix of proven and experimental techniques. Education programming must be flexible and innovative to meet the large demand for programs, displays, and information. Examples of the Conservation Board’s commitment to doing whatever it takes to meet its mission are found throughout this report.

Conservation Board efforts only proceed with public support and adequate county funding for excellent staff and resources. During the upcoming Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards Conference, the Conservation Board plans to place a spotlight on how this support results in success within the Conservation Board’s mission to “improve our quality of life through programs of conservation and education”.



Dan Cohen, Executive Director
Buchanan County Conservation Board

The Annual Report and Long Term Planning

This Annual Report serves two roles. The report is an explanation of the projects and services provided during the Fiscal Year running from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Such a report is called for in the 1955 legislation which established the County Conservation Board system (Chapter 350 of the Code of Iowa). This report goes a step further, and indicates future objectives of the Conservation Board and its staff. These plans come from several sources. During the year, the Conservation Board, with outside expertise from Iowa State University, conducted a Needs Assessment Survey (NAS) of county residents. The NAS is a labor-intensive process, but is also one of the best tools for gauging public perception of current programs and future needs. Other tools for planning include 5-year Updates of the Outdoor Recreation, Conservation, and Open Spaces Plan; Conservation Board decisions and annual strategic planning; regular Conservation Department communications; federal and state public surveys; and a variety of input from the public.

Conservation and Natural Resources

The Conservation Board Director served on the Committee which first recommended a proposal to create a constitutionally protected trust fund for conservation. Iowans voted overwhelmingly to pass Iowa's Water and Legacy Amendment in November, 2010. Although it is still up to the Iowa Legislature to initiate the funding mechanism, I WiLL will someday provide safe and reliable funds for natural resources in Iowa.

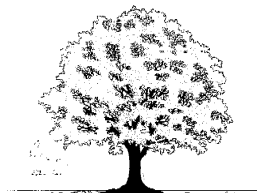


Recent years have been tough on wildlife throughout Iowa. The USDA estimates that, from 1990 to 2005, retired CRP and other factors resulted in 2,496 square miles of habitat loss for pheasants and other wildlife. That equates to an eight mile wide strip of land stretching from Council Bluffs to Davenport! The trend continues. From 2007-2010 an additional 24,235 acres were lost in Iowa.

While market pressure to reduce conservation practices and converted natural resources to other uses are at a high point, state and federal funding to conservation agencies has been slipping. More and more, conservation and natural resources rely heavily on local agencies and organizations and an educated and motivated public. The Conservation Board has a strong policy of promoting and implementing conservation practices, and protecting and enhancing natural areas. These policies have never been as important, and have been evident during the past year.

Private Lands - Landowner Assistance

Wet springs and high commodities prices continue to impact the number of requests for planting assistance from private landowners in recent years. Still, during the past year, about 175 acres of private land plantings were completed using Conservation Department equipment and/or staff. This is up from the previous year, but down from several years ago. The Conservation Board long has provided tree planting assistance to Buchanan County residents. A tree planter is available upon request, and, for a small fee, the Conservation Board furnishes a



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tractor and staff person to help plant trees. The Conservation Board is ready to assist landowners as they improve water quality and wildlife habitat on their lands.

The Conservation Board also continues to implement the Prairies to Schools/Prairies to Businesses Program, and during the year helped maintain prairie and wetland plantings at East and West Elementary Schools in Independence.

The most important long-term impact the Conservation Board has on private lands conservation is through environmental education programming. The incredible demand for programs and outreach to people of all ages was evident in the numbers of people attending programs – totalling more than 18,000. Some programming is designed for long term impact, by reaching today’s youth. Other programs are designed for more immediate impact on adults. For more information on education programs, see pages 9-11, and 34.

There is value in coordinating efforts to educate the public about far-reaching natural resources concerns. To this end, the Conservation Board Director began work on an initiative to provide a coordinated education effort among 20 counties that make up the Cedar River Watershed. An interpretive plan for the watershed is being developed, with hopes of grant funding being found to implement educational efforts throughout the region. Approximately 30 percent of Buchanan County is within the Cedar River Watershed, and education materials will be easily adapted to other watersheds, such as the Wapsipinicon and Maquoketa. Other watershed-wide efforts also exist for Buffalo Creek and South Fork of the Maquoketa River.

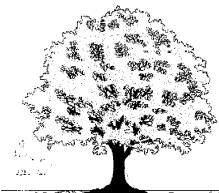
Public Lands - Natural Areas

Natural areas constitute most of the public land managed by the Conservation Board. On these areas, management practices are implemented to enhance wildlife habitat and maintain unique natural features, including healthy forests, prairies, wetlands, and waterways. For more information about management of individual Conservation Board areas, see pages 15-24.

The Cortright Wildlife Area was expanded to 190 acres with the addition of four acres purchased from James and Kathy Brown. This and other attempts at acquisition of land along the Wapsipinicon River demonstrate the Conservation Board’s high priority for protecting the Wapsipinicon River Greenbelt. A Fish Habitat Grant project was completed at Cortright Wildlife Area to reconnect two of the ponds to the Wapsipinicon River in an effort to allow fish access to backwater spawning areas and provide better year-round fishing.

During the past year, the Conservation Department hand planted more than 1,500 trees in attempts to regenerate forest and improve wildlife habitat. Most of the trees planted were at Cortright, Fontana Park and Jakway Forest. Traditional burn and mowing management

The Cortright Wildlife Area pond reconnection project was completed during winter, and created a pathway for fish to migrate between the backwater wetland ponds and the Wapsipinicon River.



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was conducted on 16 management areas, encompassing approximately 100 acres. Haying continued as a prairie management research project at Ham Marsh, and the hay ground was restored to serve as mid-grass habitat and feed for the Buffalo at Fontana Park.

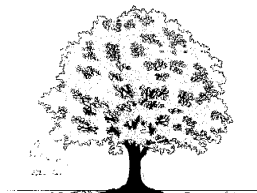
Invasive species are of special concern throughout Iowa, as they supplant native species and greatly reduce habitat diversity. Some of the more prevalent species in Buchanan County public lands include Reed's canary grass, garlic mustard, crown vetch, multiflora rose, Canada thistle, wild parsnip, and buckthorn. The Conservation Department worked hard to eradicate or reduce these species, and to nurture establishment of native plants and wildlife. Some of the bigger problem areas are identified in the individual Conservation Board areas on pages 15-24.

To address needs of nesting bluebirds, wood ducks, and bats, more than 100 nest boxes are maintained and monitored throughout conservation areas.

The Conservation Board continues to promote the Wapsipinicon River Water Trail, and maintains signs, brochures, and display kiosks.

Future Objectives – Private Lands & Public Natural Areas

- Preserve and enhance natural areas through education, fee title acquisition, conservation easement, bequest, or third party intervention.
- Give acquisition priority to areas as per the Conservation Board's Five-Year Plan.
- Nurture new plantings at Cortright Wildlife Area and Ham Marsh.
- Monitor fish populations at Koutny Pond and the Fontana Reservoir.
- Work to protect quality natural areas, especially those adjacent to existing Conservation Board areas or in the Wapsipinicon River Greenbelt.
- Support and educate the public about the REAP Program and funding for natural resources and outdoor recreation.
- Conduct prairie and timber burns as per a burn schedule.
- Provide planting assistance and habitat assessment to landowners, and coordinate efforts of various agencies and groups to assist landowners.
- Expand participation in the Prairies to Schools/Prairies to Businesses Program.
- Continue nest box, monarch, frog and toad, bald eagle nesting and other wildlife monitoring.
- Use mechanical removal to rid prairie areas of woody plants.
- Continue to address invasive species problems, especially the following:
 - Crown vetch at the Hodges and North Wildlife Area.
 - Thistles and woody plants at the Crumbacher Area.
 - Garlic mustard at Jakway Forest, Putty Root, Wehner Woods, and Schneider-Heinick-Rowe.
 - Honeysuckle at Fontana Park and Wehner Woods.



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- Buckthorn at Jakway Forest and Newton Township Area.
- Continue efforts to expand the sand prairie area at Bearbower.
- Increase diversity in old prairie stands through mowing, burning, and interseeding in older prairie plantings.
- Conduct timber stand improvement in the Jakway Forest and Fontana Park Woodland.
- Enhance areas of sedge meadow, prairie, and hay ground at Ham Marsh.
- Consider food plots at Cortright and Crumbacher Wildlife Areas.
- Assess the Jakway Forest for a potential small management clearcut.
- Consider a draw-down of the Koutny Pond marsh to promote emergent vegetation to benefit waterfowl and other wildlife.
- Conduct or organize river and parks cleanups.

Parks and Recreation

Of the Conservation Board's 38 managed areas, some are considered parks where at least a portion of the area is maintained for picnicking or camping.

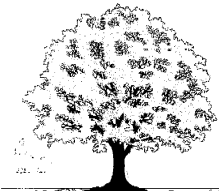
For the past few years, the Conservation Board dedicated considerable time assessing the idea of providing rental cabins at Fontana Park. The Board decided to pursue planning and funding for two "Sustainable Living Cabins". Consultation with alternative energy and standard construction contractors resulted in a plan for cabins that are "off grid" - using solar power for all electrical needs. Other aspects of the "sustainable" concept include water saving fixtures, energy-efficient walls, windows, and appliances, and use of local resources and businesses. Cabin construction was a very time-consuming, labor-intensive project. Construction work began in May, and the cabins are planned to be open by Labor Day Weekend.

Fontana Park is the most visited County area. More than two-thirds of all county residents, and many non-county residents, visit the park each year. The Fontana Interpretive Nature Center is among the most popular attractions. Displays continually change to address new messages and the needs of repeat visitors. Bats took residence in a bat house fixed with a remote camera that displays video of in the Nature Center. A professionally constructed, multi-unit prairie exhibit was housed in the Nature Center from mid-July to September, 2010. Two new eagle enclosures were constructed in the popular Fontana Park Wildlife Display. Staff and park visitors were saddened when Tana, the long-time resident black bear in the display, died on August 10. She was 28 years old.

The Richardson-Jakway Historic Site at Jakway Forest provides the best historic resource in the area for interpreting American westward movement and daily pioneer life. A successful grant application to



Concrete floors and foundations were poured in May as work began on two sustainable living cabins at Fontana Park.



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A grant from the Buchanan County Community Foundation provided material for replacing siding on the historic Richardson-Jakway House. Don Shonka (above) was one of several volunteers who assisted staff in replacing the siding.

the Buchanan County Community Foundation provided funds for new exterior siding, and with help from volunteers, the new siding was installed.

July floods caused damage to several areas, most notably Buffalo Creek Area, where it deposited tons of sand. Fontana Park, Three Elms Area, and several outlying natural areas also received damage. With FEMA disaster assistance, most repairs were completed by the end of the fiscal year. The new Boies Bend stairway, installed last year, held up without issue against the rushing waters of the flooded Wapsipinicon River.

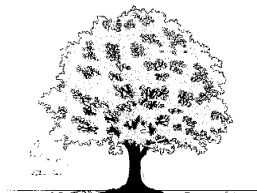
The Littleton Dam has long been a heavily used recreation area. Anglers fish below and above the dam, and canoeists access the Wapsipinicon River below the dam or need to portage around the dam. The Conservation Board manages the area, with the exception of the actual dam, through an

agreement with the Iowa DNR. During the year, DNR communicated plans to make safety and fish habitat modifications to the dam. Similar plans for the Quasqueton Dam are also being planned. Old, antiquated small dams present safety, aquatic habitat, social, and economic issues statewide.

The Director met with numerous groups and individuals interested in longer-distance multi-use trails, especially trails that would connect Fontana Park to the cities of Oelwein and Hazleton, or to the Amish Community. A grant was submitted to develop a trail that would connect Fontana Park, the City of Hazleton, and the Amish Community. The grant scored 5th out of 42 applications, but there was only funding available for four projects.

Future Park Development Objectives

- Replace window trim on the Richardson-Jakway House
- Upgrade the Fontana Park Shower House with water conserving appliances and interior updates.
- Provide new displays in the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center, as per the Exhibit Plan.
- Provide an interpretive trail at Nibeck Preserve.
- Pursue placement of Sustainable Living Cabins at Fontana Park.
- Pursue acquisition of additional land to expand the boundaries of Fontana Park.
- Continue grooming ski trails at several parks and natural areas.
- Make the lower level of the Jakway Barn suitable for public use.
- Provide better canoe access at the Cutshall Area.
- Continue cooperative efforts for community trails development.



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Environmental Education

(For more EE Program statistics, see Appendix C on page 34.)



Environmental education (EE) is an important strategy used by the Conservation Board to impact people's personal choices that address conservation practices, improved natural resources, and environmental health. In a landscape dominated by private lands and interests, informed choices made by environmentally literate

citizens will determine the future of Iowa's water, air, and wild places. Demand for education programs, especially through area schools, remains strong. To address the incredible need for local education and recreation programs, the Conservation Board employs two fulltime naturalists. In August, Naturalist Angie Auel joined the Conservation Board staff, replacing Jennifer Webster who had left in June, 2010.

More than 900 programs were presented to 18,452 participants. Programming to area youth has been the main emphasis of the EE Program. The Conservation Board strives for its the Program to present a balance of youth education, adult programming, and attention to displays and other park interpretation.

School Programs

Nearly 700 presentations were delivered to students from area schools throughout the year. Both outdoor field trips and in-class programs were offered on various topics related to EE program goals and teachers' curricula. Spring and fall are especially busy times for programs delivered to schools, limited only by availability of Conservation Department staff. Naturalist interns were very important during the year.

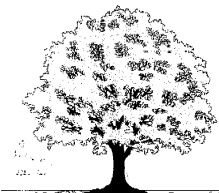
Youth and Camp Programs

About 70 presentations were made to youth groups, including scout, 4-H, library, and church groups, as well as youth enrolled in BCCB camps. Youth progressed from preschool participants in the Wee Nature Tales (ages 3-5), to the Nature Explorers (ages 6-8), and on to Junior Naturalists (ages 9-12). Junior high and high school-age youth entered the Outdoor Adventures Program (OAP). The Conservation Board provides up to two scholarships per year for OAP graduates to attend wilderness trips.

Public Programs and Adult Education

Environmental education does not stop with youth. More than 100 programs were offered during the year for families and adult

For more information about scheduling an education program for a group, contact a naturalist at Fontana Park (319-636-2617).



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participation. These programs were on a variety of topics related to environmental education goals. Senior citizen groups, including residents from area nursing homes, were participants in a large number of these programs. Civic groups also schedule programs. The Conservation Board also promoted, and provided meeting space for, the Fontana Herb Society and a beekeeping group.

Interpretive Resources

In addition to in-person programs, educational efforts include publications, self-guided trails, displays, web sites, and other media. More than 7,600 people signed the Nature Center guest book during the year. New displays were developed for the Nature Center - supported by the nonprofit group *Friends of Fontana Park*. Since its inception, the Nature Center has drawn visitors from all 50 states and 65 foreign countries.

Banners promoting Buchanan County as a place to live, work, and play were developed in a partnership with Buchanan County Economic Development and Independence Chamber of Commerce. Other interpretive resources included four issues of the Otter Creek Quarterly, maintenance of two web sites: buchanancountyparks.com and mycountyparks.com, development of a Facebook page, and maintenance of an internet list serve.

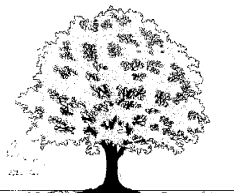
Fostering Understanding

The Conservation Board's Environmental Education Program is designed to meet specific needs for good conservation stewardship. Individual program objectives are tracked to determine the extent to which they meet the objectives of sensitivity and awareness; understanding ecological principles; understanding local plants, animals, and physical environments; improving problem solving skills, and understanding human effects and ethical development. During the year, each objective area was addressed during at least half of the year's programming. Nearly half of the programs featured primarily outdoor experiences, and the objective is to increase this percentage.

Future Objectives for Environmental Education

- Increase participation from 6th-12th graders.
- Increase participation by civic groups and other adults.
- Write two articles per month for area newspapers.
- Develop new displays, and coordinate on-loan displays, for the Nature Center, and update the Interpretive Plan.
- Promote more outdoor experiences in Buchanan County parks.
- Better interpret the Fontana mill exhibit near the Main Shelter House, and put the exhibit building to good use.
- Develop programming based on special user groups, such as senior citizens, preschoolers, park users, campers, etc.
- Provide programs to all Buchanan County schools.
- Use web sites, Facebook, and listserves to promote Conservation Board programs and facilities, and to provide users with easily obtained and timely information and services.

Buchanancountyparks.com is the Conservation Board's web site. Visitors to the site can access park information, upcoming programs and activities, volunteer and job opportunities, Conservation Board background information, a variety of downloadable publications and handouts, and more. People can also be involved by joining Fontana Park on Facebook!



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- Enhance the Iowa Environmental Workbook program and/or develop other strategies to promote knowledge of environmental issues.
- Work with libraries and/or schools to promote use of “park packs”.
- Evaluate outdoor programs to assure “good experiences in the outdoors” and quality programming.
- Provide at least one public natural history foray through Conservation Board areas.
- Expand interpretive programming at the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site.
- Better interpret Conservation Department management practices.
- Host at least one educator training at Fontana Park (Iowater, Wild, PLT, etc.).
- Better promote field trips and public programs during winter.
- Develop a brochure of volunteer opportunities and benefits.
- Provide interpretation and/or public recreation programs that feature the Wapsipinicon River. Update the Water Trail brochure.
- Provide more outreach to the public for volunteerism, service learning, and citizen science.
- Continue to promote receiving the newsletter and other information via email.
- Develop interpretation signage/trail at Nibeck Preserve in Hazleton.
- Increase the percentage of programs in which participants spend significant time interacting with nature in the outdoors.
- Promote the email listserve, and provide more specific listserves for people who have specific interests (such as users of education programs, outdoor sports enthusiasts, etc.).

mycountyparks.com is another Conservation Board web site. In addition to information about Buchanan County's parks and conservation programs, the site contains information about county conservation programs throughout Iowa!

Conservation Volunteers

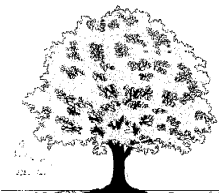
(Volunteers are listed in Appendix D)

Volunteers are an important part of Conservation Board programs and activities, providing both physical assistance and visible public support. Since its opening in 1994, volunteers have been instrumental to Nature Center operations. Nature Center volunteers act as receptionists, and assist in preparation of the quarterly newsletter mailing, which is assembled by volunteers at the Independence Senior Center. Since its organization in 1994, Nature Center volunteers have donated 7,814 hours of service. At the current basic minimum hourly wage of \$7.25, the total dollar value of this service is \$60,660.75. This year, 27 Nature Center receptionist volunteers contributed 553 hours for a dollar value of \$4,009.25.

Nature Center receptionists are just one area of the Conservation Volunteers Program. There are 18 areas in which people may volunteer. During the year, more than 100 volunteers monitored nest boxes, developed and maintained herb and landscape plantings, conducted cleanups, helped with Septemberfest, served as campground



Francis Moore volunteers during a bird banding program at Fontana Park. In addition to the volunteers listed in Appendix D, many volunteers assist with education programming, and are listed in Appendix C.



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hosts, planted trees, did general maintenance, helped with educational programs, helped with mailings, assisted with program development, helped with fundraising, and more. Volunteers were recognized during a fall supper at Fontana Park, which drew approximately 70 participants.

For eight years, the Conservation Board benefited from an AmeriCorps Grant that provided funds for people to work for the department and gain valuable experience. Unfortunately, the AmeriCorps Grant is no longer being offered. During the year, Samantha Foth served out her term, marking the end of the program for at least the near-future. For the coming year, seasonal staff will be needed to help fill the void left from lack of AmeriCorps assistance.

Future Volunteer Program Objectives

- Develop a brochure of volunteer opportunities and benefits.
- Work to continue AmeriCorps funding.
- Host a Volunteer Banquet.
- Better advertise for conservation volunteers.
- Expand the number of volunteers.
- Expand participation in Friends of Fontana Park.

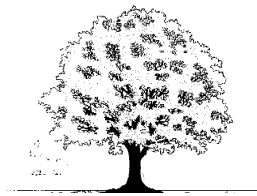
Board and Staff Development

The Buchanan County Conservation Board is directly responsible to residents of Buchanan County. The Board functions as a corporate body, making group policy decisions regarding facilities, natural resource areas, development of recreation areas, environmental education, and other departmental policy. Conservation Board policies are implemented by the Executive Director, who is responsible to the Board. Other staff are hired by the Executive Director with Board approval, and are directly responsible to the Executive Director. Buchanan County Conservation Board members, with the expiration dates of their terms, are listed in the sidebar.

The Conservation Board conducted a Strategic Planning Retreat in February. During this important meeting, Board members discussed Conservation Board duties, positive characteristics, mission, goals, and objectives. Board members also attended the Iowa Association of County Conservation Board's annual spring meeting and fall conference, and a field day to visit local Conservation Board areas.

In September, 2011, the Conservation Board will host the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards Annual Conference. This is a large undertaking, and a lot of time was spent this year with planning and logistics. The conference will be held at Heartland Acres in Independence, with field trips and pre-activities throughout the county.

Conservation Department staff are encouraged to further their professional development. Park rangers and technicians kept current on all necessary chemical applicator and Mine Safety Health Administration certifications, and park rangers attended County Conservation Peace Officer Association (CCPOA) trainings. The



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park ranger housed at Fontana Park attended trainings to keep his wastewater monitoring certification current. Naturalists attended workshops and training provided by the Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC). The Director attended meetings and training provided by the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (IACCB), Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC), County Conservation Directors Association (CCDA), and others. Experienced, professional staff are extremely important.

Staff Roster

During the year, the Conservation Department had several staff changes. In addition to the usual changes in seasonal staff, naturalist Jennifer Webster left for another job, and was the position was filled by Angela Auel. Secretary Dorothy Wehling also resigned and Marilyn Fletchall filled her position. In July, Long-time secretary/office manager Lynn Heins will be retiring. These staff changes presented special challenges and new people needed time to be trained and settle in to their positions. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated staff that helped facilitate the transitions.

Safety training, and compliance with OSHA rules and other county, state, and federal guidelines, are required for all employees. Employee names and start dates of employment (and end dates where applicable) are shown below. Photos of full-time staff are on page 14.



Marilyn Fletchall of Independence was hired as a secretary in March, and will become Office Manager in July after long-time employee Lynn Heins retires.

Fulltime Staff

Dan Cohen, Director.....	1/13/86
Mike Van Raden, Park Ranger.....	7/1/90
Jeremy Whittle, Park Ranger.....	8/14/06
Sondra Cabell, Naturalist.....	5/30/01
Jennifer Webster, Naturalist.....	8/4/08 - 6/4/10
Angela Auel, Naturalist.....	8/9/11
Chris Hansen, Conservation Technician.....	5/15/00
Karen Ott, Conservation Technician.....	9/01/03

Part time Staff

Linda Heins, Office Manager.....	7/19/96
Dorothy Wehling, Secretary.....	4/28/10 - 2/11/11
Marilyn Fletchall, Secretary.....	3/15/11
YuVonne Buckman, Receptionist.....	4/1/94
Elaine Walker, Custodian.....	2/17/10
Samantha Foth, AmeriCorps Park Tech.....	9/9/09 - 8/31/10
Mary Coffman, Seasonal Park Tech.....	4/5/10 - 9/19/10
Matt Rissler, Naturalist Intern.....	6/9/10 - 8/11/10
Kelsey Heesch, Naturalist Intern.....	4/4/11
Nic Zmoos, Seasonal Park Tech.....	4/19/11
Garett Hamilton, Seasonal Park Tech.....	5/9/11



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Dan Cohen, Executive Director



Sondra Cabell, Interpretive Naturalist



Angie Auel, Interpretive Naturalist

FY2011 Full-time Staff



Mike Van Raden, Park Ranger



Jeremy Whittle, Park Ranger



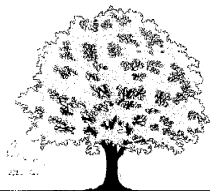
Chris Hansen, Conservation Technician



Karen Ott, Conservation Technician

Board Members and Term Expiration Dates

<i>Ranor Hoffman:</i>	<i>12-31-10</i>
<i>Patricia Fencl:</i>	<i>12-31-11</i>
<i>Roger Johnson:</i>	<i>12-31-12</i>
<i>Gary Buvesh:</i>	<i>12-31-13</i>
<i>Jim Klever:</i>	<i>12-31-14</i>
<i>Karen Stephenson</i>	<i>12-31-15</i>



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Conservation Board Background

County conservation boards are agencies of county government created by statute (Chapter 350.1 of the Code of Iowa) and governed by an appointed, independent board. They have broad policy making responsibilities in the area of local conservation, education, and recreation programs. Conservation boards are relatively autonomous, and control all properties and set the direction for conservation programs. Conservation boards address diverse matters for parks, preserves, museums, recreation, wildlife management, and education.

The Conservation Board consists of five county residents, appointed to staggered, five-year terms by the Board of Supervisors. Members of the Board are appointed on the basis of their demonstrated interest in conservation matters, and serve without compensation.

Buchanan County Conservation Board Meetings

With the exception of the May meeting held at Jakway Forest, all monthly Conservation Board meetings were held in the Board Meeting Room of the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. Special meetings were called for time sensitive reasons, and were held where most convenient. Board meetings were tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month during FY10. All meetings were open to the public.

Future objectives

- Conduct a Board Member Retreat.
- Conduct an annual Board Field Day
- Prepare to host the 2011 IACCB Conference
- Assist in planning statewide and regional training workshops.

- Maintain a minimum of 24 hours of professional development for fulltime staff.
- Make better use of GPS and other mapping technology.
- Work to provide competitive staff wages (at least average for county conservation programs in Iowa).
- Consider an effort to make Buchanan County an Iowa Great Place.

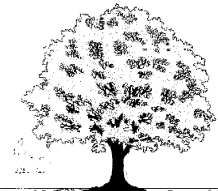
Areas and Facilities

Beginning on the following page are descriptions of Conservation Board areas and facilities, and a brief account of highlighted activities during the past year. Not described are routine maintenance activities such as mowing, maintaining roads and fences, janitorial and cleanup, administration, and public relations.

Conservation Board Areas (key)

A – Location; C – Current Management
 B – Acquisition D – Major Activity During the Year

<u>Buchanan County Conservation at a Glance</u>	
<u>Facilities</u>	
Total number of areas managed.....	38
Total acres managed.....	2,670.5
River Accesses (with designated ramps).....	5
Lakes and Reservoirs.....	2
Areas open to hunting.....	25
Modern campgrounds.....	3
Primitive campgrounds.....	7
Number of picnic shelters.....	10
Shower houses.....	2
Group campgrounds.....	1
Interpretive trails.....	2
Hiking/walking trails.....	12
Ski trails.....	4
Nature center.....	1
Live wildlife displays.....	1
Historical interpretation centers.....	1
<u>Visitors and participation (FY11)</u>	
Nature center visitor signatures in Guest Book.....	7,651
Fontana campground users.....	2,383
Jakway campground users.....	771
Lime Creek campground users.....	424
Participants in environmental education programs.....	18,452



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1. Fontana Park - 134 acres

- A. Fontana Park is located one mile south of Hazleton, off Highway 150.
- B. The original 128 acres were acquired in 1959, and since that time Fontana has been the base of operations and the location of administrative offices for the Conservation Board. An additional six acres were added in 1998 with the donation of the Jarrett Slater addition.
- C. Fontana Park offers modern and primitive camping, a shower house, wetland wastewater treatment system, an extensive live animal display, woodland, a prairie plot, three picnic shelters, chapel area, interpretive and ski trails, multi-use trail, stream and lake fishing, Conservation Board offices, educational plantings, and the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center (the Nature Center has drawn visitors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 64 foreign countries). Management practices relate to visitor use, park and recreation area development, wildlife exhibit, educational and recreational programming, natural areas management, and administrative offices.



B&K Construction installs Structural Insulated Panels for the Fontana Cabins. The SIPs provide better insulation and less air infiltration compared to conventional walls.

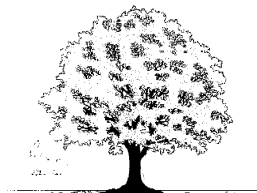
D. The July 22-24 floods tore out the line buoys at the dam, and did minor damage in the campground. The damage was repaired with FEMA disaster assistance, with the exception of a sinkhole in the campground which was still pending FEMA approval. In spring, work began in earnest on two “sustainable living cabins”. This would become a major project throughout the summer. Well water concerns led the Board to the decision to pursue rural water service to Fontana Park. Service was installed to serve the east side of the park, and plans were underway to provide service to the west side of the park, including the ranger residence. Six campsites were identified and marked as “reserveable”, and a reservation policy was initiated. A series of banners were developed in cooperation with the Independence Chamber of Commerce and Buchanan County Economic Development, and were on display in the Nature for much of the year. In the Wildlife Display, two buffalo calves and four fawns were born. New, larger enclosures were erected for the eagles. On August 10, Tana the black bear died. She had been a chief attraction since 1982. Additional seedlings were planted in areas of the woodland that were most devastated from the 2008 tornado and where canopy seed trees did not exist. Each year, there is a lot of general maintenance and upkeep associated with the Wildlife Display, Nature Center, and park grounds. Fontana Park continues to be the showcase for the Conservation Board, and the chief area of introduction to park users, drawing them into other conservation and education programs.



Tana, the black bear.

2. Jakway Forest - 315 Acres

- A. Located 1 1/2 miles south of Aurora off W45.
- B. Acquired in 1968, 1970, 1971, 1973 with Land and Water Conservation Act (LAWCON) Grant Funds.
- C. Managed for modern and primitive camping, picnicking, public hunting, interpretive trails, equestrian riding, hiking, ski trails; and a historic site. Ongoing Timber Stand Improvement (TSI): 100-year rotation on approximately 200 acres of timber. Contains shower house providing storm shelter and modern restrooms, dump station, two pit toilets, wildlife observation blind, picnic shelter, staff residence, heritage plantings, and the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site.



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- D. Heavy snow restricted timber stand work during winter. The annual Septemberfest celebration and a pioneer supper were held as fundraisers by the Richardson-Jakway Foundation. A grant application to the Buchanan County Community Foundation was approved to pay for new exterior siding, and work was completed. Buckthorn, garlic mustard, and multiflora rose are the main invasive species concern in the timber, and efforts were made to control these species.

3. Buffalo Creek Area - 81.5 acres

- A. Located one mile East of Winthrop off HWY D22.
 B. Acquired in 1961. In 1998, 1.5 acres on the east side were donated by Dr. A.J. Murphy.
 C. Managed for picnicking and primitive camping, disc golf, and public hunting. Natural areas include a bottomland woodland, ponds, and constructed prairie. Contains a pit toilet and shelter house. A loop walking and ski trail is maintained from the park to a pond.
 D. The July 22-24 floods once again deposited large amounts of sand on the park. With FEMA disaster assistance, the Conservation Department contracted repairs, but disrepair limited use by local school groups that normally use the area for disc golf, pond study, and other field trip classes. The prairie was burned. Frog and Toad surveys were conducted.



July floods deposited large amounts of sand throughout the Buffalo Creek Area. The area has since been restored.

4. Lime Creek Area - 45 acres

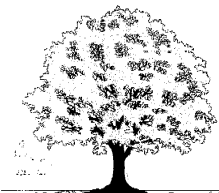
- A. Located 1.5 miles northeast of Brandon.
 B. 39 acres were acquired in 1964. A six-acre addition was donated by Lime Creek Fish & Game Club in 1985.
 C. Managed for modern and primitive camping, and for public hunting during fall and winter. Natural area is managed as a riverine woodland. Contains two pit toilets, a playground, and two shelter houses.
 D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

5. Boies Bend Area - 26 acres

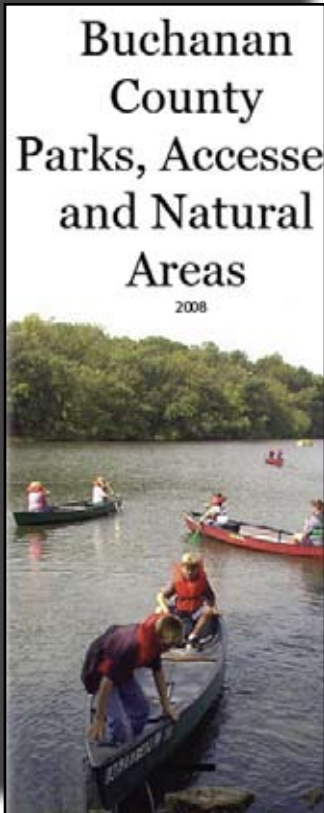
- A. Located 1.5 miles west of Quasqueton.
 B. Acquired in 1967.
 C. Managed for primitive camping, picnicking, river fishing with stairway access, restored prairie, woodland, and public hunting. Contains a pit toilet.
 D. The improved trail approach and heavy duty stairway system, constructed in the previous year held up perfectly to the Wapsipinicon River floods. The park is featured on the Wapsipinicon River Water Trail. Vandalism is an ongoing concern.

6. Otter Creek Roadside Park – 13 acres

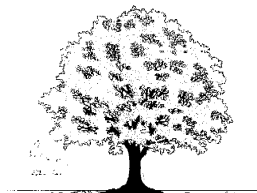
- A. One mile south of Oelwein at the intersection of Highways 150 and 281.
 B. Acquired as former FEMA buyout property in 2002 from the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors.
 C. Managed as a roadside park with walking and ski trails, picnicking, fishing, canoe access, and a savanna planting.
 D. Prairie was burned.



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The BCCB publishes a Buchanan County Parks, Accesses, and Natural Areas brochure, available upon request. Copies are available at the Nature Center or by calling 319-636-2617. Digital copies are available by emailing bcbdan@iowatelecom.net, or through the web site: www.buchanancountyparks.com.



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7. Cutshall Area - 85 acres

- A. Located 4.5 miles north of Jesup off V-62.
- B. Acquired in 1959.
- C. Managed for picnicking, primitive camping, and for public hunting during fall and winter. Natural area managed as riverine wetland and timber. Trail is maintained along river. Contains pit toilets and a picnic shelter.
- D. The area was flooded several times. Graffiti in the latrine is an ongoing problem. Frog and Toad surveys were conducted and wood duck nest boxes were monitored.

8. Patton Prairie - 45 acres

- A. Located southwest of Aurora off Quonset Ave.
- B. Acquired in 1998 with REAP Grant Funds
- C. Managed as a native prairie and wet meadow with public hunting.
- D. Three of the six management areas were burned, with attention given to removal of shrubs that otherwise overtake the prairie.

9. Otter Creek Wildlife Area - 100 acres

- A. Located on west edge of Hazleton, adjacent to Fontana Park.
- B. Acquired 1965 and 1975 with LAWCON Grant Funds.
- C. Managed as a nature preserve and wetland habitat.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

10. Nibeck Nature Preserve - 25 acres

- A. Located adjacent to the north city limits of Hazleton.
- B. Acquired in 1981, bequeathed by Leora Nibeck.
- C. Managed as a nature preserve.
- D. ATV use and littering are the major issues. Trash pickup is ongoing.

11. Van Laningham Wildlife Area - 3 acres

- A. Located 4.5 miles east and 4.5 miles north of Independence.
- B. Acquired by gift from Thurman and Veva Van Laningham in 1967.
- C. Managed for wildlife habitat.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

12. Sand Creek Area - 80 acres

- A. Located three miles east and three miles south of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired in 1971.
- C. Managed for public hunting and fishing on the Wapsipinicon River.
- D. Road maintenance and trash pickup indicate this is a heavily used area. A trail was maintained to provide a route from the parking area to the river sandbar. Minor flood damage was repaired.

13. Pine Creek Area - 40 acres

- A. Located five miles southeast of Independence.
- B. Acquired in 1971.
- C. Managed for public hunting, fishing, and native hard maple woodland.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

14. Rowley Fen - 43 acres

- A. Located 0.5 mile northwest of Rowley.
- B. Acquired in 1984.
- C. Managed for unique fen habitat, restored prairie, and public hunting. The area was designated an Iowa Registered Natural Area in 1986.
- D. One management area was burned. Frog and Toad surveys were conducted, and nest boxes were monitored.

15. Koutny Pond-Hoffman Woods - 106 acres

- A. Located one mile east of Brandon.
- B. Acquired in 1985.
- C. Managed for wildlife habitat, public hunting and fishing, two fishing jetties walk-in boat access, prairie planting, marsh, and a 12-acre lake.
- D. Water quality researchers affiliated with the DNR assessed water quality on Bear Creek. Nest boxes were monitored.

16. Mickey Fox Area - 97 acres

- A. Located five miles north of Jesus off V62.
- B. Sixty acres acquired in 1960. In 2003, an additional 37.10 acres were acquired from the Melvin and Lila Anderson Estate with funding from REAP.
- C. Managed for public hunting, fishing, and wildlife habitat.
- D. Trash dumping was less of a problem, but ATV traffic continues to be an issue.

17. Putty Root Preserve - 17 acres

- A. Located three miles northwest of Quasqueton.
- B. Original five acres acquired in 1962. Ten acres acquired 1992 from Delbert Crow and two acres acquired from Betty Payne in 1996.
- C. Managed as an old growth oak-hickory woodland preserve. The putty root orchid, for which the parcel is named, grows here.
- D. A large garlic mustard infestation blossomed along the south boundary and required a lot of hand pulling.

18. Crumbacher Wildlife Area - 371 acres

- A. Located 3.5 miles southwest of Independence.
- B. Acquired in 1989. The first 320 acres were acquired with Habitat Stamp Grant funds. Fifty one acres were acquired with funds from Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, German Shorthair Club, and Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
- C. Managed for forest, prairie, and wetland habitat, and public hunting.
- D. Weed tree encroachment and other invasive species control are ongoing, labor-intensive tasks. Burns and mowing were conducted on five of 15 prairie management areas. New oak plantings on the southwest corner were maintained. Nest boxes were monitored. The area was used for several school field trips.

Rules and regulations are posted at all Conservation Board areas. They also are published in a brochure that is available at the Nature Center. Digital copies are available for download at www.buchanancountyparks.com.



Burn management at Crumbacher Wildlife Area.



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19. Bearbower Sand Prairie - 40 acres

- A. Located two miles west of Highway 150, off the Buchanan-Benton County Line Road.
- B. Acquired in 1988 with public/private cost share grant funds by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (many donors were involved) and then transferred to the Iowa DNR. The Conservation Board assumed a management agreement with the Iowa DNR in 1995.
- C. Managed for preservation and enhancement of the unique sand prairie, public hunting, and nature appreciation.
- D. Efforts to expand restoration of sand prairie continued on the south side of the property with mechanical removal of woody plants. Multiflora rose and prickly ash are the main invasive species. Nest boxes were monitored. Permitting is being sought to allow a survey of box turtles and snakes to begin in fall, 2011.

20. Blazing Star Prairie - 7.5 acres

- A. Located two miles east and 1 1/4 miles south of Rowley.
- B. Acquired in 1987 by cooperative efforts of the Conservation Board, Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, and the Cedar-Wapsi Chapter of the Lutheran Brotherhood.
- C. Managed as native prairie habitat with public hunting.
- D. Woody plant encroachment and canary grass are the major threats.

21. Swartz Preserve - 4 acres

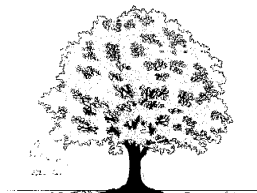
- A. Located 5.5 miles east of Hazleton at the junction of C57 and W33.
- B. Acquired in 1991 by conservation easement from Mr. & Mrs. Ormel Swartz.
- C. Managed for wetland habitat and as a wildlife preserve.
- D. The area received a lot of damage from the 2008 tornado. As an easement preserve, the area will be allowed to recoup naturally.

22. Bryantsburg Prairie Preserve - 1.5 acres

- A. Located two miles south of Hazleton on Highway 150.
- B. Acquired in 1988 by conservation easement from Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brandt.
- C. Managed as a native prairie preserve.
- D. The area was used for monarch tagging and releases, and for several school field trips. The prairie was burned in fall, and woody plants were mechanically removed.

23. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Wildlife Area - 20 acres

- A. Located three miles east and 3.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired in 1996 by Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Tri-Rivers Chapter of White Tails Unlimited, Lime Creek Fish & Game Club, Littleton Hookanliners Club, and the Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
- C. Managed for woodland and wetland wildlife habitat. Some rare plants are found on the site.
- D. Hand pulling and spraying of garlic mustard is an annual activity.



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Park Technician Karen Ott pulls garlic mustard at Schneider-Heinick-Rowe.



24. Three Elms Area - 75 acres

- A. Located one mile southeast of Independence.
- B. Acquired in 1964.
- C. Managed for wildlife habitat, river access, fishing, and a public archery range operated by the Wapsi Bow Hunters under an agreement with the Conservation Board. Contains a boat launch built with Motor Boat Fuel Tax Grant funds, handicap fishing, picnic shelter, prairie plot, and porta-potties.
- D. Floods undermined the handicap access sidewalk and washed away riprap. Repair work is scheduled for fall, 2011. The area receives high use. ATV traffic is an occasional problem, as is trash dumping and litter.

25. Frogville Access - 116 acres

- A. Located three miles northwest of Troy Mills.
- B. Original 96 acres acquired in 1978 with LAWCON Funds. An additional 20 acres were acquired with Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant funds in 1997.
- C. Managed for public hunting and fishing.
- D. A salvage harvest of downed trees was conducted. The harvest had been postponed from the previous year due to weather. Nest boxes were monitored.

26. Troy Mills Access - 63 acres

- A. Located three miles east and 4.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
- B. 23 acres acquired in 1969. 40 acres acquired in 1981 with Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant funds.
- C. Managed for riverine timber, fishing, hunting, and Wapsipinicon River access. The DNR owns 11.5 acres under a long term management agreement with the Conservation Board. Contains a boat launch.
- D. The fenceline was maintained to reduce falling trees into neighboring cropland.

27. Wapsi River Access - 51 acres

- A. Located 0.5 miles northwest of Independence.
- B. Acquired in 1963 and 1964.
- C. Managed for picnicking, fishing, river access, and hunting. Contains a pit toilet and picnic shelter.
- D. Minor flood repairs were needed.

28. Iron Bridge Access - 1 acre

- A. Located 4.5 miles northwest of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired in 1996.
- C. Managed for river access and as a historic site. Contains a boat launch constructed with a Waters Access Grant and a circa 1872 Bowstring Arch Bridge.
- D. Removal of sand deposited on the boat ramp, and litter pickup, are ongoing. Minor flood repairs were necessary. Although the bridge is owned by Buchanan County Secondary Roads, the Conservation Department helps with maintenance.

29. Newton Township Natural Area - 158 acres

- A. Located nine miles southeast of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired with REAP Grant Funds in 1998.
- C. Managed as a riverine woodland with public hunting, fishing, and canoe access to Buffalo Creek.
- D. The easement lane was severely washed out during heavy rains, and was repaired. Nest boxes were monitored.



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30. Hodges and North Wildlife Area – 66 acres



Crown vetch is the main invasive species threat to prairie areas in the Hodges and North Wildlife Area. The vetch (darker vegetation in this photo) takes over areas, excluding the native prairie.

- A. Located one mile south of the Jesup Highway Interchange, off V65.
- B. Acquired in 2001 by a donation of Basic Materials Co. Inc., Waterloo.
- C. Managed as restored prairie and wetland, with public hunting and fishing.
- D. The west fenceline was cleared and improved with cooperation from the neighboring landowner. Crown vetch has been a major weed problem along the pond and in the prairies, and a program of burning and spraying is ongoing. One of the five management areas were burned. Nest boxes were monitored.

31. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area - 52 acres

- A. Located six miles south of Winthrop off W45.
- B. Acquired in 1969.
- C. Managed for riverine woodland habitat, public hunting, and stream fishing.
- D. Only limited attention required.

32. Hoover Area - 20 acres

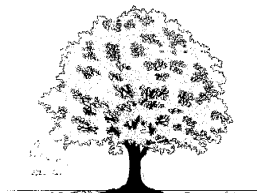
- A. Located three miles east and 3.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired in 1962.
- C. Managed for wildlife habitat and public hunting.
- D. Garlic mustard removal continues, but is less of a priority due to the extent of the problem on surrounding private land.

33. Fairbank Fen – 41 acres

- A. Located two miles east of Fairbank, a half mile off Highway 281.
- B. Acquired by the Conservation Board in August, 2002, with funding from Buchanan County and State Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Fairbank Gun Club, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, INHF and Kirkwood Wetland Students, and Hookanliners Club.
- C. Managed as a prairie and wetland fen, with picnicking and public hunting.
- D. Canary grass continues to be the major management challenge. Areas of canary grass and one management area were burned.

34. Anderson Addition to Cutshall Park – 25 acres

- A. Located four miles north of Jesup, off Highway V62.
- B. Purchased along with the Addition to the Mickey Fox Area on November 21, 2003 from the Lila Anderson Estate, with a REAP Grant. A donation from Buchanan County Pheasants Forever paid for a 6.5-acre prairie reconstruction.
- C. Managed as river bottom timber, riverine wetlands, and restored prairie upland, with public hunting.
- D. The prairie was burned. Bluebird and wood duck boxes were monitored.



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35. Ham Marsh – 55 acres

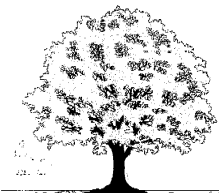
- A. Located four miles northwest of Independence, off Indiana Ave.
- B. Purchased in 2006 from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation which had served as an intermediary in a bargain sale from the John and Maxine Ham Family. Ten acres had been protected in 1985 with a life estate agreement. These ten acres were donated to the Conservation Board, and 45 acres purchased, to secure the property.
- C. Managed as a glacial wetland marsh, sedge meadow, and restored prairie upland, with public hunting. A small area of hay ground is maintained for wildlife habitat and hay production for Conservation Board use.
- D. An area of prairie was mowed for hay, both as a research area and to feed the buffalo at Fontana Park. The old hay ground was reseeded, and a first cutting is scheduled for summer, 2011. A late summer burn was postponed due to wet spring conditions.

36. Cortright Wildlife Area - 186 Acres

- A. Located one mile southeast of Littleton, off River Road.
- B. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) purchased 152 acres of natural areas from Kevan Cortright, which the Conservation Board repurchased from INHF on April 29, 2008 after securing grant funding from the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA), REAP, Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund, Iowa Pheasants Forever Build A Wildlife Area (BAWA) program, Iowa Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and the Kirkwood Wetland Students. The 34-acre Hookanliner Addition was acquired from the Hookanliner Sportsmen on January 16, 2010. A REAP grant, and Buchanan County Pheasants Forever and Wildlife Association, funded the acquisition. Four acres adjacent to the southeast corner were purchase from James and Kathy Brown in December, 2010.
- C. Managed as forest and forested wetlands, with a mile of Wapsipinicon Riverfront; restored timber and prairie areas; ponds; and for public hunting, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and nature appreciation.
- D. Jim Brown of Independence offered to sell about four acres of land adjacent to the southeast corer of the property. The offer was accepted and the land purchased. The Board approved sale of an Emergency Wetlands Program (EWP) easement for about 27 acres of land laying in the floodplain north of the river. The easement was surveyed and signed. The 2009 25-acre prairie and spring nesting planting on the northeast corner did well in its second year. Additional oaks were planted in the 2009 tree planting. A Fish Habitat Grant provided funds to reconnect the two south ponds to the Wapsipinicon River, and work was completed in winter. A lot of flood debris collects in the floodplain forest, and cleanups are needed. Nest boxes were monitored.



A channel was dug in late summer at Cortright Wildlife Area. The project reconnects wetland ponds to the Wapsipinicon River.

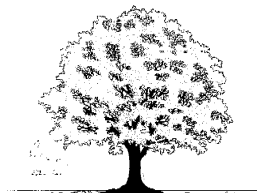


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Potential Acquisition Criteria

The Conservation Board places a high priority on land protection in Buchanan County. Acquisition is one method, and is appropriate in certain circumstances. The Conservation Board often uses the following criteria when evaluating land for possible acquisition:

- Presence of unique ecosystems or endangered species
- Degree of vulnerability to destruction or loss
- Whether the property enhances an existing area of habitat (greenbelts and additions)
- Size and value to wildlife
- Costs involved



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37. Robert “Chic” McGlaughlin Easement Area – 5 acres

- A. Located at the Littleton Dam, off Highway D16.
- B. The Iowa DNR purchased a public use easement from the Robert and Betty McGlaughlin Family. The land has since been sold to Craig and Nancy Coventry, with the easement attached. The easement covers a stretch of land along the Wapsipinicon River and the east half of the Littleton Dam. The Conservation Board signed a Management Agreement with the DNR in February, 2009 to manage and maintain the land, not including the dam. The DNR controls management of the dam.
- C. Managed for public river access, fishing, and portage around the dam.
- D. The land passed ownership to Craig and Nancy Coventry. A chain for closing off the area was installed, and the Coventrys close the area after the posted 10:30 park closing. Many conversations and meetings were held with the DNR, Coventrys, and other stakeholders regarding DNR plans to modify and/or remove the dam. Two meetings were hosted at Fontana Park.

38. Wehner Woods – 30 acres

- A. Located at the northeast corner of Lamont.
- B. The Conservation Board entered into a 15-year contract to purchase the property from Nels and JoAnne Wehner on August 18, 2009.
- C. Managed as river bottom and upland timber, riverine wetlands, and nature appreciation, with public hunting and a nature trail.
- D. Garlic mustard and honeysuckle were removed, but remain as invasive species threats.

Board Meeting Highlights

The following are brief meeting highlights from the Conservation Board’s 12 regular meetings and three special meetings.

July 20, 2010

Board members further discussed and refined the schedule for the 2011 Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards Annual Conference to be hosted in Buchanan County in September, 2011. The Board was informed that IACCB dues were increased from \$700 to \$1,500. The Board agreed to continue pursuing funding for two cabins at Fontana Park. The Director presented a draft application for REAP funding. The Board approved the Director’s decision to hire Angela Auel as Naturalist.

August 17, 2010

The Board was updated about funding requests for the IACCB Conference. July floods had damaged several parks, with Buffalo Creek receiving the most damage. The Board approved contracting cleanup work at Buffalo Creek, and applying for FEMA disaster assistance. Issues related to the drinking water supply at Fontana Park were discussed, and the Board agreed to have the well scoped to determine if the source of the problems could be found.

September 1, 2010 - Special Meeting

This Special Meeting was scheduled due to urgency to respond to an offer from USDA to participate in the Emergency Wetlands Program (EWP). The USDA required an immediate response. Similarly, Federal Emergency Management Agency required a resolution to authorize signing of documents related to the 2010 floods. The Board approved entering into the EWP Program and provide an Option to USDA to purchase the easement.

September 21, 2010

The Board accepted an offer from James and Kathy Brown for the sale of approximately four acres adjacent to Cortright Wildlife Area. After many attempts to improve the water supply at the Fontana Park well, the Board approved providing rural water service to the park through Central Iowa Water Association.

October 19, 2010

The Board approved amending its budget to allow for Conservation Reserve spending on a used dump truck and for FEMA repairs. The Board discussed a timeline for potential construction of cabins at Fontana Park. Resolutions were approved as per requirements for the Emergency Wetlands Program easement at Cortright Wildlife Area.

November 16, 2010

The Board officially voted to move forward with construction of two Sustainable Living Cabins at Fontana Park. Purchase of a 2004 dump truck was approved. The Board approved acceptance of the FY 2010 Annual Report prepared by the Director. FY11 salaries were approved. An update on the Cedar River Watershed Education Project was presented by the Director.

November 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

A special meeting was held to discuss the 2011 IACCB Conference to be hosted in Buchanan County, and to approve two claims. The special meeting was scheduled at the request of Jim Brown of Independence, who expressed a need to have payment ready for a land purchase closing scheduled for December 10, 2010. Board and staff met to discuss planning for the 2011 IACCB Conference, and The Board approved claims for acquisition of James Brown property adjacent to Cortright Wildlife Area and purchase of a dump truck.



Several Conservation Board meetings included preliminary plans for hosting the 2011 Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards Annual Conference.



— “Increasing our quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”



New requirements for sale of firewood prompted the Conservation Board to raise its fee for firewood sold in its campgrounds. The requirements were in response to the potential threat of emerald ash borer - an insect that has caused devastation of ash trees in other states.

December 21, 2010

The Board approved a vehicle use policy, identical to the policy adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Conservation department services and facilities fees for 2011 were approved at the same amount as the previous year, with the exception of a dollar increase for firewood sales. A date was set for the Board's budget meeting. The Board approved a Weapons Resolution prohibiting weapons in county-owned buildings, identical to a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

January 6, 2011 (special meeting)

A special meeting was held to discuss and approve a budget for fiscal year 2012, and to elect officers and establish meeting dates for the 2011 calendar year. The slate of officers from the previous year was adopted. The Board also was informed that the Board Member Ranor Hoffman's term expired, and that Karen Stephenson was appointed to a term by the Board of Supervisors.

January 18, 2011

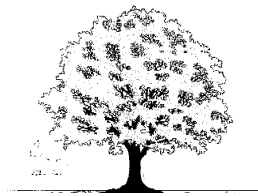
The Board accepted bids for concrete and septic system work for the cabins at Fontana Park. The Director's evaluation was discussed and accepted by the Board. A prairie-wetland area north of Winthrop was discussed as a potential public acquisition.

February 12, 2011

The Board accepted a letter of resignation from Secretary Dorothy Wehling, and approved the Director to hire people to fill positions for two seasonal park technicians, one seasonal naturalist, and a replacement for the secretary position. The Board approved placing a use restriction on the Hookanliner Addition to Cortright Wildlife Area for use as costshare for the North American Wetland Conservation Act state grant. The Board instructed the Director to advertised for sealed bids for plumbing and electrical work for the Fontana Park cabins. Potential changes to the Littleton Dam were discussed.

February 12, 2011 - Special Meeting

The Board reviewed its organizational structure, staff, purpose, and history, and was presented an overview of methods for holding effective Board Meetings and being a good Board Member. The Board participated in "Environalysis" as a way to determine program objectives, and reviewed various public use surveys and reports. Potential projects and areas for development, mostly at Fontana Park, Jakway Forest, Buffalo Creek Area, Cortright Wildlife Area, Koutny Pond, and Crumbacher Wildlife Area were discussed.



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March 21, 2011

The Board approved bids for electrical plumbing work for the Fontana cabins, and awarded a contract for solar energy materials and installation. The Board voted to establish 6-8 reservable campsites within the Fontana Campground. The Director reported that all FEMA requests due to the summer, 2010 floods were deemed eligible with the exception of the sinkhole in the Fontana Campground. The Board instructed the Director to appeal the decision. The Director reported that the Fish Habitat grant project to reconnect wetlands to the Wapsipinicon River at Cortright Wildlife Area was completed. The Board approved rural water installation for the west side of Fontana Park and the ranger residence, as per a proposal from Central Iowa Water Association.

April 4, 2011 - Special Meeting

The Board held a special meeting to discuss potential changes and confirmation of contract work regarding cabins construction at Fontana Park; to award bids for catering meals for the IACCB Conference; and to approve two claims for work completed on the Cortright River Connection project and the first installment of payment for solar equipment for the Fontana Park cabins. The special meeting was scheduled so that work on the cabins could proceed without delay, and so vendors could be notified on their bids. Changes to the concrete work bid, and a contract for SIP panel construction and roofing, were approved for the Fontana cabins. Bids for caterers for the IACCB Conference were reviewed and awarded. Claims for work on the Cortright Fish Habitat Project and cabins solar energy materials were approved.

April 9, 2011 - Special Meeting

The Board conducted a field day to tour areas for which it makes, or may in the future make, policy decisions. This was an information-gathering trip, and no deliberation or action was taken. The Board visited the following areas, noting past and current management practices, general area maintenance, and natural features: Cortright Wildlife Area; Patton Prairie (from lot); Slattery Property (observed from road – potential future acquisition); Buffalo Creek Area; Quasqueton Water Trail Kiosk; River Timber Campground; Hodges and North Wildlife Area, Crumbacher Wildlife Area; Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods; Bearbower Sand Prairie; Three Elms Area. In addition to the above named stops, the Board drove past other areas noting their locations and receiving updates from the Director.



During a Conservation Board field day, members visited the Cortright Wildlife Area where they viewed the prairie planting and river connection project. The area was also signed to indicate its place in the Wapsipinicon River Bird Conservation Area. Pictured above next to the BCA sign are (from left) Board members Pat Fencl, Jim Klever, Roger Johnson, and Karen Stphenson.

April 19, 2011

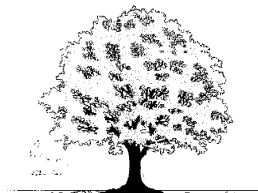
The Board approved sale of deer and bison per sealed bids. Purchase of wood siding, doors, and windows for the Fontana cabins was approved. A Credit Card policy for the Conservation Department, similar to a policy adopted by the Board of Supervisors, was approved. The Board adopted a fee structure for 2011-12 cabin rental. The Board was updated on hirings of new secretary Marilyn Fletchall, retirement of office manager Lynn Heins, and hiring of seasonal staff.

May 25, 2011

The Board accepted a bid for sale of a 1987 dump truck. Discussion was held about allowing bee hives to be placed at Ham Marsh, and the Board approved such action contingent on the opinion of the County Attorney.

June 9, 2011

Darrin Siefken of Crawdaddy Outdoors presented a program on the Wapsi Wilds program that exists to promote quality use of the Wapsipinicon River. The Board approved the Director to hire a secretary to fill a position that will open when Office manager Lynn Heins retires in July. The Board voted to purchase water-saving fixtures and operational policy for the Fontana cabins. The Board received and discussed a report on the Needs Assessment Survey of county residents it had contracted.



— “Increasing our quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”

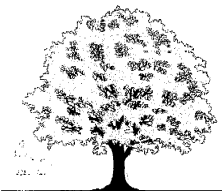


A great blue heron wades in the wetland waters of the Otter Creek Wildlife Area near Hazleton.

Cooperative Programs and Agreements

The Conservation Board actively partners with many agencies and organizations as a means of increasing its effectiveness. The following partnerships were important during the year.

- Worked with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Pheasants Forever (PF) to encourage the planting of native grasses, trees, and shrubs for wildlife habitat development on private land.
- Partnered with PF and local school districts, monitoring and managing prairies in the Prairies to Schools/Prairies to Businesses Program.
- Communicated closely with the Board of Supervisors.
- Provided tree and grass planting equipment to private landowners.
- Worked with the Friends of Fontana Park and Richardson-Jakway Foundation as partner groups for funding Conservation Board projects.
- Shared and borrowed equipment and facilities with the County Secondary Roads and Roadsides Departments.
- Worked with Independence Chamber of Commerce and Buchanan County Economic Development to produce promotional banners about Buchanan County.
- Partnered with other County Conservation Boards during 5th grade field days.
- Shared expert advice with DNR, NRCS, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), and other experts in the development of wildlife habitat, environmental protection, and conservation practices.
- Partnered with Buchanan County ISU Extension for administering environmental education programs, such as the 5th Grade Field Day, Outdoor Adventures Program, and Farm Safety Day.
- Worked with the Four Seasons Trail Association, Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), and Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG) to plan for future trails.
- Worked with the DNR and diverse members of the Sustainable Funding Committee to improve support for REAP and other conservation funding programs.
- Received funding assistance from the following programs: Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP), Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, Prairie Rapids Audubon Society, and Buchanan County Community Foundation.
- Provided meeting space and helped advertised programs for the Fontana Herb Society and a beekeeping group.
- Worked with Conservation Board Directors and other stakeholders to provide a coordinated educational effort within the 20-county Cedar River Watershed.
- Partnered with the DNR and other groups to promote frog and toad monitoring, eagle nest monitoring, sandhill crane sightings, and other wildlife surveys.
- Participated in the Monarch Larva Monitoring Program, Monarch Watch tagging, and Monarch Health programs.
- The Director served on the Board of Directors or Executive Committee for the following organizations: Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC), ISAC Legislative Committee, Governor's Committee on Sustainable Funding for Natural Resources, Buchanan County Four Seasons Trails Association, Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Buchanan County Community Foundation; and Friends of Fontana Park.
- Naturalists served on various workshop planning committees for ICEC Winter Solstice Workshop; and Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN).
- Coordinated education about Iowa Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment through partnership with Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, INHF, and others.
- Sought assistance from the Wapsi Snowmobile Club for cross country ski trail grooming.
- The Wapsi Bowhunters mowed and maintained the archery grounds at Three Elms Park.
- The Independence Senior Center Meal Site folded the Conservation Board newsletter.



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Appendix A: Status of Funds

A.1 Fiscal Year Report FY11 – Revenue

0001-2-22-6110-289000	Americorp Grant	\$5,120.42
0001-2-22-6110-271500	Conservation State Grants Camping-Jakway \$5,743, LC \$2,923, Fontana	\$15,336.90
0001-1-22-6110-520000	\$19,476	\$28,142.00
0001-1-22-6110-523000	Shelter Reservations	\$2,420.00
0001-4-22-6110-612000	Rent of Equipment & Machinery	\$2,477.50
0001-1-22-6110-831000	Sale of Livestock	\$1,872.00
0001-1-22-6110-520000	Keg Permit Fee	\$15.00
0001-4-22-6110-846000	Fuel Refund	\$855.57
0001-4-22-6110-920000	Sale of Fixed Assets	\$4,350.00
0001-1-22-6110-622000	Firewood Sales	\$1,501.00
0023-3-10-6110-242100	REAP	\$15,980.00
0023-4-10-6110-600000	Interest on REAP	\$380.87
0027-2-22-6110-230100	Disaster Services-FEMA	\$26,350.90
0027-2-22-0210-242200	Conservation Reserve Grant	\$1,500.00
0027-4-22-6110-266000	Reimb from Local Government	\$89.01
0027-4-22-6110-811000	Reimb from Private Source	\$2,558.10
0027-4-22-0210-810000	Donations	\$447.50
0027-4-22-6110-848000	Conservation Reserve/Donations & Refunds	\$133.50
0027-4-22-6110-600000	Interest on Conservation Reserve	\$373.16
0027-4-22-6100-920000	Conservation Reserve-Fixed Assets	\$1,600.00
0027-4-22-6110-920000	Conservation Reserve-Sale of assets	\$3,745.15
0029-4-22-6100-600000	Interest on Nature Center	\$53.73

Reserve Accounts

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u>
REAP-0023				
\$88,709.53	\$16,360.87	\$12,840.00		\$92,230.40
Conservation Reserve-0027				
\$365,992.62	\$36,797.32	\$114,183.13		\$288,606.81
Nature Center-0029				
\$22,584.86	\$53.73	\$3,000.00		\$19,638.59

A.2 Camping Revenue FY11**Fontana Camping Receipts**

Total # of People	2,045
Total Camping Units	639
Total Electrical Received	\$17,068.00
Total Primitive Received	\$2,408.00
Total Camping Revenue	\$19,476.00 (21,038 FY10)

Jakway Camping Receipts

Total # of People	714
Total Camping Units	225
Total Electrical Received	\$5,213.00
Total Primitive Received	\$530.00
Total Camping Revenue	\$5,743.00 (7,879 FY10)

Lime Creek Camping Receipts

Total # of People	389
Total Camping Units	106
Total Electrical Received	\$2,580.00
Total Primitive Received	\$343.00
Total Camping Revenue	\$2,923.00 (3,601 FY10)
Total Camping Revenue	\$28,142.00 (32,518 FY10)

A.3 Financial Report FY11 – Expenditures and BalancesLand Acquisition & Development

0001-22-0210-000-6000	Land	\$24,809.96
	Total budgeted	\$25,880.00
	Remaining Balance	\$1,070.04

County Conservation-Administrative

0001-22-6100-000-10004	Salary-Director	\$48,959.00
0002-22-6100-000-11000	FICA-Director	\$3,598.50
0002-22-6100-000-11100	IPERS-Director	\$3,402.71
0002-22-6100-000-11300	Health Insurance-Director	\$17,988.00
0002-22-6100-000-11301	Life Insurance-Director	\$52.56
0002-22-6100-000-11302	Dental Insurance-Director	\$180.00
0002-22-6100-000-11303	Flex Fee-Director	\$54.00
0001-22-6100-000-26000	Office Supplies	\$1,950.06
0001-22-6100-000-26700	Educational Supplies	\$1,233.14
0001-22-6100-000-29400	Uniforms	\$1,631.24
0001-22-6100-000-40200	Printing & Advertising Services	\$2,298.00
0001-22-6100-000-41200	Postage & Mailing	\$697.48
0001-22-6100-000-41320	Mileage & Sub-Director	\$55.55
0001-22-6100-000-41321	Mileage & Sub-Board	\$864.07
0001-22-6100-000-41400	Telephone	\$4,565.79
0001-22-6100-000-42220	School of Instruction-Director	\$969.89
0001-22-6100-000-42221	School of Instruction-Board	\$2,247.17
0001-22-6100-000-42500	Legal & Court Related	\$1,210.80
0001-22-6100-000-46300	Vehicles & Equipment Insurance	\$2,363.00
0001-22-6100-000-46400	Workmen's Compensation Ins	\$7,885.00
0001-22-6100-000-48000	Dues & Membership	\$1,705.00
0001-22-6100-000-63600	Office Equipment & Furniture	\$1,312.60
	Total County Conservation - Administrative	\$105,223.56
	Total Budgeted	\$106,813.00
	Remaining Balance	\$1,589.44

*Expenditures
and Balances
continued on
page 31.*

A.3 Financial Report FY11 – Expenditures and Balances (continued from page 28)

Park Maintenance		
0001-22-6110-000-10000	Salaries-Full Time	\$183,408.61
0002-22-6110-000-11300	Health Insurance-Full Time	\$59,376.00
0001-22-6110-101-10101	Salaries-Part time	\$41,236.64
0001-22-6110-000-10400	Overtime Pay	\$30.00
0002-22-6110-000-11000	FICA	\$17,132.18
0002-22-6110-000-11100	IPERS	\$16,620.30
0002-22-6110-000-11301	Life Insurance	\$310.98
0002-22-6110-000-11302	Dental Insurance	\$900.00
0002-22-6110-000-11303	Flex Fee	\$189.00
0001-22-6110-000-20101	Animal Display	\$1,821.31
0001-22-6110-000-20200	Chemicals - Herbicides	\$855.18
0001-22-6110-000-20700	Plantings	\$1,692.50
0001-22-6110-000-21201	Road Surface-Fontana	\$3,182.54
0001-22-6110-000-21202	Road Surface-Jakway	\$369.48
0001-22-6110-000-21203	Road Surface-Other Parks	\$1,948.77
0001-22-6110-000-21400	Signs	\$1,243.00
0001-22-6110-000-21901	Constr. Maint-Fontana	\$7,940.90
0001-22-6110-000-21902	Constr. Maint-Jakway	\$2,307.83
0001-22-6110-000-21903	Const Maint-Other Parks	\$811.53
0001-22-6110-000-23200	Janitorial Supplies	\$1,936.23
0001-22-6110-000-23300	Propane & Fuel Oil / Fontana	\$1,452.85
0001-22-6110-000-25000	Fuel	\$17,020.73
0001-22-6110-000-25200	Safety Items	\$399.50
0001-22-6110-000-29000	Minor Equipment & Hand Tools	\$1,121.64
0001-22-6110-000-41101	Bldg. Repair & Maint-RH Fontana	\$393.95
0001-22-6110-000-41102	Bldg. Repair & Maint-RH Jakway	\$257.02
0001-22-6110-000-41300	Mileage & Sub-Employees	\$173.94
0001-22-6110-000-42200	School of Instruction-Employees	\$1,397.67
0001-22-6110-000-43101	Electricity-Fontana	\$12,593.43
0001-22-6110-000-43102	Electricity-Jakway	\$2,995.36
0001-22-6110-000-43103	Electricity-Other Parks	\$1,663.99
0001-22-6110-000-43202	Rural Water	\$1,091.60
0001-22-6110-000-44000	Motor Vehicle Equip Maint	\$6,526.65
0001-22-6110-000-44101	Janitorial & Bldg Maint-Fontana	\$3,807.99
0001-22-6110-000-44102	Janitorial & Bldg Maint-Jakway	\$417.34
0001-22-6110-000-44103	Janitorial & Bldg Maint-All Parks	\$815.14
0001-22-6110-000-44300	Equipment Repair & Maint	\$5,341.13
0001-22-6110-000-44501	Plumbing Repair-Fontana	\$60.42
0001-22-6110-000-44502	Plumbing Repair-Jakway	\$0.00
0001-22-6110-000-44600	Radio Equipment Repair	\$0.00
0001-22-6100-000-63900	Playground Equip	\$0.00
0001-22-6110-000-12400	Volunteer Program-Americorp	\$3,339.74
	Total Park Maintenance	\$404,183.07
	Total Budgeted	\$415,062.00
	Remaining Balance	\$10,878.93
	Total Budget Remaining	\$13,538.41

Appendix B: Donations – FY11 (Donors to the Conservation Board and/or Friends of Fontana Park)

Donations (cash contributors)

Eloise Christiansen
Silos & Smokestacks
Faye E Sachs Trust
Larry & Charlotte Courtney
Paul Graff
Prairie Rapids Audobon Society
Duane & Barbara Blount
Dorothea Sundquist
Fayette County Extension
West Delaware Community School
David & Annabeth Voigts
Jerry & Marilyn Dahl
Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation
Maynard Savings Bank
Monty & Miriam Carr
Wilbur & Marcella West
Thomas & Beth King
Patricia Hare
Donald & Patricia Sholes
John III & Janet Hofmeyer
Quasqueton Garden Club
Rich & Mary Vogel
Donald & Bette Butler
Catherine Latham

Memorials Donations

Dave Vogel
James M, Parker
Joe & Virginia Lumsden
Mary Beth Sperry Zeigler
John K. Gates
Harold Breitsprecher

Donated Items and Services:

City Laundering Co. - Monthly Towel Service
American Bottling Co. - 10 cases of Pop
Sandy & Steve Smothers - 2 Wire Corn Cribs for Eagle Enclosures
David & Susan Differding - Bushels of Apples
Dennis & Mary Shannon - Pumpkins for program
Northeast Iowa Food Bank - Pumpkins for animals (1-Ton)
Ruth Smith - Fruits for the Animals
Rosemary Boland - Sunflower Seed
Loren Hamilton - Use of Carpentry Equipment
Matt Stewart - Alfalfa Hay for the Animals
Oelwein Copmmunity Center - Food for the Animals

Thanks to all the people who donated freezer Meat and food for use in the Fontana Park Wildlife Display

Animal Sponsors

East Elementary
Kitty Myers
Bev & George Osborne
Marilyn Gallo
Ashley & Shaun O’Hern
Kristi Harrill
Hazleton Commercial Club
Carson Kohlmeyer
Dean & Amber Youngblut
Neal Catt
Lanette Burroughs & Mikayla Holly
Jan & Tab Sly
Cy & Sydney Hearn
Marybeth Jaggard
Quasqueton Garden Club
Wildwood Lane
Jesup 3rd Grade
Steven & Diana Felt
In Memory of Gus Johnson
Ann Sanders Wulfekuhle
Tom & Pam Searcy
Oelwein Middle School
Benjamin & Alexander Korn
Independence Garden Club
Schuldt Family
Lamont Garden Club

Bird Feeder Sponsors

Kitty Myers
Neal Catt
Independence Garden Club
Steven & Diana Felt
John & Ann Vogel
Steve & Janice Ephraim
Rick & Julie Whittle
Quasqueton Garden Club
Rick & Mary Vogel
Chautauqua Literary Club

Appendix C: Environmental Education

Appendix C.1: Environmental Education Attendance Figures FY11

The following is a summary of the groups served through the EE program. The EE program is designed to meet a set of specific goals and objectives, described in the EE Program Five-year Comprehensive Plan (available upon request). Figures for FY10 and FY09 are shown in parenthesis.

<u>School Student Programs (K-college)</u>			<u>Youth Programs (other than school groups)</u>		
Number of presentations:	682	(713) (564)	Number of presentations:	69	(82) (77)
Total attendance:	13,712	(14,533) (10,508)	Total attendance:	1,337	(1,666) (1,459)
Average group size:	20.1	(20.4) (18.6)	Average group size:	19.4	(20.3) (18.9)
<u>Teacher and Youth Leader Programs</u>			<u>Public Programs (advertised to public)</u>		
Number offered:	10	(11) (13)	Number of presentations:	48	(48) (44)
Total attendance:	118	(110) (178)	Total attendance:	943	(1,214) (1,299)
Average group size:	11.8	(10) (13.6)	Average group size:	21.2	(25.3) (29.5)
			County Fair Booth Users	700	(700) (825)
<u>Civic and Senior Programs</u>			<u>Total Attendance</u>		
Number of presentations:	66	(61) (48)	Presentations:	891	(915) (746)
Total attendance:	1,422	(1,161) (877)	Total:	18,452	(19,384) (15,146)
Average group size:	21.2	(19.0) (18.3)	Avg. Group Size:	20.7	(21.2) (20.2)

Appendix C.2: Programming Support - FY11

Rick Wulfekuhle	Rosemary Boland	Dawn Amundson
David Voigts	Doug Beier	Betty & Don Butler
Terry VanDeWalle	Sheryln Hazen	Jackie Gauth
Thomas Schilke	Angela Wichtendal	Gary Whittenbaugh
Angi Reid	Kristi Moeller	Mary & Harvey Davis
Karen Phelps	Jackie McTaggart	Anita Miller
Bruce Bearinger	Amber Sauser	Angie Christensen
David and Pat Fencil	Chris Anderson	Buchanan County Pheasants Forever
Vic Collins	Tina Dodge- ISU Ext.	Buchanan County Wildlife Assoc.
Paul Bachman	Francis Moore	
Kenlyn Aarhus	Diane Lotta	
Greg Schmitt	Gail Barels	
Kathy Post	Jason Auel	
Kip Ladage	Matt Crayne	
Heather Gamm	Marc Winn	
Jesup FFA	Marie Koschmeder	

Appendix C.3: Public Programs Offered - FY11

Wee Nature Tales	Prairie Chicken/Crane Bus Trip	Capture the Flag
Nature Explorers	Fall Colors Bus Trip	Hungry Hungry Animals
Young Naturalists	Morning Canoe Float	Fishing Derby
Fontana Campout - Step 1	National Archery in the Schools	Discover Buchanan Co. Parks Series
Upper Iowa Canoe Float	Recycle Gift Bags	Women in the Outdoors Series
Moonlit Canoe Float	Film Night at Fontana	Buchanan County's History Series
Monarch Tagging	Creepy Crawlies	Everything Bison
Photo Contest Judging	Prairie Exhibit Grand Opening	All About Bugs
Jakway Septemberfest	IOWATER Workshop	Goose Banding
Trick or Treat for the Animals	Growing Up Wild Training	Birding with the Naturalist Series
Buchanan County Fair	LEAD	
Moonlight Snowshoeing	Gardening out of Comfort Zone	
Sleigh Rides at Cortright Wildlife Area	PopCan Airplanes	
After-School Library Programs	Volunteer Orientation	
Migratory Bird Day	Jakway Old Time Meal	

Appendix D: FY11 Volunteers

Garden and Landscaping

Claudia Schweer
Kathy Karsten
Elaine Johnson
Millie Jensen
Marybeth Jaggard
David & Pat Fencil
Bev Sage
Jo Porter
Harvey Davis
Leslie Matthias
Shirley Rozendaal

Fundraising

Lynn Heins
Roger Johnson
Judy Porter
Judy Post
Linda Ridihalgh
JoAnne VanCleave
Gary Buresh
Sondra Cabell
Dan Cohen
Dave Fencil
Loren Hamilton
Marybeth Jaggard
Jenni Webster

Wildlife Display

Justin Nie

Invasive Species Removal

David and Pat fencil
Leslie VanFossen
HCC Wildlife Mgmt. Class
Young Naturalists Day Camps
Andrew & Abbie Van Raden

Richardson-Jakway Foundation/

Septemberfest

Paul Anthes
Dee Brandt
Ruth Brandt
Amy Copenhaver
Judy Cook
Mary & Harvey Davis
Steve & Delphine Deaner
Jeanne Dudley
Marybeth Jaggard
Wanda Goins
Chris Hansen
Wanda Haverkamp
Leola Heath
Peter Lodholz
Gladys Richardson
George Richardson
Deb Shelton

AmeriCorps

Samantha Foth

Newsletter Assembly

Carrie Bates
Ed Zimmer
Ivadel Luloff
Janell Hines
Joan Zimmer
Lela Jones
Leo Sand
Lucille Hall
Bud Hall
Mary McNamara
Pat Falcon
Pearl Pfab
Shirley Franck
Shirley Rozendaal
Shirley Kress
Jim Rozendaal
Donna Jensen
Lyle Luloff
Tom McNamara
Mary Ann Schons
Mary Gritton
Jim Kelly
Carol Kelly
Eleanor Hand
Velma Bauter ?spelling
Marry Morris
Sharron Seehouse
Gerry Williams
Delores Shannon
Delores Brokman
Lil Madison
Brett Solberg
Alice Kelly
Marcia Poston ?spelling

Wildlife Monitoring

Paul Bachman
Micki Sand-Cohen
Ted Good
Max Grover
Anita Miller
Ed Husmann
Marybeth Jaggard
Danny Murphy
Derrick Murphy
Diane Lotta
Michael O'Brien
Linda Ridihalgh
Wendy Vandewalle
Leslie VanFossen

Park Maintenance

Paul Bachman
Ron Lenth
Peter Lodholz
Nature Explorers Camp
Mason Schares
Leslie VanFossen
Wapsi Bowhunters
Tony Bengston
Oelwein River Clean up Committee
Doug Lentz
Vern Scott
Don Shonka
Jennifer Webster
Mary Lou Weepie
Don Shonka
Chuck Watson
Howard Miller
Doug Lentz
Chuck Wessels
Loren Hamilton
Bob Glew
Steve Hasenour
Ranor Hoffman
Harvey Davis

Campground Host

Vern & Wanda Tiedt
Raymond & Kathie Hack
Don & Barb Cook
Lanette Burroughs
Carlyle & Beth Schmidt

Nature Center Volunteers

Volunteer:	Hours:	Volunteer:	Hours:
Rosemary Boland	45	Mary Lodholz	4
Lanette Burroughs	96	Robert Mische	14
Ruby Campbell	22	Patti Olmstead	24
Marilyn Gallo	5	Deb Otdoefer	6
J'Andrea M. Gibney	8	Judith Porter	24
Chris Goarke	20	Shirley Rozendaal	18
Joy Hintz	29	JoAnne Rowe	12
Helen Hofer	30	Faith Rulapaugh	20
Mikayla Holly	22	Verla Sperry	43
Marybeth Jaggard	44	Wanda Williams Tiedt	12
Janet Jessen	2	Lauria Trenkamp	10
Kathryn Karsten	7	David Voigts	12
Frankie King	4	Jane West	18

Appendix E: Grants Awarded

<u>Grant Program</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fish Habitat Grant	Cortright Ponds Reconnection	\$15,336.90
AmeriCorps Grant	AmeriCorps positions	\$5,120.42
Silos and Smokestack Nat. Heritage Area	Jakway House Interior	\$3,000.00 (\$1,500 in FY10)
Prairie Rapids Audubon	Displays and snowshoes (FFP)	\$1,500.00 (\$750 in FY10)

Appendix F: Conservation Board and Board of Supervisors

F.1 Board Members and terms from founding to present (*Denotes charter board member)

Ralph L. Kimball*, Independence	1956-58	John Miller, Jesup	1969-94
C. L. (Mickey) Fox*, Jesup	1956-67	Carroll Conklin, Independence	1981-94
L.O. Weston*, Lamont	1956-58	Harry Brooks, Independence	1982-83
“ “ “	1962-65	Bob Boohar, Independence	1983-91
A.J. Murphy, Winthrop	1957-62	Nyle McMartin, Jesup	1992-01
R.C. Stewart*, Lamont	1956-62	Phil Thyer, Independence	1993-00
H.G. Lincoln*, Rowley	1956-57	Diane Slaughter, Independence	1994-03
Jack Gates, Independence	1958-62	Loren Hamilton, Independence	1995-04
Robert Buckman, Aurora	1958-62	Robert Bainbridge, Independence	1996-00
“ “ “	1965-92	Dr. Kenneth McDonough, Oelwein	2000-06
Warren Pratt, Rowley	1962-63	Roger Johnson, Independence	2000-
Don Anderson, Independence	1962-81	Richard Vogel, Jesup	2002-05
Kessler Clark, Brandon	1963-65	Gary Buresh, Independence	2004-
Miller McMillen, Quasqueton	1964-66	Jim Klever, Independence	2005-
Raymond Finley, Brandon	1966-80	Ranor Hoffman	2006-10
Max Grover, Rowley	1967-93	Patricia Fencl	2006-
J.M. Tounshendeaux, Jesup	1968-79	Karen Stephenson	2011-

E.2 Board of Supervisors

The Conservation Board thrives on the support of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, and their understanding of the importance of local conservation programs. Members of the FY11 Board of Supervisors are shown below.

Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, FY11



Ellen Gaffney



Ralph Kremer



Mike Ferreter - through 2010



Gary Gissel - beginning 2011

Map of Buchanan County Parks

1. Fontana Park
2. Jakway Forest
3. Buffalo Creek Area
4. Lime Creek Area
5. Boies Bend Area
6. Otter Creek Roadside Park
7. Cutshall Area
8. Patton Prairie
9. Otter Creek Wildlife Preserve
10. Nibeck Wildlife Preserve
11. Van Laningham Wildlife Preserve
12. Sand Creek Area
13. Pine Creek Area
14. Rowley Fen
15. Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods
16. Mickey Fox Area
17. Putty Foot Preserve
18. Crumbacher Wildlife Area
19. Bearbower Sand Prairie
20. Blazing-star Prairie
21. Swartz Preserve
22. Bryantsburg Area
23. Schneider-Heimick-Rowe Area
24. Three Elms Area
25. Frogville Access
26. Troy Mills Wapsi Access
27. Wapsinicon River Access
28. Iron Bridge Access
29. Newton Township Natural Area
30. Hodges and North Wildlife Area
31. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area
32. Hoover Area
33. Fairbank Fen
34. Anderson Addition to Cutshall Area
35. Ham Marsh
36. Cortright Wildlife Area
37. Robert "Chic" McLaughlin Access
38. Wehner Woods

