



# The Otter Creek Quarterly

Winter, 2011-12  
Vol. 26 No. 4

*A Newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board*

*Become a Member of Friends of Fontana Park - Insert!*

## Winter Reflections on a Busy Year

Dan Cohen, BCCB Director

Winter is a great time for reflecting back and planning forward. This winter, in particular, the Conservation Department will look back on a busy and productive year, take a deep breath, and make plans for the future.

Two especially large projects were undertaken during the year, requiring a large workload for our small staff. The new Sustainable Living Cabins at Fontana Park opened to great acclaim. Cabin construction was a unique project, using materials and techniques that required a lot of thinking and planning. Like most first-time projects, this was a learning opportunity with setbacks and hurdles to overcome. Staff spent long hours piecing together indoor and outdoor wood siding that really makes the cabins a beautiful place to spend a weekend. The result is a year-round opportunity for people to have overnight park experiences, while learning about sustainable living practices and techniques.

While cabin construction was laboriously underway, board and staff members also were preparing to play host to the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards' Annual Conference. A county with a population as small as Buchanan County's had never before taken on this large endeavor. Plans and logistics were being made and implemented to bring in more than 50 expert presenters, provide recreational pre-conference opportunities, conduct motor coach trips to attractions throughout the county, assure

great meals and entertainment, and coordinate lodging and transportation needs. In the end, the conference succeeded

due to the investment of long hours by board and staff, and great assistance from community volunteers and organizations. About 270 people were present during the three-day period, and all left with a great appreciation for the hard work of the Conservation Department, and Buchanan County's human, natural, and facility resources.


Looking back on a busy year is done in tandem with the need to look forward, and to make future plans. The Conservation Board is engaged in this process. With assistance from Iowa State University, the Board conducted a





Needs Assessment Survey of county residents. The thoughts and opinions of county residents are important to the planning processes that will determine future objectives and projects.

Each year, the Conservation Board publishes an Annual Report that provides an in-depth look at the previous fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), and indicates objectives for the coming year. The full report (left) is made available for public viewing on the Conservation Board web site: [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com).

**Buchanan County Conservation Board**  
2010-2011 Annual Report



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

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## Conservation Tidbits

### Combat climate change by being part of the solution.

All of us use fossil fuels every day. In the process we produce the greenhouse gases that are primarily responsible for global warming. Here are some of the most important ways we can all make a difference:



- Switch bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescents or LEDs.
- Run your dishwasher only when full, and wash clothes in cold or warm water, never hot.
- Consume less, manufacturing, packing, transporting, and selling goods all use huge amounts of energy, releasing excessive amounts of greenhouse gases.
- Stay informed. Write letters to your leaders, and learn which candidates are likely to take the aggressive and farsighted actions necessary to curb climate change. Learn how you can get involved.

- Audubon

<http://policy.audubon.org/climate-change-campaign>

### Iowa suffered its fifth consecutive winter with more than 30 inches of snow and a wet spring.

At the same time, Iowa continues to lose CRP habitat, to the tune of 485 square miles since 2007 – largely due to conversion to row crops. The results are low populations of pheasants across much of the state and modern record low pheasant harvests for hunters. Birds are not evenly distributed across the state. Eastern and Southeastern Iowa have very low numbers. Although winterkill of pheasants was severe in Northwest Iowa, excellent habitat should offer fair hunting this fall. While they weren't extremely big gains, some south central and Southwest Iowa counties will see increases in the pheasant population.



- Pheasants Forever Magazine  
Winter 2012 Edition

### Turkey vultures have become increasingly common during the past two decades.

Turkey vultures derive their name from the featherless, red heads of adults. There is no denying that, at least from a distance, a roosted vulture does



somewhat resemble a male wild turkey. There is good reason for the vulture's distinctive, though ugly, bare head. As an avid consumer of carrion, TVs routinely forage in some pretty nasty places. The complete lack of head and neck feathers aids in maintaining cleanliness. Contrary to popular belief, vultures are among the cleanest of birds, spending up to four hours per day bathing and preening—more time than is documented for any other Iowa bird. Check out more of the interesting facts on TVs by visiting the Iowa Outdoors Magazine online.

- Iowa Outdoors

[www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/IowaOutdoorsMagazine/NatureWildlife.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/IowaOutdoorsMagazine/NatureWildlife.aspx)

## Nature Center Shopping

During the upcoming season of gift giving, consider shopping at the Nature Center's Gift Shop to share a love of nature. Some "fair trade" items include rainforest seed earrings, hand embroidered bags, and coffee. These items help preserve the rainforests where many of our migrating birds overwinter, and direct money to farmers and crafts people who produce the goods.

Also in the Nature Center Gift Shop are a large assortment of field guides, recycled bird feeders, animal puppets, nature stickers and tattoos, wildlife puzzles, garden signs, Iowa wildlife T-shirts, and more! Gift certificates are available for Buchanan County campgrounds and summer camp sessions.

For the really tough to buy for, consider a donation for an animal or bird feeder sponsorship. Stop out during normal business hours (see back cover) and see the merchandise on display.



## Chronic Wasting Disease

Angie Auel, Naturalist

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological disease affecting deer and elk. It is caused by an abnormal protein known as a prion that essentially eats holes in the brains of infected animals. In the latter stages of the disease, animals appear disoriented, lethargic and emaciated. Once an animal is infected, it takes 18 months for the deer to exhibit the symptoms. It is always fatal to the infected animal. Anyone seeing a deer exhibiting CWD symptoms should immediately contact the Iowa DNR.

To date, CWD has not been diagnosed in captive or wild deer in Iowa. Symptoms of CWD in captive deer include excessive salivation, loss of appetite, progressive weight loss, excessive thirst and urination, teeth grinding, holding the head in a lowered position and drooping ears. Deer in captive herds are inspected by the USDA.

### How is CWD Transmitted?

The mode of transmission between deer or elk is not completely understood. However, it is thought that the disease is transmitted from direct contact between animals in a herd. Environmental factors such as heat does not easily kill the disease causing prion, so transmission from a contaminated environment may also be possible.

### How is CWD Diagnosed?

Brain samples are collected from hunter harvested or dead deer and are examined microscopically using special stains to identify the CWD prion.

### Is CWD Transmissible to Humans?

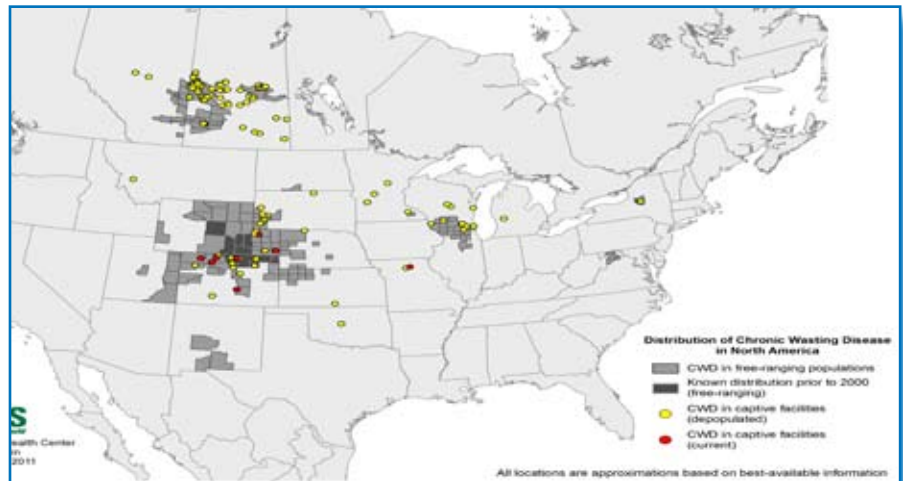
A World Health Organization panel of experts reviewed all available information on CWD and concluded that there is no scientific evidence that CWD can infect humans.

### Is CWD a Risk for Iowa's Livestock?

There is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted under natural conditions to cattle.

### Is it Safe to Eat Venison from Iowa Deer?

There is no scientific evidence that CWD is transmissible through consumption of meat from an infected animal. The National Institute of Health recommends that hunters do not eat the brain, eyeballs, or spinal cord of deer, and that hunters wear protective gloves while field dressing game.



### How can I help?

The Iowa DNR tests a minimum of 15 deer samples per county. However, because of the location of CWD in neighboring states or because of other deer herd issues, the DNR has selected ten counties that need a minimum of 100 samples: Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Appanoose, Wayne, and Buchanan.

If you hunt deer in Buchanan County or any other counties listed above, and you would be willing to let the DNR collect a sample from your hunted deer, please contact DNR Wildlife Biologist, Jason Auel, prior to butchering or taking the deer to the locker. Fawns are not accepted because deer must be 18 months or older. DNR staff will arrange a time to meet you at your location and will either collect the entire head or collect the brain stem and lymph nodes. DNR staff will need to know location of where the deer was killed.

You can call the the DNR Biologist Jason Auel at 319-213-2815 or NE District Office at 563-927-3276. Your willingness to help is appreciated!

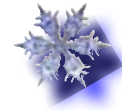


## Our New Climate Reality

Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m.

Independence Public Library

Sponsored by the Independence Climate Crusaders



State Senator Rob Hogg will present a very informative talk on climate change, renewable energy, and the upcoming 2012 legislative session. Raki Giannakourous with Green Dubuque will be speaking about how the City of Dubuque passed a resolution to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 50% by the year 2030. Come and find out what is happening in Iowa with climate change and what you can do to help! Bring your questions and sample some locally produced and organic goodies. No fee to attend, and preregistration is not required.

***Unless otherwise indicated, programs are free. You should call 319-636-2617 to preregister for programs, or email [naturalist@iowatelecom.net](mailto:naturalist@iowatelecom.net).***

## Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7:30 a.m.

Meet at the Go America gas station across from Walmart in Independence

Preregistration required

Join a group of bird enthusiasts as they explore Buchanan County. Beginning birders and experts alike are invited to join in as we discover what species call our county home in winter. This will be the 112th year of the national Audubon Christmas Bird Count, but the third time a count will happen in Buchanan County. Groups will be birding by car and foot. Independence and Quasqueton residents, who will not travel with the group, may submit bird observations from their home feeders to [naturalist@iowatelecom.net](mailto:naturalist@iowatelecom.net) or by calling Angie at 319-636-2617. Information will help determine the health of bird populations locally and nationally. Go to <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html> for more information about the Christmas Bird Count.



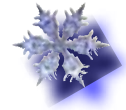
## Moonlit Snowshoe

Monday, Jan. 9, 6 p.m.

Fontana Park Nature Center

\$5 fee (FFP Members - \$3; see page 5)

Preregistration required



Strap on a pair of snowshoes and explore the beauty of a winter evening. If conditions are right, a waxing moon will light our way. No prior snowshoeing experience is necessary. Participants will meet at the Nature Center, where hot beverages will also be served after the walk.



## Winter Survival Challenge

Saturday, January 14 10 am – 2:30 p.m.

Fontana Park Nature Center

\$8 fee (FFP Members - \$6; see page 5)

Preregistration required

Participants will learn how to survive on the winter prairie. With no wood for fire or shelter building, the set of survival skills needed are a very different. We will start by sharing techniques for building a prairie survival shelter and ways to make prairie grasses burn slower and hotter as well as other skills and techniques. After a hot soup lunch, groups will be teamed to compete in making the best shelter and fire in a one hour period. In addition to suitable outdoor clothing, participants will be allowed to bring a "fanny pack" with survival gear for the competition and an optional camera. Program fee of \$8 per person includes soup lunch.

# 2012 Charter Membership in the Friends of Fontana



Dear Friends of Conservation and the Environment,

Spending time in nature, playing in our lakes and streams, following butterflies through a meadow, hiking below a canopy of trees and enjoying wildflowers along the way, makes us appreciate the incredible beauty and serenity that only nature can provide. Indeed, our relationship with the natural world is a priceless gift! Because you are one of those who values the benefits and richness of our natural environment, we would like to extend this special invitation to you to become a Charter Member of the Friends of Fontana Park (FFP).

The Friends of Fontana Park is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to help fund development of educational displays, written materials (such as the newsletter), and educational programs offered at Fontana and other Buchanan County parks, for both children and adults. The FFP supports programs such as summer camps, nature hikes, survival skills, fishing contests, identifying birds, insects and wildflowers, planting trees, protecting our water, the night sky, earth-friendly crafts, and the seemingly endless number of creative programs that the naturalists at Fontana come up with.

Join us in supporting this important work. All members will receive special benefits, like an invitation to advance showings of new exhibits, discounts on programs sponsored by the Friends of Fontana Park (including camp discounts with a Family Membership), and an invitation to an annual campfire party. Members are eligible to serve on the Friends of Fontana Park Board of Directors. An annual individual membership is just \$35.00; a family membership is \$50.00; sponsor level membership is \$100, and a business/corporate membership is \$100. Those who join at the \$100 level or higher will have a commemorative nameplate displayed in the Fontana Nature Center. Donations are tax deductible.

Join now as a holiday gift to yourself or a loved one. Simply fill out the form below and send it in along with your check. Phone 319-636-2617 for more information. We greatly appreciate your willingness to support efforts at conservation and protecting the environment, educating the public, and making it possible for everyone to experience the joys and benefits that only nature provides.

Sincerely,

Ruby Campbell, President

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Yes, I want to be a Charter Member of Friends of Fontana Park! Enclosed is my donation.

***I would like to be:***

**An Individual Donor**  
(\$35 or more)

**Family Member**  
(\$50 or more)

**Business Member**  
(\$100 or more)

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names) as you wish them to read on recognition: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

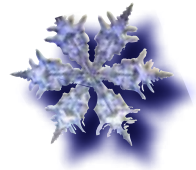
Make checks payable to:

Friends of Fontana Park and Mail to: Fontana Interpretive Nature Center, 1883 125th St., Hazleton, IA 50641

## Great Backyard Bird Count - February 17-20



Join the more than 92 thousand who last year reported 594 species and over 11 million individual birds in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The GBBC is an annual, four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!



1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.
2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time. You may find it helpful to print out your regional bird checklist to get an idea of the kinds of birds you are likely to see in your area in February. You could take note of the highest number of each species you see on this checklist.
3. When you are finished, enter your results through the GBBC web page. (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>) You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count. It will remain active until the deadline for data submission. (We'll let you know when that is for 2012.)

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery.

***Unless otherwise indicated, programs are free. You should call 319-636-2617 to preregister for programs, or email [naturalist@iowatelecom.net](mailto:naturalist@iowatelecom.net).***

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## Eagle Monitoring Training

Saturday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Fontana Park Nature Center – \$10 fee checks made out to Iowa DNR

Preregistration required. To register, call 319-636-2617, or download the registration form at:

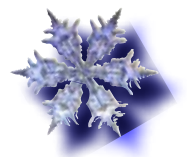
[www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WildlifeStewardship/NonGameWildlife/VolunteerWildlifeSurveys/VolunteerMonitoring.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WildlifeStewardship/NonGameWildlife/VolunteerWildlifeSurveys/VolunteerMonitoring.aspx).

Registration is limited to 30 people.



Be a citizen scientist and help fill in the gaps in knowledge of eagles! The Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program (VWMP) is a day-long training designed to prepare folks for collecting yearly data on Iowa's declining wildlife and submitting that data to the Wildlife Diversity Program. The data is crucial to monitor nesting trends of Iowa's raptors, and colonial waterbirds.

Participants in bird-nest monitoring workshops will learn how to identify raptors and colonial waterbirds and how to locate and monitor their nesting sites. Surveyors will visit nests 2-3 times during the spring and summer, collecting data on number of young successfully fledged. Data collected during these visits are then submitted through an online database to the Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program.



## Connecting Conservation's Past (Leopold) and Future (You)

Monthly program sessions begin Jan 18  
(Wednesdays 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. or Saturdays 10 – 2)

*“Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher ‘standard of living’ is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free.”*

– Aldo Leopold



Using the essays of Aldo Leopold’s conservation classic, "A Sand County Almanac", participants will be encouraged to look more closely at the diverse natural world around them. Interacting directly with the land and posing questions to develop critical thinking skills, adult and youth teams will experience the seasons while growing in their respect of our connection to it.

Adults are encouraged to find a youth or two (5th grade and up) with whom to share the experience. Participants will receive copies of Leopold’s *A Sand County Almanac* to read together in preparation for each month. Weekday programs will be held in either Benton or Buchanan Counties (Rogers Park near Vinton and Fontana Park near Hazleton), and will include a light supper. Four Saturday field sessions will also be held. Activities will take place outdoors and indoors.

Registration cost for the 12-month program is \$25 per person, and includes program materials and meals. We understand participants might not be able to attend every session. The schedule of topics is as follows:

- Jan 18 (Wed) – Buchanan County – January Thaw
- Feb 11 (Sat) – Benton County – Good Oak
- March 21 (Wed) – Benton County – The Geese Return
- April 18 (Wed) – Buchanan County – Come High Water – Sky Dance
- May 12 (Sat) – Buchanan County – Back from the Argentine
- June 20 (Wed) – Benton County – The Alder Fork – a Fishing Idyl
- July 18 (Wed) – Benton County – Great Possessions/ A Prairie Birthday
- August 11 (Sat) – Buchanan Co – The Green Pasture
- Sept 19 (Wed) – Buchanan Co – The Choral Copse
- October 17 (Wed) – Benton Co – Smoky Gold – Red Lanterns
- Nov 10 (Sat) – Benton Co – If I were the Wind – A Mighty Fortress
- Dec 12 (Wed) – Buchanan Co – Home Range - 65290

## Sleigh Rides at Cortright

Saturday, Feb. 11 12:30-3:00 p.m. – Cortright Wildlife Area  
Preregistration required, call 319-636-2617



*Sleigh comes to pick up people during a previous year's ride at Cortright.*

Experience Cortright Wildlife Area in a unique way – by horse-drawn sled. Participants will sign-up for 15-minute ride slots, and are asked to arrive at Cortright 15 minutes before their scheduled ride. The sleigh typically holds two participants at a time (or two adults and two children). A fire for warming will also be offered. Space is limited, so call now. Please ask for directions to this property, located near Littleton.

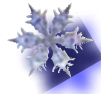
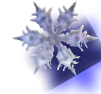
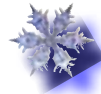
## Volunteers Recognition in March

The success of conservation is largely a function of how well people are engaged in community conservation efforts. The Buchanan County Conservation Board provides excellent parks and natural areas, award winning educational and recreational programs, and landowner assistance. But it is the active participation of the people in the Buchanan County area that ultimately affect the quality of our environment.

Each year, volunteers are recognized during a special gathering. Due to issues with schedules and weather, this year's volunteer recognition will be held in March. If you are one of the more than 100 Conservation Volunteers engaged in Conservation Board projects and programs, you should be receiving an invitation in late winter.

There are more than 18 areas in which people may volunteer with the Conservation Department. For more information about being a volunteer, call 319-636-2617.

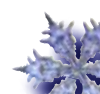
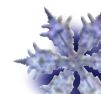
*Right: Pearl Stanbroke volunteered during the IACCB Conference at the County Wildlife Association Grounds. Many volunteers and groups volunteered to make the conference a special experience for participants.*



### Volunteer Recognition

(as of 11/12/11)

• Rosemary Boland .....	152 Hours
• Jane West .....	83 Hours
• Marybeth Jaggard .....	626 Hours
• Verla Sperry.....	907 Hours
• David Voigts.....	266 Hours
• Helen Hoefler.....	609 Hours
• Joanne Rowe.....	124 Hours
• J'Andrea Gibney.....	75 Hours
• Marilyn Gallo.....	521 Hours
• Patti Olmstead.....	204 Hours
• Faith Rulapaugh.....	196 Hours
• Joy Hintz.....	467 Hours
• Chris Goarcke.....	153 Hours
• Judith Porter.....	140 Hours
• Shirley Rozendaal.....	74 Hours
• Wanda Tiedt.....	28 Hours
• Mary VanFossen.....	16 Hours
• Lanette Burroughs.....	131 Hours
• Ruby Campbell.....	106 Hours
• Janet Jessen.....	409 Hours
• Kathryn Karsten.....	42 Hours
• Frankie King.....	18 Hours
• Mary Lodholz.....	20 Hours
• Vivan Koloc.....	17 Hours
• Arlene Miede.....	104 Hours
• Robert Miede.....	64 Hours
• Debra Otdoefer.....	6 Hours



## Richardson-Jakway Foundation Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m.  
Fontana Park Nature Center

What is the Richardson-Jakway Foundation, and why should you join? The Richardson-Jakway Foundation consists of volunteer members who are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the historic Richardson-Jakway Historic Site. They plan and organize events and projects as fundraisers for the Historic Site. The group is in need of new ideas, and help with the upcoming 2012 Old Time Meals. Please come to the next meeting and find out if you want to be a part of this valuable organization. The meeting will be at 4 p.m. on January 10, at the Fontana Nature Center south of Hazleton, and should last less than one hour. If you would like more information, please call 319-636-2617.



## Congratulations Photo Contest Winners!

Winners in the 2011 Buchanan County Natural Areas Photo Contest were chosen by photographer Bob Strempeke of Independence, during a recent



*Overall Winner*

public Photo Contest Judging. After sharing some of his work, Bob provided comments on the images entered this year and selected the winning photos. Thanks to everyone who entered one or more pictures, and congratulations to all the winners.

Trenton Cabell of Independence was chosen as overall winner for his photo of a great-horned owl from the Fontana Wildlife Display. Carol Thyer of Independence won in the People Enjoying Nature category with a photo of a boy and dog playing in hollow tree sections. Tom Moon of Waterloo won in the Wildlife category with photos of a fledgling cardinal in an evergreen tree. Marilyn Nichols of Independence won in both the Plants & Wildflowers and Landscapes categories with photos of a coneflower with a bug and a lake reflection. Tracy Belle of Independence won in the digitally altered category with a photo of a fawn.

The photo contest was sponsored by Friends of Fontana Park. The overall winner received a \$50 prize, and winners in each category received \$25. Photos are on display in the Nature Center.

Our Wildlife category was the only category with no decrease in entry numbers this year. Due to the continued low number of entries in the creatively altered category, that category will be discontinued for the 2012 contest. Start taking pictures in Buchanan County for next fall's contest. Rules are available at [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com) or by contacting Sondra at [fontanapark@iowatelecom.net](mailto:fontanapark@iowatelecom.net) or at 319-636-2617. We look forward to seeing new photos from all of this year's participants and from other amateur photographers in next year's contest.

## Conservation Calendar!

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Dec. 1     | <i>Our New Climate Reality</i><br>Independence Library, 7 p.m. (P. 4)   |
| Dec. 20    | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i><br>Bill's Restaurant in Independence,<br>4:30 p.m. (subject to change).             |
| Dec. 21    | <i>Christmas Bird Count</i><br>Independence, 7:30 a.m. (P. 4).  |
| Dec. 24    | <i>Christmas Eve</i><br>(Nature Center closed)  |
| Dec. 25    | <i>Merry Christmas!</i><br>(Nature Center closed)   |
| Jan. 1     | <i>Happy New Year!</i><br>(Nature Center closed)  |
| Jan. 9     | <i>Moonlit Snowshoe</i><br>Fontana Park, 6:00 p.m. (P. 4).  |
| Jan. 10    | <i>Richardson Jakway Foundation Meeting</i><br>Fontana Park, 4:00 p.m. (P. 8).  |
| Jan. 14    | <i>Winter Survival Challenge</i><br>Fontana Park, 10:00 a.m. (P. 4).  |
| Jan. 16    | <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>  |
| Jan. 17    | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i><br>Fontana Park, 7 p.m. (subject to change).  |
| Jan. 18    | <i>January Thaw</i><br>Fontana Park, 5:30 p.m. (P. 7).  |
| Feb. 2-4   | <i>Winter Solstice Educator Workshop</i><br>Honey Creek State Park, Moravia, IA<br>Call 319-636-2617 for information. |
| Feb. 11    | <i>Good Oak</i><br>Rodgers Park, Vinton, 10:00 a.m. (P. 7).   |
| Feb. 11    | <i>Sleigh Rides at Cortright</i><br>Cortright Wildlife Area, 12:30 p.m. (P. 7).                                       |
| Feb. 21    | <i>Conservation Board Meeting</i><br>Fontana Park, 7 p.m. (subject to change).  |
| Feb. 17-20 | <i>Great Backyard Bird Count</i> (P. 6).  |
| Feb. 21    | <i>President's Day</i><br>(Nature Center closed)  |
| March 3    | <i>Eagle Monitoring Training</i><br>Fontana Park, 8:00 a.m. (P. 6).   |
| March 21   | <i>The Geese Return</i><br>Rodgers Park, Vinton, 5:30 p.m. (P. 7).  |

*For information about Conservation Board programs or activities, call 319-636-2617, email [bccbdan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bccbdan@iowatelecom.net), or visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com).*

*This newsletter is available via email, and an email listserve provides more information throughout the year. To sign up for the email list or listserve, email [bccbdan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bccbdan@iowatelecom.net).*

**Buchanan County Parks (acres)**

1. Fontana Park and Jarrett Slater Addition (134)..... Hazleton
2. Jakway Forest (315)..... Aurora
3. Lime Creek Area (45)..... Brandon
4. Boies Bend Area (26)..... Quasqueton
5. Buffalo Creek Area (81.5)..... Winthrop
6. Otter Creek Roadside Park (13)..... Hazleton

**Buchanan County Natural Areas (acres)**

7. Mickey Fox Area and Anderson Addition (97)..... Jesup
8. VanLaningham Area (3)..... Independence
9. Otter Creek Wildlife Area (100)..... Hazleton
10. Hoover Area (20)..... Troy Mills
11. Sand Creek Area (80)..... Quasqueton
12. Nibeck Nature Preserve (25)..... Hazleton
13. Pine Creek Area (40)..... Quasqueton
14. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area (60)..... Winthrop
15. Rowley Fen (43)..... Rowley
16. Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods (106)..... Brandon
17. Putty Root Preserve (17)..... Quasqueton
18. Blazing-Star Prairie (7.5)..... Rowley
19. Crumbacher Wildlife Area (368)..... Independence
20. Bearbower Sand Prairie (40)..... Brandon
21. Swartz Preserve (4)..... Aurora
22. Bryantsburg Prairie Preserve (1.5)..... Hazleton
23. Frogville Access (135)..... Troy Mills
24. Iron Bridge Access (1)..... Quasqueton
25. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area (20)..... Troy Mills
26. Newton Township Natural Area (158)..... Quasqueton
27. Patton Prairie (45)..... Aurora
28. Hodges and North Wildlife Area (67)..... Jesup
29. Fairbank Fen (40)..... Fairbank
30. Anderson Addition to Cutshall (24)..... Jesup
31. Ham Marsh (54)..... Independence
32. Wehner Woods (30)..... Lamont
33. Cortright Wildlife Area (190)..... Jesup

**Buchanan County River Accesses (acres)**

34. Troy Mills Wapsi Access (63)..... Troy Mills
35. Wapsi River Access (51)..... Independence
36. Three Elms Area (75)..... Independence
37. Cutshall Area (85)..... Jesup
38. Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Easement Access (5)..... Jesup

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 Jim Klever..... Vice Chair  
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*The Otter Creek Quarterly* is printed on Exact Offset paper manufactured by Wausau. This is a Green Seal paper - a mark of environmental responsibility. For more information about Green Seal paper, got to [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org). The newsletter is edited by Dan Cohen. Contact the Conservation Department (319-636-2617/[bccbdan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bccbdan@iowatelecom.net)) for more information.

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For more information regarding Conservation Board activities, call 319-636-2617/[bccbdan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bccbdan@iowatelecom.net)



2011 Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards Annual Conference

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*Clockwise from top left: Conversing with Teddy Roosevelt; forestry lessons in the Jakway Forest; walking through a wetland prairie planting; and using educational archery equipment.*