



RIVER COUNTRY CONVERSATIONS

A Publication of the Lee County Conservation Board

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2652 Hwy 61, Montrose, Iowa 52639

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What will a nature center mean to Lee County?

By Tom Buckley - Director, Lee County Conservation

After almost twenty-two years of starts and stops the Lee County Conservation Board has reached its goal of providing a nature center for the people of Lee County. Approval to proceed with the new building was given at the July 22nd Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting. The final step is completing the architect's plans which should be in hand by mid-October.

The total cost of the building will be \$660,000 including the bonding fees. Fifteen percent of that cost will be covered by donations and funds other than tax dollars. Additional donations and grants are currently being pursued to further reduce the cost to Lee County taxpayers. More importantly, however, is the benefit that an education center located on the Mississippi River can bring to the people of Lee County.

The new facility will be located at the Heron Bend Conservation Area less than a quarter mile from the Mississippi River. Over 2,000 square feet of the building will be dedicated to displays and educational information about the Mississippi River, the local wildlife and plant life, and the natural and cultural history of our region along the river.

The facility will offer Lee County a unique attrac-

tion along one of the busiest highway corridors in the area. With displays that will highlight the local plant

and animal life in the area as well as opportunities to learn about some of the natural and cultural history of the Mississippi River, the new center should quickly become a destination for those interested in conservation and nature related topics.

Visitors to this center will be able to not only tour the conservation information that will be provided but also experience the surroundings on the Heron Bend Area. The center will become an avenue to touch the river and have a direct experience with Iowa's outstanding nature feature, the Mississippi River.



Help name Lee County's new nature center!

On Nov. 1st at 11 a.m. there will be an open house with a short presentation on the design and location of the new interpretive center. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and vote on the building's name. This free public event will kick off a series of fundraising activities that will be held over the next several months. A free-will chili luncheon with refreshments will be provided.

The mission of the Lee County Conservation Board is to acquire, develop, maintain and provide the public access to a variety of areas that will meet the conservation, recreation and wildlife needs for the general well-being of those people while providing development and conservation of natural resources and improving citizenship through programs of education and recreation.

Changes at Lee County Conservation

Mary Bulger - Naturalist

Hello everyone, my name is Mary Bulger and as the new Naturalist for the Lee County Conservation Board I want to introduce myself to you. I started with LCCB late last summer as the Assistant Naturalist and when long-time LCCB staff member Karen left for a great new job opportunity with Warren County, I transitioned into her position

To tell you a little about myself, I grew up in a small rural eastern Iowa community. This gave me lots of time to spend outdoors and enjoy all the wonders nature has to offer.



My family spent endless hours fishing, camping, gardening, and just enjoying the outdoors. Through spending most of my youth in nature, I developed a love for it as well as for animals. This is what led me to

my chosen career path as a naturalist.

After high school I attended Kirkwood Community College, and received my Parks and Natural Resources degree. I worked several seasonal and part-time naturalist jobs for a few years, and then decided to return to college to get my bachelors degree. I received my Environmental Science degree with a minor in Education from the University of Iowa. While perusing my degree at the U of I, I continued to work part-time and seasonal jobs at the U of I Wildlife Summer Camps, the MacBride Raptor Project, Johnson County ISU Extension, and Muscatine County Conservation. I especially enjoyed working with amazing birds like owls, hawks, and eagles at the MacBride Raptor Project, whose three main goals are raptor rehabilitation, education, and research. I continued to work with Muscatine County Conservation after I graduated until I came to work with LCCB. Working with these different organizations gave me lots of great experience in the environmental education field.

I am thrilled to have this wonderful opportunity to serve the people of Lee County by educating them about the environment. I look forward to meeting you at one of our parks or schools.

Connie Clark-Hudson - Administrative Assistant

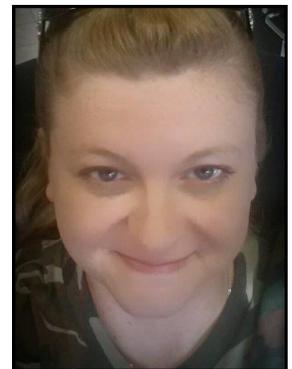
Hello everyone! I am a new team member of the Lee County Conservation Board. I started working for LCCB on March 5th, 2014. I am a resident of Montrose, Iowa and have lived there all my life. I am married to a wonderful man and we have five kids and two grandbabies. I enjoy reading, gardening, traveling, and spending quality time with my family in my spare time.

This is not the first time I have worked for LCCB. I did some part time office work back in the early 90's as Helen Fowler's assistant. I enjoyed that very much. The staff was warm and welcoming.

I come from a Hospitality background, and even though this was a rewarding career I felt it was time for a change. When the Administrative Assistant position opened up I knew I wanted to work with this great team once again. Office administration is an interesting and challenging field to be in. Your day is always changing. I do have regular tasks I perform each day, but I never know where I might be needed to help out.

I really enjoy my job and my coworkers.

I consider my job a blessing and look forward to coming to work each day. The other staff members are kind and considerate to work with. It's so refreshing to be part of a team effort. Our Board is supportive of the staff and working for Lee County in general is awesome. Everyone I have encountered in my almost six months of working for LCCB and the county have been friendly and inviting. They are all willing to help out when I have a question.



I want to welcome the public to our office anytime. There are many things to learn about nature here, and once we get our new building it's going to be amazing the opportunities for learning we will be able to provide for the public.

Clay Steele - Assistant Naturalist

My love for the outdoors began as a child playing in the woods near my home. As a young adult I discovered I had a strong desire to tell others about the beautiful prairies and woodlands that once covered the Midwest. That dream was realized as I was preparing to graduate from the University of Iowa in my hometown of Iowa City with degrees in Anthropology and Studio Art. Having studied cultural ecology, environmental ethics, and American Indian studies, I knew I wanted to teach.

A chance meeting in 2002 led me to an AmeriCorps position working as an assistant naturalist for the local county conservation department. I knew immediately I had found my calling. That position was followed by another year in AmeriCorps creating a gardening and recycling program at an elementary

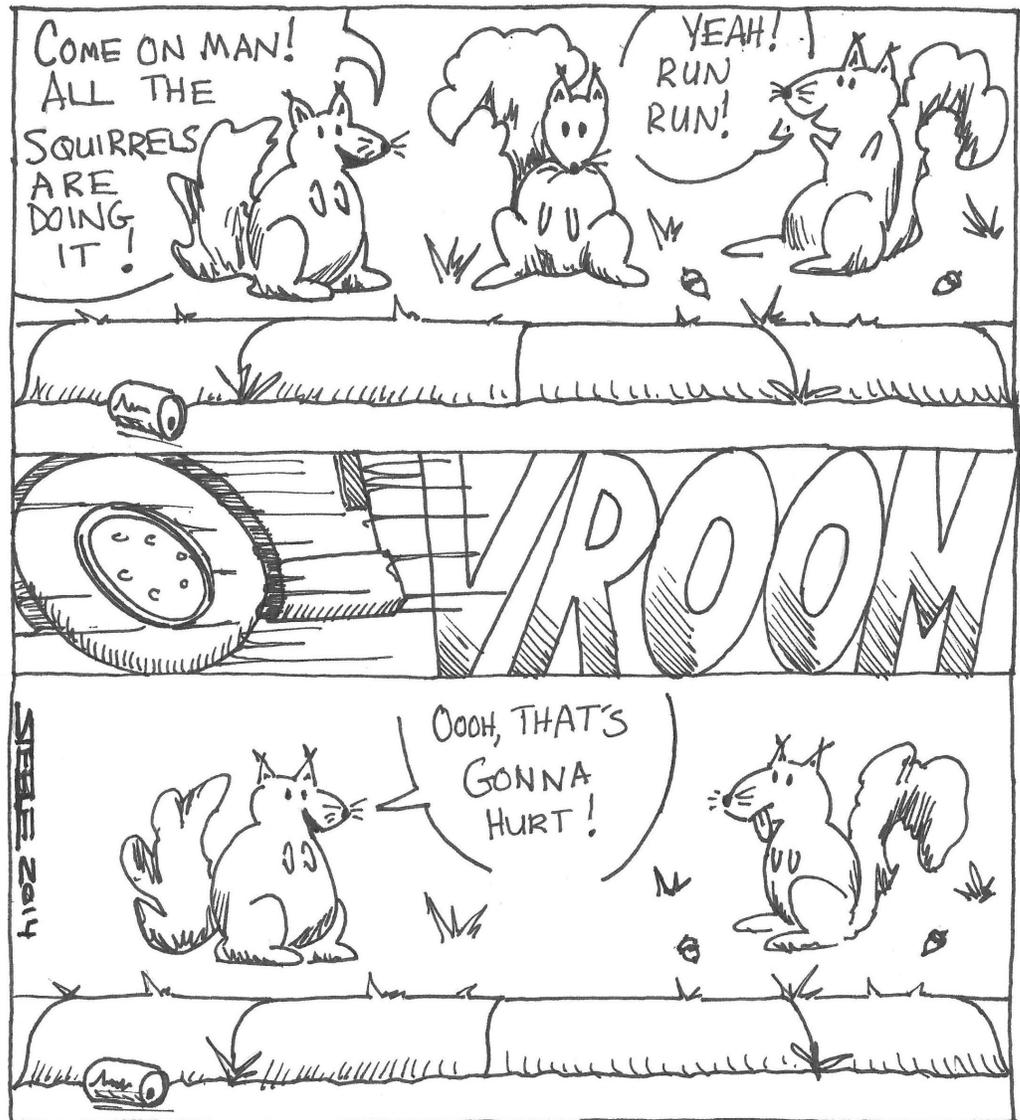
school in Oregon. Since then, I have worked as a naturalist for nature centers in Minnesota and Iowa.

I just started with Lee County Conservation in May and my wife Emily and young daughter Neva and I are excited to be back in the state and enjoying the river life again. My interests lie in both the urban and wild and involve exploring, sitting, watching, listening, playing, and creating. Nature, culture, and sustainable living are my passions and combined with a love of teaching and children I can see myself working as a naturalist for a long time to come.



Inside-Out

By
Clay Steele



SQUIRREL TEENAGERS



Thank You!



We could not do what we do without the generosity of those who donate their time and provide funding and support for our programs.



Three Rivers Conservation Foundation



2014 Outdoor Adventure Camp

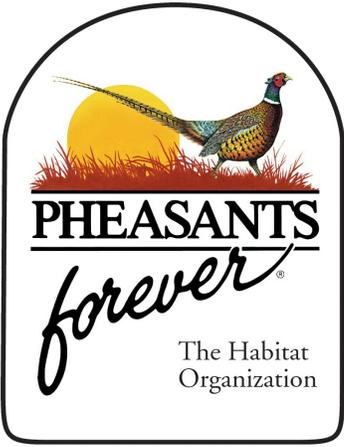
- Pheasants Forever
- Quail Forever
- Sub Arena
- Three Rivers Conservation Foundation
- Camp Lookout & Karen Shoemaker
- American Outdoors
- Linn County Conservation Board
- Muscatine County Conservation Board
- Glasscock's Shooting Preserve
- Echo Calls
- Tri-State Gun Club
- Hy-Vee, Fort Madison
- Schaeffer's Fish Market
- Quarry Creek Elk and Bison, Co.
- FM Community School District



- Dave Bakke
- Michelle Berns
- Joe Peitz
- Earl Walrath
- Ronnie Harrison
- Ben Schlader
- Brian Fedler
- Polly Falcon
- Sue Prochazka
- Jessy Mortimer

- Drake Falcon
- Pete Settles
- David Escher
- Kim Hasck
- Joe Tebbs
- Bill Mullen
- Mark Holland
- Sandra Fulhart-Snyder
- Tom Hutchcroft
- Ernie Schiller
- LCCB Staff





Kids Fishing Tournament

Queisner Family
 Pheasants Forever
 Quail Forever
 West Point Community Club
 Illinois Junior Fishing Association
 Three Rivers Conservation Foundation
 Pizza Hut, Fort Madison
 Angelini's Pizza



Become a Member of Three Rivers Conservation Foundation

Where your gift can make a difference for the future

Membership Categories:

Contributing Member - \$10 – \$99
 Supporting Member - \$100 - \$499

Sustaining Member - \$500 - \$999
 Life Member - \$1000

Your gift will directly support the efforts / education and habitat work of Lee County Conservation.
 All members receive Lee County Conservation's *River Country Conversations* newsletter.
 Three Rivers Conservation Foundation is recognized as a 501 (c) 3 organization.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

I would like to volunteer

I want to receive the newsletter

Make checks payable to: **Three Rivers Conservation Foundation**
 Mail to: **TRCF, 2652 Hwy 61, Montrose, IA 52639**

Word Find M.A.D.ness



FALL
WINTER
HIBERNATION
BURROW
SLEEP
WOODCHUCK
MIGRATION

FLY
PELICAN
MONARCH
ADAPT
STORE FOOD
THICK FUR
DEER

G V S M R P A Q C P X T N J P
T N B T E E M C E V K H H U P
G P I E O M T L Y C O I D T D
Q C L H F R I N U R X C W N E
F S P L T C E H I W M K O O E
I Y Y V A A C F R W Q F R I R
I W E N P D E N O N X U R T O
K U L F O Z S R H O H R U A F
Z S H O N G Q F B U D J B N A
W T W A D A P T A W X M M R D
H C R A N O M G C L O Q V E U
R L W Q R E Q N Q U L L S B X
Y N P I A Y X U H C W Y S I Y
Z V U R E C G P A I Q M N H R
M I G R A T I O N N L Z M V P

Animals have three ways to deal with the upcoming winter: **Migrate**, **Adapt**, or **Die**... aka **M.A.D.**

- **Migrating** animals move to a warmer climate where they can find enough food.

- Animals that **adapt** eat lots of food and then either sleep through the winter by hibernating or stay awake and use their fat and thick fur as insulation.

- Other animals, such as insects, lay eggs and then **die**.



Search the puzzle to find some M.A.D. animals and how they prepare for the cold.

Words are hidden up, down, diagonal and backwards.
Good luck!

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CAN NOW
BUY YOUR
~ HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE ~
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LEE COUNTY
CONSERVATION
OFFICE.

WE CURRENTLY
CAN ONLY TAKE
CHECKS, CASH OR MONEY ORDERS.**

of iowa, Inc.
TIP
1-800-532-2020

**Poaching is
a crime.
Call "TIP"**

Sign up to get our newsletter emailed directly to you.

You'll save a tree!
You'll get it faster!
It won't clutter up the back of your toilet!

Send your name and email address to:
csteele@leecounty.org

FALL CALENDAR

For events requiring registration, please call the LCCB office at (319) 463-7673.

LCCB = Lee County Conservation Board

HBCA = Heron Bend Conservation Area

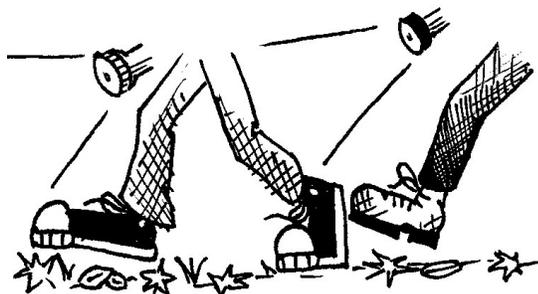
October

11 **Horseback Riding with the Westercamps: 2-5 p.m., Shimek State Forest**

Join a LCCB naturalist and the Westercamp family and staff for a three hour horseback ride through Shimek State Forest. Horses and snacks are provided. **Pre-registration by Oct. 7 required.** Space is limited to 12 riders. Cost: \$30 per rider.

18 **Halloween Hike—Awfully Awesome Animals, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wilson Lake**

Join the LCCB staff and volunteers for our annual non-scary hike through the woods. Stroll along a guided and lighted trail and learn why the animals that frighten us aren't really so fearsome. The hike takes about 45 minutes and refreshments will be served. Groups will leave every 1/2 hour from the large shelter house. **Reservations are required.** Call now to reserve your time. Cost: \$2 per person.



25 **Trout Release / Fishing Derby, 12-4 p.m., Wilson Lake**

Join the LCCB and the Iowa DNR for this fun family event. At Noon watch the release of 1,000 rainbow and brook trout into Wilson Lake followed by a fishing contest beginning at 1 p.m. 200 fish will be tagged for prizes. No registration required but all anglers over 16 must have a fishing license and have paid the trout fee. Cost: Free

November

1 **Open House / Building Naming Event: 11 a.m., HBCA**

Help name Lee County's new nature center! There will be a short presentation on the design and location of the new conservation education center, and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and vote on the building's name. This free public event will kick off a series of fundraising activities that will be held over the next several months. A free-will chili luncheon with refreshments will be provided.

January 2015

15-17 **Bald Eagle Appreciation Days, Keokuk, IA**

For more information contact Keokuk Tourism at 319-524-5599 or 1-800-383-1219 or email info@keokuktourism.org

Lee County Conservation Board Meeting

Second Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m., HBCA
(Date and location subject to change.)

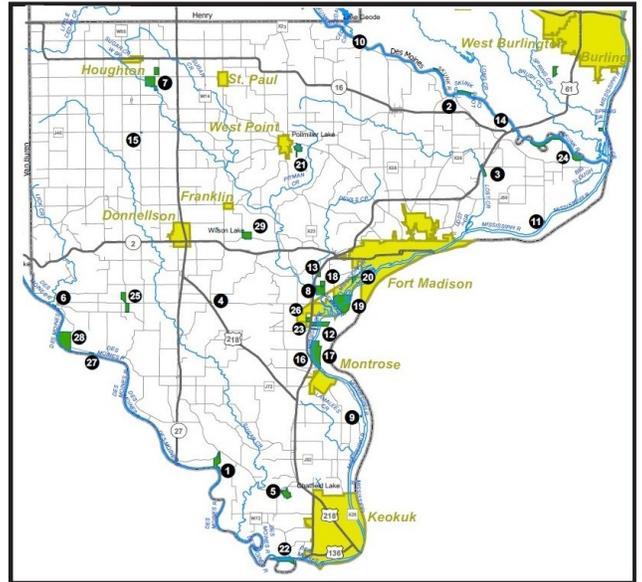
LCCB Offices Closed

Nov. 11: Veterans' Day
Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving weekend
Dec. 24-25: Christmas Eve and Day
Jan. 1: New Year's Day
Jan. 19: MLK Day

Lee County's programs and facilities are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race color national origin religion sex age and handicap. If anyone believes they have been subjected to discrimination they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with the Lee County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, DC 29240.

Lee County Conservation Board Areas

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Amborn-Pagin Wildlife Area | 13. Heron Bend Fishing Area |
| 2. Augusta Access | 14. Indian Path Park |
| 3. Burks Run | 15. LaCrew Roadside Rest Area |
| 4. Charleston Park | 16. Linger Longer Rest Area |
| 5. Chatfield Park | 17. Lotus Flats Conservation Area |
| 6. Croton Civil War Park | 18. North Heron Bend |
| 7. Denning Conservation Area | 19. Northern Winds Cons. Area |
| 8. Devil's Creek Access | 20. Ortho Access |
| 9. Galland School | 21. Pollmiller Park |
| 11. Green Bay Access | 22. Redwing Access Boat Ramp |
| 12. Heron Bend Conservation Area | 23. Reuther Refuge |
| | 24. Skunk River Access |
| | 25. Sugar Creek Bottoms |
| | 26. Trumpeter Marsh |
| | 27. Turkey Run Access |
| | 28. Turkey Run Wildlife Area |
| | 29. Wilson Lake |



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www.mycountyparks.com/county/lee.aspx
www.facebook.com



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 William Mullan—*Board Member*
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 Connie Clark-Hudson—*Admin. Assistant*
 Mary Bulger—*Naturalist*
 Clay Steele—*Assistant Naturalist*
 John Pawling, II—*Operation Supervisor*
 Rick Tebbs—*Wildlife Manager*
 Clint Oldfield—*Park Ranger*
 Dustin Johnson—*Assistant Wildlife Manager / Park Ranger*

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