

# Muscatine County Conservation Board 2015 At a Glance

## 50 Years and Counting

The Muscatine County Conservation Board reached two major milestones in 2015. The Conservation Board celebrated its 50th anniversary, and the Environmental Learning Center celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The Conservation Board received a wonderful “anniversary” gift from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust in the form of a grant to professionally finish the exhibits in the Environmental Learning Center.

It was a busy year with education staff planning for the new exhibits, and operations staff undertaking some major projects at Deep Lakes Park, all in addition to our regular duties.

A handicap accessible fishing dock was constructed at Deep Lakes Park on Lake Chester. Monsanto provided partial funding and volunteers to construct the dock.



A beach was constructed at Deep Lakes Park on Lake Chester. Although the beach did not open until late in the summer, it quickly became a popular feature in the park and we expect it to be heavily used in 2016.



A boat ramp on Lake Jewell was completed thanks to a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The remaining two unsightly silos at Deep Lakes Park were removed giving the area a more pleasing open look.

Projects at our newest area, Deep Lakes Park, were high on the agenda in 2015 so no major projects were done at any of our remaining ten areas other than keeping them well maintained.

Ryne Brimeyer, the Conservation Board’s newest employee, who was hired in October 2014 to patrol Deep Lakes Park, as well as help out in other capacities, graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in April 2015. The County Conservation Board now employs three certified law enforcement officers.

We look forward to Year 51 and expect it to be as busy as ever with the new exhibits, the beach, the campgrounds, and all the other wonderful facilities and areas the Conservation Board manages.



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## 2015 CONSERVATION BOARD

Chairperson	Jim Goedken
Vice-chairperson	Larry Wolf
Member	Jenny Paetz
Member	Deb Elliott
Member	Mark Petersen

## Environmental Education Programs

In 2015, Conservation Board Staff gave 575 programs to 10,844 people. Program participants ranged in age from toddler through senior citizen.

In 2015, 70% of the programs were presented to children ranging in age from 18 months through high school. Almost half the programs were given at the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park.

Nature hikes, fishing, canoeing & kayaking, Native American games, eagle watching, survival, animals, archery, habitats, astronomy, and geocaching were just a handful of the many programs presented to participants.

Some of the weekend programs held were Canoeing & Kayaking, Raptors, Reptiles & Amphibians, Iowa Animals, Monarch Butterfly Rearing & Tagging, Butterfly Gardening, Fly Tying, and Storytelling.

Below is a list of some of our larger programs with their attendance.

- 35th Annual Fishing Seminar - 174
- 8th Annual Fishing Derby - 100
- 27th Annual Halloween Hike - 226
- Hunter Education Classes - 106
- Summer Nature Camps - 174
- Toddler/Preschool Camps - 105

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Muscatine County Conservation Board is to preserve and enhance natural areas and resources in Muscatine County for the use and benefit of the community; to preserve sufficient natural habitats in Muscatine County; to ensure the survival of native plants and animals; to acquire, develop and manage land for public hunting, fishing, camping and recreation; and to promote public appreciation and responsibility for the environment through education.

## Grants

A grant was received from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust for new exhibits in the Environmental Learning Center.

A grant was received from the Monsanto Fund for a handicap accessible fishing dock at Deep Lakes Park.

A grant was received from the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine for water testing supplies for the environmental education program.

## Environmental Learning Center

In 2015, approximately 5,933 visitors (not including people who participated in our programs) came to the Environmental Learning Center to view the exhibits.

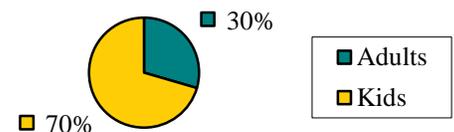
**Staff presented programs to many people at other events not sponsored by the Conservation Board including; Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch, River City Outdoor Show, Muscatine Healthy Living Festival, Relay for Life, Musser Library Summer Program, and Muscatine Community Y Block Party.**

## Cooperative Programs

In 2015, the Conservation Board partnered with many other groups for various programs and projects.

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Monsanto
- Musser Public Library
- Muscatine Community Y
- City of Muscatine
- Muscatine Parks & Recreation
- Muscatine Arboretum Association
- Muscatine Chapter of Izaak Walton League
- Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts
- Girl Scouts

### Environmental Education 10,844 people served in 2015



### Environmental Education 575 programs given at various locations in 2015

