



# Conservation News



A Quarterly Publication of the Muscatine County Conservation Board

Volume 36 No. 1 Spring 2023

## Time for a Rest! by Dave Bakke

Well, the time has come. The start of May will mark 35 years that I have led groups, or wandered by myself, through the woods, creeks, rivers, and prairies of Muscatine County. June 30<sup>th</sup> will be the last day I do those things as a Naturalist/ Park Officer for the Muscatine County Conservation Board.

Over the years I have been grateful for the many teachers who called to invite me to their classrooms, or asked to bring their students to Saulsbury Park or Discovery Park for fieldtrips, or to Riverfront Park, or to Wildcat Den, or even to the Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve! I'm also grateful for the many parents who entrusted their kids to our staff at Saulsbury and the Environmental Learning Center for nature camps.



I have many joyful memories wading creeks, hiking trails, catching insects, floating down the Cedar River, jumping in leaf piles, digging "wild" clay from the banks of the little creek that runs through Discovery Park and making small sculptures in nature camps, helping a kindergarten-aged camp

spread sand between pavers in the labyrinth in the arboretum, walking on the trunks of fallen trees, catching tadpoles and crayfish, sometimes getting caught in the rain, helping kids learn to build camp fires, and on, and on, and on!

I have fond memories of numerous events big and small. Over 30 years of working with staff to offer free fishing clinics for the area, and later adding a fishing derby. The Annual Halloween Hike was another. A lot of time and effort to prepare for, but so much fun to pull off. Characters I played included: owl, bat, bird feeder, fish, various birds, river otter, swan, blade of grass, tree, wild turkey (red face paint is hard to remove), echidna (spiny anteater), mole, and my favorite, a rock. Ok, a geode. My favorite script and costume! Other characters included King Louis XIV, who brought chocolate to France, and a blue-footed booby, both for events at the Musser Public Library, and playing Norman Baker at the Pine Creek Grist Mill.

Other events were storytelling at the Saulsbury Lodge, various paddling events, summer nature camps (I remember when we first started nature camps having so many people coming to the office at random times to register kids that we finally set one 'date' and 'time' to sign up kids for camp. It was



easier for staff, and even though people had to wait in long lines it actually went more smoothly and quickly), working at the Big Sand Mound Seminars every three years, Hunter Education, and more recently Muscatine's Bald Eagle Watch.

Along with all the education programming, I am also a Park Officer and live in the residence near the campground in the Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area. This means work is close by and can have long or unusual hours. Most of our campers are fine folks who are often willing to help other campers and will pass along information to park staff regarding problems with facilities or those up to mischief. I appreciate these folks, as well as our campground hosts, who play a big part in keeping things running smoothly. I also want to thank Muscatine Police Officers, Sheriff's Deputies, and Iowa DNR Conservation Officers who are willing to help if our Park Officers are unavailable, or need assistance.

Finally, a "Thank You" to other Muscatine County Conservation staff who have helped me out over the years: Naturalists-Andrea, Deb, Leslie, and Michelle, Director Curt, Maintenance staff Bob, Kent, Ryne, Kristin, and Super Office Manager Jill who along with keeping everything running smoothly, also has helped with animal care and education programs! Thanks to all!

Sincerely,

Dave Bakke



## Free Trees!

Yes, free trees and shrubs courtesy of the Muscatine County Conservation Board. We are offering 200 seedling trees and shrubs to residents in Muscatine County.



They will be given away to Muscatine County residents on Saturday, April 29 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the large shelter in Discovery Park in Muscatine. There is a limit of two trees/shrubs per family. No prior reservations will be taken.

Species include: black oak, hackberry, jack pine, white pine, aronia berry, chokecherry, bur oak and silver maple. All of these trees and shrubs are excellent sources of food and shelter for wildlife!

The roots will be wrapped in soaking wet newsprint in a plastic bag when you get them. They should be planted the same day you pick them up. Tree planting information will be available at the pickup location.

Digging and shipping of trees can be weather dependent. If a delay is necessary we will post information with a new distribution date on our website [www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com](http://www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com), and on Facebook at Muscatine County Conservation.



The Conservation Board offices and Environmental Learning Center will be closed on Sunday, April 9, Monday, May 29, and Tuesday, July 4.



## Memorials

A Red Sunset Red Maple tree was adopted in Discovery Park ***In Memory of Jayson Estrada.***

A Red Oak tree was adopted in Discovery Park ***In Memory of Trevor Wixom.***

A White Oak tree was adopted in Discovery Park ***In Memory of Trevor Wixom.***



Thank you to all those who generously gave time, talent, funding and/or materials to help make our programs, projects, and areas better than ever.

***All Seasons Glass*** - monetary donation for the raptor programs at Bald Eagle Day as well as other programs and projects.

***Brenda Todd*** - two mounted walleyes.

***Church of Christ*** - coffee pot.

***Todd Stammer*** - environmental education presentations.

***Gene Hammons, Paul St. Louis, Todd Stammer & Matt Madsen*** - helping with Hunter Education classes.

## Honorariums

Aaron & Susan Eversmeyer and Michael & Sandra Eversmeyer made monetary donations ***In Honor of Alan Eversmeyer's 80th Birthday.***

## Become a Friend



Thank you to all our "Friends" whose donations to the Muscatine County Conservation Foundation support the development and enhancement of environmental education and conservation projects in Muscatine County.

The names of all donors go into our donor book and those who donate \$250 or more receive a plaque on our donor wall located in the Environmental Learning Center. Please include the form at the right with your donation and become a "Friend" today.

***Mike & Phyllis Avesing***

***David & Barbara Chown***

***Diane Bunker***

***Sheryl Payne***

***Catherine Root***

***Jim Scott***

***Glenn & Kathy Huston***

## A Gift For the Conservation Foundation

I would like to become a Friend,  
please accept my donation.

<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$10—\$49
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner	\$50—\$99
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100—\$249
<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	\$250—\$499
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward	\$500—\$999
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1000 +
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to donate my time.	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support!**

Please make checks payable to:  
Muscatine County Conservation Foundation  
PO Box 109, Muscatine, IA 52761



# Programs and Special Events

## Free Fishing Days

The Iowa DNR's free fishing days this year are June 2, 3, 4. Iowa residents may fish on these days without a fishing license. All other fishing regulations must be obeyed.



## Free Fishing Weekend Program

In conjunction with the Iowa DNR's Free Fishing Weekend you may reserve fishing gear and fish in the Discovery Park ponds without a fishing license. We'll provide everything including bait. Conservation Board staff will be available to assist participants.



**Saturday, June 3 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Discovery Pond and Heron Hideaway Pond in Discovery Park**

**Free, children must be accompanied by an adult**

**Reservations required at (563) 264-5922 or [conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov](mailto:conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov)**



## Hunter Education

Anyone born after January 1, 1972 who wants to purchase a hunting license in Iowa must have successfully completed a Hunter Education course. The minimum age for certification is twelve. Each class is limited to 30 students.

Classes are free but, you must register on-line at [www.gooutdoorsiowa.com](http://www.gooutdoorsiowa.com). After registering you must pick up a workbook at the Environmental Learning Center. The chapter review questions at the end of the workbook should be completed prior to coming to class. Students will need to bring their completed workbook and a sack lunch.

**Saturday, August 26 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Environmental Learning Center**

# Summer Camps for Kids

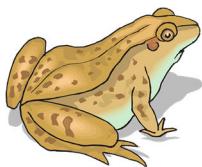
## General Summer Camp Info

- \* The registration form is available at the Environmental Learning Center or on our website [www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com](http://www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com)
- \* We must have the signed registration form and payment to be registered for the camp. No reserving spots allowed.
- \* Camps may include outdoor exploration, hikes, games, stories, crafts, etc.
- \* All camps meet at the Environmental Learning Center. We will provide transportation to and from any other areas we visit.
- \* All campers should bring a water bottle.
- \* Snacks are provided for any camps over one hour in length.
- \* Campers should wear clothes that can get wet and dirty. No flip-flops.
- \* No refunds unless camp is cancelled.

### Polliwog Playtime

**ages 18 months through 3 years      \$5.00/session      maximum 10/session**

Join us at the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park for activities designed to help toddlers explore nature. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Plants	June 5	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Fish	June 19	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Water Play	July 10	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Amphibians	July 24	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Creek Stomp	August 7	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.

### Knee-high Naturalists

**4-5 year olds      \$5.00/session      maximum 12/session**

Join us at the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park for nature activities such as games, crafts, stories, and outdoor exploration. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Plants	June 12	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Fish	June 26	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Water Play	July 17	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Amphibians	July 31	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Creek Stomp	August 14	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.



# Summer Camps for Kids

## Chipmunk Camp

kids who just completed kindergarten or 1st grade

**\$10.00/session      maximum 16/session**

Fossils	June 13	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Explore Wildcat Den	June 20	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Live Amphibians & Reptiles	July 11	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Outdoor Nature Games	July 25	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Fishing 101	August 8	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon



## Kestrel Camp

kids who just completed 2nd or 3rd grade

**\$10.00/session      maximum 16/session**



Fossils	June 14	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Explore Wildcat Den	June 28	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Live Amphibians & Reptiles	July 12	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Outdoor Nature Games	August 2	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Fishing 101	August 9	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

## Otter Camp

kids who just completed 4th or 5th grade

**\$10.00/session      maximum 16/session**

Explore Wildcat Den	June 29	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Paddling at Deep Lakes Park	July 6	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Survival Skills at Saulsbury	July 20	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Fishing 101	August 3	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon



## Outdoor Recreation Camp

kids who just completed 6th - 8th grade

**maximum 16/session**

Iowa from the Past      \$50.00      June 6-8      9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Explore Iowa during settlement times. Start fires with flint & steel, make char cloth, throw tomahawks & atlats, shoot bows & arrows, learn how to set a trap, prepare leatherwork, fish and cook lunch over a fire.

Creek Stomp at Pine Creek      \$10.00      July 7      9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

## **Shelter Rentals**

The Conservation Board has picnic shelters at Discovery Park, Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area, and Jack Shuger Memorial Park that may be reserved. Contact the Conservation Board office at [conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov](mailto:conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov) or (563) 264-5922 or for more information. Reservations may be made no earlier than one year in advance.

### **Discovery Park**

Discovery Pond Shelter (#1) \$20 (no electricity)

Learning Center Shelter (#2) \$40

### **Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area**

Chicken Creek Shelter (#1) \$25

Boat Ramp Shelter (#2) \$25

### **Jack Shuger Memorial Park**

Shelter \$25



## **Saulsbury Lodge Rental**

The Saulsbury Lodge is available for rent. This enclosed building is air conditioned and has the capacity to seat around 75 people. It's a great setting for a family reunion, small wedding reception, graduation or birthday party. Prices vary depending on the day of the week and type of event. Contact the Conservation Board office at (563) 264-5922 or [conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov](mailto:conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov) for more information. Reservations may be made no earlier than one year in advance.



### **Deep Lakes Park Cabin Rentals**

Visit [www.muscatainecountyiowa.gov](http://www.muscatainecountyiowa.gov) to find out more about cabin rental at Deep Lakes Park.

## **Camping at Saulsbury**

The Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area campgrounds will open in mid April (weather permitting). Camping fees will be as follows.

Main Campground	\$20/night
River Campground	\$17/night
Primitive Campground	\$10/night
Permanently Handicapped	\$15/night

You can save on camping in the main campground with a coupon book for \$100 - that's six nights for the price of five. Available at the Environmental Learning Center or from the park officer or campground host.

We will also continue with the "Free Wednesdays" and the "Two-for-One" camping specials.

## **TWO-FOR-ONE Camping Weekends**

Camp the first night (Friday) in any of the campgrounds at Saulsbury and stay for the next night (Saturday) FREE on the weekends listed below.

May 5-6 & May 19-20

June 2-3 & June 16-17

July 7-8 & July 21-22

August 4-5 & August 18-19

September 1-2 & September 15-16

October 6-7 & October 20-21



## **FREE Wednesdays**

Camp in any of the campgrounds at Saulsbury on any Wednesday in April-October for free.



MUSCATINE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
3300 CEDAR STREET  
PO BOX 109  
MUSCATINE, IA 52761

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
MUSCATINE, IA  
Permit No. 71

## MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

### BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Hartman	Chairperson
Sherry Seright	Vice-chairperson
Mike Schulte	Member
Mark Petersen	Member
Julie Jindrich	Member

The Muscatine County Conservation Board meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Environmental Learning Center, 3300 Cedar Street in Muscatine. The public is welcome to attend.

If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Muscatine County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

### STAFF

Curt Weiss	Director
Dave Bakke	Naturalist/Park Officer
Michelle Berns	Naturalist
Kent Kaufman	Operations Supervisor
Ryne Brimeyer	Park Officer
Kristin Krumm	Maint. Tech./Park Officer
Trevor Ebeling	Maint. Tech./Park Officer
Jill Ziegenhorn	Office Manager
Dave Schuler	Learning Center Assistant

### Contact us at:

3300 Cedar Street, PO Box 109  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
P(563) 264-5922 F(563) 264-6097  
[conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov](mailto:conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov)  
[www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com](http://www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com)

