

CONSERVATION NEWS

A newsletter of the Iowa County Conservation Board

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2011

Coming soon to the Lake Iowa Nature Center...

Nature Explore Classroom

By Laura Stephens, Naturalist

Through a generous grant by the Iowa County Community Foundation and the support of the Friends of Iowa County Conservation Foundation, the Iowa County Conservation Board has the unique opportunity to design and build a Nature Explore Classroom on the grounds of the Lake Iowa Nature Center.

Nature Explore Classroom projects have emerged in response to the phenomenon of 'nature-deficit disorder', where children are more comfortable indoors with electronic games and other media than learning and exploring in nature. Nature Explore Classrooms provide a place for children to engage in free play while interacting with nature. The classroom is comprised of only natural materials— there are no 'how to play' instructions included with each element. The entire space is made of several themed areas. Such areas include a 'Messy Materials Area' with logs to crawl through and sticks to build with, a 'Nature Art Area' to create designs and patterns with natural objects, a 'Gathering Area' designed with seating for an entire class of students, and a 'Dirt-Digging Area' where it's ok to dig in the mud and get a bit messy. Nature Explore Classrooms are designed to reconnect children with nature and to inspire them to become the conservationists and land stewards of tomorrow.



Just like our recently completed Bird Observation Blind and Butterfly Garden projects, the Nature Explore

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Classroom project is going to require community support as well to reach its full potential. The multiple area design of the classroom lends itself well to youth groups, service organizations, or even families 'adopting' an area of the project. This is the perfect opportunity to take part in something that is going to benefit the thousands of children that visit Lake Iowa Park each year.



If you would like to get involved, please contact the ICCB at (319) 655-8466 or e-mail iccbee@netins.net. You can also visit the Nature Explore website at www.natureexplore.org to learn more about the program and to see pictures and descriptions of completed projects.



Creepy Camping

September 23 & 24



Schedule of Events:

Friday, September 23

8:00PM Outdoor Movie on the Big Screen
Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Pop and popcorn will be available.

Saturday, September 24

9:30AM Double Elimination Dummy Board Tournament
\$10 entry fee per 2 member team. Cash prizes awarded to top 3 teams.

11:30AM Potluck in the Lake Iowa Nature Center (lower level)
Bring a covered dish to share. In order to reduce waste, please bring your own reusable place setting.

1-3:00PM Free Family Games (located behind the nature center)

4:30PM 2nd Annual Costume Contest
Register inside the nature center starting at 4:00PM. Categories include: Scariest, Cutest (ages 2 & under), Best Homemade, Most Unique, and Best Group. Entry fee of \$2 per category. One winner per category.

5-7:00PM Trick-or-Treating in the Campground

8:00PM Halloween Hayrack Ride
Tickets available in the nature center at 7:30PM. Registered campers receive up to 4 free tickets per campsite (all campers must be present at time of pick-up). Additional tickets and non-camper tickets are \$5 each.

Thank You Volunteers!

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped with or donated to our special events and projects this year. Your time and dedication makes everything we do possible!!

Scott & Linda Buckner
Charlotte Schutterle
Darrin & Mary Kay Pastuczak
Dale & Kelli Campbell
Caitlyn & Dorthey Cook
Dave & Sally, Trampus Cook
Sue Collins
Joel Stohlmann
Mike Gent
Candace Crane
Virgil & Betty Goodman
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Joe Kriegel
Steve Krakow
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Greg Ryan

Ray Tallent
Larry Wetjen
Tim & Ragine Hollopeter
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Gene Atkinson
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Quenten & Chasity Offerman
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Robert & Joey Ritenour
Randall Betz
Nick Stephens
Joe Chapman
McGee Family
Jim & Jeannine Scandridge
Hardin Bros
Dale Noyes
Bill Schaffer
Rick Heller
Samantha Hollopeter
Williamsburg Cub Scouts
Jeremy, Laura, Mitchell and
Justin Miner
Dory Eichhorn
Sue White
Troy, Cody and
Caleb Detweiler
Jaime Gorsh
Jim & Judy Oreed
Brett, Lily & Sara Wilson
Boston & Beau York
Hunter Pidima
Devon Newton
Justin Chapman
Lindsey Thomann
Cory Knox
Jerry Eden
James Daniel
Brandi Tiefel
Larry and Shane Sears
Mark Bickal

****If we accidently left you off the list, please let us know so we can make sure you get the recognition you deserve!****



Butterfly Garden Planting



Christmas in July Festivities



LINC Benefit Dinner

magical monarchs

By Laura Stephens, Naturalist



The brilliant orange and black monarch is arguably the most widely recognized butterfly in the United States. With a range that extends across the entire US, monarchs are found nearly anywhere milkweed, an essential plant for caterpillars, is present. While monarchs are commonly seen in Iowa throughout the summer, few people are aware of the complex life cycle of this incredible little creature.

A monarch butterfly begins its life journey as a tiny oval egg on the underside of a milkweed leaf. After three to 12 days (depending on the temperature) a still tiny caterpillar emerges from the egg and begins its two week milkweed feast. During this time the caterpillar eats and grows at an incredible rate, growing from hardly visible to nearly 5 cm in length. Chemicals present in the milkweed leaves give the caterpillars their toxicity that will remain even as adult butterflies.

Next, the caterpillar attaches itself to a leaf with a silk pad, hangs motionless in a 'J' shape for 24 hours, and then the skin of the caterpillar splits open to reveal the jade colored chrysalis that has formed inside. Fast forward 10 more days and the adult butterfly has formed inside of the chrysalis. Just before hatching, the jade chrysalis turns clear revealing the orange and black wings of the adult. The emergence takes only a few minutes and within an hour of hatching, the adult butterfly is ready to fly. The adult butterflies will then sip nectar, mate, lay eggs, and die all within 2-6 weeks.



This complex process continues for three or four generations every summer until the last generation takes on the greatest feat of all- a nearly 3,000 mile flight to Mexico. While most monarchs only live for a matter of weeks, the last generation in the fall lives for 6-8 months. They are biologically and behaviorally different than their predecessors, and they won't mate or lay eggs until the return trip to their northern habitats in the spring.

The butterflies travel south at a pace of 50-80 miles per day. At the end of their two month journey, they will overwinter in the mountains of central Mexico, congregating by the thousands in fir trees. After hibernating through our chilling Midwestern winter, the butterflies awaken in the spring and tackle the return trip to the north. Upon their arrival in the States, the migrating butterflies mate, lay eggs, and die soon after. Their offspring then begin the process all over and their 'great-grandchildren' will continue the incredible migration to Mexico in the fall.



Fall Program Calendar

Saturday, Aug. 27
 Monarch Tagging
 9:30-11:30am

Dutch Oven
 Cookout
 2:00-4:30pm
 \$5/person
*call to register by
 Aug. 25*

Saturday, Sept. 10
 Monarch Tagging
 1:00-3:00pm

Saturday, Oct. 8
 'Lake Iowa Survivor'
 1:00-3:00pm
*wilderness survival
 activities for kids
 including fire starting
 and shelter building*

Saturday, Dec. 10
 Reclaim Your
 Holidays
 1:00-2:30pm
*Make this holiday
 season more eco-
 friendly.*

For more information:
[www.mycountyparks.com/
 county/iowa.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/county/iowa.aspx)
 (319) 655-8466
iccbee@netins.net

monarch tagging programs

Saturday, August 27
9:30-11:30am

Saturday, September 10
1:00-3:00pm

Don't miss out on this chance to get involved in one of the most fascinating migrations in the animal kingdom! The programs will begin with local Master Gardener and monarch enthusiast Candy Crane presenting information on monarch migration, including pictures of her own trip to see the monarchs in Mexico. Afterwards, we will head outside to catch and tag monarchs at the park. Each monarch will be tagged with a uniquely coded sticker, and information about the monarch's location and gender will be submitted to the Monarch Watch organization. When the tags are eventually found, the recovery is also recorded on the Monarch Watch website. Maybe a monarch YOU tag will be spotted in Mexico!

2011 Iowa County Conservation Board

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Iowa County Conservation Board Staff

*Lee Sorenson, Director
 Mike Bode, Park Ranger
 Laura Stephens, Naturalist*

Notes from the Urban Youth Corps...

My name is **Heather Stratton** and I am the Urban Youth Corp crew leader this summer. I was a member in the summer of 2010 and really enjoyed it, and with the projects we have lined up I know this summer will be very fulfilling as well. While I'm here I hope to improve my leadership skills and get as many projects as completed as possible, especially those ongoing from last year, therefore helping the environment and the public. Projects we have worked on included clearing brush behind the new nature center, placing riprap along the shoreline of the campground pond, spreading gravel at the Fuller parking lot, clearing brush along G Ave. outside of Lake Iowa, fixing drainage areas around the lake, and many more. The skills I have gained while working at Lake Iowa will be valuable for the rest of my career. I enjoy these projects so much because I love working outdoors. I am going to be a junior in Forestry this fall at Iowa State University, and I will choose my option in December, most likely in the area of conservation and restoration. Other activities I enjoy are photography, reading, fishing and camping.

My name is **Severina Leitheiser**, I am seventeen, and I chose Lake Iowa park as my first job. I'm glad I made this decision, not only because I'll have money for college savings, but also because I'll gain experience for my future in environmentalism.

At Lake Iowa, teamwork is essential and it's helped me to become better able to communicate and work within a group. In the future I plan to lead and organize others in groups that will work to protect and preserve the environment. Communication, organization, time management, and taking initiative are skills I've learned from Lake Iowa that I can also implement into my future career goals.

The skills I've learned from Iowa Lake come from the projects we've been working on as a team. One of these projects is cutting and hauling brush from around one of the ponds. It's a hard job in ninety degree weather, getting cut and bruised up, but it teaches you perseverance and the rewards of doing a good job.

Another project we've been working on is placing rip-rap stone around the pond. Good communication is needed so that we place the rock correctly and so that the skid loader-driver unloads rock in the right place. This project is also teaching about us about habitats and how to preserve them. The rip-rap will provide a habitat for the fish by preventing erosion into the pond and it will create places for the smaller fish to hide. I enjoy this project because I know that we're helping to keep the environment looking like it does.

I enjoy all of the other projects we have worked on because I like being outdoors and keeping busy. Lake Iowa has allowed me to gain experience in the conservation field and I will hopefully benefit from this when I look for a job in college.

I plan on attending Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota and majoring in environmental studies. While I go to college I hope to get a job at the Paul Bunyan Animal Land or at the nearby state forest. Afterwards, I want to work for an international wildlife organization like World Wildlife Foundation and also found my own small group of people who will clean up highly-littered and polluted areas of the world. In my free time I like to draw, paint, write, spend time with my family, and, someday, do wildlife photography.

My name is **Anthony Lynn**, and I am a member of the UYC out at Lake Iowa and where ever else the ICCB needs me. I was very excited when I found out that I got the job because I have always enjoyed working outdoors. I have prior experience in this from working at Camp Wakonda, my Boy Scout camp up near Central City.

I have recently graduated from HLV High School. During my time at HLV I was involved in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. This fall I'm going to attend Wartburg College, and I intend on double majoring Instrumental Music performance and German. I also hope to get involved in some service projects throughout the year.

Throughout the summer the other UYC members and I undertake special projects to improve Lake Iowa as well as other areas in Iowa County. These projects have taught me how to do things and use different tools and equipment that I've never used. It has been quite an experience.



About the Program:

The Urban Youth Corps is a grant program through the Iowa Department of Transportation. It provides transportation-related employment and training opportunities to youth. Program members accomplish meaningful and productive improvements to transportation facilities. This is the second year for the Iowa County Conservation Board to receive funding through the program.

Anthony Lynn Severina Leitheiser Bailey Berger Heather Stratton

My name is **Bailey Berger** and I am an UYC, Urban Youth Corps worker. You may be wondering exactly what type of work there is to do at Lake Iowa for three blonde gals and one very tall guy and the answer to that is practically everything and anything to do with the beautification of Iowa County's lakes and ponds. For example, one of our projects was to clear brush and fallen trees behind the nature center for a clear view of the pond. A similar project was to cut away brush from the roadside and ditches so travelers will be able to spot the wildlife that may be possibly planning on crossing the road. Other projects include making the handicap jetty walk able and putting rip rap around the pond to prevent erosion. I have a lot of history with Lake Iowa; I have been camping here every summer since I was five and I've gone to many of the lake's events and camps, so I know that campers and visitors will have a lot of appreciation for the projects we have accomplished.

Currently, I am a senior at Iowa State University double majoring in Anthropology and history. My hopes is to one day be standing among ancient marvels of lost empires by becoming a field archaeologist and have as many incredible adventures as possible, hopefully not as dangerous as the ones Indiana Jones went on.

Iowa County Conservation News

Iowa County Conservation Board
Lake Iowa Park
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