



# THE NEWSLETTER

*Dubuque County Conservation Society*  
"Organized in 1933 for Protection of Soil, Forests, Waters and Wildlife"  
P.O. Box 645  
Dubuque, IA 52004-0645

## Unaudited Minutes – November 14, 2017

Present: Punkie Birkel, Pat Hayes, Mark Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Whitey Kemp, Connie Kintzle, Tom Klinge, Bev Rettenmeier, Dan Simon,

Mark Kaufman called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

**Minutes:** Sept. 12, 2017 meeting minutes were approved after a motion by Dan and second by Whitey.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Tom which was seconded by Whitey to approve the Treasures report as amended. Amendment includes the comment: "Totals were correct. The section which lists the totals of all accounts that includes previous month's totals".

**Membership:** No update

**Old Business;** No changes to any of these

McLaughlin Wildlife Area:  
Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area:  
Leifker Wildlife Area  
Oxford Junction Property  
Website: <http://www.dbqccs.org/>

**New business:**

Ram Hollow – 20 acres. Will discuss at the next meeting

**Website:** <http://www.dbqccs.org/> Connie has added some information to the website. We still need pictures.

**New Business:**

Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Whitey seconded it and the meeting was adjourned.

## Audited Minutes – October 10, 2017

Present: Punkie Birkel, Gerda Preston Hartman, Pat Hayes, Mark Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Whitey Kemp, Connie Kintzle, Tom Klinge, Bev Rettenmeier, Dan Simon, Bob Walton

Mark Kaufman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Minutes:** Meeting minutes from Oct were approved after a motion by Paul and second by Whitey.

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking totals from last month were wrong. Mark will renew the 10 month CD. Motion by Whitey which was seconded by Tom to approve the Treasures report.

Guest speaker: Tim Fielder discussed what has been done at the Leifker and Oxford junction properties.

**Membership:** No update

**Old Business**

Pictures From all properties – Mark and Tom took pictures Oct 27.

**McLaughlin Wildlife Area:**

Mowed the firebreak. We owe Jerry Connelly for this but never got a bill  
Cutting of Autumn Olive still needs more work

**Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area:**

Long term plans need – need to kill more cottonwoods  
Plant Prairie grass

**Leifker Wildlife Area**

Oxford Junction Property

Website: <http://www.dbqccs.org/>

Need to add the business member list.

Need pictures

**New Business**

The DBQ Land & Water Stakeholders Coalition will have a planning meeting later in the year.

Wally's memorial tree is at Swiss Valley.

Have Brian talk about land for sale at the next meeting.

Put renewal reminder in December newsletter.

Tom moved to adjourn at 19:00, seconded by Pat.

**Attract Birds to your Yard**

*Courtesy of Menards®*

Many people enjoy watching birds, especially during the winter months when we're inside the house more often. If you're looking to attract birds to your yard, perhaps viewing them through your windows, a combination of the right feeders, food, suet and bird houses will help create the desired impact.

- **FEEDER SIZE** - Select a feeder that has a good size capacity and provides an ample supply of food. If you can't settle for one, buy multiple feeders so the birds will be well set in the wintertime.
- **COVERED AREA** - Birds like to have cover and shelter. Place feeders near cover such as dense evergreens to provide birds shelter from storms and from predators.
- **CHOOSE WISELY** - Place a black oil sunflower mix that contains a high proportion of black oil sunflower in the feeder. This type of mix is better for the birds because it contains a high fat and protein content. Birds need more energy to keep warm in the wintertime.
- **KEEP THEM WELL FED** - Provide an all-you-can-eat buffet for the birds by keeping the feeder full. Typically, birds come to the feeder early in the morning to refuel after a cold night and at the end of the day to stock up on necessary calories.
- **ADD SUET** - If you want to attract some woodpeckers or nuthatches, add some suet to your feeder. Suet is a high calorie fat that is heated and cooled to form suet cakes. The cakes often include sunflowers, berries, fruit, and nuts. Not only is suet high in fat and protein, but it can be enjoyed by birds in the winter and summer. Some suet cakes are melt-resistant which allow birds to enjoy suet any time of the year.
- **FILL OFTEN** - Do not stop filling your feeder in the middle of winter. Birds become accustomed to using your feeders as a food source so you cannot stop feeding. During severe weather, birds depend on your feeder. If you are unable to fill your feeder, ask a neighbor or friend for help.
- **CHECK IN** - Shovel snow off and around the feeder after winter snowstorms. Birds are unable to access the food from the feeder or the fallen seed on the ground after it snows.

## DNR News

### **Fourth wettest October on record improves groundwater, drought conditions in Iowa**

November 2, 2017

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tim Hall, 515-725-8298, [Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES — Following a wet October, shallow groundwater and drought conditions in Iowa improved, according to the latest [Water Summary Update](#) from the Iowa DNR.

Despite the wet month, little flooding occurred across the state.

"There are some dry areas in southeastern Iowa, and subsoil moisture has not fully recovered in that part of the state," says Tim Hall, the DNR's Hydrology Resources Coordinator. "However, hydrologic conditions across most of Iowa are pretty good headed into the winter."

Iowa recorded the fourth wettest October among 145 years of records with a statewide average precipitation of 5.35 inches, a little more than double the monthly normal of 2.74 inches.

Streamflow conditions are above normal for several basins in the state, and flows are much above normal in parts of the Des Moines, and Boyer Rivers. The Rock River basin remains in the much above normal range.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate](http://www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate).

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

### **Fish kill in Dubuque County caused by dairy runoff**

October 31, 2017

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Brian Jergenson at 563-927-2640 or [Brian.Jergenson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Brian.Jergenson@dnr.iowa.gov).

DYERSVILLE – The DNR received laboratory results last week confirming that ammonia toxicity in runoff from a dairy was responsible for an October fish kill in Dubuque County.

Test results from water samples DNR collected Oct. 9 showed elevated levels of ammonia below a manure storage basin at the John Hoefler Dairy, New Vienna. Additional test results ruled out other livestock facilities and a field where manure had recently been land applied.

The DNR fisheries report shows 60,278 fish were killed along nearly seven miles of stream, including an unnamed tributary of Hickory Creek, Hickory Creek and Hewitt Creek. More than 42,000 were minnows, shiners, dace and chubs. The remainder included primarily suckers, darters and stonerollers.

The DNR will seek fish restitution of \$21,712.44 which includes a fish replacement value of \$19,416.15 and the cost of the fisheries investigation.

The investigation started Oct. 9 at Highway 136 bridge in Dyersville, following a report of dead fish in Hewitt Creek. DNR staff followed dead fish upstream until they found evidence of manure washed into a stream.

### **DNR investigates fish kill near Dyersville**

October 11, 2017

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Brian Jergenson at 563-927-2640 or [Brian.Jergenson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Brian.Jergenson@dnr.iowa.gov).

DYERSVILLE – Monday and Tuesday DNR staff from the Manchester field office looked for the source of a fish kill on Hickory and Hewitt Creeks in Dubuque County.

Starting at the Highway 136 bridge in Dyersville, DNR staff followed dead fish upstream for about 5 miles to an unnamed tributary of Hickory Creek. The likely source of the fish kill is manure washed into the stream from an animal feeding operation in the upper part of the watershed.

The fish kill was reported Monday, but the caller noticed dead fish on Sunday following rainfall over the weekend.

The investigation is ongoing as DNR awaits laboratory test results from water samples. DNR fisheries staff estimate thousands of fish were killed, including white suckers, stonerollers, minnows and creek chubs. An official count will be available later.

DNR will seek enforcement actions as appropriate.

## Property Status

Submitted by Pat Hayes

Tom Steckline reported that the oak trees he donated and some of us helped plant a year ago Christmas are doing well. He could only find one that didn't make it and the rest are up to four and five feet tall right now.

Tom has been taking care of the trees to make sure that they're not being shaded out and that they're protected from the mice rabbits and deer.

Oak trees are very important for wildlife and are way more beneficial than the boxelder trees that had been growing in the area.

Pat has been killing off mulberry trees at the Hafeman wildlife area and he finished thinning out those pine trees.

## How to host an eco-conscious holiday event

From DubuqueToday.com

Many families anticipate holiday gatherings for months. Such gatherings bring together friends and family members who may not see one another much throughout the year.

Food tends to be plentiful at holiday gatherings, so it should come as no surprise that the holiday season generates a good deal of waste. In addition, energy consumption is high during the holiday season.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency says household waste generally increases by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day - equaling about 1 million extra tons of waste. The Worldwatch Institute states that the same period of time generates three times as much food waste as other times of the year.

Making the holiday season more sustainable does not mean families must give up their cherished traditions. Here are several tips to help make your holiday celebrations a bit more eco-friendly.

**Cut down on packaging.** When shopping, seek items that are minimally packaged or shop at retailers that offer package-free products. Packaging accounts for a considerable portion of the trash that ends up in landfills.

Shopping at local stores and craft fairs can help you avoid too much plastic packaging.

**Decorate with efficient products.** Making a home look festive is part of many families' holiday celebrations. Opt for LED holiday lights, which last longer and use a fraction of the energy of traditional lights. Use soy or beeswax candles and incorporate as many natural items, such as fresh evergreen boughs, branches and berries, as you can find in your decorations.

**Shop smart.** Shop at food stores that stock local products so foods do not have to travel great distances to reach your table. Take advantage of local farm stands and other vendors that pop up in the autumn. Remember to bring reusable shopping bags with you on any shopping excursions so you can reduce your reliance on paper and plastic bags.

**Reduce food waste.** People often cook extra food for the holidays out of fear of not having enough for guests. But leftovers often end up going to waste. Use planners to determine how much food to cook for the number of guests you will be having. Keep portion sizes healthy by selecting smaller dinner plates and providing foods that are hearty and will fill guests quickly, such as rich proteins and complex carbohydrates. When the meal is done, promptly wrap up leftovers so they don't spoil.

**Use reusable dishes.** Avoid paper and plastic dishes, instead opting for ones that can be used again and again. Take out your fine china or a festively patterned service set to use. Keep the dishwasher empty so that you can load it up with dirty dishes and run a full load to save even more energy.

**Reuse gift wrapping and accessories.** Save wrapping paper and other decorative paper products to use as gift wrap at a later date. Keep a container full of bows and ribbons that are still in good condition as well. Gift bags can often be used several times before they begin to exhibit signs of wear and tear.

## Events Calendar

### Swiss Valley Nature Center/Mines of Spain/Audubon Society/Hurstville Calendars

All programs are subject to weather conditions. To check for changes to this schedule, check the websites in the list of organizations below. The programs are open to the public and are designed for people of all ages unless otherwise described. For additional info or preregistration contact one of the following depending on the program's location:

**Swiss Valley Nature Center**, 13606 Swiss Valley Road Peosta, IA 52068, 563-556-6745. [www.dubuquecounty.org](http://www.dubuquecounty.org) or you can search for "Swiss Valley Nature Center Facebook".

**EB Lyons Interpretive Center**, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA at 563-556-0620. [www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org)

**Hurstville Interpretive Center**, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, IA at 563- 652-3783. [www.jacksonccb.com](http://www.jacksonccb.com)

**Dubuque Audubon Society**, P.O. Box 3174, Dubuque, IA 52004-3174, 563-582-215. [www.audubondubuque.org/](http://www.audubondubuque.org/)

**Isaak Walton League**, 11001 Thunder Hills Rd, Peosta, IA 52068, 563-556-6020. [www.facebook.com/izaakwalton.dubuquechapter](http://www.facebook.com/izaakwalton.dubuquechapter)

REMEMBER: At the Swiss Valley Nature Center Park Packs are available at no cost and when the snow starts flying snowshoes & Cross Country Skiis will be available also at no cost.

**Nature Tales: Mammals Dec 15 Friday 10am** Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join us with your pre-school aged tots to learn all about Iowa's mammals through stories, games, crafts and other activities!

**December Audubon Program Thursday December 14 7pm** EB Lyons Interpretive Center

Bird Houses, Feeders and ID

**Star Party Friday December 15 6:30pm - 7:30pm** Swiss Valley Nature Center

Amateur astronomers are welcome to join us the second Friday of the month for monthly star parties. Bring your telescopes along and together we will discover what the night sky! No telescope? No problem! The nature center will also have our telescopes out for viewing.

\*Times will vary month to month based on sunset times but we will try to stick with the second Friday of the month. If skies aren't clear that night a program will not be held. Free

**Santa's Workshop Saturday December 16 1pm – 4pm** Swiss Valley Nature Center,

Join us at the nature center for a once-a-year opportunity to meet the Nature Center's Santa! Those that attend will be making recycled bird feeders and might even get to take home a large bag of bird seed while supplies last. If time allows Santa might even join us for a short hike. Free, no registration required.

Find out more »

**118th Christmas Bird Count Saturday December 16**

**8am** EB Lyons Parking Lot

**4:30 pm** Share a chili supper while compiling results.

Experienced birders will lead anyone who would like to help count all the birds in a 15-mile diameter, centered in Dubuque. Just bring binoculars and warm clothing. In case of inclement weather, the count will be Saturday, December 30.

**Kids in Nature: Holiday Crafts Thursday December 21 9am** Swiss Valley Nature Center,

Non-school age kiddos are invited for a morning of fun in nature! We will work on crafts for the holiday season. Call 563-556-6745 to register.

**Snow Fun Day Camp Tuesday December 26 9am – 2pm** Swiss Valley Nature Center \$40

Join us as we spend the day discovering all winter has to offer. If there is sufficient snow we will explore the Swiss Valley Preserve by snowshoe and kick sled. Other activities will include winter tracking, winter survival, and warming up indoors with hot cocoa and games! Please dress to go outside, pack a lunch, snack will be provided. Camp is open to 7-10 year olds. Call 563-556-6745 to register.

**Winter Art Day Camp Wednesday December 27 9am – 2pm** Swiss Valley Nature Center \$40

Use nature as your inspiration for various projects we will create! We will use a variety of mediums to create artwork for the participants to take home. Please dress to go outside, pack a lunch, snack and all materials will be provided. Camp is open to 7-10 year olds. Call 563-556-6745 to register.

**America's State Tree Woodland Walk Monday January 1, 2018 1pm – 2pm** EB Lyons Interpretive Center

Length of Hike (miles): 2 miles, Difficulty: Moderate

Additional Information: For those looking for a shorter hike you can stay at the center and a friends group member will lead the hike on the ADA accessible woodland walk trail. For those looking to try to cross country ski, snow shoe or hike they can meet at the south parking area. We will hike around the cedar ridge and prairie ridge trail.

**Winter Outdoor Skills Day Jan 6 Saturday 9am – 12pm** Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join a naturalist in learning outdoor skills this winter!

**January Audubon Program January 11, 2018 7pm** EB Lyons Interpretive Center

Laura Waldo-Semken from the Iowa Raptor Project will present information and have special guests of two Iowa's birds of prey: Great Horned Owl and an Eastern Screech Owl.

**2018 Bald Eagle Midwinter Survey January 13, 2018 9am** Meet at Ron Wiskis home in Luxemborg. Call Charlie Winterwood at 563-588.2783 if interested.

**Hike & Hygge Jan 14, 2018 Sunday 1:30 pm** Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Enjoy a winter hike at the park followed relaxing with some hot cocoa by the fire!

**Cabin Fever Day Jan 15 Monday 10am – 12pm** Hurstville Interpretive Center

Get out of the house on this no-school day for a morning of critters, snow creations, crafts, and cocoa!

**Winter Open House Monday January 15, 2018 9am-2pm** Swiss Valley Nature Center

Take advantage of this non-school day in Dubuque by coming out to the nature center to enjoy all the best of winter recreation at Swiss Valley! We will have all sizes of snowshoes, cross country skis, and kick sleds available for check out on a first come, first serve basis. Warm up inside with hot chocolate, popcorn, and a winter craft for the kids. Free, no registration required.

**Nature Tales - Animal Tracks Jan 19, 2018 Friday 10am** Hurstville Interpretive Center

Preschool age children and a guardian are invited to join a naturalist for our monthly nature tales series and learn more about the wildlife and the outdoors through stories, games and activities.

**Bald Eagle Watch Saturday January 20, 2018 9am – 4:30pm** Grand River Center

This FREE family event celebrates the American Bald Eagle with live bird programs and children's activities. Vendors will have wildlife art, books, and nature items available for purchase. Shuttles will be running down to the Lock and Dam for Bald Eagle viewing.

**Owl Prowl Jan 26, 2018 Friday 5pm** Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn more about Iowa's owls and call them as we head outside.

**Candlelit Night Hike Saturday January 27, 2018 7pm – 8pm** Swiss Valley Nature Center

Come and discover the wonders of the winter nighttime forest on naturalist hike through the preserve. The trail will be lit by moonlight and candles. So pull on your winter boots, hats, and gloves and join us! If you would like to rent a pair of snowshoes for the hike the cost is \$3/ pair and you must call ahead and reserve them, 563-556-6745.

**Hike & Hygge Feb 11, 2018 Sunday 1:30pm** Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Enjoy a winter hike at the park followed by relaxing with some hot cocoa by the fire!

**Nature Tales - Salamander Room Feb 16, 2018 Friday 10am** Hurstville Interpretive Center

Preschool age children and a guardian are invited to join a naturalist for our monthly nature tales series and learn more about the wildlife and the outdoors through stories, games and activities.

**February Audubon Program February 18, 2018 7pm** EB Lyons Interpretive Center

TBD

**Cabin Fever Day Feb 19 Monday 10am – 12pm** Hurstville Interpretive Center

Get out of the house on this no-school day for a morning of critters, snow creations, crafts, and cocoa!

### **Other Events Calendar**

**Winter Farmer's Market starts Saturday Nov. 4 9am-noon. Former Colt's Building 11th & Central**

### **Board Members 2017**

Name	Title	563 except as noted	Name	563 except as noted
Mark Kaufman	President	879-3452	Gerda Preston Hartman	588-0649
Pat Hayes	Vice President/ Membership	542-2960	Whitey Kemp	582-7752
Connie Kintzle	Treasurer	583-3907	Punky Birkel	
Tom Klinge	Secretary/Newsletter	815-747-7786	Dan Simon	583-0514
			Paul Kaufman	583-5030
			Bob Walton	
Bev Rettenmeier		563-552-1009		

## *Company Sponsors*

*Please support our local sponsors*

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<i>All Star Feeds Dyersville, IA</i>	<i>Environmental Management Services 5170 Wolff Rd</i>	<i>Miller Flooring Box 125 New Vienna</i>	<i>Stephen Hempstead High School 3715 Pennsylvania Ave</i>
<i>American Trust Bank 895 Town Clock Plaza</i>	<i>Sherry Horsfield Farm Bureau Insurance 20214 E Pleasant Grove Rd</i>	<i>Mines of Spain Rec. Area 8991 Bellevue Heights</i>	<i>Steve's Ace Hardware 3350 JFK 200 South Locust</i>
<i>Artistic Cleaners 107 Locust St.</i>	<i>Floorshow Corporation 1475 Associates Dr.</i>	<i>Nature's Way Lawn Care 440 Burch St.</i>	<i>Swiss Valley Nature Center Peosta, IA</i>
<i>Bait Shack Inc. 2095 Kerper Blvd.</i>	<i>The Friedman Group 880 Locust St. P. O. Box 1780</i>	<i>NICC Outdoor Learning Lab Peosta, IA</i>	<i>Therapeutic Massage 2255 JFK Road</i>
<i>Brennan Baumhover Ins. 2615 Dodge St.</i>	<i>Heiar Fencing and Supply Peosta, IA</i>	<i>Oky Doky Food Mart P.O. Box 300</i>	<i>U.S. Bank 270 West 7th</i>
<i>Dennis Baumhover Ins. 2615 Dodge St.</i>	<i>Hendricks Feed Co. 880 Central</i>	<i>O'Meara Custom Products 8915 N. Badger Rd.</i>	<i>Wahlert High School 2005 Kane Street</i>
<i>Behr's Funeral Home 1491 Main St.</i>	<i>Herbst Upholstery &amp; Auto 76 Main St</i>	<i>Organic Valley Dickeyville WI</i>	<i>Weber Paper Co. 4300 Chevenelle Dr.</i>
<i>Blum Company 411 E 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Hurstville Interpretive Center Maquoketa, IA</i>	<i>Pfohl's Blinds, Drapes Inc. 335 West 1st Street</i>	<i>White Front Feed &amp; Seed 4290 Dodge St.</i>
<i>Breitbach's Country Dining 563 Balltown Rd.</i>	<i>IIW Engineers &amp; Surveyors P.C. 4155 Pennsylvania</i>	<i>Pheasants Forever Holy Cross, IA</i>	<i>White Water Native Seeds Epworth, IA</i>
<i>Cedar Cross Overhead Door 1040 Cedar Cross Rd</i>	<i>Iowa DNR Maquoketa, IA</i>	<i>Pregler Electric 216th Ave LaMotte IA</i>	<i>Zuccaro Dental 895 Main St Suite 900</i>
<i>Central Animal Hospital 1865 Central Ave.</i>	<i>Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation Elizabeth, IL</i>	<i>Premier Bank 1975 JFK Rd.</i>	
<i>Citizens State Bank P.O. Box 50 New Vienna</i>	<i>Kalmes Breaktime 1097 Jackson St.</i>	<i>Schuster Heating &amp; Pump 15674 Key City Lane</i>	
<i>DNR Forester Anamosa, IA</i>	<i>Kaufmann Painting 17368 S John Deere Rd.</i>	<i>Schuster Tree Service 7273 Schueller Heights Rd</i>	
<i>Dubuque Soil &amp; Water Cons. Dist Epworth, IA</i>	<i>Klauer Optical 1705 Delhi St.</i>	<i>Schwartz Plumbing 4904 Asbury</i>	
<i>Dupaco Credit Union P.O. Box 179</i>	<i>Lansing Essential Oils Worthington, IA</i>	<i>Sisters of Saint Francis 3390 Windsor Ave.</i>	
<i>DuTrac Credit Union 3465 Asbury</i>		<i>Skip Breithbach Feed Balltown, IA</i>	
		<i>Spahn &amp; Rose Lumber Co. 1101 Jackson St.</i>	

Dubuque Co. Conservation Society  
P. O. Box 645  
Dubuque, IA 52004-0645

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**Reminders:**

The next meetings will be held **Tuesday, January 9, 2017 and Tuesday February 13, 2017 06:00 pm** on the second floor of the Oky-Doky at 250 West 1st street. All Members are invited and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Check the event calendars for some exciting things to do.

Support your local Farmer’s Markets. Support our local Sponsors.

This months insert - None

Change your furnace filter.

This month’s focus - None

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Visit our web page at [www.dbqccs.org](http://www.dbqccs.org)  
- OR -

Visit our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dubuque-County-Conservation-Society/421655257997596>  
or you can search for “Dubuque County Conservation Society Facebook”.

Membership renewal is due in January. Notices will be sent out to those members requiring renewal.