



# 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 – April 10, 2018

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

Mark Kaufman called the meeting to order at 18:01 pm.

**Minutes:** March 13, 2018 meeting minutes were approved after a motion by Paul and second by Whitey.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Tom which was seconded by Whitey to approve the Treasures report.

**Membership:** A list of the members who have not renewed the last year as well as those who have not renewed this year was provided. Those in poor health will be deleted. Board members will contact other members who have not renewed. Remove Jack's name and Oky Doky Food Marts/TFM will receive a free membership.

Old Business;

**McLaughlin Wildlife Area:** Pat has being doing some clean up. Honeysuckle need cut and spray with roundup.

**Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area:** Pat and Connie planted conifers April 8.

**Leifker Wildlife Area:** There is a beaver residing in the area.

**Oxford Junction Property:** No update

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

- Business members are listed in the newsletter which is current. No other listing will be made.
- The 6 most recent newsletters are in the Newsletter folder – there is limited space.

Connie continues to update with current information

**Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque:** Great Give Day is May 10.

**Operation Releaf program:** Delivery is scheduled for April 28 – please keep the date open to assist with distribution at Swiss Valley Park at 8:00 AM.

### New Business:

A bat house building session is set for May 5 @ 10:00 AM at the Swiss Valley Nature Center Plan was to build 10 bat houses. Punkie motion and Pat seconded to spend \$100.

There was discussion on the scholarship program. Plan is to award 1 - \$1500 scholarship. Mark mentioned using the money from CFGD. Discuss further at next meeting.

**JDCF** – Pat motioned that we join at the \$35 introductory rate was seconded by Paul and approved.

Iowa Heritage Foundation - Gerda motioned we donate \$500 seconded by Pat and approved.

Need to form a committee to decide which pictures to use for a new large display.

Paul motioned to adjourn the meeting at 19:00 PM. Pat seconded it and the meeting was adjourned.

## Unaudited Minutes – May 8, 2018

Present: Punkie Birkel, Pat Hayes, Mark Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Whitey Kemp, Connie Kintzle, Bev Rettenmeier, Mark Kaufman called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**Minutes:** April 10, 2018 minutes submitted by Connie were approved with a motion by Bev & second by Whitey.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Paul which was seconded by Pat to approve the Treasures report. The 990 tax return has been completed at a cost of \$450.

**Membership:** Thank you to all who have renewed their membership. Our membership fees enable us to provide financial assistance for projects in our area.

### Old Business;

**McLaughlin Wildlife Area:** Pat has been busy planting Button bushes which were provided by the state. He also planted some cattails down in the lower area and he planted about 30 oak trees by the parking lot and down by the creek. Pat made a motion to purchase woven fencing to protect the trees at a cost of about \$150. He purchased re-rod to anchor the fencing around the trees. The motion was seconded by Whitey and passed.

**Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area:** Leo asked if he could harvest some of the saplings. He can dig as many as he wants with a shovel. They should be dug when dormant to increase survival rate. Pat noted that the Norway & Blue spruce should be moved/replanted or spaced to allow for growth. DCCB sprayed the sunflower plot. Mark will work with volunteers if they want to help with work projects at the properties

**Leifker Wildlife Area:** Mark reported there was a fish kill in the pond probably caused by lack of oxygen because there is no fresh water running into the pond.

**Oxford Junction Property:** No update

**Website:** <http://www.dbqccs.org/> The meeting start time will be corrected.

**Scholarship:** Mark modified the application letter and copies were delivered to the local four-year colleges.

**Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque:** Great Give Day is May 10. Bev mentioned there is a phone number you can call if you need assistance. Connie noted there is a link to the CFGD website on our website.

**Operation Relief program:** Distribution went well with Bev, Connie & Punkie processing check in and Mark and Pat assisting with loading of the trees.

**Bat house building session** held by Pat & DCCB May 5, at the Swiss Valley Nature Center was full. Twenty people attended making 12 bat houses. Donations were \$10 short of the cost of materials which was excellent.

### New Business:

Pat spoke with John Below, Federal Wildlife Officer. Their staff has been cut from 1200 to 300 officers. Anyone who notices any unethical or illegal activities near or on the river should contact John at 608.306.0476 or [john\\_below@fws.gov](mailto:john_below@fws.gov). This information will also be put on the website.

Brian Preston mentioned that there is a fungus that is killing snakes. Not only are bats threatened but snakes are as well. Brian will give us a tour of the Valentine property on May 18 at 1PM.

Bill Strauss, a new DCCS member who works with the Boy Scouts, mentioned they need service projects in order to advance the ranks. It might be a good idea for us to give a presentation at the Dubuque District Round-table which meets at 7PM the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at Holy Trinity. The scouts might be able to help with work projects and utilize our properties for camp outings.

Paul motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. Pat seconded it and the meeting was adjourned.

## **Dubuque County Conservation Society and Dubuque County Conservation Board**

The Dubuque County Conservation Society is sometimes confused with the Dubuque County Conservation Board. The following attempts to differentiate them.

### **What is the Dubuque County Conservation Society**

On April 4, 1933, a group of 34 interested citizens met at the Dubuque Library and formed the Dubuque County Conservation Society. Their main object at the time was the preservation of an area called "White Pine Hollow". After this highly successful project many dedicated men and women gave freely of their time spending countless hours on other conservation projects.

The goals of the Dubuque County Conservation Society are to purchase & preserve wildlife habitat and to educate and inform the public.

Conservation Pledge: I give my pledge to save and to faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country, its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

#### **Our Mission**

The objects and purpose for which the corporation is organized is to do whatever is deemed necessary and proper to the end of preserving and developing plant and wild life areas and natural scenic spots in the county of Dubuque, Iowa, and its vicinity; to promote conservation of natural resources; and whatever educational programs may be deemed essential to carrying out the objects of the corporation; and generally to encourage youth organizations in all interests related to the conservation ideal; to acquire and promote the establishment of forest preserves and to cooperate in the work of establishing park areas; and to promote fish, bird, and animal wild life conservation.

#### **Success Story**

Protection of wildlife, particularly birds, has long been a major effort of the Society. Annually, bluebird house building and bird feeding programs have assisted many persons to get involved in efforts to increase appreciation for this segment of wildlife. The Society has also been involved in tree planting efforts for many years, both in urban and rural areas.

### **What is the Dubuque County Conservation Board**

The Dubuque County Conservation Board consists of five County residents who are appointed by the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors and given, by terms of the State Code of Iowa, the responsibility "...to acquire, develop, maintain, and make available to the inhabitants of the County [and its visitors] public parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas, and to promote and preserve the health and welfare of the people, to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources, and to cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate programs of public recreation."

#### **City Awarded Grant for Eagle Point Park Restoration**

From the website <http://www.dubuquetoday.com/tidbits.cfm>

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has awarded the City of Dubuque a grant of \$200,000 from Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP).

The grant money will be used for Phase 2 Implementation of the Environmental Restoration Management Plan at Eagle Point Park, a 164-acre community park that opened in 1909 on Dubuque's northeast side. Eagle Point Park is owned by the City of Dubuque and managed by the Leisure Services Department's Park Division. The park overlooks the Mississippi River, providing a spectacular view of Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

This project is part of an ongoing environmental restoration effort for Eagle Point Park that contributes to Dubuque's mission of creating a sustainable future. It involves implementation of the Eagle Point Park Environmental Restoration Management Plan that was completed under a REAP grant awarded in 2015. Adopted by the City Council in 2017, the Management Plan addresses the park's recreational and natural spaces that suffer the effects of severe erosion, invasive vegetation, and degraded natural habitats on the rolling, rugged terrain. Some implementation of that plan will commence using funds from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as funds from the previous REAP grant. All of this environmental work must be done within the context of the park's rich cultural history.

Implementation will improve sustainability by restoring and enhancing native plant communities and soil quality to provide new nature-based recreation opportunities for visitors, create habitat for wildlife, and foster sustainability. Phase 2 will enhance 33 acres of existing forest/woodland areas, representing 20 percent of the 164-acre regional park.

REAP invests in projects that enhance and protect the Iowa's natural and cultural resources. Fifteen percent of REAP is set aside for grants to cities for projects that help establish natural areas, encourage outdoor recreation and resource management.

In its 28 years, REAP has benefited every county in Iowa by supporting over 15,000 projects. REAP has funded these projects with \$300 million in state investments, leveraging two to three times the amount in private, local, and federal dollars. Collectively, these projects have improved the quality of life for all Iowans with better soil and water quality; added outdoor recreation opportunities; sustained economic development; enhanced knowledge and understanding of our ecological and environmental assets, and preservation of our cultural and historic treasures.

REAP has benefited the City of Dubuque greatly since 1997, with over \$2.7 million from 14 REAP grants invested in building off-road trails throughout the community and expanding the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Area at the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area. A complete list of these 14 City REAP Grant Awards for park and recreation projects is available at <http://cityofdubuque.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6781>.

## **Field Day explores land management strategies used over the last 24 years by private landowner near Zwingle**

From the website <http://www.dubuquetoday.com/tidbits.cfm>

David Gossman has dedicated the last 24 years to land restoration on his farm near Zwingle, and now other landowners can learn about his experiences, successes and lessons learned.

A field day led by Gossman and Trees Forever is set for Saturday, August 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to explore land management techniques, species identification, cultural history and motivations for land restoration. The field day includes a farm and forest tour of the Gossman property at 19502 159th Avenue in Zwingle, which Gossman has managed over the past twenty years. Please register at: <http://www.treesforever.org/InvasiveSpeciesFieldDay>

When asked what motivated him to restore the land despite the hard work David answered, "When I first bought the property I saw that it was covered mostly in brome grass and brown, dirty cattle pastures and I could see the potential, but knew it would be a lot of hard work," David continued, saying, "A big part of the process has been learning about and how to deal with invasive species - including making some mistakes along the way, but the vision of what the land could become is what kept me going."

"This is a great opportunity for landowners to learn about valuable local partnerships, explore a wide variety of ecosystems, and learn a little land use history dating from pre-settlement to today," said Trees Forever Field Coordinator Emily Swihart.

**Organizers ask for guests to register by August 22.** As space for this event is limited, you are encouraged to register early to ensure your spot for this event.

*Trees Forever is a nonprofit organization nationally headquartered in Marion, Iowa dedicated to planting trees, encouraging volunteer and youth involvement and environmental stewardship. For more information, visit [www.treesforever.org](http://www.treesforever.org) or call 800-369-1269.*

## Can I Flush Cat Poop and Scatter the Litter?

By Bob Schildgen Mar. 5, 2018 from Sierra Magazine

I have five cats. I put Feline Pine sawdust nuggets in their pan, then scoop out the turds and flush them down the toilet into my septic tank. I empty all the urine-soaked sawdust along a fence. Am I doing the environment any harm?

—Sally in South Miami, Florida

I'm sorry to say that you are doing several kinds of harm. First, it's not a good idea to flush anything from the litter box—even the sweetest, cleanest non-clumping pine—into a private septic tank because it could overburden the septic system. Poop and litter should not be flushed into municipal sewer systems either, because many of them cannot eliminate *Toxoplasma*, a rather nasty organism sometimes present in cat waste; its release into the ocean has been known to kill sea otters. People with weak immune systems should avoid cleaning cat litter, as should pregnant women. (The bug can cause serious eye or brain damage to a fetus.)

The most common cat litter contains sodium bentonite, the mining of which tears up land surface (though restoration of mined land is now required). And the disposed litter adds an estimated 4 million tons of material to our landscape and landfills each year. Consider a more organic, biodegradable litter made from corn, corncobs, citrus scraps, grains, wheat, paper, or wood shavings. Whatever litter you use, to avoid spreading *Toxoplasma* and other dangerous organisms, never dump it outside. Place it in a plastic bag, tie it shut, and put it in your regular garbage. A biodegradable bag will give it a better chance to break down in the dump.

Your cat should never be allowed outdoors without scrupulous supervision. As I've noted before, they kill billions of birds every year.

### Newsletter Content

This is your newsletter and as such, the editors felt you should have input to its contents. If there are any ideas you have or articles you want to submit, feel free to send them to [dbqccs01@gmail.com](mailto:dbqccs01@gmail.com). The subject of the ideas or articles should typically be conservation oriented, but other items can be submitted and will be reviewed by the editors.

### Great Give Day Results

#### Dubuque County Conservation Society Endowment Fund Agency Account.

	Current Period June 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018	Year-To-Date January 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	11,144.55	11,182.20
Deposits	0.00	0.00
	Current Period June 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018	Year-To-Date January 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018
Interest/Dividend Income	24.46	105.45
Realized Gains (Losses)	5.74	( 36.25)
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	( 2.28)	( 15.87)
Grants Approved	0.00	0.00
Administrative/Investment Fees	( 12.55)	( 75.61)
Credit Card Fees	0.00	0.00
ENDING FUND BALANCE	11,159.92	11,159.92

## 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/)

**Picnic in the Park: Creek Explorers August 16 @ 11am-12pm** Swiss Valley Park – Walnut Pavillon,  
Join a naturalist at the park for a look into an exciting nature topic! We will provide hands on activities for kids of all ages! Call 563-556-6745 to register.

**Survivor School Aug 18 Saturday 10am–12pm** Prairie Creek Recreation Area 223rd Ave, Maquoketa  
Join a naturalist to learn about and participate in survivor skill basics.

**OWLS - Hike and Food Aug 24 Friday 2-6pm** Maquoketa Caves State Park 10970 98th St Maquoketa, IA  
Join the OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier) group for a naturalist guided tour of Maquoketa Caves, followed by supper at Bluff Lake Catfish Farm. Hike is free; participants are responsible for cost of their food. RSVP by Aug 21 to (563) 556-6745. (Pending reopening of park).

**Hamilton Prairie Walk Sep 12 Wednesday 6-7:30 PM** Hurstville Interpretive Center  
Take a walk on a prairie remnant and enjoy seeing prairie flowers in bloom!

**September Audubon Program September 13, 6 pm**, EB Lyons Interpretive Center  
Hawks of Iowa

### Other Events Calendar

**Summer Farmer's Market Saturday 7am-noon** 13th and White streets

### Board Members 2018

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*

<i>All Seasons Heating 798 Cedar Cross Rd</i>	<i>Edwards Concrete Contractors 13247 Terrell Ridge</i>	<i>Midwest Organic Solutions Farley, IA</i>	<i>St. Mark Community Center 1201 Locust Street</i>
<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, September 11, 2018 and Tuesday October 9, 2018 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

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”.