



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

Dubuque County Conservation Society

Unaudited Minutes October 9, 2018

Present: Pat Hayes, Mark Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Whitey Kemp, Tom Klinge, Bev Rettenmeier, Bob Walton

Call to Order:	Mark Kaufman	@	pm
Approval of minutes:	Connie/Tom	M -	S -
Treasurer’s Report:	Connie Kintzle	M -	S -

Membership report: Pat Hayes/Connie The delinquent list was brought up again and Paul indicated there were some names to be removed. Tom will forward list to Gerda to determine if there are others to drop.

Old Business

McLaughlin Wildlife Area: The area is too wet to try to kill the boxelder trees or do any other work. Pat and Ryan Strauss did some fencing around young trees. Mark mentioned that we should get \$800 to \$900 for conservation efforts (mowing & burning) in the area.

Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area:
Leifker Wildlife Area

Oxford Junction Property: The property was under water October 9, when the work day was planned.

Update to the booklet and display

Tom had indicated there are changes/updates that need to be made in the by-laws. Paul will review his notes.

There will be a meeting October 26, at the Swiss Valley Nature Center to review pictures for the booklet and discuss adding the by-laws to the booklet. All directors with an email address should have received a link to the pictures from Tom.

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

The newsletters which include the business member names are available on the website. No need to keep an additional file.

Tom plans to add a link to the pictures on Google.

Scholarship – Paul took papers to the local 4 year colleges. Next spring Bob will contact professors in charge of the Environmental or conservation classes.

Must be a junior or senior in college with qualifying GPA.

Award amount is \$1500 per scholarship. Up to two can be awarded dependent on qualifications.

Deadline for application is September 1.

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque –

Paul is concerned about our investments, he feels we are losing money. What are other options?

CFGD is offering a Grant Writing class on December 18. Cost to attend is \$39.

The matured CD funds were invested at DuPaco for 29 months at 2.75% by Connie & Mark.

New Business

The annual dinner meeting will be held at 6PM on November 16, at Breitbach's Country Dining.

It was mentioned that we might consider donating a wreath or tree with a natural theme to the Roshek Holiday Fair. To be discussed further at the October 26, session.

Adjournment @ 7:10 PM M - S -

Dubuque County Conservation Society Unaudited Minutes – November 16, 2018

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

The meeting was held at Brietbach's restaurant in Balltown.

Call to Order: Mark Kaufman @ 6:07pm

Approval of minutes: Not available

Treasurer's Report: Connie Kintzle M - Tom S - Bob

Membership report: Pat Hayes/Connie Kintzle No update

Old Business

McLaughlin Wildlife Area: Prairies, prairie grass, and Indian grass all look good.

Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area: Pat talked to monastery about digging up trees to give to members or the public.

Leifker Wildlife Area Finally dried up. Pond is bigger. Too many cottonwoods. Need to do a burn,

Oxford Junction Property No update

Update to the booklet Review changes to brochure

Website: <http://www.dbqccs.org/> Get a drone pilot to take pictures and add to website

Scholarship Ryan will come to the January meeting

Comm. Foundation of Greater Dbq Connie updated our page

Review Expiring CD: Will put in the checking account for now

Membership renewals. Need volunteers to stuff and mail. Need the letter from last year and will add the bird seed coupon to the envelope.

New Business

Gerda thanked everyone for Wally's tree.

Curt had requested \$200 for TSI at White Pine Hollow. Mark made a motion which passed. Mark will call Curt.

Adjournment @ 6:21 pm M - Bev S - Bob

Seasonal Bird Count Events

Submitted by Tom Klinge. From the Audubon website - www.audubondubuque.org

In preparation of the bird count events occurring in 2019, I've written this article to inform you when the events happen (they will also be in the newsletter) and where the best places in the Dubuque area to observe the birds.

As the Audubon society gets information on the following list of bird counts the information will be added. Check their website.

Christmas bird count - First weekend in January

Bald Eagle Count at Bald Eagle Watch on the second Saturday of January

Bald Eagle Survey - January

Back Yard Bird Count - February

Duck Waddle - March

Butterfly count - Normally the second weekend in July at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area and Swiss Valley Nature Center

Dubuque County Birding Areas

We are truly blessed when it comes to birding in Dubuque County. Traveling from east to west our county offers dramatic limestone bluffs over the mighty Mississippi River, rolling hills and remnant prairies. No matter where you decide to stop and take the binoculars out of their case, when you are in Dubuque County you will not be disappointed!

Top 5 Dubuque County Conservation Birding Areas:

1. Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area

Location: From Dubuque, take US 151 South about 10 miles. Just past the junction with Dubuque County Y21 take the first left onto Curoe Road. There is a brown Whitewater Canyon sign before the turn. Follow the signs to the end of the blacktop. Turn right and follow the lane to the parking lot.

What you will see: Whitewater is a birder's paradise. It offers steep bluff lands, Whitewater Creek, prairie, oak/hickory forests, and scenic cavernous valleys...all of which mean diversity of species. For those who love a great raptor sighting, Whitewater has boasted Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, American Kestrels, Cooper's Hawks, Short-eared Owls and Barred Owls. There are game birds galore: turkeys, pheasants, quail, and Ruffed Grouse. Whitewater is also home to some very rare winged friends: Bobolinks, Henslow Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, Cerulean Warblers, Dickcissles, Scarlet Tanagers, Acadian Flycatchers and much, much more!

2. Heritage Trail

Location: Heritage Trail is a 26 mile hiking/biking trail that runs from the north end of Dubuque (Heritage Pond on Rupp Hollow Road) to Dyersville. For more information on the trail and how to obtain a user pass please visit www.dubuquecounty.org

What you will see: From end to end riders and hikers will see the county change from rugged terrain to smooth open prairie and cropland. Birders at the east end of the trail will see Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, gulls, American Redstarts, Scarlet Tanagers and raptors a plenty. As you move west you will notice the ever increasing warblers during the summer and the local favorites like the Tufted Titmice, Black-capped Chickadees, American Goldfinches, Bald Eagles and of course the Barred Owls. The Heritage Trail is a beautiful place to explore low land forests, remnant prairies, and limestone outcroppings...there is no shortage of wildlife to see on this 26 mile gem.

3. Mud Lake Park

Location: Mud Lake Park is located 6 miles north of Dubuque off Mud Lake Road on Gulf Lake Road.

What you will see: Mud Lake sits along the banks of the mighty Mississippi River and is home to the Osprey Reintroduction Project. Since 2005 the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa DNR and DCCB have been working together to restore wildlife habitat along the shore of Mud Lake Park. The Osprey Reintroduction Project began in 2008 and will continue through 2013; the hacking tower is located in the southern corner of the park and has a webcam during the hacking period (visit www.dubuquecounty.org) Sandhill Cranes can be seen and heard during the spring months. There are Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, White Pelicans, Great Egrets, swallows and shorebirds by the dozens. Mud Lake is a prime spot for waterfowl. Spring or fall you will be pleased. Large birds of prey and many song birds utilize this park for habitat. There is never a dull moment at Mud Lake Park.

4. Finley's Landing Park

Location: Finley's Landing is located 15 miles north of Dubuque off the Great River Road.

What you will see: Finley's Landing is one of the most scenic Mississippi River Pool 11 access points. The 120 acre area is home to mature upland forests, Mississippi River front, and rugged river bluffs. There are many birds to list; here are just a few highlights: Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Great Egrets, Bald Eagles, White Pelicans, Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Prothonotary Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrushes, waterfowls and shorebirds in abundance. Scenic views and spectacular birding await those who follow the nature trails at Finley's Landing.

5. Swiss Valley Nature Preserve

Location: Swiss Valley Nature Preserve is located at 13606 Swiss Valley Road 2 miles off of Hwy 20.

What you will see: Swiss Valley Nature Preserve is a 476 acre preserve with 10 miles of hiking trails through oak/hickory forests, maple/basswood forests, prairies and wetland areas. Catfish Creek meanders through the valley and is stocked with trout. Birding is one of the most popular activities for visitors to the preserve. Birds to be seen: Pileated Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Common Yellowthroats, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Kingfishers, Wood Ducks, Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, Barred Owls and many more. Swiss Valley is your year round birding headquarters!

Other areas of interest

Mines of Spain Recreation Area

Location: Dubuque, Iowa www.minesofspain.org
http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/state_park_list/mines_spain.html

The 1380 acres that make up the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area include a variety of interesting landforms, plant species and communities, animals and water types. A large portion of the area is rugged, wooded Mississippi River Bluff land. While much of the original timber along the Mississippi River was logged off during the steamboat era (1865-1880), portions of the Mines of Spain Area were left untouched, leaving us with burr oak trees today that are over 250 years old. The park is designated as an Important Birding Area, a Watchable Wildlife Area in Iowa, State Preserve and National Recreational Trail System. Numerous birding opportunities with Pileated Woodpeckers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Wood Thrushes, Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, Eastern Meadow Larks, Bobolinks and many more species exist in the park. The Mines of Spain is a perfect place to go birding any time of the year. The park has 21 miles of trail going through prairies, wetland, upland and lowland forest and it is adjacent to the Mississippi River.

Dubuque becomes LEED-Certified City

As one of the 75 STAR-certified cities and counties in the U.S., Dubuque was recently named a LEED-Certified City. STAR stands for Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating Communities. STAR Communities is a national framework for measuring and advancing local government's environmental, economic and community efforts to achieve sustainability. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, for Cities is a program from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) that advances healthy, green, and economically strong cities and communities. "Our commitment to improve our city's performance qualifies us to join the ranks of LEED Cities and Communities around the world," said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. "Our STAR certification - earned in 2015 - has provided a great foundation for future work with the U.S. Green Building Council and we look forward to tracking and communicating our continued social, economic, and environmental performance so that Dubuque residents and stakeholders can see our progress."

LEED for Cities and Communities is helping to accelerate the leadership now being shown by city and community leaders. LEED helps cities and communities benchmark current performance, track performance metrics, communicate continuous improvement, educate residents, visitors and business owners to demonstrate commitment to sustainability, human health and economic prosperity. As a result, local governments are becoming laboratories of innovation and leadership, and have an enormous opportunity to initiate a dynamic dialogue with citizens - and earn their trust in the process.

Mahesh Ramanujam, president and CEO of the USGBC, said, "We are helping cities and counties develop responsible, sustainable and specific plans for energy, water, waste, transportation and many other factors that contribute to raising the standard of living for all people around the world. Dubuque is to be congratulated for its commitment to ensuring a place where people, nature, and businesses can all thrive."

"Dubuque will reach an even higher level of leadership where they will be able to benchmark their current performance, home in on targeted metrics to achieve continuous improvement, and demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, human health, and economic prosperity," added Ramanujam.

Cities and communities face many challenges in this day and age and citizens are demanding more transparency and information about the places where they live, work, learn, and play. LEED for Cities and Communities addresses these concerns on a global scale.

For additional information on Dubuque's STAR/LEED Cities certification, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/2195/STAR-Community or call 563-690-6038.

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 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

Hurstville Interpretive Center, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, IA at 563- 652-3783. www.jacksonccb.com

Dubuque Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3174, Dubuque, IA 52004-3174, 563-582-215. www.audubondubuque.org/

Prairie Seed Volunteer Day Sunday, Dec. 9, 9am-5pm Swiss Valley Nature Center

We have lots of prairie seed collected from this fall. Come and help get the seed separated and ready to be planted in the spring. We will be working mostly on milkweed seed and each volunteer will get to bring some home to help create monarch habitat in their backyard! We will have seed set up all day so stop by and help for however long you can!

Geocaching at Swiss Sunday, Dec.9, 10am-3pm Swiss Valley Nature Center

We will be checking out GPS units at the nature center from 10-3. We will give you the run down on how to use them and what geocaches to look for in the preserve. Units will be given out on a first come first serve basis. One unit per family

December Audubon Program, The Big Year, December 13, 2018 6pm University of Dubuque Science Center/ Goldthorp, Rm 105 | 2000 University Ave | Dubuque, IA

Join us for the comedy film, *The Big Year*, as actors, Steve Martin, Jack Black, and Owen Wilson venture across the country to count more bird species than the others. Rated PG, 1 hr 40 min.

Santa's Workshop Saturday, Dec. 15, 1-4pm Swiss Valley Nature Center

Join us at the nature center for a visit from Santa! Get your picture taken with Santa and make a bird feeder to take home. Snowshoes will be available for checkout and hot cocoa to warm up with!

Kids in Nature: Holiday Crafts Friday, Dec. 21 9am-11am Swiss Valley Nature Center

Bring the kids out to enjoy some hot cocoa and some holiday themed crafts

Candlelit Solstice Hike Friday, Dec. 21, 6:30-7:30pm Swiss Valley Nature Center

Celebrate the winter solstice by hiking the illuminated trails of Swiss Valley. Warm up around the campfire.

119th Christmas Bird Count Dec. 29, 2018. Meet at EB Lyons Interpretive Center Parking lot

8am Bird Count 4:30pm Chili Supper

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, January 5. At 4:30 PM we will share a chili supper while compiling results.

First Day Hike January 1, 12:45-2pm EB Lyons Interpretive Center

The First Day Hike at the Mines of Spain Recreation Center Area is scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM. Participants are urged to arrive 15 minutes early to register. Cocoa, coffee and refreshments will be available for all participants after the hike. The centers exhibits and displays will be open for viewing.

Kids in Nature Thursday, January 17th, 9am Swiss Valley Nature Center Bring the kiddos dressed to enjoy the winter weather! We will play in the snow and explore the wonderland that is Swiss Valley Nature Preserve. Call 563-556-6745 to register

Bald Eagle Watch Saturday, January 19th, 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, nature items available for purchase. Shuttles will be running down to the Lock and Dam for Bald Eagle viewing.

6 Ways to Recycle Your Christmas Tree

By [Vanessa Richins Myers](#), About.com Guide

1. Find Your Local Recycling Center

- Many cities now have recycling services that will pick up your Christmas tree or provide drop-off locations. The tree may be used by local organizations for the other ways suggested here.

2. Make Your Own Mulch.

- If you have access to a wood chipper, you can make your own garden mulch. Use a saw to cut the Christmas tree into smaller pieces to fit into the chipper. The wood chips can be used around your plants, in your compost bin, and for garden paths.

3. Provide a Bird Habitat

- If you have the room in your backyard, Christmas trees make excellent bird habitats. Remove all of the decorations. Make sure there is no tinsel or flocking.
- You will need to secure the tree by using the stand or stakes and twine. Provide the birds with food by making pine cone bird feeders (see Just for Fun), using suet holders, and hanging strings of popcorn or fresh fruit.

4. Create a Fish Habitat

- If you have a pond, you can place cut-up pieces of your Christmas tree on the bottom to create places for fish to hide. You can also call your state's Department of Natural Resources to see if they need trees for this purpose.
- Remove all decorations. It is especially important that the tree is free of tinsel, and has not been flocked or treated in any other way.

5. Help Stop Shoreline Erosion

- Christmas trees can be used to help reduce erosion on shorelines of oceans, lakes or rivers. The branches and trunk provide barriers that help lessen the amount of sand washed away by the water. They can also help rebuild areas, especially after hurricanes, by collecting sand deposits.
- Check with your state's Department of Natural Resources to see if they have a need for your Christmas trees.

6. Decorate Your House with Wreaths and Garlands

- Cut off the branches and use them to make winter wreaths or garlands to decorate your house throughout the season. You can add scented pine cones to complement the wonderful smell of fresh trees.

Other Events Calendar

Winter Farmer's Market Saturday, 9am-noon Colts Center, 1101 Central

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</i> 798 Cedar Cross Rd	<i>Floorshow Corporation</i> 1475 Associates Dr.	<i>O'Meara Custom Products</i> 8915 N. Badger Rd.	<i>Therapeutic Massage</i> 2255 JFK Road
<i>American Trust Bank</i> 895 Town Clock Plaza	<i>The Friedman Group</i> 880 Locust St. P. O. Box 1780	<i>Organic Valley</i> Dickeyville WI	<i>U.S. Bank</i> 270 West 7th
<i>Artistic Cleaners</i> 107 Locust St.	<i>Freuhleo Consulting and Forester</i> 2230 Chippewa Dr.	<i>Pfohl's Blinds, Drapes Inc.</i> 335 West 1st Street	<i>Wahlert High School</i> 2005 Kane Street
<i>Bait Shack Inc.</i> 2095 Kerper Blvd.	<i>Hendricks Feed Co.</i> 880 Central	<i>Pheasants Forever</i> Holy Cross, IA	<i>Weber Paper Co.</i> 4300 Chevenelle Dr.
<i>Brennan Baumhover Ins.</i> 2615 Dodge St.	<i>Herbst Upholstery & Auto</i> 76 Main St	<i>Pregler Electric</i> 216th Ave LaMotte IA	<i>White Front Feed & Seed</i> 4290 Dodge St.
<i>Dennis Baumhover Ins.</i> 2615 Dodge St.	<i>Hurstville Interpretive Center</i> Maquoketa, IA	<i>Premier Bank</i> 1975 JFK Rd.	<i>White Water Native Seeds</i> Epworth, IA
<i>Behr's Funeral Home</i> 1491 Main St.	<i>IIW Engineers & Surveyors P.C.</i> 4155 Pennsylvania	<i>Schuster Heating & Pump</i> 15674 Key City Lane	<i>Zuccaro Dental</i> 895 Main St Suite 900
<i>Breitbach's Country Dining</i> 563 Balltown Rd.	<i>Iowa DNR</i> Maquoketa, IA	<i>Schuster Tree Service</i> 7273 Schueller Heights Rd	
<i>Cedar Cross Overhead Door</i> 1040 Cedar Cross Rd	<i>Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation</i> Elizabeth, IL	<i>Sisters of Saint Francis</i> 3390 Windsor Ave.	
<i>Citizens State Bank</i> P.O. Box 50 New Vienna	<i>Kaufmann Painting</i> 17368 S John Deere Rd.	<i>Skip Breithbach Feed</i> Balltown, IA	
<i>Copper Kettle</i> 2987 JACKSON ST	<i>Klauer Optical</i> 1705 Delhi St.	<i>Spahn & Rose Lumber Co.</i> 1101 Jackson St.	
<i>DNR Forester</i> Anamosa, IA	<i>Miller Flooring</i> Box 125 New Vienna	<i>St. Mark Community Center</i> 1201 Locust Street	
<i>Dubuque Soil & Water Cons. Dist</i> Epworth, IA	<i>Mines of Spain Rec. Area</i> 8991 Bellevue Heights	<i>Stephen Hempstead High School</i> 3715 Pennsylvania Ave	
<i>Dupaco Credit Union</i> P.O. Box 179	<i>Nature's Way Lawn Care</i> 440 Burch St.	<i>Steve's Ace Home and Garden</i> 3350 JFK 200 South Locust	
<i>DuTrac Credit Union</i> 3465 Asbury	<i>NICC Outdoor Learning Lab</i> Peosta, IA	<i>Swiss Valley Nature Center</i> Peosta, IA	
<i>Environmental Management Services</i> 5170 Wolff Rd	<i>Oky Doky Food Mart</i> P.O. Box 300	<i>TFM Co.</i> 2040 Kerper Blvd.	
<i>Sherry Horsfield Farm Bureau Insurance</i> 20214 E Pleasant Grove Rd			

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P. O. Box 645
Dubuque, IA 52004-0645

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Reminders:

The next meetings will be held **Tuesday, January 8, 2019 06:00 pm and Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:00 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 - Observing birds

Change your furnace filter.

Recycle whenever possible.

Visit our web page at 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”.

Recycle your live Christmas tree