



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



Editor **comments**

Due to the coronavirus and no group contact we have missing or reduced items in the newsletter:

1. Meeting minutes as we haven't met in months
2. Calendar items as the organizations we follow haven't been sponsoring group events.

Property Update

Submitted by Pat Hayes

On April 26th Tom Stecklin and I helped the Pheasants Forever group replant some missing shrubs at the Leifker Wildlife Area. There wasn't much to replant as the previous planting was very successful. The area had been burned and the food plots have been planted.

We then traveled to the Oxford Junction Wildlife Area. A lot more work was required there. We speculated that a number of species previously planted were not tolerance to the frequent flooding the area has been experiencing. It was discussed to use more wetland type plants if we need to replace anymore of the shrubs in the future.

I sprayed a number of autumn olive in the prairie area at the McLaughlin Wildlife Area. They are spreading pretty badly. It's been a number of years since we hired anyone to treat them. Honeysuckle has pretty much taken over the timber areas and is also starting to spread into the prairie.

How to reduce food waste

Submitted by Connie Kintzle from DubuqueToday Tidbits

Perhaps nothing can spoil an appetite more than a crisper drawer full of fresh vegetables that have taken a turn for the worse. Spoiled food is not just unsafe to eat, but it is also very costly.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimate that the average family of four throws out nearly \$1,500 worth of food and beverages each year. That means that, within seven years, the average family has spent more than \$10,000 on food they did not eat.

In recognition of the problems posed by food waste, the National Grange, the oldest farm and food advocacy organization in the United States, aims to create a cultural shift that reduces food waste. Individual consumers can do their part in supporting that shift by taking various steps to reduce food waste in their homes.

- **Take inventory before going to the grocery store.** An inventory of the refrigerator and pantry can help shoppers avoid buying items they already have. This is especially valuable at reducing food waste in regard to perishable items that can spoil before shoppers have a chance to eat them.
- **Make a meal plan and grocery list.** The Environmental Protection Agency notes that meal plans and accompanying grocery lists help consumers reduce food waste and save money by decreasing the likelihood that they will buy items they won't need for the meals they plan to eat in the week ahead.
- **Purchase frozen foods.** Organic, fresh vegetables eaten when they are most ripe may be the healthiest way to eat vegetables. However, frozen vegetables still have ample nutritional value, and may even boast a higher nutritional value than off-season, fresh vegetables sold at the grocery store. That's because frozen fruits and vegetables are picked when they're ripe and then immersed in boiling water to kill bacteria and prevent enzyme activity that can spoil food. They're then immediately flash frozen, a process that typically preserves nutrients. The long shelf life of frozen fruits and vegetables reduces the likelihood that shoppers will throw them out before eating them. That's not the case with fresh vegetables, which the ANDF and the USDA note account for more than 30 percent of food waste each year.
- **Wash berries only as you eat them.** When eating fresh berries, wait to wash them until you eat them. The risk of mold forming increases when washing an entire container all at once, whereas only washing the berries as they're eaten increases the likelihood that they won't spoil before they're all eaten.

Food waste is a global problem that can be fixed. And that solution can start in the kitchens of consumers willing to do their part.

How to safely watch wildlife

Submitted by Connie Kintzle from [DubuqueToday](#) [Tidbits](#)

Outdoor enthusiasts know that the wonders of nature never cease. Encountering wildlife while enjoying the great outdoors can be an experience unlike any other, especially when nature lovers know what to do and how to treat wildlife with caution and respect.

The National Park Service notes that the safety of nature lovers and wildlife depends on outdoor enthusiasts' good judgment. By following these guidelines, nature lovers can continue to enjoy the great outdoors without adversely affecting local wildlife.

- **Do your homework.** The NPS notes that every park has its own specific guidelines regarding interactions with wildlife. Prior to visiting a park, familiarize yourself with these guidelines, which often include rules on viewing distances and food storage requirements. Ignoring the guidelines adversely affects the safety of both nature lovers and wildlife, so review the rules in advance of your trip and again upon your arrival at the park.
- **Be vigilant from the moment you arrive on park grounds.** According to the NPS, accidents involving motor vehicles are some of the more deadly encounters for wildlife in parks. The roads that help nature lovers navigate their way through parks cut directly through wildlife habitats, so visitors should be on the lookout and proceed with caution after arriving at the park, even if their campground or the area they intend to visit is still miles away.
- **Don't get too close to wildlife.** The NPS says that, in addition to following park guidelines that govern the distance visitors should maintain between themselves and wildlife, a good rule of thumb is to remember that you are too close if animals react to your presence. Selfies should be out of the question, but visitors can still take photos so long as they maintain safe distances between themselves and wildlife.
- **Never feed, touch, tease, frighten, or intentionally disturb wildlife.** Wildlife can be unpredictable, and interacting directly with them can put the health of park visitors and animals in jeopardy. Always remember you are there only to observe wildlife.
- **Share any unusual experiences with a park ranger.** Nature lovers who see wildlife that appears sick or wildlife that approaches them should share these experiences and encounters with a park ranger. In addition, don't be shy about informing park rangers about other park visitors if you see them disobeying park rules. Keeping parks safe for visitors and wildlife requires a collective effort, and anyone not doing their part must be reminded of that, ideally by a park ranger.

Parks are great places to experience local wildlife. Guidelines governing interactions with wildlife should always be followed, as they can keep both visitors and animals safe.

Conserving water during drought and dry periods

Submitted by Connie Kintzle from [DubuqueToday](#) [Tidbits](#)

Weather can be unpredictable. Carefully developed plans for days spent in the great outdoors can be derailed by unexpected rainstorms, while sudden bursts of sunshine can turn overcast afternoons into chances to get outside and breathe some fresh air.

Lawn and garden enthusiasts know just how mercurial Mother Nature can be, especially during summer. The specter of drought looms every summer, but the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center does not anticipate any broad-scale areas of drought developing in the Lower 48 states in 2020. While that's good news for lawn and garden enthusiasts, it's wise to remain prepared for drought.

In recognition of the difficulties drought can pose, the Environmental Protection Agency offers the following tips to homeowners to ensure that water is available to meet critical needs.

- **Learn local regulations.** During dry periods and droughts, local water utilities put restrictions in place. These restrictions are not meant to be nuisances, but designed to ensure water is available to fight fires and meet other critical needs. Adhering to these guidelines, no matter how difficult they can be, helps your community stay safe. Periodically visit local water utilities' websites to learn if there are any restrictions in place.
- **Inspect fixtures for leaks.** Conservation is the goal of water restrictions. Leaky fixtures compromise conservation efforts, so inspect all interior and exterior faucets and pipes for leaks and fix them immediately.
- **Look into upgrades.** Upgrading outdated bathrooms and other water features can be a great way to conserve water without changing daily habits. For example, the EPA estimates that water-conserving toilets can reduce water consumption by as much as 60 percent each year. That saves consumers money while also helping them to conserve dur-

ing droughts or periods of dryness.

- **Water wisely.** The EPA notes that experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of the water we use outdoors is lost to evaporation, wind or runoff due to overwatering. The EPA recommends watering primarily in the early morning and evening, after the sun goes down, so less water is lost to evaporation. If you have an irrigation system that uses a clock timer, consider replacing the timer with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller, which acts like a thermostat for a sprinkler system, using local weather and landscape conditions to tell the sprinkler system when to turn itself on and off.

Drought and dry conditions in summer highlight the importance of conserving water.

Signs your soil might be compacted

Submitted by Connie Kintzle from DubuqueToday Tidbits

Compacted soil can result from any number of activities, including walking on a lawn. When soil on a lawn is compacted, grass roots might not receive the water, oxygen and nutrients they need to grow in strong. The can lead to weak lawns that are vulnerable to various issues. However, homeowners need not avoid their lawns to prevent soil compaction. Rather, learning to recognize signs of soil compaction and paying special attention to heavily trafficked areas of the yard can help homeowners identify the problem early and address it before grass begins to suffer.

Cooperative Extension, which is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, notes that the following are some sign potential indicators of compacted soil.

- **Hard soil:** Soil that is difficult, if not impossible, to penetrate with a shovel is likely compacted. Even healthy soil is sometimes resistant to penetration, but if homeowners put some muscle into their efforts to penetrate the soil and still can't do so, then the soil is compacted.
- **Standing water:** Water standing on top of soil for a long time is doing so because the soil is likely so compacted that the water, which roots need to thrive, cannot get through.
- **Excessive water runoff:** Runoff occurs when watering lawns. But if nearly all of the water intended for the lawn and the soil beneath it is seemingly being diverted away from the grass, then that means the water cannot get through to the soil or that so little is getting through that the lawn's health is in jeopardy.
- **Loss of vegetation or poor plant growth:** Compacted soil prevents water, nutrients and oxygen from accessing the root zone. As a result, plants, including trees, are vulnerable to disease and even death.
- **Surface crust:** Surface crust, which blocks oxygen and water from penetrating the soil and tends to inflict areas like footpaths and playgrounds due to heavy foot traffic, contributes to runoff and soil erosion.

Compacted soil is relatively simple to fix. But when untreated, compacted soil can threaten lawns, plants and other vegetation.

How to protect dogs from Lyme disease

Submitted by Connie Kintzle from DubuqueToday Tidbits

Lyme disease is a potentially dangerous condition transmitted by the passing of bacteria from deer ticks to their unsuspecting hosts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. Lyme disease also is a cause for concern in Canada, parts of Europe and Asia.

Tens of thousands of people are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year. But Lyme disease also affects animals, including popular house pets like dogs. Tufts University says that the Lyme bacterium can cause serious illness in some dogs. Lyme disease can be difficult to detect and cause serious and recurring health problems. That is why it is essential for pet parents to make concerted efforts to reduce the risk that their dogs become infected.

The American Veterinary Medical Association says the best way to protect pets against Lyme disease is to emphasize prevention.

- Speak with your veterinarian about a tick preventive product that is right for your dog. These can include repellent collars, topical treatments and ingestible medications.
- Vets may recommend vaccination against Lyme disease if you live in an area that is home to high tick populations. Recommendations also may be based on your pet's lifestyle and overall health, among other factors.
- Address conditions in the yard that are conducive to ticks. Mowing the lawn regularly is one way to make the back-

yard less attractive to ticks, as is removing leaf litter.

- Keep a clean home and landscape. Rodents and other wildlife can carry deer ticks. Securing trash cans, picking up food scraps, removing hiding spots and potential dens, and other strategies can keep these carriers away.
- Conduct a daily tick check if your dog spends time outside. Pay attention to bumps on the skin and part the fur so you can see where the coat meets the skin. Don't forget to look in the ears.
- When possible, avoid areas where ticks may be found, such as tall grasses, wooded areas and marshes. Stick to trails when spending time in wooded areas.

Dogs with Lyme disease may exhibit various symptoms. These include loss of appetite, fever, joint swelling, decreased activity, and lameness. Visit the vet promptly if symptoms occur and do not abate, or are causing considerable distress for your pet.

Lyme disease is a concern for pets. Avoidance, preventive measures and outdoor maintenance can help reduce the likelihood that pets will contract Lyme disease.

Events Calendar

Swiss Valley Nature Center/EB Lyons/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/

There were very limited conservation events listed on any of the websites that we monitor. I'm assuming due to the Coronavirus.

Wild Edible Walk Saturday Aug 15 10am Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Join a naturalist in learning about wild edible plants at the park. Meet at the pavilion and be prepared to hike the trails.

Registration is required for ALL programs at least 48 hours in advance. To register, call (563) 652-3783 or email jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. All events free unless otherwise noted and open to all ages. Please practice social distancing when attending events. Face masks are encouraged.

Nature & Forest Therapy Guided Walk Tuesday Aug 18 1pm Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Unplug, slow down, and experience mindfulness in nature. Jackson & Warren County Conservation will be hosting a nature & forest therapy 3 hr. guided walk. You might want to bring a light snack and drinking water. A small backpack, sunscreen, and bug repellent may be useful. You are welcome to bring a mat to sit on or a small camping chair. There will be small sit mats available for use. We will hike if there is light rain, so bring rain gear. This program is geared for ages 16 and up. No pets. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required at least 48 hours in advance. For more information or to register, call the conservation office at (563) 652-3783. Prairie Creek Recreation Area is located at 1215 E. Summit Street Maquoketa, Iowa.

Pine Needle Basket Class, August 26 1pm-4pm Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Explore the art of basket coiling by using longleaf pine needles. This class will provide the materials and instruction for participants to create their own basket. Cost is \$10/person. Registration is required for ALL programs at least 48 hours in advance. To register, call (563) 652-3783 or email jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. All events free unless otherwise noted and open to all ages. Please practice social distancing when attending events. Face masks are encouraged.

Other Events Calendar

Summer Farmer's Market Saturday, 7am-noon 1300 Iowa Street

Company Sponsors

Please support our local sponsors

<i>All Seasons Heating</i> 798 Cedar Cross Rd	<i>Environmental</i> <i>Management Services</i> 5170 Wolff Rd	<i>Oky Doky Food Mart</i> P.O. Box 300	<i>Steve's Ace Home and</i> <i>Garden</i> 3350 JFK 200 South Locust
<i>MidWest One</i> 895 Town Clock Plaza	<i>Sherry Horsfield</i> <i>Farm Bureau Insurance</i> 20214 E Pleasant Grove Rd	<i>O'Meara Custom</i> <i>Products</i> 8915 N. Badger Rd.	<i>TFM Co.</i> 2040 Kerper Blvd.
<i>Artistic Cleaners</i> 107 Locust St.	<i>Home+Floor Show</i> 1475 <i>Associates Dr.</i>	<i>Organic Valley</i> <i>Dickeyville WI</i>	<i>Therapeutic Massage</i> 2255 JFK Road
<i>Brennan Baumhover Ins.</i> 2615 Dodge St.	<i>The Friedman Group</i> 880 Locust St. P. O. Box 1780	<i>Pfohl's Blinds, Drapes Inc.</i> 335 West 1st Street	<i>U.S. Bank</i> 270 West 7th
<i>Dennis Baumhover Ins.</i> 2615 Dodge St.	<i>Leo H. Frueh, Consulting</i> <i>Forester</i> 2230 Chippewa Dr.	<i>Pregler Electric</i> 216th Ave LaMotte IA	<i>Weber Paper Co.</i> 4300 Chevenelle Dr.
<i>Behr's Funeral Home</i> 1491 Main St.	<i>Hendricks Feed Co.</i> 880 Central	<i>Premier Bank</i> 1975 JFK Rd.	<i>White Front Feed & Seed</i> 4290 Dodge St.
<i>Breitbach's Country</i> <i>Dining</i> 563 Balltown Rd.	<i>Herbst Upholstery & Auto</i> 76 Main St	<i>Schuster Heating & Pump</i> 15674 Key City Lane	<i>White Water Native Seeds</i> Epworth, IA
<i>Cedar Cross Overhead</i> <i>Door</i> 1040 Cedar Cross Rd	<i>IIW Engineers &</i> <i>Surveyors P.C.</i> 4155 Pennsylvania	<i>Schuster Tree Service</i> 7273 Schueller Heights Rd	<i>Zuccaro Dental</i> 895 Main St suite 900
<i>Citizens State Bank</i> P.O. Box 50 New Vienna	<i>Kaufmann Painting</i> 17368 S John Deere Rd.	<i>Schwartz Plumbing</i> 4904 Asbury	
<i>Copper Kettle</i> 2987 JACKSON ST	<i>Klauer Optical</i> 1705 Delhi St.	<i>Sisters of Saint Francis</i> 3390 Windsor Ave.	
<i>Dupaco Credit Union</i> P.O. Box 179	<i>Miller Flooring</i> Box 125 New Vienna	<i>Skip Breithbach Feed</i> Balltown, IA	
<i>DuTrac Credit Union</i> 3465 Asbury	<i>Nature's Way Lawn Care</i> 440 Burch St.	<i>Spahn & Rose Lumber Co.</i> 1101 Jackson St.	
		<i>Stecklein Tree Service</i> Epworth, IA	

Board Members 2020

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

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Reminders:

The next open meetings will tentatively be held **Tuesday September 8, 2020** and **October 13, 2020**, 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

- 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”.