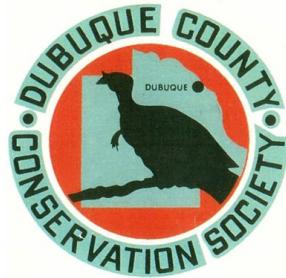


# THE NEWSLETTER

*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—March 12, 2019

Present: Pat Hayes, Gerda Preston Hartman, Mark Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Whitey Kemp, Tom Klinge, Connie Kintzle, Bob Walton and Dan Simon.

Call to order: Pat Hayes @ 6:00 pm

Approval of minutes: Tom M—Kintzle, S—Kemp

Treasurer's Report: Kintzle M—Kemp, S—Klinge

Membership report: Pat Hayes/Connie Kintzle

Guest Speaker: Brian Preston, Director of the Dubuque County Conservation Board reported on recent board activities:

- two new employees have been hired, one is now a natural resource technician and the other is a park ranger.
- another tree planting project is planned for the John Deere Marsh Area
- explained that the Conservation Board is working on a long-range strategic plan
- wetland and pond development are underway at the new Miller-McGrath property
- Valentine purchase on Lytle Creek has been renamed the Bowstring Wildlife Area after the historic bowstring bridge on the property
- reported on recently completed projects
  - 1) pavilion and restrooms for new John Deere Proving Grounds Area
  - 2) stream improvement work and a new bridge on the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve

## OLD BUSINESS

McLaughlin and Hafeman Wildlife Areas—no report

Leifker and Oxford Junction properties—tree planting will take place on April 20

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque—Kintzle reported that media training is March 14 and Great Give Day is May 9

Bluebird Workshop is March 23. Pat Hayes stated that additional wood has been cut and will be ready to assemble starting at 10:00 am at the Swiss Valley Nature Center.

## NEW BUSINESS

Kintzle reported that a photo ID and signature is needed by the Post Office for the form required in order to rent a P.O. Box. Pat Hayes stated that he would do this.

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm by Paul Kaufman. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Kaufman. Motion passed.  
Respectively submitted, Robert Walton--Secretary

**DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION SOCIETY****Approved minutes—February 14, 2019**

Present: Pat Hayes, Mark Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Whitey Kemp, Tom Klinge, Connie Kintzle, Bob Walton and guests: Kurt Kemmerer (IDNR), Tim Fiedler (Dubuqueland Pheasants Forever), and Jim Foreman.

Call to order: Pat Hayes @ 6:03 pm

Approval of minutes: Tom M—Paul, S—Whitey  
Treasurer's Report: Connie M—Whitey, S—Tom

Membership report: Pat Hayes/Connie Kintzle

Guest Speaker: Curt Kemmerer, IDNR Wildlife Biologist, reported on recently completed conservation projects:

*Land Acquisitions*

- thanked the DCCS for their assistance in acquiring the 20 A. addition to White Pine Hollow/Ram Hollow
- negotiations are underway for acquisition of addition acreage in White Pine area
- Baker Addition to Oxford Junction Wildlife area is completed by the IDNR with assistance from DCCS, Dubuqueland and Twin Rivers PF, Whitetails, and a Parks to People Grant. Total is now over 500 acres

*Habitat improvement projects*

- Kemmerer summarized current projects including edge feathering, tree cutting, and burning at White Pine Hollow, Ram Hollow, Whitewater Lake, and Oxford Junction

*Other information provided by Kemmerer*

- CWD has been found in a Dubuque County deer, and an additional season was established in the Dubuque Management Zone, resulting in the harvest of 45 deer that will be tested
- there is a vacant wildlife technician position that has been authorized for filling, hopefully by fall
- a license fee increase for hunting and fishing has been approved
- IDNR is working hard to establish a RRR Program (Retain, Recruit, and Reactivate) for outdoor participants
- the IDNR will hold a town hall meeting at 7 pm, Feb. 20, 2019, at the Swiss Valley Nature Center

Guest, Tim Fiedler, representing the Dubuqueland Pheasants Forever, stated that they would be planting trees at the

Oxford Junction and the Leifker properties on April 20. He also stated that they would be planting switch grass to help control reed canary grass at Oxford Junction. They are also working on signage recognition for agencies that contributed to the Oxford Junction project.

Guest, Jim Foreman, asked for recommendations on how to permanently protect the natural resources on his property.

**OLD BUSINESS**

McLaughlin and Hafeman Wildlife Areas—no report

Leifker Wildlife Area and Oxford Junction Property—tree planting will take place on April 20

Update the booklet—no action

Website: <http://www.dbqccs.org/> --add pictures

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque—Connie reported the “Great Give Day” will be May 9

Bluebird Workshop—Pat Hayes reported that it will be March 23, at the Swiss Valley Nature Center and that parts are

precut and ready to assemble.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Name for DCCS—Paul will check on effect change would have on tax exempt permit. Possible new names suggested are Dubuque Conservation Society and Dubuque Area Conservation Society to avoid confusion with the Dubuque County Conservation Board government entity.

Purchase of booth exhibit—Mark moved to purchase an exhibit board for \$650, S-Whitey, motion carried.

Change newsletter printer—Tom will get estimates

Establish committees—no action taken

Tax report 990-Kurt—no action taken

Digital Dubuque invoice—no action taken

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation—no action taken

Adjournment @7:18, M-Mark, S-Paul

Respectively submitted,  
Bob Walton, Secretary

## **At the Root of Things**

### **February 11, 2019 - A Note to Iowa Lawmakers: Iowa Values Forests!**

By Emily Swihart, Field Coordinator for Eastern Iowa

I come to you as a lifelong resident of Iowa, as a working mother of two young boys, as a farmer, as the owner of a woodland and as an extremely concerned citizen. Recently proposed legislation to repeal the tax exemption for the forest reserve program is appalling and insulting, and I'm requesting that you reject the amendments.

The Iowa that I know and love is a state of the land. If it not for our ecological history, we would not be one of the most productive regions in the world. We would not have the heritage of agriculture, of gardening, of hunting or outdoor recreation. My family and I would not be investing our hard earned money in the land and we would not be filled with overwhelming pride every time our young children experience the wonder of nature, every time we see the seasons change, every time we plant a seed and watch it grow, every time we are able to escape the stress and chaos of life and reconnect as a family in the soul rejuvenating place that is the woods.

I support the growing market of orchards and fruit production in Iowa, but I more strongly support legislation that helps protect our forest and woodlands. I have taken my children to local orchards, and we have enjoyed picking our own fruit but the experience pales in comparison to the thrill my four-year-old son experienced the first time he got to sit in a tree stand with his hero, his dad, and watch ten does and four turkey walk right in front of him. Or the time my two-year-old son caught his first fish, the look on his face when he got to touch an animal so foreign to him was an emotion I wish we were able to hold onto as adults- pure curiosity and awe, and devoid of judgement and otherness.

Obviously I am emotionally attached to the land, but this is only made possible through programs like the Forest Reserve, the full funding of programs like REAP and the existence of a Forestry Bureau. You see, our landscape is connected, what happens in our woodlands impacts what happens in our waterways, what happens in our parks impacts our communities, what happens in our agencies, like the DNR, impact our ability to pass down an Iowa that is rich with opportunities. I want to leave my children and your children an Iowa where they can enjoy all the natural wonders from walking the trails of our state parks, to investing in a piece of their own paradise, to safely fishing and swimming in our abundant waterways. As such, it is imperative that my government, we the people, stop its attack on our natural resources. The laws Iowa has been passing lately is an insult to our natural resources, to our values and to

our economy.

I appreciate your service to our great state as an elected official. It is an honorable act of service to commit your time, resources and energy to our state and for that I thank you.

I'm asking you to reject Senate File 5 as it is currently proposed and support Senate File 181. We need to do more to support our natural resources and the people that are working to preserve the ecological diversity that makes this state the greatest in the nation.

Oppose [Senate File 5](#)  
Support [Senate File 181](#)

### May is Wildflower Month

Many of the plants that bloom in our woodlands in April and May hug the forest floor, drinking in the sunshine before the trees fully leaf out and shade them. These woodland flowers cannot be fully appreciated from a distance. Many of them require a more intimate encounter and an eye that sees the subtle beauty of the immediate.

And it is not just their beauty that requires our attention and respect. The spring-blooming woodland wildflowers provide some of the earliest pollen and nectar sources for pollinators. For example, **Dutchman's Breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*) are pollinated by queen bumble bees searching for nectar as they emerge from hibernation. **Spring Beauties** (*Claytonia virginica*) are visited by many kinds of bees, including honey, bumble and mason bees. And **Solomon Seal** (*Polygonatum biflorum*) are buzz-pollinated by bumble bees--usually the small worker bumble bees that represent the first offspring of that year's colony. *Photo at right: Bumble bee on Dutchman's Breeches (photo credit Meredith Borchardt)*

Fascinated by the spring migration of birds? Many of the wildflowers of our woodlands help the birds that return to your neighborhood each year or are just stopping by to rest on their way farther north. The **May-apple** (*Podophyllum peltatum*) often forms large colonies on the forest floor that can shelter flocks of birds as they migrate through. **Wild Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) is a favorite source of nectar for returning hummingbirds. And, of course, many birds that feed on insects, or feed insects to their young, rely on the insects that visit spring wildflowers.

As if beauty and birds aren't reason enough to treasure the plants that grow beneath the trees of our woodlands, researchers have demonstrated that these plants help reduce stream pollution by retaining nutrients in the soil. Researchers at Iowa State University found that woodland wildflowers such as **wild ginger** (*Asarum canadense reflexum*), **Virginia waterleaf** (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*), and **Virginia bluebells** (*Mertensia virginica*) are effective at capturing and storing nutrients.

While some people see the trees and all the green plants in the woods and think all they see is as it should be, a healthy forest ecosystem requires a lot of care and management to keep it healthy and robust. *Photo at left: Bluebell's along Rolling Prairie Bike Trail. (photo credit Meredith Borchardt)*

### For more information:

- <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/index.htm>
- <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>
- <https://www.leopold.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/pubs-and-papers/2013-01-linking-forest-communities-and-water-quality.pdf>

## 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](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/)

### **March Audubon Program April 11, 6 pm, EB Lyons Interpretive Center**

Program: Barn Owls in Dubuque County

### **Trout Stocking Saturday, April 13 10am Heritage Pond**

The Iowa DNR will be stocking trout at Heritage Pond. DCCB will have poles and bait available. All participants must have a valid Iowa fishing license and trout stamp. All normal fishing rules and regulations apply.

### **Earth Day Trash Clean-up Saturday, April 13, 1-2:30 pm Heritage Pond**

Celebrate Earth Day which falls on April 21st this year and lend a hand to help clean up the Heritage Trail. We will meet at the Heritage Pond parking lot and split into groups to cover different areas of the trail. Trash bags, grabbers, and gloves will be provided. Come on your own or get a group together and help us keep Heritage Trail clean and beautiful for both users and wildlife. Call 556-6745 to RSVP

### **OWLS: Shrooms and Wine, Monday, April 15, 10am-1pm Stone Hollow Garden & Shroomery**

Tour Stone Hollow Garden & Shroomery. Afterwards we will head to Park Farm Winery for wine tasting and wood fired pizza. Cost of wine tasting and lunch on own. Call 556-6745 to register

### **Kids in Nature: Wiggling Worms Thursday, April 18, 9am Swiss Valley Nature Center**

This program series is aimed towards non-school kiddos! Come play and learn at the nature center about a new nature topic each month. This month we will be discovering wiggly worms! Call 563-556-6745 to register

### **Spring Wildflower Walk April 20 10:00 – 11am Maquoketa Caves State Park**

Spring has sprung and the woodlands are blooming with spring flowers. Join Naturalist, Tony Vorwald for an enjoyable hike at the park and learn to identify spring woodland wildflowers.

### **Discover Your Park: New Wine Sunday, April 28, 1-3 pm New Wine Park**

Join other outdoor enthusiasts and explore Dubuque County Conservation parks and nature preserves this winter/spring. Each hike will begin at 1:00 p.m. and are expected to last no more than two hours. The hikes may vary from good exercise to a social stroll and will end with snacks and beverages (bring your own). All participants should bring a water bottle and dress for the weather.

Free, no registration required

### **Urban Foraging Saturday, May 2, 10am Saturday, May 2, 5th Ward Park 804 W Summit Street Maquoketa, IA 52060**

Your average urban yard is full of opportunity for tasty meal additions. We'll take a walk around the park and look for plants that can transcend the weed label and become part of your plate. This is a free event and all ages are welcome.

### **Bat House Workshop Saturday, May 4, 10-11am Swiss Valley Nature Center**

Dubuque County Conservation Society is sponsoring a bat house building workshop at Swiss Valley Nature Center. Come out and learn about the vital role bats play in an ecosystem and build a bat house to put up. Limited spots available, call 556-6745 to register

**Garlic Grab Sunday, May 5, 1-2:30 pm** Swiss Valley Nature Center

Come help us fight back invaders! Grab some gloves and help pull garlic mustard in the preserve. Learn how it can be used as a wild edible and sample some garlic mustard pesto. Join us for this volunteer opportunity to fight an invasive species. No registration required

**Discover your Park: New Wine Park April 28 1-3pm** New Wine Park, 15971 New Wine Lane , New Vienna, IA

Join other outdoor enthusiasts and explore Dubuque County Conservation parks and nature preserves. The hike may vary from good exercise to a social stroll and will end with snacks and beverages (bring your own). All participants should bring a water bottle and dress for the weather.

**Geocaching 101 Saturday, May 18 1-3pm** Swiss Valley Nature Center

Check out a GPS unit from the nature center and hit the trails to see if you can find the caches hidden throughout the preserve.

Free, units are first come, first serve

**Discover Your Park Sunday, May 19, 1-3pm** Proving Grounds Recreation Area

Join other outdoor enthusiasts and explore Dubuque County Conservation parks and nature preserves this winter/spring. Each hike will begin at 1:00 p.m. and are expected to last no more than two hours. The hikes may vary from good exercise to a social stroll and will end with snacks and beverages (bring your own). All participants should bring a water bottle and dress for the weather.

Free, no registration required

**Other Events Calendar****Winter Farmer's Market Saturday, 9am-noon Roshek Building 8th and Locust****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	Punk Birkel	
Tom Klinge	Secretary/Newsletter	815-747-7786	Dan Simon	583-0514
Bev Rettenmeier		563-552-1009	Paul Kaufman	583-5030
			Bob Walton	

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DNR Forester Anamosa, IA	Miller Flooring Box 125 New Vienna	Spahn & Rose Lumber Co. 1101 Jackson St.	
Dubuque Soil & Water Cons. Dist Epworth, IA	Mines of Spain Rec. Area 8991 Bellevue Heights	St. Mark Community Center 1201 Locust Street	
Dupaco Credit Union P.O. Box 179	Nature's Way Lawn Care 440 Burch St.	Stephen Hempstead High School 3715 Pennsylvania Ave	
DuTrac Credit Union 3465 Asbury	NICC Outdoor Learning Lab Peosta, IA	Steve's Ace Home and Garden 3350 JFK 200 South Locust	
Environmental Management Services 5170 Wolff Rd	Oky Doty Food Mart P.O. Box 300	Swiss Valley Nature Center Peosta, IA	
Sherry Horsfield Farm Bureau Insurance 20214 E Pleasant Grove Rd		TFM Co. 2040 Kerper Blvd.	

Dubuque Co. Conservation Society  
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Dubuque, IA 52004-0645



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## **Reminders:**

The next meetings will be held **Tuesday, May 14, 2019 6:00 pm and Tuesday September 10, 2019** 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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- 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".