



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—Jan. 14, 2020

Present: Pat Hayes, Mark Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Whitey Kemp, Tom Klinge, Bob Walton, Connie Kintzle, and Tim Fiedler

Call to Order: by President, Pat Hayes, at 6:00 pm.

Approval of Dec. 10, 2019 minutes: presented by Secretary, Bob Walton. Motion to approve as amended by Paul Kaufman. 2nd by Kemp. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: presented by Treasurer, Connie Kintzle. Motion to approve by Paul Kaufman. 2nd by Kemp. Motion passed.

Membership report: no updated report

Old Business:

--Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area, Leifker Wildlife Area, and McLaughlin Wildlife Area: Fiedler reported that a workday would be held on Feb. 1 to remove cottonwood trees at the Leifker Area. Hayes stated that 13 Bur Oak trees were planted on the McLaughlin Area.

New Business:

--Discussion on name of the scholarship: No action was taken.

--Completion of photographic display panels—Work was completed following the meeting.

--Volunteers for table at Dubuque Bald Eagle Watch: M. Kaufman and Klinge volunteered to be at the Watch.

--Discussion on updating membership spreadsheet and identifying other issues that need to be delegated: No action taken.

--Discussion about conducting a bird feeding program: Walton stated he would contact Hendricks Feed about conducting a bird feeding program there on either February 22 or 29.

Other Business:

Fiedler stated that a Becoming an Outdoor Woman Workshop will be held on March 7 at the Swiss Valley Nature Center.

Hayes stated that Dave Bridges, District Forester, asked him if the Society would like to have a display at the Forestry/Habitat Program on March 5, at the Swiss Valley Nature Center.

Meeting adjourned on a motion Kintzle and 2nd by Klinge at 7:20 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Bob Walton, Secretary

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION SOCIETY Audited minutes—Dec. 10, 2019

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

Call to Order: by President, Pat Hayes, at 6:00 pm.

Approval of October 8, 2019 minutes: presented by Secretary, Bob Walton. Motion to approve as written by Paul Kaufman. 2nd by Klinge. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: presented by Treasurer, Connie Kintzle. Motion to approve by Paul Kaufman. 2nd by Birkel. Motion passed.

Membership report: no updated report

Old Business:

--Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area, Leifker Wildlife Area, and McLaughlin Wildlife Area: Hayes stated that the brush needs to be cut at the McLaughlin Area, but that it is not eligible for NRCS cost share. Also, large groves of oak trees may need to be cut back at the Hafeman Area.

--Scholarship/Annual Appreciation Dinner: Isabella Metcalf was present at the dinner, along with her mother, to accept the Baumgartner/Kapler Scholarship. New guidelines were discussed and approved on a motion by Birkel and 2nd by Paul Kaufman. (A copy is attached.)

New Business:

--Discussion of scholarship fund (Kintzle): reviewed the procedure for awarding the scholarship.

--REAP meeting review (Hayes): He attended the 2019 REAP Workshop in Maquoketa last month. He stated that this is the last year for REAP and encouraged members to contact their legislators in support of having it renewed.

--Purchase of wood for March 28 Bluebird Workshop: Hayes requested up to \$900 to purchase lumber for the workshop at Swiss Valley. Request was approved on a motion by Klinge, 2nd by Walton.

--Discussion of property purchase with Pheasants Forever: Tim Fiedler of Dubuqueland Pheasants Forever addressed the Board concerning financial assistance for purchasing a valuable wildlife habitat in Jackson County that is being pursued by a coalition of conservation organizations. Following discussion, Birkel moved and Rettenmeier 2nd a motion that \$100,000 be pledged to the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

--Bald Eagle Watch participation: Paul Kaufman moved with a 2nd by Mark Kaufman that the DCCS participate in the 2020 Bald Eagle Watch in Dubuque for a fee of \$50. Motion carried.

--Post Office box renewal: Motion to renew by P. Kaufman, 2nd M. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by M. Kaufman and 2nd by P. Kaufman at 7:45 pm.

Baumgartner/Kapler Scholarship

The Dubuque County Conservation Society is offering a \$1,500, non-renewable scholarship to a qualifying student who is pursuing a conservation related career, such as Environmental Science, Forestry, Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist, Naturalist, Park Ranger, Resource Manager, or Nature Center Director.

Qualifying applicants must have completed two years of college with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Applicants should send a copy of their transcript and an essay describing their career expectations and personal interest in conservation to the Dubuque County Conservation Society at dqqccs01@gmail.com or P.O. Box 645, Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0645, prior to September 1.

Topics to consider addressing in your essay:

--Volunteer or community service you do and what it means to you.

--Organizations, groups and hobbies you have and what they mean to you.

--What you believe is the role that environmental groups have played in conservation.

--Identify a personal role model.

--What impact you want to have on the outdoors/conservation, and how this scholarship will contribute to your career goals.

--The kind of experience you have in conservation.

All information will remain confidential and the awarding of any scholarship will rest solely the Dubuque County Conservation Society. The scholarship check will be sent in your name to the college which you attend.

Respectively submitted,
Bob Walton, Secretary

Master Conservationist Program

Planting the seeds of conservation in Iowa

The Master Conservationist Program is a collaborative program offered by ISU Extension and Outreach, County Conservation Boards, and local conservation leaders and professionals. The intensive blended online and in-person curriculum is developed to equip Iowans interested in natural resource conservation with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about natural resources and to become local leaders and educators. Master Conservationists are individuals that share an interest in the sustainability of Iowa's natural resources and in becoming better stewards of those resources.

The curriculum is structured into four modules that combine technical information presented and curated by Iowa State University researchers and educators with in-person sessions led by local conservation leaders, practitioners, and experts. Module 1 'sets the stage' for the course, exploring the history and current structure of conservation in Iowa and also exploring the landforms and waterways that make up the state's land area. Module 2 digs deep into the structure, function, and challenges facing Iowa's natural prairie, forest, and aquatic ecosystems. Module 3 explores the wide range of conservation practices developed and implemented to address conservation challenges in Iowa. The final and fourth module then examines the human elements of conservation and explores how to communicate the importance of conservation to Iowa and Iowans.

Course graduates are awarded a certificate and encouraged to get engaged locally to apply the information they learn and continue to build their local connections to conservation professionals and other passionate conservationists.

Dates are Tuesday April 28 – June 9 6pm. Charge is tentatively set at \$20 for all sessions. Locations vary, check the following link in a week or two, to determine location and a better description of the sessions.

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/content/dubuque-county-master-conservationist>

Family Forest Open House

Submitted by Pat Hayes

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Wild Turkey Federation, Dubuque County Conservation and Trees Forever presents a new partner event called the Family Forest Open House.

“Caring for and protecting our natural resources is an ‘all hands on deck’ kind of task where we need engagement from landowners of all ages. We hope this family friendly event make it easier for young families to fit educational and networking opportunities into their busy schedules and provides resources that support land stewardship activities that enhance the land for generations to come,” said Dave Bridges, Iowa DNR Assistant District Forester.

Landowners are invited to bring the whole family for this unique, kid-friendly event. The event includes kids’ activities, booths with experts and presentations on a range of topics about improving forest health, including “Turning EAB into a Positive: Oak Regeneration,” “Mushroom Growing and Log Selection,” “Tree Felling and Chainsaw Safety” and more.

Our speakers will start presenting at 5:30 p.m. with each presentation lasting 20 minutes. Check back at a later date for the list of speakers and times.

Kids activities include rock painting and other art projects.

Chili will be served as a meal at no cost. Organizers invite attendees to come and go, but registration is encouraged to help organizers plan accordingly and to help gather valuable networking information. Register at www.TreesForever.org/familyforest.

Savanna Institute’s Perennial Farm Gathering

Submitted by Pat Hayes

I attended the Savanna Institute’s Perennial Farm Gathering that was held at Sinsinawa Mounds December 6th and 7th. The Savanna Institute is a nonprofit organization working to lay the groundwork for widespread agroforestry in the

Midwest US. They work in collaboration with farmers and scientists to develop perennial food and fodder crops within multifunctional polyculture systems grounded in ecology and inspired by the savanna biome. They enact this mission via research, education, and outreach

First I would like to commend Ron Lindbloom, the Land Stewardship Director at the Sinsinawa Mound Center for his work in restoring a native oak savanna on the property. There is 1% of old growth forest, 1/10% of tall grass prairie and only 1/100% of oak savannas left in this country, the rarest!

Some of the alternatives to row crops that were discussed included elderberries, hazelnuts, chestnuts, kernza perennial wheat, silphium a perennial oil seed, tree range poultry and livestock in orchards. Business plans, financing, marketing, producer owned processing, carbon sequestering/soil building, the use of prairie strips instead of terraces, and pollinator/ beneficial insect enhancement and preservation were also covered in some of the classes.

The question was asked who is the present agriculture system serving? The tri-state area has some of the most productive topsoil in the world yet we are losing about 5 tons per acre per year. In that process the water and streams are being polluted, insecticide and herbicides are being applied everywhere, habitat is being lost, and farmers are going broke. Meanwhile Iowa is losing 25 acres of farmland each day to development, 175 acres a day in the US.

The need to create a closed system that doesn't leak nutrients, chemicals, greenhouse gases (it is estimated that between 19-29 % comes from agriculture) and top soil but instead restores biodiversity, food security (90% of food in Iowa is imported) and sequesters carbon. For every 1% increase in organic matter per acre remove 20,000 lbs. of carbon from the atmosphere. It has been estimated that if there was an increase of 2.5% organic matter in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois it would solve the global warming crisis.

It was encouraging to see a big turnout of people interested in finding an alternative to the present system.

Bird Feeding program at Hendricks

Submitted by Bob Walton

The Dubuque County Conservation Society and Hendricks Feed and Seed Company will co-sponsor a continuous, informational Winter Bird Feeding program from 8:30-11:30 am on Saturday, February 29, 2020. The event will be held at the Hendricks Feed and Seed Company Store located at 880 Central Avenue in Dubuque. Various bird seeds and feeders will be on display with Conservation Society members available to answer questions and offer suggestions for attracting birds to your feeders. All visitors will receive a complimentary, 5 lb. bag of bird seed provided by the Society, and Hendricks will be offering bird seed specials on selected items. For additional information, contact Hendricks Feed and Seed at 563-556-1401.

Practical Farmers of Iowa annual conference

Submitted by Pat Hayes

I attended the Practical Farmers of Iowa annual conference January 16-18th. The theme of this year's conference was Reclaiming Resilience.

Several of the sessions I attended addressed wildlife and pollinator habitat requirements.

The main point that I walked away with was that most farmers are cropping ground that is not profitable and would be more beneficial if it was put into CRP, left idle, planted in pollinator plots or wind breaks.

On top of financial savings soil retention, flood mitigation, excess nutrient removal and habitat for pollinators and wildlife would be some of the benefits of retiring marginal land from row cropping. It's a good business decision.

The keynote speaker was from New Zealand. She reminded us that we have the most fertile ground in the world. One third of has already been lost and we are sending a dump truck of top soil into the Gulf every second! Our present system is not sustainable.

Keys to Good Pruning

Submitted by Connie Kintzle from www.arborday.org

When should you prune your trees and shrubs?

Non-blooming Trees and Shrubs: Prune in late winter while fully dormant. Summer-blooming Trees and Shrubs: Prune in late winter. Spring-blooming Trees and Shrubs: Wait until immediately after they bloom. They are the exception to the rule, but you still should prune them as early as you can. The following article presents some guidelines for this important springtime event.

1. Begin visual inspection at the top of the tree and work downward.
2. Use The $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ Rules of Pruning
 - Never remove more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a tree's crown in a season
 - Ideally, main side branches should be at least $\frac{1}{3}$ smaller than the diameter of the trunk.
 - For most deciduous (broadleaf) trees, don't prune up from the bottom any more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tree's total height.
 - Where possible, try to encourage side branches that form angles that are $\frac{1}{3}$ off vertical that form "10 o'clock" or "2 o'clock" angles with the trunk.
3. For most species, the tree should have a single trunk. Identify the best leader and later branches before you begin pruning and remove defective parts before pruning for form.
4. Don't worry about protecting pruning cuts. For aesthetics, you may feel better painting large wounds but it doesn't prevent or reduce decay.
5. Keep tools sharp. One-hand pruning shears with curved blades work best on young trees.

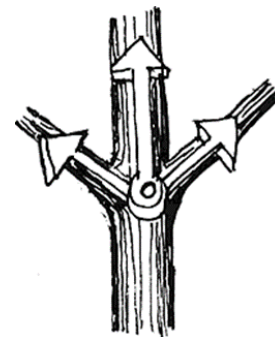


Diagram of the $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ Rules of Pruning

6. For high branches use a pole pruner. A major job on a big tree should be done by a professional arborist.
7. For larger branches, cut outside the branch bark and ridge collar (swollen area). Do not leave a protruding stub. If the limb is too small to have formed a collar cut close.
8. When simply shortening a small branch, make the cut at a lateral bud or another lateral branch. Favor a bud that will produce a branch that will grow in desired direction (usually outward). The cut should be sharp and clean and made at a slight angle about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch beyond the bud.

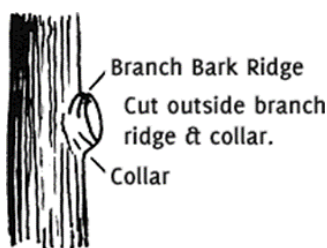


Diagram of proper pruning at the collar

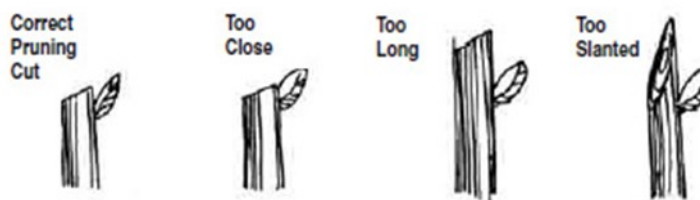


Diagram depicting the correct methods for cutting while pruning

Now that you know the pruning basics learn what steps you should take throughout your trees life. Learn what you prune annually.

See **Landscape Pruning Class** in the calendar section of the newsletter

DNR to recap hunting seasons, discuss possible rule changes at public meetings across the state

Submitted by Paul Kaufman from the Iowa DNR News

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff will provide updates on recently completed hunting seasons, discuss possible changes to hunting rules and regulations, and address other topics as requested.

"We want people to come out to these meetings, listen to the hunting seasons reviews, ask questions and hear directly from our staff," said Todd Bishop, chief of the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Bureau. "Part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing potential rule changes and collecting feedback as we work through the rules process."

The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations. Proposed rules will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission during a regular public meeting for consideration and additional public comment.

These meetings replace the one-night listening session held in late winter over the past 15 years. Dubuque, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta

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.dubuqu county.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/

Cabin Fever Day: Toad Houses Monday, February 17 from 10:00-11:00 am Hurstville Interpretive Center Welcome toads to your garden or yard with a toad house! We'll provide the materials to create a fun and usable toad house to take home and place outside this spring. All ages welcome (children ages 8 & up may be dropped off).

Let's Plant A Garden February 29, 2020 9-10:30am City of Dubuque Greenhouse, 2241 Lincoln Ave Ready to get outside? Starting a garden is a great reason to get moving outdoors again! Learn what to expect your first year of home gardening, create a garden plan for your space, and find out how much you can expect the garden to cost your first year (and what your food savings will be!) You will also have a chance to start seeds to transplant and take home. Minimum age 12 to attend without an adult. Register online at City of Dubuque Leisure Services by February 25.

Landscape Pruning Class February 29, 2020 12:30-3:45pm Westminster Presbyterian Church

Join us for this hands on landscape pruning event! Participants will learn how different pruning concepts relate to different landscape plants. Participants are required to bring their own pruning tools, and leather gloves. Cost is \$10. Pre-registration is required to receive event notifications and can be done by calling (563) 583-6496. More information can be found by visiting the [event webpage](#).

Aldo Leopold Reading Sunday, March 1 at 2:00 pm Hurstville Interpretive Center

The words Aldo Leopold wrote in 1948 still strike a note today: "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." Come and listen to members of the community read aloud essays from A Sand County Almanac and take part in the discussions about the responsibility people have to the land we inhabit.

Lunch & Learn: Big Trees Thursday, March 5 at Noon Central Park Nature Center, Jones County

Mark Rouw, of the Science Center of Iowa, will present about the National and Iowa Big Tree Programs. Learn what measurements are used and how a champion tree is determined. Mark will share photographs and stories from his 45 years of big tree hunting! Bring your own lunch. Optional walk following the presentation to see big trees.

TeenNature: Birds Friday, March 13 at 1:00 pm Hurstville Interpretive Center

Geared for homeschool families, 4th-8th graders will have fun learning more about the environment. This month students will learn about bird species in Iowa, help prepare our bird houses for spring and go birding.

Duck Waddle Saturday, March 14 at 7:00 am at Green Island

Join Dubuque Audubon in their annual spring duck and waterfowl count. Great for beginning birders to learn from seasoned bird watchers and for anyone wanting to freshen up on waterfowl identification.

Other Events Calendar

Winter Farmer's Market Saturday, 9am-noon former Younker's men's store in the Kennedy Mall.

Company Sponsors

Please support our local sponsors

<i>All Seasons Heating</i> 798 Cedar Cross Rd	<i>Environmental Management Services</i> 5170 Wolff Rd	<i>Oky Doky Food Mart</i> P.O. Box 300	<i>Steve's Ace Home and Garden</i> 3350 JFK 200 South Locust
<i>MidWest One</i> 895 Town Clock Plaza	<i>Sherry Horsfield Farm Bureau Insurance</i> 20214 E Pleasant Grove Rd	<i>O'Meara Custom Products</i> 8915 N. Badger Rd.	<i>TFM Co.</i> 2040 Kerper Blvd.
<i>Artistic Cleaners</i> 107 Locust St.	<i>Home+Floor Show 1475 Associates Dr.</i>	<i>Organic Valley 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>FreuhLeo Consulting and 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 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 Epworth, IA</i>
<i>Cedar Cross Overhead Door</i> 1040 Cedar Cross Rd	<i>IIW Engineers & 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 Balltown, IA</i>	
<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 Epworth, IA</i>	

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	

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

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Reminders:

The next open meetings will be held **Tuesday March 10, 2020** and **April 14, 2020**, on the second floor of the Oky-Doky at 250 West 1st street. All Members are invited and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Clean out your bird houses and if you have mice in them you should leave them open.

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

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".