



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



October 2020 Minutes Unaudited minutes—October 13, 2020

Present: Punkie Birkel, Pat Hayes, Paul Kaufman, Connie Kintzle, Tom Klinge, Bev Rettenmeier, Bob Walton
Call to Order: Pat Hayes called the meeting, held via ZOOM, to order at 7:11 pm.
Approval of minutes: Bob Walton, secretary, presented the minutes from the last meeting in March 2020. Motion to approve the minutes by Kintzle, 2nd by Birkel. Motion passed.
Treasurer's report: Connie Kintzle presented the treasurer's report. Motion to approve by Rettenmeier, 2nd by Walton. Motion passed.

Old Business:

--Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area, Leifker Wildlife Area, and McLaughlin Wildlife Area—Hayes reported that manure runoff destroyed a pollinator planting at Hafeman and the area is now dominated by giant ragweed and water hemp. Cottonwood trees were cut and burned at Leifker and he sprayed Pathfinder II on autumn olive at McLaughlin. Also, swamp white oak and persimmon were planted there.
--Bat House and Bluebird House Workshops updates—Hayes stated that 75 Bluebird houses were given away as part of 3 virtual workshops at Swiss Valley. All bat house orders were also picked up.

New Business:

--White Pine seed collection at White Pine Hollow—Hayes reported that no seed was collected this year.
--West Bend Liability Insurance report—Kintzle reported that the former policy was cancelled in March and that liability insurance is now with West Bend at a savings of \$80.00 annually.
--Kurt Law Offices information—Kintzle stated that the Federal Revenue Form 990 was completed by the Kurt Law Office at a cost of \$475.00.
--Discussion about new DCCS brochure—Hayes and Kintzle reported that 100 new brochures have been printed and will be available for distribution.
--Update on projects from Pheasants Forever—Tim Fiedler reported via telephone that the Petersen acquisition near Eden Valley has been completed and will be transferred to the Clinton County Conservation Board. He also reported that 10 volunteers cut undesirable trees at the Oxford Junction area.
--Damage to oak and other trees in area—Hayes reported that he has been seeing a lot of damage to oaks and other trees caused by chemical drift of Dicamba which is particularly volatile and can blow many miles damaging trees a great distance from crop fields where it was applied.

Other business:

--Paul Kaufman asked about the annual scholarship. It was the consensus of the Board to not offer the scholarship this year because of the COVID-19 disruptions.
--Discussion concerning the November meeting concluded with a consensus of the Board to have the November meeting via ZOOM on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm with a motion by Kintzle and a 2nd by Paul Kaufman.

November 2020 minutes Unaudited minutes—November 11, 2020

Present: Punkie Birkel, Pat Hayes, Mark Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Connie Kintzle, Tom Klinge, Bev Rettenmeier, Bob Walton
Call to Order: Pat Hayes (via ZOOM) at 7:05 pm
Approval of minutes: Minutes were presented by Bob Walton and approved on a motion by Kintzle, 2nd by Paul Kaufman.

Treasurer's report: Connie Kintzle reported that the CRP payment for the McLaughlin Wildlife Area was received and deposited. Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Birkel and 2nd by Mark Kaufman.

Old Business:

--Hafeman Wildlife Habitat Area, Leifker Wildlife Area, and McLaughlin Wildlife Area—no report.

New Business:

--Election of officers: The slate of officers for approval at the January meeting is President-Mark Kaufman, Vice President-Paul Kaufman, Secretary-Bob Walton, Treasurer-Connie Kintzle.

--Appointment of membership chair (time to send out membership renewal forms): Discussion on finding a person to chair the membership committee resulted in no volunteers to take the position. It was the consensus to search out a person from within our membership for this position.

--Website update (someone is needed to update the DCCS webpage and CFGD website). Tom Klinge volunteered to update the webpage and website, provided members supply him with the information.

--Discussion of Eagle Scout project request for Kestrel house building materials funding: A letter from Samuel Kaufman was received that requested \$143.82 from the Society to help fund his Eagle Scout Project to build Kestrel houses. Walton stated that he contacted the DCCB Director, Brian Preston and Preston stated that they would be working with Samuel on the planning and house maintenance. Walton moved and Klinge seconded a motion that the request for financial assistance be granted. Motion carried, with one nay from Kintzle. The Board requested that Samuel Kaufman report back to them on the number of houses and where they were placed.

Other business:

--Klinge moved with a second by Paul Kaufman that the Christmas bird seed giveaway for members and local Nature Centers be continued. Motion passed unanimously.

--Next Board meeting was set for December 8 at 6 pm, via Zoom.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Danger of Dicamba

Submitted by Pat Hayes

At a recent meeting we discussed herbicide damage that I noticed on oaks and other native trees. From what I found, Dicamba was the likely culprit. Doing some research I found that the Environmental Protection Agency's own data shows that the damage from the weed killer was worse than previously known.

The pesticide harmed tens of thousands of farmers, overwhelmed state agriculture departments and damaged research plots across the United States. Wide swaths of natural areas and rural communities were also poisoned. This last year Iowa had 329 complaints involving so-called dicamba drift.

The Trump Administration approved the controversial pesticide for five more years on October 27, 2020, reinstating the weed killer after it had been banned earlier last June by a federal court for causing widespread damage to farmers and the environment.

Dicamba is produced by Bayer, a German company.

I wonder if there will be any oak trees left in 5 years.

Farm Subsidies

Submitted by Pat Hayes

Not sure that people are aware but subsidies to farm programs have totaled 51.2 billion dollars this year. It was 11.5 billion in 2017 and has gone up every year since. This year 40% of farm income will be from government subsidies. What are we getting for our tax dollars? Habitat destruction, no fence lines, no waterways, nothing left in the road right ways to provide habitats for any kind of life. Water quality keeps getting worse, public beaches continue to be closed. Streams and rivers experience record flooding and continual degradation. Not a good return on our investments.

Check your bluebird houses

Submitted by Pat Hayes

It would be good to remind people to check their bluebird houses and if there are mice in them they should leave them open, otherwise the mice will just move back in.

Identify winter birds in backyards

From [Area Tidbits - Dubuque Today by the Dubuque Advertiser](#)

Birds flittering around the neighborhood are a common sight during spring and summer, and these welcome guests can be enjoyable to observe as they nest, feed and interact. When the weather cools in fall and winter, many birds seek out warmer climates, but a good number of these feathered friends stick around.

Certain birds can be found all winter long across regions of North America. The Great American Bird Count is a program that is run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Its purpose is to seek the help of volunteer birdwatchers across North America to observe and count all the birds seen in a 15-minute interval during a four-day data collection period. This program helps identify birds that are most commonly seen in cold temperatures and study the composition and distribution of the winter bird populations across North America. Birds seen during this time may change from year to year, though certain species are more likely to be around in the winter months.

- **Northern cardinals:** One of the more iconic winter birds, the bright red cardinals are around much of the year but perhaps most noticeable against the snowy, stark landscape of a winter's day. Cardinals use their bright, powerful bills to crack open seeds and cut through sugary fruits to help them survive the winter.
- **Tree sparrows:** Tree sparrows are large-bodied and long-tailed sparrows with gray and reddish-brown streaking along the edges of their feathers. They also wear a bright chestnut colored cap. Despite their name, tree sparrows spend much of their time on the ground feeding. The bird count has unveiled a greater number of tree swallows in recent years. These birds are insectivorous, so milder winters may be contributing to their increased presence.
- **Tufted titmice:** Tufted titmice resemble cardinals in body and head shape, albeit on a smaller scale, but they are pale gray in coloring. These are bold birds who defend territory with scolding calls.
- **Blue jays:** These common, vibrant birds are well known to many people. They are large-crested songbirds with broad, round tails. They have white or light gray feathering on the underside of their bodies with various shades of blue, black and white on the top. A favorite food is acorns, and these birds are often found on forest edges. Their calls are loud and carry long distances.
- **Mourning doves:** Many people hear mourning doves before they actually see them, as their soft cooing often comes from roof rafters and tree branches. These birds have plump bodies and long, tapered necks, with a head that looks particularly small in comparison. They tend to be brown to buff color. When the birds take off for flight, their wings make sharp whistling or whinnying sounds.
- **American goldfinches:** These birds are sometimes called the "wild canary" of the Americas. They have distinctive yellow plumage that fades in winter to a palette of buff, brown and gray. They're small seed-eating birds that often travel in flocks.

Birds may need a little help surviving in the winter. Keep fresh, unfrozen water around and supplement food scavenged with peanut butter, suet and nuts. Brush piles, roost boxes or birdhouses can provide needed shelter.

Simple ways to save on heating costs this winter

From [Area Tidbits - Dubuque Today by the Dubuque Advertiser](#)

Comfort takes center stage each winter. As people look to stay warm, many may be quick to turn up the thermostat so their entire home is toasty warm. But much like cranking air conditioners during the dog days of summer, turning up the thermostat each time the winter winds begin blowing can prove costly for homeowners.

According to estimates from the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, homeowners spent an average of \$911 on home heating costs in the winter of 2019-20. The winter of 2020-21 could prove even more expensive, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to force much of the world to practice social distancing. That means many professionals are still working from home full-time, while even those who aren't are no doubt spending more of their free time at home. All those hours spent at home figure to increase reliance on heaters this winter, which means heating bills are likely to go up as the temperatures go down.

Finding ways to save on heating costs will no doubt prove a priority for many homeowners this winter, and the following are some ways to do just that.

- **Add insulation.** Extra insulation throughout the house can dramatically reduce home heating (and cooling) costs. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, adding insulation in attics, crawl spaces and basement rim joists can help homeowners save as much as 15 percent on heating costs.
 - **Lower the temperature on your water heater.** Another way to trim your energy bill this winter is to lower the temperature on your water heater. The U.S. Department of Energy notes that, for every 10 F reduction in temperature on their water heaters, homeowners can save between 3 and 5 percent on their water heating costs.
 - **Close the flue on your fireplace.** Fireplaces can keep a home's inhabitants warm in winter, but only when they're in use. When they're not being used, fireplaces can allow heat to escape a home. When the fireplace is not being used, close the flue to prevent heat from escaping the house. Keeping all windows and doors closed throughout the day is another way to prevent unnecessary heat loss.
 - **Have your HVAC system serviced before winter begins.** Inefficient HVAC systems cost homeowners considerable amounts of money each year. Annual maintenance performed by a certified HVAC professional can ensure filters are clean and operating at peak efficiency, saving homeowners the costly trouble of having to turn up the thermostat to overcome dirty systems.
- Home heating costs figure to increase this winter as people spend more time at home. Various simple strategies can help homeowners stay warm without overpaying to heat their homes this winter.

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/

Unnatural Hike Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 9am-3pm Swiss Valley Nature Center

Looking for an excuse to get those kiddos out of the house? We've got one!

Walk the length of a forested trail looking for items that don't belong, that are not natural. A number of man-made items should stand out brightly and others should blend in with the background. Stay on the trail, take note of the items that you are seeing. Participants can go one at a time with some space between each. Then they debrief and compare who noticed which items.

This is a self-guided hike, so you can come and go at any time between 9am – 3pm. The exact trail and map will be posted at a later date on this event!

Illuminate the Night Friday, December 18, 2020 at 5-7 pm Rupp Hollow Road

Come and discover the wonders of the winter nighttime forest on a self-led hike along the Heritage Trail that starts at the Heritage Pond. The trail will be lit by small candles. The trail is flat and stroller friendly. Pull on all your winter gear, pack some hot cocoa/ cider and join us!

Other Events Calendar

Winter Farmer's Market Saturday, 9am-noon Kennedy Mall (West Concourse, next to Planet Fitness)

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>Leo H. Frueh, Consulting 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	

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Reminders:

There currently are no plans for the next public meeting until the Coronavirus has been eradicated. Check back on our webpage or Facebook page. See below to access these.

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”.