Newsletter

Volume 58, Issue No. 16
May 12, 2017

@IACCB_HAZE1955

RE-TOOLING THE CHARGE!

The 2017 Legislative Session will be remembered by many for the tumultuous early days, for the blitzkriegs during the final days, or for all the cajoling in between. I for one, however, choose to marvel at the steadfastness of the IWILL Coalition - coalescing the strength of partnerships at critical times – and fighting off a final assault with incredible passion. County conservation had a lot of skin in the game – sweat equity, finances and a bunch of new faces at the Capitol…..it was a good fight, the right fight, and a fight that has a future. We learned a bunch, and educated a whole lot more – preparing us for future battles we hoped we would not have to take on. In the end, the results were perhaps a casualty of Iowa's budget woes – but do natural resources have to take disproportionate cuts? REAP lost out by taking a 25% reduction – really? This disrupted ALL OF US – be sure to add that to your local talking points for your next presentation, chat with community leaders or legislative conversation. This broader backward transgression cannot continue.

NOW IS THE TIME for YOU to be scheduling those summer and fall events, tours and meetings with your legislators, community & business leadership! The conversations cannot wait – share your local stories, tell them now and tell them often. We have much education to accomplish. The IWILL Coalition is already strategizing for the 2018 legislative session – stay tuned for wrap-ups and insight from our lobbying team and coalition partnership.

And finally, **THANK-YOU FOR ANSWERING THE CALL!** Whether it was participating with the IACCB banner initiative, making the trek to one or more days at the Capitol, attending local forums/roundtables or just keeping the conversations on the forefront – thank-you, thank-you, thank-you! We now all have one more very valuable year of experience and knowledge in our pockets to push forward…..our tool boxes have had an upgrade – ready to rock-it next time "the calls" come! ☺

Speaking of re-tooling – how about getting after some of those updates we have been talking about this past year? Many of you have been gracious of your time in getting fresh information sent in – but it would still be stunning to have 99 CCB data represented in our **UNMET NEEDS** listing project – now in year #3!

$782,537,828 – 34 years @ $23M
Iowa's County Conservation System
NATURAL RESOURCE & OUTDOOR RECREATION TRUST FUND
THE UNMET NEEDS OF COUNTY CONSERVATION
94 CCBs in Listing
68 CCBs w/$ Reported

STATE BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

In 2017, we will be electing Board Members from **Districts 5 and 6** to the IACCB Board of Directors. CCB Directors in these Districts will be receiving a special email in the weeks ahead on this opportunity. What a great way to get involved in the broader statewide Association, as well as gain some incredible general knowledge! ☺ ☺ ☺

SAVE THE DATE:

The IACCB Calendar is also available online via the **IACCB link on MCP.com**

* *May 16 – IACCBE Mtg. - Marshalltown*
* *May 17 – IACCB Board of Directors Mtg. - Ames*
* *June 15 – District 5 Mtg. – Wayne County*
* *June 15 – District 4 Mtg. – Harrison County*
* *June 21 – District 6 Mtg. – Benton County*
* *July 20 – District 1 Mtg. – Grundy County*
* *Aug. 17 – District 4 Mtg. – Shelby County*

The IACCB Newsletter is produced on a periodic basis, and provided in digital format as a membership benefit to IACCB Members and stakeholders.

2017 IACCB Annual Fall Conference
September 21-23
Sioux Center, IA
Hosted by the Lyon & Sioux CCBs

travel IOWA #THISISIOWA

IOWA TOURISM CELEBRATES US!

Jessica O'Reilly from the Iowa Tourism Office celebrates National Travel and Tourism Week (May 7-13) with long-time partners MyCountyParks.com & Iowa's County Conservation System!

We would really have to credit some early western CCB tourism pioneers for getting the ball rolling back in the 1980's – the likes of **Dan Heissel** (Clay), **Kathy Dirks** (Harrison), **Dave Olson** (Carroll), **Cindy Thompson** (Pott.) and **Brian Holt** (Hamilton) come top-of-mind ☺ Getting involved with the Iowa Tourism industry is a natural fit for ALL county conservation boards – YOU have destinations, activities and talents to share – and built-in partners exist all around you! (*including those adjoining CCBs*!) We know that some of you have "caught the bug" and are active with one of the three Iowa tourism regions – but it is certainly an excellent opportunity to expound on the importance of county conservation's impact with Iowa's tourism industry. Most of you have heard me talk about our collective **24,000,000 visitors** and **$851M in Economic Impact** for the state of Iowa – this is why we are a naturally embedded feature in Iowa's tourism landscape! ☺ When our internet firestorm of MyCountyParks launched in 2009 – the explosion was on! There are so many facets of what we do and who we are that directly affect the quality of life for all 3.124 million Iowans, and pile on to that the millions of annual visitors to the state – CCBs provide a huge impact! ☺ Want to get more involved? Start by visiting www.traveliowa.com, contact IACCB directly at IACCB@mycountyparks.com , get yourself to a regional tourism meeting or contact the Iowa Tourism Office directly at 888.472.6035, or via email to Shawna.lode@iowaeda.com Bring it on – CCBs are Iowa's front porch..99 times over!

CONSTANT BEAT OF MCP.COM DEVELOPMENT

Did you know that we are actually in development of V.6 (Version Six) of our award-winning website, and the site is just 8 years old? If we don't keep up with technology as it changes, or pay attention to visitor preferences – becoming an internet dinosaur can become a relatively quick possibility. We currently have 67,875 Registered Users and 275 County Administrators – each with their own expectations of service and latest technologies! ☺ So, we are constantly receiving feedback from administrators and visitors – incorporating those thoughts into future visions and functionalities. It is a constant juggling of priorities and funding sources. Our current V.6 roll-out on June 1st will be a $30K investment in our future! Strategizing meetings are constant with our developers here in Cedar Rapids as we hope to keep ahead of industry and outside pressures to remain on the cutting edges. As always – patience is much appreciated!

mycountyparks.com

mycountyparks.com PORTAL

mycountyparks.org

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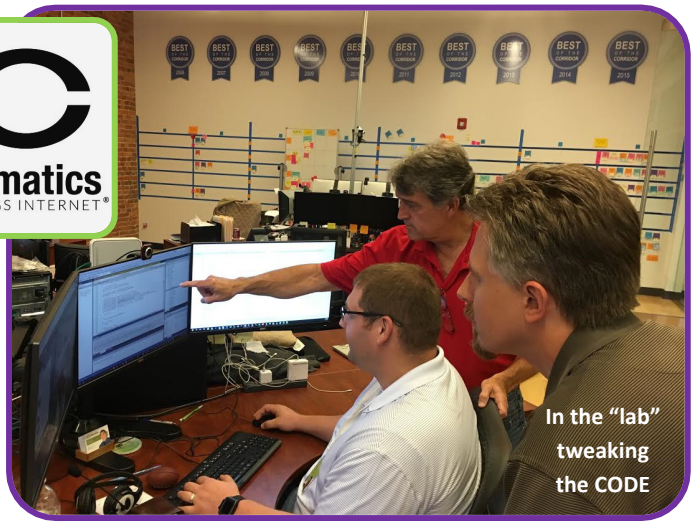

MGA
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE

Clinton County Conservation Eco-Tourism Center
Marion (319) 377-7604
Strawberry Point (563) 933-4712
www.MartinGardnerArch.com

Adieu to Frank Fredericks

IACCB was pleased to honor long-time Director for the Bremer County Conservation Board at his official retirement gig at the Bremer County Courthouse on April 28th. Frank retires from 37-ish years with Iowa's County Conservation system – **CONGRATS, Frank!** Andy Hockenson, formerly with the Boone CCB has accepted the Bremer CCB Directorship, and is already on board, **CONGRATS, Andy!** ☺

ISAC Annual Conference

AUGUST 23-25, 2017 – Community Choice Credit Union, Des Moines

No Longer in November! Formerly known as "The ISAC Fall School of Instruction" – ISAC has migrated this conference to summer to better coincide with legislative target dates and other efficiencies. Directors – please note this on your calendars.. Other than this date change – the event will look pretty much like "Fall ISAC" with Conservation Affiliate time, CCDA meetings, etc. Registration will open at 8:30 AM on Wednesday June 14th – remember you must register for the conference before you can gain access to ISAC's room blocks at the hotels. A few highlights for this summer include Keynote Speaker Alex Sheen, a County Night at the Ball Park, overall casual and fun style and an expanded exhibit hall with improved layout. Please direct any questions to ISAC.

2017 IACCB Fall Conference - Sioux Center

September 21-23, 2017 – Terrace View Event Center, Sioux Center, IA

REGISTRATION MATERIALS TO BE OUT VERY SOON! Hosted by the Lyon and Sioux CCBs - look forward to two days of special tours including: Tour of Blood Run (by hay rack), Doon Wildlife Area, Peterson Prairie Area, Lake Pajoha, Calliope Village, Sandy Hollow Recreation Area, Oak Grove/Big Sioux Park and the Big Sioux Recreation Area. Following Thursday pre-conference activities we will once again be hosting another great fish fry! ☺ Conference will conclude on Saturday following the tours of the day. **Lodging blocks available at the Holiday Inn Express – 712.722.3500; or the Econolodge – 712.722.4000**

2018 IACCB Fall Conference – Polk Co.

September 19-21, 2018 – Ramada Tropics North, Des Moines, IA

Something new is in the wind **– a Wednesday to Friday conference!** Polk CCB is excited to be able to share with you their new nature center which will have just opened in June 2018, as well as the newly renovated Easter Lake Park, and of course - the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt. They are hoping to secure former head of NBC News, Michael Gardner as the keynote speaker. The remainder of the agenda is in early formation, and they invite you to pass along any suggestions you may have for presenters and/or topics! ☺

OREGON TRAIL

in SW Iowa

On Friday, May 5th, the **Montgomery County Conservation Board celebrated 20 years** of the "Oregon Trail" youth educational event, AND Mrs. Deb Karwal. Montgomery County Conservation Board Naturalist, **Deb Karwal,** is the event coordinator and has done an amazing job to perfect this youth event. She coordinates and directs over 30 event volunteers to make this educational program as realistic as possible for the students of SW Iowa. Over the last 20 years more than 4,000 students have participated in the annual Oregon Trail program.

This amazing youth educational event takes students back in time to the mid-1800s, as settlers progressed 2100 miles west from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon. During the Oregon Trail event 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students take part in over 10 different educational activities to include; a 2.5 mile hiking expedition, visiting a pioneer trading post to purchase supplies, learning from a Native American presenter and touring a full sized teepee(see pictures), receiving lessons from frontier trappers, riding in a covered wagon, listening to a pioneer musician play the fiddle, learning to cook over an open fire, and much more. While on the 2.5 mile Oregon Trail, the students get to learn about the joys and hardships the settlers would have encountered during the mid-1800s.

The students and citizens of SW Iowa are very grateful to **Montgomery County Conservation Board Naturalist, Deb Karwal** for all her dedication and hard work to make this Oregon Trail event an unforgettable learning opportunity.

If you have any additional questions about this event, please contact: Will Horsley,
Montgomery County CCB - (712) 621-2902

Pictures and article submitted by
Montgomery County Conservation

Hamilton CCB Dedicates New Solar Array

The **Hamilton County Conservation Board**, in partnership with Eagle Point Solar of Dubuque, dedicated their new solar array system this past Saturday at Little Wall Lake Park. Little Wall Lake Park has become the first county park in Iowa to have 100% offset of electrical needs by producing its own power through solar. Over three years in the making – this project was made possible via partnerships with the **Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, Eagle Point Solar, the Hamilton County Conservation Board and Alliant Energy**. Look forward to a special report on this project and dedication in a future edition of the IACCB Newsletter. **CONGRATS to Hamilton CCB** on bringing to fruition this gem of an energy conservation project – **WOW!** ☺ ☺

Iowa Prairie Conference '17

The 2017 Iowa Prairie Conference will take place in Council Bluffs on **July 14 and 15, 2017.** The conference will focus on prairie protection, restoration and reconstruction in the central and southern Loess Hills. The conference is open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Registration is $80 *($60 for students)* and includes five meals. More information? **CONTACT:** lance@goldenhillsrcd.org 712-482-3029 with any questions.

REGISTRATION LINK BELOW:
http://www.goldenhillsrcd.org/registration.html

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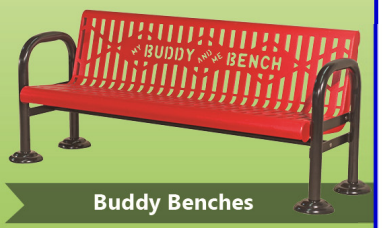

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FY2018 IAACCB MEMBERSHIPS

IACCB distributed **FY2018 Annual Membership Renewal** information on May 1st via email. Should you have not received this communication, or prefer a hard copy by snail mail – please let us know, Thanks! Kudos to the 9 CCBs who, as of this newsletter have renewed for next year – **Adams, Cherokee, Emmet, Guthrie, Harrison, Palo Alto, Taylor, Van Buren and Winneshiek counties.** As with each annual renewal opportunity, the deadline is August 1st – thank-you!

SKID STEER/FORESTRY MOWER DEMONSTRATION DAY – FREE!

October 27th – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Foster Center in Diamond Lake Park, Poweshiek County, Montezuma. Check out and operate various skid steers and forestry type mowers at this field day event. Reps from Vermeer, Diamond, Bobcat, John Deere, Kubota, Takeuchi, Loftness, Fecon, Landpride and others on hand to answer questions. Registration required to: Chris Henze (Johnson Co. Roads) at **(319) 356-6046** or email to: Chenze@co.johnson.ia.us Provide your name, phone #, email and number of attendees. *Come learn a better way to manage your brush and invasive species!*

REAP
Resource Enhancement and Protection

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

REAP GRANTS DUE BY MAY 15TH

The **REAP Conservation Education Program** (CEP) Board is excited to unveil a new and improved grant process, including an updated website and forms. The board has been working hard with a pilot group of grantees to streamline the grant request process, consolidate application requirements, and enhance the reporting requirements. If you were unable to attend one of the Get to Know the New Application sessions, no worries. You may find a recording of the presentation on the REAP CEP website or directly on YouTube. Visit the REAP CEP website to find information about the program, contact information, forms and resources.

http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP

2017 IACCB PREFERRED VENDORS

IACCB is pleased to provide you with this current listing of our 29 Preferred Vendor Members for calendar year 2017

PREFERRED MEMBERS 2017

- Boland Recreation
- Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Carpenter Uniform & Promotional Products
- Central Iowa Distributing
- Connect-A-Dock Sales
- Conservation Corps of Iowa
- EOR Iowa, LLC
- Ever-Green Landscape Nursery & Supply
- Goats on the Go
- Harnack Company - Ariens/Gravely
- Harnack Company - Grashopper
- Heartland Payment Systems
- Huffcutt Concrete, Inc.
- Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs
- Iowa Ready Mixed Concrete Assc.
- Keep Iowa Beautiful
- Kloubec Fisheries
- Kunau Implement Co., Inc.
- Martin Gardner Architecture, P.C.
- Midwest Turf & Irrigation
- Premier Polysteel
- Quality Control Equipment Co.
- Quick Attach Attachments
- R.J. Thomas Mfg. Co.
- Shive- Hattery
- Snyder & Associates, Inc.
- Trees Forever
- WHKS & Co.
- Zanfel Laboratories, Inc.

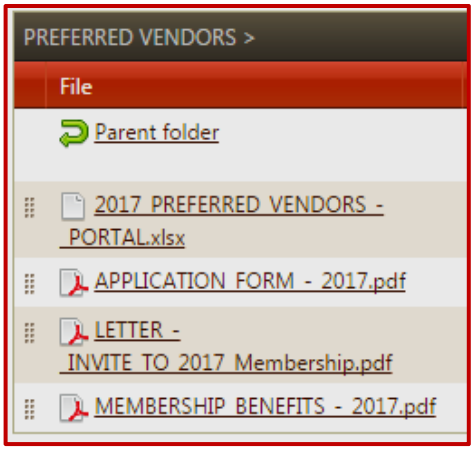
Several of these businesses have been associated with and supporting IACCB for decades in our Sustaining Member program that commenced in the early '60s. Their memberships, exhibitor fees, donations, advertising and sponsorships provide thousands of dollars annually in financial support that assists IACCB with programming and educational efforts! WE wouldn't be celebrating our level of success here in our 6th decade without them.

As always, we encourage every CCB to consider utilizing the products and services of our Preferred Vendors at every opportunity – that is why they have chosen to partner with us! We also encourage you to visit their exhibits at both Winterfest and the IACCB Fall Conference to meet their representatives, check out their services, and THANK THEM for being members of the state Association ☺ It has been years since we have had three vendor advertisements in one newsletter – they are eager to work with you on tailored solutions to meet your specialized needs.

IACCB has provided a couple of easy means for you to look them up and locate contact information for them – **1)** Via the IACCB Link at the bottom of any page on MyCountyParks.com *(direct link provided below)*; and, **2)** Download the 2017 Preferred Vendor database from the **PREFERRED VENDOR file in the Portal.**

LINK TO WEB LISTING:

http://mycountyparks.weebly.com/preferred-vendor.html



As always – should you have any local vendors that you work with who may benefit from a preferred Vendor Membership – be sure to put them in touch with the IACCB Office - Thanks

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JOBS

http://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx

1. TAMA Co. – Naturalist / Park Ranger
2. POTTAWATTAMIE Co. – Natural Resource Tech.
3. WARREN Co. – Naturalist I
4. CLINTON Co. – Executive Secretary
5. DICKINSON Co. – Naturalist
6. ADAMS Co. – Park Officer
7. Nature Conservancy – Western IA Land Steward
8. **TEMPORARY POSITIONS – 33+ opportunities listed on website**

mycountyparks.com

Iowa Natural Resources IACCB County Conservation System

Full Time

Seasonal/Part-Time