

Happy Thanksgiving from ICCS



Volume 62
Issue No. 5
November 20, 2020

Newsletter

SAVE THE DATES:

The ICCS Calendar & Zoom Meeting Room Bookings are available online via

mycountyparks.org

- * Nov. 24 – ICCS Annual Mtg. – ICCS Zoom Room
- * Nov. 24 – ICCS Board of Directors Mtg. Zoom
- * Dec. 3 – District 2 Mtg. – ICCS Zoom Room
- * Dec. 15 – District 6 Mtg. ICCS Zoom Room
- * Jan. 26-28 – Winterfest 2021 – Postponed to 2022
- * Feb. 18 – E-Commerce Summit (MCP) – TBA
- * Feb. 23 – ICCS New Employee School – TBA
- * Mar. 11-12 – ISAC Spring Conference – TBA
- * Aug. 25-27 – ISAC Annual Conference – TBA

ICCS Offices Closed:

November 26 – 29
December 24 – 27
Dec. 31 – Jan. 3

2021 ICCS
65th Anniversary +1
Fall Conference
September 15-17, 2021

Ames, IA



ANECTDOTAL QUOTES & PICTURES WILL TELL THE STORY!!

"During the summer and through the fall of 2020, the Fayette County Conservation Board has seen a usage increase of over 200%. Most exciting is the number of citizens who have discovered or re-discovered the recreational opportunities available in their own backyard." – (Rod Marlatt, Director, Fayette County Conservation) Quotes & pictures such as these should be pouring in to ICCS, but as of today we have on received a handful?! Kudos to Fayette, Ringgold, Shelby & Polk CCBs for being the first to submit these important items! 😊 Directors were solicited on November 11 for documentation about the dramatic increases in use of parks, trails and facilities that we have collectively experienced these past many months. This inventory of stories and photos will serve to educate legislators and other state officials about the need for funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Fund, REAP, etc. It will also serve as a cross-referencing file when **YOUR legislators** question the need or require additional education or support. This inventory of resources will work best if we have file data from ALL CCBs – thusly every legislative district. REMEMBER – we have over two dozen new legislators and numerous other local elected officials that will NEED education...FROM US! Thanks for the assist!



Families enjoy a monarch program in Ringgold County



A campground EE program draws large crowds in Fayette County

mycountyparks.org PORTAL NOVEMBER 2020

BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

- ICCS BOARD MEMBER DUTY DESCR. - GENERAL.pdf
- ICCS BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT & SELECTION GUIDANCE.pdf
- ICCS BOARD MEMBER SAMPLE APPL. FORMS.pdf

BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

- 2020 ICCS FACTS & STATS.pdf
- 2020 MCP FACTS & STATS.pdf
- BOARD MEMBER HANDBOOK - Current Edition.pdf
- BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION GUIDANCE.pdf
- CODE OF JUDS - CHAPT. 350 - COUNTY CONSERVATION.pdf
- CODE OF JUDS - CHAPT. 69.16A - GENDER BALANCE.pdf
- NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION 2020.pdf

mycountyparks.org BOARD MEMBERS

NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION VIDEO

Our MyCountyParks.org Administrative Website provides these easy access and downloadable files – primarily for folks that do not have access to the Portal FILES. We always recommend that the New Board Member Orientation video OR Powerpoint (PDF) be viewed WITH the CCB Director as there may be clarifications necessary or questions to be answered. Most documents are updated annually in December for the upcoming calendar year.

As noted above – please utilize these products to enhance or update your existing Board Member orientation / education programs. These resources are developed and provided by ICCS for the betterment of our state-wide county conservation system.

Iowa's County Conservation System
IACCB@MyCountyParks.org
(515) 963-9582

Board Member Recruitment & Orientation

As previewed in our October ICCS Newsletter, the new "Family" of Board Member Recruitment and Orientation materials was released to our Portal FILES and on the MyCountyParks.org website.

All CCB Directors and Board Members received a November 6th email with this announcement as well as the "instructional" page shown adjacently here. As indicated, the bulk of these materials are designed to supplement any existing processes you may have, or assist you in getting a systematic recruitment and orientation program established in your county.

Cultivating a long-term partnership with your local Board of Supervisors for these efforts is very much the main key to successful CCB programs. These tools will provide guidelines and ideas to assist you with your efforts.

IACCB@mycountyparks.org

(515) 963-9582

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ICCS 2020 ANNUAL MEETING – Nov. 24th

CCB Directors received a Meeting Notice (with links) via email on Nov. 17 for discretionary distribution. The virtual meeting will be held in the ICCS Zoom Room starting at 9:00 AM. We anticipate that the meeting will be relatively short (35 to 40 min.) – it will also be recorded and posted to our website shortly thereafter for observing at your leisure.

The **Annual Meeting Agenda**, as well as the **ICCS FY2020 Annual Report** are available on our administrative website at the following link: <https://www.mycountyparks.org/conferences.html> The Annual Report also includes the financial reporting for FY2020; the approved FY2021 Budget; and the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting in Muscatine. We look forward to sharing with you all that is great about Iowa's County Conservation System in 2020!

99 PARKS / 99 WEEKS BEGINS in '21

Inasmuch as this promotion will be somewhat long term over the better part of two years – the plan is to “re-alert” you to your county’s week of promo in the month prior to your social media appearance! You will note the first four months of 99 Parks / 99 Weeks in the database snippet to the right, starting the week of 1/18/2021. The digital files already exist for your CCB – but as we get closer to your date, you may have current photos or information you wish to feature....send it along in for inclusion! We are looking forward to creating your Week of Fame in the future!

ORDER	WEEK OF	COUNTY	PARK
1	1/18/2021	Benton	Wildcat Bluff Park
2	1/25/2021	Black Hawk	Hickory Hills Park
3	2/1/2021	Buchanan	Fontana Park
4	2/8/2021	Butler	Shell Rock Park
5	2/15/2021	Chickasaw	Airport Lake Park
6	2/22/2021	Dubuque	Whitewater Canyon
7	3/1/2021	Hamilton	Briggs Woods Park
8	3/8/2021	Howard	Lake Hendricks
9	3/15/2021	Iowa	Lake Iowa Park
10	3/22/2021	Marion	Cordova Park
11	3/29/2021	Mills	Pony Creek Park
12	4/5/2021	Mitchell	Interstate Park
13	4/12/2021	Page	Pierce Creek Recreation Area
14	4/19/2021	Polk	Jester Park
15	4/26/2021	Poweshiek	Diamond Lake Park
16	5/3/2021	Scott CCB	Scott County Park



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(*Beginning in January 18, 2021, ICCS will feature one CCB each week on social media for the next 99 weeks! We already have digital files for each county with accumulated pictures, etc. from the past 40+ years....and each posting will link to your CCB's presence on MyCountyParks.com. Soooo.....if you have some great (and/or recent!) pictures that you would like us to consider – send them all in! Posts will feature 4-10 pictures, and highlights of what your CCB has to offer.....then providing the MCP link for visitors that want more information. What will make this a more smashing success will be your sharing of these posts on your CCB's, as well as your personal social media platforms! 😊 When will your CCB be featured? As opposed to alphabetically, or just randomly – we are going to start from the beginning, with the “Original 16” CCBs that were formed in 1956 – and progress all the way through to Allamakee CCB that was established in 1989. Your CCB will then be featured alphabetically within that year of establishment.....Time to GET ONBOARD!



NEED SELFIE-STATION SIGNS ? - We already have orders from four CCBs for additional sets of those metal & wooden Selfie-Station signs from 2019 marketing initiative. ICCS will be accepting requests for additional 3-sign sets through November 30th. (CCBs will be invoiced for the cost of the signs following delivery at an approximate cost of \$30/set – ICCS cost of acquisition) So, let us know if you are in the market to expand your fleet or to get in on the fun! Contact **Tom** at IACCB@mycountyparks.org if you are interested! 😊

FY2020 IOWA Habitat Improvement Awards to be Announced on Nov. 24th

In conjunction with the **ICCS Annual Meeting**, we will be announcing the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each of the two categories (</> 20,000 population) during the New Business portion of the agenda. **Congratulations to all 20 CCBs that were nominated for these prestigious 2020 Awards!** Inasmuch as the winners will be announced at a virtual meeting, arrangements will be made for presentation of the plaques at a future local Conservation Board meeting by a representative from ICCS and/or the Iowa Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America.



ICCS / MCP.com RACK CARDS ARRIVED YET?

We are hearing that the Priority Mail envelopes have begun arriving to CCBs earlier this week! 😊 Each packet contains approximately 150 rack card brochures for your discretionary use. The purpose of investing in these cards as a marketing tool is to drive customers and ultimately users to our MyCountyParks.com website to discover US! 16,000 rack cards were distributed statewide with this effort – leaving an additional 9,000 for replenishing your supplies in the future. We are in hopes that we can get these to you in-person at future district meetings and other CCB gatherings – shipping them is not the most economical mechanism for getting them out to you.....but, with no travel due to COVID-19...we wanted to get them into circulation sooner rather than later. Let us know when the day arrives that you need a replenishment!



USE CAUTION WITH SPAM-BOT EMAILS!

Inasmuch as we encourage the public to “CONTACT US” through our MyCountyParks.com website with their inquiries, complaints, etc. – we also, unfortunately open ourselves to unwanted “phishing” scam emails. The one demonstrated to the right arrived to Hancock CCB yesterday – and is a good reminder to all of you to be suspicious of these official-looking, and actual emails FROM our website.

These “Spam-Bot” internet crawling robots troll around the internet seeking access points on websites wherein they can insert malicious code, or in this case – the opportunity for the operator to fill out a form and solicit you for a sale or encourage you to click on a link. Because we invite our website users to contact us by filling out a form, we also force them to read and enter a verification code from a CAPCHA challenge (*Completely Automated Public Turing Test to tell computers and humans apart*) – as seen below. These cannot be interpreted by the Bots, and therefore cannot be submitted without a human solving the Capcha test.

Most internet users recognize a phishing-scam email when they get one – but these official website emails may challenge your observation skills a bit to conclude that they are fake.

This example has the contact name and phone numbers that are suspicious, as well as the obvious pitch for a sale in the Question / Comments section. Needless to say – **NEVER CLICK ON A LINK that you might see in a suspicious email** – including what may appear to be a viable email address. AND, always feel free to forward anything looking to be official from MyCountyParks.com or ICCS that you believe may be fraudulent to me for validation.

mycountyparks.com

Interactive Guide Contact Us Cart My Account

A new contact for was submitted from MyCountyParks.com.

We thought you'd like to know that a user with the following information submitted a contact form on 11/19/2020 10:05 AM.

Name	Chloe Chloe
Email	info@mycountyparks.com
Phone	(02) 4077 1952
Fax	(02) 4077 1952
Preferred Method of Contact	Phone
County	Hancock
Park	Not Available
Company	Chloe Bingle
Address	93 Forrest Road 93 Forrest Road Capertee, West Virginia 2846
Question / Comments	Hello Buy all styles of Oakley Sunglasses only 19.99 dollars. If interested, please visit our site: designeroutlets.online Best Wishes, Contact Us - MyCountyParks.com



A Note from Vern Fish and the CCMI

I have included a photo of a crew of young people working on the Cedar Bend Savanna along the Cedar River in northwest Black Hawk County from 2013. This crew helped to “release” a remnant prairie and restored a 55 acre oak savanna, a rare ecosystem in Iowa. This backbreaking work was critical to the restoration of this significant natural area.

Fast forward to today, the Cedar Bend Savanna “*blooms and blows*”* with prairie flowers and red-headed woodpeckers. The Conservation Corps crew that worked on this savanna has scattered to the wind but their savanna is a living testimony to the value of their work. They restored the savanna and the savanna changed their lives.

At the time I was the Executive Director of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. Strapped for money and labor, this project had sat on the backburner for almost twenty years. Working with Conservation Corps of Minnesota/Iowa we were able to bring together a combination of private grants and local public funding to hire this crew. The Conservation Corps provided crew leaders, equipment, transportation and a skilled, trained motivated crew.

I have had the opportunity to hire, work with and meet several CC crews. These crews represented a diverse mix of young people but they all shared one common thread. The ten months they spent doing manual labor on meaningful projects in the outdoors changed their lives for the better.

The mission of the Conservation Corps of Minnesota/Iowa is to engage youth and young adults in meaningful service, leadership development, and environmental stewardship. Many Iowa county conservation boards have partnered with the CCMI on resource management projects across the state over the years.

The Conservation Corps of Minnesota/Iowa is seeking nominations to serve on the Board of Directors. If you are interested or know someone who might want to help support the mission of the CCMI, you can get a board nomination at <https://forms.gle/73c8Dv4s9FKwoFFy5>. I encourage you to explore the possibility.

If you want to help support the work that the Conservation Corps of Minnesota/Iowa does in Iowa, please consider making a donation. Go to <https://www.conservationcorps.org/ways-to-give> and explore your options. I am both a sustainer and an annual donor. If you have questions or need more information, give me a call at vernfish@aol.com. Many thanks.....Vern



Aquatic Habitat & Rip-Rap (....from Doug Romig, Polk CCB)

A company has stockpiles of off-spec and returned concrete pipe and products for repurpose, reuse or recycling - such as crushing and aquatic habitat creation, not to be used for intended infrastructure use. Several CCBs have connected with this company previously, including Polk CCB. They have several yards throughout the state but currently they have approximately 100 tons in East Des Moines and 750 tons in West Des Moines. You must provide the hauling, but they will load it for you. Utilize contact information through the [Iowa Waste Exchange](#) as follows if you are interested in this material: Shelene Codner, IWE Area Resource Specialist, (319) 404-1942





Grant Application Opportunity

National Environmental Education Foundation - Restoration & Resilience COVID Recovery Fund is providing grants to support public lands, including parks, nature areas, and other green spaces, that have been impacted by increased use during the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus is on supporting agencies and organizations responsible for maintaining public lands by distributing resources and mobilizing volunteers to help keep up with increased human presence Grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded. The **application deadlines are December 1, 2020, and February 1, April 1, and June 1, 2021.** Additional information and application can be found on their website:

<https://www.neefusa.org/grants/2021/restoration-resilience-fund>

2021 FIRE TRAINING CALENDAR & INFO. POSTED

(From Ryan Schlater, Iowa DNR) The interagency fire training calendar is posted and will be updated as needed for the 2021 season. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Fire-Management/Training> We have other partners who will be submitting training to us to post here in the future. Covid-19 is probably going to change how and if these trainings are a go or not. Currently, there are lots of variables in the mix! We DO know the following for DNR training:



1. RT-130 Refreshers for 2021 will be self-study/online with a quiz afterward. We hope to have that together and posted on December 1, 2020.
2. Field days for online S-130/S-190 will be smaller with social distancing and masks. These are subject to change depending upon Covid-19 and the hosting agency's policy with those outbreaks. For example, we are trying to hold one at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. If they have larger outbreak numbers and Kirkwood shuts things down, we will need to reschedule and get direction from NWCG and other agencies on completion of the course.
3. Work Capacity Tests (pack test), are only going to be done for new people who have **confirmed** that they will be going out in 2021. NO weight vests from our agency will be used in the pack tests, the participants will need to provide their own weighted vest or pack, scales to weigh will be available at the site. Those who are qualified with training and haven't done a pack test before 2019 will also need to pack test. Those of us you have gotten an incident qualification card (red card) in 2019 which most also got a red card in 2020, will be grandfathered in again for 2021. No pack test is needed for those people who went out on wildfires or got a red card in 2019/2020.

This is all subject to change with COVID-19 changing daily.



CCB Alumni "Division" In the Works?

More-often-than-not, when a long-term county conservation employee or Board Member departs our statewide system – we lose touch with them. They may/may not choose to keep in touch with the CCB they were associated with....but there has never really been a structured mechanism for any of them to maintain contact with our broader organization. An initiative has commenced..... 😊 I have coerced future Alumni **Dan Heissel** (Woodbury/Clay/Pocahontas) and **Roger Kean** (only Scott) to join me to initially orchestrate this concept, and we anticipate some Zoom outreach to known alumni in the months ahead. **"Born from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and Iowa Derecho, and organized on a Friday the 13th – what could go wrong?"** (Stay tuned)



"You don't need to practice social distancing from Mother Nature: Enjoy Iowa's County Parks!"



JOBS

mycountyparks.com

- Full Time
- Seasonal/Part-Time



Gray Wolf – Appanoose CCB Nature Center



<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx>

1. CALHOUN Co. – Park Ranger/Technician
2. POLK Co. – Asst. Riding Instructor
3. O'BRIEN Co. – Executive Director
4. BENTON Co. – Executive Director
5. FAYETTE Co. – Roadside Vegetation Tech.
6. SEASONAL POSITIONS – 4 opportunities listed on website

11/20/2020



Hitting the Trail – Ringgold County