

Muscatine County Conservation Board 2014 At a Glance

A Message from Conservation Board Chairperson Jim Goedken

This is the second time I have had the privilege of writing this letter of introduction to the annual summarization of the activities of our organization. 2014 was a very successful year with ongoing projects, programs, and new efforts associated with the development of Deep Lakes Park.

Dave Jones retired from our Board. He served eleven plus years that were very critical to the building of the Environmental Learning Center and its continued development. His quick and analytical observations made our decision making easy. "Thank you, Dave". Mark Petersen was appointed to fill the empty board position. "Welcome aboard, Mark". We also have a new Park Officer, Ryne Brimeyer, who will help facilitate development and maintenance of our parks, as well as provide law enforcement. "We wish you great success, Ryne".

At Deep lakes Park, the boat ramp into Lake Chester was completed early in 2014.



A parking area was leveled off and provides good parking. The water access area near Stewart Road and 57th Street was cleared out in preparation for a ramp that will go in on Lake Jewell during 2015. Also, a channel was dug between Lake Jewel and Lake Violet to give boaters access to both bodies of water. This channel was specially designed to function as a spawning area to allow the pan fish and bass to grow in population. One of the concrete silos at the park's main entrance was removed. We have a detailed map of the water depth of both Lake Chester and Valentine Chute.

Many other activities and projects seem to just happen.

- Programs and activities for primary and mid level school children are given.
- Snow gets plowed off the trails at Discovery Park.
- Jack Shuger Memorial Park is clean, picked up, and inviting.
- Trout are stocked in Discovery Pond.

- Firewood is available at the campground at Saulsbury.
- Grass gets mowed and brush cut at all facilities, the garbage is picked up.
- Kayaks and canoes are available for rent.
- The two 1200-gallon aquariums are clean and have large, local fish on display.
- Courses in hunter education, fly tying, or fishing are available.
- The roads and parking lots at Saulsbury get seal coated.

Make sure to visit our website muscatinecountyconservation.com for a more complete and updated look at the activities and facilities available.



All those activities and projects don't just happen. They are the result of a team of dedicated workers, working under very capable direction. The MCCB staff is constantly looking for

2014 CONSERVATION BOARD

Chairperson	Jim Goedken
Vice-chairperson	Dave Jones
Member	Jenny Paetz
Member	Larry Wolf
Member	Deb Elliott

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Muscatine County Conservation Board is to preserve and enhance natural areas and resources in Muscatine County for the use and benefit of the community; to preserve sufficient natural habitats in Muscatine County; to ensure the survival of native plants and animals; to acquire, develop and manage land for public hunting, fishing, camping and recreation; and to promote public appreciation and responsibility for the environment through education.

and finding grants to assist in funding projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. These grants are tedious in that there are subtle requirements that must be fulfilled in order to meet the desires of the grantor. For example, by the end of 2015 there will be two boat docks that have had a good portion of their costs paid for by grants.

There are also many volunteers that help during the year for everything from manning the front desk, cleaning up the landscaping, fixing up and improving the housing for our owls and hawk, or carving pumpkins for the Halloween Hike.

The MCCB exists because of the desire of the Muscatine County Supervisors to fund these facilities and activities to make Muscatine a better place to live, and it continues to improve because of the support of the communities in Muscatine County.

So, I am very proud to work with fellow board members, the staff of the MCCB and the rest of the community that use our facilities and support our endeavors. We have a lot going on and I am excited to see just how much we can accomplish before my term ends in three years.



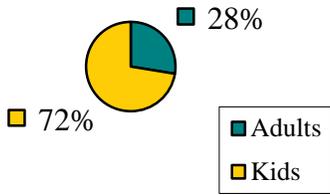
Projects

Listed below are some of the larger projects undertaken in 2014.

- A concrete boat ramp was constructed on Lake Chester at Deep Lakes Park.
- A boat dock was installed by the Lake Chester boat ramp.
- The roads and parking lots at Saulsbury were sealcoated.
- Lakes Jewell and Violet at Deep Lakes Park were connected and fish habitat was added.
- The new bridge was completed across Chicken Creek at Saulsbury.



**Environmental Education
11,664 people
served in 2014**



**Environmental
Education Programs**

In 2014, Conservation Board Staff gave 715 programs to 11,664 people. Program participants ranged in age from toddler through senior citizen.

In 2014, almost three quarters of the programs were presented to children ranging in age from 18 months through high school. More than half the programs were given at the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park.

Nature hikes, fishing, canoeing, Native American games, eagle watching, survival, animals, archery, habitats, astronomy, and geocaching were just a handful of the many programs presented to participants.



Some of the weekend programs held were Canoeing & Kayaking, Holiday Nature Crafts, Fishing, Raptors, Geocaching, Nighttime Adventures, and Monarch Butterfly Tagging.

Below is a list of some of our larger programs with their attendance.

- 34th Annual Kids Fishing Seminar & 7th Annual Fishing Derby - 159
- 26th Annual Halloween Hike - 336
- Hunter Education Classes - 60
- Summer Nature Camps - 126
- Toddler/Preschool Camps - 119

Staff also presented programs to over 1,600 people at many other events not sponsored by the Conservation Board including; Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch, River City Outdoor Show, Wildcat Den Heritage Days, Zion Lutheran Church Block Party, Muscatine Healthy Living Festival, and Muscatine Community Y Block Party.



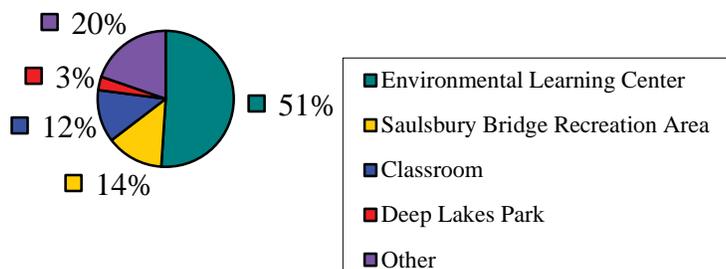
**Environmental
Learning Center**

In 2014, approximately 5,125 visitors (not including people who participated in our programs) came to the Environmental Learning Center to view the exhibits.

The Environmental Learning Center hosted a traveling exhibit on turtles that was on display in May and June.



**Environmental Education
715 programs given at various locations in 2014**





Muscatine Youth Conservation Corps

In the summer of 2014 eight youth ages 16-18 and two crew leaders were hired for the Muscatine Youth Conservation Corps program.

The youth worked on outdoor conservation and recreation projects for the City of Muscatine and the County Conservation Board. Projects consisted of landscaping, mulching trees, placing fish habitat, laying bricks, staining picnic tables, sealing fishing docks, and flood clean up.

They also spent a day canoeing on the Cedar River, and banding geese with the DNR.

The program is funded entirely with donations from local industries, businesses, organizations, government entities, and individuals.



Grants

An Outdoor Skills Grant was received from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to hire staff to coordinate and present fishing, aquatic education, and shooting sports programs in Muscatine County.

A Water Recreation Access Grant was received from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to construct a concrete boat ramp on Lake Jewell at Deep Lakes Park.

A Fish Habitat Stamp Grant was received from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to connect Lakes Jewell and Violet at Deep Lakes Park.

A grant was received from the Muscatine Health Foundation to help fund two AED units.

Eight canoes were received from Federal Surplus Property for the environmental education program.



Cooperative Programs

In 2014, the Conservation Board partnered with many other groups for various programs and projects.

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa State Extension Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Monsanto
- Musser Public Library
- Muscatine Community Y
- Muscatine Parks & Recreation
- Muscatine Arboretum Association
- City of Muscatine
- Muscatine Chapter of Izaak Walton League
- Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts
- Girl Scouts



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