



# CONSERVATION NEWS

A Publication of the Muscatine County Conservation Board

Volume 30 No. 3 Fall 2017

## New Additions!

The Muscatine County Conservation Board is excited about two new additions to current parks. Discovery Park will be expanding soon to include the grounds that formerly were home to the County Care Facility. The aging facility was requiring more and more maintenance and repairs. So the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors decided to have the building torn down, and offered management of the approximately seven acres to the Conservation Board as an addition to Discovery Park.



This piece of ground is off the end of Harmony Lane near a large residential area. Preliminary plans include a shelter house, playground, modern restrooms, and connection to the rest of the trails in Discovery Park. In addition, this will allow easier access for the “Friends of the Barn” group who work to maintain the old county farm barn, and offer periodic education events.

At this time a decommissioned radio tower on this property is waiting to be removed. When that is completed the Conservation Board will take

management of the property. Final plans and a timeline can then be created for the development of this area.

There is also something new at Deep Lakes Park! A new hiking and biking trail. The trail runs diagonally through the park from the corner of 41st Street and Stewart Road to 57th Street midway between Pettibone Avenue and Stewart Road. This trail is being built to connect the City’s trail system with a trail system being developed in Louisa County. At this time the ten-foot wide trail has been paved through Deep Lakes Park,



but it is not officially open as finish work needs to be completed along the shoulders. If fall weather cooperates the trail should be finished in early October.

This trail offers a look into the interior of Deep Lakes Park. Before, access was by walking only. Though there are some interior roads much of the travel to remote lakes or ponds requires slogging

*continued on page 2*

---

*continued from page 1*

up and down small hills through soft sand. It is a good aerobic workout, but not for the faint of heart. Walking or biking the new trail will offer beautiful scenery and interesting landscape. As you walk remember you are looking at the result of 50-60 years of sand and gravel mining. The gravel is what we often call river stone, and was generally the moneymaker. Sand was a by-product, only of value periodically and usually just piled out of the way.

The soil in the park is sandy. In some parts it is nothing but sand, or sand with gravel mixed in. Not a very hospitable environment for plants but, plants have moved in during the past 30 years since mining operations ceased. What we find are red cedar, cottonwood, mulberry, and invasive elm species. These are trees you would expect to move into disturbed soils of poor quality. They are tough and can grow in a wide variety of conditions. Other common plants include poison ivy, wild grape, and several types of sumac. Though these may not be the most desired species they do provide food and shelter for a variety of animal species.

Future plans regarding the trail are still being formulated. We plan to pave a short section of trail from the main trail to the parking lot serving the Pettibone Avenue entrance that serves both Lakes Chester and Ivy. Preliminary plans include benches and some shade structures. This would provide a nice break for those walking or riding bicycles, and a nice stop for those wanting a scenic view. We also plan to make the canoe/kayak portage between Valentine Chute and Lake Patricia more usable, and add side trails (not paved, but better than just sand) to allow easier access from the paved trail to interior lakes and ponds.

There are lots of plans for both the new trail at Deep Lakes Park and the new addition to Discovery Park. We can't make all of our wishes come true right away, but we will keep you posted on our website and Facebook!



## Tree Seedlings Available

The Iowa DNR State Forestry Nursery in Ames now has trees and shrubs available in minimum orders of 25 thanks to some new rule changes. These smaller minimums should be beneficial to small acreage owners interested in increasing wildlife habitat and promoting land stewardship on their property. Seedlings can be ordered now for the upcoming fall and spring planting seasons. Seedlings can be used for any purposes including windbreaks and landscaping, and seedlings can now be resold with roots attached.

There is a wide selection of hardwood, evergreen, small tree, and shrub species with prices that range for 30 cents to \$1.40 per seedling. To order, or for more information contact the State Forest Nursery at 1-800-865-2477 or a new on-line site at [www.iowadnr.gov/nursery](http://www.iowadnr.gov/nursery) which will make the ordering process easier. If you have any forestry-related questions or need assistance designing a new tree planting contact Iowa DNR District Forester Mark Vitosh, at (319) 351-8886 or [Mark.Vitosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Mark.Vitosh@dnr.iowa.gov).

## Attention Teachers!

It's not too late to set up a fall fieldtrip or too early to set up your spring fieldtrip. We're getting reservations already, so call us at (563) 264-5922 or email [conservation@co.muscatine.ia.us](mailto:conservation@co.muscatine.ia.us) to get your choice of dates.



---

## Memorials

A tree was planted in Discovery Park  
*In Memory of Beatrice O'Reilly.*

A tree was planted in Discovery Park  
*In Memory of Betty Stinson.*



## Thank You

Thank you to all those who generously gave time, talent, funding and/or materials to help make our programs, projects, and areas better than ever.

*Taylor's Market* - flower, vegetable, & herb plants for our gardening nature camp.

*Mary & Jerry Jones* - snacks for nature camp.

*Lynn Tavener* - monetary donation for our environmental education program.

*Muscatine Veterinary Hospital* - medicine for Chula our Fox snake.

*Joe McNamara* - storage totes and tubs.

*Tom Kindler* - fishing poles for our environmental education program.

*Kay Chapman* - furs and other nature artifacts for our environmental education program.

*Theisen's Davenport Store* - bird seed.

## Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all our volunteers for lending a helping hand with our summer nature camps.

*Julie Herold*  
*Linda Stoddard*  
*Sam Hintermeister*  
*Shawna Trosen*  
*Kathy Jones*

*Jim Wester*  
*Duffy DeFrance*  
*Marla Kurriger*  
*Mary Jones*

## Holiday Closings

The Environmental Learning Center will be closed on Friday, November 10, and Thursday-Friday November 23-24.



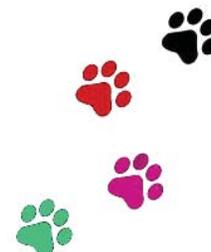
## Volunteers Needed!

Lots of volunteers are needed for a big event like the Halloween Hike on Saturday, October 14. If you love the spotlight we can give you a part as one of the crazy characters, or we have jobs for trail guides, trail maintenance, pumpkin carving, and other behind-the-scenes duties. We'd love to have you help. Contact Michelle at [mberns@co.muscatine.ia.us](mailto:mberns@co.muscatine.ia.us) or (563) 264-5922 if you are interested in volunteering.



---

# Programs & Special Events



## POLLIWOG PLAYTIME

ages 18 months through 3 years    \$5.00/class    maximum 12/class  
Join us at the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park for activities designed to help toddlers explore nature. Children must be accompanied by an adult. All classes meet on the second Thursday of the month from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

September 14	Butterflies	October 12	Apples
November 9	Colors	December 14	The Mitten
January 11	Animal Tracks	February 8	Animal Winter Homes
March 8	Spring Flowers	April 12	Earth Day & Recycling



## KNEE-HIGH NATURALISTS

4-6 year olds    \$5.00/class    maximum 12/class  
must have at least 5 signed up to hold class

Join us at the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park for nature activities such as games, crafts, stories, and exploration. Children must be accompanied by an adult. All classes meet on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

September 9	Monarchs	October 14	Creepy Crawlies
November 11	Turkeys	December 9	The Mitten
January 13	Animal Tracks	February 10	Sneaky Salamanders
March 10	Turtles	April 14	Earth Day & Recycling

## RAPTORS

Come learn about these predators of the sky, and meet some live ones.



Saturday, September 16 7:00 p.m.  
Saulsbury Lodge  
Family event, children must be accompanied by an adult  
Free

---

# Programs & Special Events



## MARVELOUS MONARCHS

Come to the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park and learn about marvelous migrating monarch butterflies. Naturalist Michelle Berns will present a short program on tagging monarchs. Then we'll head out to the prairie and try our luck at catching monarchs to tag. Please wear long pants and tennis shoes as we will be walking through tall grass. If you have a butterfly net, please bring it as we have a limited number of nets.

**Sunday, September 17      2:00 p.m.**  
**Environmental Learning Center**  
**Family event, children must be accompanied by an adult**  
**Free**

## CANOE/KAYAK TRY-IT

Come try out canoeing and kayaking at Deep Lakes Park. All equipment provided. Life jackets available for anyone 30 pounds and over. All participants must wear a life jacket.

**Sunday, September 17      2:00-4:00 p.m.**  
**Lake Chester at Deep Lakes Park**  
**Free**



## 29TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HIKE

Come join our cast of crazy characters for one of our most popular family events, the 29th Annual Halloween Hike. The theme this year is "Brrr!" and will look at how animals "do" winter.

**Saturday, October 14**  
**6:30 p.m. with a new hike starting every 10 minutes until 8:30 p.m.**  
**Discovery Park**  
**\$5.00 per person, under 5 years of age free**



**Tickets are required and may be purchased beginning October 1 at the Environmental Learning Center. We're only doing one night this year so get your tickets early, they'll go fast.**

## TROUT RELEASE

The Iowa DNR will release 1000 trout in Discovery Pond. Fishing can begin immediately after the release. 100 will be tagged and any tagged trout caught before 4:00 p.m. on October 28 may be turned in at the Environmental Learning Center for a prize. All state fishing regulations apply including requirement of a trout stamp.

**Discovery Pond in Discovery Park**  
**Saturday, October 28      10:00 a.m.**



## Become a Friend

Donations to the Muscatine County Conservation Foundation support the development and enhancement of environmental education and conservation projects in Muscatine County.

The names of all donors go into our donor book and those who donate \$250 or more receive a plaque on our donor wall. Please include the form below with your donation and become a "Friend" today.

## Camping at Saulsbury

The Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area campgrounds will open in mid April. Camping fees will be as follows.

- Main Campground \$20/night
- River Campground \$17/night
- Tent Only Area \$10/night
- Permanently Handicapped \$15/night



You can save on camping in the main campground with a coupon book for \$100-that's six nights for the price of five. Available at the Environmental Learning Center or from the park ranger and campground host.

We will also continue with the "Free Wednesdays" and the "Two-for-One" camping specials.

### A Gift For the Conservation Foundation

I would like to become a Friend,  
please accept my donation.

- Sponsor \$10—\$49
- Partner \$50—\$99
- Patron \$100—\$249
- Guardian \$250—\$499
- Steward \$500—\$999
- Benefactor \$1000 +
- I would like to donate my time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support!**

Please make checks payable to:  
Muscatine County Conservation Foundation  
PO Box 109, Muscatine, IA 52761

### TWO-FOR-ONE

Camping Weekends

Camp the first night in any of the campgrounds at Saulsbury and stay for the next night FREE on the weekends listed below.

September 15-16  
October 20-21



FREE Wednesdays

Camp in any of the campgrounds at Saulsbury on any Wednesday in April-October for free.

---

## Eastern Bumble Bee *Bombus impatiens*

by Michelle Berns

Let's start with one of the most likely bumble bees that you will see outside in your garden! They can be found in urban and suburban areas, large gardens and small, yes I am talking about the Eastern bumble bee. They are pretty awesome, highly adaptable and a VIP (Very Important Pollinator.)

Eastern bumble bees are found throughout the eastern U.S. stretching to the middle of Nebraska, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Kansas, and a small portion of northeastern Texas. This one you will see early in the spring and late into the fall due to their ability to warm themselves. They achieve their required 86°F by shivering, warming the thoracic muscles, to be able to take flight.

Eastern bumble bees have a social structure similar to honeybees with a queen, workers, and males. The queen is the only one to survive the winter. In the spring, she comes out of hibernation and looks for a place to start her hive. Hives are located one to three feet underground. Mated the fall before, she lays up to 2,000 eggs. After four days, the eggs hatch and the larva eat a mixture of pollen and nectar that she has gathered. After four instars and two weeks as larva, they pupate. In this resting stage the larvae change from grubs to adults. This stage also lasts about two weeks.

The first adults are all females and immediately start their duties in the hive. They take care of the youngest bumble bees while foraging for pollen and nectar. Near the end of the summer both the males and future queens are raised. The colony can reach 450 plus individuals. Males and new queens depart and the newly mated queens overwinter. The rest of the bumble bees die with the dropping temperatures. In the spring the cycle starts all over.

Eastern bumble bees are used extensively in greenhouses to pollinate crops like tomatoes. Blueberries, raspberries, pumpkins and cucumbers are also heavily pollinated by Eastern bumble

bees. Habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change are all factors that affect bumble bee populations, which are also affecting our honeybees.

Good news though! There are some easy steps you can take to help ALL pollinators. The first step is STOP using chemicals. The second step is to plant pollinator gardens. Try and plant native flowers such as pale purple coneflower or black-eyed susans. But really any pollen rich flowers will work. By planting flowers you are creating habitat and a food source for pollinators. Another step is to get involved with citizen scientist projects. A good website for bumble bees is located at [www.bumblebeewatch.org](http://www.bumblebeewatch.org).



### Fun Facts

- Bumble bees' wings beat up to 200 times per second. That makes the flowers vibrate and release pollen.
- *Bombus dahlbomii*, found in South America, is the world's largest bumble bee. Queens, at over 1.5 inches long, are often described as "flying mice."
- After a bumble bee finishes off all the pollen from a flower, it leaves a smell letting other bumble bees know the flower is empty.

# Topper's Page



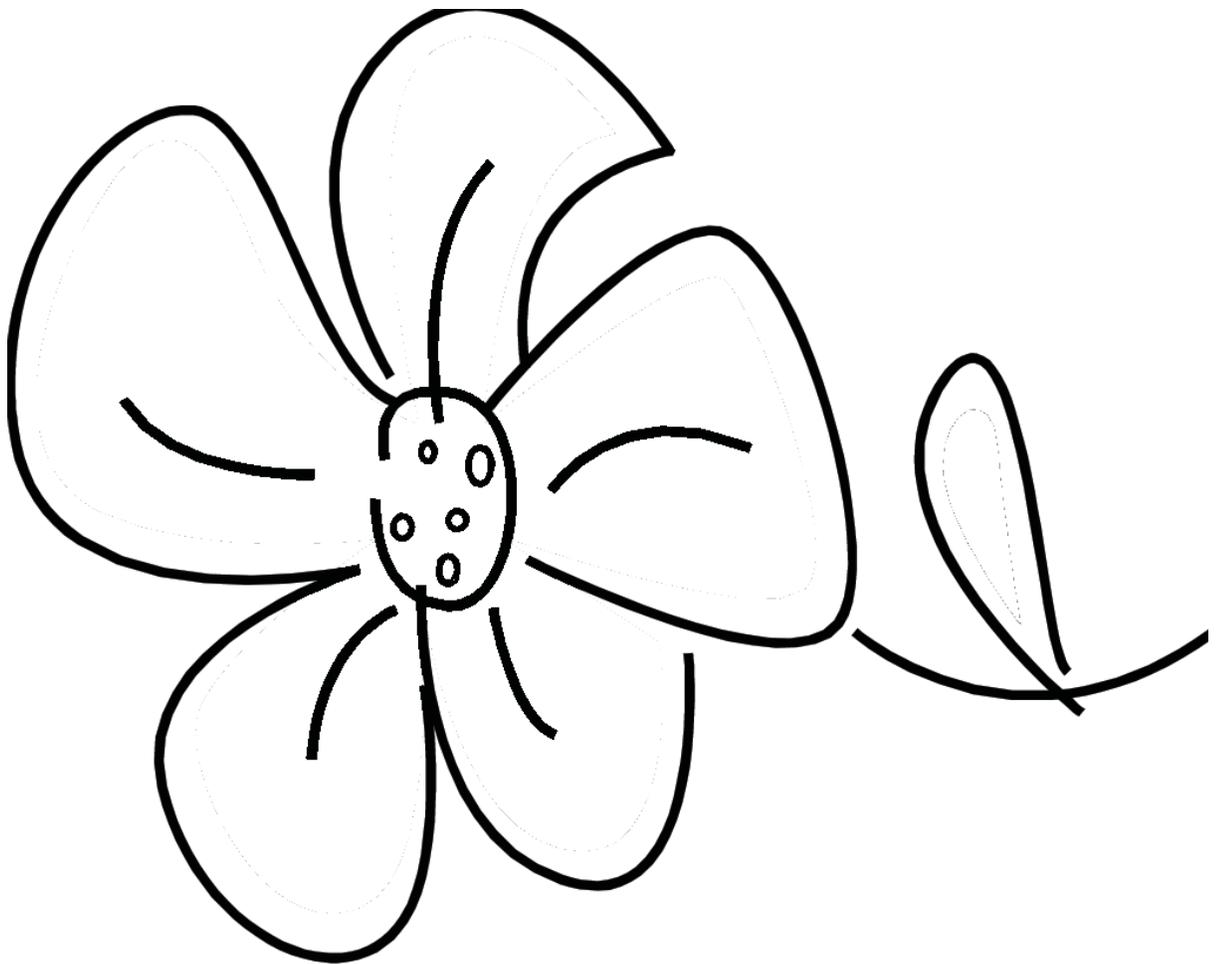
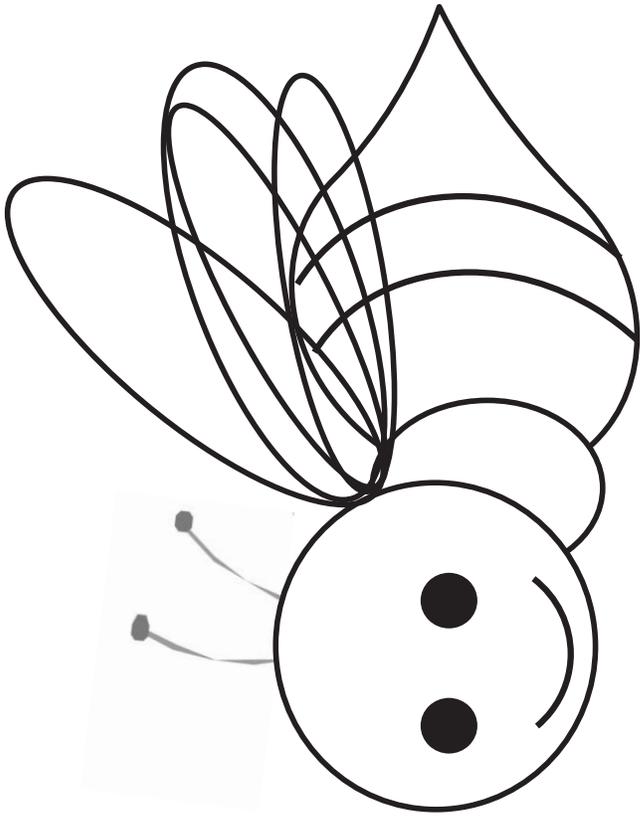
Help Topper answer the questions about bees, then find the answers in the grid. Words may appear up, down, backward or forward.



1. Bees have 5 eyes and 2 pairs of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Bees collect nectar and \_\_\_\_\_ from flowers.
3. Honey bees use \_\_\_\_\_ from flowers to make honey.
4. Bees beat their wings 200 times per \_\_\_\_\_.
5. It is believed that bees \_\_\_\_\_ a third of the food we eat.
6. Bees make egg cells from \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Most bees in a bumble bee or honey bee colony are \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The leafcutter bee is a type of \_\_\_\_\_ bee.
9. Male bees are called \_\_\_\_\_.
10. A group of bees living together in a nest or bee hive is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

w	i	n	g	s	p	s
o	p	s	h	l	o	e
r	o	o	l	x	l	n
k	l	l	s	i	l	o
e	l	i	p	n	i	r
r	e	t	y	d	n	d
s	n	a	n	w	a	x
b	c	r	o	r	t	s
x	d	y	l	x	e	m
s	e	c	o	n	d	c
b	n	e	c	t	a	r





MUSCATINE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
3300 CEDAR STREET  
PO BOX 109  
MUSCATINE, IA 52761

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Muscatine, IA  
Permit No. 71

## MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

### BOARD MEMBERS

Deb Elliott	Chairperson
Mark Petersen	Vice-chairperson
Jenny Paetz	Member
Jim Goedken	Member
Mike Schulte	Member

### STAFF

Curt Weiss	Director
Dave Bakke	Naturalist/Park Officer
Michelle Berns	Naturalist
Bob Kenyon	Operations Supervisor
Kent Kaufman	Park Attendant
Ryne Brimeyer	Park Officer
Jill Ziegenhorn	Office Manager
Dave Schuler	Learning Center Assistant

**3300 Cedar Street, PO Box 109**

**Muscatine, IA 52761**

**P(563) 264-5922 F(563) 264-6097**

**conservation@co.muscatine.ia.us**

**www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com**

The Muscatine County Conservation Board meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Environmental Learning Center, 3300 Cedar Street in Muscatine. The public is welcome to attend.

---

If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Muscatine County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240



*Find us on Facebook.*



*Printed on recycled paper.*