



# CONSERVATION NEWS



A Publication of the Muscatine County Conservation Board

Volume 28 No. 2 Summer 2011

## Fishing Outreach Grant

The Urban and/or Under-served Populations Fishing Outreach Grant had twenty applicants. Muscatine County was one of eight groups across Iowa that received a grant to incorporate fishing-related programs into their education departments. With the \$5,000 grant we hired two part-time fishing educators for this summer. Mary Bulger and Jennifer Simpson took on those positions.

Our local program, GO FISH MUSCATINE COUNTY 2011, has reached many people already. After a month and a half we have held 41 programs and served around 1600 children and adults! This is an amazing amount of people to have reached in such a short time. Most of May was spent helping numerous children, who came to Discovery Park and Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area, on school fieldtrips learn to fish. There were also programs using only cane poles and drop-in fishing at Discovery Park. In addition, there was a program on catfish at Chicken Creek.

In early June we wrapped up school fieldtrips and the girls helped out with the annual Kid's Fishing Seminar leading the casting and basic tackle sessions. A fishing day camp was held for kids in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades and well received. Area seniors were invited out for several senior fishing days at Discovery Park. During the rest of June visits to the Muscatine School lunch sites to teach children about casting and fishing were held as well as several programs with the Salvation Army, drop-in fishing at Weed Park, and programs about aquatic habitats.

We are scheduling programs for the rest of the summer, so if there is a fishing program that your

group would like instruction on please call us at (563) 264-5922. With the grant all programs are FREE OF CHARGE! For more information contact Mary Bulger at (563) 264-5922 or [mbulger@co.muscatine.ia.us](mailto:mbulger@co.muscatine.ia.us).

Go to [www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com](http://www.MuscatineCountyConservation.com) to view the programs or find them at GO FISH MUSCATINE COUNTY 2011 on Facebook for the most up-to-date event invites!



*Glen Hagy, a resident of Carrington Place, shows off the catfish he caught in Discovery Pond.*



*Jennifer Simpson shows 2nd graders from Riverside Elementary some fishing basics.*

## 2011 MYCC

The Muscatine County Conservation Board is pleased to announce that the following students from Muscatine County were selected to participate in the 2011 Muscatine Youth Conservation Corps program.

*Colby Claussen*  
*Derek Johnson*  
*Drew Mathias*  
*Gabriel Phillips*

*Dakota Even*  
*Trevor Levins*  
*Cameron Miller*  
*Megan Shoppa*

The Muscatine Youth Conservation Corps (MYCC) is a work/learn employment program for area youth ages 16-18. The eight youth, along with crew leaders Melanie Wachtel and Al Oestmann, began work on June 21 and will work for six weeks this summer on a wide variety of conservation and outdoor recreation related projects for the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County. They will also participate in several conservation education and outdoor recreation programs.

The 2011 MYCC program is made possible by the financial support of the following local city and county governments, businesses, industries, and organizations. Thank you for your support!

*City of Muscatine*  
*Muscatine Foods Corporation*  
*Muscatine Chapter of the Izaak Walton League*  
*Central State Bank*  
*First National Bank*  
*Community Bank*  
*Muscatine County*  
*HNI Charitable Foundation*  
*Kiwanis Club of Muscatine*  
*H.J. Heinz Company*  
*SSAB*



## Thanks Friends

Thank you to our "Friends" whose donations to the Muscatine County Conservation Foundation support the development and enhancement of environmental education and conservation projects in Muscatine County.

*Lynn Tavener*  
*Jane Hudson*  
*Veronika & Alexander Roelle*

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.

### 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

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## An Unexpected Surprise

Recently two young boys donated all of their birthday money to the Learning Center. They sent out an invitation that asked for money to feed the Learning Center animals instead of gifts. Staff was very surprised and pleased that such young children would even suggest this instead of asking for toys for their birthday like many other youngsters.

These boys are brothers, Lodden Axtell who just turned five and Casten Axtell who just turned three. They have been coming to the Learning Center for Polliwog Playtime and Knee-High Naturalist classes for a while now. Every month after nature camp class the boys visit all of the Learning Center's resident animals. Lodden's favorite animal is Benny the Bullsnake and Casten's are the turtles.

All of us at the Learning Center want to thank Lodden and Casten for their kind donation to help feed the animals!



*Casten and Lodden Axtell holding  
Maizie the Corn Snake.*

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who generously donated their time to help out with school fieldtrips and public fishing programs.



**Ken Hyman**  
**Al Wagner**  
**Kally Boyer**

**Jim Goedken**  
**Paul Mayes**  
**Dusty Schaffer**

## Eagle Scout Project

Thank you to Jack Rabedeaux of Boy Scout Troop 151 from Wilton and his crew who removed the old stairs at Jack Shuger Memorial Park and constructed new stairs for his Eagle Scout project.



## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated time, funding, and materials in support of our projects and programs. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

**Julie Herold** - instructing the Polliwog Playtime classes.

**Mollie Newburg** - books for the environmental education program.

**Roberta Gabbard** - getting the spring newsletter ready to mail.

**Shirley Huff** - collection of birds' nests.

**Earl Millar** - deer skull.

**Uriah Vowels** - deer antlers.

**Jack & Nate Harfst** - a supply of crayons.

**Don Stange** - bales of straw.

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# Programs and Special Events

## WILDCATS OF IOWA

Join Naturalist Michelle Berns for a presentation on bobcats and mountain lions. Learn how to identify the elusive bobcat and just how big a mountain lion really is!



**Saturday, July 23 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saulsbury Lodge**  
**Free**

## HUNTER EDUCATION

Anyone born after January 1, 1972 who wants to purchase a hunting license in Iowa must have successfully completed a Hunter Education course. The minimum age for certification is twelve. Each class is limited to 40 students. Attendance at all three class sessions is mandatory.

You are required to preregister on-line at [www.iowadnr.gov/training](http://www.iowadnr.gov/training). After preregistering online you need to pick up a workbook (no later than 7 days before the start of the class) at the Conservation Board office. The workbook questions must be completed prior to the first night of class or you will not be allowed into the class.

### **Environmental Learning Center - Muscatine**

August 10-11 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
August 13\* 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

### **Wilton High School**

September 7-8 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
September 10\* 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

### **West Liberty High School**

August 24-25 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
August 27\* 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

### **Environmental Learning Center - Muscatine**

September 21-22 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
September 24\* 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

\*Class meets on this day at the West Liberty Gun Club.

## MARVELOUS MONARCHS

Come to the 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.



**Saturday, September 10 & Saturday, September 17 10:00 a.m.**  
**Thursday, September 15 6:00 p.m.**  
**Learning Center & Discovery Park**  
**Free**

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# Programs and Special Events

## POLLIWOG PLAYTIME

ages 18 months through 3 years    \$4.00/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 a Thursday from 9:15-10:15 a.m.



September 8    “Butterflies”  
October 13    “Fall Happenings”  
November 10    “Tails”  
December 8    “Snow Way”

January 12    “Owl Moon”  
February 9    “Terrific Turtles”  
March 8    “Busy Bees”  
April 12    “Animal Babies”

## KNEE-HIGH NATURALISTS

4-5 year olds    \$4.00/class    maximum 12/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 a Saturday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. except the September 10 class which meets from 1:00-2:00 p.m.\*\*



September 10 “Butterflies”\*\*  
October 8    “Fall Happenings”  
November 12 “Tails”  
December 10 “Snow Way!”

January 14    “Owl Moon”  
February 11    “Terrific Turtles”  
March 10    “Busy Bees”  
April 14    “Animal Babies”



## 23RD ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HIKE

Come join our cast of crazy characters for one of our most popular family events, the 23rd Annual Halloween Hike.

Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22  
7:00 p.m. with a new hike starting every 10 minutes until 8:00 p.m.  
Discovery Park  
\$4.00 per person, under 5 years of age free

Tickets are required and may be purchased beginning October 1 at the Learning Center.

# VERB

## Summer Scorecard Program

VERB is a summer program to help get kids ages 8-13 more active. There are eight different VERB communities, including Muscatine, participating across Iowa. So how do you participate in the Muscatine VERB program?



Pick up a scorecard at one of four locations across the community (Environmental Learning Center, Muscatine Community Y, Musser Public Library, and the Aquatic Center).

The scorecards have 11 yellow squares and 4 red squares. The yellow squares can be initialed by a parent, guardian, coach, or any adult for every 60 minutes of activity. The red squares can be completed by attending a VERB “Fun Event”



or “Cool Deal.” To find a VERB sponsored event check out the website at [www.iowaverb.org](http://www.iowaverb.org) and choose Muscatine County from the drop down menu on the right under “Where do you VERB?”

Completed scorecards can be dropped off at the participating locations for a prize. All completed scorecards will be entered into a drawing for a grand prize at the end of the program. Questions about this program? Contact Michelle Berns at (563) 264-5922 or [mberns@co.muscatine.ia.us](mailto:mberns@co.muscatine.ia.us).



## Camping at Saulsbury

Camping season at the Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area is in full swing. Prices are listed below.

- Main Campground (sites 1-24) \$15/night
- River Campground (sites 25-33) \$12/night
- Tent Only Areas (A&B) \$ 8/night
- Permanently Handicapped \$11/night

You can save on camping in the main campground with a coupon book for \$75-that’s six nights for the price of five. Available at the Environmental Learning Center or from the park ranger.

We still have the “Free Wednesdays” and the “Two-for-One” camping specials going on.

### TWO-FOR-ONE Camping Weekends

Camp the first night in any of the campgrounds at Saulsbury and stay the next night FREE.

July 15-16

August 19-20

September 16-17

October 21-22



### FREE Wednesdays

Camp in any of the campgrounds at Saulsbury on any Wednesday in May-October for FREE.

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## Kids Fishing Seminar & Derby

It was a warm sunny morning for the 104 kids who attended the 31st Annual Kids Fishing Seminar held on June 4 at Discovery Park.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources presented two of the education stations, the “Fish ID” and the “Rules & Regulations” stations. Conservation Board staff manned the “Fishing Basics” station and the “Casting” station. The kids spent the first hour and a half rotating through the different education stations. Then we gave away lots of door prizes.

The 4th Annual Kids Fishing Derby was held after the seminar. Prizes were given away for the first fish caught, longest and shortest fish, and the most fish caught. The kids were divided into three age groups with prizes in each of the categories for each age group. Congratulations to all who participated.

### Preschool thru First Grade Winners

**Jaycee Lane** - First Fish  
**Meliah Martin** - Shortest Fish  
**Jaylin Schemig** - Longest Fish  
**Lexi Coulter** - Most Fish

### Second and Third Grade Winners

**Alexa Durhammer** - First Fish  
**Arianna Roberson** - Shortest Fish  
**Kristen Schlawin** - Longest Fish  
**William Martin** - Most Fish

### Fourth and Fifth Grade Winners

**Jacob Hilton** - First Fish  
**Drake Rickey** - Shortest Fish  
**Tanner Place** - Longest Fish  
**Makayla Keller** - Most Fish



*Lots of activity at the “Casting” station.*

Thanks to all the volunteers and staff who made the fishing seminar and derby a huge success.

<b>Betty Sauer</b>	<b>Carol Christophersen</b>
<b>Luana Gredell</b>	<b>Al Wagner</b>
<b>Tiffany Lerch</b>	<b>Dave Jones</b>
<b>Kally Boyer</b>	<b>Jennifer Simpson</b>
<b>Dusty Schaffer</b>	<b>Vance Polton</b>
<b>Barb Gross</b>	<b>Tom Gross</b>
<b>Roberta Gabbard</b>	<b>Tom Campbell</b>
<b>Aaron Campbell</b>	<b>Mary Bulger</b>
<b>Dave Bakke</b>	<b>Michelle Berns</b>
<b>Curt Weiss</b>	<b>Jill Ziegenhorn</b>

Thanks to all the donors who helped make this event a success.

**The Country Store-Lloyd & Dorothy Deahr**  
**Muscatine Chapter Izaak Walton League**  
**Fred’s Feed & Supply - West Liberty**  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**Blain’s Farm & Fleet**  
**Pork 360 East-Mike & Sue Deahr**  
**Wiele Chevrolet**  
**Pam Wever**  
**Monsanto**  
**Wal-Mart**  
**Long John Silvers**



*Vance Polton of the Iowa DNR shows the kids a fish at the “Fish ID” station.*



*Learning to set up the line at the “Fishing Basics” station.*



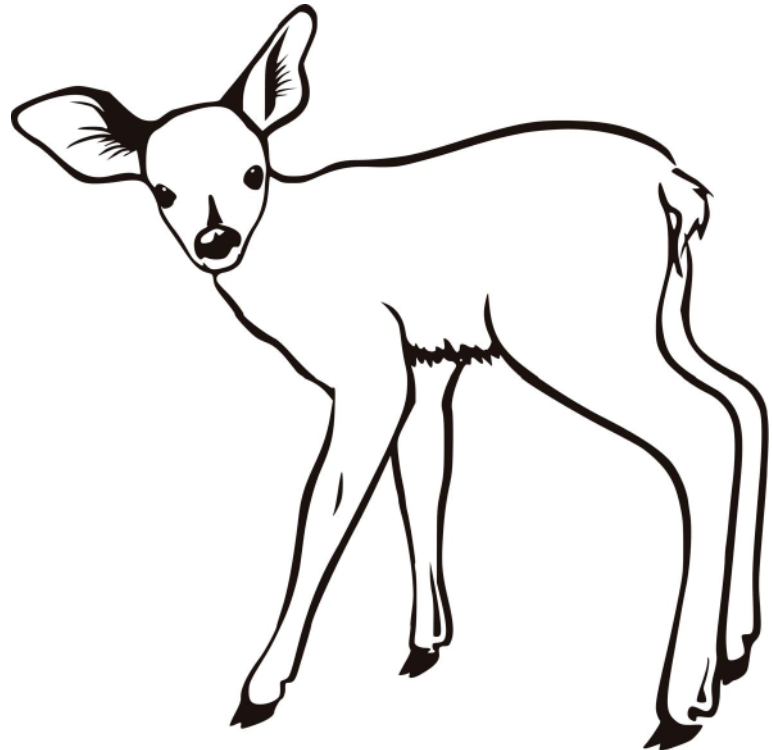
# Topper's Page

Summer is a wonderful time! Children are out of school, and spending a lot of time outside. Look around and observe nature up close! There are many animals that live in the city. Help Topper find some animals that you might see in an urban area.

- BROWN BAT
- RACCOON
- CARDINAL
- RED FOX
- CHIPMUNK
- ROBIN
- COTTONTAIL
- SKUNK
- COYOTE
- SNAKE
- DEER
- SPIDER
- FROG
- SQUIRREL
- INSECT
- TURTLE
- OPOSSUM
- WOODCHUCK

R T K C X K N U K S U L  
A A W C A O D E E R E L  
C B I T U R F L N R T E  
C N E N Y H D D R Z O K  
O W F V S S C I E C Y A  
O O J R G E U D N R O N  
N R V V O Q C I O A C S  
M B N M S G B T X O L P  
L I A T N O T T O C W I  
I X T U R T L E S B L D  
C T C H I P M U N K M E  
M U S S O P O S V G B R

Help Topper color the animals.



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

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## MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Dave Jones	Member
Mike Hartman	Member
Jim Goedken	Member

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Dave Bakke	Naturalist/Park Ranger
Michelle Berns	Naturalist
Bob Kenyon	Operations Supervisor
Kent Kaufman	Park Attendant
Jill Ziegenhorn	Office Manager
Mary Bulger	Learning Center Assistant

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.

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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

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