



Lyon County Conservation Newsletter

LYON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
WWW.LYONCOUNTYIOWA.COM

Winter/Spring
2022 Edition
Funded by Lyon County
Conservation
Foundation

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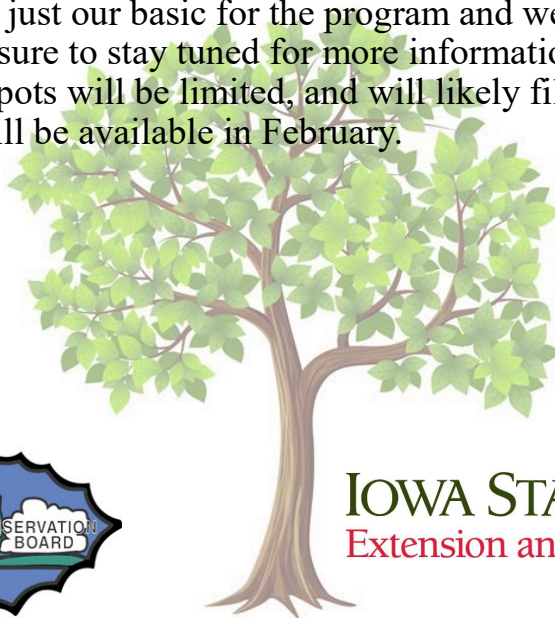
Master Conservationist

By: Emily Ostrander

You may have heard of Master Gardener, but here is Master Conservationist. This is your chance to learn a little about our land's history, conservation, and agriculture. This program is amazing, it is like fieldtrips for adults and food is provided;) There are 7 Tuesday night fieldtrips (April 19-May 31) that will take you throughout the area learning about our landscape, agriculture, and history. Sessions run from 5:30-7:30pm and will include light meal. \$20/participant

1. Calico Skies Winery-this will be an introduction to the program and learn about the agriculture of making wines with their yummy fire oven pizzas.
2. Aquatics-fish shocking at Lake Pahoja
3. Prairie-experience a night burn and help with the process.
4. Our land-learn the geology of our land through a hayrack ride
5. Forests-what do forests, honey, and coffee have in common. Come on out to find out.
6. Conservation tour
7. Nature center-recap with prairie planting

This is just our basic for the program and we are adding things daily. Make sure to stay tuned for more information and how to get signed up. Spots will be limited, and will likely fill up fast. Registration forms will be available in February.



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Director's Den

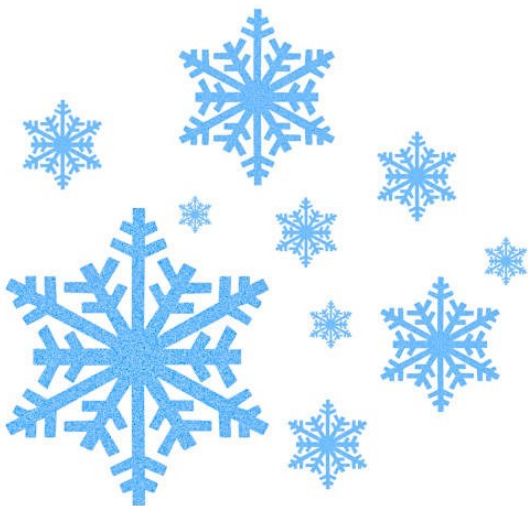
by Justin Smith



Typically this is the time of year I write about the upcoming ice fishing season. I usually talk about what kind of lures and bait to use on certain types of fish. I also talk about the techniques to use to catch the different types of fish out at Lake Pahoja. I usually talk about ice safety and all the other things that go with the winter fishing season. But this year I was asked to talk about something different.

As you may or may not know from reading my articles from previous newsletters, I have been employed as a Park Ranger with Lyon County for 17 years. I was hired in the summer of 2004 as a wide eyed, fresh out of college kid who wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I loved the outdoors and had worked for O'Brien County Conservation for a couple of summers and enjoyed that very much. But as season changes, and the weather and my hair get grayer, other things must also change. I am excited to announce that I have been hired for the Director position here with Lyon County Conservation. I will be taking over for long time Lyon County Conservation Director, Craig Van Otterloo, who retired in December. Craig has done a great job here as Director and I hope to continue in that tradition. I want to continue to make Lake Pahoja and all the LCCB areas great places to recreate and enjoy. I plan to work with current and new staff to gather ideas for improvements at the lake, and other LCCB areas. I would like to update some of our older facilities at Lake Pahoja that we haven't had a chance to update yet. I want

to continue to work on our new Education Center with updated displays and activities for everyone to do. Eventually I would like to create a day use area on the eastern side of Lyon County complete with fishing, hunting, and possibly a picnic area. I also hope to expand our Environmental Education and offer more programs at the new Education Center (pending Emily's approval.) Achieving all this will take teamwork, time, and money. I believe we have the staff to accomplish these goals. Now all we need is time and money. Please come in and check out the new facility, and don't forget to say hi.



WINTER/SPRING CONSERVATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

Annual Kid's Ice Fishing Clinic

Saturday, January 22

3-5pm

Lake Pahoja (East Shelter)

Come out to Lake Pahoja and have a great time ice fishing for prizes. Registrations start at the East Shelter at 2:30 pm (free, but must register to win prizes and preregistration is not needed). Special prizes for youth-largest and most fish caught and a door prize for all youth participants. Bluegill must be 5" or bigger and walleye and bass must be 15" or bigger to qualify. Bait will be provided for youth participants at the shelter.

Participants 16 and older license required

Don't have equipment or have never. No worries, come to the East Shelter after 3pm and get the basics in ice fishing and try your luck with some local experts:) Tackle will be provided. Just take a bucket or chair to sit on. Adults taking youth will be registered to win a Scheel's gift cards for \$25.



Live Bald Eagle

Saturday, February 12

10am

Lake Pahoja Ed Center

Want to meet our national symbol up close and personal? Come on out to meet a bald eagle and learn fascinating facts about our national bird. This is a family friendly program. Also stick around to check out our new snake exhibit and scavenger hunt.

Coffee for Conservation

March 3

10am at the Lake Pahoja Ed Center

3pm at the Little Rock Library

This new program will feature a different theme each time (whether it be live animals, to planting butterfly gardens, to guest speakers who have traveled the world) This program is for adults and we will provide coffee and a treat. Same program will be given at both locations. Please preregister by March 2 to make sure we have enough for everyone. Topic to be announced in February.



Registration information below.

Nature Trivia Night

Wednesday, March 23

6pm

Lake Pahoja Ed Center

Conservation Foundation is hosting our first adult nature trivia night. This night will consist of teams of up to 6 answering fun nature trivia questions and some not so nature ones also, \$25/participant. Don't worry if you don't have a complete team, we will group you up. And if you're not a nature expert, many questions will be multiple choice. Snacks and pop will be served. BYOB for those of age. Winning team each member gets \$25 gift certificate to use towards camping, cabins, annual pass, shelter, or gift shop.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS, PLEASE CONTACT EMILY AT

WINTER/SPRING CONSERVATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

Nature Tots

February 18, March 18, and April 8
9-9:50am or 10-10:50
Lake Pahoja Education Center

Nature Tots is back for a winter/spring sessions. This fun program is for 2-5 year olds with a favorite adult. We read stories, meet animals, play games, do crafts and of course have a snack:) The cost for this program is \$15/child or \$10/child with Lyon County Conservation Membership. Spots are limited.



Camper's Individual Record

Child's Name _____ Age _____ Boy _____ Girl _____

Email _____

Phone# _____ Time Slot 9am _____ or 10am _____

I am willing to let the above named child participate in the activities of the 2022 LCCB Camp Program/public programs. In case of medical emergency, I give the host site the permission to take my child to a hospital for: examination and treatment of injuries, x-rays and other required care. (Please attach an explanation if your child has any food allergies or special needs that need to be taken into consideration when planning snacks and activities.) I understand that photos taken during this camp may be used in publicity produced for Lyon County Conservation, including their websites.

Signature of Parent

Date

Master Conservationist

April 19 April 26 May 3,
May 10, May 17, May 24, and
May 31.

Various Fieldtrips with food;)
\$20/participant



This cool partnership program with ISU Extension office includes fun trips (winery, apiary, prairie fires, and so much more) to different places in county to learn about our land, conservation and agriculture.

Stay tuned for signup coming in February

NATURE TALES

Nature Tales is a fun, hands-on program for all ages. Join us for a wild story and activity to learn about the outdoors. Check the library near you for times and dates.

Little Rock Public Library (3pm):

January 12, February 16, March 16,
& April 6

George Public Library (3pm):

January 19, February 23, March 23,
& April 13

***Don't forget to come check out our new
snake exhibit and scavenger hunt**



EAB

By: Kyle Ciesielski

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has recently popped back into the news around NW IOWA. The most recent discovery in Iowa was in a tree on the western edge of Lyon County along the Big Sioux River at the Iowa DNR public hunting area along Highway 18. This tree has been positively identified and confirmed for having emerald ash borer. This is the first sighting of this invasive beetle within Lyon County. So, what is all the fuss about this beetle and why are so many people worried?

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is perhaps one of the most destructive tree pests we have seen in decades. It has killed millions of ash trees in the Midwest already. The emerald ash borer will only affect species of ash trees in the genus *Fraxinus*. Some of these trees include green ash, white ash, black ash, blue ash, and pumpkin ash. Mountain ash tree species are not affected by EAB. The emerald ash borer is native to East Asia and was imported to the United States within the wood of shipping crates from China. EAB was first discovered in North America near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. Iowa found emerald ash borer for the first time in 2010. The pest was found on an island in NE Iowa in the main channel of the Mississippi River. Since then, Iowa's EAB infestation has been quickly spreading from the east side of the state to the west. Iowa's EAB has been officially found in 80 of our 99 counties.

The adult beetle is emerald green and shiny which is how it got its name. The abdomen under the wings of an adult beetle is a bright shiny purple. It is only about 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide, and is about the size of Lincoln's image on a penny. The adult emerald ash borer beetle will emerge or exit out of the tree by chewing a distinctive D-shaped hole through the bark approximately 1/8 inch wide. These D-shaped exit holes can be used to identify the emerald ash borer from other tree insects. Adult beetles will feed on ash leaves, but do not cause noticeable tree damage.

The larva or grub stage of emerald ash borer is the real threat to the ash trees. The larvae look similar to white grubs. The larva feeds under the bark of the tree in a S-shaped pattern. This tunneling activity of the feeding larva damages the ability of the tree to transport water and nutrients up the tree. The larva damage may kill the tree in as little as 2 to 4 years. This larva damage is solely responsible for all the tree damage and causes all of the tree deaths.

EAB is now in our part of the state. So, what can be done about this? For starters, the beetle can only travel 2-5 miles in its lifetime. This means that as fast as this infestation has been spreading proves that it is not traveling just by itself. People are helping transport this pest throughout the state. The spread of EAB into uninfected areas of Iowa has been done primarily through the movement of firewood. A burn it where you buy it policy on firewood is good and will help slow down the spread of EAB. Now is the time for tree owners to decide a course of action for their ash trees at risk of an EAB attack. For landowners and managers around our area, you can choose to wait and see what happens. It may take years for the beetle to move into your area. You may also decide to remove any declining ash trees and replace them with other species. For preventative measures where people want to try to preserve and protect a valuable and healthy ash tree, it can be protected with insecticide. Tree service companies can apply insecticide trunk injections when the tree is actively growing. Most of the treatments must be done each year for the entire life of the tree. Keep in mind that these treatments are expensive and are NOT guaranteed to save your tree. It is recommended that only ash trees within 15 miles of a confirmed EAB site be possibly considered for any of these preventive treatments if they have a nice healthy ash tree that they really want to try and save.

At Lake Pahoja we have many ash trees that are throughout the entire park. We are going to wait and monitor these trees and see what happens. We are not going to treat any of our trees with insecticides because it would be too costly. We have a nursery of varied tree species started over by the nature center that we will use for replacement trees in the park if EAB does move in and starts killing off our ash trees. If you do suspect any EAB infestation in your ash trees feel free to contact any of these offices for further assistance:

State Entomologist Office: 515-725-1470

Iowa DNR Forestry: 515- 725-8543

ISU Extension and Outreach: 515-294-1101



Meet the New Park Ranger

It is our pleasure to introduce our new Park Ranger, Brandon Koel. Brandon comes to us from the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, but is actually not a new face to conservation. Back in 2011-2015 he worked summers at Lake Pahoja as grounds and as a park attendant. Brandon is a 2009 graduate of Central Lyon, where he played football and ran track and is excited about being back in his home county. Brandon is married to Aly and they have a 2 year old son named Braxton.

In his free time, Brandon likes to trail ride and hike the Hills looking for elk antlers. He also likes to hunt and fish every chance he gets. He enjoys watching all levels of football and when he is not doing these things, you can find him in the gym.

Brandon says, "I'm very excited and am looking forward to moving back home to work for Lyon County. This is the career I've always wanted and have been waiting for! Continuing to adapt and make improvements to our county recreation areas will be a fun and interesting process. I can't wait to get the ball rolling!

Brandon has lots of ideas he is hoping to share in Lyon County. One idea, taken from South Dakota, is their Youth Hunting and Fishing Adventures. This is a mentoring program that is one on one (adult to child) and takes them out hunting or fishing. It is a program that introduces them to the outdoors and provides guidance in the two pastimes with safety taught along the way.

WELCOME BRANDON!



Name the Animal Ambassador

Thanks for all the entries for our tiger salamanders. Winners were voted on by conservation staff and we are pleased to introduce you to Sly and Speckle. Sly and Speckle were named by 5 year old Finley and she will be taking home a \$25 gift certificate to the gift shop at the education center.

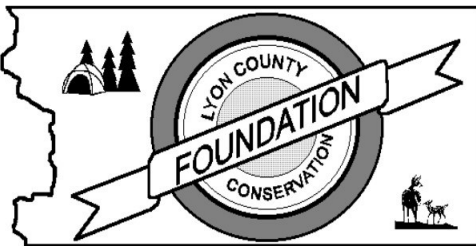
Our animal ambassador for this issue that we are looking to name is our 3 toed box turtle. He is not native to this part of Iowa but is a common land turtle in the southeast parts of our state. Being a land box turtle, his shell is just the right size for pulling in all his body parts safely from predators, even his tiny little tail. But no full out swimming for this guy, he does though enjoy wading in his swimming pool;)

We know he is a boy by the color of his eyes. He has red eyes with some red, orange, yellow coloring on face. Were as a girl would have yellowish eyes without the facial colorings.

Most male 3 toed turtles like living the solitary life., and ours is no different. He is pretty shy and doesn't like too much attention.

He is an omnivore, which means he eats a varied diet of meat and plants. His favorite being fruit, especially watermelon. He does enjoy occasional worm or cricket.

Lifespan of a three toed is around 50 years. You can age them by their scutes or plate size. Judging ours is around 25 years old, but I am by no means an expert;). So email your names to lccbnaturalist@lyoncountyaia.com by April 4 and we will announce the winner in our summer issue coming out in May.



What is Lyon County Conservation Foundation?

It is a nonprofit that helps support conservation and environmental education. Helps Miss Emily expand and offer more environmental education programming (like archery, kayaks, taxidermies)

Would you like to be a member? It includes are 3x a year newsletter and discounted rates on camps and programs (like nature tots & summer camps). And most importantly you would be helping support our outreach of conservation and education.

If you or someone you know would like to become a member of the Lyon County Conservation Foundation, complete the information blank below, clip out and send with your \$25.00 membership dues to: Lyon County Conservation Foundation, 1651 180th St, Inwood, IA 51240. For more information call the Lyon County Conservation Board, 712-753-2033.

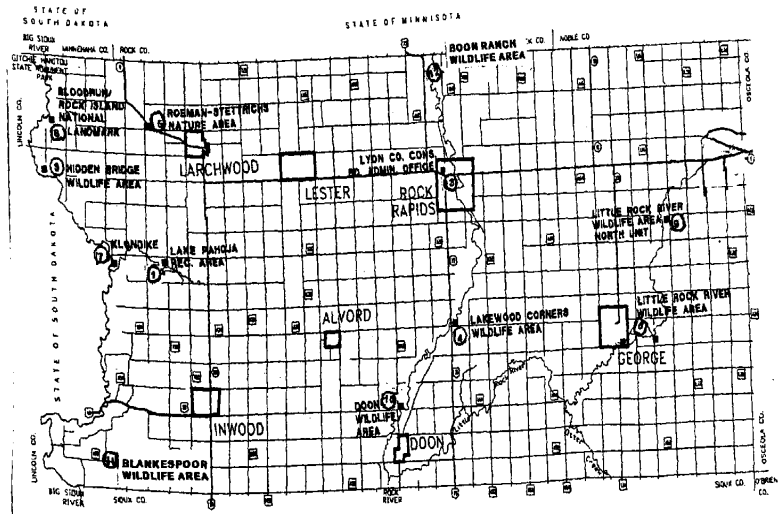
Name _____ Phone(_____) _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please circle how you would like to receive newsletter: hard copy electronic

Visit a LCCB
Rec. Area!



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Todd Reinke, Chairman
Jeff Schram,
Jared Van Engen, Vice Chair
Matthew Grave, Secretary

Larchwood
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Rock Rapids
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George

Staff

Justin Smith	Director
Kyle Ciesielski	Operations Supervisor
Brandon Koel	Park Ranger
Kayla Gerloff	Office Manager
Emily Ostrander	Naturalist

Phone Numbers to Remember

Lake Pahojia Education Center	(712) 753-2033
Lake Pahojia Recreation Area	(712) 753-2313

Lyon County
Conservation Foundation
1651 180th St.
Inwood, IA 51240

Lyon County's programs and facilities are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, age, and handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Lyon County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 29240.