

The New Leaf

CLARKE COUNTY CONSERVATION
BOARD AND FRIENDS

Spring 2017

Upcoming Events

April 22 – Clarke County Hospital and the Clarke County Conservation board is sponsoring an Earth Day event at East Lake Park – events include a 5k Run/walk and a nature hike for the kids. Event start at 9:00 am

July 8 – 2nd Annual Garden Tractor Show at East Lake Park – all day

Southern Iowa Hive Handlers monthly meetings – Dates to be determined, held at various locations.

For more information about these or other suggestions for events contact the Clarke County Conservation Board at 641-342-3960

Contact Information

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2451 Highway 34
Osceola, IA 50213

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641-342-3960

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clarkeccb/](https://www.facebook.com/clarkeccb/)

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clarkeccb@gmail.com

Conservation

Director :

Scott Kent



Volunteer Spotlight

Marilyn Dorland was born 83 years ago, and raised on a farm in Clarke County. Her lifelong interest in the environment and conservation began with her parents. She was taught to identify wild plants and wild animals as a child. That interest has continued to this day.

Like so many children of that era she helped her parents with planting gardens and trees. She was obsessed with pulling non-native weeds, and this habit continues today.

As an adult she purchased 78 acres of woodland adjacent to her parent's farm. In the late 80's she participated in the ISU Master Woodland program. Marilyn has planted around 400 walnut trees on this property. Until she became a cancer survivor 9 years ago, she held annual picnics on this property. Sometimes, there were as many as 80 people participating in hikes and lectures about plants, trees, mushrooms, and the animal diversity in her timber. A 1/3 acre pond was added for them to enjoy.

Marilyn's passion to grow things turned her to the ISU Extension Master Garden program. While participating in the Farmer's Market in Osceola she heard from many people that they wished they had a place to garden. Marilyn contacted the local Extension Service in 2001. By 2003 she and the Extension had property available to interested gardeners. They started with eight 10'x20' beds. By 2016, there are 35 beds with people growing all kinds of crops. This garden is called a Diversity Garden, because it serves the Latino population in our city. Marilyn is a quiet presence who gives out advice on how to protect the environment as she walks by a gardener. They always take her advice to protect good insects and the birds that share this space.

Marilyn is sought as an advisor for surrounding areas. She has helped the Murray Methodist Church to establish a garden for local people to share. She is a popular speaker on "Gardening with the Environment". Helping 4-H children to understand the importance of sustainable gardening is one of her many projects.

Marilyn has volunteered to lead school groups for the Conservation Board's school trips since the early '80's. She has passed on to hundreds of school children her amazing knowledge of everything from how the Native people used plants to how we can protect them today. She has volunteered to be a board member for the newly formed Friends of Clarke County Conservation.

Marilyn's concern for environment even extends to recycling. She is a volunteer for CROSS Ministries in Osceola. In the winter time she turns pillowcases into dresses, and t-shirts into shorts. 800 of these pieces of clothing have been sent abroad to Haiti, Nigeria, South Africa and Honduras. Volunteers have taken lessons from her to save these fabrics from ending up in the landfill.

During the summer, Marilyn volunteers at CROSS Ministries to sort plastic, fabric, cardboard, metal and books for recycling. This takes up 15 to 20 hours a week at CROSS Ministries.

Marilyn Dorland and husband Merrill have been married 64 years. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. At 83, she hopes that the projects she has started and thrived continue on, even when she can only participate as an advisor.

Article written by Beth Brown

Friends Board

Members:

Larry Keller - President

Frank Riley - Vice President

Scott Kent - Secretary

Bev Seeberger - Treasure

Marilyn Dorland - Director

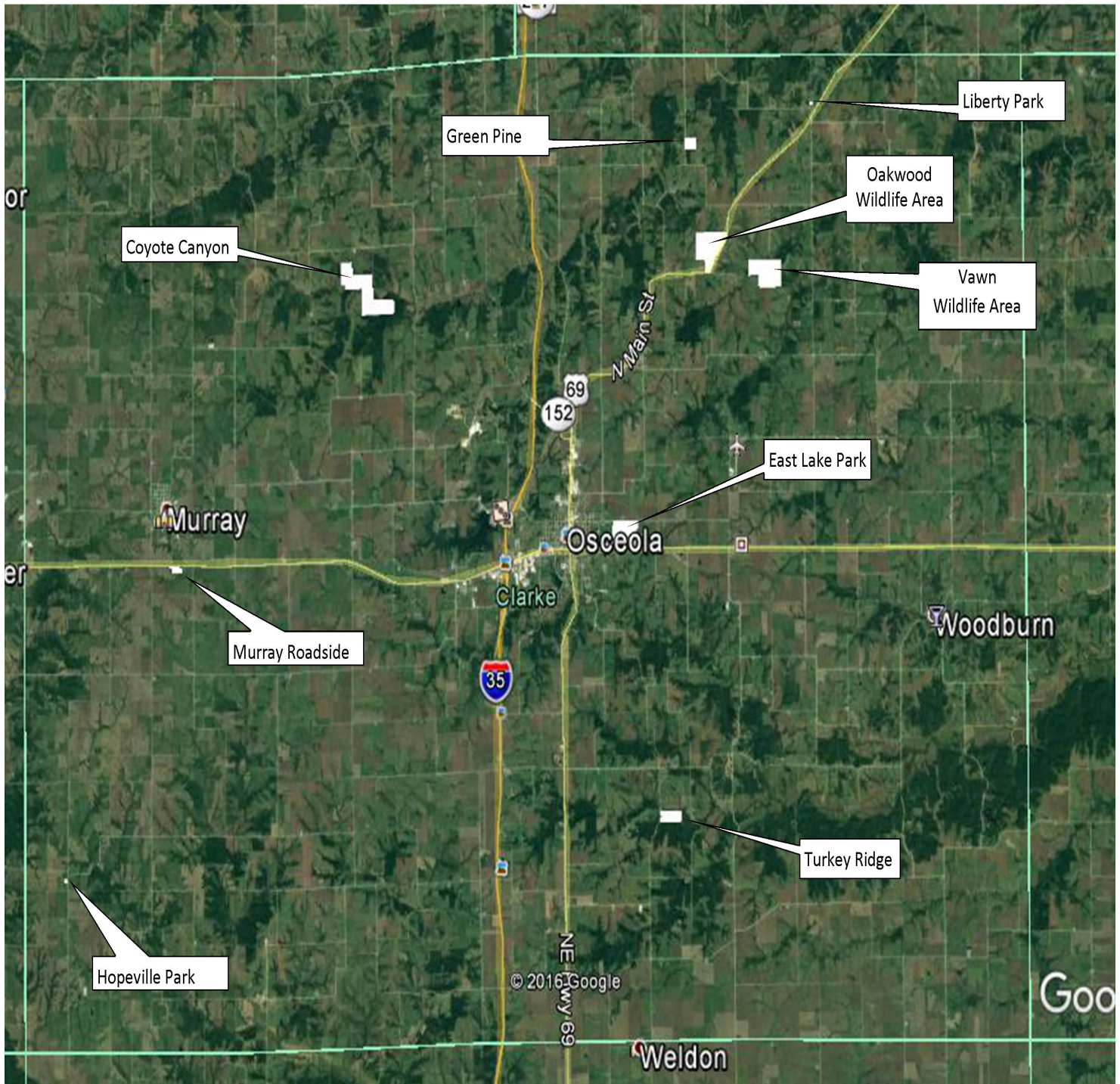
Allan Mathias - Director

Spencer Seeberger - Director

Stephanie Snell - Director



Outdoor Opportunity Locations



Our mission is to provide out door opportunities to the public and promote the conservation, preservation and restoration of our resources.



Park Highlight

Oakwood Wildlife Area is Clarke County's newest public area containing around 190 acres. This property was acquired in the spring of 2016 with 75% of the purchase price coming from a Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund Grant. The rest of the money came from Pheasants Forever, land rent that the CCCB had collected, and money from REAP. REAP stands for Resource Enhancement and Protection and is funded from the state's Environment First Fund (Iowa gaming receipts) and from the sale of the natural resource license plate. This means no county tax money was used in the purchase of this property.

Oakwood Wildlife Area has many different habitats. From prairie wildflowers, forest, and even open grassland. This property is open to public hunting and has several game animals such as whitetail deer, ring-necked pheasant, turkey, rabbit, and squirrel. It also holds many non-game species such as the song birds that are found in the prairie, reptiles, and amphibians. Oakwood is a great place to take a hike and explore all of the wildflowers and wildlife that it has to offer.

Board Members:

Sharon Dunfee

Larry Keller

Norm Lust

Elisabeth Reyn-
oldson

Frank Riley

Park Technicians:

Chris Reyna

Willard DeLong



Friends Of Clarke County Conservation

The Friends of Clarke County Conservation Foundation, known as *Friends*, is a tax exempt corporation organized under the Iowa Nonprofit Corporation Act, Chapter 504A of the 1990 Code of Iowa, and the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The foundation was established in 1997 for the purpose of soliciting and accepting gifts and donations from persons and organizations for developing and enhancing environmental education and conservation projects within the scope of the jurisdiction of the Clarke County Conservation Board.

The goals of the organization are: (1) to support and further the functions of the Clarke County Conservation Board by serving as a vehicle for community involvement, (2) to advise CCCB of the needs of the community regarding facilities and programs, (3) to raise funds for designated projects, and (4) to serve as an organizational base for volunteers.

Categories of membership are determined by the annual dues, which range from Student at \$5.00 to Organizational at \$100, (see enclosed membership form). Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible. Membership in the "*Friends*" foundation is open to everyone regardless of race, religion, creed, national origin, age, gender, or handicap.

An annual general membership meeting is held to elect the "*Friends*" Board of Directors, a seven (7) member board that sets the policies and goals, and generally manages the affairs of the foundation.

Friends of Clarke County Conservation

Membership Application

- ☐ Organization/Business (\$100)
- ☐ Family (\$20)
- ☐ Individual (\$10)
- ☐ Student (\$5)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

☐ Yes! I want to be a part of the "*Friends*" volunteer corps.

Make checks payable to:
Friends of Clarke County Conservation,
C/O Clarke Co. Conservation Board
100 South Main, Osceola, IA 50213

Projects finished this year at East Lake:

The Clarke County Conservation Board Staff has been busy working on several projects this past year. Below is a list of some of these projects:

- Cleaned up and opened the trails at Green Pine Park and Turkey Ridge
- Conducted prairie fire burns at Turkey Ridge, East Lake, Murray Roadside Park, and Vawn Wildlife Area
- Built new dock at East Lake Park Boat Ramp
- Finished new bathrooms at East Lake Park and installed septic system
- Installed new playground equipment at East Lake Park
- Planted over 1,000 trees and shrubs at East Lake Park
- Hosted several Educational programs such as 3rd grade field trip, Beginning Beekeeping class, and talking to several area groups about CCCB
- Installed new playground equipment at Liberty Park
- Reconstructed the parking lot at Coyote Canyon
- Installed new signs at many of the parks
- Closed on the Oakwood property and opened it as a new county wildlife area
- Installed new walkway bridge on the north end of East Lake Park
- Put new shingles on the information booth at courthouse
- Put new shingles on the Big Chief shelter at East Lake Park
- Installed an aquaponics system for the Murray ag students to use
- Had an educational booth at the Clarke County Fair
- Removed dead trees in parks and grind the stumps

Future projects that the Clarke County Conservation Board is working on:

- Build a 25 site campground at East Lake Park
- Build a soccer field being built by Eagle Scout at East Lake
- Refurbishing the basketball court at East Lake by Eagle Scout
- Building a hiking/biking paved trail from East Lake to East Elementary
- Seeding wildflowers at Murray Roadside Park and East Lake Park to help the pollinators and honeybees
- Build a sediment pond above East Lake Park to help keep the water clean in lake
- Build a fishing pier at East Lake Park
- Hosting more educational programs in the schools and for the public.

