

The New Leaf

CLARKE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD AND
FRIENDS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 7th (Saturday)

15th Annual Prairie Chicken Day

Kellerton Bird Conservation Area

6:00 a.m. - ? Prairie Chicken viewing will take place from dawn until the chickens leave the booming grounds. The viewing platform is located two miles west of Kellerton IA on Hwy 2 and 1 mile south on 300th Ave. DNR personnel will be on hand to answer your questions. A commercial spotting scope and a limited number of binoculars will be available for your use but it is recommended that you bring your own binoculars or spotting scope if possible as the birds will be about 200 yards away.

April 14th (Saturday)

Southern Iowa Oak Savanna Alliance Burn Workshop

At East Lake Park – seminar on conducting controlled burns to improve prairie habitat. A live demonstration of a controlled burn after seminar

Contact

Information

Address:

2451 Highway 34

Osceola, IA 50213

Phone:

641-342-3960

Facebook:

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

Email:

clarkeccb@gmail.com

Conservation

Director :

Scott Kent



April 21st (Saturday)

Clarke County Hospital and Clarke County Conservation Earth Day
5K run/walk at East Lake Parke

May 8th (Tuesday)

3rd Grade Fishing Field Trip at East Lake Park (Raindate May 10)

July 14th (Saturday)

3rd Annual Lawn and Garden Tractor Show at East Lake

Fall of 2019

Clarke County Cross Country Meet
District Cross Country Meet

September 9th (Sunday)

50 mile Race with Terry Smith

Southern Iowa Hive Handlers monthly meetings – usually 2nd Thursday of the month.**History of East Lake Park**

The history of East Lake that was put together by John Klein (former CCCB Director) and Melvin Goeldner.

In 1912 East Lake was originally built as a water reservoir for Osceola. It was built with horse and mule teams and held 13 acres of water. Around the mid 1920's the demand for municipal water far exceeded East Lake's water capacity and the lake was pumped dry so West Lake was built. East Lake was only used as a reserve water supply in case of drought. In 1936 a drought caused severe water shortage in Osceola and water was pumped through Williams Brothers Pipeline from Kansas City to Osceola and put in East Lake as emergency water supply. From 1920's to 1975 East Lake was divided into two parts. The northern ¾ was grazed pasture rented to local people for years. This caused a lack of good shade trees in this area and reduced plant diversity. Some native grass species did survive and those gradually made a comeback after 1970's when grazing was discontinued. The southern ¼ was maintained off and on as a park. This was done by a variety of interests for varying lengths of time. The Osceola Lions, the Osceola Volunteer Fire Department, and the Street Department all managed the park. During this time the southwest corner was used as a min-landfill for junk that has since been buried. During peaks in maintenance, the lake had a beach on the southwest side, later a pool was dug below the dam and filled with piped in lake water. Many older residents remember taking swimming lessons at East Lake. Also, during this time the original dam was degenerating and the spillway was becoming dangerous and costly. There was lots of discussion in the 1960's and early 1970's about the future of the lake as a public park and its' potential cost. Informal offers were made by real estate interests to purchase the park and to convert it to housing development as was done around Grade Lake in Osceola. Efforts of the Osceola Lion's Club led by Fred Redfern and other citizens voiced opposition to this. (continued on page 3)

Friends 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

Board Members:

Sharon Dunfee
Larry Keller
Norm Lust
Elisabeth Reynoldson
Frank Riley

Park Technicians:

Chris Reyna
Willard DeLong

From 1974 to 1975 the Clarke County Conservation Board led by Melvin Goeldner was finishing their first park project at the Murray Roadside Park. They were approached to manage East Lake. The management was agreed to on the condition that the title to the property would go to Clarke County. In 1975, East Lake was sold to Clarke County for \$1. The Clarke County Conservation Board then sought federal grant money to repair the dam. Meanwhile, the Lion's Club and others raised private funds for playground equipment. In 1977 the Conservation Board, using RC&D Funds from the Federal government, and matched funds by local county tax dollars, reconstructed the dam for safety. It did not increase the size of the lake and all the plumbing was removed from the dam. In December 1978, the Clarke County Conservation Board hired their first full time employee, Director John Klein. Having a supervisor, they then utilized employment programs and job training grants to secure maintenance staff for development of the park.

In 1979 a playground was laid out and a new restroom building was built. The start of regular routine maintenance and protection program of the park also began. The first Folk Arts in the Forest annual festival was also started. In 1980 the Lion's Club built the Goeldner Shelter House. Group camping area was made and lots of small park improvement made such as a road that was put in along the west shore. The park office building and terraces along the east boundary for erosion control were also built this same year. Prairie burning was started to encourage prairie species of plants to grow in the park. Tree planting also was started in a number of areas in the park. In 1981 the Fisheries biologist poisoned the lake for a fish kill to work toward better fishing and restocked the lake later that year. The Osceola Big Chief Chapter of FFA and the Lion's Club built the Big Chief Shelter and the Horseshoe courts were also built. In 1982 the addition to the office building was added on, volleyball and tetherball courts were built, flower beds constructed, water fountains installed, large pine trees were moved in with a tree spade and the Lion's Club built the overlook tower. In 1983 the east side road was developed with the help of a matching Federal grant, Boy Scout Troop 101 Sand Playground area was added, and the Lion's Pride Shelter was built, as well as water and electricity extended to the east side. In 1984, Glen Davenport's 4-H Club built the Bobcat Den Shelter. Dry weather allowed clearing of the upper end of the lake for construction of the suspension bridge. East side restrooms were also constructed at that time. In 1985, the Fremont Phoenix 4-H Club built the Mourning Dove Shelter and a major tree planting effort was started in the park. Hiking trails were graded and raised to get them out of muddy areas. In 1986 a new roll-in dock with 2 wings was added to the east side and small improvements were added to docks and shelter areas. In 1987 the Redfern Shelter House was completed on the west side. A new dock at boat ramp was built, and the first set of box steps were built up the face of the dam. Several safety corrections were made to all playground equipment and a concrete sidewalk was built at Lion's Pride Shelter for handicapped access. In 1988 additional playground equipment was added with Memorial money and City water line extension east of town ripped up south part of the park for new water mains being installed. Construction of a new concrete boat ramp into lake was installed and the addition of 2 box steps were built on the dam and one up to Bobcat Shelter. In 1989 a wooden playground complex at Redfern Shelter was built and a new latrine restroom on the west side was constructed. Extension of water and Electricity was added to the Redfern shelter.

Over the years since new updates have been added or replaced some of these structures due to deterioration over time and keeping the public safe. Block tile restrooms with flush toilets have replaced two of the latrine restrooms in the past few years and modern playground equipment has replaced many of the handmade wooden structures. A soccer Field was added last year, updates to the basketball court with adjustable hoops, and the dock off of the dam was rebuilt all by local Boy Scouts earning their Eagle Scout Badge.

This year a campground with 25 campsites will be built with a full electrical and water hook ups for RV camping on the east side of East Lake. A one-mile trail connecting East Elementary and East Lake Park will be built allowing students and the public to walk from town to East Lake. Plans are currently being made by another Boy Scout to construct an amphitheater on the north side of Redfern Shelter to be used for concerts, wedding, and educational programs in the park. The Clarke County Conservation Board would like to thank everyone who had an impact in developing East Lake Park and strives to keep East Lake a place for all to treasure while keeping everyone safe for generations to come!

BETH BROWN

There is so much to say about Beth Brown. She is known as the 'bird lady' by school students, teachers, and community members..... but not just in Clarke County. Beth has taken her passion and knowledge to many settings in Iowa.

Beth holds state and federal licenses as a bird rehabilitator, state and federal banding permits, and state and federal permits to keep educational birds at her home. At present she hosts a short-eared owl and a barred owl that are used for educational purposes, as well as a barn owl and a turkey vulture found with broken wings. Each of these birds are destined to stay in cages due to injuries that prevent them from going back into the wild. But they are in good hands.

Beth's love of birds began when she was a girl and witnessed her mother's love for songbirds. But she developed a fuller appreciation for birds in general when she met and had several conversations with Gladys Black who was well known as the "Bird Lady of Iowa". For many years they birded together and still today even though Gladys Black is gone, Beth looks up to her example and speaks fondly of her. It was Gladys, former Clarke County Conservation Board director John Klein and Beth's husband Jim that talked Beth into becoming a rehabilitator and she hasn't regretted the decision even once.

Beth cared for a red-tail hawk for 22 years that she used for educational purposes. He came to her as a baby with his eyes closed in 1993 when a farmer along the flooded Des Moines river was trying to save his pigs. He noticed a couple of baby birds floating on the river and pulled them out. One lived and he got the orphaned baby bird to Beth to take care of him. She fixed him up to live with a caged female hawk with the idea that she might mother the orphan but instead Beth had to rescue the baby from the ground after the female hawk threw him out of the nest. Beth ended up being his 'mother' and carried him around all the time while he was learning his place in life, he became imprinted. He and Beth visited many a classroom together teaching children about birds.

Beth has been a regular in several educational projects for many years. For 20 years she held Owl Prowl at the Warren County Annett Center near Indianola; every year she would take an owl to the second grade class in Osceola; traditionally she held a Halloween and Spring session for three pre-schools in Des Moines, she has traveled to Texas and Oklahoma for Raptor meetings/conventions and while she traveled she left husband Jim in charge of her birds. In the beginning Beth was one of three women who attended the conventions, "it (was) a man's world" according to Peter Dunn at the Tulsa Convention. This has changed over the years. At a raptor meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, one of the researchers told Beth, "I'm jealous of you" (this surprised Beth a great deal) He said, "You get to handle the birds, I just get to watch and study them." Other projects Beth has done and still enjoys doing is the banding project – Volunteer campers watch for the bluebirds to arrive in the spring at 150 bluebird boxes at Red Rock Lake and let Beth know when the babies are ready to be banded. Says Beth with a smile on her face, "There is just nothing like holding those babies in your hand and banding them." She also bands purple martins, chickadees and tree swallows and others perhaps. She also participates in a banding project with the Des Moines Park and Recreation center.

In the last year or so Beth has not had the opportunity to be in a classroom to share her passion. This past winter has been a good winter for birds with no injured ones coming to her for rehabilitation. But her love for them continues. And yes, years continue to come and go for Beth and just like all of us she will not be around forever, but she still is young at heart, lives a full and rewarding life and realizes the need to pass her knowledge and passion on to someone else. She will gradually be handing it over to Scott Kent, the current Clarke County Conservation director. Scott will be building caged flight areas for rehabilitation of raptors as he learns from Beth.

Has Beth ever been injured from her birds? Unfortunately, yes, she has had more than one wrist puncture, but one especially stands out in her memory. The puncture got infected and grew a ping-pong ball-sized lump on her wrist. When she went to the doctor and she told him what happened, he said "Well, that is a first." She had to have it lanced and it healed. She admitted most injuries were due to not being careful.

Recently while Beth was going through some material from her huge office library she reminisced a bit and thought "I have lived one heck of a life – I've interacted with people all over the world and had the opportunity to see, hold and care for some of the most majestic birds in the United States." When asked what memory stands out the most she unhesitatingly said the most wonderful thing is for students she shared the birds with, now grown up, to tell her how they remember her presentations. Many years ago Clarke County Conservation director John Klein and Beth hosted a field trip for anyone interested. They took a school bus to Red Rock Lake below the dam to watch the eagles. One of the participants was a little boy who showed up with his sack lunch to ride the bus because he also loved bird watching.

Beth Brown continued.....

Beth's first thought was, I can't have a little boy with no adult supervision going along. But he went and was extremely well behaved and very fascinated with the events of the day. That little boy grew up to become our present Clarke County Conservation director, Scott Kent. There remains a great rapport between them to this day.

One last story that Beth shared—Several years ago Beth learned lot from a lady in Canada she referred to as the Owl Lady. The Owl Lady had several owls she housed in her house and Beth said to herself, "I can do that." So she took in a little screech owl. That little guy made himself quite at home in her house for 16 years, sitting on Jim's shoulder 'reading the paper with him', sitting on their future daughter-in-law's head on her first visit, flitting around the rooms, riding on shoulders from room to room, etc. What a delightful memory.

Besides her birds, Beth also loves to garden, but because her one-acre yard is so shaded she has chosen to plant three garden plots in the Community Diversity Gardens at the Clarke County Farm Bureau office. Recently she had an opportunity to speak to the annual Community Gardens open house about raising chickens. She had some delightful tales to tell. Going back in time Beth related her first experiences of raising chickens (3), which didn't go so well but improved over the years as she learned what they liked, how much fun they are to watch and how nice it is to have homegrown eggs to enjoy. She shared the difficulty facing her as she got permission to have a few egg producers inside the city limits. Beth continues to be informative, educating, fun to visit with, and bringing a lot to the community of Osceola and Clarke County.

Article Written by Leola Boyce



Above:

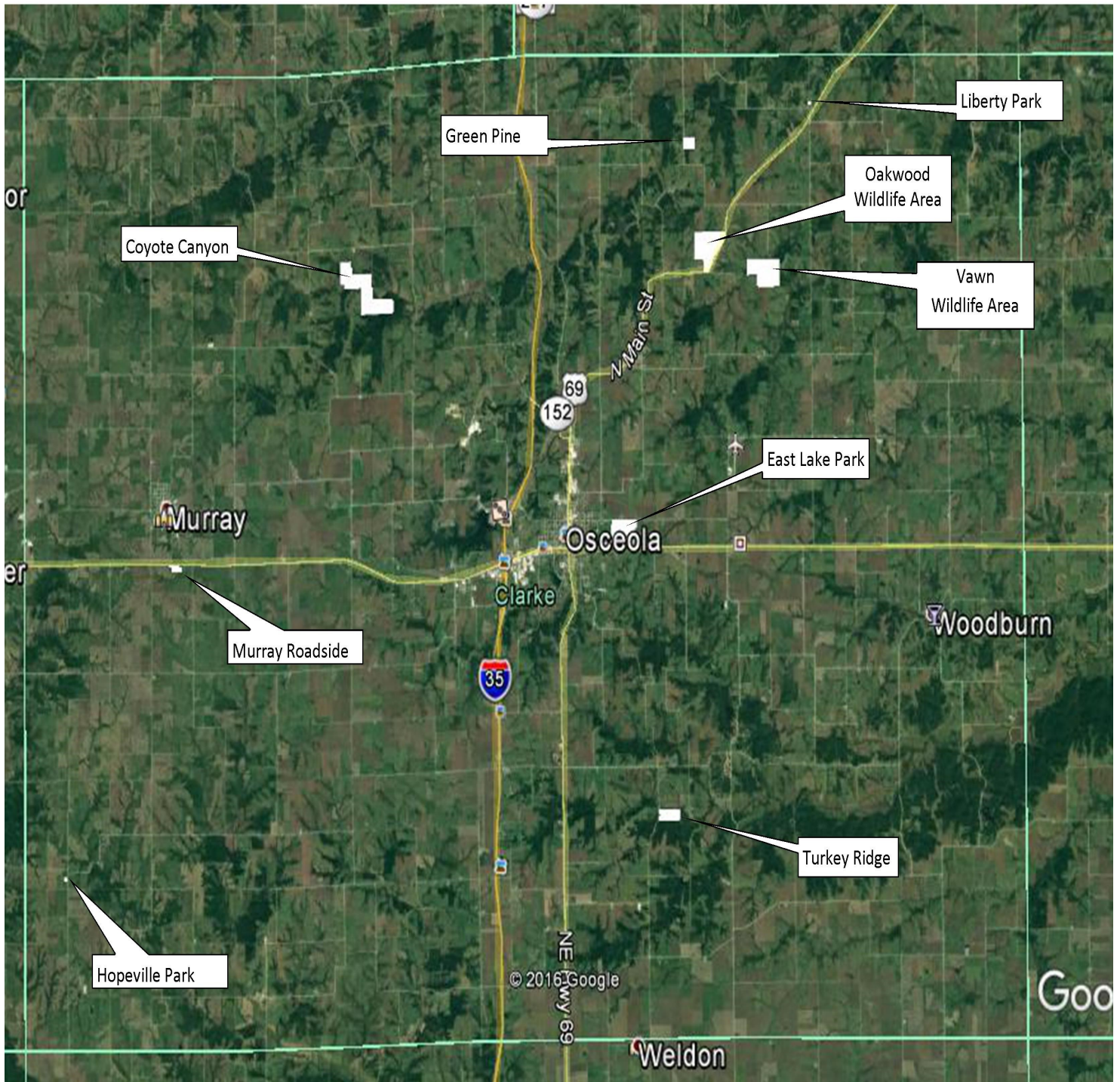
Bev Seeberger volunteering at the 3rd grade fishing trip teaching them about pond study

To the right:

Joseph VanBuren and his Grandpa on the dock he rebuilt for his Eagle Scout Project



Outdoor Opportunity Locations



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



Time to renew your 2018 membership

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

Friends of Clarke County Conservation



Clothing Selections:

Sports Grey T-shirt - \$15.00

Sports Grey Crew Neck Sweatshirt - \$25.00

Sports Grey Hooded Sweatshirt - \$30.00

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Please Specify how many of each size you want

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>XLG</u>	<u>2XL</u>	<u>3XL</u>	<u>4XL</u>	<u>5XL</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sport Grey T-shirt	\$15.00									
Sport Grey Crew Neck Sweatshirt	\$25.00									
Sport Grey Hooded Sweatshirt	\$30.00									

Make checks out to Friends of CCCB

Please mail by April 20, 2018 to:

Clarke County Conservation Board

100 South Main, Osceola, IA 50213