



# The New Leaf

## Clarke County Conservation

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Conservation Director : Scott Kent

2022

## Let's welcome CCCB's new Conservation Technician Morgan Heaberlin!



Morgan is from Moravia, Iowa and graduated from Moravia High School in May of 2019. She has continued my education at Indian Hills Community College and graduated with a degree in Animal Science and Precision Farming.

In July of 2019, she started working for Honey Creek State Park as a seasonal employee. She soon realized she wanted a career within the parks. Morgan

enjoys working outside and wanted to work and improve parks so the public could get out and enjoy their local parks. She also wanted travelers from around the states to have a variety of different parks and campgrounds to look forward to in Iowa.

She started working for Clarke County Conservation July 12, 2021. Her hobbies are hunting, fishing, racing, and golf. She is looking for-

ward to working for Clarke County Conservation Board for many years and continuing to improve the park, creating more activities, and building more structures for the public to utilize.



*Morgan Heaberlin*

**Thank you to all the below for your help!**

### Board Members:

Sharon Dunfee  
Larry Keller  
Norm Lust  
Marla Shifflet  
Frank Riley

### Friend's of CCC Board:

Stephanie Snell - President  
Spencer Seeberger - VP  
Scott Kent - Secretary  
Bev Seeberger - Treasurer  
Steve Harvey—Director  
Anna Harvey—Director  
Marilyn Dorland—Director

## Did you hear the Buzz??

We have supplied the Murray High school and Clarke High schools with hives! WHAT!?!?! The hives are kept on park property and are available to each school for education purposes. We are so very excited to have the opportunity to share the love of conservation with youth in our community.

Don't buzz away! There is more! We have recently re-

ceived a grant to get hive monitors to assist the youth! These hive managers will remotely provide data that will let the students use in the classroom. This data can be used to determine how many bees are entering and leaving the hive, how much the hive weighs, and what the internal and external temperature of the hive is. Students can

learn about the life of bees without leaving the classroom!



## Conservation Education Building in

YES! You read that right! We have been working on finalizing the plans for the Conservation Education Building. This building will be used for public programing, training, and even available to the public for rent! We have the plans draw out and are looking for all the funding

through donations and grants. We are crossing our fingers to break ground in 2023.

*"Conservation Education Building"*



## Membership Opportunities!

We need YOU! Yes you. We have many available opportunities to help support us. The available memberships are:  
Organization/Business \$100  
Family \$20

Individual \$10

Student \$5

The form is attached at the back of this news letter to fill out and return to the conservation office.



## Campground

East Lake Campground opens up April 15th! This campground has 25 spaces for RV camping. Each space has it's own water hydrant, electrical pedestal (with 20amp, 30amp, and 50 amp breakers), picnic table, and campfire ring. A modern shower house with warm water and flush toilets sits in the middle of the campground for convenience. A dump station is also available on site. With each site being designed to make it easy for large RV's to be able to get in and out of as well as 9 of the spaces being pull throughs makes the East Lake Campground a favorite to many campers. All campsites are re-

servable by going on-line to [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com) and clicking on "Clarke" county. Campers can check the availability of each site on the website and then make the reservation with a credit card. All reservation signs will be posted on Monday for the following week. If a site is not marked with a reserve sign then it is then first come first serve by going to campground registration shelter, filling out form and making payment in drop box. Camp hosts will be in campground site 1 if anyone should need help with anything. Firewood is available on site for \$5 a bundle, again leaving money in drop box.

**CAMPGROUND &  
SHELTER  
RESERVATIONS  
CAN ONLY  
BE MADE AT  
[mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)**

## Geocaching

**Geocaching** is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked

by coordinates all over the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and sometimes a pen or pencil. The geocacher signs the log with their established

code name and dates it, in order to prove that they found the cache. After signing the log, the cache must be placed back exactly where the person found it. Larger containers such as plastic storage containers

(Tupperware or similar) or ammunition boxes can also contain items for trading, such as toys or trinkets, usually of more sentimental worth than financial.



# Swain Place - Native prairie remnant

1924 Oct. 2 , Osceola, sentinel

In 1923, a visiting instructor for summer school was taken to the J.S. Swain farm. He was so impressed that he suggested that it be made a state park under the law that makes it possible for the state board of conservation to purchase certain plots of ground that have recreational, historical and scientific value

L.H. Pammel, chairman of the state board of conservation, visited the site in the next summer of 1924. *"In the morning he was taken out to the bit of*

*prairie that has weathered the three-quarters of a century of civilization and was wonderfully impressed with it. He believes it to be one of the finest pieces of Kansan Drift prairie left today and thinks it should be preserved at all costs."*

Later that evening a reception was held at the Howe Hotel. *"Dr. Pammel's description of the bit of land on the Swain place was vivid and beautiful. One could almost see the big blue stem that stands as high as a horse's neck, the smaller blue stem mixed with Indian Beard grass, fragrant Drop*

*seed grass, wild rye grass. There are many flowers that are almost unknown nowadays that were familiar to the pioneer.*

*There are half a dozen kinds of wild asters now blooming there, a number of different kinds of goldenrod, blue gentian, kuhnian (false boneset), red sweet Williams, crow foot violets, orchids, wood betony, cranesbill (wild geranium), greater lobelia, two kinds of lilies, bunch flowers, prairie*



**THANK YOU!**

**To all of the volunteers that help  
throughout the year with events and  
programs. We couldn't do it without you!**



# Why do out-of-county conservation field trips?

My name is John Klein. I was the Clarke County Conservation Board's Director from 1978 to 1991. Some of you older folks may remember the early days of East Lake County Park and the Hopeville Rural Music Reunion. During my tenure as director, the Conservation Board created something called Conservation Field Trips. Not just local field days, but full weekend trips for entire families. Usually, we did two or three per year. On these trips, we visited many types of conservation; hydroelectric power stations, natural history exhibits, prairies, waterfalls, pioneer sites, plus developed and undeveloped parks. We went canoeing, camping, and caving. Most trips were within 80 miles, but a few went as far away as 400 miles out of state to unique national sites. These efforts were supported by the Clarke County Conservation Board. Why did we do it? There were several very good reasons. Trips offered family-friendly conservation experiences that Clarke

County could not provide. As you know, Clarke County is not home to any navigable rivers, so the trips introduced Clarke residents to new recreational opportunities. We wanted to increase the range of recreation op-



tions. We wanted people to fall in love with outdoor recreation. We wanted to make them healthier and increase environmental awareness. Finally, the conservation trips provided our citizens with examples of other innovative interpretive and educational programs and facilities. This, in turn, inspired us to make better things locally. The lure was adventure, but the goal was to show conservation in action, or in need of action. Remember, we are not a “recreation” board, but a “conservation” board.

Trips were inexpensive. Residents pooled their resources through group tent

camping and car-pooling to make the trips efficient and cost effective. As the group was touring on behalf of a Conservation Board, we were able to get into places that the public was general-

ly not allowed to go, and with experienced tour guides to lead the way. By packaging the diversity of sites together and bundling nature, history, uniqueness with fun adventures, we got families involved.

In short, the Conservation Field Trips provided low-cost recreational and educational opportunities so Clarke County residents would learn more about our Midwest and, hopefully, pass that passion on to future generations. In the process, it provided us with examples of innovative conservation and interpretive techniques that we brought back home. While I don't know if it accomplished all of those goals, we certainly had a good time trying.



## Where Did Early CCCB Conservation Trips Go?

John Klein – Clarke Conservation Board Director 1978-1991

Clarke Conservation Board supported family Field Trips because they provided educational opportunities. Clarke County residents would get first-hand experience and, hopefully, pass that passion on to future generations. Most of the trips involved carpooling of families, and tent camping to keep costs low. Nearly all were in Iowa, but a few went to sites of national conservation interest. These included:

Sandhill Crane massive migration in south-central Nebraska. We stayed in a Grand Island Holiday Inn for this trip under a great government discounted rate. We used an Audubon Society group blind to see tens of thousands of Cranes come in to roost standing overnight in the Platte River.

In north central Nebraska, we took a trip to the

national-scenic Niobrara River and their National Wildlife Area near Valentine. We canoed the river, hiked to Nebraska's largest waterfall, and drove across wild buffalo open prairie to see native herds. On a different trip, we went to the massive snow geese migration at the Desoto Bend National Wildlife



Area and saw Loess Hills sites in Nebraska and western Iowa, including the original Council Bluffs of Lewis and Clark history (which is in Nebraska).

Our longest trip was over 400 miles to the southern Missouri bootheel area. There we saw two very unique state parks: The Ele-

phant Rocks were massive rounded boulders clustered and climbable. Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park in the St. Francois Mountains was a combination of climbing and wading through a labyrinth of rock rapids of the East Fork of the Black River. On the way there, we canoed the Ozark National Scenic Riverway's Current River, which has excellent spring fed trout fishing. We also toured the Current River Cavern cave that supported unique blind fish species underground.

Our longest canoe trip in Iowa was to the nationally scenic Upper Iowa River in northeast Iowa's Driftless Region. Sheer rock cliffs line the riverbank from Kendallville to Bluffton. On the way, we toured many of Iowa's oldest

state parks and historical sites, including Effigy Mounds National Monument, Backbone State Park, Yellow River State Forest, and Decorah's Ice Cave.

A shorter, but still very different trip was to southeast Iowa. There we toured Lock and Dam 19 on the Mississippi River, and toured their hydroelectric power generation station. We enjoyed Keokuk historic sites and definitely different historic architecture. While there, we saw a Civil War reenactment and the Keokuk National Ceme-



tery. On the way was Shimek State Forest. In this trip we took two school buses.

Continued on Page 7.

We canoed Grand River,



of course, but also Middle River, Boone, Racoon and Skunk Rivers. At each trip we visited local sites, historic downtowns and ethnic cemeteries. Mining is a conservation issue in Iowa, so we toured both

limestone and

gypsum mines.

We saw surface strip mining, but also went into underground mines as well.

These trips provided natural history

experiences, but also a modern perspective to Clarke County residents about their wider world, including current

and past conservation issues. Travel makes people wiser, and more understanding. Conservation field trips did a wonderful job of getting Clarke County people out into a different world, even if it was not far away.



## 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





Clarke County Conservation  
100 S. Main St.  
Osceola, IA 50213

