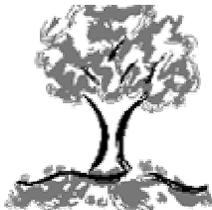




# Cedar Valley Visions



Summer 2008

Cedar Valley Visions

Volume 20 Issue 2

## Adding to Education

By: Reba Reddick

Each year the Conservation Board strives to improve our educational programs by keeping up with current technology and adding new hands-on materials to our EE supplies. Thanks to donations from numerous groups we were able to make some much needed purchases this spring.

As many of you may know, Cedar County does not have a shooting range. This has always made it difficult for our Hunters Education students to have any gun handling or live fire training. This fall's class will be different. They will be the first to try out our new Lasershot program. This computerized simulator is designed to teach safety, hunter ethics, and gun handling and ownership responsibilities. Participants will learn the parts of a gun, practice their accuracy, and go on a deer hunt all while never leaving the classroom.



Lasershot simulation projector and screen

The Lasershot simulator was purchased by donations from the local Pheasants Forever and Wild Turkey Federation chapters, along with a grant from the Community Foundation of Cedar County (CFCC).

Along with remaining funds from the CFCC and a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Dan McFarland at the Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch, the



Bison hide and skull

Conservation Board will soon have new mammal furs and skulls in its collection. To go along with the bobcat, fox, badger and other animals we will replace our opossum, add a fox squirrel, grey squirrel, and a full 5 foot wide bison hide! New skulls and mounted skeletons will include a snake, bobcat, river otter, turtle, and bison with horns. These materials have always been popular for school and scout programs and I'm sure they will be utilized constantly!



Snake Skeleton

Each year the Conservation Board conducts well attended fishing programs. Our 2nd annual Fishing Clinic held at Bennett Park, for example, had 37 participants in 2008. We often supply the few poles we have to participants for use at these programs. But our supply is limited and a few people are required to bring their own. Recently, Howard Gollobit donated 22 fishing poles to our supply. Upcoming fishing days will be even more fun.

If you are interested in having a program utilizing some of these latest additions to our programming, contact our Naturalist at 563-886-6930. Donations of certain other educational materials and craft supplies are always appreciated. So, if you have something you would like to donate call the office for a list of materials needed.



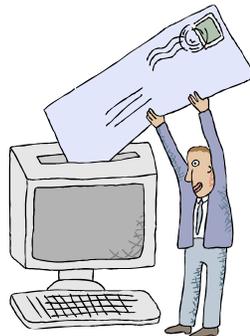
Bobcat Skull

## Our Newsletter Goes Green!

Many people today interact with the world around them through the ever new and changing technology. Young and old have cell phones that can surf the web and check their e-mail. Many people get their news and weather and communicate with co-workers, family and friends on their lap tops. Now you can receive the latest Conservation updates and news on-line, too!

The Cedar Valley Visions newsletter has been available on our web page since last fall and now it is ready to hit the super highway via e-mail. Beginning with the Fall 2008 edition you will be able to have a copy of the newsletter mailed directly to your inbox. For the time being patrons will still receive their paper copy in the mail while also getting a copy on their computer. If all goes well, you will soon be able to receive only the electronic copy if you choose.

To help us try out our new technology and be one of the first to receive Visions by e-mail this fall, contact the office with your name and e-mail address. So, help Cedar Valley Visions go green on-line!



## BOO HIKE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Each year the Cedar CCB puts on a non-scary skit for families during October. This event attracts a number of people to Red Oak Park where participants enjoy a hike focusing on a different nature topic each year.

This year the annual Boo Hike will be held on **Saturday October 25, 2008**. We are looking for volunteers to help with this event. Volunteer activities include the following:

- |                  |                   |          |
|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| *set up          | *candle lighting  | *cleanup |
| *crafts          | *providing treats | *guides  |
| *hot cocoa/cider | *drinks to actors | *actors  |
| *making popcorn  | *fires/pies       | *snacks  |

Because of our strong volunteer support, there have been some very successful Boo Hikes the past few years and we look forward to this years "Home on the Prairie" themed hike being just as great! Please feel free to contact us with your availability.

If you would like to help at our Boo Hike this year, please fill out and send in the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Town, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Interest in helping with: \_\_\_\_\_

## A New Addition: The Mitzner Property

By: Noah Krob

Just recently the Cedar County Conservation Board received a new piece of property Southwest of Tipton at the intersection of the Cedar Valley Road and Snaggy Ridge Road. Approximately 38 acres of timber was received through a bequest to the CCCB by the Richard "Buck" Mitzner Estate. His hopes were that by leaving his land to a conservation organization his property would be preserved and utilized for the public good well into the future. In the winter of 2007 proceedings were finalized and the Conservation Board took control of the property.

This summer and fall the Conservation Board staff will be working on the property, putting up signs and fixing fence so the public will know the boundaries of the area. There will also be a small parking lot for vehicles that will be constructed next to the property. Posts will be placed in the ground so that the correct parking area will be clearly marked.

The land will be primarily for nature hikes and general wildlife viewing. Programs led by the naturalist will also be held at the new area. Bow hunting for both deer and turkey will be allowed as well. Other types of hunting or trapping will be prohibited at this area. A sign will be posted at the entrance of the parking lot informing users of the rules and regulations.

If you have any questions about this area or would like more information on land donations you can contact the Cedar County Conservation Board by telephone or email.



# What's coming up...

## ***Cedar County Fair***

***Wednesday, July 9***

***through Sunday July 13***

Don't forget to stop and see our informational booth in the Mathews building. This years theme is "Astonishing Insects." The photo contest winners will be on display and we will have flyers and information on hand for some of our parks and upcoming programs, and many environmental topics of interest.

## **Summer Camps**

July 14 and 28– **Toddling Into Nature Camp**– Red Oak

July 15, 16, 17– **Chipmunk Camp**– Bennett Park

July 22, 23, 24– **Chipmunk Camp**– Cedar Valley Park

August 4, 5, 6– **Day Camp**– Several Cedar Co. Parks

Please contact our office for more information on these camps. **Registration is required.**

## ***2nd Annual River Clean-Up***

***Saturday, August 9, 8:30 am***

***Cedar River***

Help clean our county! With the success of our first ever river clean-up last year, we are excited to do it again.

This year we will float a section of the Cedar River launching from the Cedar Bluff access and ending in Cedar Valley Park. Lunch will be provided. Some canoes will be available for use, but feel free to bring your own. All ages are welcome, kids under 16 must have an adult in the canoe with them. Meet at Cedar Valley at 8:30 am to carpool to the put in point.



## ***Pooch Play***

***August 21, 5:30 pm***

***Bennett Park Shelter #1***

Bring along your furry friends to share in a fun and educational hike along the prairie trail. All friendly dogs must be on a leash 6 ft. or shorter and have proof of up-to-date shots.

## ***Hooverfest***

***Saturday, August 2***

***Herbert Hoover Presidential Library***

The CCCB will have a booth at Hooverfest again this year. The theme for the event is historic crafts. Our activities will focus on old-time nature crafts for kids and adults alike. Join us for a fun-filled day!

## ***Monarch Tagging***

***Thursday, September 18, 5:30 pm***

***Bennett Park Shelter #1***

The magnificent monarch migration has begun! Join the CCCB and thousands of volunteers all across the country and help observe, monitor and tag Monarch Butterflies as they begin their annual trip south for the winter. All your questions about these majestic insects will be answered as you learn first hand about these winged beauties. All ages welcome.



## ***Fishing Derby***

***Saturday, September 27***

***10:00 am to noon***

***Cedar Valley Park Quarries***

The entire family will enjoy this annual catch and release event held at the Quarries. Once again prizes will be awarded in many categories including one for largest family, oldest and youngest angler, largest fish, and more, as well as door prizes. Pre-registration is requested. County poles will be available for use on a first come first serve basis and bait will be provided for all.

## ***IDNR's Springbrook Education Center***

Each summer numerous camps and workshops are held at the Springbrook Education Center in Guthrie County. Programs are designed for boys, girls, men and women. To learn more about all of the opportunities log on to the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and click on the *camps and workshops* link.

## ***The Cedar County Conservation Board Meeting***

***7:30 pm, call for locations***

Held the Second Monday of the Month

Open to the Public

July 14th, August 11th, and September 8th

## ***Hunters Safety Course***

The CCCB will hold its second course of 2008 this fall for those ages 12 and up. Call the office for specific dates and registration details.



For more information on these programs contact the Cedar County Conservation Board office at (563) 886-6930

All Programs are Subject to Change.

# Kids For Conservation

## Summer Means Vacation!

It's that time again...class has ended, temperatures have warmed and plans for a family vacation are in the works!

Talk to your parents about including some outdoors destinations on their itinerary this year. How about a state or national park? Ever been camping, hiking or fishing at Cedar Valley Park? There are some great areas close by that are loads of fun, full of adventure and easy on your pocketbooks.

Along the trip save maps, photos or site brochures to create a unique picture frame perfect for holding your favorite vacation photo when you get back home.



Idea and photo from:  
<http://crafts.kaboose.com/>

### What you'll need:

- Maps of your vacation route or area
- Wood picture frame
- White acrylic paint
- White craft glue
- Water
- Paintbrush
- Scissors
- Scrapbook embellishments (stickers) relating to your trip
- Acrylic sealer spray

### How to Make it:

1. Remove glass from frame and paint the outer and inner edges of the frame. Let dry.
2. Cut sections of your maps. Lay sections over the frame to be sure you don't cut them too small. Overlap different sections to cover entire surface of frame.
3. Once you have enough sections of the map to cover the entire frame, position them where you want and bend the excess map around the frame edge. This will create creases for you to trim with scissors.
4. Trim the edges so that your map pieces fit perfectly onto your frame.
5. Put some white craft glue into a small dish and add enough water to thin it to painting consistency.
6. Working with one section at a time, paint a thin layer of glue mixture onto a small section of the frame. Lay the map for that section down on top of the glue mixture and add a little glue mixture on top. Continue this process until all map pieces have been glued down.
7. Once all map pieces are dry, spray the entire surface with acrylic sealer.
8. Add scrapbook embellishment stickers to decorate. Replace the glass and insert your favorite picture.

Now you'll remember those fun summer days all year long!

## ☀ A Quote for Any Season ☀

*Summer Afternoon— summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.*

- Henry James

*A life without love is like a year without summer.*

- Swedish Proverb

*A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.*

-James Dent

**Conservation Board Members****Chairman**

Wes Moeller.....New Liberty

**Vice-Chairman**

Marnell Scheeper.....Lowden

**Secretary**

Leon Steinhagen.....New Liberty

**Board Members**

Jean Driscoll.....Mechanicsville

Dick Maske.....West Branch

**Conservation Staff**

Executive Director.....Mike Dauber

Park Ranger.....Noah Krob

Naturalist.....Reba Reddick

Office Secretary.....Maureen Krutzfeld

Conservation Aide.....Harry Denny

Seasonal.....Kris Slutts

Summer Naturalist.....Aaron Askelson

Cedar Valley Visions is published four times a year by the staff of Cedar County Conservation Board. It is provided free of charge to anyone who requests to be on the mailing list. If you would like to receive your own copy, please phone the conservation office at (563)886-6930 or send your name and address to:

Cedar County Conservation Board  
400 Cedar St.

Tipton, IA 52772

or e-mail at [cedarccb@iowatelecom.net](mailto:cedarccb@iowatelecom.net)

Cedar CCB website:

[Http://www.cedarccb.org](http://www.cedarccb.org)

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 Cedar County Conservation Board or the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## Two New Faces with the Cedar County Conservation

*Each summer the Conservation Board hires seasonal staff to aid in park maintenance, educational programs and other necessary jobs. This year's staff include Kris Slutts, a local college student at Kirkwood, and Aaron Askelson, a Tipton resident and future U of I student.*



Hello, my name is Aaron Askelson. I'm the seasonal naturalist for Cedar County. I grew up in Iowa City and have lived near Tipton for about ten years. I will be attending the University of Iowa this fall to pursue a degree in biology. I developed a love for the outdoors while in Boy Scouts, where I achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Since then I have enjoyed the outdoors, camping, hunting, and fishing. I also love to canoe and

kayak the Cedar River, Rock Creek, and anywhere else I can float. You might also catch me oil painting outdoors someday or at a local art show displaying my work.

I hope to bring my love and enthusiasm of the outdoors to this position. I feel it is very important to educate the young and old about the environment. If more people are interested in the natural world, I think it will be easier to affect long lasting change to improve our local habitats. I think one of the best ways to do this is thru Environmental Education. I'm looking forward to working with the youth of Cedar County and the staff at the Conservation department at the many camps and educational opportunities we provide this summer.

Hello there, I'm Kris Slutts, the seasonal maintenance worker. This is my



first summer at Cedar County Conservation Department. So far it has been nice meeting the public of Cedar County. Currently I am a student at Kirkwood Community College with a major in Parks and Natural Resources. My interest in Natural Resources started when I was a Boy Scout. I earned my Eagle Scout award with Troop 250 of Iowa City. My Eagle Scout project was at St. Patrick's Church in

Iowa City. The project included rebuilding a retaining wall and removing over grown brush. I am a Wildland Firefighter and I enjoy doing prescribed prairie burns. I also enjoy hunting.

After completing Kirkwood I hope to attend Upper Iowa University in order to pursue a career in the DNR or National Parks Service. As of right now I am living in Iowa City but my family is planning to build a house in West Rochester. You might have seen me down there in June helping with the sandbagging. I am enjoying my time working with Mike, Noah, Harry, Reba, and Aaron. I hope to continue to meet and serve the residents of Cedar County.

**Cedar County Conservation Board**  
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**Office: 713 E. South Street**  
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**Phone 563-886-6930**

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*Working to help instill "the conservation ethic" in the citizens of Cedar County.*

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## Controlling A Nuisance

**By: Reba Reddick**

Do you have bats in the attic? A possum under your porch? Ghostbusters just won't do the job, so call your local Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator instead! Leon Steinhagen, the owner of J&L Small Engine Repair, is offering a new service to the citizens of Cedar County. When he is not fixing your lawnmower or tweaking your chainsaw, he can catch your skunks and remove your reptiles.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a program and permit which allows a trained citizen to help deal with problematic animals. In January, Leon finished the necessary steps, qualified for the permit, and is now considered a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator. He first studied a booklet provided by the DNR and then completed a 100 question test given by Conservation Officer Shawn Meier. Officer Meier then conducted a personal interview with Mr. Steinhagen before giving him the permit. While holding the Nuisance permit, the operator is also required to have a fur harvesters license.

Leon has always been interested in wildlife and has been trapping for 35 years. When asked what his reasons were for completing the course he said that out of all the many reasons money was his last objective. He enjoys helping the public and understands the necessity in controlling populations to limit crop damage and negate impacts on other valuable species, like pheasants. Mr. Steinhagen is qualified to deal with reptiles, bats, birds, fox, coyote, raccoon, opossum, skunk, beaver, and woodchuck and "other" species as necessary. Due to certain regulations he can aid DNR officers with deer, turkey or Canada goose issues, but not on his own. He is also able to handle and relocate endangered species, something the general public can not do.

There is still a cost involved, including a \$25 evaluation fee, an animal specific fee, which is only charged if and when the animal in question is caught, and a mileage fee for any location more than 15 miles from Steinhagen's home in Sunbury. The \$25 fee will be waived if you mention that you were referred by the Conservation Board. If at all possible the animal will be relocated following specific DNR rules, so no further problems will arise. Leon advises that with any wild animal, which can be unpredictable or even sick, you should not take a chance by handling it yourself. Instead leave it to trained professionals with the knowledge and correct equipment to resolve the problem. If you have a nuisance animal and would like professional, help contact Leon at (563) 37