

The Heron

Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation Volume 44 Number 3 September ~ December, 2022

Busy Beavers

by Darin Voss, Natural Resource Technician and Al Ketelsen, Maintenance Technician

Lost Nation Public Hunting Area is located on the west side of Clinton County between Eden Valley and Lost Nation. It is a 260-acre property that is made up of prairie that is intersected with wooded draws and includes a stream that runs through the middle of the area. This property is home to a healthy population of ring-necked pheasants, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, waterfowl and small game.

Towards the south-end of the property there is a wetland that is a little over 2-acres in size. Last October, as we were doing some work on the property, we noticed that the water level was higher than normal. When water quality improvement and wildlife habitat are the primary goals, water depths should be less than 3 feet with vegetation over 75 percent of the wetland. This was pretty unusual because the wetland has a water control structure that allows us to raise or lower the water level to enhance plant germination and manage aquatic plants if needed. The water level has always been pretty consistent.

The water level of the wetland was within a few feet of overflowing the dike. We did not want that to happen as the water could potentially scour the dike and create a lot of damage to the entire system. After further examination, it was evident that the culprit of the malfunctioning structure was a busy beaver. The beaver had plugged both the inlet tube and the vertical overflow tube with sticks and mud which did not allow any water to flow through the structure. We would have to say that they did very nice work as there was hardly a trickle of water getting through!

We were able to get the overflow free of debris and allow the wetland to lower a little bit. Naturally the beaver did what beavers do and within a couple days the overflow tube was plugged again. This time we realized we needed to trap the beaver if we were ever going to regain control of our wetland. We had a local trapper come in and legally harvest the beaver, removing it from the area. Thankfully, the overflow tube stayed clean after that.

We still had a big issue. The horizontal inlet tube on the bottom of the wetland was still plugged and wouldn't allow any water to flow through the structure. We decided to remove all the stoplogs from the vertical tube in hopes that the pressure of the water would scour through the debris and ultimately unplug itself. Unfortunately, that did not happen, after removing the stoplogs there was still no water draining and there was no safe way to remove the de-

bris from the inlet of the tube.

We left the wetland to sit over the winter hoping the water pressure would eventually flush out the plugged tube. Once spring arrived we found that we were lucky and the wetland drained on its own sometime during the winter. This was great news, because plan B was going to be draining the wetland in the spring using large pumps that we would have to bring in from an outside source.



As the wetland sat drained, we felt that this was the perfect opportunity to perform some active management. When it was originally built, the plan was to lower the water levels in the spring and raise them in the fall. This would have encouraged vegetation growth on the exposed soil and shallow water, which in turn provides better breeding habitat for waterfowl and amphibians.

Over the last few years, we had neglected to manipulate the water levels in the spring and fall, leaving us with a habitat that was more "pond like" than a productive wetland. We decided to leave the wetland drained for the 2022 growing season, to allow vegetation to grow. Ultimately our goal was to increase biodiversity and create a healthier wetland habitat going into the fall hunting season.

As we kept a close eye on it, we were happy to see smart-weed growing in the spring. Much to our surprise the smartweed took off and is almost 8 feet tall. Smartweed is an important food source for waterfowl. We wanted the water level to increase gradually, and since late July we have been slowly manipulating the water control structure to fill the wetland.

We are really excited to see the results of our efforts this fall. Will there be ducks for hunting season? What other critters will find and use the improved habitat? Will the beavers be back? Only time will tell.



A Career Well Spent

by Mark Roberts, Interpretive Naturalist

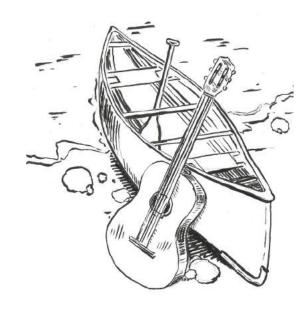
In May of 2003, Chuck Jacobsen officially became a staff Naturalist with Clinton County and after over 19 years of service, CJ is retiring!

"I will begin my retirement from professional life on the 28th of September, 2022. It has been my privilege to serve the good people of this county, its guests and those in venues outside of its borders for most of the past 2 decades. If I have realized my dream job, this has been it and I thank everyone who contributed to making it such. My hope is that this agency continues to succeed in its mission as long as the grass grows tall."

Charles Jacobsen, Interpretive Naturalist.

Chuck's legacy will be felt for years to come. He led over 2,600 events for tens of thousands of school children, senior citizens and families in the Clinton County region. On a personal note, I will miss working on a regular basis with one of the best friends I have ever had. Chuck will find ways to make a difference in our environment long after his official retirement. Well wishes may be sent to *cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov*. Let's over-flow his inbox!

Congratulations to Chuck for a well-deserved retirement and thank you for your inspiration and hard work!



Help celebrate Chuck's retirement during a casual reception at Eden Valley Refuge on October 16th, 2022, 1-5 PM

Living Fossils

by Hannah Pannell, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Have you ever gone for a cruise down the Mississippi and to your surprise, seen a large fish floating down the river? There is a chance that the large fish you saw was a paddle-fish, or as some people call them, a spoonbill. A paddlefish is a shark-like fish, with a skeleton made primarily of cartilage. It has a paddle-like rostrum or snout. Unlike many fish in our Mississippi waterway, this fish is a plankton and



tiny crustacean eater. The rostrum functions as an electro-sensory organ which helps it sense the plankton in the water as it swims around with its mouth wide open collecting its microscopic meal. Due to the way this fish eats, anglers use a different method of fishing to catch it, called snagging. Snagging is typically done while trolling around the water with large hooks tethered to fishing line while hoping to snag the flesh of the fish.

Snagging is restricted within 500 yards below the navigation dams. On the Mississippi River, the season runs from March 1st through April 15th.

Paddlefish live mainly in open waterways, close to the surface, but travel into the backwaters for feeding. They travel upstream to gravel beds to spawn, but due to the drainage of bottomlands and the construction of levee systems, the population has slowly declined. While habitat loss is a large factor in the decline of their population, boat strikes are another key factor to their decline. Since they like staying close to the surface, they are often hit by boat motors when traveling through backwaters to feed. In July, on a



sunset boat cruise, I was heading back into Rock Creek on our Blue Heron pontoon when I hit something that I thought may have been a stump. We quickly realized that it was a fish I hit and turned around to go see exactly what it was. When we pulled up to it we realized it was a paddle-fish, but not just any paddlefish, a paddle-free paddlefish. This paddlefish was either born deformed without a ros-

trum, or it had been struck by a boat motor previously and lost its entire rostrum. After checking it out, we put it back into the water. Unfortunately, boat strikes are common occurrences on this species. To help contribute to the conservation of aquatic species, such as the paddlefish, purchase a fishing license as the proceeds go to fishing education, conservation workshops and a variety of outreach programs.

Today the paddlefish is the only liv-



ing relative in its family: the *Polyodontidae*. Its closest relative, the Chinese Paddlefish is believed to have gone extinct in 2003 from Chinese waterways. The other four relatives that have been traced back in its family are only known due to fossil records from the early Cretaceous period. Due to it being the last living member of its family, it makes it that much more important that we preserve its

habitat as much as possible, so we keep this "living fossil"

in our ecosystems.

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Connecting Conservation with the Public

by Phil Visser, Executive Director

There are a lot of exciting things that get done within the conservation board. We get to do controlled burns of native areas, put on and participate in environmental education programs and get to do great construction and renovation projects. However, there are several things that may not seem that exciting, but are also very important.

One of the great features of having a local county conservation board is that it gives the people who use the parks and areas a better chance to be able to influence positive change. With state or federally managed parks and areas, policy decisions are often made far away from the places where they are implemented. At the county level, we are able to focus on how we can best serve the residents of the county and those who are visiting the areas that we manage.

The Clinton County Conservation Board is comprised of five members. These members are volunteers and are appointed by the Clinton County Board of Supervisors. Our Conservation Board features a diverse group that includes residents of Camanche, Clinton, DeWitt and rural areas of



the county. This board is responsible for setting the policies and making decisions for the department and the areas that it manages.

The Conservation Board typically meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM at the Grand Mound office. These meetings are open to the public and anyone and



everyone are welcome to attend. If attending in person is not an option, you can also log into the zoom link and listen via zoom in the comfort of your home. This link is provided on the posted meeting agenda. The board always allows a part of the meeting to be open to public comment where individuals or groups can discuss any

questions or concerns they may have regarding conservation in Clinton County with the board members. This allows the public to speak their mind and have their

voices heard directly by the board members who are making decisions on what is happening with conservation in our area.

There are three main steps

when considering a new policy for one of our areas; creation, implementation and evaluation. Creating a policy involves identifying a problem or a need. This is where local feedback can help us see where a problem might exist. As park users, you are often able to let us know where an issue might be and can let us know what we can do to resolve it. Creation of a policy also involves the conservation board. They are the ones who will vote on a new policy or amend a current one. Again, the public can always give input on the policies and can let the board know how they think the policy will affect them. This can be done by attending a public board meeting or by informing the conservation director or conservation staff, who can relay the views to the board. After the board has set a new policy, it will usually be up to the Conservation Board staff to implement that policy change. This can mean posting the policy where those affected will be able to see it and letting everyone know about the policy. Finally, we have to evaluate how the policy is working out. Again, public input is very important here, since you are the ones that are affected by the policy. This is where the board can tweak a certain policy to help resolve any unforeseen issues that may arise during its implementation.

From start to finish, public input is very important to the operations and decisions of the Clinton County Conservation Board. It is how we are able to know how to serve everyone and what the public wants to see. Remember, these are your parks and areas to use and more importantly, be a part of. We are only here to be stewards of the land and to make sure they are available for the citizens and visitors of Clinton County in the best condition possible.

We're Back... SAVE THE DATE!

by Dave Stedwell, CCC Foundation President

An evening of great food, an auction and raffles benefitting environmental education and nature facilities is on the menu for the CCCF banquet at the Rock Creek Eco Center on Saturday, November 5th, 2022.

The Clinton County Conservation Foundation event is the major fundraiser for the year and is a tradition we reluctantly had to put on hold for two years. We are back and asking for your support! Additional details about the banquet will be coming to you shortly. In the meantime, mark your calendars and make plans to join us for this special event.



begin one week before each trip. Check the forecast, gather your friends and sign-up! 563-259-1876. Note: The Blue Heron does not go out if winds are 20+ MPH, lightning is (or is forecasted) within 10 miles or the river stage is 17+ feet (Camanche River Gauge). We reserve the right to cancel cruises if a 10 person reservation minimum is not met.

Building Better Birders Workshops ~ These awesome workshops will continue through July 2024 with 75 workshops scheduled across the state of Iowa! Clinton County Conservation is a sponsor of this great series featuring Kelly McKay. Check it out at

https://buildingbetterbirders.com or all the workshop schedules and pass it on!

September Events

1st ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259 -1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

1st ~ Music and Moonlight Cruise ~ 7:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents entertain with familiar and original compositions from Folk to Rock 'n' Roll. There is no admission fee and everyone is welcome. Call 563-259-1876.

3rd ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Finale! ~ 1-4 PM

7th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 5:30 PM ~ Malone Park ~

Providing new experiences in nature for children helps build an appreciation for the outdoors at a young age that they may carry on throughout their life. We have worms, poles and tackle...let's just catch the fish! Experience and licenses are not required unless you plan on doing the fishing yourself. We will teach you how to encourage your angler even if you're not an angler yourself. This is a free event and open to the public.



8th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

13th ~ Canoeing with the Voyageurs ~ 6 PM ~ Bulgers Hollow ~ Enjoy this family oriented event of paddling around in 29-foot canoes as you get to witness the changing of the seasons at one of the most beautiful sites on the Mississippi River. Call 563-847-7202 to register.

15th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

17th ~ Enabled Deer Hunting Starts ~ Ringneck Marsh ~ Call Mark at 563-847-7202 for information on this opportunity for people with disabilities. The blind is set in the oak forest along the Wapsipinicon River.



Note on Blue Heron Cruises ~ Sign-up for each cruise will 21st ~ Creating an Angler ~ 5:30 PM ~ Malone Park ~ We have worms, poles and tackle...let's just catch the fish! Experience and licenses are not required unless you plan on doing the fishing yourself. We will teach you how to en-

courage your angler even if you're not an angler yourself. This is a free event and open to the public.

 $22^{nd} \sim Sunset Eco Cruise \sim 6$ PM ~ Rock Creek

27th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join this fun little group that does big things for Rock Creek!

29th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

October Events

1st ~ Halloween in the Parks ~ Eden Valley, Walnut Grove & Sherman Park ~ Decorate your campsite for the weekend and then costumed kids are invited to trick or treat from 5-6 PM through the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy. Hay rack rides will also be available as long as weather permits.

5th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 5:30 PM ~ Malone Park ~ This is the last one of the season! We'll keep a running tally of who catches the most fish!

6th ~ Fall Color Eco Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

6th ~ Painting Class with "Fresh Paint" Christine Boeve ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ You can put your family name, a favorite saying, or whatever you like. All materials supplied! Register by calling Christine at 319-321-5499. Make

sure you leave a message how many people are attending. We need at least 8 people so bring friends! You will pay Chris directly the \$35 fee that evening by cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.

8th ~ 41st Annual Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Gathering ~ Noon - 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ The stage shows begin at noon in the main campground. In the event of rain it will be moved into the Eden Valley Nature Center. Once you attend,





you will never want to miss it again! Call Mary McAndrew 563-343-7002 for information. FREE!

 $8^{th} \sim Wagon Rides \sim 4:30 PM-6$ PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Our staff will be offering rides around the campground on our big wagon! Meet at the Nature Center or get on anywhere along the route. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Weather permitting.

11th ~ Music in the Loft ~ 6:30 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Local talents entertain acoustically with familiar and original compositions from Folk to Rock n Roll. There is no admission fee and everyone is welcome.

13th ~ Fall Color Eco Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek <u>Halloween Weekend at Rock Creek!</u>

Adults must accompany children during activities. All activities originate at the Eco Tourism Center.



Friday the 14th

~ Decorate Your Campsite ~ Get into the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Halloween. We will be awarding prizes for the most creative Halloween campsites.

~ Frightening Family Movie Night ~ 7 PM-9 PM ~ Come in your pj's and bring your favorite blanket for a Halloween family-friendly movie on the patio. Concessions will be available for some favorite movie treats. Cash only please, plan accordingly.

Saturday the 15th

 \sim Outside Archery Range \sim 10:30 AM \sim Test your hand at slaying wild animals that have been infected by zombies on our outside archery range. The event will include both safety and practical instruction. Participants must

use our equipment and will be under the watchful eye of a range master. Children (9+) must be accompanied by an adult.

- ~ Spooktacular Crafts ~ 1 PM ~ Creepy crawly crafts will be provided for people of all ages under the deck.
- ~ Pumpkin Carving ~ 2 PM ~ Come carve your pumpkin at the Eco Center! We will supply the carving tools, stencils and a place to make a mess! Bring your own pumpkin!
- ~ Trick or Treat! ~ 5-6 PM ~ We invite all our camper ghouls and goblins to trick or treat the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy.



~ Lighted Hayrack Ride ~ 6 PM ~ Join us aboard our hayrack as we drive through the campground looking at the decorated campsites. Adults must accompany children.

17th ~ Water shut-off begins ~ Clinton County Campgrounds

20th ~ Fall Color Cruise, Finale! ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

22nd ~ Fall Fest ~ 1 PM-4 PM ~ Soaring Eagle Nature Center ~ Free family fun for all including wagon rides, hot dog roast and more.

25th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join this fun little group that does big things for Rock Creek!

November Events

5th ~ Bald Eagle Eco Cruise ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ This will be the public's last opportunity this year to take a Mississippi Eco Cruise on the Blue Heron pontoon boat. The

American bald eagles will start to congregate along the Mississippi for the winter and we hope to see several of the birds during the cruise. Call 563-259-1876 to register. Sign up is open now for the Eagle Cruise.



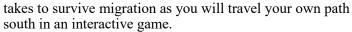
5th ~ Clinton County Conservation Foundation Fall Fundraiser Banquet ~ Rock Creek. Details yet to be determined.

22nd ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join this fun little group that does big things for Rock Creek.

December Events

14th ~ Migration on the Mississippi River ~ 2:15 PM ~ Camanche Library

~ The Mississippi Flyway is the highway to the south for many migrating birds. We will take a look at what it



14th - January 5th ~ Christmas Bird Count Season! ~ Become a better birder and a citizen scientist. There are 13 counts centered within a 2-hour drive of us including three within Clinton County! Contact Kelly McKay at 309-235-4661 or email at *kellyjmckay@aol.com*

27th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join this fun little group that does big things for Rock Creek!

<u>January Events (Gneak-a-Peek)</u>

 $7^{th} \sim Eagle Watch \sim 9 AM - 2 PM \sim Clinton Community College \sim Stop by our booth and say "Hi" to the critters and our naturalists and take part in all the great sessions.$

A Finch of a Different Color

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist

I'll admit it, I am not a birder; it takes patience and if you know me, it is not what I am known for! I would love to be better but like anything with skill, you have to practice. Luckily Clinton County Conservation has many opportunities. Just look for the Bird Watching Eco Cruises in the calendar of events. Even though I am not an expert on birds, I love them and find joy in hearing their calls and songs, especially the ones I know by the funny phrases we humans use to identify them. One of my favorite mnemonic is the "potato chip" call of Iowa's state bird, the American goldfinch, when it dips during flight.

Not only are they the state bird of Iowa but also of New Jersey and Washington.



Last spring, I was at the Eden Valley Nature Center and I unfortunately discovered a goldfinch that met its demise because of a window collision. As a Naturalist, I picked it up to look at it a little closer to determine if it would be worth keeping as a specimen and to find out a little more about it. As I was looking at it, I was baffled a little bit on whether it was a male or female. You may think that is crazy, but between the months of October and March the males and females look very similar. If you see a charm (flock) of them at a feeder, it is fairly simple to tell. The males have more yellow as

the female is more drab grayish overall. But when they are solo and are transforming little by little from the protective drab gray for winter, to it's showy yellow breeding plumage, it is tricky. Was this goldfinch a winter male or a female growing in her bit of yellow feathers for summer?

All birds molt before winter so they are ready to fly for migration and insulated against the harsh conditions. By molting, they lose old, damaged and weathered feathers slowly, all the while replacing those with new feathers. With goldfinches, even the pale buff edges of some of the goldfinches feathers fade eventually to white then disintegrate to leave mostly black wings for the males as summer progresses.

While all birds have a complete molt, some birds, like the American goldfinch have a partial molt to change colors from their protective winter drab to their eye catching breeding plumage! Of course they do not change colors like the horse of a different color in the movie, "The Wizard of Oz" but again drop all feathers except from their tail and wings!

Goldfinches are **granivores**, meaning they are strictly seed eaters. If you want to attract goldfinches to your yard they will eat nyjer (thistle) and sunflower seeds from a variety of feeders like tube, platform, hopper, hanging and even on the ground. You may also plant



The summer female and male showing off their new body only feathers.

milkweed along with sunflowers and asters if you would like to create more habitat for these beautiful birds and the other wildlife that goes along with it.

The parasitic nesting, brown-headed cowbird chicks cannot survive on the goldfinch's seed only diet for more than 3 days.

Speaking of milkweed and thistles! Goldfinches are different from other birds as they do not nest until thistles and milkweed go to seed as this is what they line their nests with and feed their young!

The nest is usually high in a sapling or shrub in an open

area where it is shaded above with leaves but is visible from below. The female builds the nest where three branches come together with spider silk and tightly woven root and plant fibers to make a cup shape nest 3" wide and 2-4" deep. The male



(pictured above) brings back food for the young and female for the first few days. Then they share the responsibility and the female only comes at night and inclement weather, but towards the end, that job is left to the male to feed until the chicks leave.

a.	
# of broods	1-2
# of eggs	2-7
Color of eggs	Pale bluish white, may have faint brown spots around large end.
Egg dimensions	0.6" - 0.7" X 0.5"
Incubation	12 - 14 days
Hatchlings	Helpless with some wisps of gray down
Nestling	11-17 days

So even if you are like me and have the patience of...well, a goldfinch, maybe you too can find joy in recognizing and knowing the "potato chip" call, the difference between sexes in all seasons, eggs and their unique late nests. Of course, enjoy them at your feeders!

East District Summer and Fall 2022 Projects and Improvements

by Kyle Redmond, Park Supervisor, East District

If you have spent any time at Rock Creek Marina & Campground you may have noticed several improvement projects taking place over the last few months. Like most summers, it has been a busy one for our park staff. Many areas have been touched up to ensure an enjoyable experience at the park. We started the summer with tending to our shower house needs. Hand dryers were replaced on both the men's and women's sides and the entire shower house was repainted in preparation for the camping season. The campground itself received some upgrades, campsites 1-12 were extended by 10 feet to add more parking space for each site. We also worked on a couple of the camping cabins by removing the old siding and replacing it with fresh log siding and giving them all a fresh coat of stain.



The Eco Center was given some much needed love also, with fresh stain, new concrete in areas of the sidewalk that were damaged and all unsightly bushes and trees were removed and turned into green grass space. We were also able to freshen up the north campground playground with new mulch and swings. One of the more exciting upgrades



Rock Creek received was the replacement of all of their rentable kayaks! We went with the solid molded "Old Town Twisters" to simplify the boat, making it easier for use and maintenance.

Rock Creek was not the only area that received some improvements. We were able to spend time at several of our other parks and wildlife areas in the East District. At Malone Park, just east of DeWitt,

we replaced the air pump for the bubbler towards the middle of the pond, ground out and removed all stumps, removed the trees in the prairie and added rock to the main drive. The Killdeer Recreation Area also received all new gravel to the drive and parking lot and parking curbs were added to the main lot. Last but not least we were able to fulfill a fish habitat grant by finishing up the final touches to the jetty we added to Hagenson Pond by Folletts this past winter. We also installed 24 porcupine balls around the jetty for fish habitat. The gate was replaced and the guard rail was removed from the parking lot, and all trees around the shoreline of the pond were removed too.

Summer is winding down and we are now looking ahead into our fall season. We have a list of projects



planned to continue our improvements in our pubic areas.

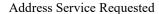
- An Eco-berm will be added to the east side of the Eco Center's grassy area.
- A barred owl will be carved in a leftover stump in front of the Eco Center.
- We will replace 10 fire rings and 10 picnic tables throughout the campground at Rock Creek.
- There will be 40 more trees planted at Rock Creek donated by LyondellBasell.
- We will be adding a 12' x 20' deck onto our Camp Miss-Elk-Ton rental cabin.



• Revamping of the emergency boat ramp access at Ben Martinsen Wildlife Area.

We are hoping for good fall weather so we can complete this lengthy list!

As we continue to enhance our public parks for your enjoyment, we hope you notice these completed projects and spend time enjoying what Clinton County Conservation has to offer.



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Phone: 563-847-7202

Email: conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov

Web: www.mycountyparks.com



Chuck busy at work teaching youth about the wonderous critters below the water surface.

CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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MAILING LIST

Clinton County residents may receive this newsletter at home, free. Others are charged \$5 annually. *The Heron* is on our website or emailed, free of charge.

The Clinton County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subject to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Clinton C.C.B. or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Clinton County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board regularly meets the third Tuesday the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, date and location may be changed.

