

B r e m e r B u l l e t i n

A NEWSLETTER OF THE BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Spring 2021 Edition

The late Jim Peters Honored for 34 Years on the Conservation Board

By Andy Hockenson

A long-time member of the Bremer County Conservation Board will no longer serve the citizens of Bremer County. Jim Peters of rural Tripoli sadly passed away in early February, leaving behind a lasting imprint on the parks and wildlife areas in Bremer County. It was in 1987 when Jim was appointed to voluntarily serve on the conservation board, thanks to some encouragement from then conservation board member Don Freeman of Waverly. Because of Jim's agricultural background, knowledge of equipment, and acquaintances throughout the county, Don believed Jim would be a fine asset to the board. He indeed proved to be a strong advocate for conservation, recreation, and education, in Bremer County.

In January Jim was re-appointed to his 7th 5 year term on the conservation board. At the start of this term, he was elected to serve as Chair of the board, a position he held 12 other times throughout the years. He rarely missed a meeting and was always available to talk on the phone or send an email. He was knowledgeable of the areas and always provided great input at the meetings. He also was aware of what was going on around the county, and listening for ways to improve the parks and wildlife areas. All of that was because he cared. He knew his role as a conservation board member, and took that role seriously. With 34 years on the board, he was the second longest serving member. It was very evident Jim was passionate about conservation and wanted to do his part to make the parks and wildlife areas better places to visit. (continued on page two)



Bremer County Conservation Director Andy Hockenson presents Lois Peters with a plaque recognizing her husband Jim's 34 years serving on the Bremer County Conservation Board.

Bremer County Conservation Board Staff

Executive Director - Andrew Hockenson

EE Coordinator / Naturalist - Heather Gamm

Recycling Educator / Naturalist - Angie Auel

Natural Resources Technicians - Pat Hyde, Dave Steere,

Mike Weidemann & Nick Franzen

Board Members

Chairperson - Mandie Sanderman

Vice Chair - Kevin Korman

Richard Harms, Stacey Snyder, Larry Pavelec (newly appointed)

Jim Peters Honored (continued)

When Jim was first appointed in 1987, the Bremer County Conservation Board managed 20 areas totaling 1,051 acres. The conservation board now manages 31 areas comprising over 4,400 acres. Jim was instrumental in much of this increase, and was proud of how the Wapsie River Greenbelt (over 2,000 acres of public land along the Wapsipinicon River) has expanded over those years. Along the Greenbelt, many public accesses were formed to better provide places to hunt, fish, view wildlife, hike, etc. There are few places in the state where you can travel up and down the river corridor without getting off public land. Other key land acquisitions included Babcock Woods and Winzenburg Prairie, both very nice places to hike. Horton Road Ponds, Avenue of the Saints, and Plainfield Lakes all added great places to fish or relax along a calm body of water. The Readlyn Grump Trail and Ingawanis Woodland were later added, providing opportunities to ride on hard and soft surface bike trails. Jim saw the importance of protecting these areas and having them available to the public. He along with the other four members also saw the importance of doing everything possible to acquire these properties using grants and donations, and to avoid the use of tax dollars.

Other highlights during Jim’s time on the board included constructing shower buildings at each of the four parks, updating electrical to the campgrounds, updating playground equipment, and making improvements to the main office. Jim’s “giving” to the conservation board continues to this day with his final wishes being that all memorials be directed to the Bremer County Conservation Board for future projects or land acquisitions. Jim’s wife Lois recently dropped off a donation check for those memorials which is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. A plaque was given to Lois on Jim’s behalf, recognizing his years of service and efforts during his time on the board. The Bremer County Conservation Board cannot express how grateful they are to have had Jim serve as long as he did. The time, effort, and knowledge he graciously gave over those years are greatly appreciated and will be missed.

Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday at 7 PM at the office in Tripoli.

Thanks to the following for donations to BCCB.

Jim Peters

Memorials for
Leon Kirchhoff
Kevin Shonk
Ron Boevers
Gloria Siggelkov

Dale & Peggy Rogers

Memorials for
Deloy (Peg) Abbas
Lyle Wrage
Sandra Sue Eick
Gloria Miller
Donation toward
Ingawanis Woodland

Lois Peters

Memorials for
Jim Peters

Thomas Scott & Sarah

Rada-Scott

Donation toward county
parks

Lyle Mohlis

Donation toward county
parks

Bremer County Nature Alliance (BCNA)

The BCNA, founded in 2016, helps support BCCB programs, helps protect our county’s natural resources, and enhances the lives of Bremer County citizens. BCNA helps raise funds, coordinates volunteer efforts, and supports environmental education as well as other BCCB programs. BCNA sponsors the Winter Picnic which had 39 people snowshoe this year. This spring, BCNA ordered a kayak trailer and a Stand-Up Paddle Board Carrier for use by the Naturalists in their programs. Our next goals include the purchase of mountain bikes, additional kayaks, and assisting with the development of a Natural Playscape in North Woods Park.

2021 BCNA Membership

If you haven’t joined yet, please do so today! Your dollars go directly toward the betterment of Bremer County’s natural resources. “Pledge your support today for the great outdoors in Bremer County through greater recreation, conservation projects and more outdoor education opportunities.”

Individual Annual \$20, Small Business \$100, Family Annual \$50, Benefactor \$250,

Lifetime Member/Family \$200/500 Additional Donation Amount: \$ _____

Please Direct Additional Funds to... 1) Youth Mountain Bikes 2) Kayaks & Trailer Fund

3) Natural Playscape Project

Mail to: BCNA PO BOX 412 Tripoli IA 50676 or visit <https://givebutter.com/BCNA2021Membership>

Bremer County Conservation Fees for 2021

Camping

Cedar Bend Park \$12.00 per night per camping unit without electricity
 \$17.00 per night per camping unit with electricity
 \$20.00 per night charge for sites A-G (gravel pads & 50 amp outlets available)

Alcock Park, North Cedar Park and North Woods Park

\$10.00 per night per camping unit
\$15.00 per night per camping unit with electric (30 amp outlets available)

Wednesday night will continue to be a free camping night unless the Wednesday falls on a holiday (whereby there will be regular fees).

Camping fees will be collected on a self-registration basis, whereby campers fill out an envelope upon arriving at the campgrounds, and deposits the envelope and fees in a vandal-proof collection box at the campground entrance. **No reservations, all sites are first come/serve.**

Showers

Shower facilities are located in all parks. These facilities are free to those camping in one of these parks. For anyone wanting to use the showers and not camping in the park, there is a **\$2.00** charge each time this facility is used. The fee can be placed in a camper self-registration envelope and marked "shower" and placed in the camper collection receptacle.

Dumpstations

Cedar Bend Park, North Cedar Park and Alcock Park all have dumpstations. This dumpstation is included in the camping fee for those camping in the park. For anyone wanting to use the dumpstation and not camping in the park, there is a **\$5.00** charge for each time the facility is used. The fee can be placed in a self-registration envelope and marked "dumpstation" and placed in the collection receptacle in the campgrounds.

Firewood

All parks cost **\$5.00** each time a defined amount of firewood is obtained from the firewood pile. Fees for firewood can be placed in a separate vandal proof collection box located near the firewood pile.

Shelters

Shelters are located in each of the four county parks and an amphitheater is located at Cedar Bend Park. These shelters have electricity as well as nearby water and a grill. They can be used free on a first-come, first-serve basis, but can be held for you by reservation. The charges are **\$25.00 per day** for shelters or the amphitheater. Contact the BCCB office at 319-882-4742 for more information or to reserve.

Ingawanis Woodland Lodge

This facility is located at 2588 Hawthorne Avenue, Janesville. It is an enclosed facility with restrooms, heat, air conditioning and a kitchenette. It can be rented for \$75.00 per day and reservations can be made by calling the BCCB office at 319-882-4742.

**Bremer County Conservation Board park gates are scheduled to be open
May 1 - October 31. For additional information, call Andy Hockenson at the BCCB
office at 319-882-4742.**

Board members and staff are looking forward to another successful and busy camping season. Unlike a year ago at this time, all parks will be open for the season on April 30 with electricity, water, shower houses, and playgrounds in full operation. To find out more information on the county areas in Bremer County that board members and staff who work so hard at creating and maintaining, please visit <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Bremer.aspx> or <http://www.co.bremer.ia.us>, or call the office at 319-882-4742.

The picture to the right shows progress on the 11 new sites at North Woods Park continues. Sites will include gravel pads, 50 amp electric, and water hook ups. Sites are planned to open this summer.



Picnic in the Park

Picnics are meant to help you socialize with other families in the summer and get outdoors. Each family brings their own lunch items and a blanket to spread out on. Picnic tables are also available. Each week will have a book and activity. Please email Angie at angie.ael@co.bremer.ia.us to reserve your spot. There is no fee for this program but it is nice for planning purposes to have a head count.



11:30 a.m. Cedar Bend Park - East Shelter
1267 205th Street - Waverly
June 8, 15, 22, and 29

Overnight River Trip

Dates: July 19, August 2-3
Fee: \$50

Explore the Cedar River from North Cedar Park to Waverly. Youth that have completed 6th grade and older can register for this event at <http://bit.ly/OvernightRiverTrip>. On August 2-3, youth will kayak, camp, cook outdoors, and learn Leave No Trace skills. The trip fee includes food, kayak, life jacket, paddles and transportation. Enrollment is limited to 11 participants. Participants must attend the training day on July 19, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Pelican Park. The training will include camping and paddling basics, menu for the trip itinerary, and what to pack. For more information please go to <http://bit.ly/SummerOutdoorExplorers>

Tree Faces by Heather Gamm

In late fall, Angi Reid consulted Bremer County Naturalists about the possibility of using Ingawanis Woodland to display some art. She works with the Waterloo Center for the Arts. Due to the pandemic, their building was closed for some time. She had an idea to bring art out to the people. Specifically, the people that were using Ingawanis Woodland trails. These trails are used by numerous Cedar Valley people. Some bike, some snowshoe, some hike and some run the trails. Angi Reid worked together with Bremer County Naturalists to select the shortest trail at Ingawanis

Woodland. Eagle Lodge Loop trail is accessible from both the trailhead and Eagle Lodge parking lots. Angi made tree faces out of clay. Each face has a name. She also created a map that shows where the faces are generally located. Once the faces were placed in November, they stayed up all winter and created a fun family activity. Bremer County Naturalists have used the trail to snowshoe with groups as well as hike with area children during their spring break. Overall 71 participants have hiked with Bremer County Naturalists since the faces were put up. However, countless others have viewed them on their bikes and while using the area. What a fun outdoor, covid-safe activity! Thanks to Waterloo Center for the Arts and Angi Reid for this neat idea to create tree faces like Kim with her big lips, Fred with his beard and yellow tooth and 9 others scattered on the trail. Get out today to see them before they are gone with the season! To learn more about the Waterloo Center for the Arts visit waterloocenterforthearts.org



Field Trips

Where does your garbage go?

This is a walking tour of the Black Hawk County Sanitary Landfill (in rural Waterloo). Participants will watch garbage trucks in action, see a variety of items at the small loads area/compost site, and learn about the technology and environmental protections that are put in place to protect people and the environment from waste.

Date: Thursday, June 10
Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm
Age: Completed 3rd grade and up
Fee: \$20

Waverly Archery Club in SE Waverly

Participants will meet at the Waverly Archery Club near Babcock Woods. All equipment will be provided. We will begin our day shooting at a target, then walk through the woods to shoot at the 3D animals.

Date: Thursday, June 17
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am
Age: Completed 4th grade and up
Fee: \$10

Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch and Twin Ponds Nature Center

This group is off to Chickasaw County to get up-close and personal with animals! Participants will take a hay wagon ride in the buffalo pasture and feed the buffalo ears of corn by hand. Then we will travel to the nature center, where we will touch live animals and fish at the pond.

Date: Wednesday, July 21
Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm
Age: Completed 2nd grade and up
Fee: \$30

Summer Outdoor Explorers Programs

Field Trips

Rockford Fossil Park near Rockford, Iowa

Travel to the Devonian Age when Iowa was an ocean. That's before the dinosaurs! Participants will tour the Fossil & Prairie Center before going out to look for fossils.

Date: Wednesday, August 4
Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm
Age: Completed 2nd grade and up
Fee: \$20

Extreme Kayaking at Manchester Whitewater Park

CrawDaddy Outdoors will provide all the gear and training for this epic adventure! Participants will meet in Waverly and ride with a naturalist or Darrin Siefken, CrawDaddy Outdoors owner. Some kayaking or canoeing experience is preferred. **REGISTER**

ONLINE for this program only! Here is the link to register.
https://bit.ly/2021_Whitewater_Kayaking

Date: Tuesday, August 17
Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm
Age: Completed 5th grade and up
Fee: \$40 (Pay online)
Location to meet: Behind CrawDaddy Outdoors or in Manchester

Women in Nature

New adult program coming for women in nature! Please watch our Facebook page for more details!

Date: October 3rd
Time: 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Fee: TBD
Location: Plainfield Lake

To register for any Outdoor Explorers events, please **register online** at <https://forms.gle/MXpZ1Z9oAkPUjTLs7> and pay at <https://givebutter.com/BCNAOutdoorExplorers> for the amount of the class or combination of classes. Please email Heather Gamm at naturalist@co.bremer.ia.us if you have any questions.

Beginner Outdoor Explorers

Ensure your child is outside this summer by signing them up to enjoy and learn about the great outdoors! Outdoor activities are listed below. Your child may take this class 2 years in a row. Most activities will alternate every other year.

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 - 11:15 am

Grades Completed: 2nd - 3rd

Place: Cedar Bend Park East Shelter (1267 205th Street, Waverly)

Fee: \$30

Date	Activity
July 1	Nametags/Games
July 6	Dinosaurs
July 8	'Stained Glass' Leaves/Spider Hunt
July 13	Invent an Animal/Animal Olympics
July 15	Papermaking/Recycled Crafts
July 20	Fishing/Canoeing/Kayaking @ Three Rivers Park – Duck Pond
July 22	Using a Compass



Intermediate Outdoor Explorers

Participants will enjoy a longer session to engage in hands-on activities. This Outdoor Explorers group will meet at various locations around Waverly. Please be on time for all activities. Children should bring a water bottle and dress to be outdoors which includes tennis shoes.

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Grades Completed: 4th - 5th

Place: various locations around Waverly

Fee: \$50

Date	Activity	Location
July 1	Intros, Wild Berries, Dig. Scav. Hunt	Cedar Bend Park
July 6	Creek Stomp	South Riverside Park
July 8	Frisbee Golf/Slacklining	Brookwood Park
July 13	Pellet Guns/Archery/Stepping Stones	Cedar Bend Park
July 15	Biking (Bring your bike & helmet.)	South Riverside Park
July 20	Fishing/Canoeing/Kayaking	Three Rivers Park-Duck Pond
July 22	Geocaching	Around Waverly

Advanced Outdoor Explorers

This group meets for two sessions on Fridays in July.

Day: Friday from 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Grades Completed: 5th - 8th

Fee: \$35 for all dates

If you sign up for only one event, the price will be as follows:
\$20 for kayaking and \$15 for biking.



Date	Activity	Location
July 9	Kayaking	Shell Rock River
July 16	Biking (Bring your bike & helmet)	Waverly Rail Trail

Bremer Bulletin

Bremer County Conservation Board
P.O. Box 412
1104 South Main Street
Tripoli, IA 50676

BREMER BULLETIN

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Bremer County Conservation Board

(319) 882-4742

*conservation@butler-
bremer.com*

*www.mycountyparks
.com/county/
bremer.aspx*

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Conservation Board at
319-882-4742.**