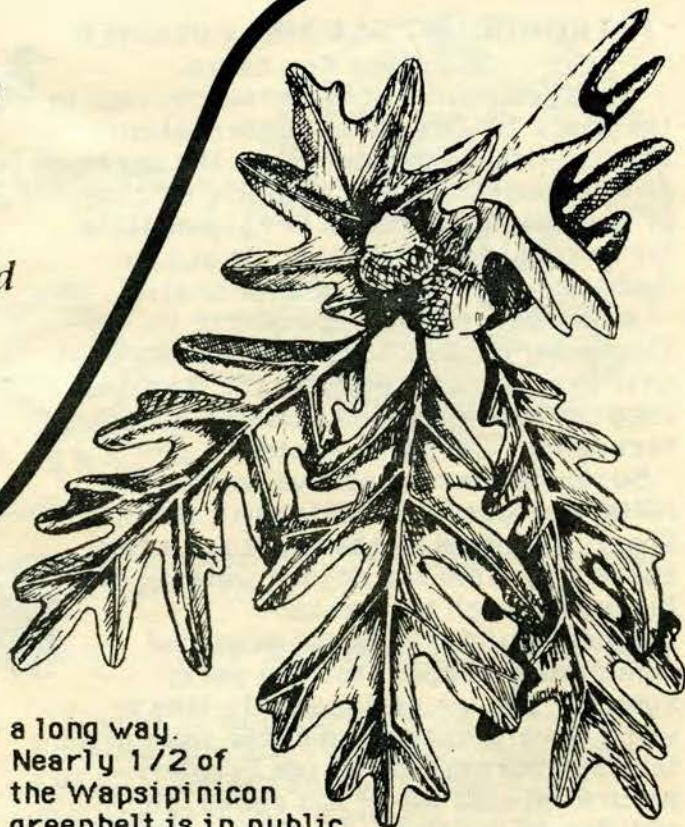


The Oak

A Quarterly Newsletter of the
Black Hawk County Conservation Board

2410 West Lone Tree Road
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
Fall 1990 Vol. 10 No. 1



AND THEN THE RAINS RETURNED

by Steve Finegan, Exec. Director

In the past three years we have seen the extremes Mother Nature can provide. Two years of record drought followed by record rainfall. It seems we had forgotten about the threat of flooding, after all we had not seen a flood of any consequence since 1969. Some of you will remember the '60's as the decade of floods with high water in '61, '62, '65, & '69. Flooding can and has occurred in all months of the year; it is inevitable.

The news media portrays the negative aspects of flooding in terms of property damage particularly houses and structures. Following the '60's, public policy was adopted to limit construction in floodplains. No new construction was allowed and destroyed buildings could not be replaced. It became our long-term goal to move development out of the floodplain. The flood of 1990 should rekindle this goal.

As public policy on flood protection was being formulated in the '60's, the need to protect the greenbelts along our rivers and streams became obvious. High water must go somewhere and the floodplain forest community is well adapted to withstand the effects of flooding. Little damage occurs in a healthy plant community in which the ground is protected by vegetation.

At that time the Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) was forming a policy to acquire and protect our river greenbelts. We have come

a long way.

Nearly 1/2 of the Wapsipinicon greenbelt is in public ownership. The Cedar, West Fork and Shell Rock Rivers north of Cedar Falls have been substantially protected. Most of the Black Hawk Greenbelt is owned by the County or City of Waterloo. There remain many gaps, especially south of Waterloo on the Cedar.

The recent flooding has brought to light the reasons we need greenbelts. Pasturing of low areas allows cattle to break down streambanks and disturb the vegetation resulting in increased erosion. Farming up to the bank also causes extensive stream bank erosion. Drained upland wetlands, which serve as nature's mini-storage reservoirs, slowly releasing water following a heavy rain, suddenly become a funnel to dump even more water into a flooding river basin.

Public policy is being formulated to address these issues. "Swampbuster and Sodbuster" provisions of the Federal Farm Bill are being strengthened. A Bill in the Iowa Legislature would limit row crop farming close to stream banks. Although proposals of 16 feet seem woefully inadequate, public understanding and support is needed.

It is my hope that the floods of 1990 will rekindle our resolve to address these issues and continue our long-term, big picture approach to public policy on natural resources in Iowa.



INTRODUCING SANDRA FULCHER

by Mary Kay Eakin

Sandy, a native of Waterloo, brings to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board a life-long interest in the parks as an avid user. She is presently employed at the UNI Museum and is responsible for program development. To supplement her B.A. degree as a Naturalist, she is also working toward a degree in Elementary Education. This background will be a valuable asset to the Board as they consider new and existing programs throughout the parks system.

Sandy has served as a volunteer at HRNC and worked closely with the Girl Scout programs in the county. In her spare (?) time she enjoys walking or biking through the parks.

Sandy would like to see expanded community support for the parks system. She would especially like to work toward expansion of the interpretative programs to include greater naturalist-led use of the parks, in addition to Hartman, by groups of all ages. And a big dream is the completion of a bike trail from Black Hawk Park to Hartman Reserve.

With the expanded facilities at Hartman, the work on the Chain of Lakes project, and the growing interest in and concern over conservation issues, Sandy finds this an exciting and challenging time to serve on the Board. Welcome!

FORESTRY FIELD DAY

The BHCCB is hosting its annual Forestry Field Day on Wed., Oct. 17, at HRNC from 2:15 to 8:00 pm. Topics include: harvesting techniques, evaluation of woodland sites, woodlands as dynamic communities, improvement of young stands, woodland wildflowers, wildlife, forest inventory evaluation, economics of woodland management and options for the woodland owner.

There will be a small fee for materials and dinner. To register call 234-6811.

INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The 4th Annual Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Conference will be hosted by the UNI Biology Dept. and



the Association For Integrated Roadside Management, at the John Deere Supervisors Club on September 21.

The theme, "Seeding Establishment of Native Grasses and Forbs in Roadsides" brings together Dr. Daryl Smith, UNI; Dr. Paul Christiansen, Cornell College; Steve Holland, Iowa DOT and Daryl Kothenbeutel, Iowa Prairie Seed Co.

The conference, oriented toward professional vegetation managers, will include an equipment display. Members of the general public are welcome. Pre-registration is \$25, \$30 at the door. Please call 273-2813.

\$\$\$ TREE SEED \$\$\$

The BHCCB will provide a collection site for tree seed purchased by the State Forest Nursery. Deliveries can be processed between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm on Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri., in the parking lot at the entrance to Black Hawk Park, early morning preferred. Seed delivered at other times must be clearly labeled with collector's name, address, telephone and social security number.

Seed should be cleaned of twigs and leaves. No mixtures please! Price per bushel are: Red or White Oak-\$12; Mixed Oak-\$5; Wild Plum-\$10; Black Walnut-\$1.60; White Ash (if certified)-\$20.

The State Nursery can refuse seed when quotas are reached. Collectors should call 266-6813 for an up-to-date list of accepted seeds every Monday afternoon.

SEEDLING ORDERS

It's time to plan your tree and shrub order from the State Forest Nursery for the Spring of 1991. The seedlings can be used for Christmas tree production, interplanting into existing timber, wildlife habitat improvement and erosion control.

The order forms will be available in November and accepted throughout the winter, but landowners are encouraged to PLAN NOW! To obtain technical advice for planning, ordering, planting, and managing your seedlings contact BHCCB at 266-6813.

Sproutings — Nature Center News



by Vern Fish,
Nature Center Director



NAME THE GIFT SHOP

One of the features of the Hartman Interpretive Center's new wing is the gift shop which is operated by the Friends of Hartman Reserve. As of yet this shop has no name! The Friends are sponsoring a name-the-gift-shop contest. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate from the newly-named gift shop! All entries are due by October 10.

VOLUNTEERS AND APPLES



The following are ways that you can help. For more information please call 277-2187.

- *** Actors, guides and behind the scenes helpers are needed for the annual Hartman Halloween Hikes on Oct. 22-24
- *** Hosts are needed to staff the gift shop on Sundays Sept. 16-Nov. 4.
- *** Apples are needed for our apple cider press on Sundays from Sept. 29-Oct. 28.
- *** Teacher-naturalists are needed to help with school programs.

FRIENDS OF HARTMAN RESERVE

Your 1989-1990 membership in the Friends will lapse on August 31 and we invite you to join again. Benefits include a discount at the gift shop and to certain special events like the Halloween Hikes. HRNC stickers, a 25 lb. bag of bird seed and art prints are also available at different levels of contribution. A special benefit this year will be drawings for UNI basketball tickets and an interpretive airplane ride over the Chain of Lakes Project with the nature



center director! To be eligible you must join by Oct 10.

PART-TIME NATURALIST POSITION

Thanks to funding from the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP), we are able to create a new position at HRNC. This 20 hr/wk position will allow the HRNC program to do a better job of serving our community. We are taking applications for this position through Sept. 10. For more information contact Vern Fish, Nature Center Director.

COMINGS AND GOINGS



A diverse group of students finished internships at HRNC this summer. **Joel Van Roekel**, who worked as naturalist this summer, has accepted a full-time job as naturalist for the Warren County Conservation Board, yea Joel! **Sarah Hanuske** completed graduate course work in audiovisual communications at UNI by creating a new HRNC automated slide show and is now on her way back to a teaching job in Alaska. **John Suarez**, who was a naturalist intern, has finished his degree in Leisure Services at UNI. Thank you all!

Jonna McIntire, who served as a marketing intern from UNI this summer, will return this fall as a cooperative education student to help coordinate some of the activities of the Friends of Hartman Reserve. The HRNC staff will also be assisted by **Cynthia Cechota**, a graduate student in the Division of Leisure Services at UNI. Cynthia will coordinate our Ranger Rick program.



CLASSICAL APPLES



Our old-fashioned, hand-cranked apple cider press will be busy during the peak of the fall colors. Enjoy a cup of fresh-pressed apple cider and the work of local artists on the following Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm. Apple donations are needed!

***Sun., Sept 30, 2:30 - 3:30 pm. Holly Williams will delight listeners with the music of her dulcimers. Holly will offer a fun, hands-on WORKSHOP on playing the mountain dulcimer from 1:00-2:00 pm prior to her concert. No musical experience necessary. Workshop fee \$10.

***Sun., Oct., 7, 2:00-3:00 pm. The Con Brio Consort string quintet will perform during the peak of fall colors.

***Sun., Oct., 14, 2:00-3:00 pm. The forest will ring with the music of the Carillon Brass.

***Sun., Oct., 21, 2:00-4:00 pm. Watch Jim Kern, master potter, perform his craft.

***Sun., Oct., 28, 2:00-3:00 pm. Gus Hanuske will present a slide program on fall color and workshop on nature photography.



IN OTHER PLACES



CANOE FLOAT - Sat., Sept. 8, 1-5:00 pm. Thunder Woman Park to Washington-Union Access. Call HRNC to register.

CEDAR VALLEY WETLANDS FOUNDATION- Sat., Sept. 15, 3-7 pm, Rotary Reserve. This fundraiser features a hog roast, wildlife art show, auction and bus tour of Chain of Lakes Project. \$20 ticket includes membership and a signed, limited-edition wildlife print. For tickets call 266-6813.

THE LAST GREAT WILDERNESS - Wed., Sept. 26, 7:00 pm, Maucker Union, UNI. A magnificent multi-media slide presentation exploring Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by Glendon Brunk.

HAWK WATCH - Sat., Sept. 29, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Effigy Mounds National Monument. Bald eagles, osprey, and turkey vultures are just a few of the raptors to be seen on this field trip. Call HRNC to reserve a seat on our van, \$5 fee.

Fall Schedule

LABOR DAY WEEKEND - The HRNC trails will be open. The Interpretative Center, however, will not be open on Sept. 1, 2, 3 and Sept. 8, 9.



SPECIAL EVENTS



FALL PORTRAITS- Sun(s), Sept., 29 & Oct. 7, 1:00-5:00 pm, HRNC. Cole Photography will offer fall family portraits at HRNC. Half of the \$10 sitting fee will be donated to the Friends of Hartman Reserve. Call 235-1563 for details.

IOWA GAME FAIR PHOTO CONTEST - Sept. 30-Oct 28. Up to 50 wildlife photos will be on display at HRNC.

ANNUAL HARTMAN HAUNTED HALLOWEEN HIKES - Mon., Tues., & Wed., Oct 22, 23 & 24, five hikes per night from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Discover the enchanted characters of the Hartman forest. Tickets go on sale at 5:30 pm Tues., Oct 9. Cost is \$3.00/person with discount for members of the Friends. One adult/3 children. NO phone orders or rain checks.

BIRDSEED SALE - Sat. & Sun., Nov. 3 & 4, 1-4 pm, HRNC parking lot. Please use the order form in this newsletter to preorder. There will only be limited quantities of unsold seed available. All proceeds go to support the programs of HRNC.

TURKEY TROT - Sat., Nov. 17, 9:00 am, HRNC. This 5K "Trot" will follow a course through the trails of HRNC and the Cedar Heights area. Registration at 9:00 am, race starts at 10:00 am. \$5 entry fee.

SNOWSHOE MAKING WORKSHOP - Tues., Dec. 4, 6:00-9:00 pm. Learn how to construct a pair of Ojibwa snowshoes from a kit. Please preorder by Nov. 5.

CROSS-COUNTY SKI CLINICS - Learn the basics of X-county skiing during both indoor & outdoor sessions. \$7 fee does not include ski equipment. Call 277-2187 to register.
*** Sat., Dec. 15, 9-11 am and 1-3 pm.
*** Sat., Dec. 22, 9-11 am and 1-3 pm.

Introducing HARTMAN RESERVE NATURE CENTER GIFT SHOP Mail Order



Hartman Reserve Nature Center Patches \$ 3.00

Pure Honey 2.50

Insect Life 4.95
Book for ages 8-11

Maple Syrup 5.00

Hartman Reserve Sweatshirt 15.00

Mark Muller Original Art Prints 20.00
"For The Birds"

Droll Yankee Birdfeeder 22.00

Thistle Birdfeeder 28.00

Come see our other Gift Shop items. Hours: Monday-Friday 8-4:30; Sunday 1-5

Mail this order form to:
ATTN: Gift Shop Manager
Hartman Reserve Nature Center
657 Reserve Dr.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

	Quantity	Price	Total
Patches	___	X \$3.00	_____
Honey	___	X 2.50	_____
Book	___	X 4.95	_____
Maple Syrup	___	X 5.00	_____
Sweatshirt (L, XL)	___	X 15.00	_____
Art Print	___	X 20.00	_____
Birdfeeder	___	X 22.00	_____
Thistle Birdfeeder	___	X 28.00	_____

Add \$2.00 postage per item

Total _____

Hartman Reserve Nature Center Fall 1990 Birdseed Sale



To Order:
Fill out order form and send it with a check by October 22, 1990, payable to:

Friends of Hartman Reserve
657 Reserve Dr.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

To Pick Up:
Birdseed can be picked up at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center parking lot.

Sat., Nov. 3 - 1:00-5:00 pm
Sun., Nov. 4 - 1:00-5:00 pm

Order Form

Name: _____	Item	Quantity	Cost/Bag	Total
Address: _____	Hartman Bird Mix	_____ x	\$6.50 =	_____
_____	Sunflower Seed	_____ x	\$8.00 =	_____
Zip Code: _____	Thistle Seed	_____ x	\$5.50 =	_____
Telephone: _____			TOTAL	_____

Please make checks payable to: "Friends of Hartman Reserve"

Hartman Bird Mix

25 lb. \$6.50

This specially prepared recipe contains sunflower seeds, cracked corn, white millet and milo. These ingredients are blended to appeal to a variety of birds by the Gilbertville Milling Co.

Sunflower Seed

25 lb. \$8.00

Sunflower seeds are a high oil-bearing seed which is an important source of calories for winter survival. Sunflower seeds are very popular with most of our winter birds such as chickadees, nuthatches, cardinals and many others.

Thistle Seed

5 lb. \$5.50

Thistle seed is the favored food of the American Goldfinch which is the state bird of Iowa. Putting this food in your feeder will also attract redpolls, pine siskins, chickadees, juncos and mourning doves.

Reminder: Pick up dates: November 3 & 4, 1:00-5:00 PM
Hartman Reserve Nature Center
657 Reserve Dr.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613 277-2187

As Summer ends and Fall comes down upon us, nature begins to change. Hidden in this puzzle are words that make you think of fall. After you find all the words put the leftover letters in order for a hidden message.

H	S	R	O	L	O	C	N	A	R	T	M	A	N
N	N	R	E	S	E	A	U	T	U	M	N	R	E
H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	E	V	E	N	A	E
A	K	T	U	R	E	C	S	E	V	A	E	L	W
R	P	E	N	T	E	Y	S	L	L	I	H	C	O
V	M	I	G	R	A	T	I	O	N	R	A	I	L
E	U	S	T	S	O	R	F	P	E	C	I	D	L
S	P	M	O	L	T	X	O	N	I	U	Q	E	A
T	I	N	D	I	A	N	S	U	M	L	E	R	H
A	S	H	I	K	I	N	G	L	P	L	A	C	E

Indians called September the moon (month) of falling leaves, pioneers knew it as the Harvest Month.



HIBERNATE
 COLORS
 HARVEST
 MIGRATION
 SEASONS
 FROST
 AUTUMN
 INDIAN SUMMER
 HIKING

CHILLY
 LEAVES
 HALLOWEEN
 PUMPKINS
 MOLT
 NUTS
 EQUINOX
 CIDER



HIDDEN MESSAGE: HARTMAN RESERVE NATURE CENTER A SPECIAL PLACE

BIRDS BIRDS BIRDS

NOW is the time to get your winter bird feeder ready. Here are two simple feeders you can make yourself.

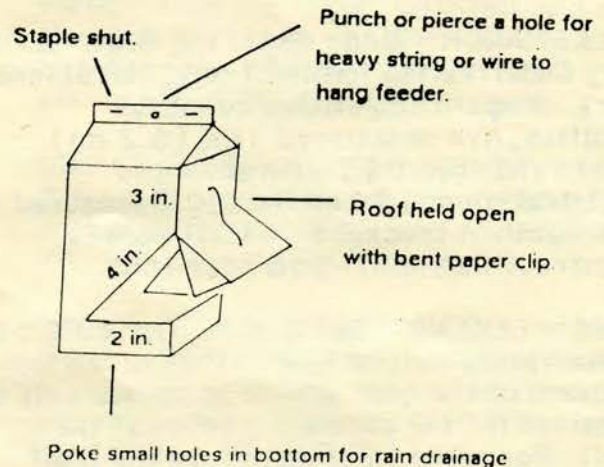
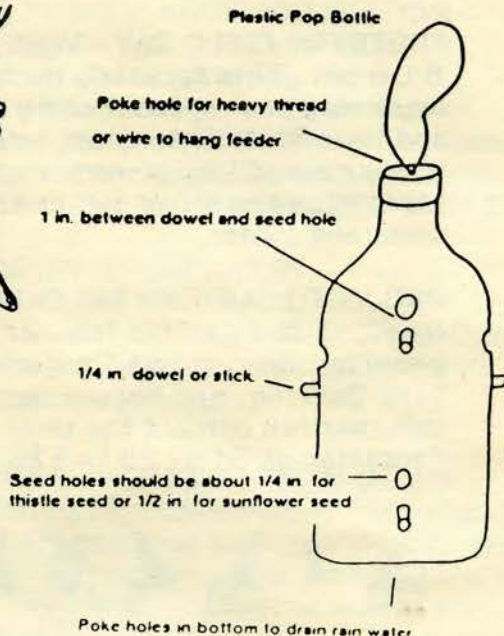
Feeding Tips

Wash out any jug or carton before filling with seed.

Keep perches about 1 1/2 in. to deter larger birds.

Make sure seed isn't wet or moldy. Moldy and wet seed can make birds ill.

Always keep feeders full. Birds will begin to depend on the feeder as their main food source (especially in the winter).



SIGNS OF FALL

by John Burgher, Graduate Intern

Though Summer doesn't officially end until the middle of September, if you're like me, you're probably getting a little tired of the hot, sticky, endless summer days. If that's the case, maybe you too are looking for the traditional signs of my favorite season - fall.

A sure sign of fall is the loss of husbands all around the country to football season. However, for many wives, this loss is tempered by the relief felt now that their husbands are out of their hair and the kids are back in school.

For me, the most exciting sign of fall is the magnificent show of migratory birds passing through on their journey south. Each August, I become a menace to every motorist on the road as I drive along with my head permanently crooked upward in hopes of seeing ospreys, hawks, and eagles soaring overhead. I also enjoy seeing the distinctive "V" formations as gaggles of geese and flocks of ducks wing their way south.

Almost everybody is familiar with the classic "V" formation. Ducks and geese use this formation to keep the flock together without crashing into each other. In order to keep the formation together they communicate with each other with their distinctive honking and quacking noises. These noises enable them to keep in formation as they fly through clouds, haze, and darkness.

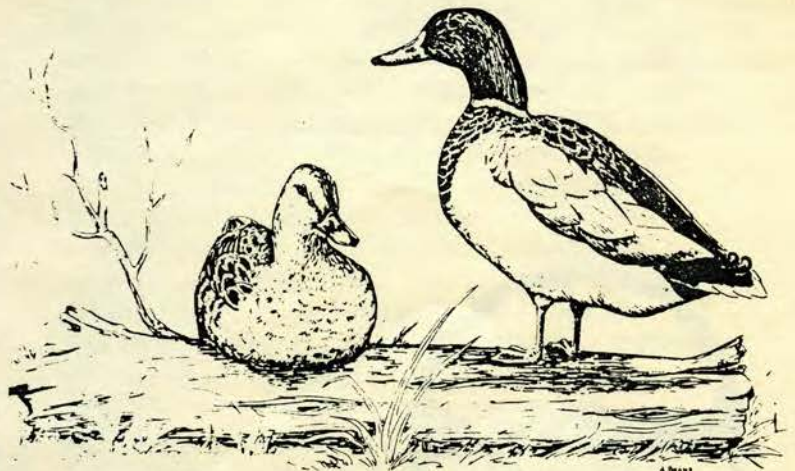
The ducks, geese, and other birds we see flying over Iowa are using a specific route known as the Mississippi flyway. This flyway is just one of four major routes which migratory birds follow south. They use these routes in much the same way as we humans use the same roads each day to go to work, school, or shopping.

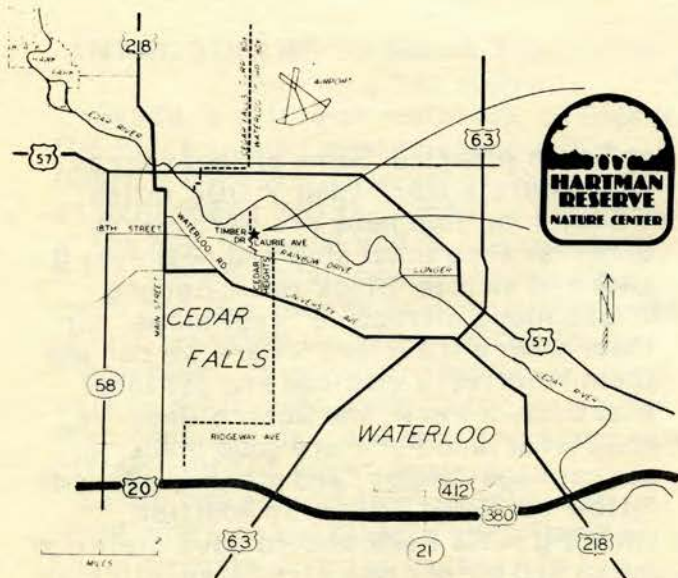
Have you ever wondered where all of these birds are heading each fall? Countless millions of ducks, geese, hawks, and other birds fly down out of Canada, and Alaska to spend their winters in warmer places. Many of these birds stop in the southern United States in places like Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana. However, a great many of them continue on to their winter grounds

in South America. Some of these birds will migrate more than 7,000 miles.

Such long journeys are hard on the birds so they must stop and rest every once and awhile. Black Hawk County offers many attractive "rest stops" for these weary travelers where we can see them relatively up close and personal. Black Hawk Park, the Rotary Reserve, and McFarlane Park are good places to see ospreys, eagles, and other birds that follow the Cedar River. In addition, Hickory Hills Park should have plenty of ducks and geese and a nice leisurely bike ride along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail should offer many chances to catch a glimpse of your favorite waterfowl.

Finally, though I have concentrated mainly on ducks, geese, and birds of prey, these aren't the only tourists flying through Iowa this fall. There will also be warblers, butterflies, and hummingbirds which can be seen at Hartman Reserve as well as the other parks. So please, come out and enjoy your county parks this fall as you watch our avian friends pass through.





Black Hawk County Conservation Board:
 Dennis Huisman, president
 Ed Wilson, vice president
 Jim Platt, secretary
 Jean Klingaman, Sandy Fulcher
 Executive Director: Steve Finegan
 Newsletter Editors:
 Vern Fish, Nature Center Director
 Carol Haverkamp, Naturalist
 John Burgher, Graduate Intern
 Sarah Hanuske, Audiovisual Intern
 Jonna McIntire, Marketing Intern
 John Suarez, Naturalist Intern
 Joel Van Roekel, Graduate Intern
 Carol Everman, Secretary
 Special thanks to:
 City of Waterloo Print Shop
 Mary Kay Eakin

R.S.V.P.

INFORMATION

Hartman Reserve Nature Center is located in Cedar Falls three blocks north of Rainbow Drive. Follow the signs that begin at the intersection of Rainbow Dr. and Laurie Ave.

The Interpretive Center is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, and on weekends for scheduled programs. The Center is closed on major holidays. The trails are open every day, sunrise to sunset. Please call 277-2187 for more information.

Hartman Reserve Nature Center
 657 Reserve Drive
 Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NEWSLETTER FUND

Though the newsletter is available without subscription, your contribution towards its publication does help defray costs. Any donation is appreciated. Please let us know of any change of address.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The board will meet at 7:00 pm on Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, and Dec. 6. Please note, these dates are subject to change.

BULK RATE
 Postage Paid
 Non-Profit Org.
 Cedar Falls, IA
 Permit No. 351



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

The Black Hawk 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 subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Black Hawk County Consv. Bd. or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

4401.001