

Summer 2011

# Connections

Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation



## Home Sweet Home

by Bruce Bergland

Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation

The Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation sold bluebird houses at the banquet this year with the idea that they

could either be taken home and installed on the buyers property or could be donated back to the Foundation to establish a bluebird trail.

Nine boxes were donated back to the Foundation to establish a

trail. The site chosen was a farm owned by Phyllis Meyer since it is adjacent to Wentlands Woods. It is within a mile of my house and there was already a mowed trail over two and a half miles long. In March,



Jon Schneckloth and I installed ten boxes along the trail. The next day, my wife and I walked the trail and observed an

estimated one hundred and fifty bluebirds in one field near the trail. The bluebirds were migrating and scouting for possible nesting sites.

I have monitored the boxes since May and as

of this writing, five of the ten boxes have successfully raised between eighteen to twenty baby bluebirds. Two of the boxes have raised eight swallows and two of the boxes have raised about eight wrens. Overall, this trail has proven to be highly successful and there is still time for the bluebirds to raise another brood. Some of the boxes have new nests built in them.

You can check a more detailed monitoring log

by going to [fossilcenter.com](http://fossilcenter.com) and clicking on the picture of the bluebird.



# Spring Celebration Banquet



(above): Banquet attendees have a variety of items to choose from amongst the silent auction.

*We hope to see you next year at the 14<sup>th</sup> Spring Celebration Banquet.*

*Save the date:  
Saturday March 3, 2012*



(above image): At the Spring Celebration Banquet, awards were presented to Ellen Montgomery of the Basic Birder for her continual support of Foundation sponsored events and to Bruce Bergland for his years of dedication to the Foundation

(right): Larry Stone presented a program on Gladys Black, Iowa's Bird Lady.



## *13th Annual...*

### **Fossil & Prairie Park 5K Fun Run and Walk**

Dust off your running and walking shoes and get ready to participate in this year's 5K Fun Run or Walk. That's right, the walk is different this year. It, too, is a 5K or 3.1 mile jaunt through the prairie trails of the park. Come race for 1st and 2nd prize, or take your time and enjoy the natural beauty.

Runners, your course is also different. Your route will truly be a cross country race course. The new route will begin right in the park, no more bus rides to the start. You will run to the far reaches of the park and observe some breath taking scenery along the way.

If you aren't a walker or a runner, yet want to cheer them on, you are more than welcome. Much of the race is easily seen from the Nature Center. Look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, September 10th!!

# Official Entry Form

Saturday, September 10th 9:00 AM

ROCKFORD, IOWA  
**on  
two  
WHEELS**

5 K Challenge Run

5K Walk



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

Gender:  Male  Female

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(For registration confirmation & updates)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age of Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Shirt size:

Small  Med.  Large  XL  XXL - Add \$2

Youth Shirt size:

Small (6-8)  Medium (10-12)  Large (14-16)

Entry Fee:  \$12 for Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation Members (Before Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>)

\$15 for Non Members (Before by Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>)

\$10 for each additional participant in the Scavenger Hike

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

\$20 (After Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>)

Registration fees include: Long Sleeve T-shirt, Bib number, Race packet,  
Door prize entry and Scavenger Hike course card.

**Waiver:** I hereby absolve for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, forever, any and all rights and claims or damages I may accrue against the Fossil & Prairie Center Foundation and individuals or groups associated with the Fossil & Prairie Center Foundation for any and all injuries suffered by me while participating in said run. I further, hereby, certify that I am physically fit to run in the race I am registered in.

Please make sure you have . . .

- only one entry per form
- all spaces completed
- the release form is signed.
- the correct amount is paid.
- indicated your shirt size.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian, if under 18



**Fossil & Prairie Park 5K Run or 5K Walk**

## How to register . . . .

- Clip out and complete form then mail. Online registration forms available at fossilcenter.com. Registrations may be emailed with completion upon receipt of payment
- Checks can be made payable to Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation
- Mail registration to: Fossil & Prairie Center, P.O. Box 495, Rockford, IA 50468.





“Where there is a Will,  
there is a Way.”

As part of the 10th anniversary celebration of the Fossil & Prairie Center, Conservation Board staff chose to use split rail fencing in a landscaping project. During the planning process, it was determined that the Foundation’s new memorial trees could be prominently displayed and serve as a connection between the picnic area and nature center.

At this time trees honoring Marvin Matthews, Gabe Koenigsfeld, Conservation Board staff, Donna White and Gerald & Georgie Hicok are awaiting their brass plaques.

There are 7 oaks remaining to be claimed with a \$100 donation to the Foundation. Please contact the Center if you are interested. Once all trees are spoken for, this project will be complete.



## Donations

### Contributor (\$99 or less) Brachiopod

*Anonymous*

### Associate (\$100 - \$249) Crinoid

*Michael & Mary Ellen Allison*

*Robert Waller & Linda Bow*

*Joyce Hanes*

*Mike & Pat Sinning*

### Sponsor (\$250 - \$999) Gastropod

*Delbert & Mary Laudner*

## Memorials

**Carl Elfers**

Karen Thomas

**Faye Dohrman**

Maryellen Cazanias

**Edward Noss**

Dennis & Rhonda Westergard

**Cleola “Koky” Lackore**

Larry & Sharon Hicok

**Wilbur Landers**

Dennis & Rhonda Westergard

**Bill Hart**

Dennis & Rhonda Westergard

**Carol Parcher**

Stan & Corlyss Fitz

Maryellen Cazanias

Evelyn Miller

**Mary Heard**

The Harmony Club

**Roger Anderson**

Evelyn Miller

**Donna White**

Gerald & Rosemary Meyer

Doug, Barb & Devvin Schroeder

Dirk & Shelley Uetz

**Leona Enabnit**

Larry & Sharon Hicok

*Give a gift  
that contains  
memories that  
will last a  
lifetime. . .*

- Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation membership
- Send a child to a Camp



# Circle of Friends

## Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation Memberships

### Rockford

Don & Barb Brown  
Carol & Tom Burnett  
Sherrie Burt & Nancy Kies  
Joel & Theresa Cannon  
Fran DeGroot  
Jim & Debbie Dow  
Harm & Ranada Eggena  
Darlene Eggena  
Mildred Elfers  
Adam Enabnit  
Larry & Sharon Enabnit  
Maynard & Maxine Ewald  
Shirley Fullerton  
Neil & Kristi Fullerton  
Dennis Ginther  
Larry & Sharon Hicok  
Ron & Lynette Higby  
Rita Hirv  
Bernadine Howe  
Peg Huisman  
David & Linda Keith  
Courtney & Sandra Kuhlemeier  
Lyle & Diane Marker  
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Brent & Amy Medlin  
David & Nancy Miller  
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Joe & Sue Paulus  
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Laurie Pederson  
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Jim & Helen Schumburg  
Todd & Louise Seibert  
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Ted & Marlene Stirling  
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Mark & Bea Volk  
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### Rudd

Boyd Campbell  
Boyd & Susan Dahms  
Doris Hall  
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Dave Bahe  
Margaret Berns  
Norma Breitbach  
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Joan Chandler  
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Terry & Holly Connor  
Lynn & Jane Elfers  
Jim Erb  
Ruth Farmer  
Gloria Frerichs  
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Arnold Haller  
Kip & Judy Hauser  
Matt Hager  
Randy & Marilyn Heitz  
Gene Henely  
Larry & Doris Hibbs  
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Chuck & Susan LeMaster  
Byron & Pam Lessin  
Gwen Matthews  
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John & Jean Newton  
Dennis & Patricia Petersen  
Roger & Susan Ramthun  
Gene Rasmussen  
Galen Roberts  
Zach & Brenda Roberts  
Dennis & Diane Sande  
Jim & Rita Sanner  
Donn & Cherie Schafer  
Ken & Fran Schmitt  
Jon & Ann Schneckloth  
Jim & Virginia Smith  
Honore Steimel  
Karen Thomas  
Barbara Thomsen  
Richard & Kay Uetz  
Paul & Yolanda VanAusdall  
Randy & Terri Vendeventer

Monte & Kathy Waldorf  
Lyle & Cindy Wendland  
Gil White  
Art & Mary White  
Bruce & Carmen White

### Misc. Iowa

Jon & Kathy Steege, Maynard  
Allan Culbert, Cedar Rapids  
Gary & Pam Schwartz, Des Moines  
Richard Harms, Tripoli  
David Nehls, Ionia  
Dale & Laura Schmitz, Ionia  
Sarah Dokken, Joice  
Tom & Beth Weigand, Shellsburg  
Russ & Roberta Smith, Cedar Falls  
Clarence & Barbara Theilen, Fort Dodge  
Maryellen Cazanans, Coralville  
Penny Cazanans, Coralville  
Jerry & Barb Thomsen, Creston  
Ed Moyer, Dumont  
Del Clausen, St. Ansgar  
Leslie Ausen, Osage  
Kenneth Shatek, Elma  
Jodi Peterson, Iowa City

### Clear Lake

Michael & Mary Ellen Allison  
Dave & Patty Hansen

### Mason City

Ron & Dolly Hanna  
Joyce Hanes

### Misc. State

Delbert & Mary Launder, CA  
Phyllis Lybarger, OH  
Claudia & Bruce Russell, MN

### Nora Springs

Laura Elfers  
Leona Hoel  
Shirley Neve

### Floyd

Patrick Barrett  
Bruce & Janiece Bergland  
Chuck Meyer  
Lee & Darlyce Zimmer

### Greene

Dennis & Diane Carney  
Patrick & Mary Derdzinski  
Hank & Joyce Vogelman

### Dougherty

Gary & DeeAnn Ewen  
Chelsea Ewen

Connections

# Meet the Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation Board

## . . . *Lyle Wendland*



This is the second in a series of interviews introducing the members of the Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation Board.

Lyle and his wife Cindy live in the country north of Charles City. They have three sons, Noah, Jacob and Isaac. Lyle is also a member of the Floyd County Conservation Board, which he has served on since 2005.

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- **How did you get interested in conservation?**

*I grew up next to streams and timbers and learned to enjoy all they had to offer. This environment implanted and nurtured great love for our natural resources and a desire to conserve them for future generations to enjoy.*

- **Where is your favorite “Wild” place?**

*My favorite ‘wild place’ would be Alaska, of all the places I have been that is where I would like to return.*

- **In, your opinion, why should people care about the environment?**

*We are all connected, a healthy environment benefits us all.*

- **What do you like to do in your free time?**

*One of the outdoor activities I am very passionate about is running my sled dogs, especially in the dead of winter with a full moon. In our area we are fortunate to have many trails through several acres of timber and on the frozen Cedar River. This has developed into my favorite way to see the country and the wildlife it has to offer.*

- **What do you hope will be the greatest accomplishment during your term on the Board?**

*Maintain and improve the property we now manage and acquire new sites for public enjoyment.*

**Cartersville  
Elevator, Inc.**

Cartersville, Nora Springs, Mason City

# Programs & Events

All events take place at the  
Fossil & Prairie Center, Rockford  
unless otherwise listed.

**August 26<sup>th</sup> Night Time Bugs 8:00 p.m.**

**September 10<sup>th</sup> 5K Challenge Run  
and 5K Walk •  
8:30 a.m. Walk in registration  
Race begins at 9 a.m.  
Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve,  
Rockford**

Complete race details  
can be found on our  
website [fossilcenter.com](http://fossilcenter.com)

**September 10<sup>th</sup> Monarch Tagging  
11:30 a.m.**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> Nature Tales -  
Butterflies • 1 p.m.**

**October 2nd Family Fishing Clinic  
Watch for more information**

**October 9<sup>th</sup> Nature Tales -  
Animal Disguises • 1 p.m.**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> Evening Prairie Hike  
5-6 p.m.**

- Pre Registration appreciated
- Pre Registration required

For more information on any  
Floyd County Conservation sponsored programs,  
visit [www.fossilcenter.com](http://www.fossilcenter.com) or call 641-756-3490

# Thinking Green

by: Bruce Bergland  
Fossil & Prairie Conservation  
Foundation

One of the projects of the  
Conservation Programming Committee was  
the tree auction at this year's banquet.

The committee felt that it was  
important to encourage people to plant  
more trees in Floyd County for several  
reasons. One is to replace trees that have  
died due to disease, old age, storms,  
etc. A second is to plant trees to absorb  
carbon dioxide and release oxygen into  
the atmosphere to help reduce greenhouse  
gases. A third is for wildlife food and  
habitat and a fourth is for shade and  
aesthetics.

We approached Chuck Meyer from  
Bailey's Nursery in Charles City about  
buying fifteen trees from the nursery, five  
white oak, five red oak and five Autumn  
Blaze™ maples. We were later notified  
by the nursery that they felt this was a  
very worthwhile project and would like to  
donate the trees.

The trees were auctioned off at the  
banquet and brought an average price of  
about \$47 apiece. Foundation members  
planted trees at a location selected by the  
buyer. We hope to continue this project for  
several years



PRAIRIELAND  
FAMILY  
CHIROPRACTIC

ROCKFORD, IOWA

Dr. Jeanne Staudt



BAILEY  
NURSERIES

# Meet the Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation Board

## ... *DeeAnn Ewen*



This is the second in a series of interviews introducing the members of the Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation Board.

DeeAnn Ewen and her husband, Gary, live on the south western edge of Floyd County near Dougherty. Their daughter Chelsea is a naturalist at Tripoli, Iowa. DeeAnn teaches Junior High English Language Arts and coaches volleyball at the Rudd, Rockford, Marble Rock Community School.

- **How did you get interested in conservation?**

*I grew up in a family that liked to go camping. We would cook bean hole beans and other open fire masterpieces. This was a carry over from my dad's scouting days. We spent a lot of time in the surrounding area parks and on the Cedar and Shell Rock Rivers. My interest grew when I began to share with my daughter Chelsea a 4-H project based on prairie plants. We took pictures of the prairie to identify flowers. It was so beautiful and fun to learn the names.*

- **Where is your favorite "Wild" place?**

*Pikes Peak is where we have spent a lot of time as a family. We like to camp at the campground, go out on the peak and enjoy the breathtaking view. They have great hiking trails and I especially like the bear mound.*

- **In, your opinion, why should people care about the environment?**

*It will take all of us to care for our world, people of all ages and from all walks of life. We can't say it enough. If we don't listen carefully to what nature is telling us it may be too late. The healthy balance of nature is so fragile. We need to have something beautiful to pass on.*

- **What do you like to do in your free time?**

*I enjoy flower and vegetable gardening. My dog and I take long walks. I like to oil paint, and do crafts. Not wear shoes!*

- **What do you hope will be the greatest accomplishment during your term on the Board?**

*I would like to help more community members become active in using the Fossil and Prairie Center year round. Make the short trip and enjoy your own back yard. Iowa is a great place to grow!*

# Lending a Hand

by: Laura Elfers, Naturalist



The Eastern Bluebird is in an uphill battle for survival. As a cavity nester, finding suitable nesting sites as more dead trees are removed is becoming difficult. These sites become more limited when competing with larger, more aggressive birds such as House Sparrows and European Starlings. We can aid in their survival by putting up a simple bluebird box. Here are a few facts about bluebirds:

- Was once as familiar as the Robin
- 7 inches in length
- Color: blue back, robin-red breast, rusty throat
- Feed on insects
- Habitat: mixed hardwood forest edges and grasslands

## Placement of Bluebird Box

- Open grassy area with widely scattered trees
- Mount 4-6 feet above ground on post
- Face opening to the East or South
- Place boxes 100 feet apart

## Nesting

- Nest built by the female
- loose cup of grasses and plant stems
- 4-6 pale blue to white eggs
- Incubation 13-16 days by both parents
- May have more than one clutch in a season
- Clutch size declines throughout the season
- Leave nest 15-20 days after hatching
- Nesting season late March to late July

## Monitoring

- Boxes should be checked once a week
- Gently tap on box to have adult exit
- Open box, record findings
- After young birds have fledged, clean out box.

Contact me if you would like plans for building a Bluebird box.



**Iowa Title  
Company**  
James S. Davis

## Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation

### *Board of Directors*

Janette Lien, Rockford, President  
Lyle Wendand, Charles City, Vice Pres.  
Diane Sande, Charles City, Secretary  
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Larry Hicok, Rockford  
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Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation  
1227 215th St., P.O. Box 495  
Rockford, Iowa 50468  
www.fossilcenter.com

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*By becoming a friend of the Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation . . .*

- *Receive the "Connections" newsletter and the "Yearbook".*
- *Receive information on new and special programs/events with member discounts.*
- *Invited to the Spring Celebration Banquet*
- *Support local conservation and recreation projects*

Student  
\$5

Individual  
\$10

Family  
\$25

Donor  
\$50

Corporate

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive the newsletter:

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Via email

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

Please send me information regarding Volunteer opportunities

P.O. Box 495 • Rockford, Iowa 50468 • 641-756-3490