

CONSERVATION CORNER



WINTER 2025, ISSUE 1



“How could you not be hopeful if you’ve got a tree around?”

The Pocahontas County Conservation Board is now taking orders for their 2025 Spring Tree and Shrub Sale.

With a wide variety of different trees to choose from there is something for everyone. There is a large selection for windbreaks, shade trees, evergreen trees, fruit trees and shrubs. If you have trees that need to be replaced or are just wanting to add something new into your yard or landscaping give us a call.

By offering trees and shrubs to the public at a low price, PCCB hopes to increase the beauty and health of our county today and “for those who follow.”

Trees will come in towards the middle to end of April and we will give you a call when they arrive and schedule a pick up time. You can view the different species, sizes, prices, and availability [HERE](#).

For any questions or to place your order give us a call at 712-335-4395, email conservation@pocahontascounty.iowa.gov or stop in and talk to us in person at the Conservation Office at 702 NW 7th Street in Pocahontas.



Redbud



Ginkgo,
Autumn Golden



View our tree sale at: www.pocahontascounty.iowa.gov/conservation



Graduation Rentals

Now is the time to reserve a shelter house or trailer tables for your graduation party or other special event. Call us at 712-335-4395 or email conservation@pocahontascounty.iowa.gov today to make your reservation.

Shelter House rentals are \$50/day.

Trailer Table rentals are \$25 per trailer/per day.

A Look Back In Time... Swan Lake

Swan Lake, located 2 miles north of Laurens on County Road N28, was formed over 10,000 years ago due to glacial action. It was a shallow bottom lake and each spring after the rainy season it provided a peaceful, beautiful lake for people to enjoy.

It was often used by Native Americans and early settlers for hunting, fishing and camping. There are also reports of both locals and visitors spending a relaxing weekend with their families picnicking under the shade trees on the banks or doing more recreation activities like fishing and canoeing. At one point there was even a steamboat that would make trips around the lake for a fee. Unfortunately due the "Drought of 1894" the lake water started to recede. For the next almost two decades the water levels fluctuated and after attempts to dam the lake failed in 1911 it was drained and turned into cropland.

The lake beds were farmed for almost 100 years. Restoration work began in 2001. The prairie areas were seeded with native grasses and forbs in 2003 and in 2006 four trumpeter swans were released into the water. Today Swan Lake is once again thriving with wildlife as a wetland area. If you visit in the fall you will see the vibrant purple coneflowers and Maximillian sunflowers that light up the area and during the spring and fall migrations you can spot songbirds and waterfowl.

In 2007 a overview deck looking over the wetlands was installed. After a short walk from the parking lot you can sit and enjoy the peaceful nature and perhaps think back what Swam Lake has been throughout its existence.



Naturalist Chat

Meet Adam!



Welcome our new Naturalist, Adam Mann, to the Pocahontas County Conservation!

Adam is from West Des Moines, Iowa and started a few short weeks ago in December.

Here are a few facts to help get to know Adam:

- **Fun fact:** I have a collection of German Bier Steins
- **Favorite Food:** Taco Pizza
- **Favorite Animal:** Long Eared Owl
- **Most Excited to Teach About:** ECOSYSTEMS! More specifically, the difference between forests, prairie, savannah, and wetlands! And getting people out into our public wild spaces.
- **Looking forward to the most about working at the PCCB:** I'm looking forward to aiding the people of Pocahontas County in further discovering the complex beauty of all things wild, and to continue being a steward for ecosystem services.
- **What to you like to do in your free time:** I like to bike, fish, skateboard, eat gas station food, and play drums.

Contact him today to inquiry about program opportunities:

amann@pocahontascounty.iowa.gov
712-335-4395

Winter Projects

While most of us prefer the warm summer and fall days that allow us to spend time working outside and in the parks the colder winter months are nice so we can get some maintenance projects done. Our operations team spends the tail end of fall/early part of winter cutting down dead trees (mostly Ash Trees) and then turning them into wood chips for newly planted trees in the spring.

On those too rainy or too cold days the inside of our shop is busy with projects. Every winter we take a look at all of our picnic tables spread through the different parks and any that are broken or look worn get packed up and brought back to our shop. Throughout the winter months these tables will not only get repaired so they are safe but will also get a fresh coat of stain so they look nice for when the parks reopen in the spring.



Keep your eyes open for a date announcement for:

Wiegert School Days (May 2025)
Wiegert Annual Fall Fest (August 2025)



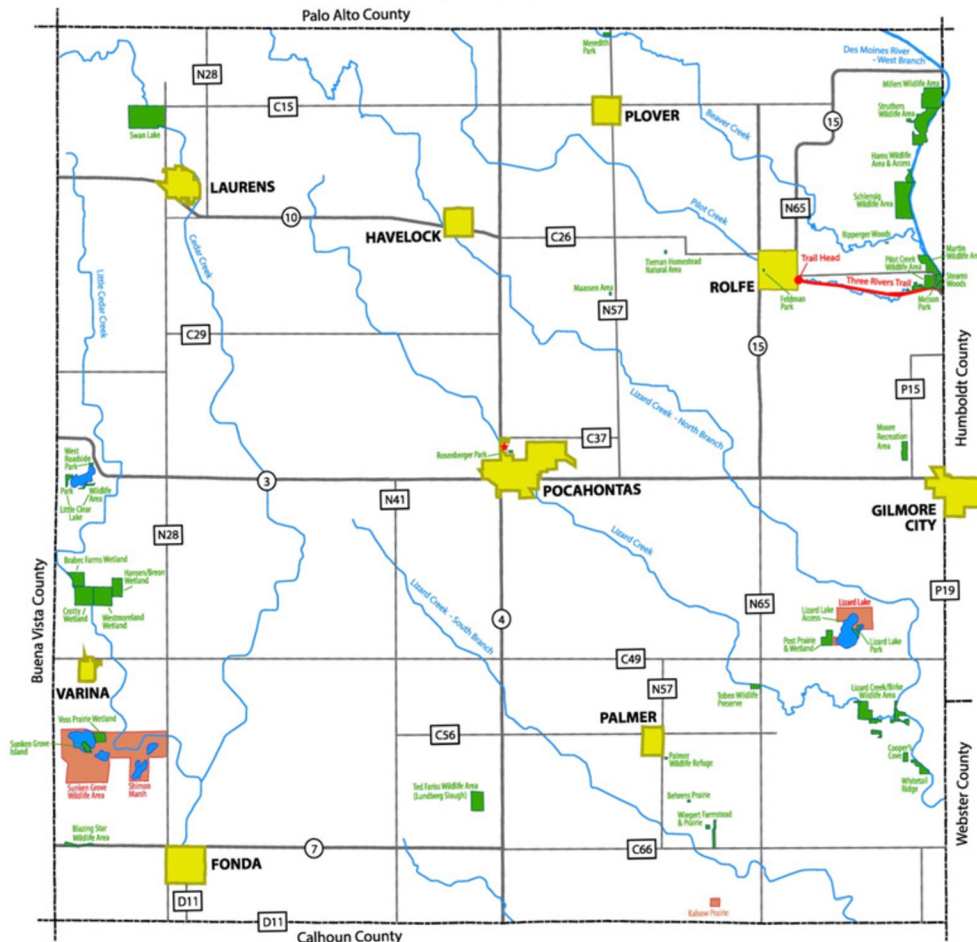
Staff



- Director
 - Brian Reis
- Naturalist
 - Adam Mann
- Operation Supervisor
 - Kyle Scheidegger
- Maintenance Tech
 - Aaron Samuelson
- Park Ranger
 - Dallas Heuton
- Natural Resource Manager
 - Mason Stall
- Office Manager
 - Alicia Kopriva

Board

- Dean Zuetlau - Pocahontas
- Ray Wolf - Varina
- Robert Beneke - Palmer
- Shawn Behrendsen - Rolfe
- Randy Gustafson - Laurens



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