



Audubon County Economic Development Corporation

800 Market Street

Audubon, IA 50025-1050

Phone: 712-563-2742 Fax: 712-563-2537

Email: aced@iowatelecom.net www.auduboncounty.com

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ACED TIDBITS

February 2009

2009 ACED MEMBERSHIP

Our members are really appreciated; they are the ones that make Audubon County Economic Development efforts happen. The 2009 membership roster will be ready and included with our March newsletter and also posted on www.auduboncounty.com. It is hard to express how much you members mean to this county.

We are a small county in a somewhat remote location which creates special challenges for us to land new jobs and industry. Our other major objectives are to take care of and retain the jobs we do have, to provide quality of life features that attract and keep people here, and to have sites and buildings available for expansion and new businesses. We have established a strategic plan and we stay the course through our projects and networking outside of the county.

Economic development is an ongoing process and sometimes it can seem discouraging because a lot of the results are intangible. ACED is on a fiscal year so this summer I will be preparing another annual report to show all the good that you members are creating.

ACED APPRECIATION AWARDS

At the Audubon Community Banquet in January, ACED presented a snap shot of what we have going on and also presented two Appreciations Awards. One of the awards was presented to the Audubon County Conservation Board which manages and operates the T-Bone Trail, Littlefield Recreation Area, and other wildlife habitat and recreational areas. The other award was presented to AMVC Cares, a non-profit organization, set up as a private foundation exclusively to improve the quality of life for the Audubon County community. The written presentation of each award is attached with this newsletter. These two groups are truly great community pillars. Thank you for all you do and accomplish.

The Audubon Chamber of Commerce named Clark "Sam" Kauffman the Citizen of the Year and also presented the Community Service Award to the Friendship Home. The Auction was very successful raising over \$2000.

AUDUBON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Audubon County Community Foundation keeps making a huge positive impact on our county. The 2009 spring distribution will be about \$102,000. Many of our county non-profit groups benefit from this program. The contributors to the Audubon County Community Foundation should be very proud. The Audubon County Community Foundation was previously called the Audubon County Endowment Fund.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

On January 26th Region XII COG held their Long Range Transportation Plan meeting for Audubon County here at the ACED community room. My hat is off to our faithful county supervisors for being there. None of the county towns nor any planning and zoning boards was in attendance.

Discussion was had regarding the results of the Transportation Survey and Summary. The overwhelming majority of those surveyed had greatest concern for better maintenance to existing streets and highways, new and wider streets, completing sidewalks, and additional trails. Also opinion was recorded on how worthy of future investment the numerous listed regional highway and bridge projects are.

The 2010 transportation applications were reviewed. The final item of business was discussion and listing of future projects in the county that may be eligible for funding from these sources in the next several years. The supervisors felt they gained valuable information and listed some potential short term and long term projects for future funding.

WHAT COULD MAKE A TOWN BETTER?

What could be done to make a town better? See if you can identify those items that are working in Audubon County and those that we need to kick up a notch.

- **Community Foundation**- This allows a community to combine donations and funds in the efficiency of a large foundation and transforms our communities.
- **Entrepreneurial Education**- Just like building high school sports teams start to develop in grade school, we need to develop entrepreneurial education into the high schools and grade school.
- **Brain Bank**- Reach out to our best and brightest alumni to cultivate them into ambassadors for our communities.
- **Young Professional Organizations**- The young people are our future leaders and those leadership skills need to be developed now.
- **Arts and Culture**- Small towns can make themselves incredibly attractive for the development of artists. Quality of life is key in the decision of where to live.
- **Downtowns**- They create that “sense of place”. No other place can create that special historic feel.
- **Tourism**- Find an inexpensive way to promote visits to our towns.
- **Regionalism**- Borders set by surveyors in the 19th century are not how people are running businesses or deciding where to live. Focus is more regionally in job creation and retention.

- **Clusters**- Similar to regionalism, it is a group with common interests or goals. The synergies of working together and developing businesses regionally are major waves of the future.
- **Internet**- Americans are making a living on various sites including e-bay.
- **Homesourcing**-Companies are setting up call centers and outsourcing work to rural households.
- **Create a volunteer data base**- Volunteer for your towns, list your skills, how much time you are willing to contribute, and when. (Example: any evening, Tuesdays 10-2, anytime needed, etc.)
- **Recreation**- There is many forms, it is important to quality of life.



Thomas R Nielsen
Executive Director

Food For Thought:

- *If a relationship has to be secret, you shouldn't be in it.*
- *Over prepare....then 'go with the flo'.*

**AMVC Cares
2009 Appreciation Award**

AMVC Cares is a non-profit organization set up as a private foundation exclusively for the charitable purpose of community improvement. Its projects are to improve the quality of life for the community and visitors. This is obtained through the acquisition and enhancement of properties that negatively affect the aesthetics of the community and thus impact the enjoyment of the community members and visitors.

Formed by a group of partners and employees within AMVC, the Foundation works on projects in the community and surrounding counties. AMVC Cares is governed by a Board of Directors. Current board members are Dr. Daryl Olsen, Dr. Steve Schmitz, Dr. Bob Blomme, Karen Nelsen and Mandy Wessel.

They are currently working on the Randi Munch Memorial Park, formerly known as the Hamlin Salvage Yard. Through tremendous community collaboration, the project is successfully underway. Major donors to the Project to date are:

- AMVC LLC
- Audubon County Endowment Fund and the Charles T and Kathleen K Manatt Endowed Fund
- Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Iowa Brownfield Redevelopment Program
- Audubon State Bank and Landmands National Bank

On Sept 6, 2008, AMVC Cares hosted a Community Clean up Day at the site. Over 100 volunteers helped lend a hand removing 26.5 tons of debris! Included were 3 ½ tons of trees and roots, and 3 tons of scrap steel to recycle. To date over 372 tons of debris and contaminated soil have been removed from the site. The support this project has received is outstanding. AMVC Cares continues to work on plans to develop a park this summer for all residents to enjoy and to be a haven for the travelers of the T-Bone Trail.

Audubon County residents truly care about their community. With that spirit of support AMVC Cares looks forward to more projects in the future; projects that will make Audubon County a great place to live.

Audubon County Conservation Board
2009 Appreciation Award

Created in 1963, the Audubon County Conservation Board manages and operates the T-Bone Trail, Littlefield Recreation Area, and other wildlife habitat and recreational areas.

The T-Bone Trail project began in 1993 with the purchase of the abandoned Iowa-Interstate Railroad line between the City of Audubon and the Audubon-Cass County line. The rail line was acquired by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and then purchased by the Audubon County Conservation Board. The Audubon to Hamlin section was completed in 2002. After this section was complete the Board got a better feel for the project and decided to save money by doing the grubbing and bridge construction on the last four sections with Conservation staff.

When the hard surfaced T-Bone Trail is completed this spring, it will have been a 15.5 year project, 15.5 miles, 1.55 million dollars, which is a total cost of \$100,000 per mile. The first section cost was \$60,000 per mile and the last section cost \$140,000 per mile.

Financing for the project came from REAP, State and Regional Enhancement money, Iowa West Foundation, Audubon County Endowment Fund, Schildberg Foundation, and DNR Infrastructure. Donations were also given by Audubon State Bank, Landmands National Bank, Exchange State Bank, Audubon County Travelers, Brayton Community Club and the Conservation Board revenues.

Other organizations that assisted the Conservation Board are Iowa West Foundation, Nishna Valley Trails, Region XII COG, and Snyder & Associates.

The on going maintenance of the T-Bone Trail is done by the Conservation Board and includes cleaning flood debris, repair flood damage, weed and vegetation control, dead tree removal, bridges, and more.

The Littlefield Recreation Area contains 444 acres and provides camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, picnicking, swimming, winter sports, and a bison exhibit. Other amenities are the 70 acre lake, three shelter houses, a 400ft beach, three campgrounds, wildlife areas, timber, wild flowers, and provides organized educational opportunities. Camp usage and revenues have steadily increased over the past 17 years.

Christina Groen has been on staff since 2001 as a Naturalist. Her environmental education programs have expanded every year. She reaches many individuals and groups with her programs. Campers really appreciate her Saturday night programs at the campgrounds.

The 2008 Board members are Gene Karstens (Chairman), Ron Mullenger, Jerry Kelly, Tom Simpson, and Allen Lee Petersen. Bruce Haag is Conservation Director. Past board members are Wayne Hansen, Merlin Drees, Francis Ballou, Jim Mullenger, Gene Karstens, Jon Meislahn, Jerry Wahlert, and Bill Cramer. Gary Olson is a new Board member in 2009.

Audubon County Tourism

Margee Shaffer Coordinator

Save the Date...

February 14th

Valentine's Dinner & Dance by Audubon County Fair Board ~ At the Audubon County Fair in the Agri Hall ~ 5 PM Doors Open ~ Cash Bar ~ 6 to 8 PM Prime Rib & Chicken Breast Buffet by Jan's Catering ~ 8 to 12 PM Traveling Light Band ~ \$20 Per Person ~ \$5 after 8 PM ~ Individual or Party Reservations available by calling Randy at 712-304-0744 ~ Dan at 712-790-0940 or Dave at 712-249 -6864

February 21st & March 21st

Legislative Briefing ~ February 21st at 8:00 AM at the Audubon County Economic Development Community Room at 800 Market Street in Audubon ~ Your chance to visit with Senator Nancy Baudler and Representative Clel Baudler

February 21st

Pork Producers & Cattlemen Banquet ~ 6:30 PM at the Saint Patrick's Parish Center

February 28th

19th Annual Farm Toy Show - Audubon Lions Club ~ Over 70+ tables of toys last year ~ At the Agri Hall Audubon County Fair Grounds ~ Admission: \$3.00 for Adults, Children 8 and under Free ~ Door Prizes ~ Lunch Available ~ For more information call La Verne at 712-563-2026 or Darrell at 712-563-2466

March 7th

Boots to Heels ~ A conference for Rural Women Saturday, March 7th 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM ~ Cass County Community Center 805 West 10th Street Atlantic, Iowa ~ Join us as we celebrate women involved in or affected by agriculture. This empowering day will increase your knowledge of the rural communities you live and work in; explore the impact of agriculture and issues facing rural women; and provide a networking opportunity with other women to share challenges and resources! ~ For **Registration** C/O Shelby County Extension 906 6th Street, Harlan, IA 51537 Phone: 712-755-3104 Please make checks payable to: Boots to Heels \$30 if postmarked by February 25th \$35 for late registrations or at the door Note: Registration numbers are limited-register early! See News Report at www.auduboncounty.com for the registration form and schedule.

March 10th

Audubon High School Band Lasagna Supper from 5 to 7 PM at the Audubon High School Cafeteria

March 13th & 14th

COUNTRY PLAYERS DINNER THEATER ~ Performing "Backwoods Romeo" ~ It is the story of a young man who must produce some scientific invention in order to inherit his father's estate. The young man enlists the help of a backwoods hermit he meets in the wilds of Canada while on a hunting expedition. This hermit has never met a woman and thinks they are pests sometimes kept by men as pets. When the hermit is invited to the young man's home, he quickly meets the young man's female friends and relatives, which leads to confusion and merriment on the part of everyone. Tickets for "Backwoods Romeo" can be purchased by calling 712-563-2541

Events Submission Form

2009 AUDUBON COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please fill out the form for your events. Audubon County Tourism will make sure they are added to the Audubon County website. Please mail to Audubon County Tourism at 800 Market Street, Audubon IA 50025-1050 or Email to audubontourism@iowatelecom.net or Fax to 712-563-2537

Name of Event _____

Date of Event (Start & Ending date) _____ Time _____

Location of Event _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Event Contact Person & Phone # for Publication _____

Event Email address _____

Organization _____

Contact Person _____

Contact Email Address _____

Description of the Event _____

