

# Pat h w a y s t o N a t u r e

## Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

Feb. — April 2009

### Wish List

For EE (environmental education) programs offered by WCCB, we have an ongoing wish list and I'd like to share a couple of items with you. With spring cleaning and garage sales on the horizon, please consider the 2 items listed below. If these items are gently used and work well, we would gladly accept them. Newly purchased donations would be much appreciated as well.

**Lanterns (specifically Coleman fuel lanterns)** — These are needed for night programs such as owl prowls, Halloween Hikes, campground programs, and tracking programs we offer. These lanterns if purchased new cost approx. \$50 and can be found at various locations in the county. Used lanterns that work well would be great also.

**Movies** — DVDs or VHS tapes — General audience rated, family movies with a message about the environment are on our wish list for campground movies we can offer at Kennedy Park, Brushy Creek, and Dolliver Park throughout the summer. Some examples might be: The Bee Movie, Bug's Life, Over the Hedge, The Lorax, or even the Planet Earth series.



***Any money donated toward these wish list items can be directed to: Friends of Webster County Conservation with "lanterns" or "movies" in the memo. A receipt can be given for a tax-deductible donation if needed.***

The Friends of Webster County Conservation is a local group of citizens concerned about environmental education, outdoor recreation, land stewardship, preservation, and protection of our natural areas. The group exists to help meet the needs of the citizens and communities of Webster County. A network of people that share a common interest in the environment has come from this group. If interested in being a part of this fun group, please call (515) 576-4258 or send an e-mail to [khansen@webstercountytia.org](mailto:khansen@webstercountytia.org)



# Webster County Conservation Public Outdoor Events

Feb.—April

Webster County Conservation 1415 Nelson Ave. Fort Dodge, Iowa

515-576-4258 khansen@webstercountya.org

*\*\*All programs are free unless otherwise noted*

## February

### 28—Sat. Cross Country Skiing

9:00 am—Noon at Dolliver State Park—south lodge

The Des Moines River valley offers tranquility, wildlife, and shelter from the wind as participants enjoy a great form of exercise. 3 inches of good snow are needed for this event however.

## March

### 15—Sun. Whitetail Rack & Rooster Tail Measuring

1:00—3:00 pm at ICCC — Career Ed. Bldg.

Sports Show admission is \$5, but the deer rack scoring during the sports show is free. Bring your racks and pheasant rooster tails to see how they measure up!

### 21—Sat. Nest Box Building & Maple Syrup Festival

*Heun shelter, Kennedy Park*

9:00 am Nest Box Building **Registration required.**

Help wildlife with the construction of an artificial home. Bring a hammer and build your own nest box. Choose from the following and call to register at 576-4258.

Wren, bluebird, robin or swallow \$ 8      Kestrel, owl, bat \$ 13      Wood duck \$ 22

1:00 pm Maple Syrup Festival

Enjoy the sweet, simmering smell and taste of homemade maple syrup. Bring the family for hands-on fun. Learn how to make syrup, butter, rope, & soap. Dutch oven cooking will be demonstrated and a pancake with real maple syrup will be offered. Free will donations will be accepted.

## April

### 18—Sat. Earth Day Celebration

*Meet at Brushy Creek's Prairie Resource Center for each event listed below.*

1:00 pm--4:00 pm C.I.T.O. (Cache In Trash Out)

Find "treasures" hidden in nature using GPS units and take out the trash as you go. Wear old clothes & work gloves. Some GPS units will be available for loan-out. Learn more about this popular outdoor recreation.

4—6:00 pm Great Garlic Mustard Pull

Join the contest for the largest pile of garlic mustard pulled across the state of Iowa. A quick lesson on identifying the invasive garlic mustard and learning the agency's plan of attack will be followed by pulling as much as we can in 2 hours. Hot dogs will be provided for supper before the burn. Bring your own beverage.

7:00 pm Night Prairie Burn

Experience the thrill of a large controlled fire at dusk. Join experts for a brief lesson in prairie management followed by a prairie burn (weather permitting) at a remote site. Witness a glimpse into history. For cancellation, listen to local radio stations.