

Pathways to Nature

Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

Jan. – March 2009

Get Connected!!

Karen Roosa Hansen

My theme for 2009.....Get Connected!!

Much to my dismay but probably not my surprise, our society as a whole has become greatly disconnected from nature. Decades ago, it was natural, easy and just a part of life to spend free time outside. Today, the electronic bug that has bitten our culture is sometimes the only bug that people see on a regular basis. It truly burdens my heart to witness kids choosing not to spend time outside.

So what's the big deal with this disconnection? The benefits have been seen in academics, social skills, critical thinking skills, physical development, and health just to name a few. When young people grow up with a connection with nature, they will be the supporters of our natural resources and the preservation of wildlife areas in the future. The way we are raised greatly impacts our decisions as we become adults. I would highly recommend reading Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv. It's good factual and insightful information addressing our culture's growing disconnection from nature.

Get outside and get connected!

Ski rental and snowshoe rental policy



Webster County residents and their guests may rent cross-country skis or snowshoes for weekend use. The following is board approved policy.

Cross-country skis sets and snowshoes must be picked up no later than 4:00 pm on Friday and returned no later than 4:00 pm the following Monday to the Kennedy Park Reception Center office. This period may be extended for long holiday weekends (Christmas, New Year's, etc.) Exceptions must be approved in advance by the WCCB staff.

Rental fees (paid at the time of check-out) are as follows:

Kids under 18 with a parent	FREE
Cross country ski package (skis, boots, & or poles)	\$ 10.00/ weekend
Snowshoes (pair)	\$ 10.00/weekend



A deposit of \$100 per set of skis or snowshoes must also be paid at the time of reservation. It will be refunded when the gear is returned promptly, without damage and in clean condition.

No advanced reservations will be taken. All equipment will be loaned out on a first-come, first-served basis. WCCB staff has the right to refuse rental.

Webster County Conservation Public Outdoor Events

Webster County Conservation 1415 Nelson Ave. Fort Dodge, Iowa
515-576-4258 khansen@webstercountyia.org

***All programs are free unless otherwise noted*

January



31—Sat. Ice Fishing Tournament

Cross Country Skiing

at Kennedy Park, Heun shelter

8:00—Noon

Ice Fishing Tournament

9:00—10:00 am

Ice Fishing Clinic for beginners

9:00—Noon

Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing



Join others for a day of outdoor winter fun on the ice and snow. Register at the door for the ice fishing; skiing and snowshoeing are come and go.

February



7—Sat. Full Moon Hike / Owl Prowl / Night Ski

6:00 pm *at Dayton's Oak Park (by the golf course)*

Hike under a full moon and listen for interesting night time sounds. Cross country ski or snowshoe afterwards.



28—Sat. Cross Country Skiing

9:00 am—Noon *at Kennedy Park Reception Center*

Outdoor exercise offers tranquility and wildlife viewing opportunities. Join others in a ski run on the golf course or around the lake.

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

at Kennedy Park shelter



9:00 am Nest Box Building

Registration required.

Help some wildlife with the construction of an artificial home. Bring a hammer and nail together 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 with an old-fashioned theme.