

Pathways to Nature

Newsletter of the Webster County
Conservation Board

March—May 2009

Spring's on the horizon—what to look for in early spring:

Woodcocks: strange-looking savanna species of birds that show-off a spiralling mating dance. Look for them in clearings near woodlands.

Pasque flowers: fuzzy, lavender flowers that emerge from the prairie in very early spring, even before the last patches of snow have melted. What a treat they are on the drab landscape this time of year!

Friends of Webster County Conservation

Why join?

- To network with other conservation minded people.
- To connect with nature.
- To become aware of our environment.
- To build family time.
- To create more awareness in our communities.
- To witness the treasures in the natural world.

Membership to: Friends of Webster County Conservation

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Ph. #s _____

Membership level (check) _____ (\$15) individual
_____ (\$25) Family
_____ (\$100) Business

Webster County Conservation
Public Outdoor Events
Feb.—April '09

***All programs are free
unless otherwise noted*

Webster County Conservation 1415 Nelson Ave. Fort Dodge, Iowa

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 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.

4:00 pm—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. Participants will carpool to the prairie.

May

2—Sat. Ditch Clean-up

10:00 am—Noon at Kennedy Park Reception Center.

Join the Friends of Webster County Conservation for a delightful morning of picking-up garbage.

9—Sat. Family Fishing Derby

1:00—4:00 pm at Badger Lake, Kennedy Park

Enjoy a day of fishing fun with the family and a chance to win prizes sponsored by Hy-Vee.