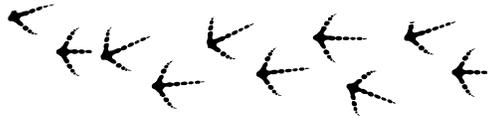


Pathways to Nature



Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

Spring—Summer 2013

From the Director's Desk...by Matt Cosgrove

Spring is an amazing thing in the natural world! It's a time of new life, rapid change, and unpredictability!!! The late arrival of Spring adds unique challenges to those of us that work in the natural resource management field.

Without a doubt, Spring is the most hectic time of the year for the Conservation Department Staff. The staff is busy planting trees, conducting prescribed burns, preparing the parks for summer use, turning on water, fixing leaks, planting grass, grooming trails, hosting school fieldtrips, and training seasonal staff.... And they try to hunt a turkey and find some mushrooms in their "spare time"!!

Projects Updates

Land Acquisition—The Conservation Board is working with the Don Seltz Family and Webster County Pheasants Forever on an 80 acre land acquisition project in Northeast Webster County. The Seltz Family has made a generous offer to the Conservation Board to establish a Youth Hunting Area. **A huge "Thank You" to Don Seltz and his family for their generosity, land stewardship, and conservation ethic!!**

Park Master Plan—The Conservation Board has completed the Master Plan for Kennedy Park and has set priorities for development. The staff will focus on invasive species removal, lake improvements, construction of a natural playscape, infrastructure updates, and completing the Badger Lake Trail. *Stay tuned...*

Gypsum City OHV Park—The OHV park is poised to see a lot of development this summer. The first phase of a modern campground is scheduled for bid in June of 2013. The estimated opening date is set for Spring of 2014. The local partners are working with the Forest Service to build approximately 35-miles of additional trails by the end of this year. This expansion will increase the park to 500+ acres!!

New Programs for 2013!!

Adventure Series—a monthly class to encourage people to try a new outdoor activity. Read more info on Page 6.

Mentored Youth Hunts—*Stay tuned for more info in the next newsletter.*

Fall Fun Run—working on the details of this "fun run" ...*stay tuned!*

We look forward to seeing you in the park, at a program, or on the trail!!



In This Issue...

	Page
Programs & Events.....	2 & 3
Meet WCCB New Staff.....	4
Spring Festival.....	5
Adventure Series.....	6
Friends Page.....	7



Cross Country Skiing

Jan. 12 9 – 11 am **Dolliver Park**
Jan. 19 9 – 11 am **Dolliver Park**
Feb. 2 9 – 11 am **Brushy Creek**

Enjoy winter's crisp air and great way to exercise in Iowa's outdoor parks. Equipment use is free these days.

Twilight Skiing & Snowshoeing

Kennedy Park Reception Center

Jan. 25 5–7 pm
Feb. 8 5–7 pm

Wind down from work or school, bring family or friends, and ski with the stars around Kennedy Park. Bring a headlamp or borrow one of WCCB's.

Cross County Ski & Snowshoe Rental (summarized)

Cross-country skis sets or snowshoes may be rented and used throughout the county at your leisure. Equipment must be picked up by 4:00 pm Friday and returned to the by 4:00 pm Monday. For Sat. ski dates listed above, equipment may be rented immediately following.

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

Kids under 18 with a parent **FREE**
 ski pkg (skis, boots, poles) / snowshoes **\$10/weekend**

A **deposit of \$100 per set** of skis or snowshoes must also be paid at the time of reservation.

Jan. 25 Full Moon Hike

7:30–8:30 pm Kennedy Park Rec. Ctr.

Meet at the Reception Center and hike with Karen around Badger Lake. Witness how night vision works, search for animal tracks, and savor the beautiful stars against the night sky.

April 10 Hunter Safety

6–9 pm on-line field day Kennedy Park

Must take class on-line and bring certificate of completion to field day class. Register online at www.iowadnr.gov/ training. Pre-registration is required.

April 15 Campground OPENS

Per night rates are: \$20 for full hook-up; \$18 for elec-troc site; \$12 for primitive site.

April 20 Cache-In Trash-Out

9–11 am meet at Brushy's Prairie Center

Cache In Trash Out is a way of finding "treasures" using GPS units and taking out the trash as you go. Kids can find Easter eggs or other special surprises. Some GPSs will be available to use. Wear old shoes and work gloves.

April 21 Hy-Vee Half Marathon

FD to Kennedy Park

Challenge yourself to a half marathon from FD to Kennedy Park or run a 5K at the park.

April 21 Spring Park Festival

(Earth Day Celeb.)

Maple syrup making, prairie burning, and archeology learning session are planned. Join the family-oriented fun. Details TBA

May 4 Paddle the Lizard or DM River

1:00 pm route to be determined

Call Karen for reservations or more information.

May 11 Duane Bills Fishing Derby

1:00 – 4:00 pm Badger Lake, Kennedy Park

Bring the family for fishing fun and prizes.

May 9 Plant Some Shade

3–6 pm Kennedy Park

Pick up day for pre-ordered trees for Mid-American Energy customers. See www.midamericanenergy.com

May 24 Moonlight Paddling

9:00 pm Brushy Creek, south boat ramp

Canoes with lights will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. Lights required on vessels you bring.

May 25 Paddle the Lizard or DM River

1:00 pm route to be determined

Call Karen for reservations or more information.

June 7, 8, 9 Free Fishing Weekend

June 8 Fishing Derby

10 am – Noon Brushy Creek fish pier

For beginners with a parent. Meet at fish pier point. Equipment, bait, and lunch provided.

June 1 & 2 3-D Archery Shoot

8 am –3 pm Kennedy Park

Join the Webster Co. Bowhunters & Archery Assoc. for 3-D marksmanship on the Badger Lake Trail. \$12/shooter.



June 15 Women in the Outdoors**8 am – 4:30 pm Brushy Creek PRC**

For women wanting to learn outdoor skills. Fee covers meals, drinks, & supplies. Cost is \$ 30

June 22 Moonlight Paddling**9:00 pm Brushy Creek, south boat ramp**

Canoes with lights will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. Lights required on vessels you bring.

June 29 Prairie Hike**10:00 am Brushy Creek PRC**

Meet at Root Cellar Prairie and join prairie biologist, Bill Johnson, for a bit of prairie history and plant ID.

July 6–13 Project AWARE river clean-up**July 11 & 12 in Webster County**

Project AWARE is a watershed awareness river expedition that includes a week-long volunteer clean-up effort. The last few days of this event will be in Webster County. www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/CanoeingKayaking/ProjectAWARE

July 19 Moonlight Paddling**9:00 pm Brushy Creek, south boat ramp**

Canoes with lights will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. Lights required on vessels you bring.

July 13 & 14 3-D Archery Shoot**8 am – 3 pm Kennedy Park**

Join the Webster Co. Bow hunters & Archery Assoc. for 3-D marksmanship on the Badger Lake Trail. \$12 / shooter

Aug. 1 Prairie Hike**6:00 pm Liska-Stanek Prairie**

Meet at Liska-Stanek Prairie located 2.5 miles south of Hwy 20 on P51 or Johnson Ave.

Aug. 2 & 3 Dragon Boat Bash**Time TBA Badger Lake, Kennedy Park**

Sponsored by Badger Lake Dragon Boat Association.

Aug. 5, 6, 8 Hunter Safety**5:30–9 pm Kennedy Park's Heun shelter**

Register online at www.iowadnr.gov/training; then stop at Keith's Outdoors in Fort Dodge to get the HS manual.

Aug. 10 & 11 3-D Archery Shoot**8 am–3 pm Kennedy Park**

Join the Webster Co. Bowhunters & Archery Assoc. for 3-D marksmanship on Badger Lake Trail. \$12 / shooter

Aug. 17 Adventure Race**8:00 am Fort Dodge area**

Join a friendly "eco-challenge" as participants bike to Kennedy Park, run and kayak around Badger Lake

Aug. 20 Moonlight Paddling**8:00 pm Brushy Creek, south boat ramp**

Canoes with lights will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. Lights required on vessels you bring.

Aug. 24 or Sept. 7 Butterfly Tagging**1:00 pm Brushy Creek PRC**

Join wildlife biologists for an afternoon of fun tagging monarch butterflies and learning about winged beauties.

Sept. 21 Fun Run**evening Kennedy Park****Sept. 22 Fall Park Festival****Time TBA Kennedy Park**

Join us and practice outdoor skills such as bb gun shooting, archery, atlatl throwing, animal calls, canoeing, kayaking, geo-caching, etc.

Oct. 15 Campground CLOSÉS**Kennedy Park****Oct. 17 Friends Banquet****5:00 pm Kennedy Park's Heun shelter**

Enjoy the food, fellowship, and program at the annual banquet for the Friends of Webster County Conservation. Guest speaker will be adventure seeker, _____, who is culminating the 2013 Adventure Series.

Oct. 23 Hunter Safety**6 – 9 pm on-line field day Kennedy Park**

Must take class on-line and bring certificate of completion to field day class. Register online at www.iowadnr.gov/training. Pre-registration is required.

Nov. 9 Night Hike**7:00 pm Skillet Creek Ind. Mds.**

The wonders of an ancient burial site and the excitement of walking in the dark make for an interesting evening.

Dec. TBA Lights At Kennedy**Kennedy Park campground**

Drive thru the Kennedy Park campground and enjoy Ser-toma-sponsored lighting displays.

Brad Janssen—Park Ranger

Brad recently graduated from Upper Iowa University with a degree in Conservation Management. Brad has worked for WCCB as a Park Ranger Intern in 2009 & 2010. He has also worked with the Louisa County Conservation Board and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Springbrook State Park and the Great Lakes Wildlife Unit.

Janssen graduated in the 249th Class from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on April 19, 2013. He is excited about his new position and looks forward to managing the natural resources in Webster County.

Why County Conservation? “I enjoy the local aspect of the County Conservation”

Career goals? “I have wanted to be a Park Ranger since I was little”

Hobbies? Hunting, Fishing, Trapping...anything outdoors”

Cyclones or Hawkeyes? “Don’t care”

Favorite Vacation Spot? Alaska or a beach

Favorite Food? “I’ll eat anything!”



Janssen’s Graduation from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

Reed Russell—Park Ranger Intern

Reed is working as a Park Ranger Intern for the 2013 Summer as he works toward his Park & Recreation Degree from Kirkwood College in Cedar Rapids. Reed is a native of Fort Dodge. He graduated from Fort Dodge Senior High in 2012.

Reed was employed by the Iowa DNR at Dolliver State Park during the 2012 Summer. He served as a Green Vet through the Americorps Program.

Reed hopes to find a career in Fisheries. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and being outdoors.

Why County Conservation? “I want to get a general background with state and county park systems”.

Career goals? “To work in the fisheries field”.

Hobbies? “Kayaking, boating, hunting, fishing...anything outdoors”

Cyclones or Hawkeyes? “Hawkeyes!!”

Favorite Vacation Spot? Panama City, FL & Spearfish ,SD

Favorite Food? Chinese—Famous Wok—Jordan Creek



The WCCB & the Friends of Webster County Conservation held their Spring Festival on April 21st. The event is held annually to celebrate Earth Day and the arrival of spring!! This year someone forgot to invite Spring to the celebration. The cool and wet spring dampened the day but not the spirits of those in attendance. Approximately 70 people braved the weather to join in the fun.

The day began with a busy Hy Vee Half Marathon and 5K race. Other activities included: archery, atlatl throwing, rope making, flintknapping, and kids nature activities.

The day concluded with a spring shower, a chili supper, and the opportunity to taste the Kennedy Park Maple Syrup over ice cream!

Many Thanks to those that make this event possible...Hy Vee, the Boy Scouts, Smoked Ribs & More, and the Friends of Webster County Conservation Volunteers!!!



For more information about WCCB Parks, Events & Activities check out our website at MyCountyParks.com

Remember to "like" us on Facebook for the most current info on events and happenings!

The Webster County Adventure Series is designed to encourage participants to try a new outdoor activity in a controlled environment. The program consists of five sessions that will be held monthly on Thursday evenings from 6:00—8:00 p.m.

You can register as a two person team or an individual. The sessions will be designed for beginners, but anyone is encouraged to participate. Each session will be held in a different setting to expose participants to new places and activities. The sessions will be lead by local “experts” in their fields.

The program is a great way to spend time outdoors with family, friends, and hopefully meet some new friends. The registration fee covers all five sessions and the equipment needed for the activities.

Sign up today & Get outside!!

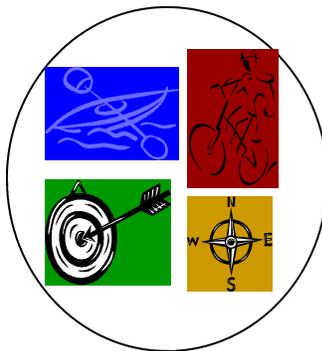
Session 1–Cycling June 20

Join the Dodger Cyclists for a bike ride on the new Fort Dodge/Webster County Trail. Learn about the expanding Webster County Trail System.



Session 2–Paddling July 18

Experience kayaking on beautiful Brushy Creek Lake. Learn tips and secrets about flat-water paddling and the best places to paddle in Webster County.



Session 3–Map Reading, Orienteering, & Geocaching August 15

Learn to read maps, use a compass, navigate with a GPS unit, and find hidden treasure.



Session 4 –Shooting Sports September 19

A basic introduction to the shooting sports. Learn to identify, handle, and shoot a variety of guns and primitive weapons.



Session 5– Special Program October 17

Adventure Series Graduates will be treated to a special program at the Friends of Webster County Annual Banquet.



Adventure Series

Registration Form Price

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team | \$40.00 |

Total: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Method of Payment

- Check Cash

Signature _____





The "Friends of Webster County Conservation" is a non-profit, 501c3 organization that helps the WCCB with volunteers and raising funds to enhance environmental education, outdoor recreation, and conservation projects in Webster County.

Volunteer
Volunteer

Donate
Donate

Protect
Protect

The mission of the Friends of Webster County Conservation is to provide awareness, appreciation, and the preservation of Webster County's natural resources for future generations.

Sign Up Today!!

*Please fill out this form, detach, and mail to:
1415 Nelson Avenue, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501*

MEMBERSHIP FORM



	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership _____	\$15 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership _____	\$25 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership _____	\$100 _____
Total:	_____

Name

Address

Email

Phone

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. ~Sherry Anderson

Webster County Conservation Board

STAFF

Matt Cosgrove	Director
Cody Peterson	Operations Supervisor
Pat Shehan	Park Ranger
Darren Herzog	Park Ranger
Brad Janssen	Park Ranger
Karen Roosa Hansen	Naturalist
Erin Ford	Naturalist-WCCB/DNR
Dave Scherff	Natural Resource Tech
Andy Stanberg	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Cindy Knickerbocker	Secretary



BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Eslick	Gowrie
Brad Luke	Fort Dodge
Jerry Beck	Fort Dodge
Kirk Seltz	Badger
Beth Collins	Fort Dodge

The Webster County Conservation Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Kennedy Park Office building at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome.

WCCB—Your Guide To The Outside



Webster County Conservation

1415 Nelson Ave.

Fort Dodge, IA. 50501

Phone (515) 576-4258

Fax (515) 574-3763

conservation@webstercountyyia.org

www.MyCountyParks.com

The Webster County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age, or disability. If anyone believes he/she has been subject to such discrimination, he/she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Webster County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.