

April 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1
Page 1 of 4



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.



Sweet Success— Maple Syrup Festival 2009

Calendar of Events

<i>FOD Spring Clean up</i>	<i>April 14</i>
<i>Wal Mart</i>	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>CITO—Cache-In</i>	<i>April 18</i>
<i>Trash-Out—Brushy</i>	<i>1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Great Garlic Mustard</i>	<i>April 18</i>
<i>Pull—Brushy Creek</i>	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Night Prairie Burn</i>	<i>April 18</i>
<i>Brushy Creek</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Happy Trails</i>	<i>April 18</i>
<i>FD Trail Clean up</i>	<i>8:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Friends Ditch Clean up—Kennedy Park</i>	<i>May 2</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Plant Some Shade</i>	<i>May 7</i>
<i>Tree Distribution</i>	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>HyVee Fishing Derby</i>	<i>May 9</i>
<i>Kennedy Park</i>	<i>1:00 p.m.</i>

On a beautiful March 21st the Friends held the Fifth Annual Maple Syrup Festival. The event was well attended with over 150 people enjoying the day and the syrup.

Those who attended had the opportunity to learn about homemade butter & soap, Dutch oven cooking, rope making, and of course the maple syruping process.

This event has served as an unofficial beginning of spring and membership drive for the Friends of Webster County Conservation. Thanks to all the “friends “ that helped on the day these events would not happen with out you!

It’s hard to believe this event started five years ago with the help of Howard and Barb Jensen. The Jensen's' have been a huge part of this event from the beginning. Thanks Howard & Barb!!



Many thanks to Bruce Stottrup, Kenny Powell, Brian Fishel, Steve Johanson, and Jim Kramer & Doug Breyfogle’s scout group for your help!

Thank you HyVee and Jim Eslick for donating the pancake batter!!

Join us next year for the fun!!

GREEN TIP

Benefits of Rain Barrels and Gardens?

- Reduce stormwater pollution
- Save money on water for your yard
- Stormwater management
- Happier plants

Blue Bird Trail

Jon Thrams, friend and volunteer, has become the “blue bird guy” of Kennedy Park. For the past three years Jon has donated his time to help the Kennedy Park Blue Birds find and maintain a home.

The task requires many hours and visits to make sure the houses are in good shape

and aren’t invaded by other undesirable species.

Jon is expanding his Blue Bird Trail to other WCCB areas and is always looking for willing helpers.

Let us know if you would like to get involved with this rewarding project!!

Thanks Jon!!!





“Lend A Hand”— 2009 Area Earth Day Activities

Looking for a way to help Mother Nature, improve your community, celebrate Earth Day, and HAVE FUN? Look no further. Here is a list of ways you can get involved this Earth Day!

April 14— FOD (Foreign Object Debris) Walk—Wal-Mart Parking Lot— 4:00 p.m.

April 18— Happy Trails Spring Clean-up—FD Parks & Trails—8:00 a.m.—noon
CITO (Cache In Trash Out) GPS Treasure hunt—Brushy Creek—1:00—4:00 p.m.
Great Garlic Mustard Pull—Help Fight this Forest Invader—Brushy Creek—4:00—6:00 p.m.
Night Prairie Burn—Light up the night with WCCB & DNR—Brushy Creek—7:00 p.m.

May 2—Friends Ditch Clean-up & nest box building—Help clean the ditch between Kennedy Park and Harlan Rogers or help construct wood duck and blue bird boxes for WCCB wildlife areas (Picnic lunch to follow) - Kennedy Park—10:00 a.m.



Need more information about a park, campground, or event? Your search is over, mycountyparks.com is a new website created by the County Conservation System with the park-user in mind.

This new site was launched in February of 2009 with the leadership of Linn, Black Hawk, & Polk Counties. MCP.

com will offer recreational opportunities, historical sites, environmental education, and events for all 99 counties in Iowa!

“Web-savvy” park-users will find access to Iowa’s 1,752 areas, 181,892 acres, 388 camping areas, 649 picnic areas, 373 shelters, 635 hunting areas, 152 historic sites, 676 river/stream

access points, 59 nature centers, 588 prairies, 925 birding areas, miles of trails, programs, events, activities, and MUCH MORE!

I invite you to explore the site and see what Iowa has to offer! The Webster County site is under construction so check it out to watch the progress!!

Happy surfing!

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.
Emo Philips





Water Trails— Re-discovering our streams & rivers

A group of local paddlers has teamed up with the WCCB to promote the Des Moines River and Lizard Creek as designated water trails in Webster County.

The group will be helping improve water access sites, developing informational brochures & a website, and assisting with local river clean-up efforts.

The Des Moines River Water Trail will be offi-

cially designated on July 10th. Several river floats and clean-up events have been scheduled for 2009. If you are interested in helping or joining the paddling club please let us know at the Conservation Office.

These two great water resources n Webster County will provide over 70-miles of trail for residents and visitors!!

See you on the water this spring!!



Floating the Lizard Creek Water Trail

(Cut and Return This Portion) Mail to: Webster County Conservation, 1415 Nelson Avenue, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Please renew my Friends membership...



Sign up for:	Price	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership	\$15.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	\$25.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership	\$100.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation		_____

Membership Reminder

Spring is the time of year we send out an annual reminder to our friends to thank them for their generous support during the past year and ask for their help in 2009.

A sincere Thank You to everyone that has supported the mission of the "Friends of Webster County Conservation"! Many programs and events would not be possible without your generous help!

Thank You!

"A Friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of Nature." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Method of Payment

- Check enclosed
- Please bill me

TOTAL: _____

Name

Address

Email

Phone



Plant some shade.

Residential Tree Program – Webster County
Tree Order Form – Spring 2009

TO ORDER, fill out this form and mail to:

Webster County Conservation Board

John F. Kennedy Memorial Park, 1415 Nelson Ave., Fort Dodge, IA 50501

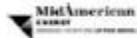
Phone: 515-576-4258; Fax: 515-574-3763; E-mail: conservation@webstercountyia.org

MidAmerican Energy customers in Iowa are eligible to purchase trees for \$25 each (with the remaining cost funded through a grant from MidAmerican Energy). Tree purchase is initially limited to two trees per household to ensure all customers have an opportunity to purchase trees. Advanced purchase is recommended. In the event additional trees are available on distribution day, they will be released for purchase at 4 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis, or until all trees are sold. Trees **must** be picked up Thursday, May 7, 2009, between 4 and 6 p.m. at Kennedy Park, five miles north of Fort Dodge on Nelson Ave. (P56). Any trees not picked up by 6 p.m. on distribution day will be considered a donation to the Webster County Conservation Board. Trees are nonrefundable. Exchanges will not be accepted and plant material is under no warranty and/or guarantee.

In exchange for customer participation in this program, the customer agrees that MidAmerican Energy, Iowa DNR or Webster County Conservation Board shall not be liable, in contract, tort and strict liability or otherwise, for any damages arising out of the administration of this program. MidAmerican Energy makes no warranties, expressed or implied, with respect to any material supplied under this program.



Plant some shade is a partnership initiative funded by MidAmerican Energy and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Bureau of Forestry and the Webster County Conservation Board.



Please complete the order form below. Return with a check for \$25 (one tree) or \$50 (two trees), payable to Friends of Webster County Conservation. No credit card or cash orders, please.

TREES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE (200 available) – Shade trees are 6-8 feet tall in 5-7 gallon containers, conifers are 2-3 feet tall. Please consider the size at maturity when selecting the right tree for your site. Remember to call Iowa One Call at 800-292-8989 or 811 to check for utilities at least 48 hours prior to digging.

- Bur oak (can grow to 80 feet tall; 90 feet wide)
- Burgundy Belle red maple (can be 50 feet tall; 50 feet wide)
- Profusion flowering crabapple (can be 20 feet tall; 20 feet wide)
- Norway spruce (can be 100 feet tall; 30 feet wide)

-----Clip and return to Webster County Conservation Board-----

CHOICE OF TREE SPECIES (can mean two of the same species):

Please fill in the tree species in order of preference. List only those tree(s) you are willing to accept.

	Tree #1
1 st Choice	
2 nd Choice	

	Tree #2
1 st Choice	
2 nd Choice	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ MidAmerican Energy Account Number: _____

E-mail: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

I am a MidAmerican Energy customer and live in Iowa. I understand and agree to pick up my tree(s) Thursday, May 7, 2009, between 4 and 6 p.m. at Kennedy Park. I also agree to plant my tree(s) immediately and give my tree(s) ongoing care. I understand the trees are under no warranty or guarantee. If you plan to plant your tree between the sidewalk and the curb, you should check with your local parks or public works department or city forester for applicable permission.

Signature

Date

Save some green.