

Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

February 2020



IN THIS ISSUE...

- Gypsum City Awards
- New 2020 Fees
- Star Lab
- IWILL Update
- Area Spotlight:
Carlson Area
- FDSH On The Ice
- Positions Available
- Upcoming Events &
Programs
- Annual PF Banquet
- Friends Information

Iowa's Off-Highway Vehicle Association Recognizes Gypsum City OHV & Associates

January brought the Iowa Off-Highway Vehicle Association's (IOHVA) annual meeting hosted in Webster County. The IOHVA is a member driven association, made up of OHV enthusiasts whose mission is to promote the sport of ATV/ORV riding around Iowa and work to expand opportunities across the state with the help and support of their members. IOHVA holds events throughout the riding season that offer safety instruction and premiere riding experiences.

The association recognized the great work happening right here in Webster County. The awards highlighted the hard work and partnerships taking place in Fort Dodge. The local associates recognized include Dennis Plautz with Webster County Improvement Corporation, Kerrie Kuiper with the Fort Dodge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Matt Cosgrove, Tasha Nielsen and the Webster County Conservation Board as well Keith Dencklau and the Webster County Board of Supervisors.

Webster County Conservation appreciates the efforts of the IOHVA and looks forward to continuing the partnership for many years to come!

WEBSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION

UPDATED FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2020

Camping

Kennedy Park (Apr 15 - Oct 15)

Full Hook Up	\$25
Electric Only	\$20
Primitive	\$15

First Come First Serve Sites Only

Camp WaNoKi

Hike-In Camping	\$15
-----------------	------

Gypsum City (Apr 15 - Oct 15)

Full Hook Up	\$30
Electric & Water Only	\$25
Sites 1 - 8 are walk up ONLY	

**Must reserve 5 days ahead online*

Firewood	\$5/bundle
Dump Station Fee	\$3(Non Campers Only)



Shelter Rental

Bob Heun Shelter & Lodge at WaNoKi

Rent (Fri/Sat/Sun)	\$260
(Mon.-Thurs.)	\$130

Veteran's Memorial Park

Amphitheater/Shelter Rental	\$100
Military	Free

(must contact office for free reservation)

Cabin Rental

White Oak Cabin (Kennedy Park) & River View Cabin (Camp WaNoKi)	\$50
---	------



Yurts & Tiny Home Rental

Yurt (Kennedy Park)	\$100	Tiny Houses (Gypsum City)	\$50-\$75
----------------------------	-------	----------------------------------	-----------

Activites

Kayak/Canoe	\$15/ 2-hr (M-F)	Stand-up Paddle Board	\$15/ 2-hr (M-F)
	\$20/day		
	\$30/wknd		
	\$100/week		

**Stand-up Paddle at Board Badger Lake Only*



*All facility rentals must be done online 3 days in advance at
www.mycountyparks.com
 \$4.00 per facility fee added*

The Most Wonderful Time of Year!

It's that time of year – the holidays are behind us and the weather is unbearable. But for local elementary schools that means one thing – Star Lab! Each year, Naturalist, Erin Ford presents the star lab to multiple schools and elementary grades. The excitement of the students is easy to tell when they see the large dome taking over their gym or lunch rooms. It has become a favorite time of year for them. From preschool to 4th grade, each class experiences something a little different inside the star lab. It emphasizes the classroom lessons about the universe and actually shows them what they are learning about in a fun and exciting way! If you venture into the star lab you will see constellations, planets, how the earth spins and how we have seasons. You would learn about the moon, galaxies and even go visit Mars!

“The star lab is an experience that provides students first hand with an opportunity to see what astronauts see in space and how constellations change throughout the year. There is nothing more exciting than flying by various planets or seeing our moon up close. This is a highlight in their science study and is something our students look forward to each year.”

Jennifer Housken 1st grade teacher at Southeast Valley, Dayton.

Update!!

Iowa's Natural Resource & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund



Exciting developments have occurred since our January Newsletter....On January 14th Governor Reynolds gave her “State of the State” Address and proposed a bold new tax package that includes funding Iowa’s Natural Resource & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. The proposal also creates changes in Iowa’s mental health funding and reductions in income tax.

Just this week bills were introduced in the House and Senate (SSB3116 & HSB657) that lay out the details for the Governor’s “Invest in Iowa” plan. The anticipated language and numbers are not necessarily the original version, nor what we may have been hoping to see. The bills can be improved upon, and we look forward to working with our legislators and state leadership on specific areas within the bill’s language. Our main focus will always be to preserve the integrity of the Trust Fund as it was originally conceived and work towards the best end product for the benefit of all Iowans.

THESE ARE EXCITING TIMES...stay tuned...

WCCB Area Spotlight

Carlson Recreation Area



The Carlson Recreation Area is Webster County's third largest wildlife management area consisting of 176 acres. The property is located along the banks of the Des Moines River southeast of Dayton.

Carlson Recreation Area provides a variety of habitats including: river-bottom timber, native prairie, wetland potholes and upland timber. The property is home to a variety of wildlife species and offers outdoor enthusiasts opportunities for hunting, fishing, bird watching (located in a designated Bird Conservation Area), mushrooming, shed –antler hunting and hiking.

The Carlson Recreation Area has been developed through four separate land purchases dating back to 1974. The most recent addition occurred in 2018 through a 50-acre bargain sale from Paul & Margo Eness. The Eness Family has been a neighbor to the wildlife area for many years. As they prepared to sell their acreage and move to Ames, the couple approached the Conservation Board about protecting a portion of their land and adding it to the wildlife area for public use. With help from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Pheasants Forever and a State Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant the Conservation Board was able to complete the acquisition in 2018.

The historic Anderson Cabin (pictured above) was originally located on the property and was restored by the Conservation Board before being destroyed by fire in 1981. A portion of the original area offered primitive camping and an open shelter from 1976—2003 when the area was closed due to vandalism.

Today the area is managed as a wildlife management area through prescribed fires, timber stand improvement, waterfowl nesting structures and invasive species monitoring. Future improvement plans include improved parking areas and trail enhancements.

Plan your next adventure at Carlson Recreation Area!!!

Partnerships

On The Ice

How many young people today get the opportunity to experience ice in the winter besides driving on it or skating across it on the way to and from their vehicles? If I had to guess, I'd bet the percentage is pretty low. But, Fort Dodge Senior High Outdoor Recreation and Leisure class has opened the opportunity to winter outdoor fun. Blake Utley, instructor, has secured the help of Webster County Conservation staff, Darren Herzog and Andy Stanberg, to cover ice fishing safety and provide basic instruction to provide a positive experience for these young folks who often don't have such opportunities.



Ice fishing novices first need to understand basic safety around ice, knowing when ice is safe to walk on, and gaining confidence in knowing how to determine that. Next, they need to understand that fishing takes patience, and unlike our modern world of instant feedback, fishing forces people to slow down and enjoy the winter weather and the company around you. So, even if a fish isn't caught, there are great benefits of just being outdoors and experiencing something new.

We look forward to more outdoor experiences with this class. The opportunities are endless.....



WE'RE HIRING!

Webster County Conservation Positions Available!

Applications for these job positions can be found at;
www.webstercountyaia.org under the Human Resources page and by
clicking on Employment Opportunities

CONSERVATION AIDE

Looking for a fun way to spend your summer and make money at the same time! Look no further than a summer position with Webster County Conservation!

Two summer Conservation Aide positions are available at John F. Kennedy Memorial Park. These positions will perform diverse tasks associated with the maintenance of the county's parks, trails and wildlife areas. This position will require some nights, weekends and holidays. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid driver's license. Starting date approximately May 11th.

Pay: \$12.00/hour, 40 hours/week (approx. 3 months in length)

DEADLINE: by 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 27th



PARK RANGER

Looking for a career in the outdoors and interested in law enforcement? A Park Ranger position with Webster County Conservation might just be the perfect opportunity for you! This position involves enforcing state and local laws at all of our 24 areas along with 2 campgrounds and over 100 campsites! This position is incredibly diverse as you will also be involved in various projects that involve wildlife, habitat, construction, etc.

DESCRIPTION: One full-time position, which will include park patrolling and maintenance. Employment will consist of a non-standard work week.

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from an accredited 4 year college with degree in natural resources or related field, or a 2 year degree in natural resources or related field along with 2 years of practical work experience. Must possess a valid driver's license and have Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Certification or the ability to obtain within 1 year of hire.

Salary: \$43,400 - \$57,400 DOQ plus county benefit package

DEADLINE: by 4:30 p.m. Friday, February 28th



Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

Cross Country Skiing

As soon as we get 3 or more inches of snow, clinics and ski rental information will be posted on our Facebook page or call 515-576-4258 for more information.



February

Island Hike

2:00 pm Brushy Creek State Rec. Area

On Sunday, February 23rd at 2 pm, meet at the South Boat Ramp, 2745 Lakeview Drive. A short walk across the ice will land you at Taylor Island. Hike up and enjoy seldom seen views of the lake. If there is enough snow, Webster and Hamilton CCB will offer snowshoes, you may bring your own, or you can just hike along in warm winter boots. We will discuss ice safety and the history of the lake and island.

Contact the Brushy Creek Park Office for cancellation or more information at (515) 543-8298. If ice conditions are not suitable, an alternative hike will be offered.

April

April 16 — Earth Day Exploration

6-8 pm Camp WaNoKi

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, families and individuals can join in a guided hike, scavenger hunt for young ones, and a geocaching challenge for all ages.

Get out and EXPLORE.



March



March 26 — Maple Syrup Magic

5-7 pm Camp WaNoKi

From the earliest of times, Native Americans and pioneers have made maple syrup from the sap of sugar maple trees. Learn how its made, find some maple trees on site, and taste some real maple syrup. Enjoy this beautiful time of year and all the woodlands has to offer. **5:00pm start time.

For the most up to date information,

LIKE us on Facebook:

Webster County Conservation



mycountyparks
.com





**SATURDAY,
March 21, 2020**

PHEASANTS FOREVER

**Webster County Chapter
35TH ANNUAL BANQUET**

Webster Co. Ag Center

Webster County Fairgrounds

Fort Dodge, Iowa

DOOR PRIZES - RAFFLES & AUCTIONS

**TICKETS BOUGHT BY MARCH 1ST QUALIFY FOR
SPECIAL EARLY BIRD TICKET PURCHASE DRAWINGS**

SOCIAL HOUR - 4:30

DINNER - 6:15



**Cost \$50.00 (Includes Membership)
Ringneck \$20.00 (Includes Membership)
Spouse \$25.00**

Let's Be Friends!

*With your support, we can make a difference in Webster County now and
for future generations*



Sign Up Today!

Fill out this form and mail to:

**Friends of Webster County
Conservation
1415 Nelson Ave
Fort Dodge, IA 50501**

Membership Form

☐ **Membership** \$25 _____

☐ **Business** \$100 _____

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Email

Phone

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.

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.

1415 Nelson Ave
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-576-4258

conservation@webstercountyia.org

www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx



Webster County Conservation

STAFF

Matt Cosgrove	Director
Cody Peterson	Operations Supervisor
Darren Herzog	Park Ranger
Karen Hansen	EE Coordinator
Erin Ford	Naturalist
Andy Stanberg	IRVM/Vegetation Specialist
Tasha Nielsen	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Adam Moeding	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Kyle Redmond	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Joni Hefley	Office Manager

BOARD MEMBERS

Nick Carlson	Fort Dodge
Geri Winge	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.



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.