Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

July 2020





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"Glamping " At Kennedy Park

"Glamping" is defined as "a form of camping involving accommodation and facilities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping. The term combines "glamour" and "camping."

Webster County has recently joined the growing national "glamping" trend by offering two full-service yurts. The yurts were identified as a potential revenue-producing project during the development of the Kennedy Park Master Plan.

The yurts offer a unique stay at Kennedy Park for people that may have an interest in camping , but don't want to invest in a camper or give up their "comforts of home."

Each yurt offers a kitchen, bathroom, bulk beds, soft-sleeper, air-conditioning, deck, fire pit and grill. They rent for $100 per night and can be reserved at www.mycountyparks.com.

The project was made possible through the generous support of the Webster County Board of Supervisors and work by area contractors Klein Construction, Bergman Plumbing, Baker Electric, Bemrich Electric, Gudmonson Services and the talented Webster County Conservation Staff.

TAKE A TOUR OF A YURT...













A New Face Around Our Parks: Joe Sherbon



Hi! I'm Joe Sherbon, the new Park Ranger for Webster County Conservation. I grew up in Spencer, Iowa and graduated from Spencer High School in 2015. From there I went on to South Dakota Sate University to study Natural Resource Law Enforcement. I graduated from there in 2018. I enjoy rock climbing, hiking and fishing in my free time. I may have been born on Friday the 13th—but I guess it didn't bring me too much bad luck as 3 years ago I SMASHED the old record for "all you can eat" pancakes at Perkins when I ate 22!! My favorite part of the job is interacting with and hearing stories from the fishermen and campers.

See you around the parks!

Meet Our 2020 Summer Staff:



Judi Smith

Hometown: Born is Ogallala, NE - lived in Fort Dodge for most of my life. I have 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

Interests: Walking, hiking, riding my bike, reading & exploring new places

Favorite Part of the Job: Working in Nature - early morning is easily the best part of the day!



Trenton Massman

High School: Webster City High School 2017

College: Ellsworth Comm College for Conservation Technology Program

Interests: Hunting, fishing, being outdoors

Favorite Part of the Job: Learning experience & being able to work outside



Hunter Simpson

High School: Humboldt 2015

College: DMACC, then ISU for Biology

Interests: Sports, working out, fishing, being active outside

Favorite Part of the Job: Mowing, and making the park look good.



Michael Miller

High School: Humboldt 2017

College: ISU for Music Education

Interests: Hunting, fishing, camping, outdoors

Favorite Part of the Job: It's easy and I don't have to think about it. Great co-workers too. Also, outside all day is great

This is Michael's 3rd summer with us!

WCCB Area Spotlight

Badger Lake Trail Bridge



If you are one of the hundreds of trail users at Kennedy Park looking for "social distancing" activities close to home, you have probably noticed the newest attraction recently added to the trail system. A 180-foot pedestrian bridge has been placed across the north-finger of the lake, connecting the Children's Forest/Veteran's Memorial Park to the dog training area located on the north-side of Badger Lake.

The bridge replaces a wooden bridge that was removed over five years ago due to safety concerns. The new bridge is located closer to the main lake, providing an opportunity to improve the trail-user and fishing experiences.

In addition to the 180-foot bridge, a 30-foot bridge was also installed across the lake's spillway. The existing bridge was nearing the end of it's life and was too narrow to allow the department's mowers and utility vehicles to maintain the trail system.

The bridge projects were completed by Custom Manufacturing Co. from Wisconsin. The $130,000 project was made possible through the generous support of the Webster County Board of Supervisors.

The bridges have been a popular attraction for trail-users and fishermen.



KAYAK & CANOE



RENTAL

Webster County Conservation offers Kayak, Canoe & Stand Up Paddle Board Rentals!

What you need to know....

- Reservations can be made **Monday - Friday only** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Webster County Conservation Office at John F. Kennedy Park
- 6 Kayaks and 2 canoes available - can be taken out of Kennedy Park
- 5 Stand Up Paddle Boards - must be used on Badger Lake and rented on a 2 hour basis
- Must be at least 18 years old to rent

What you need to bring ....

- Cash or check—must be paid in full at time of rental!
- Photo ID and/or Current Driver's License
- Proof of completion of safe paddling course

Don't have that!? Don't Worry!! Visit

www.boaterexam.com/paddling/ for a FREE online course!

	Per 1 Kayak/Canoe	Per 1 SUP
2 Hour Rental	$ 15	$ 15
One day/overnight rental	$ 20	
One weekend rental, Friday—Monday	$ 30	
One week rental, to include one weekend	$ 100	

For More Information call 515-576-4258

Friends of Webster County Conservation
2020 Orville O'Connell Scholarship Recipient



Matthew Miller, son of Geoff and Michelle Miller, accepts his $500.00 scholarship. He is a 2020 graduate of Humboldt High School. He plans to attend Mankato State University, major in Environment Science and minor in criminal justice, with a goal of becoming a Game Warden. Matthew also plans to play football at Mankato State.

Matthew is pictured above with his parents and Friends of Webster County Conservation members Jerry Beck and Laura Ludgate.

Congrats Matthew!!!

Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

This may not be our normal public program list, but lets face it, nothing about this summer has been normal! So here are some activities for you and your family to do while maintaining safe social distancing practices.

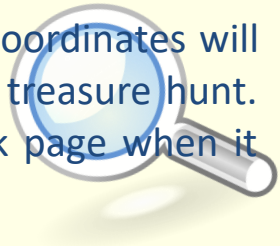
At Home Nature Camp: Pollinators: In this camp campers will learn how important pollinators are, the different types of pollinators and do fun activities and crafts about pollinators. Registration deadline is July 17th, but a limited number of kits are available so register online at mycountyparks.com.



Activity of the Week: Want something fun to try with your kiddos? Each Monday in July a fun nature themed activity will be posted on our Facebook page.

Temporary Interpretive Trail: Located at Kennedy Park, we hope this trail will educate and delight as new themes are posted on Thursdays through July 23rd. The walk starts at the first parking lot as you enter the park on the right and follows the gravel trail to the playground.

Geocaching at Kennedy: From July 24th – August 14th geocache coordinates will be marked at Kennedy Park for you and your family to go on an treasure hunt. We will post more details about this adventure on our Facebook page when it goes live on July 24th.



For the most up to date information, LIKE us on Facebook: Webster County Conservation

mycountyparks.com

Let's Be Friends!

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

Friends of Webster County Conservation

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
Joe Sherbon	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 meeting are held at the Kennedy Park Office building at 5:30 p.m. All meeting are open to the public and visitors are welcome.

Webster County CONSERVATION

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.