

Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board



PICKIN' UP WHILE
PADDLIN' DOWN

Saturday, August 6th

Two Participation Levels:

All Participants will meet at **Sunkissed Park in Ft. Dodge**

- "Long Haulers" meet @ 9:00 AM to be shuttled to **Deer Creek**
Access for a 10 mile trip
- "Casual Cleaners" meet at @ 9:45 AM to be shuttled to **Becker**
Access for a 5 mile trip

Call Kennedy Park @ 515-576-4258 for additional info & to reserve your canoe

Deadline Aug. 1st



**Free Food &
Refreshments
afterwards at:**



PICKIN' UP WHILE PADDLIN' DOWN

Join the FUN as the public participates in a River Clean-up event on Saturday, August 6, 2022.

The group will enjoy time paddling on the river while helping make a difference in our local waters on the Des Moines River. Participants will get muddy and wet picking up trash from the river and hauling it out by canoe.

Call to reserve a canoe and equipment from Webster County Conservation by August 4, 2022.

The event is free and open to the public. A limited number of canoes are available. Food will be provided at Amigos for participants. Call the Webster County Conservation Office at (515) 576-4258 for questions and to sign up.



EAGLE SCOUT ENHANCES THE PRAIRIE RIVERS TRAIL

As the summer began, bikers on the Prairie Rivers Trail were greeted with a new amenity in the form of a bike repair station at the Kennedy Park trail head. This was courtesy of Eagle Scout candidate Fisher Novencido who has spent the last several months fund raising and researching options on how to enhance the Fort Dodge trail system. Fisher is 17 years old, attends Fort Dodge Senior High, and is a member of the local Boy Scout Troop 8.

The station is a pedestal with a place to hang your bike while repairing it. Connected to tethers are a host of tools that are helpful in making simple repairs to a bicycle. There is even a hand pump attached to the side to air up the tires.

Fisher was helped along the way by his project coach, Doug Breyfogle, who helped him formulate goals and implementing the plans for the project. Fellow troop members were then invited for the construction and installation of the repair station.

The project was completed in May and Fisher is now awaiting approval of the highest achievement with the Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scout. "Scouts has been an amazing organization to be a part of and has been a big help to me throughout my life." says Fisher. The bike repair station has been used often since coming online and we thank Fisher for this asset to Kennedy Park and the Prairie Rivers Trail.

"Kennedy Park is so beautiful and I'm always riding my bike there, so I wanted to make it that much better"
Fisher Novencido on choosing his Eagle Scout project.



BADGER LAKE RESTORATION

WCCB and the IDNR are preparing for a major renovation of Badger Lake. The project is necessary due to a significant fish kill after the 2020 winter season. Fishermen and staff noticed an unusual amount of dead fish due the 2021 ice out. The project includes:

- Fish renovation
- Silt removal
- Construction of fishing jetties
- Construction of a rock dam for water quality
- Shoreline armoring
- Fish habitat improvements

The project is scheduled to begin the week of August 15th, following the annual Dragon Boat Bash. The water level in the lake will be lowered to approximately 50% to conduct the work. The project is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2023. The lake will be re-stocked with catfish, bluegill, largemouth bass and crappie.



VETERANS PARK NAMED IN HONOR OF MOEHNKE

On June 25, 2022 the Veterans Memorial Park at Kennedy Park was re-dedicated and named in honor of Terry Moehnke at the first annual Veteran's BBQ. Moehnke, along with Fort Dodge Noon Sertoma, has been instrumental in the establishment and continued growth of the memorial. A new entrance sign will be installed this fall.



Entry Way Arch

Veterans Memorial Park, Fort Dodge, Iowa

Terry Moehnke Veterans Memorial Park

March 30, 2022

On behalf of the Webster County Board of Supervisors, I would like to thank all of the veterans that have joined us today and all those that have served our country. It is my great honor to recognize Terry Moehnke for his vision and dedication in creating this Veteran's Memorial at Kennedy Park. I would also like to recognize the members of the Fort Dodge Noon Sertoma Club for their commitment and partnership that has brought this vision to reality. Terry, Webster County and Fort Dodge Noon Sertoma would like express our sincere gratitude to you and your family for creating this beautiful tribute to our area's service men and women. From this day forward the memorial park will be named the "Terry Moehnke Veterans Memorial Park".

**Mark Campbell, Chairman
Webster County Board of Supervisors**



FLEA BEETLES TO HELP CURB NOXIOUS WEEDS

Recently Webster County Conservation employees were able to visit Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve near Sioux City to collect Flea Beetles. What are Flea Beetles and why would we collect them? I'm glad you asked!

Flea Beetles have become a great tool in managing a noxious weed called Leafy Spurge. Leafy Spurge is an invasive plant that was introduced to the US from Eurasia in the 1800s. It is a challenging plant to control due to its deep root system - this is where the tiny Flea Beetle becomes a mighty weapon. Flea beetles specifically use Leafy Spurge as a host to lay eggs. When these eggs hatch the larvae feed exclusively on the deep and vast roots of the Leafy Spurge plant. Over time the insects can have a large impact on Leafy spurge infestations.

Broken Kettle is managed by The Nature Conservancy and has transformed many of their areas from a sea of Leafy Spurge to nothing more than scattered pockets. Employees at Broken Kettle invite conservation agencies, such as Webster County Conservation, each spring to help collect Flea Beetles to transplant to new areas where they help manage Leafy Spurge.

Webster County has used this method in the past, and our collection of beetles this year will help bolster the population of Flea Beetles within the county. We released these beetles in several roadsides that have larger numbers of Leafy Spurge. The Flea Beetles will continue to be an important tool in our Leafy Spurge management.



Above

Collection of Flea Beetles



Right

*WCCB Staff Member Andy
Stanberg collecting beetles*

August 12th & 13th, 2022

BADGER LAKE DRAGON BOAT BASH

CELEBRATING

25

YEARS OF

PADDLING

**KENNEDY PARK
FORT DODGE, IOWA**

**Friday,
August 12th
Gates Open 5:30**

**Band K
Breast Cancer
Silent Auction**

**Saturday,
August 13th
7am to 10am
Noon Lions Club
Pancake Breakfast**

**Races Start
at 8:30am**

**Breast Cancer
Silent Auction
10am Cub Scouts
Rain Gutter
Regatta Race**

Band K Tickets price \$5.00

Tickets may be purchased at Hy-Vee



INFO AT: WWW.BLDBA.COM

UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

| DATE | TIME | ACTIVITY | LOCATION |
|------------|-------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Aug 6 | 9 am | River Clean Up | DSM River |
| Aug 9 - 11 | 9 am | Summer WILD Camp | Camp WaNoKi |
| Aug 13 | | Dragon Boat Festival | Kennedy Park |
| Aug 17 | 10 am | Toddler Time Outdoors | Camp WaNoKi |
| Aug 22 | 7 am | Early Bird Hike | Bob Hay Rec Area |
| Aug 25 | 6 pm | Fireside Chat | Camp WaNoKi |
| Aug 31 | 10 am | Toddler Time Outdoors | Camp WaNoKi |
| Sept 7 | 10 am | Toddler Time Outdoors | Camp WaNoKi |
| Sept 17 | 2 pm | River Excursion | DSM River |
| Sept 19 | 7 am | Early Bird Hike | Skillet Creek |
| Sept 22 | 7 pm | Fireside Chat | Camp WaNoKi |
| Oct 10 | 7 am | Early Bird Hike | Camp WaNoKi |
| Oct 16 | 12 pm | Campgrounds Close | |
| Oct 26 | 10 am | Toddler Time Outdoors | Camp WaNoKi |
| Oct 17 | 6 pm | Fireside Chat | Camp WaNoKi |



For a complete listing of Webster County Conservation events and for more information, including registration, please visit www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx



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LIKE us on Facebook:
Webster County Conservation**





Friends of Webster County Conservation

The Friends of Webster County Conservation is a non-profit organization of people, like you, that are concerned with protecting our natural areas and are concerned about providing opportunities for people to interact and learn about our natural environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING THE "FRIENDS" CONTACT THE KENNEDY PARK OFFICE

Be a Friend...

Pledge your support today for high quality environmental education, healthy living, expanded open space, restored natural areas and greater outdoor recreation opportunities in Webster County.

Friends Enjoy...

- Receive current Friends & Webster County Conservation Department activities & events.
- Participate in special programs, tours & events designed exclusively for Friends.
- Special invitation to our "Call of the Wild" Friends Celebration event.
- Have your name/business included in the Friends Annual Report.

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 generation.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Email _____

Membership Levels (please check)

Family (\$25) _____ Business (\$100) _____

Additional gift _____ I would like to volunteer _____

The Friends of Webster County Conservation is a 501c3 organization. Your donation may be considered tax deductible

Our Funding Priorities

Environmental Education

Youth Recreation

Trails-land & water

Outdoor Recreation

Natural Resources Conservation

Habitat Protection

*"A friend may well be reckoned the
masterpiece of nature"*
Ralph Waldo Emerson



Mail to: Friends of Webster County Conservation, 1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge IA 50501

WEBSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION

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

conservation@webstercountyaia.org
www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx



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./Park Tech |
| Brody Bertram | Natural Res./Trail Tech |
| Joni Hefley | Office Manager |



BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Jerry Beck | Fort Dodge |
| Geri Winge | Fort Dodge |
| Nick Carlson | Fort Dodge |
| KC Coleman | Fort Dodge |
| 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.

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, Webster County Human Resources or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.