

# Sioux County Conservation Newsletter



Volume 20, Issue 1

Spring 2011

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sioux County Conservation Board success...

Approximately 150 people came out to enjoy a night of celebration. The night started with great weather, few mosquitoes, and no rain in the forecast! Entertainment kicked off with Kay Neumann presenting a program about live raptors including a Red-tail hawk and peregrine falcon. Kay also brought two Great Horned Owls for release at Oak Grove Park. Music was provided throughout the night by the Groove Diggers, dinner served by Sioux County Conservation Board Staff and Family, while Sioux County Pork Producers manned the grill. LeRoy Goeden provided ponies and buggies for the kids to ride. Door prizes were given away to some very excited attendees. A short program presented by Robert Klocke Executive Director, John Degen Board of Supervisor, Sunday Ford EE Coordinator and Assistant Director in recognition of past and current board members and current Sioux County Conservation Staff. Thanks to all that came out and celebrated with us, and to everyone that has supported us through the years.



# Summer Camp at Oak Grove Park

Join the Sioux County Naturalist this summer for outdoor adventures. All camps are free of charge **Pre-Registration is required** will start **April 4<sup>th</sup> 2011**. Space is limited. 712/552-3057

## Ages 3-4

### Budding Naturalists

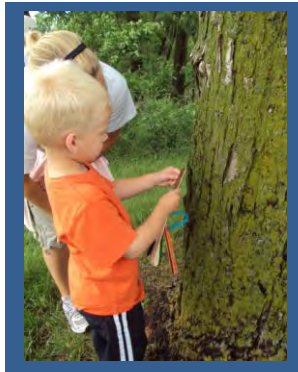
(Different from last year)

These little naturalists will have a hands-on introduction to nature. Parents/adult must attend. Includes games, crafts, and trail hikes.

Camp will be from **8:30am-11am**.

June 9            July 14

June 14          July 19



## Ages 5-6

### Frogs, Snails, Salamander Tails

We will discover which animals in Oak Grove Park use slime, and we will explore the wonderful world of natural slime. This camp includes trail hikes, games and crafts.

Choose from:

June 7 & 8 9am-noon OR 1pm-4pm

June 20 & 21      9am-noon

July 26 & 27      9am-noon

## Ages 7-9

### Bug Scouts

Campers will explore the world of entomology by making insect collections that they will be able to take home with them.

This two day camp is offered four times this year from 9am- 2pm.

June 28-29            July 12-13

June 30-July 1        July 28-29

## Ages 10-12

### Water Works

Get ready to get wet, campers! We will discover and learn about the Iowa's wetlands-hands-on! We will explore insects, amphibians, water pollution and testing, canoeing and go fishing!

These camps will be hosted at the Big Sioux Recreation Area South of Hawarden, IA from 9am-3pm.

Choose from the following dates.

July 7-8

July 20-21



## Ages 13-15

### Hunter Education Overnight Camp

This overnight camp will give participants the opportunity to pass the Iowa Hunter Education course (which is required for an Iowa Hunting license), as well as participate in a fun overnight camp experience.

Participants will learn firearm safety; shoot/don't shoot scenarios, hunting laws and more.

August 1-2

Oak Grove cabins. Potluck meals

# Upcoming Programs...

## Outdoor Skills Day- June 10, 2011

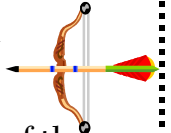
Ages 8 and up (those under 8 years of age may attend with an adult)

This fun filled day will take place at Oak Grove Park. Session for the day may include: shotgun shooting, air rifles, archery, outdoor cooking, improving outdoor skills and much more! This event is being sponsored by 4-H Extension, Sioux County Conservation Board, and the Sioux County Sportsmen's Club. Free lunch and prizes being provided by the Sioux County Sportsmen's Club. To sign up or for more information please contact the Extension Office at 712/737-4230, or Sunday at 712/552-3057.



### Ringneck Rendezvous (Youth Banquet) – Wed. June 15, 2011 5:30-8:30pm

Ages 16 and under (those 8 and under must have adult present)



Join the Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever Chapter, Sioux County Conservation Board and members of the Rock Valley Gun Club for a fun evening of trap shooting, pizza and prizes. Activities for the evening being planned include; trap shooting (with BB gun for those 12 and under), games and raffles; door prizes; education sessions, and pizza. Cost for this evening is \$5 per person, parents are welcome to attend by must also preregister and pay the \$5 fee. Each participant will receive free "rooster bucks:" handed out at the door to use on the games, trapshooting and live auction. Many prizes to be won! Go to [www.siouxcountyparks.com](http://www.siouxcountyparks.com) to fill out registration forms and fee to Sunday Ford, 4051 Cherry Ave, Hawarden, IA 51023. Participants will be considered registered when the form and payment are returned. **Must be postmarked by June 10.** The first 200 kids will be accepted. Any questions, call 712/552-3057. Weather related cancellations will be aired on 93.9 FM. Rain date: June 16, 2011.



### Family Fishing Clinic Sandy Hollow – June 18, 2011 (tentative)

**Age: All ages are welcomed!**



Join the Sioux Center Wal-Mart, Sioux County Sportsmen's Club, and the Sioux County Conservation Board at the Sandy Hollow pond for a fun filled morning of fishing instruction, fishing, prizes, casting contest, giveaways. Clinic will be from 9am-12:30pm with lunch provided and prizes to be won. Those 16 years of age and older must have a valid fishing license to participate. Fishing poles are available for use or bring your own. Pre-registration required please call Sunday Ford at 712/552-3057. No Cost.

The Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever Chapter is sponsoring boys and girls ages 12-15 to an outdoor skills camp. The camps are 3 days, 2 nights and held at Iowa DNR Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center, IA. The camps are instructed by professionals in the conservation field, cost is \$100 per person which will be paid for by Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever Chapter. Pre-register early with Sunday at 712/552-3057

**Hunting and Conservation Camp for Boys** will be held: June 22-24 and July 27-29, 2011. Activities may include but are not limited to: wildlife conservation, dog training and selection, .22 rifle shooting, pheasant hunting, muzzle loading, archery, shotgun shooting, fur harvesting, waterfowl hunting, game care and handling, gun cleaning, and turkey hunting. Participants will be given the opportunity to pass the Iowa DNR Hunter Education Course, which is needed to obtain an Iowa hunting license.

**Outdoor Journey for Girls** will be held: June 15-17 and August 3-5, 2011. Activities include: orienteering, survival/shelter building, canoe/water safety, tenting/camping, muzzleloading, fur harvesting, fishing and the DNR Hunter Education Course. Girls will be given the opportunity to pass the course and receive their Iowa Hunter Education Certification, which is needed to obtain a hunting license in Iowa.

## Dutch Oven Gathering July 23-Oak Grove Park

Area Dutch oven cookers will gather near the river at Oak Grove Park and begin cooking at 3:30pm. There will be breads, appetizers, main dishes and desserts. A pot luck will begin at 6:30pm please bring a dish to share if you are not cooking. Dishes will be judged, with prize awarded for best dish. Call Sunday Ford at 712/552-3057 to sign up as a cooker. First 10 cookers to register receive a free campsite for Saturday night July 23.



### Thank You

*Sioux County Sportsmen's Club-  
50 ice fishing rods and reels*

## Park Ranger Note...

By: Scott Heidebrink, Park Ranger

Historically, Iowa had the most expansive prairies in the United States, covering nearly 30 million acres, or 84 percent of the state. Unfortunately, however, less than one percent of that original prairie remains today.

Grasses can reach up to 8' tall. The major species found in the prairie are big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass and switch grass. You may see forbs such as purple coneflower, leadplant, black-eyed Susan and compass plant. Although these species can be dominant in the prairie, most prairies contain hundreds of species of grasses and forbs.

One essential key to a successful prairie eco-system is fire. Fire contributes to the quality development of prairies by removing unwanted and invasive species, releasing nutrients into the soil, and removing debris.

Currently Sioux County Conservation manages approximately 2,700 acres; approximately 300 acres will be burned this spring in small sections throughout the county. To ensure safety during these burns, many precautions will be taken, including using proper equipment, wearing fire retardant clothing and only burning when the conditions are right. Proper planning is essential for prescribed burns. Firebreaks must be mowed and equipment must be properly maintained.

Finding the correct conditions is the hardest part of prescribed burns. The wind direction and speed, temperature and humidity must be correct. Winds less than 10 mph and from a desirable direction make the fire easier to contain. If the humidity is too high the fire may not stay lit but if it is too low the fire can become dangerous. If the temperature is too hot the fire will also get hotter and can have more potential to become dangerous.

Throughout the next couple of months, you will notice some changes among the Sioux County wildlife areas as we begin burning. Although these wildlife areas won't look like much shortly after a burn, come back a few months later and you may be surprised what you find!

# Conservation Note...

By: Robert Klocke, Executive Director

This is about the time I start hitting the panic button by looking at all the work that needs to be done. We are extremely excited about what we have in store for this year's projects. One thing before I get into all the projects thank you for supporting our programs. Last year was our fiftieth anniversary and it was great to see all of you out there using your parks. We had a great opportunity last fall to add another park in the center of the county just off of K30 and 410th. It is the Ray Meoller addition which is 16.5 acres. The area is already developed into a park setting with established woodlands, prairie, and a small pond for fishing, so when you venture out this spring or summer check it out you won't be disappointed.

- The first major spring project is a restroom facility at the Bruce Schomaker Recreation Area (Boyden). It will be located in the old picnic area just west of L14. It will have modern restroom fixtures and will be wheelchair accessible with plans to have it completed mid-summer.
- The second project to do is the continued development of the Big Sioux Recreation Area southwest of Hawarden. Plans for this summer/fall are to run new water lines for the campground and new restroom facility which has yet to be built. We also received some Fish Habitat grant money (which is from fishing license sales), which will cover some shoreline armoring and a fishing jetty to create habitat and provide more area to fish from. An access road will be added to the Big Sioux Recreation Area. LG Everist has agreed to donate all the fill material or black dirt we need. The County Supervisors have agreed to allow the county trucks to haul the dirt so it is just getting a time set up to see that happen.

Last year's flooding caused some damage to other structures we have in Sioux County. The dock at Winterfeld Boating and Fishing Area was a complete loss and will be replaced with a floating dock this spring. The bridge at Boyden had some erosion on the northwest side so we will be stabilizing that this year; and a fence by Hospers that was torn out due to high water will be replaced. All of these projects above qualify for FEMA funds. We also had a portion of the dike blow out at the Big Sioux Rec. Area last fall that will have to get fixed this spring.

At Oak Grove we will be replacing the roof on Turkey Ridge restroom and stabilizing the riverbank just west of our boat ramp. Last year's flooding caused some erosion problems. Overall the river bank has held up well after the major stabilization that took place in 2008. Some money from FEMA will cover those repair costs.

The last thing that we are working on is some shoreline armoring (which will help with erosion) at the Floyd River Wildlife Area by Alton. Well with that I will leave you with this, we really look forward to seeing you out and about this season please stop in to visit with us about your ideas.

## 2011 Rates and Fees

### **Camping:**

Electrical sites: \$16 Non-electrical sites: \$13

Alton Roadside Park: \$10

\*All Camping is on a first come basis. 57 site in Oak Grove Park, modern comfort station, dump station, water refill.

### **Cabins:**

Whitetail Lodge and Eagles Nest: \$55 a night Bluegill Bungalow and Fox's Den: \$65 a night

\*Cabins have a 2 night minimum, 3 night holiday weekend minimum. You provide personal toiletries, linens, cooking utensils. All cabins have AC/heat, modern restroom, small fridge (no freezer), coffee pot, microwave, TV.

### **Shelters:**

Oak Grove Lodge: \$75 a day Big Sioux Shelter: \$25 a day, no overnight rentals, must call for reservation

Oak Grove Lodge contains modern restrooms, AC/heat, and fridge.

Big Sioux Shelter has a nearby pit toilet, an outdoor grill, and fire places.

Alton Road Side Park: \$40 a day, no overnight rentals, call Alton Casey's General for reservation

Open shelters by river at Oak Grove: free, first come first served

**Canoes: (must be able to transport canoe(s); lifejackets and paddles are provided, call for reservations)**

\$18 a day per canoe \$10 a half day per canoe

**Big Sioux Recreation Area (passes sold per vehicle)**

\$5 a day \$20 annual (**Good until December 31, 2011**)

