

Sioux County Conservation Newsletter



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Summer 2011

Conservation Note...

By: Robert Klocke, Director

Hello friends, this has been another exciting spring in conservation; more areas, projects; and of course more flooding. We have two new areas to explore. The Moeller addition 18 acres and located just one mile north of B46 on K30 then ½ mile east on the south side of road. This area offers fishing, hunting, and nature study. The pond is about 1 ½ acres and is stocked with bass, bluegill, and channel catfish. The hunting opportunities are mostly upland game. The second area (Stoll) is located north of the Alton at the intersection of Hwy 10 and old Hwy 60. This area is 18 acres with the Floyd River running through it. This area will be mostly upland hunting with some wetland hunting. It will provide access to the Floyd River and wildlife observation.

Some of you folks in the Northeastern part of Sioux County might have noticed some activity at the Bruce Schomaker Recreation Area. We are starting on a new modern restroom and future campsites. Water lines have been put in and a septic system has been installed. Electric service and restroom will be soon to follow. The plan is to have 10 campsites, all with water and electric service. The restroom will be modern with flushing toilets, and shower facilities. We are very pleased to see progress at this area. Hopefully the camping will be available summer of 2012.

We also have been awarded two more grants for a pedestrian/handicap fishing pier at the Big Sioux Recreation Area. One of the grants we received was from the Sioux County Community Foundation for \$5000 and the other is from the Hawarden Community Foundation for \$15,000. The pier will have to be completed by April of 2012. Thanks for all your support.

Other projects that have been difficult to move forward with because of the flooding are the FEMA repairs to the west side of the boat ramp at Oak Grove Park, and replacing the dock at Winterfeld's Boating and Fishing Area. We also have some Fish Habitat Projects at the Big Sioux Recreation Area and Floyd River Complex B that need to be completed this year. Hopefully in the next few months the water level will get back to normal.

Thanks again for all your support and keep visiting your parks.

Robert Klocke, Executive Director

Park Ranger Note...

By: Myron Dekkers, Park Ranger

It's already getting close to the end of the summer season and hunting season is approaching. As with everything, safety comes first. If you have never gone hunting before or if you are a seasoned hunter wanting a refresher on hunter safety, hunting laws, and hunting ethics, get signed up for a hunter safety education course. If you are born after January 1, 1972, you must have a valid hunter education certificate to buy a hunting license.



Everyone is welcome to attend, but only persons who are eleven years of age or older may participate. Those participating that are twelve and over will obtain a certificate immediately upon completion of the course. Eleven year olds taking the course will be able to receive their certification after they become twelve years old.

A course is offered annually in Hawarden in August. The class is hosted at the Hawarden Fire Station. During the course there is time for "hands on" trap shooting skills towards the end of the course.



This course does not make you an expert marksman, but it does give you building blocks on how to be more responsible, ethical hunter out in the field.

For more information on hunter education courses check out: www.iowadnr.gov

or call Marty Eby 712-260-1036

Office Note...

By: Jessica Buffington, Office Assistant

Summer is here and about gone again. Things have been steady for the conservation board this year. EE programs have been well attended, and camps have gone smoothly, along with the other larger programs offered. Camping has been busy the first part of the season and expected to pick back up the next couple of months. We have started to update a newer website at www.mycountyparks.com. This website contains information for all 99 counties in the state of Iowa. This website is a great resource for those planning a vacation or long weekend in Iowa and for those wanting to know what is going on in their county. We have added our information to the site and will continue to update and add our events. Make sure you sign up to be a registered member to receive email updates on items of your choice. Check it out! Our regular website www.siouxcounty.org at this time will remain updated and will include links between the two websites.

As summer changes to fall we will be gearing up for the end of the camping season however there is plenty of time to get out and use your parks. Do a little bird watching, hiking, or enjoying an evening fire. We are gearing up for our fall programs including: a Youth Mentor Pheasant Hunt, Hunter Education Classes, our Annual Trick or Treat Hike, and Women in the Outdoor. With much anticipation for our fall programs, we are looking forward to yet another successful year of fall programs and having school field trips at Oak Grove Park. For more information on upcoming events please see the upcoming programs page or check us out online.

Upcoming Programs...

September

3 Monarch Program-meet at firewood box, Deer Run Campground Oak Grove Park at 9:30am. Family program to tag monarchs on their journey to Mexico. No cost. Cancelled if rain.



6 Camper Registration for Trick or Treat Hike-call 712/552-1047. No other phone will be used to register, no walk ins. Calls taken starting at 8 am. This is to reserve for **camping** for Oct. 8 event. You may only register yourself and one other camper. Campsites available both in Deer Run Campground and Turkey Ridge.

10 Women In the Outdoors-Open to ages 14 and up (ages 14-17 with adult). Hosted at Oak Grove Park, Hawarden, IA 8am-4:30pm. Courses may include: Dutch oven cooking, muzzleloader shooting, GPS, kayaks/canoes etc. Cost is \$35, includes lunch. Hosted by National Wild Turkey Federation and Lyon, Sioux, and O'Brien County Conservation Boards. A fun experience for ladies of all backgrounds. Call 712/552-3057 to register.



24 Dutch Oven Gathering- Oak Grove Park. Area Dutch oven cooks will gather at the Turkey Ridge Campground Big Sioux Shelter area for an afternoon of Dutch oven cooking. Cooking will begin at 3:30 pm. Dishes to include: breads, appetizers, main dishes and desserts. 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 cooks to register will receive a free campsite at Turkey Ridge for Saturday night September 24.



October

8 Trick or Treat Hike- Join the Sioux County Conservation Board for an evening of Halloween celebration! Ages 12 and under are invited to trick or treat in costume at Oak Grove Park. You will start at the river and walk a luminary lit trail to Deer Run Campground, trick or treat at the campsites, and then make your way back down to the river for a bonfire. In case of flooding, parking will be available near Deer Run Campground. **New this year: Turkey Ridge Campground will also be open for trick or treating due to the large number of kids. Parking will be available for this campground, also.** No pre-registration needed. Listen to KSOU 93.9 FM for weather cancellations. Trick or treating is from 6-8pm. *Any campers wanting to reserve a spot for the Trick or Treat Hike for Turkey Ridge or Deer Run Campground may start to do so at 8am on September 6th at 712/552-1047.* You may only register yourself and one other camper by phone no walk-ins.



22 Youth Mentor Pheasant Hunt -Sponsored by the Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever and Sioux County Conservation Board. This event is open to kids ages 12-15, who have passed their hunter education courses. This event is held at the Rock Valley Gun Club, hunting will occur on surrounding hunting areas. The day starts with a review of hunting safety by a conservation officer, then a trap shoot. Each kid will go into the field with a mentor and hunting dog, and the morning ends with a lunch and sharing hunting stories. There is no cost, but only a limited number of kids will be taken. Call 712/552-3057 to pre-register.



Project Spotlight...

With many projects in the planning stage and starting to be seen throughout the Public areas Sioux County Conservation Board offers. We are watching the modern restroom construction starting to make progress at the Bruce Schomaker Recreational Area, north of Boyden on county road L14. The footings, flooring, and sidewalks have been placed. Plumbing has been roughed in; electrical service has been brought out to the park. We should see walls being put up in the next week or so. Our goal is to have the building enclosed before the snow flies, so we can work on finishing touches on the inside. After the restroom is completed we will work on placing 10 camping pads with electrical services. The camping and modern restroom will be a great addition to a popular spot in Sioux County.

