



PRAIRIE HORIZONS

STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION | NATURE PROGRAMS AND NEWS

February - April 2023



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-THE LATEST-

Timely and brief updates on ongoing projects



Carroll Makes Donation for Prairie Work

Lorna Carroll, long-time supporter of SCC, donated two days' worth of funds to hire Conservation Corps of Iowa to improve Carroll Prairie. The crew cleared undesired trees—mostly white mulberries and honey locusts. White mulberries are not native to Iowa and repopulate aggressively, often shading out native plants. This then causes the ground below to become bare, leading to erosion.

Lorna sold this property to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) in 2015 and SCC then acquired the property in 2018.

Wayfinding Signage Installed along Heart of Iowa Nature Trail

The Heart of Iowa Nature Trail (HOINT), a 32-mile long trail corridor, beginning in Slater and ending in Melbourne (Marshall County) saw big upgrades in December. SCC staff installed wayfinding signage indicating direction and distance, all the way from Slater to Collins. Story County's entire portion of the HOINT now features signage!



Laura Johnston

Water Quality Monitor Receives National Recognition

Story County Environmental Health employee, Laura Johnston, was selected as November's nationwide winner for the Salt Watch Program, sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of America. Every two weeks, Laura and other volunteers monitor 50 waterways throughout Story County. Samples are tested for phosphate, nitrate, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, turbidity, and chloride. Johnston's chloride data submission for Rock Creek, near Maxwell, was selected as November's winner. You can find this data and more by visiting www.cleanwaterhub.org.

Thank you, Laura, for your commitment!

PARKS:

OPEN FOR ADOPTION

SCC's Adopt-A-Park Program offers the perfect opportunity for individuals, families, or even organizations and clubs to volunteer within the community, on a very flexible schedule.



This program is open to anyone willing to commit for at least one year, with renewal taking place each July. Volunteers pick up trash at least once per month, unless winter weather doesn't allow,

as well as inform SCC of any damage or vandalism. Volunteer hours must be logged online, and that is really all there is to it! Necessary supplies like trash bags and gloves are provided.

Park adopters even get a nameplate sign hung at the park in recognition of their commitment!

So what are you waiting for? **SCAN THE QR CODE** for a direct link to register online. Below is a list of parks waiting for adoption.



PARKS & AREAS OPEN FOR ADOPTION

- CJ Schreck Access
- Dakins Lake
- Heart of Iowa Nature Trail: Maxwell to Collins
- Skunk River Flats
- Jennett Heritage Area
- Hickory Grove Park: multiple sites available
- Praeri Rail Trail: McCallsurg to Zearing

**Availability subject to change*

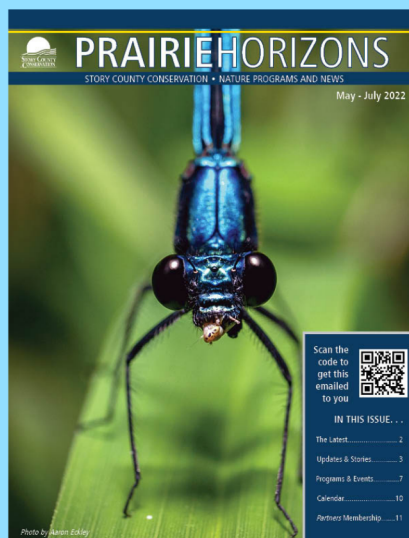
Partners Update

Partners has officially crossed the halfway point for the Deppe Property fundraising goal of \$40,000! As of December 15, 180 *Partners* members have helped raise \$24,879 this fiscal year to put toward the purchase of this 127-acre property.

We are excited to see an increase of donations to protect this amazing property! We are making progress toward our goal, however, we have a long way to go and could use your support. Consider joining *Partners* today!

When you renew or join with *Partners*, you get access to 10% off program registrations and services like building rentals or campsite reservations. Visit storycountyconservation.org to find out how your contributions can make a lasting impact.

SCC FREE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



To subscribe, cancel, or update your address:
Call 515.232.4761.

OR

Email your name, mailing address, and phone number to:
conservationoutreach@storycountyiowa.gov

Sign up to receive a digital copy via email by scanning the QR code.



McFarland Lake Renovation

Ryan Wiemold, Parks Superintendent

McFarland Park has long been a gem to the community. Located only four miles from the City of Ames, McFarland Park is enjoyed by many. Students from schools across the county and ISU classes often participate in outdoor studies as well as recreation at this high-use park that is also home to operations for Story County Conservation. With more than eight miles of forest and prairie trails, in addition to the 1.25-mile paved, handicap accessible Touch-A-Life Trail around the lake, McFarland hosts numerous public and school programs, as well as nature camps at this location.

Restoration on McFarland Lake began in December 2022. This project's main objective is to improve the lake's water quality as well as enhancing lake access for paddlers and others exploring the water. Immediate access points to the lake have and will remain closed during construction, which may run through December 2023. The remainder of McFarland Park will remain accessible and open to the public.

Renovation will address numerous lake health issues during restoration, including: seasonal algal blooms, phosphorus and sediment loading, low water transparency, and invasive carp and snails. While not abnormal for an impounded lake, these are problematic for plants and animals living in the lake, as well as for recreational activities (See **Fig. 1**). A complete fishery renovation will take place, as the previous fishery lacked in quality. Siltation over the

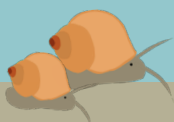


Construction crews breached the dam in early December and the lake took approximately 10 days to drain completely.

years has made the lake shallow in many places which leads to increased vegetation that limits the fishery quality and fishing access. Prior to this project, the lake's deepest areas measured only 13 feet. To fix this, crews will restore the lake to original depths of 22 feet, removing 56,000 cubic yards of sediment. This sediment will be placed at spoil sites northeast of the lake and turned into reconstructed prairie. (See **Fig. 2**).

Once the lake renovation is complete, fish habitat will be added to improve the fishery, which will then be restarted through partnership with the IDNR.

FIGURE 1: Understanding McFarland Lake Health

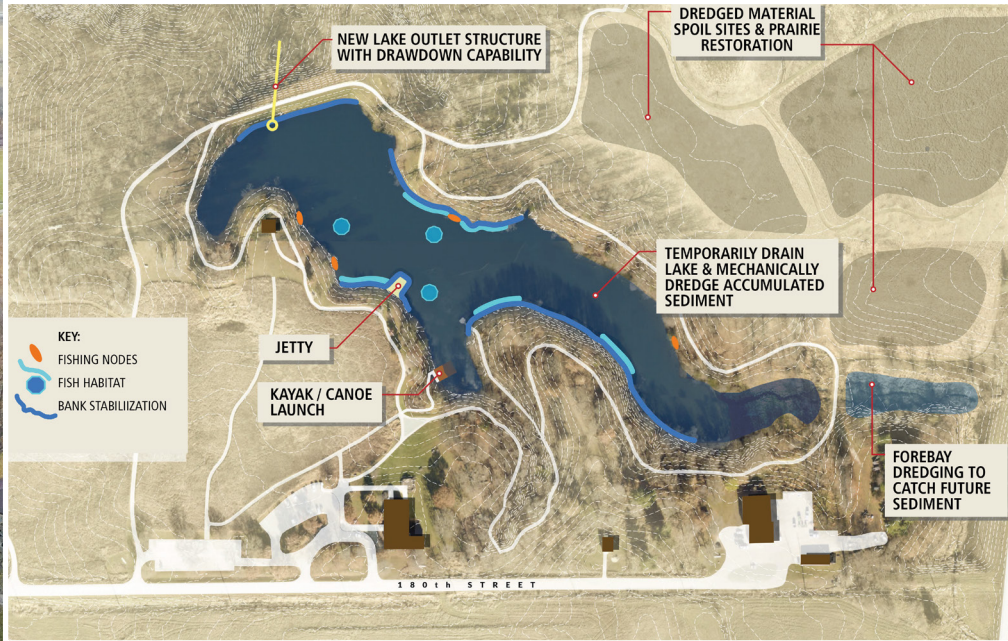


PHOSPHORUS - Runoff carries sediment & phosphorus into lake, providing food for algal blooms. This also reduces water transparency, allowing less sunlight to reach bottom.



DUCKWEED, COONTAIL, & ALGAE - Thrive in nutrient-rich (phosphorus) water. These floating aquatic plants can take over water surface, blocking sunlight from other aquatic plants and therefore, reducing oxygen levels.

FIGURE 2: McFarland Lake Exhibit Map



**MCFARLAND LAKE IS CLOSED.
NOW WHERE DO WE GO?**

Consider Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor (TELC) or Ada Hayden Heritage Park for accessible, paved trails.
Visit Dakins Lake (Zearing) or Hickory Grove Lake (Colo) for other great fishing opportunities this season!

An additional fishing jetty will be constructed, as well as fishing nodes, improved shoreline access, and a zero-grade entry point for paddlers and educational groups exploring the water. Improving park users’ connection to the water is important to water and soil health.

Although the project is anticipated to run through December 2023, with cooperative weather, construction could wrap up by summer and the lake could begin refilling naturally at that time.

Follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on renovation progress!

Ryan Wiemold is SCC’s Parks Superintendent. In this role, he manages and directs day-to-day field operations, recreational facilities, trails, parks, and natural areas. Wiemold also oversees and participates in Story County Conservation Board’s project management and law enforcement program.

“The favorite part of my job is bringing new projects forward that will create a lasting impression on our park users and citizens.”

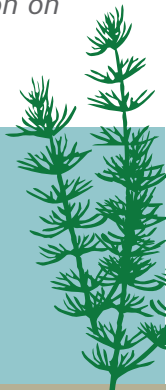
SNAILS - Invasive apple snails covered the barren lake bottom. While they do help filter nutrients in water, they are detrimental to plant growth.



CARP - Stir up sediment as they feed on lake bottom, muddying water and contributing to low transparency and lack of plant growth.



Lack of sunlight and oxygen impedes beneficial plant growth. A lack of vegetation means less habitat for desired fish.



TALES FROM THE TRAILS

Bobbi Donovan, Naturalist

As the days become longer and the ground starts to thaw, one of my favorite outdoor activities comes out of hibernation. Each year I find the bitterly cold temperatures, ice, slush, and darkness inevitably make me lack motivation to run outdoors. Instead, I find myself logging miles on treadmills and ellipticals, but it never feels as satisfying.

I began my running journey in the suburbs of Chicago, on my school's cross country team. Most of my miles included pavement and a whole team of other runners. My running experience has changed quite a bit over the years, and for 16 years now I

have found indescribable comfort and peace lacing up my running shoes and hitting the trails. I've traded my once social runs, filled with support and laughter from teammates, for quiet, solitary runs. At times I miss having runs filled with friends, but overall, I have come to enjoy the alone time running now provides.

There is nothing like having mud caked to my shoes, watching wildlife scurry, or listening to leaves rustle in the wind. Trail running is able to clear my mind and re-energize my soul in ways the gym and road running will never be able to.

Sometimes my mind wanders and I

“Trail running is able to clear my mind and re-energize my soul in ways the gym and road running will never be able to.”

BEGINNER TIPS:

1. Pick a shorter trail for your first run. I enjoy McFarland Park, although there are beautiful trails at many other SCC parks and natural areas statewide.
2. What about shoes? Yes, some are specially made for trail running, to offer more traction and support for the uneven ground trails often have. My every day running shoes, however, have always met my needs for trail runs, especially here in Iowa. I just watch my step and slow down my pace.
3. Trail conditions vary by weather and season. There's no harm in slowing down or turning around if a trail is too muddy, uneven, or icy. No amount of time in nature is a waste.



am able to calmly solve problems that felt too big beforehand. Other times, I think of nothing at all and focus on the sound of birds chirping and my shoes hitting the ground. This time to process my thoughts and unwind from a hectic day is priceless, and often necessary.

Speed is never my top priority, leaving more mental space to take in the nature surrounding me. I love how no two trail runs are exactly the same. Some of my favorite runs are when I happen to sneak up on wildlife. I've enjoyed seeing deer quietly grazing, squirrels scurrying up trees, opossum meandering down the trail, and snakes slithering away. I also love plants and find endless entertainment seeing what is in bloom along the trails. The spring ephemerals and fall colors make the woodlands pop with color and excitement. The wildflowers and golden grasses make the prairie breathtaking, especially in late summer and fall. Road runs can become mundane and repetitive; however, my mind is never bored when I run in natural areas.

Each season gives way to brand-new discoveries and adventures. Since I also enjoy nature photography, I always seem to stop a couple times during my trail runs to document the beauty I have come across. When my run is complete, I am filled with a sense of calm, wonder, and gratitude.

I hope you can create your own tales from the trails.

Happy running!

Bobbi Donovan is a naturalist at SCC. In her spare time, she enjoys hitting the trails and spending time with her husband, nieces, and her vizsla puppy.

BOBBI'S TIPS:

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

1

STAY ON THE TRAILS

Venturing off trail may be tempting to avoid waiting for others, but it is best to adjust your pace and stay on the trails. Running off trail can crush plants, disrupt local wildlife, and can cause erosion over time.

2

FOLLOW SIGNAGE

If a trail is closed--temporarily or permanently--find a new one. If only certain activities are allowed on a trail, follow those instructions.

3

PASSING

Follow rules of the road system: run on the right, pass on the left. Let people know you are going to pass them by before you do, to avoid scaring anyone.

4

YIELDING TO OTHERS

If there is only space for one, who goes first? It is best to communicate with the other trail user and decide based on the specific scenario. Remember you aren't the only one using the trails, so you might need to stop occasionally.

5

RESPECT

Be respectful of the space and wildlife around you. Everything you bring into the park should leave with you. Admire animals you see, but make sure not to chase or squash them. Leave nests and other wildlife homes along the way and give them space that they deserve!

These practices will occasionally make you slow your pace or stop entirely, which is fine. Running can be about so much more than time. Enjoy the beauty of the outdoors and your adventure!

-PROGRAMS AND EVENTS-

*Providing people opportunities and inspiration to develop an appreciation
and understanding of nature and humans as a part of it*

FOR REGISTRATION, VISIT:
www.Storycountyconservation.org

Snowshoeing

Pop-Up programming
Location TBD

Experience the beauty of winter on our snowy trails using snowshoes! Join a naturalist for fun exercise and peace in nature. This program is outside so please dress for the cold Iowa winter with waterproof boots -- snowshoes provided. Date and time dependent on snow levels. Typically an hour-long hike. Fee of \$5. Watch our online events calendar and Facebook page for announcements!

Wild Tots: "Animals in Winter"

Sunday, Feb. 5, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
McFarland Park

It may be chilly out, but we can still have an outdoor adventure! Your tot will learn how different animals survive the winter by trying out many nature activities. Program includes a story, craft, hands-on activities, and short hike. Part of program will be outdoors, weather-permitting. Intended for children 18 months to 4 years; children must be accompanied by an adult. Fee of \$5 per tot. Registration due Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 4:00 PM.

Worm Composting

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2:00 - 3:30 PM
McFarland Park

Help reduce food waste at home by creating a worm bin! Together we'll set up your bin and teach how to maintain it at home, and also discuss at-home composting. Supplies provided! Suitable for children, but some content meant for adults. Children must be with an adult. Fee of \$25 per group. Registration due Friday, Jan. 27 at 4:00 PM.

Zoom Lunch and Learn: Spring and Summer Wild Edibles

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Online Zoom

Wild Edibles are all around us, even in our backyards! This Zoom presentation will explore what plants and fungi can be foraged throughout spring and summer, and even discuss some of their medicinal uses. Fee of \$5. Registration due Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 4:00 PM.

Luminary Walk

Friday, March 17, 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Hickory Grove Park - Oriole Ridge

Let luminaries light your way on a special walk to welcome spring's return. This is a self-guided walk in a complete loop about one mile long, using both gravel and grass trail surfaces. Fee of \$5, with registration due Wednesday, March 8 at 4:00 PM.

Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
McFarland Park

Grow your own mushrooms after this hands-on program about the wonders of fungus. Each participant will inoculate a log with oyster mushroom spawn to take home; all supplies provided. Minimum age of 12. Those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Fee of \$25 per project. Registration due Saturday, March 18 at 4:00 PM.

Wild Tots: "Eggs"

Saturday, April 1, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
Hickory Grove Park - Oriole Ridge

Spring is a busy time for many of our animal friends, especially those that lay eggs. Let's play outdoors while we learn all about eggs and the animals who lay them. We'll read stories, make crafts, try hands-on activities, and go on a short hike. Activities are both indoors and outdoors. Intended for children 18 months to 4 years; children must be accompanied by an adult. Fee of \$5 per tot. Registration due by Monday, March 27 at 4:30 PM.

Nature Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1, 2:00 - 3:30 PM
Hickory Grove Park - Oriole Ridge Lodge

Enjoy an afternoon exploring nature on Hickory Grove Park's trails as you look for hidden eggs. This hike is a self-guided hike, so you can come and go from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM. Check in at Oriole Ridge Lodge for a map and instructions. Fee of \$10 per group. Registration due Monday, March 27 at 4:00 PM.

Landscaping for Wildlife

Monday, April 10, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Nevada Public Library

Inviting wildlife into your yard can be a rewarding experience for you and the wildlife! Come learn

the whys and the hows of bringing nature closer to home. Register on Nevada Public Library's website. Program is free but registration required by Sunday, April 9 at 4:00 PM.

Earth Stories

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Dale Ross Board Room - Ames Public Library

This interactive workshop helps shape experiences and memories in nature into stories with purpose. Storytelling is an extremely effective tool to communicate commitment to and action for the earth. This program is designed for ages 14 and up. Program is free but registration is required by Wednesday, April 19 at 4:00 PM.



Outdoor Alliance of Story County

www.OASCO.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Winter Hike

THURSDAY, JAN. 19, 1:30 - 3:30 PM
SOPER'S MILL - MEET AT NORTH PARKING AREA

Looking for a way to get outdoors this winter? Look no further! Join us for an outdoor adventure for all ages. Hikes scheduled to end at 3:30 PM but may run short under harsh conditions. Be sure to dress for the weather. Feel free to bring your own treats as we enjoy a snack together at end of hike.

Winter Hike

THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 1:30 - 3:30 PM
MCFARLAND PARK - MEET AT WEST END OF LOT

Similar details as the above hike.

Paddling for Plants and Critters

TUESDAY, FEB. 7, 7:00 PM
AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY / ONLINE ZOOM

Paddler Jim Pease will share stories of his paddles over 2,200 miles of Iowa rivers. He's the most recent recipient of Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Hagie Award for his many contributions to conservation, education, and outdoor recreation. He's travelled to many wild places worldwide, but Iowa rivers have always been his home. He'll share his enthusiasm for that home with us. Zoom link to be posted on the Library's event calendar at www.Amespubliclibrary.org/events

O.W.L.S. Programs

(Older, Wiser, Livelier,) are designed for "boomers" or older, but anyone can attend.

Programs run 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.; doors open at 10:00 a.m. for coffee/tea and chatting.

McFarland Park, Conservation Center

The Return of Iowa's Bald Eagles

Thursday, Feb. 2

Join local author/photographer Ty Smedes for a presentation revealing many interesting discoveries about the bald eagle and their everyday lives here in Iowa! This presentation will reveal highlights of Ty's book "The Return of Iowa's Bald Eagles," which he will be signing and offering for sale.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Thursday, March 2

Since 1979, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) has protected over 185,000 acres of Iowa prairies, woodlands, lakes, and rivers, and blazed way for Iowa's trails. Communications Specialist Erica Place will cover this nonprofit's main focus areas with an emphasis on permanent land protection, multi-use trail establishment, and active land stewardship.

African Wildlife Adventure

Thursday, April 6

Conservation Board Secretary Dr. Jim Pease will lead a wildlife exploration of Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa with photos taken by his wife Cindy, and himself, on three trips there. You'll get a feel for the many grazers in this grassland system, their predators, scavengers, and their roles in the balance of African wildlife.

About OASCO: Formed in 2012, OASCO is an independent, non-profit friends group to Story County Conservation with a shared vision: Enhancing outdoor recreation, education, and conservation.

OASCO actively assists SCC's many efforts, through education, service learning projects, donations, and fundraising for land acquisitions, and more.

Photo by Teresa Testroet



Annual Photo Contest

WE WANT TO SEE YOUR NATURE PHOTOS!

Submissions accepted Feb. 1 - March 20
For rules and entry visit:
www.storycountyconservation.gov

Broken down into adult (18+) and youth divisions.

MCFARLAND LAKE IS CLOSED. NOW WHERE DO WE GO?

McFarland Lake and the surrounding paved trail are closed until further notice, for lake renovations (See pg. 4).

Consider Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor (TELC) or Ada Hayden Heritage Park for accessible, paved trails.

Visit Dakins Lake (Zearing) or Hickory Grove Lake (Colo) for other great fishing opportunities this season!



Photo of TELC by Christine Laumer

Meet Clair Pfantz, Outreach Assistant



Nolte joins team as Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator



Madi Nolte

I am a 2020 graduate from Northwest Missouri State University, with a degree in Multimedia Journalism.

My roots run back to rural central Missouri, to a tiny Missouri River town named Chamois. I grew up hunting for deer and mushrooms, as well as trotlining for catfish with my family. As a child, I remember being appalled by the tremendous amounts of junk and debris that came cruising down the river during

times of flood. These are my earliest memories of caring so deeply about anything nature-related. Fast-forward to today, and that passion remains!

I am incredibly excited to join the SCC team and look forward to using my skills and my nature knowledge to help connect others with the outdoors and provide volunteer opportunities for many.

While not working, you can find me in my vegetable garden, at a local thrift store, or making something crafty.

I am a Story County native, and grew up in the Maxwell-Colo area. As a child, I was always outdoors with my family and my dream is to give those opportunities that I had back to all members of the community. I have a passion for all things outdoors and strive to one day become a naturalist, as I wish to increase community involvement in conservation.

I am an avid reader as well as a licensed taxidermist. I love being able to go from catching a fish to hanging it up on my wall all on my own.

Board & Staff

Conservation Board

Christine Laumer, Chair
Dr. Nancy Franz, Vice Chair
Dr. Jim Pease, Secretary
Craig Meyers, Member
Ted Tedesco, Member
Linda Murken, Ex Officio Member

The Story County Conservation Board typically meets the second Monday of each month at the Story County Conservation Center at McFarland Park (56461 180th St.). Meetings are open to the public.

Conservation Center Staff, Ames

Michael Cox, Director
Ryan Wiemold, Parks Superintendent
Pat Shehan, Special Projects Ranger
Marianne Harrelson, Financial Data Manager
Brittany Ridgway, Administrative Assistant II
Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator
Rebekah Beall, Naturalist
Bobbi Donovan, Naturalist
Jess Lancial, Naturalist
Beth Waage, Naturalist
Madison Nolte, Outreach/Community Engagement Coordinator

McFarland Park Shop, Ames

Russ DeWall, Operations Supervisor
Logan Heissel, Park Ranger
Dillon Schmidt, Conservation Technician II
Kallie Judson, Conservation Technician I
Derek Seward, Trails/Natural Resources Technician

Hickory Grove Park Shop, Colo

Jake Smith, Operations Supervisor
Olivia VanderHart, Park Ranger
Hunter Simmons, Conservation Technician II
Maxwell McCarty, Conservation Technician I
Brandon Clough, Natural Resources Specialist

IRVM Office & Shop, Nevada

Joe Kooiker, Vegetation Management Biologist
Tyler Kelley, Vegetation Management Specialist

Administration Bldg., Nevada

Sara Carmichael, Watershed Coordinator

HELP PURCHASE A NEW PROPERTY!

Help us reach our goal of \$30,000

Your Story County Conservation *Partners* membership will help purchase the Deppe Property. You will receive a nature-themed magnet and a 10% discount on all programs, facility rentals, and merchandise. The Red Fox membership level and above will be recognized in the conservation center for their support.

Eagle Business Level - \$1,000 or more Monarch Business Level - \$250 to \$999

Red-tailed Hawk - \$1,000 or more
Great Blue Heron - \$275 to \$999
Red Fox - \$125 to \$274

Goldfinch - \$70 to \$124
Otter (Family) - \$35 to \$69
Great Horned Owl (Individual) - \$30

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

My membership level is _____

Make checks payable to: **Story County Conservation *Partners***
56461 180th Street, Ames, IA 50010-9451; Phone (515) 232-2516

Or join online!

[www.mycountyparks.com/
County/Story.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Story.aspx)

Thank You!

We are grateful to all those who support Story County Conservation with donations of time, funding, and materials.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROSITY:

All *Partners* members
& volunteers

Mary & Raj Raman
David Williams
Judy Larson
Beverly Nutt
Michael Kinkead
Rick & Vicki Walter
Laura McIntosh
Jane Galyon

Stacy Lazear
Bonna Pinneke
Denis & Joyce Crotty
Don Brazelton
Richard & Susan Bauer
Donna Bond
Diane Pinneke
Patsy Wike
Audrey Bond

Mark & Susan
Ackelson
Anne Cooley
Thomas Gust
Vicky Strom
Renee Buckner
Richard Coe
Reuben & Joslin Peters
R & D Sperry



STORY COUNTY
 CONSERVATION
 56461 180th Street
 Ames, Iowa 50010-9451

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 Permit 301



EVENT CALENDAR

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thursday, Jan. 19 | 1:30 - 3:30 PM | Winter Hike with OASCO | Soper's Mill (north) |
| Thursday, Jan. 26 | 1:30 - 3:30 PM | Winter Hike with OASCO | McFarland Park |
| Thursday, Feb. 2 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM | O.W.L.S. | Conservation Center |
| Sunday, Feb. 5 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM | Wild Tots: "Animals in Winter" | Conservation Center |
| Sunday, Feb. 5 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM | Worm Composting | Conservation Center |
| Tuesday, Feb. 7 | 7:00 PM | Paddling for Plants & Critters | Ames Public Library |
| Monday, Feb. 13 | 5:30 PM | Conservation Board Meeting | Conservation Center |
| Wednesday, Feb. 22 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Spring/Summer Wild Edibles | Online Zoom |
| Thursday, March 2 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM | O.W.L.S. | Conservation Center |
| Monday, March 13 | 5:30 PM | Conservation Board Meeting | Conservation Center |
| Friday, March 17 | 7:30 - 9:00 PM | Luminary Walk | Hickory Grove - Oriole Ridge Lodge |
| Tuesday, March 28 | 6:30 - 8:00 PM | Mushroom Cultivation Workshop | Conservation Center |
| Saturday, April 1 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM | Wild Tots: "Eggs" | Hickory Grove - Oriole Ridge Lodge |
| Saturday, April 1 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM | Nature Egg Hunt | Hickory Grove - Oriole Ridge Lodge |
| Thursday, April 6 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM | O.W.L.S. | Conservation Center |
| Monday, April 10 | 5:30 PM | Conservation Board Meeting | Conservation Center |
| Monday, April 10 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM | Landscaping for Wildlife | Nevada Public Library |
| Saturday, April 22 | 10:00 - 12:00 PM | Earth Stories | Ames Public Library |