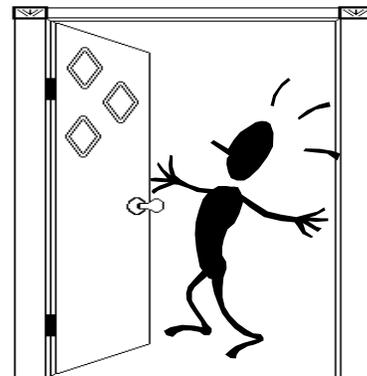


“Looking OUT THE BACK DOOR...”

The Sac County Conservation Board’s Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2014

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**Our Mission: “To initiate an awareness and foster
stewardship of nature’s rewards.”**

Emergency!

Emergencies are never someone wants to deal with but they happen. Emergencies can come in all shapes and sizes from a car accident, power outages, a house fire or sever weather like a tornado. Even though emergencies cannot be prevented there are some steps that can be taken to help you through them. The steps include having a family plan and to have emergency packs in the house and in each car.

Each family should have an emergency plan in place. To make your plan, first discuss with your kids what possible emergencies could happen, like a fire or a tornado. Discuss staying calm and where the safest areas are for these dangers both in the home and at school or at other locations that you frequent. Explain when emergencies happen you may not all be in the same place. Decide what everyone will do: who is getting the emergency kit, Who is bringing pets in, who will assist elderly or anyone who needs special help, think of other items you may need in the case of evacuation or fire or tornados.

If everyone is spread out in various locations, where will everyone meet once the danger has passed? Have two locations; the first should be right outside the house, the second should be right outside the neighborhood incase you can’t go home (say due to a gas leak) How will everyone get there? Draw maps and practice this two times a year. Have an out of the area emergency contact, tell everyone to call that person if you are separated. Make sure you have all of your family’s numbers in your cell phones and on a card in your wallet. Remember it is possible for cell service and landlines to go out.

Each car should have a car emergency pack. These packs should be accessible without having to leave

the car. Often people will put them in their trunk only to find themselves in an accident or stuck in a snow bank and they can’t get into their trunk. So make sure you find a secure assessable spot. What should be in an emergency car pack? It should include a flashlight with extra batteries, jumper cables, flares, reflectors, extra fuses (know what you need first), useful tools like: pliers, screwdrivers and adjustable wrenches, extra oil and other fluids you may need, funnel and rags, small fire extinguisher, WD-40, duct tape, knife, waterproof matches, emergency blanket or bright cloth, non perishable foods and a can opener and water for people roughly one gallon of water per person per day. Plan to have enough food and water for 3 days. first aid kit, rain poncho, extra clothes, emergency money, toilet paper (take tubes out and flatten), books, cards or a board game and blankets or sleeping bags. Disposable camera to take photos of an accident. In the winter the list may also include a folding shovel, kitty litter, wool clothing/gloves.

Each family should also have a home kit. These kits should have enough materials for each person for one to two weeks. Some of these items are going to be similar to the car emergency kit: Water –check expiration dates biannually (remember one gallon per person per day), water filter, non perishable food and can opener, camp stove, basic small cook pot and a few utensils, useful tools, like a multiuse tool, knife, hammer, screwdriver, wrench, wire cutters, flashlight with extra batteries, tarp, Continued on page 6

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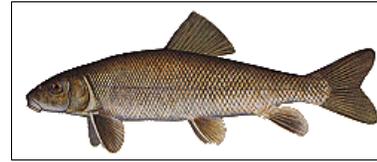
~Director's Notes~

As Spring is here and summer is just around the corner the SCCB crew is in full swing keeping the parks looking good. The 3 seasonal employees are the ones that are behind the scenes every day doing all the dirty work that goes unnoticed. Cleaning bathrooms, painting picnic tables, picking up garbage, pruning trees, repairing signs are all just a sample what they do during the summer season. So, if you run into Roger Huster, Norm Lewman or Andrew VanHulzen this summer tell them thanks for all the "little and dirty" things that they have to do to keep your parks looking good. I know we couldn't do what we do without each and every one of them!

The SCCB will be doing 3 different projects later this year that will certainly be noticeable to the public. The first will entail installing a new step system for the hiking trails at Hagge Park. A crew from the Iowa Conservation Corps will be starting this project after Labor Day and will stay and work at the park for 4 weeks on this project. This will provide a safer and more sustainable step system. The 2nd will be a riverbank rip rap stabilization project immediately below the fishing riffle at Hagge Park extending approximately 150 feet downriver. The rip rap will provide safer access for the public, protect the access road and provide additional fish habitat. A Fish Habitat Grant was acquired which will assist in providing 90% cost share on this project. The last project is another streambank stabilization project around 2 of the bridges along the Sauk Rail Trail. The material that will be placed around and under the bridges will protect the streambank from further erosion and ultimately protect the Sauk Rail Trail. Heres to hoping everyone gets a chance to get out and enjoy your county parks this summer! As always, should you have any questions feel free to contact our office at the Sac County Conservation Center.

Looking into the fact files!

White Sucker



(*Catostomus commersonii*)

- Often these fish are caught accidentally by anglers fishing with worms on the bottom of streams.
- They can be found in rivers and lakes all over Iowa
- They are bottom feeders eating aquatic insect larvae, small mollusks, crustaceans, and various worms.
- More commonly adults are 10-16 inches and weigh about 2 pounds. But they can growth up to 18.5 inches by ten years of age.
- Spawning is thought to be started by the snow melt but it really gets going when water temperatures 57-68 F.
- An adult female can produce up to 93,000 eggs, they are sticky and will adhere to the rocky substrate.
- White suckers are a natural prey species for northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, sauger, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass.

Thank You

- Fallon Vauble for helping during schools to careers.
- Marty Stroud for donation of paints.
- CFD and 4th grade outdoor days volunteers who made this a great year!
- The Bait Shop in Lake View for worms
- Parent volunteers during field trips.
- Tony Hinners and Mike Zimmerman for donations to program.
- Partridge Family and Jim and Linda Wirjters for cleaning and maintaining Bluebird boxes this spring and summer.
- Judy Wilson for use of her pond during field trips.
- Jim Wallace for the minnow seine.
- Elma Green and family for the donation of artifacts.
- Renze grant for the birding station.
- Barb Bloom for help with summer camp and Odebolt Field Day preparations.



Upcoming Programs



Summer Camps!!

5-7 year old camps run from 9-11:30 am & 1-3:30 pm

Each camp costs \$25

June 10-12th—Wild about Water

June 17-19th— Rockin Reptiles

June 24th-26th— Mammal Mania

8-10 year old camps run from 10 am– 2pm

Each camp costs \$35

July 1-3rd— Early American Days

July 8-10th- Jr. Naturalist –Nature Lovers

11-14 year old camps run from 10 am -3 pm

Camp costs \$50

July 15-18th=Zombie Apocalypse Survival 101

- To sign a child up for camp please call 712-662-4530.
- Costs of camps cover craft materials, t-shirts, fees and other items.



Special Adult Summer Programs

Who says summer programming should just be for the kids! Please call 712-662-4530 to sign up for some or any of these free classes. Please call by the day before the programming.

June 5th 6:30PM– **Aquatic Insects-** JACKLYN GAUTSCH, Natural Resources Biologist will show us the unique and bizarre world of benthic macro vertebrates (underwater insects) at the Sac County Conservation Center. Depending on water conditions we may try to catch some ourselves!

July 29th -6pm– **Emerald Ash Borer-** TIVON FEELEY, DNR Forest Health Program Leader will explain the potential threats from the Emerald Ash Borer. Learn to identify signs of this pest and what your options are for your ash trees. Meet at the Sac County Conservation Center.

August 2nd– **Iowa Wildlife Float-**Jim Pease, Retired ISU Professor of Wildlife Biology will talk to participants on wildlife in Iowa during a float trip down the Raccoon River. Equipment will be provided. If water conditions are good float should end at Grant Park. If water conditions are unfavorable a program will be held at the SCCB Center.



July 19th– Fishing Club Meeting– From 9-10:30 . Location to be announced.

August 16th– Fishing Club Meeting– From 9-10:30– Location to be announced



Kid's Korner

Summer is a great time to get outside and enjoy nature! No matter where you go, from your back yard to a park you can be a nature investigator and find an amazing assortment of items. Try your best to find as many items on the following scavenger hunt as you can.

_____ Lichen (the crusty green, blue or yellow stuff growing on trees)

_____ A Rock

_____ A Flower

_____ An Insect

_____ A Berry

_____ Moss (the green fuzzy plant growing in cool dark areas)

_____ 3 green leaves, each of a different shape.

_____ One dead leaf

_____ A Seed

_____ Clover

_____ Nest

_____ An old nut

_____ Look for signs of animals like: tracks, scat, fur or feathers

_____ Look for shapes in nature: Circle all the shapes you can find:

Circle Triangle Heart Square Diamond Oval Rectangle

Great job taking the time and being a brilliant nature investigator!!!!





Come See the Giant Snake!

The Sac County Conservation Board will be hosting the giant walk through rattle snake skeleton until the end of July. This exhibit is great for kids and adults alike. You will begin your journey through the snake by entering near the mouth, then venture down the body. Along the way there are many informational panels that explain snake biology and ecological needs. Weave in and out of the ribs while you explore the adaptations that make snakes unique.



Children can crawl through the length of the snake! (There are many outs for adults) In the children's area there are numerous hands on snake activities, including seeing and feeling like a snake. After learning about the snakes then venture to the classroom and see live snakes. Please be aware that Summer Camps will be happening on Tuesday -Thursday during June -July. The building will be open M-F from 7-3:30pm. Come out and see us!

Farewell Fallon



This last semester we were very happy to have Fallon Vauble volunteering for us through the Schools-to-Careers program at the East Sac High School. She assisted us with programs, summer camp preparation and much more. Her hard work and dedication was appreciated. We wish Fallon the very best next year when she will begin her studies in Biology at Western Iowa Tech.

Eyes To The Skies

June 7th– Moon Meets with Mars– The moon will be within 2 degrees of Mars. Look high in the east after sunset. Or to the west later in the evening, the pair will remain visible for 6 hours after sunset.

June 13th– Full Moon– This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the full strawberry moon as it signaled the time when the strawberries were ready to harvest.

June 27th– New Moon– This is the time to get the telescopes out and check out the distant and faint objects in the night sky

July 12th– Full Moon– This moon has been called the full thunder moon as this is the time of the year when large thunderstorms brew up.

July 26th– New Moon

July 28-29th– Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower– This is an average shower of up to 20 meteors per hour at the peak. The shower is visible July 12th- Aug. 23rd. With the crescent moon the meteors left by comet Marsden and Kracht should be visible from a dark location after midnight. Meteors can appear anywhere in the sky but often come from the constellation Aquarius.

August 10th– Full Moon– This will be the closest and largest moon of the year. This moon has been called the Green Corn Moon as the corn is green during this time of the year.

August 12-13th– Persedis Meteor Shower– This is one of the best meteor showers to observe, it produces up to 60 meteors at its peak. This shower can be seen from July 17– Aug 24th. The meteors were left over from comet Swift-Tuttle. This comet was discovered in 1862. Even with a large moon viewing should be good, find a dark location after midnight. Meteors should radiate from the constellation Perseus but can be seen anywhere.

August 18th– Meeting of the planets– Venus and Jupiter will be in conjunction. These are rare events when two objects will look like they are right next to each other. Look for the bright planets to the east just before sunrise.

August 25– New Moon

August 29th–Neptune at its Closest–The giant blue planet will be at its closest approach to the earth. However due to its distance it will only look like a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.





water proof matches, hand crank or battery powered radio, sanitation products, garbage bags, blankets or sleeping bag, tent, duct tape, 10 hour candle, 50 feet nylon cord, wet wipes, extra cash, map of the area, medications, hand sanitizer, dropper and bleach (it is a disinfectant at a 9 Water: 1Bleach ratio, it can also purify water with 16 drops bleach into 1 gallon of water. An extra cell phone charger and emergency contact information. Not necessary but good things to also include in your pack is a whistle, extra keys to the cars/house, towels, plastic sheeting, and items for securing your home. Work gloves and an extra pair of clothes with sturdy shoes. Also nice to have are paper and pencil, fire extinguisher. Also remember those special family members and their needs. If you have kids: books, games, a few small toys, extra snacks. If you have a baby in the house you may also want: extra diapers, formula, baby food and a bottle, pacifier and a toy of some sort. If you have a dog: extra dog food and water. A bowl and leash/collar. What should be in a FIRST AID KIT? For a family of four you should have 2 absorbent compresses (5x 9 inches), 25 bandages of assorted sizes, 1 adhesive

cloth tape, antibiotic ointment, anti-septic wipes, 1 breathing barrier, 1 instant cold compress, aspirin and ibuprofen, 2 pair of non latex gloves, 1 three and 1 four inch wide roller bandages, 5 gauze pads (3x3 inch) and 5 (4x4 inch) gauze pads, 2 triangle bandages, tweezers, First aid instructional booklet. Surviving the disaster is tough enough but then you have to rebuild after losing everything. If you keep a financial first aid kit it will help ease the process. Go to fema.gov to fill out your information. Also you will want to have a copy of your birth certificates, SSN, home/car insurance policy, insurance company #, bank account numbers and information. Keep this information in a waterproof container. Put your kit together in a large duffle bag or rolling tote or trash can. It needs to be mobile, even though you will have a designated person to get the kit make sure everyone knows where it is in case that person can't get it. Remember to maintain your kit by writing dates on food and water containers and replacing them every 6 months. Keep food items in a cool dry place and in a sealed bag to keep out pests. Recently I was able to listen to a speaker from a disaster relief center

and she opened my eyes to the fact that help can take a long time to come. We estimated the number of first responders for Sac City to about 12 then assume half are injured by the disaster, that leaves 6 responders. Those 6 must first take care of their own family before helping others. Once their family is safe they will start with the closest people and work their way into the community. It may take quite a while before 6 people and anyone who may be called in from other locations can get to 1 of the 2000 or so residents in Sac City. So some of this prepping may seem like over kill but realistically if we were ever hit with a sever storm/tornado or other emergency it is best if you can protect yourself and your family from suffering while waiting on help.

Sac County Conservation Board

Board Members

Andy Meredith-Lake View-Vice Chairperson
 Kenny Bentsen-Sac City- Chairperson
 Dean Stock-----Lake View---Member
 Rich Feilmeier-----Early-----Member
 Liz Partridge-----Auburn-----Member

Staff

Chris Bass-----Executive Director
 Sandi Huster-----Secretary
 Rene Stroud-----Naturalist

Meetings

Regular board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Sac County Conservation Center. These meetings are open to the public.

Hagge Park Office Phone: (712) 662-4530
 Email: saccocon@frontiernet.net

The Sac County Conservation Board in the provisions of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age, or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Sac County Conservation Board Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240

New Staff!!

This summer we have some new and familiar faces. Our campground host at Hagge Park is, Diane Page. She will help you with questions or fire wood. She is from the Sac City area and has camped for several years. Terry and Melissa Rath are back again this year. They are from Auburn and have been great hosts for us for the last few years. Our summer staff includes the return of Norm Lewman from Sac City. He is retired with a forestry degree. He has mentioned that he is excited to work at a job where there is so much variety day to day. Norm encourages everyone to discover the outdoor recreation opportunities that Sac County has to offer, the variety of parks and activities may surprise you. Our new face is Andrew VanHulzen, he is from Sac County and is studying biology at Iowa state. His goal is to become a professional in either the conservation or soil science careers. He says that every one should "Get out there and enjoy nature!" Our Grant Park attendant is Roger Huster, he is from the Sac City area and has been keeping Grant Park clean and ready for our campers for the last 7 years. We hope that you come out to the parks and visit us!

