



# Dallas County Conservation Board eNews

January 7, 2019  
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## News & Events

### A Conversation with an Owl

Thursday, January 10, 7:00—8:00 p.m. @ Kuehn Conservation Area

The DCCB naturalists all agree that the best ambassador when it comes to all things owl, is *Strix*— the barred owl. *Strix* joined our staff some years back after an encounter with a barbed wire fence ended her flying days. Who better to learn from about the local species of owls in Dallas County, their natural history, and the conservation issues impacting these nocturnal predators, than an owl? Join us, look deep into the eyes of *Strix*, and learn what is to be known by coming face to face with wildness. *Registration is required for this free program.*

### Sand County Almanac 70th Anniversary Leopold Series Event: The Green Fire & Leopold Bench Kick-off

Sunday, January 20, 2:30—4:30 p.m. @ Forest Park Museum

This is the first in a yearlong series of DCCB programs woven together under the theme of the 70th anniversary of Aldo Leopold's book, *A Sand County Almanac*. Who was Aldo Leopold? What concepts did he share 70 years ago that are still so relevant in today's world? This program will help the audience to come to know Aldo and his writings by way of the award winning documentary film *The Green Fire*. Following the viewing and a discussion, DCCB will kick off its Leopold Bench Project. *Registration is required for this free program.*

### Lunar Eclipse

Sunday, January 20, 9:00 p.m. @ Kuehn Conservation Area

On the full moon eve watch the big dog wander into the skies and eat the moon! Not buying that explanation for a lunar eclipse? Then join us for an examination of the astronomical conditions that result in a disappearing act by ol' Luna. Once we figure out what is going on in the sky, we can wander out into the dark night at Kuehn to view the show of the 2019 Lunar Eclipse. *Registration is required for this free program.*

### Trumpeter Swan Soiree

Saturday, January 26, 10:30 a.m.—2 p.m. @ Walnut Woods State Park, Des Moines

This event celebrates North America's largest waterfowl species at the Blank Park Zoo Friday evening and at Walnut Woods State Park on Saturday. Saturday programs will be given both indoors and outdoors with concurrent outdoor viewing and interpretive presentations of trumpeter swans and bald eagles given by Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Polk and Dallas County Conservation naturalists. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be provided. Hundreds of trumpeter swans winter at the Dale Maffitt Reservoir and surrounding area southwest of Des Moines, providing a rare opportunity to view good numbers of free flying trumpeter swans. *Free, no registration required.*

### Bird Watching Basics

Sunday, January 27, 1—3 p.m. @ Forest Park Museum

Are you looking for a new and exciting way to connect with nature? Dallas County citizens may be surprised at the number of different bird species that exist within the area. We have diverse habitats and unique geographic features that are attractive to many varieties of birds. DCCB staff is partnering with Dallas County citizens to document as many different kinds of birds within the county for the year 2019. In the birding community this is known as a Big Year. Come learn the basics to identifying birds through field marks, behavior, and calls to help take the mystery out of backyard birds. We will be looking for live birds as well. Birds are pretty, usually abundant, and you never know when you might see something unexpected. A great hobby for people of all ages and a fun social activity that connects across generations. Be a part of the 2019 Dallas County Big Year Birding Challenge. *Registration is required for this free program.*

### Forest Park Museum Exhibits

There are new sights to see and sounds to hear at the Forest Park Museum. Brand new audio displays are being installed highlighting Dallas County inventor Henry Nelson, the Des Moines Valley Rail Road, and family farming. Additionally, the Iowa Association of Naturalists Traveling Tallgrass Prairie Exhibit is now up for viewing. The display showcases the plants and animals of the prairie, along with information on prairies past, present, and future. Interactive displays and touch tables make the Forest Park Museum an experience for the whole family.

### 2019 Raccoon River Valley Trail Permits Available

Trail permits are required for all Raccoon River Valley Trail users 18 years old and up. Daily permits are \$2.00 (not available online) and yearly permits are \$10.00 (applicable fees may apply) available [online](#), over the phone, or in person at trailheads and the DCCB office. Permits are valid January through December and must be renewed annually. Children under 18 are not required to have a permit. Trail segments in towns may not require a permit.

### Hotel Pattee Offers Night Stay to Trail Supporters

The Hotel Pattee has an incredible offer for trail supporters. Inspired by 10-year old Tate Boyd's birthday contribution to the "Let's Connect" project, Hotel Pattee is offering a free night stay to trail supporters who make a matching gift of \$350 or more. Donors will also receive a free entry to the 2019 BRR Ride. The "Let's Connect" project is funding construction of the High Trestle Trail extension linking to the Raccoon River Valley Trail. The 9-miles of new trail will run between Woodward and Perry. Phase 1 of the project, a 1.5-mile path running east of Perry is now open to trail users. You can make a donation [online](#) at [www.letsconnectdallascounty.com](http://www.letsconnectdallascounty.com) or by calling DCCB Offices at 515-465-3577.



### Dallas County Conservation Board is on Facebook

Stay up-to-date on programs, events, and news. [Follow](#) along for Museum Monday, Trail Tuesday, and Throwback Thursday!

## Pop Up Programs

### When it Snows We Ski!

@ Voas Nature Area

Select weekends and school holidays throughout the winter, if there are 4 or more inches of snow on the ground and a naturalist is available, we will host a ski program. We have boots and skis for people with shoe sizes ranging from youth 12—1 on up to adult sizes 10.5 (Rental Fee \$3). The specific dates and times will vary. You can call or email to put your name on a contact list for notification of dates, look for updates on our website and Facebook or contact us on a Friday before a weekend that looks likely. We hope to see you on skis!

### Seasonal Hours for Dallas County Parks: November 1 – April 30

#### My County Parks Reservations



Many DCCB properties including the Sportsman Park cabins, lodge, and camping, plus Glissman Lodge and Dayton Stagecoach Inn are now available on the [My County Parks](#) online reservation system. Weekly rentals still require a phone call to our office at 515-465-3577. Sportsman rentals available year-round. Glissman and Dayton are closed in winter, but may be available in November and April weather permitting, call our office at 515-465-3577 for availability.

**Sportsman Park, Dawson:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily. Campground, cabins and lodge remain open year-round.

Reservations will be accepted for the camping, shelters and cabins. Primitive and modern camping will be allowed on a first come, first served basis. Restroom facilities closed (except in rental cabins).

**Dayton Stagecoach Inn:** Will reopen in April weather permitting, call our office at 515-465-3577 for availability.

**Glissman Lodge:** Will reopen in April weather permitting, call our office at 515-465-3577 for availability.

**Kuehn Conservation Area, Earlham:** ½ hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities will be open. Primitive camping allowed on first come first serve basis. Primitive campsite #1 can be reserved.

**Voas Nature Area, Minburn:** ½ hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities will be open.

**Hanging Rock, Redfield:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities closed. Reservations accepted for the shelter.

**Trindle Park, Van Meter:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities closed. Reservations accepted for the shelters.

**MUSEUMS:** FREE! No fees to visit!

**Forest Park Museum, Perry:** Monday-Friday ~8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Voas Rock & Mineral Museum near Minburn:** Open by appointment and during programming including cross-country skiing when it snows.

**Grand Army of the Republic, Redfield:** Open by appointment.

**For more information or to register for any of our programs contact:**

**Dallas County Conservation Board, 14581 K Avenue, Perry, IA 50220**

**Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**email: [conservation@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:conservation@dallascountyiowa.gov) phone: (515)-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

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