



Dallas County Conservation Board eNews

February 4, 2019
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News & Events (more details on the [DCCB webpage](#))

Star Gazing: Winter Constellations

Tuesday, February 5, 7:00—8:00 p.m. @ Kuehn Conservation Area

You don't need a special event like the recent eclipse to go out into the nighttime wilds of Dallas County and enjoy the winter skies. This program is meant to introduce you to the starry wonders that wander over our heads every night of the winter. Come learn how to locate our winter constellations. Once you can find them, they can share with you their astronomical and cultural stories. *Registration is required for this free program.*

Maple Syruping

Two part program, dates *tentative* & weather dependent.

Tree Tapping, Saturday, February 9, 9:30—10:30 a.m. (tentative, likely delayed at least one week), @ Sportsman Park, Dawson

Boiling Off, Saturday, March 9, 9:00 a.m.—4 p.m. (tentative) @ Sportsman Park, Dawson

No matter what the winter is like, spring always comes around, and when it does we will tap the trees. Trees that have been dormant respond to the increasing day length and warmer temperatures by sending sap flowing through their systems to nourish the tiny leaf and flower buds at stems' ends. If we time the tapping right (with daytime temperatures above and night temps below freezing), we can siphon off some of the sweet sap of native maple trees and boil it down to make maple syrup. The tree tapping program will involve going outside to drill small holes in select maple trees, installing taps and hooking up the collection system. Boiling off is when we heat the collected sap so the excess water evaporates, resulting in maple syrup.

Nature Play Day

Saturday, February 9, 1—3 p.m. @ Kuehn Conservation Area

Playing in snow (if we have any), collecting and building with pinecones, and navigating the mazes in the thicket are three of the options we might explore on the winter Nature Play Day. This lightly-led program is designed for families and youthful people of any age! Dress to be outside, and feel free to arrive and depart as your own schedule dictates. *Free, no registration required.*

Sand County Almanac 70th Anniversary Leopold Series Event: Thaw and Good Oak Essays

Sunday, February 10, 2:00—4:00 p.m. @ Kuehn Conservation Area

Join us as we step inside the stories of *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. Leopold is regarded by many as the father of the modern day science of Ecology, and his essays laid the foundation of what is known as the Land Ethic. DCCB naturalists will invite you to search the landscape at Kuehn for the stories written by the winter's residents with their tracks in the snow. Come explore the art of tracking and find who has left tracks of their wanderers at Kuehn. The second investigation of the afternoon will encourage the participants to grab hold of the handle of a two man bucksaw. With each pull, the saw will in Leopold's words provide an "integrated transect of the century, stroke by stroke, decade by decade, into the chronology of a lifetime, written in concentric annual rings of good oak." As our saw works across the years with your pulls we will discuss the events of Dallas County's history, recorded here for us in *The Good Oak*. Participants will also be invited to join DCCB in our Leopold Bench project and to help construct our own Dallas County Almanac. *Registration is required for this free program.*

Indoor Toys and Games

Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m.

This mini program will last about 20 to 30 minutes and will discuss many of the unique historical toys and games in the Forest Park Museum Collection. There will be a hands on component.

Owl Prowl

Tuesday, February 19, 7:00—8:00 p.m. @ Kuehn Conservation Area

At this program, we will walk out into the full moon night on the snowy trails of Kuehn's woodlands, to talk to our local owls. Around a bonfire, we will review the common owls of Kuehn and their calls. Armed with this knowledge, we will cast our best Dr. Doolittle renditions of the calls into the night with hopes of having a wild friend answer our queries. *Subject to weather cancellation. Registration is required for this free program.*

Raccoon River Valley Trail Association Banquet

The RRVTA banquet is February 23 at the West Des Moines Marriot and will feature speaker Jeff Johnson, CEO of ISU Alumni Association. Tickets are \$50 per plate or tables of 8 can be reserved for \$500. More information and tickets are available [online now](#).

Working on the Railroad

Wednesday, February 27 @ 10 a.m.

This mini program will last 20 to 30 minutes and will discuss daily life on the Railroad in Dallas County. There will be a hands on component.



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, Earham: 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 phone: (515)-465-3577

www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation

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