Polk County Conservation
Winter 2013-14 Volunteer Events

Carney Marsh Cleanup

Sunday: January 19, 2014
11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Carney Marsh

Join DMACC Environmental Science students and staff with the PCCB team as we continue to work on the restoration of Carney Marsh.

The DMACC crew have committed to volunteering one Sunday every month at this location. Many students are building their resumes not only through voluntary work, but also by adding items like chainsaw training to their list of skills.

Please confirm date and time with Pat Spain (515-323-5280) prior to attending.

Volunteers from John Deere constructed a fire pit and paver block walkway at the site of the Jester Park cabins.

Jester Park Invasive Species Winter Round-up

Saturday, January 18, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Two Dam Pond at Jester Park

Your help is needed to restore our woodlands by removing honeysuckle and other invasive species. Meet us at 9:45 am. along the road, near the pines by Two Dam Pond (close to Shelter #5)

Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately, wear sturdy shoes, and bring gloves and a reusable water bottle.

Bottles to Birdfeeders Volunteers

Ongoing
Jester Park

We're looking for volunteers to monitor and empty the redeemable can/bottle collection barrels at Jester Park. This would be a weekly or bi-weekly task. Volunteers would also be responsible for sorting and bagging the cans and bottles.

This project provides us with funds to pay for the bird seed at Jester Park's wildlife viewing hide.

A huge thank you to these volunteers…

- Hjelmaas family members painted the conference room at Jester Park Equestrian Center
- Saydel High School honor students who collected prairie seed at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt
- Polk City Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church youth group members worked on clearing invasives at the new Jester Park cabin site
- Nathan Hingsley worked on clearing invasive species at the new Jester Park cabin site and other park maintenance duties
- John Deere employees constructed a stone fire ring and installed a paver walkway at the new Jester Park cabin site
- Seth Konkol completed his Eagle Scout project installing a second flag pole at the youth campground in Jester Park
- Andrew Williams completed his Eagle Scout project installing landscaping wall surrounds around both flag poles at the youth campground in Jester Park
- Michael Langel completed his Eagle Scout project installing the third walk-in campsite in Jester Park
- Brandon Hedrick completed his Eagle Scout project chipping the new trails at Thomas Mitchell Park
- David Johnson continues to remove fence posts and wire at Jester Park and Carney Marsh, build bluebird boxes and help out with whatever else comes up
- DMACC Environmental Science Students and Instructor Craig Dilley for their continued restoration efforts at Carney Marsh

Continued…

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Our Naturalists Need You!

Saturday, December 26, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (two 1.5 hour sessions)
Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Saturday, February 8, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Chichaqua Longhouse

Share your love of **cross country skiing** with others this winter! Our naturalists need a helping hand for the recreational classes on the above dates. Classes will be canceled without snow. Prior ski experience is necessary.

Contact Patrice Petersen-Keys at 515-323-5359 or send her an email.

Continued Thanks…

- Girl Scout Troop 749 for their clean-up efforts at Mally's Weh-Weh-Nee-Kee Park
- Iowa Outdoor Unlimited and members of the public for their efforts at Easter Lake Park
- C.J. Johnson for helping to organize and heading a clean-up at Ft Des Moines Park. Volunteers pulled trash, bottles, appliances and tires out of the drained lakebed
- Our many stewards who have been busy working this year restoring woodlands, wetlands and natural areas: Penny Thomsen, John Harri, Ron Eckoff, John Zeitler, Kent Forbes, Lee Hill, Ben Johansen, Bill Covington, and Connie Struve
- Thanks to our Trail Ambassadors who run, walk, hike, bike and even horseback ride the natural and hard surface trails throughout the Polk County Conservation trail system picking up trash, reporting vandalism/trail conditions, clearing downed trees, and greeting the public.
- Our Bluebird Trail and Kestrel Trail Nest Box Monitors who finished up the season cleaning out boxes and getting ready for next year

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Jester Park Lodge

Don't let us get tangled up! We're looking for a public greeter and someone to help with attendance at the upcoming **fly-tying workshop**. Central Iowa Fly Fishers are presenting this How-To workshop – learn something new while lending our team a hand.

Contact Patrice Petersen-Keys at 515-323-5359 or send her an email.

Iowa Outdoor Unlimited got together to remove invasive species from Easter Lake Park.

Pat Spain
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