

Polk County Conservation Winter & Spring 2014 Volunteer Events

Bald Eagle Watch

Sunday: February 23rd

12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Jester Park Lodge

Volunteers are needed to assist with the annual Bald Eagle Watch around Saylorville Lake. You can sign up for two hour shifts from noon to 2:00, or 2:00-4:00 p.m. You'd primarily be welcoming participants from inside the Jester Park Lodge where Kay Neumann from SOAR will be giving hourly programs with one of her live eagles. There will definitely be time for you to sit in on one of the programs to see these magnificent birds up close and personal. Don't forget your camera!

Contact naturalist, [Joe Boyles](#), if you'd like to help out (515-323-5362).

Carney Marsh Restoration Project

Sundays: March 2nd, April 13th, May 4th

11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Carney Marsh

A DMACC crew of Environmental Science students and staff have committed to volunteering on the first Sunday of every month for the rest of the year at Carney Marsh.

Be a part of this restoration effort by coming along on any or all of the dates above. No experience is necessary, and equipment is provided. You should, however, dress for the weather, bring appropriate shoes or boots, and bring a refillable water bottle.

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

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

Sunday, March 16th

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Jester Park Lodge

Come join us at the Jester Park Lodge where we will highlight some of our volunteer projects and events from 2013. This year Dan Kaercher, retired founding editor-in-chief of Midwest Living magazine and Iowa Public Television host, will be the special guest at our annual banquet. In addition to his program, enjoy a catered dinner and awards.

Anyone who has volunteered 10+ hours is invited to attend. RSVP by contacting [Pat Spain](#) at (515) 323-5280; deadline is March 10. You can also call to confirm your hours.



The Jester Park Invasive Species Winter Round-up was a huge success! Volunteers and staff cleared piles of honeysuckle and other invasive species from the woodlands at Jester Park.

A huge thank you to these volunteers...

- Dean Ahnen for purchasing materials for and building bird feeders and winter roost boxes for the bird viewing blinds at Jester Park.
- David Johnson continues building and installing bat houses, owl boxes, kestrel nest boxes and bluebird nest boxes. He also helps prepare for workdays, and work at the invasive species events at Jester Park and the monthly Carney Marsh workdays.
- DMACC Environmental Science students and staff for their continued restoration efforts at Carney Marsh.
- All volunteers who have been attending the invasive species workdays at Jester Park and Carney Marsh.
- All volunteers who braved the cold and helped to make the Do More Outdoors event a success!
- Our many stewards who are working each 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 continue to run, walk, hike, bike and even ride horseback the natural and hard surface trails throughout the Polk County Conservation trail system picking up trash, reporting vandalism and trail conditions, clearing downed trees, and greeting the public.
- Our Bluebird Trail and Kestrel Trail Nest Box Monitors who are gearing up the 2014 season cleaning out boxes and getting ready for next year.

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Brown's Woods Clean-up

Saturday, April 5th

9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Brown's Woods

We'll meet* at the new parking lot on Brown's Woods Court. We are looking for co-sponsors for this event.

As with all volunteer projects, we encourage participants to dress for the weather, bring appropriate shoes, and bring a refillable water bottle. No experience is necessary, and all equipment is provided.

*We will cancel in the event of heavy rains and/or lightning

Trash Bash

Friday, April 25th*

Earth Day kicks off with a Bash downtown including sponsor and volunteer recognition, team introductions and educational booths. The rally builds a sense of community and cohesiveness to the day's activities and is an opportunity to recognize the thousands of hours these volunteers will put in (estimated value over \$90,000).

After the kick-off bash and lunch, team captains will lead the volunteers out to their project locations for an afternoon giving back to the community.

To register your team or for more information please phone: 515-248-6380, or trashbash@dmgov.org.

*Rain date is April 28th



Pioneer employees have been a huge part of Trash Bash in the past, partnering with Polk County Conservation and others.

Pat Spain

Planning & Outreach Coordinator

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Looking ahead...

Residential Tree Program

Plant Some Shade®

Saturday, May 3rd

7:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Hoover State Office Building

Court Avenue, Des Moines

Your help is needed to help to direct customers where they can pick up trees and load bags of mulch. This is a perfect project for your scout or youth group. Please meet at the parking lot directly south of the Hoover State Office building on south side of Court Ave. Refreshments provided.

Please contact [Mark Dungan](mailto:Mark.Dungan@dmgov.org) at 515-323-5358.

Easter Lake Watershed Spring Kickoff

Sunday, May 18th

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with concessions, kids' games, and other activities. Meet at Shelter #1 at 11:45 a.m.

To volunteer for this event please contact [Kami Rankin](mailto:Kami.Rankin@dmgov.org) at 515-323-5363.

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 blind.

