

# Sioux County Conservation Newsletter



Volume 24, Issue 1

Spring 2015

## Sioux County Conservation Foundation

by: Sunday Ford Asst. Dir./Nat.

A new non-profit organization has been formed in Sioux County with the mission of: "Providing resources for the enhancement, preservation, and enjoyment of nature in Sioux County." The Sioux County Conservation Foundation has a 501C3 status, and is made up of five board members. They are Dawn DeWit of Rock Valley, Brian VanEngen of Sioux Center, Gordon Pottebaum of Alton, Greg Hansen of Hospers, and Stan Hoekstra of Hawarden. The board meets once a month at Sandy Hollow. The current project in planning is a Nature Center in Sioux County. The Nature Center will provide a place for families and individuals to learn more about our natural environment, and will house the Sioux County Conservation Board Environmental Education Program and offices.

The location will be at Oak Grove Park, in Deer Run Campground, overlooking the prairie. It is the thought of the committee that Oak Grove provides the natural diversity and richness that this center needs. The Nature Center will not only encourage visitors, but will be the "hub" of the nature trail system at Oak Grove, leading adventurers into the prairie, to the pond, river, woodlands, and savanna. The summer camps and field trips offered by the Sioux County Conservation Board will take place at the new center as well. Nursing home picnics, civic organizations, and others will be invited to come for environmental education programs or a tour of the center.

The committee welcomes your input and ideas. Please email Sunday Ford at [sfnaturalist@siouxcounty.org](mailto:sfnaturalist@siouxcounty.org). At this point, the committee has toured other nature centers and are ready to start putting ideas on paper. Fundraising has started for this project as well. Contributions are welcome and appreciated. Please contact the above email if interested.

**Ruling on Firewood:** The Sioux County Conservation Board has a new policy on firewood. You may bring in your own fire wood as long as it is within a 30 mile radius of the campground you are staying in, and does not cross state lines (this is a state law to not cross state line due to Emerald Ash Boer).

We will continue to provide fire wood at our camping locations: Oak Grove Park, Big Sioux Recreation Area, and Sandy Hollow. Firewood is \$4 an armload.

**Thank You to:**

**Ice Fishing Clinic Volunteers.**

**Nathaniel DeJong for wildlife prints.**

# Summer Camps at Oak Grove

Join Sioux County Naturalist and interns this summer for outdoor adventures. All summer camps are free of charge. **Pre-registration is required** and will start **April 1, 2015 starting at 8am**. Space is limited. All registration must be done online at [www.mycountyparks.com/County/Sioux.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Sioux.aspx)

## Ages 3-4

### Budding Naturalists

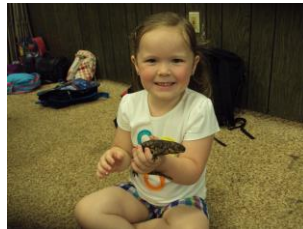
(Different from last year)

These little naturalists will have a hands-on introduction to nature. Parents/adult must attend. Includes games, crafts, and trail hikes.

Camp will be from 8:30am-12 pm.

June 12            July 10

July 2



## Ages 5-6

### Animal Detectives

Kids will investigate animal clues in the wild. This camp includes hands-on activities, games, and fun!

Choose from:

June 9 & 10 9am-noon OR 1pm-4pm

June 18 & 19 1pm-4pm



## Ages 7-9

### How Nature Works

We'll transform the Oak Grove Lodge into our own nature laboratory, as we do a variety of nature experiments. We'll spend time on the trails, play games, and explore...hands-on!

This two day camp is offered four times.  
9am- 2pm.

June 23-24

June 30- July 1

June 25-26

July 29-30

## Ages 10-12

### Wilderness Survival

Learn how to make a shelter, tie knots, make a campfire, among others at this camp! This two day camp is from 9am-3pm. Will be held at Big Sioux Recreation Area, south of Hawarden.

Choose from the following dates:

July 21-22

July 23-24

## Ages 13-15

### Hunter Education Overnight Camp

This overnight camp will give participants the opportunity to pass the Iowa Hunter Education course (which is required for an Iowa Hunting license), as well as participate in a fun overnight camp experience. Participants will learn firearm safety; shoot/don't shoot scenarios, hunting laws and more. Also go on night hike, catfish the river, try out archery, and make S'mores.

July 7&8

Camp runs: 9:30 am overnight till 1:30 pm on the 8th

Oak Grove cabins. Potluck meals

### **Upcoming tentative dates to note:**

#### **August:**

12- Hunter Education- Oak Grove Park 9am-7pm

15- Big Sioux River Float from Oak Grove 9am- 1 pm

#### **September:**

12 - Women in the Outdoors- Prairie Heritage Center- Sutherland

26-Dutch Oven Gathering- Oak Grove- Turkey Ridge Campground

#### **October:**

10- Trick or Treat Hike Night- Oak Grove Park

17- Youth Pheasant Hunt- Rock Valley

# Upcoming Programs...

Must **pre-register** for all programs, sign up online at <http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Sioux.aspx> or call Sunday Ford at 712-552-3057. **Weather related** cancellations will be aired on 93.9 FM

**May 2- Four Hikes, Four Parks, One Adventure** Come out for a new kind of adventure! The Oak Grove Park, Newton Hills State Park, Adam's Nature Preserve, and Union Grove State Park will be hosting a hiking/traveling expedition that will take hikers through the scenic areas of each park. Each person who finds the code word at each park on each trail will be eligible for a prize drawing. Participants will receive more details and will be responsible for their own travel. Preregistration is required can be done by calling Newton Hills at 605-987-2263 by the day of the event. The event will conclude with prize drawing at 5 pm at Adam's Nature Preserve.

## **June 4- Outdoor Skills Day- Oak Grove Park: 8:30 am-4 pm**

**All ages (8 years & under must have an adult present)**

This fun filled day will start at 8:30am and go to 4 pm. Participants will register at the picnic shelter near the river at Oak Grove Park. Sessions for the day may include: shotgun shooting, air rifles, archery, outdoor cooking, canoeing, improving outdoor skills and much more! This event is sponsored by 4-H Extension, Sioux County Conservation Board, and the Sioux County Sportsmen's Club. Lunch and prizes provided by the Sioux County Sportsmen's Club. You must pre-register for this event by going online, call Sunday at 712-552-3057, or contact the Extension Office at 712/737-4230. No cost for event.



## **June 13- Family Fishing Clinic- Sandy Hollow: 9 am- 12:30 pm**

**All ages are welcomed! (8 years & under must have an adult present)**

Join the Sioux County Conservation Board and the Sioux County Sportsmen's Club at the Sandy Hollow pond near Sioux Center for a fun-filled morning of fishing instruction fishing, prizes, casting contest, and giveaways. Clinic will be from 9 am-12:30 pm with lunch provided and prizes to be won. Those 16 years of age and older must have a valid fishing license to actively fish. Fishing poles are available for use or bring your own. No cost, entry fee to park waved for participants during hours of event. Must pre-register for event.



## **July 10- Archery Shoot- Sandy Hollow- 1- 3pm**

Bring your bow or borrow ours for an indoor/outdoor shooting experience. No experience needed. All ages welcome, 8 years and under must have an adult present. Pre-registration required.

## **August 8- Ringneck Rendezvous- Rock Valley Gun Club- 4- 9 pm**

**Ages 5-16 years old** (5-8 years must have an adult present. All adults welcome with preregistration).

**\$10 registration fee** for all participants and adults attending. Join the Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever Chapter, Sioux County Conservation Board, Rock Valley Gun Club, and Iowa DNR for a fun evening of outdoor experiences. Activities for the evening being planned include; trap shooting (ages 12 and over), BB guns, archery, sling shots, games; door prizes, education sessions; and meal. **Pre-registration required by August 3, 2015.** Individuals registered will receive: meal, optional ringneck membership, water bottle, bag, and more. Many prizes to be won! All online registration this year, follow link at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com) to register and updated information. The first 400 kids will be accepted.



# Sioux County Conservation Board



If you would like to be added to the newsletter mailing list please send a postcard with your name and address to:

Sioux County Conservation Board  
Oak Grove Park  
4051 Cherry Ave.  
Hawarden, IA 51023

Sioux County Conservation Board  
712/552-1047  
soococon@siouxcounty.org  
www.mycountyparks.com  
www.siouxcountyparks.com

## Board Members

Gordon Pottebaum-Chairperson  
Dave Meylink- Vice Chairperson  
Daryl Grooters- Secretary  
Jerry Jensen-Member  
Brian Oordt- Member

## Staff

Robert Klocke- Executive Director  
Sunday Ford- Assistant Director/Naturalist  
Jessica Van Oort- Office Assistant  
Myron Dekkers- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech. - Oak Grove  
Zach Weyer- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech- Sandy Hollow  
Robert Upton- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech- Sandy Hollow  
Alex Lynott- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech- Big Sioux Rec. Area  
Damon Anderson- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech- Oak Grove

## Meetings

Held the first Wednesday after the 3rd of the month at 6:30 pm  
at the Administration Office in Oak Grove.

Standard Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Orange City, IA  
Permit No. 100

Sioux County Conservation Board  
Oak Grove Park  
4051 Cherry Ave  
Hawarden, IA 51023  
Return Service Requested