

Summer 2019

Conservation Matters

*Important
Dates:*

Mills County Conservation Board

**National Trails
Day**
June 1st

**Iowa DNR Free
Fishing
Weekend**
June 7th, 8th
and 9th

Full Moons
June 17th
July 16th
August 15th

**First Day of
Summer**
June 21st

National Pollinator Week- Art Challenge

National Pollinator Week (June 17th-23rd) is a chance for everyone to take some time to focus on these special creatures that we can not survive without. Birds, bats, butterflies, moths, ants, beetles and bees are some of our important pollinators. 1 out of every 3 bites of food we eat comes from the work they do. Please join us in decorating Pony Creek Nature Center with art work of all kinds to celebrate and educate visitors about the diversity of pollinators in our area. Art pieces can be of any size, art medium and skill level. Willing participants will have their work on display at Pony Creek Nature Center for the remainder of the year.

If you are interested in contributing, please drop your art work off at Pony Creek Nature Center by June 15th. All ages welcome to participate- crayon, markers, paint, sketches, photography; sky is the limit on what you can make! Give us a call at 712-527-9685 if you have questions.



Bee House Building- Saturday, June 15th @ 1:00 pm
(program rescheduled from February)

Supplies to build a variety of solitary bee houses will be provided at Pony Creek Nature Center. Easy, free project to add nesting sites for pollinators in you garden or yard. Pre-registration is required.

712-527-9685 or email millsccbia@hotmail.com.

Saturday Programs at Pony Creek Nature Center

Pony Creek Nature Center will be open on Saturday's from 10:00 am-2:00pm starting June 1st through August 3rd. Visitors are welcome to come look around and there will be a different activity to participate in each week. Some examples of programs offered during the Saturday hours. Come and go as you please!

June 1st- All About Birds

June 8th- Scavenger hunts and Nature Painting (see details in programs section, must pre-register)

June 15th- Pollinator Party

June 22nd- More Trees Please

June 29th- The 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

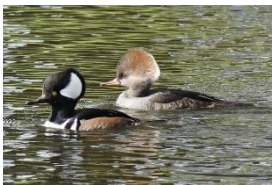
MCCB Announcements

Mills County Conservation staff are always looking for ways to improve the parks to better serve our visitors. Grants, donations and volunteers make a lot of what we do possible. Below are some updates on recent grants and volunteers.

Mills County Community Foundation awarded Mills County Conservation two grants in the past year. In the Fall we received \$500 to go towards the purchase of a 180-gallon tank that is part of the new turtle display in Pony Creek Nature Center. This display is a wonderful addition to the gallery and dozens of people have already enjoyed watching the turtles and fish from the different perspectives it offers. During the Spring grant cycle the award came in the amount of \$21,000 towards the foundations for an exciting project that will be adding cabins to Pony Creek Park.

Mills County Conservation Board would like to recognize Bruce Sprain of Glenwood for always being eager to donate his time and welding skills to repair park equipment for us, it is always greatly appreciated.

Mills County Neighbor



Hooded mergansers are not a year-round resident of Mills County, but they can be spotted in our area during the Spring, Summer and Fall. They are a small diving duck that nests in tree holes. Female mergansers have used the Wood Duck boxes at Pony Creek Park to nest in for several years. They are very early nesters, so the boxes can be used by both species each season. With some patience and a good eye, you can see the mother with a trail of 5-15 babies. They eat aquatic insects, crayfish and small fish. The males are brightly colored to attract a mate, while the females are very drab to blend in with their surroundings. During the winter they move to larger bodies of water such as the Great Lakes and areas south and east of here.



Summer Camps

Tiny Nature Adventures- June 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th @ 10:00 am
(Ages 3-5)

Wednesday's in June, join us for nature themed activities and outdoor exploration. Adult must stay with child and pre-registration is required for planning purposes, 712-527-9685.

Nature Detectives- June 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th @ 9:00 am-12:00
(Ages 6-9)

Let's put those curious minds to work learning and exploring. Class sizes will be limited, so please pre-register ASAP by calling 712-527-9685. Kids should wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty and bring a refillable water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray. Pond study, nature art, journals, and much more!



Nature Connect- June 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th @ 9:00 am-12:00
(Ages 10-13)

It's time to get outside and connect with Nature. Class sizes will be limited, so please pre-register ASAP by calling 712-527-9685. Kids should wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty and bring a refillable water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray. More information is available upon registration.



Upcoming Public Programs

Fishing Clinic- June 7th @ 9:00-11:00 am

Iowa DNR Free Fishing Weekend is June 7th, 8th and 9th; this allows people to fish without purchasing a fishing license. We will have fishing equipment available at Pony Creek Access for anyone interested in learning the basics of fishing. Pony Creek Access is located north of Pony Creek Park approximately 1 mile on Deacon Road.

Nature Painting- June 8th @ 12:00-2:00 pm



Sunny Smiles

Join Hannah Rief, owner of the Creative Canvas, for a fun painting class at Pony Creek Nature Center. No experience needed, Hannah is wonderful at helping all levels of painters. Pre-registration is required, so call 712-314-1968 and save your spot today! Cost is \$30 per person and pre-payment is appreciated through the Creative Canvas website,

<https://www.getcreativewithhannah.com>

Canoes at Mile Hill Lake- June 21st @ 9:00-11:00

Mills County Conservation will provide canoes, paddles and life jackets on a first come first serve basis for anyone interested in an outdoor adventure around the lake. Mile Hill is located at 21193 US Hwy 34 west of Glenwood. Give us a call if have any questions, 712-527-9685!

More programs will be scheduled throughout the summer. Please watch the Mills County Facebook page and visit Pony Creek Nature Center to learn more.

Pre-registration contact information:

Phone: 712-527-9685

Email: millsccbia@hotmail.com

Pre-registering helps us plan accordingly for programs.



Pony Creek Nature Center

56235 Deacon Road
Pacific Junction, IA

712-527-9685

Hours: Monday thru Friday
9:00am to 3:00 pm

Summer Weekend Hours:
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm
beginning
June 1st

Family oriented programs will be held during weekend hours.

Contact information

Mills County Conservation
Pony Creek Park
56235 Deacon Rd
Pacific Junction, IA 51561

PHONE:
(712) 527-9685

E-MAIL:
millscbia@hotmail.com

Website:
www.millscoia.us/index.php/depts/conservation



Mills County Conservation Board:

MCC Staff:

Jerad Getter, Director
Dessa Montgomery, Naturalist
Zach Kohlhoff, Specialist

MCC Board Members:

George Marshall, Malvern
Lana White, Hastings
Kreg Kinzle, Glenwood
Ted Golka, Glenwood
Debra Swirmiky, Glenwood



The Mills County Conservation Board is committed to providing the citizens of Mills County with quality outdoor recreation areas and opportunities for environmental education experiences. Please take advantage of these services and visit the nearly 1,800 acres of public land available!

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MILLS COUNTY CONSERVATION
56235 DEACON RD
PACIFIC JUNCTION, IA 51561



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