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Summer 2021

Sheets Addition at Eveland Access

By Dorothy Wedgewood
Administrative Assistant

The Sheets Addition of Eveland Access was purchased in March of 2002 from Catherine Sheets. This is a 35-acre parcel of land bordering what was then the Eveland Access Campgrounds and is now the east side of the Eveland Access Campgrounds. The Sheets Addition includes the Eveland Access Cabins, the area where Catherine's house was once located, and an area where an old barn is situated. It was originally purchased by Sheets' grandparents in 1900. This area was purchased by the Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) through a Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) grant and a donation from the Kuyper Foundation.

When the ground was first purchased by MCCB, it was largely undeveloped with only Catherine's house and a barn on the property. Catherine had a vision for this property. She wanted the public to enjoy the benefits of various forms of recreation in this unique area and the rich history it provides. One example of the property's history is that the barn was built in 1936 but moved to its current site in 1962.

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(Eveland Access cont.)

In 2004, MCCB started construction on two cabins on the southwest corner of the property. The cabins feature 952 square feet of living space. Each cabin has a modern bathroom with a handicap-friendly shower, two bedrooms with queen sized beds and a full kitchen (stove, refrigerator, and microwave). The cabins are nestled back from the road in an alcove that provides enough privacy that patrons can enjoy the area nearly undisturbed.

Shortly after the cabins were built, MCCB started finalizing plans for a new campground west of the existing east side campgrounds. The two campgrounds are connected by an access road that runs underneath the highway bridge. This campground was built with larger campsites and camping pads to be able to accommodate the ever-increasing size of campers. Some of the sites were created to allow a camper to pull-through on the camping pad. They no longer had to back their campers into a spot. The west side of Eveland Access Campgrounds was opened to the public in 2011. Along with the new campground, MCCB added a dump station just south of the cabins.



Modern cabins at Eveland Access.



Shower house on the west side of Eveland Access Campgrounds.

In May of 2015, MCCB added a shower house to the west side of Eveland Access. The shower house features four individual restroom/shower stations. This is located on the hill just south of the campgrounds.

Additionally, it has been tradition to hold Maple Syrup Festivals at the site of the old barn on the Sheets Addition. This area has many maple trees in which sap for making maple syrup can be collected in the spring. The public has participated in the festival to learn how the sap is cooked down into the golden nectar of maple syrup.

The Sheets Addition truly has many things to offer. Whether you like camping at the campgrounds, lounging in a little more privacy in the cabins, exploring the surrounding woods for treasures, or enjoying an educational trip back in time by learning about maple syrup, this area is truly a gem.



Evaporating sap at the 2013 Maple Syrup Festival.



Experience Programs for Adults

If pre-registrations are required, call (641)673-9327 ext. 2 or decook@mahaskacounty.org.



O.W.L.S.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls

*Pre-registrations are appreciated.
Call MCCB at (641)673-9327 ext. 2 or
email decook@mahaskacounty.org.*

Hedgehogs

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Friday, July 16, 2021

Environmental Learning Center, Caldwell Park



The cute and prickly little animals called hedgehogs are found all over on greeting cards, movies, books, clothing and home décor. MCCB Naturalist, Laura DeCook, will let you meet her hedgehogs and explain what these animals are like in the wild and as domesticated pets. Would you like a selfie with a hedgehog? Hop in the “photo booth” and have your picture taken with one!

Dutch Oven Cooking

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Friday, August 20, 2021

Environmental Learning Center, Caldwell Park



Who doesn't love food with a delicious aroma that has been cooked in cast iron over coals? Join us to learn how to cook with Dutch ovens and how to care for them. We will sample Dutch oven recipes before the presentation, so bring a drink and a light lunch if you want.

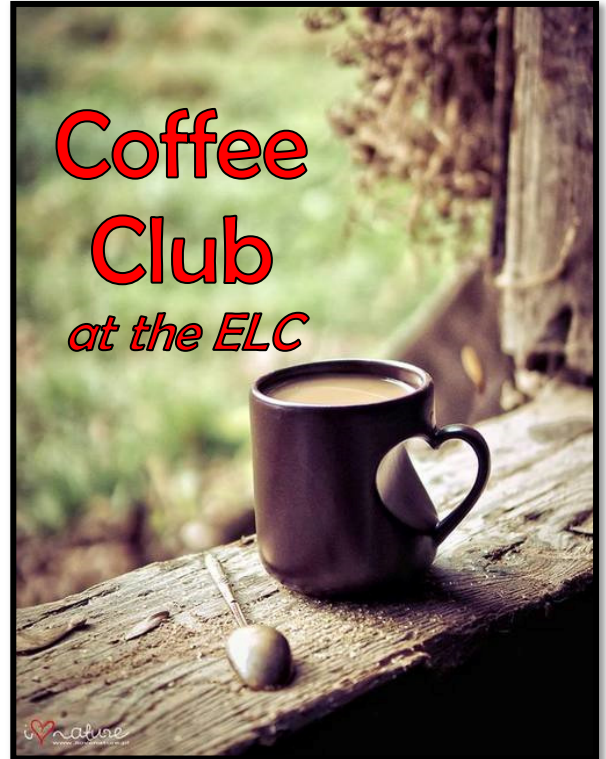
Wilderness Horse Packing

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Friday, September 10, 2021

Environmental Learning Center, Caldwell Park

MCCB Naturalist, Laura DeCook, will share her experiences in exploring the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana on horseback and packing all needed supplies on horses and mules.



Coffee Club *at the ELC*

9:30-10:30 am

Thursday, July 1st

Friday, August 6th

Friday, September 3rd

Join us at the “Coffee Club” for coffee, refreshments and fellowship!

Enjoy the coffee, snacks and company. We have a great time visiting and learning about fascinating things in nature and what is new with MCCB. Bring a friend!

Donations will be appreciated to help purchase supplies for future Coffee Clubs.

We meet in the Environmental Learning Center - feel free to look around after having coffee. There are many great displays to see in the ELC.

Registrations are not needed.



Experience Programs for Adults

If pre-registrations are required, call (641)673-9327 ext. 2 or decook@mahaskacounty.org.

Day Camp for Adults!

Ages 18 & older - \$10 per person

Friday, July 2, 2021
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Russell Wildlife Area

- Fishing
- Campfire Cooking
- Fossil Digging
- Canoeing

To sign up, call
(641)673-9327 ext. 2 or email decook@mahaskacounty.org

Eveland Access Cabins

1681 – 290th St., Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577



The Apple and Birch Cabins are available for rent year-round. To view pictures of the cabins and to find more information on renting: www.mahaskaconservation.com or call MCCB at (641)673-9327.





Investigate Programs for Kids

If pre-registrations are required, call (641)673-9327 ext. 2 or decook@mahaskacounty.org.

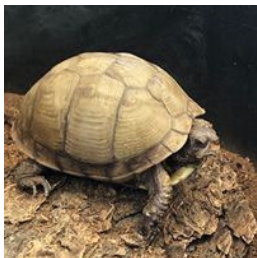


Knee-High Naturalist programs are for kids ages 5 and younger. The program activities are designed to help foster learning about nature and exploring the outdoors. Adults that bring the children to the program need to remain with them during the program. Pre-registration is required to participate.

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

at the Environmental Learning Center

July 6 "Nature Walk"
August 3 "Rainbow Fish"
September 14 "Monarch Butterflies"



Donations are needed to help feed the live education animals at the Environmental Learning Center. Let us know if you can help. Thank you!

- Night crawlers
- Minnows
- Frozen mice

STEM LAB FOR KIDS

**Fun & educational science activities
for kids ages 8 and older!**



Thursday, July 29, 2021

10:00 – 11:00 am

Pre-registration is required to participate.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn".

~ Benjamin Franklin ~



Summer Day Camps

To sign up for any day camp, contact the Mahaska County Conservation Board by calling (641)673-9327 ext. 2 or email decook@mahaskacounty.org.

- Children attending any camp must have an adult remain with them.
- Cost is \$10.00 per day/per child (adult is free)
- Select one or more days of camp – it's up to you!
- Bring a snack and water bottle to camp each day.
- Camp details will be sent to all families that sign up.

Discovery Camp "Flat Camper's Adventures!"



June 8-10, 2021

10:00 am – 12:00 pm (each day) at Environmental Learning Center
\$10.00 per day/per child (adult is free)

Ages: 5 & younger

Tuesday, June 8: Hiking, Nature Scavenger Hunt, Craft & Storytime
Wednesday, June 9: Water Exploration Activities, Craft, Games & Storytime
Thursday, June 10: Fossil Investigations, Craft, Games & Storytime

Jr. Naturalist Camp "Explore Mahaska County"



June 15-17, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm (each day) at various county parks
\$10.00 per day/per child (adult is free)

Ages: 6-10

Tuesday, June 15: "Water Wonders" at Environmental Learning Center
Wednesday, June 16: "Great Fossil Hunt & Nature Hike" at Russell Wildlife Area
Thursday, June 17: "Fishing Adventures" at Russell Wildlife Area

Challenge Camp "Ultimate Outdoor Adventures"



June 22-24, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm (each day) at various county parks
\$10.00 per day/per child (adult is free)

Ages: 11 & older

Tuesday, June 22: "Ultimate Nature Hike" at Cedar Bluffs State Preserve
Wednesday, June 23: "Fishing & Bowfishing Basics" at Russell Wildlife Area
Thursday, June 24: "Canoeing" at Russell Wildlife Area



Discover Programs for All Ages

If pre-registrations are required, call (641)673-9327 ext. 2 or decook@mahaskacounty.org.

Quercus Nature Hike & Scavenger Hunt

10:00 am – 11:30 am
Wednesday, July 14
Quercus Wilderness Area
3139 Kent Ave., Oskaloosa



Come out to one of Mahaska County's great hiking trails! The trail around Quercus provides an easy hike for all ages. During the program, participants can take part in a fun scavenger hunt. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to eat under the big oak trees after the program! It will be a good idea to carry a water bottle on the hike. **Pre-registration is required.**

Fishing in Canoes

6:00 – 7:30 pm
Thursday, August 12
Pond 1, Russell Wildlife Area
2254 – 200th St., New Sharon, IA



Join us for a fun evening of canoeing and fishing around a pond at the Russell Wildlife Area. No canoeing experience is necessary as instructions and safety tips on canoeing will be given to everyone. MCCB will provide the canoes, paddles, life jackets, fishing poles and bait. However, feel free to bring your own. If you only want to canoe around the pond, no problem. Come out and enjoy the evening!

Pre-registration is required. We will need to know if you need canoeing and fishing equipment and how many people will be coming. Fishing licenses will be required for anyone age 16 or older that will be fishing.

Save the Dates!

Upcoming Family Events

18th Annual Youth Outdoor Field Day

8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Saturday, September 25, 2021
Russell Wildlife Area



8th Annual - Halloween Bash

1:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday, October 23, 2021
Eveland Access Campgrounds



The Prairie Star

The Prairie Star is the quarterly newsletter of the Mahaska County Conservation Board and is emailed to those persons on our mailing list. There is no charge for the newsletter, although contributions to help defray costs are greatly appreciated. Please help us by keeping us informed of any change of email address or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter.



MAHASKA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER HOURS

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday or by appointment.

The Mahaska County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public. Visitors are always welcome and encouraged to attend. The board meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Environmental Learning Center. Please note: these dates are subject to change.

Mahaska County's programs and facilities are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Mahaska County Conservation Board or the office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington D.C. 29240.

To all the donors, volunteers, & event participants...

THANK YOU!

- Muse Music Store – Eveland Access Summerfest*
- Jane Nicholson & Mahaska Drug – Summerfest*
- Iowa Prairie Rose Dutch Over Cookers - Summerfest*
- Mary Jane Sullivan – field trip & camp volunteer*
- Pete Eyheralde – field trip volunteer*
- Diane Crookham-Johnson – OWLS bird presentation*
- Tina Marshall – OWLS Honeybee presentation*

MCCB Meeting Dates:

Mahaska County Conservation Board Monthly Meetings

Begins at 7:30 p.m. – Public is welcome to attend
Environmental Learning Center (lower level),
Caldwell Park

July 8, 2021

August 5, 2021

September 2, 2021

Dates and times are subject to change.

Call MCCB at (641)673-9327 for more information.

Mahaska County Conservation Board

Linda Fox, Rose Hill	Chairperson
Peggy Wright, New Sharon	Vice-Chairperson
Willie Van Weelden, Oskaloosa	Secretary
Steve Dixon, Oskaloosa	Member
Curt Jager, Eddyville	Member

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Dave Sedivec	Director
Laura DeCook	Naturalist
Tommy VanRenterghem	Park Ranger
Jason Ryan	Park Ranger
Dorothy Wedgewood	Administrative Assistant
Emily Van Der Veer	Summer Park Ranger
Mike Ryan	Summer Park Technician

Mission Statement

The primary mission of this organization shall be to create an awareness of our natural environment, encourage a state of harmony between people and their natural communities, develop and implement public conservation policy, maintain the public's investment in our natural resources, and strive diligently within the budget restraints to provide adequate services for the environmental education and enjoyment of the citizens of Mahaska County.