

# Conservation Matters

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mills County Conservation Board  
Summer 2015



## Free Fishing Weekend

Every year the Iowa DNR declares the first weekend in June a *Free Fishing Weekend*. This year it is June 5th, 6th, and 7th. Residents of Iowa can fish for these three days without purchasing a license. A fishing license costs \$19.00 and will need to be purchased if you plan to fish other days besides the three free ones. In Mills County there are three locations to purchase a license, Shopko, Kum and Go, and the Mills County Records Office, all located in Glenwood. You are also able to purchase a license online from the Iowa DNR website.

There are several options for public fishing areas in Mills County. Mile Hill Lake is located at 21193 US Hwy 34, two miles west of Glenwood on the eastbound lane of Hwy 34. Pony Creek Access can be found 3 miles north of Hwy 34 on Deacon Road. Glenwood Lake Park is on East Sharp St in the town of Glenwood. In Malvern, Boehner Park and Pond is located on West 5th St.

If you are a beginner fisher and need some practice we will be providing a Fishing program on June 5th. Come out Pony Creek Access west of Glenwood on Deacon Road at 9:00 am. The MCCB will have fishing equipment available for all ages! We will learn casting, fish identification, how to bait a hook and how to remove a fish from a hook. Please call 712-527-9685 and let us know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly.

## Meet Your *WILD* Mills County Neighbors!



"Holy *Moley*, look at my yard"! Have you ever found yourself in a war with an extremely active Eastern Mole?

The Eastern Mole is common throughout Iowa and can be quite the pest in your landscaped areas. These unusual looking critters dig tunnels throughout their home range looking for invertebrates to eat. The tunnels that occur underground do not really bother people, but the surface tunnels can be annoying.

Although they don't make great neighbors they are very important to the environment. The most obvious advantage is that they control invertebrate populations. Another great thing about moles is that

their tunnels and constant digging actually makes soil healthier.

Moles have very unique fur that stands up in all directions. This pelt allows them to scoot forwards and backwards within their tunnels with less resistance. They have tiny eyes that only help them determine light from dark. Their unusually large front feet act as shovels for their constant digging. Moles have one litter of babies in mid April to June. They are born blind and hairless but in 4 short weeks they are out of the nest foraging through the soil with their parents.

## Classroom Connection

Spring is always a busy time for school programs and field trips. We only hosted one field trip to Pony Creek Park this year and that was the East Mills 3rd Grade. They participated in a pond study using microscopes and magnifying glasses to look at tiny pond creatures and had a long scavenger hunt! The students had a great time and learned alot. The Glenwood 1st graders got to look at a tree frog and toad in their classrooms while learning about animals and camping. They also got to hold a snake, which was a first for many! Glenwood Middle School also got a good dose of Environmental Education. The 7th Grade went on an Iowa Safari in the classroom and also learned about skulls and pelts from local wildlife. The 8th Graders participated in an Outdoor Day, where we provided fishing poles and instruction for all of them to fish. There were lots of "first" fishes caught that day by students and even one teacher. With the construction of our Nature Center beginning, next Spring should provide many more field trip options for local schools

## Conservation Tip

As the summer heats up there are a couple of simple things you can do to conserve energy and water. Try to only water plants and gardens in the early morning or late evening so less evaporation occurs! Also, take some time to think about cooling your house. Keeping curtains and blinds closed during the hottest part of the day and turning your AC up a few degrees will help your wallet and energy use!

# Conservation Matters

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mills County Conservation Board  
Summer 2015



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Beginner Fishing

June 5th @ 9:00am

Join us at Pony Creek Access to learn the basics of fishing. Equipment will be provided. Please call 712-527-9685 to pre-register for this event!



### River Float

July 8th @ 10:00 am

Space is LIMITED, must call to reserve your spot. We will canoe down the Nishnabotna River. The trip will take approximately 4 hours. Canoes, paddles and life jackets will be provided. This program will be dependent on water levels!

### Awesome Amphibians

June 17th @ 10:00am

Hop out to Pony Creek Park for a fun, hands on program about all the local amphibians. Live animals will be shown! Pre-registration is required, please call 712-527-9685



### Keg Creek Days

August 22nd @ 10:00am

The MCCB will have our live animals to look at. Located at Glenwood Lake Park, come find us!

### Canoeing at Mile Hill

June 22nd @ 10:00am

The MCCB 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 you have any questions, 712-527-9685

To pre-register for these events or  
for more information, please call  
Dessa at  
(712) 527-9685 or send us an  
email at [millsccbia@hotmail.com](mailto:millsccbia@hotmail.com).

### Spring into Summer

June 20th @ 9am-noon

Come find us on the Glenwood Square to see some live animals! Contact the Glenwood Chamber of Commerce for more information on this fun event.

### Pooches in the Park

July 1st @ 8:00 am

Bring your dog and come over to Foothills Park located on the Glenwood State Preserve at 59069 Levi Rd. We will take a nice long walk, meet some new dogs and people and discuss some great ways to enjoy nature with your K9 friend! Proof of rabies vaccine is required to participate. Please call 712-527-9685 if you plan attend.

For a map and information about the  
parks go to the Mills County  
Conservation website at -  
[mccb.millscoia.us](http://mccb.millscoia.us)

# Conservation Matters

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mills County Conservation Board  
Summer 2015



Pony Creek Park is a great place to camp in Mills County! Grab your supplies and head out for a weekend of fun this summer. Tent camping is \$10.00 per night and electrical sites are \$12.00 per night. There are fun hiking trails, a big playground and access to Pony Creek Lake for fishing near by.



*Remember to use and take care of your County Parks. They belong to You!*