



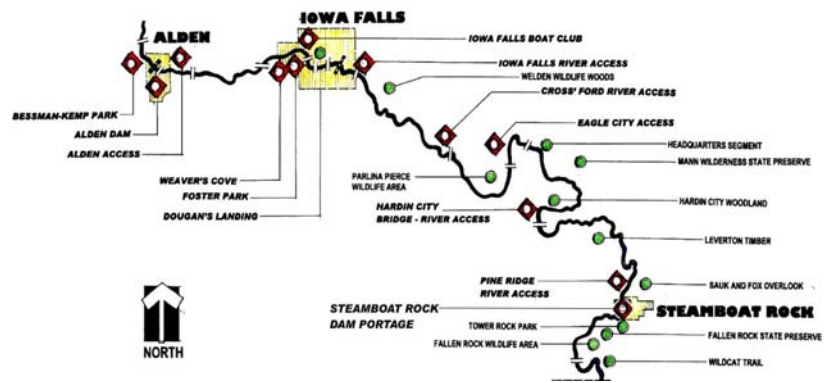
For Immediate Release

The Iowa River Paddle & Picnic, June 13, 2009

Celebrate the beauty and history of the scenic Iowa River. Join Iowa Representative Annette Sweeney and the Southfork Watershed Alliance on Saturday, June 13th for a community paddle and river program highlighting the conservation and water quality efforts taking place in the watershed, the recreational opportunities along the river and ways we can work towards enhancing the river conditions and water quality in the area.

The Iowa River is a treasured community resource and those who live in the area and who are familiar with the ripples, runs, hard-rock bottoms and limestone river-scapes appreciate its value and character. Hardin County residents and area legislators are encouraged to participate in a day filled with river recreation, education and appreciation. The tour and program are free and open to the public and will take place rain or shine (rain cancels the tour only). Canoes and safety equipment are available upon reservation and at no additional cost to participants. There is limited registration – RSVP with event coordinator as soon as possible.

The day will begin with registration at 10AM at Pine Ridge Park in Steamboat Rock. Participants will be shuttled to Eagle City to start the river tour – river conditions will determine tour pace. Members from the Hardin County Conservation Board and other Iowa River “experts” will lead participants on a revealing tour of the scenic and unique environment along the river.



The tour will end at the Boat Club in Steamboat Rock with a picnic and river program. The program will include an overview by Dr. Mark Tomer, scientist from the National Soil Tilth Lab about the water quality testing and evaluation taking place in Southfork Watershed, an introduction of the Southfork Watershed Alliance from president Scott Riggs and Heath Ellison, environmental specialist, will talk about the Iowa Soybean Association’s role in the watershed. Various event cooperators will provide brief presentations about their connections to rivers.

Spend a relaxing afternoon floating on the Iowa River and reconnect with one of our community’s greatest natural resources – the Iowa River.

Contact: Dave Sweeney, event coordinator
641-373-4340 (cell); dsweeney@iowatelecom.net
www.southforkwatershed.org

Event Hosts: Representative Annette Sweeney and the Southfork Watershed Alliance

Cooperators: Central Iowa Paddlers, Hamilton and Hardin County Farm Bureau, Hardin County Community Development Council, Hardin and Franklin County Conservation Boards, Hardin County ISU Extension, Iowa River Greenbelt Resource Trust, Iowa Rivers Revival, Iowa Soybean Association, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Soil Tilth Lab, Prairie Rivers of Iowa RC&D, and Rock and Row Adventures.

Iowa River Paddle and Picnic

June 13, 2009

Steamboat Rock, Iowa

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Schedule

10-11 AM: Registration at Pine Ridge Park Boat Club in Steamboat Rock

11-12 AM: Participants will be shuttled by bus to the canoe launch at Eagle City and enjoy a sack lunch provided by Hamilton and Hardin Co Farm Bureau

12-1 PM: Canoes will be launched following safety and “how to” talk by river guides from Hardin and Franklin Co Conservation Boards

1-5 PM River Tour to Steamboat Rock-river conditions will determine tour pace

5-6 PM Retrieval of canoes from the river, enjoy exhibits from local organizations and area concessions

6-7 PM Picnic Supper provided by the Iowa Soybean Association and the Water Quality and River program

Evening Program

Welcome: Representative Annette Sweeney

The Southfork Watershed Alliance: President Scott Riggs

“South Fork of the Iowa River-History, Water Quality and Conservation”: Dr Mark Tomer, scientist from the National Soil Tilth Laboratory

“Farmers Improve Environmental Performance Through Planning and Evaluation”: Heath Ellison, State Technical Assistance Coordinator with Iowa Soybean Association

Brief presentations from Iowa River Greenbelt Resource Trust and Hardin County Community Development Council

* Participants bringing their own canoes are encouraged to drop them off at the launch site prior to registration

*Every precaution has been taken for the safety and convenience of participants. An EMT will be on the float and portable facilities at a mid point.

*Camping available at Pine Ridge Park: \$10 primitive, \$15 w/electric

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Leave a message with contact info including email address and if a canoe is needed or you are bringing your own.

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Cooperators: Central Iowa Paddlers, Hamilton and Hardin County Farm Bureau, Hardin County Community Development Council, Hardin and Franklin County Conservation Boards, Hardin County ISU Extension, Hardin County

Farm Service Agency, Iowa River Greenbelt Resource Trust, Iowa Rivers Revival, Iowa Soybean Association, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Soil Tilth Lab, Prairie Rivers of Iowa RC&D, and Rock and Row Adventures.