

# McFarlane Park News



## Christmas In July



Our third annual Christmas In July, will be held on the frigid Possum Lake weekend of July 23th and 24th. This year we will be hosting a Red Green, Redneck Christmas. So get out the duct tape and flannel and decorate the outhouse. Watch for all the Possum Lodge characters : Red , Harold, Dalton, Mike, Winston, Bill, and Ranger Gord. We will host redneck buffet at noon on Saturday at Possum Lodge. We will furnish such culinary delights as road-kill stew, possum bars, special Port Asbestos Coffee, and a special punch recipe from Red's "Cook'n on the Cheap," cookbook. There will be singing entertainment such as that Christmas classic, "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer." You bring a Possum Lodge redneck side-dish, eaten' hardware and maybe some Pepto Bismal. There will be no charge for the meal. We figure we can find most of what we need along the road.

Other lodge events include: critter cookie decorating. We will bake the

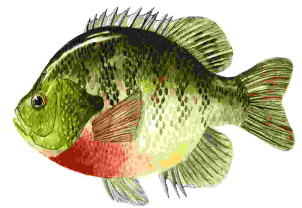
critters

(no cost), you do the decorating and eating. Fish line target tossing and duct tape fights, human tree decorating, with the winning teams receiving prizes. Lodge sewer wagon rides with Winston as Santa Claus, along with hillbilly music. A campsite decorating contest will be based on the theme of the Red Green Show; let's get creative. Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> place. Red Green's Christmas Show will be on the big screen Saturday night, Harold will be there providing the treats. Come for the fun, there will be other unannounced surprises.

\* Remember the entire campground can be reserved for this event.

For reservations call headquarters at (319) 433-7275.

**Fish Fry; Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!**



This will be our 13<sup>th</sup> fish fry. Our first fish fry was held 16 years ago, my first

summer at McFarlane Park. That first summer I caught and cleaned all the fish and introduced my park friends to my beer-batter fish fry recipe. The first fish fry was done as a special “**thank you,**” to all the people that made my first year so enjoyable. In that tradition, I again plan on catching and cleaning all the fish this year. It will be a terrible burden, many fishing trips will have to be planned, but I will suffer through it. Unlike the first fish fry we will also be serving tantalizing turtle and fabulous frog legs. I suppose this means hunting for snapping turtles and gigging for bullfrogs; another burden I shall bare. We also will provide beverages and Iowa's best sweet corn. The fish fry will be held August 20 and as always bring a side dish, a table setting, and appetite. In keeping with the current economic situation, there will be no cost and no donation can, it's Free! Free! Free! Campers and guests only, you may want to consider making a reservation.. Come and join the fun, and again **Thank You!**

### **Programs**

Come and join me this summer for our nature programming series. We will start the year off May 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial week-



end talking about portable housing, that means turtles. We will explore the turtles of Iowa and talk about why some are doing very well,

while others are not. For a little extra fun amazing metamorphoses. Information

we will bring out the turtle board and have racing competition. Fast turtles and prizes will be provided. For those who want to come along, we will be releasing our turtle friends after the program. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> , Fourth of July week-end we will be doing a pond study. Hopefully this year we will have normal precipitation so we can get into our pond. Plan on wearing old shoes and old clothes cause we will be going into the pond. With fish nets and dip nets we will explore and learn about pond ecology. It will be wet and wild, frogs, tadpoles, salamanders, bugs, and turtles “Oh MY!”

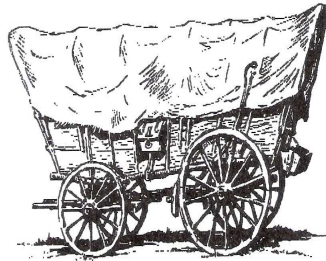
On September 3<sup>rd</sup> , Labor Day week-end we will explore the slithering, scaly, serpentine world of Iowa snakes. Bring the family, distant cousins, and all your friends, this is one you do not want to miss. I have snake study boards placed in many of wildlife areas and will collect a few specimens for this talk. Yes, for you touchy-feely people out there that want to explore nature up close and personal; you will have the opportunity to hold a snake! Come join us, if you touch or hold a snake you will be rewarded with a special certificate declaring you a “Snake Friend.”

When the Monarch Butterflies return and start laying eggs, we will have a special display showing the eggs, caterpillars, chrysalis, and butterflies emerging from the chrysalis. Once we stock the butterfly exhibit with monarch eggs, it will be available for viewing every week-end. Come watch this

explaining the monarchs' life cycle will also be on display.

### **Wagon Rides /Festival Of Trails**

The festival of trails will be held in La Porte City Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be lots of attractions



including a parade, fireworks, bands, food booths, carnival rides, baseball tournament, car show, and more.

McFarlane Park will be offering trail rides on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Starting at the shelter near the ball diamonds, the rides will begin at 9:00 A.M., the last ride will depart at 3:00 P.M. Tickets can purchased for the rides at the shelter at a cost of \$3 per person. There will be no charge for infants that are held on your lap. Allow a half hour for round trips, enjoy the scenic ride on the nature trail.

### **New and Improved**

Yes, there is much to say about improvements at McFarlane Park. First of all with the help of the Friends of McFarlane volunteers, the support of Black



Hawk County Conservation Board, the Gaming Association, GMAC, and Aspro, we now have a new playground. In fact

we will have two playgrounds. The volunteers did so well with the fund-raising that we will purchase another piece of playground equipment along with two toddler swings. The extra playground will include a swing-set, a sand digger and a multi-pondo, and will be located South of the shelter. The new playground is located in the campground and will be called Friends of McFarlane playground, and will be dedicated in memory of Patti Kautz, a McFarlane friend.

We will also see a new black-topped



road into McFarlane Park. The road is now about two thirds done and I would expect it to be finished before Memorial week-end. Along with the road there will be an

addition to the park of another twelve acres located across from the ranger's residence. The area was used for fill dirt to widen the new black-top road. After the road work is finished, this new twelve acres will be the site of several new wetlands, along with prairie and tree plantings. It will also be the site of a new proposed McFarlane shop. It will be exciting to watch the area develop and see what new wildlife will make it their home.

### **Adventure Everywhere**



Prices are up, unemployment is high, and the economy is

moving at snail speed. Good news, McFarlane park is a real adventure bargain. Take a vacation close to home, save on gas and hotel bills; come to McFarlane Park. McFarlane is family friendly; we have a new playground and the Cedar Valley Nature Trail is at our entrance. LaPorte City just 2 miles west has a near new aquatic center and less than a mile from the park is the LaPorte City Golf Course. We host numerous park programs and celebrations in the park, see our friends website for details [mcfarlanecvnt.com](http://mcfarlanecvnt.com) . If you like to fish, boat, canoe or kayak, McFarlane offers water recreation possibilities; it is located at the confluence of the Cedar River and Wolf Creek. The park trails and the nature trail offer unique wildlife and bird watching opportunities. Leave the city life, but don't go far, and don't spend a lot of money. McFarland Park has it all: camping, cabin and shelter rental, playgrounds, picnic areas, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, golfing, park celebrations, nature programming and last but not least, solitude. McFarlane Park is a one-stop adventure holiday, but not a budget buster.

**Halloween: “Alice in Wonderland”**

We will take you on a child's fantasy adventure this year with the presentation of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. Our Halloween celebration will



unfold the week-end of September 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> . Follow the White Rabbit and Alice through the rabbit hole into wonderland. You will meet

many familiar characters: the Dormouse, Mad Hatter, the Caterpillar, the Dutchess, the Cheshire Cat, the Queen of Hearts, and the Mock Turtle. Take a ride through wonderland and help Alice get through this nonsensical journey.



We will be having many of our usual events; apple dunking, pumpkin carving, scavenger hunts, movie with popcorn, a campground decorating contest, and a costume contest. Don't be

surprised if some of the Wonderland characters show up for these events. We will have pumpkins available for a minimal charge. There will be prizes awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> places for campsite decorating, special significance will be given to Alice in Wonderland themes. There will also be prizes awarded for both adult and kids (12 & under) costumes. We will also sponsor an “Off with his head!” contest, prizes will be rewarded. The Queen of Hearts will preside over this contest.

On Saturday at noon, we will have our potluck. We will furnish “It Tastes So Good” chili for all, along with beverages.

There will be no cost for the meal. As always bring a side dish, table setting and an appetite.

\* Remember, the entire campground can be reserved. Call early, sites usually fill up for this event. For reservations, call headquarters at (319) 433-7275.