

## **Trail Talk**

By Steve Litts, Executive Director  
Dickinson County Trails Board

### **2010 EVENTS**

Hope you received your 2010 Events Calendar and you're making plans to take part in several of the Iowa Great Lakes Trails events this year. If you didn't receive your Trails Events Calendar, pick one up at The Three Sons, in Milford, Okoboji Expedition Co, in Okoboji or go to <http://www.co.dickinson.ia.us/departments/trailsboard>. Our updated map includes the newest trails for 2010 and two scheduled for construction in 2010: Garlock Slough and Silver Lake.

### **DCTB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

It's my pleasure to introduce our newest DCTB Director, Dr. Brad Jones. Dr. Jones has been an active leader in the Great Lakes community, serving on several boards including the Wahpeton City Council. Jones enjoys golf, snowskiing, sailing, jogging and walking. He and his wife, Sheryl, have four children: Scott, Kate, Matthew and Hannah, and one grandchild, Anika. It is our honor to have Brad representing Wahpeton.

Please take time to thank all our directors for the dedicated volunteer service they perform for the county: Erin Reed, president, Barry Sackett, vice president, Marlys Weed, secretary, Don Eckard, Susan Hoiem, Robb Keizer, Billi Niemeier, Jeanne Sieh, Yvonne Taylor and Pam Jordon, liaison to the Board of Supervisors.

### **X-COUNTRY SKIING**

Our grooming sled at Brooks caught fire recently so our trail at Brooks is not suitable for skiing, but Eric Hoiem, one of our volunteer groomers, tells me the trails at Hogsback and Marble Lake are the best he's seen in over a decade. There's a world of great x-country skiing adventures available on the Dickinson County trails.

### **ANNUAL RETREAT**

Your Dickinson County Trails Board conducts a Planning Retreat each January to assess our progress and set new goals for the coming year. This year we invited members of the Osceola County Conservation Board and the Osceola County Board of Supervisors to join us at the Retreat. The focus of our discussion was on the development of a trail on the recently acquired railroad right-of-way. DCCB's first goal is to connect the Iowa Great Lakes Trail to Lake Park and then on to the Dickinson/Osceola county line, just west of Lake Park. OCCB will be working eastward to connect their current Ed Winkle Memorial Trail to Dickinson County. A hard surface trail on the railroad bed will take several years to complete, but the exciting journey has begun. We'll keep you informed through the media and our webpage.

### **RESTRICTIONS FOR MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE ON TRAILS**

Though motorized vehicles on the trails are prohibited, if the need exists, DCTB is able to grant permission to use certain types of motorized equipment to allow utilization of the trail system. DCTB requires documentation establishing the individual's need for

assistance to use the trail system. This can be in the form of a copy of the individual's permit to use handicapped parking or a letter from your physician stating your need for assistance. The following is a list of rules and regulations that must be followed by those issued a trail permit.

1. Trail permit must be in the owner's possession at all times when operating a motorized vehicle on the trail and display the emblem in a visible place on the vehicle at all times when operating the vehicle on the trail system.
2. The permit holder must either be the operator or passenger of the vehicle while on the trail.
3. Motor vehicles used on the trail cannot exceed 4'8" in width.
4. Motorized vehicles used on the trail will be those designed and developed for use by handicapped persons, golf carts or other vehicle approved by the DCTB.
5. A slow moving vehicle sign will be in plain view and attached to the rear of the motorized vehicle.
6. Operation of a permitted vehicle will be from sunrise to sunset only.
7. Vehicles will stay on trail surface and use the right side of the trail only.
8. Persons operating motorized vehicles on the trail will yield right-of-way to all other trail users. Caution and courtesy will be shown to other trail users at all times.
9. It is the responsibility of the person issued the permit to assure that he/she or the person who is driving the vehicle for them is capable and will operate the motorized vehicle in a safe and cautious manner.
10. The permit is only for the sections of trail that are designated for trail use only. All trail segments that are located on city or county roads are not covered by this permit. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain permission from the proper authorities to operate his/her vehicle on these areas.
11. Failure to comply with these rules and regulations will result in revocation of permit and all privileges pertaining to the same.

**February's Trail Talk** will share information from the Iowa Bicycle Summit. Until then, as always, Happy Trails to you and yours.