

Crawford Creek To Be Dedicated

Crawford Creek Park, two and a half miles south of Battle Creek, will be dedicated in ceremonies set for 7 p.m., Friday, June 19. Rain date is June 20.

The 256-acre recreation project is sponsored by three organizations: Ida Soil Conservation District, Ida County Board of Supervisors and Ida County Conservation Board. The park has been

under construction for four years and is the first area in the Little Sioux Flood Prevention project to include a public recreation area.

Scheduled to speak at the event are Burdelle Knudsen, chairman of the Ida Soil Conservation District commissioners; Bruce Brock, chairman of the Ida County Conservation Board; William Brune, state conservation

official; Bill McGill, from the state Department of Soil Conservation; Elvie Dreeszen, state senator; and Wayne Swanger, Ida County supervisor. Also set to speak are Elvin Leonard, former Ida County supervisor; Wayne Bennett, formerly of the Soil Conservation District; and Dr. K.W. Gray, member of the county Conservation Board.

No chairs will be provided at the ceremonies, so observers are encouraged to bring their own blankets or lawn chairs. A brochure on the park will be available at the event.

The 62-acre lake and its surrounding park includes fishing, swimming, boating, camping, hiking and picnic facilities.

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Conservationists Reap Awards

Four Ida County farm families and Ida County itself have been honored in the past year for their soil conservation techniques and projects.

Bert F. Eason Jr. and Harlen Dausel of Battle Creek and Vance and Beulah Grell of Galva received the Marc Cox award while Ransom Leonard is the winner of the county wildlife habitat award. Ida County was cited for the community conservation award, also under the Marc Cox contest.

Ida County is the winner in a six-county district in the

Marc Cox community conservation contest. Other counties in this district are Cherokee, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Sac and Pocahontas. The Marc Cox awards involve 59 counties in the four states around Sioux City.

Ida County was cited for the Crawford Creek recreation project, which originated about 10 years ago. Local soil conservation district commissioners and the Ida County Conservation Board, with the county board of supervisors, sponsored the facility, which is a part of the

Little Sioux Watershed Flood Prevention project.

As a result, a 252-acre park, with a 62-acre lake, and its facilities were constructed. Residents of Crawford, Monona, Woodbury and Ida Counties use the park, which is south of Battle Creek, off county road L-51.

The other Marc Cox awards went to the three families.

Bert Eason relies heavily on a well-managed pasture program for income on his 615-acre farm near Battle Creek, according to Don Kauffman of the Ida Soil Conservation office.

Kauffman added that Eason's key to his program includes fertilization of his pastures, proper timing of grazing and rotation of his cattle grazing. He also uses a single species of grass in his pastures, Kauffman said.

Harlen Dausel spent 14

years as a soil conservation district commissioner. He incorporates contouring, crop rotation, terraces and grassed waterways as well as a 1.6-acre windbreak above his building site. Kauffman said the windbreak, which is about six to eight years old, is Dausel's strong point in his conservation efforts.

A longtime family interest in conservation led to the award being given to Mrs. Beulah Grell and her son, Vance, of Galva. They operate a 319-acre farm in Silver Creek Township which is mostly cropland (with some oats and hay). Their farm is protected by terraces (nearly four miles' worth), conservation tillage, grassed waterways and a farmstead windbreak. They also have installed two miles of terraces in the last three years.

Ransom Leonard, of Holstein, was named the county's recipient of the wildlife habitat award. After returning from the war in 1945, he settled on his present farm and began a working conservation plan in 1951. He practices contouring and crop rotation and has installed many terraces in his fields.

A user of conservation tillage since 1969, Leonard has established an excellent windbreak and wildlife areas, Kauffman said. "Many of his fields have borders and he has generous grass waterways," the district conservationist added.

His original interest in wildlife habitats came when his four sons were active in scouting, and its associated programs on the outdoors and wildlife.

Ida Conservationists Adopt Soil Limit Loss Regulation

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Beginning today, Oct. 1, Ida countians will be required to comply with soil loss limit regulations when undertaking land-disturbing activities on non-agricultural land and construction sites.

Tuesday night the Ida County Soil Conservation District commissioners conducted a public hearing on the regulations, and when no one objected to the regulations, they adopted them unanimously. At the core of the regulations is a provision that the party who is disturbing the land agrees not to allow more than five tons of soil per acre per year to leave the construction site.

The local requirement has been established in accordance with Section 467 A.64 of the Code of Iowa, as amended by Senate File 262 during the last General Assembly. According to the regulations, anyone in Ida County who is planning a land-disturbing activity on non-agricultural land and construction sites must sign an affidavit indicating the land-disturbing activity will not violate the soil conservation district's established soil loss limits.

Examples of land-disturbing activities include tilling, clearing, grading, excavating, transporting or filling of land which may result in soil

erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediment and sediment-related pollutants into waters or lands in the state, with certain exemptions. Road building, for example, is exempted since the state and county have their own regulations for soil conservation practices.

Don Kauffman, district soil conservationist, explained Tuesday night that an individual will continue to follow the regulations of a government subdivision such as a city or county as long as the governmental

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unit has a set of regulations concerning soil loss. If there are no regulations, those of the soil conservation district are in force.

There were no comments during the public hearing, but after the conclusion of the hearing, one of the soil commissioners asked if the new development by Midwest Industries on the west edge of Ida Grove would be subject to the soil loss limits. Kauffman said any activity in Ida that commences on Oct. 1 is subject to the regulations.

New watershed forms in Galva, Holstein area

Landowners from the Galva-Holstein-Schaller areas met in Galva Thursday, March 19 to organize a watershed. The purpose of organizing landowners in the 70-square-mile area is to combine efforts in controlling soil and water erosion and to take advantage of the Little Sioux Watershed flood prevention program.

The meeting opened with a slide presentation on the history and need for the Little Sioux Watershed program. Don Kauffman, district conservationist for Ida county, then presented more information about the program.

The Little Sioux Watershed program provides cost-sharing for installation of terraces and other erosion control structures to prevent soil erosion. A landowner or operator isn't eligible for the cost-sharing until the area becomes an organized watershed. Portions of Logan, Galva and Silver Creek townships in Ida county would be combined with Eureka and Cook townships of Sac county to form the watershed district.

Floyd Schnirring, Sac county extension director, explained that 50 percent of the landowners should be district co-operators and that the group needed to elect a watershed

committee. Members of the committee selected are Everett Waller, chairman; John Higgins, Arlo D. Radke and Don Friedrichsen. On the committee from Sac county are Darold Jacobson and Jim Young.

If the Ida-Sac area receives final approval from the Little Sioux Watershed committee, the main conservation practice will be the installation of terraces.

Cost-share money is limited, Kauffman said, but an increase in funds is expected this October.

Watershed Being Organized For North Part Of County

program.

The meeting opened with a slide presentation on the history and need for the Little Sioux Watershed program. More details of the program were presented by Don Kauffman, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service for Ida County. The Little Sioux Watershed program provided cost-sharing for the installation of terraces and erosion control structures for the prevention of soil erosion. A landowner or operator is not eligible for Little Sioux Watershed cost-sharing until his or her area is in an organized watershed. Portions of Logan, Galva and Silver Creek townships in Ida County would be combined with Eureka and Cook townships of Sac County to form a watershed district of approximately 108 square miles.

Sac County Extension Director Floyd Schnirring explained a minimum of 50 per cent of the landowners

should be district cooperators, and the group should elect a watershed committee. After questions and comments, the group elected a committee consisting of four members from Ida County and two from Sac. Committee members for Ida are: Everett Waller, chairman; John Higgins, Arlo D. Radke and Don Friedrichsen. From Sac, Darold Jacobson, vice chairman, and Jim Young will serve.

If the Ida-Sac area receives final approval from the Little Sioux Watershed Committee, the main conservation practice involved would be the installation of terraces. Kauffman said cost-share money is presently very limited, but an increase of funds is expected this October. He explained with the organization of a watershed the people of this area will be able to take advantage of the cost-sharing when the money becomes available.

Green Ash: A Gift For Fifth Graders

Ida County fifth graders will be planting Green Ash seedlings during the week of April 20, according to the Plant Iowa Committee.

The trees will be given to a total of 154 fifth graders in Odebolt-Arthur, April 17; Galva-Holstein, April 24; Battle Creek, April 21; and Ida Grove, April 24.

Don Kauffman, district Soil Conservation Service Commissioner, and Russ Olson, county extension director, will demonstrate how the trees should be planted. Local organizations will donate money to buy the seedlings.

Green Ash is an excellent tree for both home grounds and street planting, according to Olson.

Ashes grow fast, resist most insects and disease, cast a light, filtered shade

which allows nice thick lawn, are tolerant of trampling (soil compaction), and are fairly easy to care for and maintain, he explains. Ashes have opposite compound leaves with oval pointed leaflets growing opposite one another along the leaf stalk with a single leaflet growing at the end.

The Green Ash leaves are rather fern-like and in the fall they turn nice shades of yellow. When the leaflets drop, they crumble and sink into the grass, so raking is usually unnecessary.

"Seedless Green Ash varieties are among the most popular shade trees," according to Jean Olson, extension landscape architect at Iowa State University. "They have very shiny, dark green leaves, excellent fall color, and are very vigorous, hardy

trees that are easy to transplant. In addition, they have no seed clusters, and therefore don't produce any unwanted seedlings in your flower beds. "Seedless Green Ash are quite tough, and don't break up in windstorms."

By contrast, Russ Olson notes, most ordinary ashes have male and female flowers on separate trees. The inconspicuous little greenish flowers appear in early spring, followed in a few weeks on the female trees by stringy clusters of one-inch paddle shaped seeds that cling until fall. Male trees have very small cones, resembling those of evergreens. Some folks don't find the seed clusters very attractive, the Ida extension director says. Eventually, the seeds produce seedlings,

which you probably don't want. Both the seed clusters and the seedlings can be avoided by planting seedless varieties, Olson says.

Green Ash is one of the most popular ash species, because it is suited to so many growing conditions. Although it will grow quite well almost anywhere in Iowa, it does best in full sun and rich, well-drained soils, Olson says. Enriched soils that are deep enough to accommodate the trees long root structure, Green Ash often reaches a height of 40 to 60 feet with a spread of 30 to 40 feet.

Extension forester Paul Wray, at Iowa State University, points out that Green Ash is also one of the best trees to use as firewood.