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Subject: Press Release

From: Friends of Blackburn State Park

Sharon Nyquist, sharon.nyquist@outlook.com

F-M Student Earth Day at Blackburn Park

By Sharon Nyquist

Students from Mike Younts' biology class at Fremont-Mills High School attended an Earth Day Celebration on April 17th at Blackburn State Park. It was hosted by the Friends of the Park organization.



Bill Blackburn speaks to a group about the history of the land.

The students were welcomed by DNR Park Manager Matt Moles and founder of the park, Bill Blackburn. When asked about the event, Mr. Younts stated, "I feel it's important to expose students to nature and history of our region. They truly enjoy coming out to the park". The students enjoyed a wide range of activities for the day. These included a tree tour with placement of tree labeling signs by Lindsey Barney, District Forester with Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The new tree tags have QR codes to be scanned to access additional information about each tree. Glenn Pollock, naturalist and park manager at Vincent Bluffs State Preserve in Council Bluffs, led a woodland flowers tour which identified several rare species. A historical talk and tour conducted by Ken Forney and Bill Blackburn included a visit to some pioneer sites. A wildlife program displaying numerous animal pelts was performed by Marlowe Wilson, Conservation Officer with the Iowa DNR.



Example of new tree tag.



Tree tour group preparing to label trees.

Jonathan Lloyd, a local disc (frisbee) golf enthusiast, engaged students in playing the game. He is exploring the introduction of the sport at the park. Those interested in learning more about disc golf at Blackburn State Park should email rollinghillsdiscgolf@gmail.com



Fun with disc golf.

Volunteers for the day included: Mary Howery, Greg Pierce, Cheryl Jones, Lorna Blackburn, Dale Stephens, Fred Bolton, Mike and Angie Blackburn,

Cherine Bashira, Beth Blackburn, Ken Forney, Glenn Pollock, Jonathan Lloyd, Luke Forney, Bill and Sara Blackburn, and Sharon Nyquist.

Like or follow “Friends of Blackburn State Park” on Facebook for more photos and information about events at the park.



Lunch was served by F-M teacher, Mike Younts.

Blackburn State Park, the state’s newest park, is located at 1291 Cemetery Road northeast of Thurman, IA.

The Friends of the Park will be hosting a volunteer day in September and another Earth Day event next year in April. If you’d like to join the Friends group, please contact Sharon Nyquist (sharon.nyquist@outlook.com).

Tax-deductible donations may be made to support the Friends of Blackburn State Park by Venmo (@FriendsOBSP), online at the park’s website (Google

“Blackburn State Park-Golden Hills”), or by check payable to “Friends of Blackburn State Park” and sent to Glenwood State Bank, Tabor Branch, 711 Main St., Tabor, IA 51653.



Class on overlook deck.