



MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

3300 Cedar Street P.O. Box 109 Muscatine, IA 52761 (563) 264-5922 email: conservation@muscatainecountyiowa.gov jo

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PRESCRIBED FIRE EQUIPMENT CACHE AVAILABLE FOR USE

Supplies are available free of charge to landowners who have completed course, workshop

MUSCATINE, Iowa – The Nature Conservancy staff delivered a shipment of supplies to the Muscatine County Conservation Board's (MCCB) Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area on Friday (March 7, 2025) to establish a reserve of prescribed fire equipment. The cache includes prescribed fire specific tools such as drip torches, flappers, council rakes, backpack water sprayers, a kestrel weather system, and personal protective equipment.

This fire cache is available, free of charge, to landowners who have completed the Prescribed Fire Workshop for Landowners that has been offered every other year since 2006 by the Great Rivers Alliance of Southeast Iowa. The class was most recently held on February 13 in Lee County. The fire cache is also available to people who have taken the Federal S130/190 Wildland Firefighting series of classes.

The cache can easily be loaded into most vehicles but please be mindful that fuel may be present in some of the equipment. There is also a cache located in Louisa County that landowners have been utilizing for several years. The Fire caches can be reserved for up to four-days at a time, free of charge.

If you qualify, and are interested in borrowing items from the Muscatine County Fire Cache, please



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contact MCCB at 563-264-5922 or conservation@MuscatineCountyIowa.gov. To borrow items from the Louisa County Fire Cache, please contact LCCB at 319-523-8381 or conservation@LouisaCountyIa.gov.

The Great Rivers Alliance of Southeast Iowa is made up of conservation professionals. It includes The Nature Conservancy, the Bur Oak Land Trust, NRCS offices, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever, the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Iowa DNR, and the following County Conservation Boards: Johnson, Muscatine, Washington, Louisa, Des Moines, and Lee. The group partners together on a diversity of topics to improve biodiversity, protect fragile ecosystems, and promote good land stewardship.

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Cutline for photo:

Isabelle Bruder and Athena Frasca worked for The Nature Conservancy on the Anna Beal Intern Crew in



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2022. They are pictured in front of the fire, wearing full personal protective clothing including Nomex jumpsuits, helmets, Nomex neck shrouds, leather boots, and leather gloves. They are holding drip torches and a McLeod fire tool. Safety is the most important part of prescribed fire. Safety for the crew, the equipment, the resource, and adjoining property owners. Please be aware of current and anticipated fire weather conditions and fire behavior prior to conducting a prescribed burn. (Photo by Dale Maxson, The Nature Conservatory)



Cutline for photo:

The Nature Conservancy is partnering with Muscatine County Conservation to provide a prescribed fire cache of equipment to help landowners more safely conduct prescribed fire on their own land. In order to be eligible to borrow equipment, landowners must have previously attended a Prescribed Fire Workshop for Landowners or taken the Federal S130/190 Wildland Firefighting Class. Pictured in the photo (l-r) is Dale Maxson with The Nature Conservancy holding a flapper next to Muscatine County Conservation staff: Katie Hammond holding a drip torch; Kent Kauffman with some PPE including a



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Nomex, fire resistant, shirt, and fire helmet; and Trevor Ebeling with a backpack, bladder bag water sprayer.