

Iowa's Walking Club August 2020

Member meetings

While weather permits, we will meet outside! Let's get together the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM for a business meeting and friendship.

Aug 17 Gray's Lake, John Grubb Lane, Des Moines.

Follow the road to the end (far) parking lot. Come early and do the Des Moines Waterways walk (walk box will be at the meeting). Bring bug spray, water, and a chair.



Sept 21 Legion Park, 301 Vine St, West Des Moines.

Come early and do the West Des Moines Historic Valley Junction walk (walk box will be at the meeting). Bring bug spray, water, and a chair.

NOTE: This will be a coin drive—pay your walk fee with your change! People have not been spending coins at places like laundromats, banks, restaurants, or shops because the businesses are closed, or people are not visiting them as often as they were before the pandemic. There's a shortage!

Sad news

Joan Ackerman died unexpectedly on July 22, 2020. Joan was responsible for making arrangements with Capitol Hill Lutheran Church for the club to meet there. The obituary will be posted at <http://funeralinnovations.com/obituary/481660/Joan-Ackerman/>

Changed year round and seasonal walks



Altoona – Hours Changed: Monday-Friday 5 AM-1 PM, 4 PM-8 PM; Saturday 7 AM-Noon

Amana – Call ahead to check the hours of the start point.

Brighton Lake Darling State Park - The 10K is closed until further notice because of construction. The walk box is at the park office.

Danville Geode State Park - The walk box is at Shelter 1.

Des Moines Beaverdale – The walk box is at 4046 Amick Ave Des Moines 50310-4101. It is in a blue plastic storage box outside where walkers can get to it even if no one is home.

Des Moines Capital and Des Moines Waterways – The walk box is at 1416 Oak Park Ave Des Moines IA 50313-3018. It is inside a Rubbermaid garden storage box next to the driveway behind the house where walkers can get to it even if no one is home. Remote start. Directions to the Start Point will be provided.

Des Moines Easter Lake - The Easter Lake walk box is back at Casey's, 2150 East Army Post Road.

Iowa City – Closed permanently

Prairie City – The walk box has moved. The Visitor Center remains closed, but you can contact Peggy Doane at 515-240-5761 or pjohusker@gmail.com for walk directions and stamped insert card. Be sure to bring water.

Canceled special events and group walks

Aug 1 Bison Day group walk

Aug 29 state parks event sponsored by the Nebraska Trailblazers

Sept 10-16 bus trip

Sept 26 Stephens State Forest group walk
Oct 2-4 North Central Regional Roundup has been canceled. However, the event in the Loess Hills on Oct 4 is still scheduled to take place. See the Nebraska Trailblazers website for more information.

In the rearview mirror

Winterset Group Walk. The group walk on June 27 was terrific! We happened to be there the same weekend as the annual "Airing of the Quilts," a yearly community-wide event featuring the display of hundreds of quilts in dozens of unique and scenic locations.



Wearing masks in Winterset.



Classic cars and vintage quilts.



Even the barns had quilts.

Full Moon Walk on the High Trestle Trail. Great turnout: 150 people showed up for this group walk, of which 20 were walking for credit. We can credit this to Facebook, newspaper coverage, and the desire people have to get out and do something.

Although the **Central Iowa Weekend** was canceled, many walkers met at the Oakwood Shelter at Ledges State Park to walk, play bags, and register for the four walks: Madrid-Ledges State Park, Ames, Madrid-High Trestle Trail, and Boone. Peggy D. brought the Prairie City walk box, which she finally was able to liberate from the closed Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. There were 50 paid walkers split between the five walks. The Christmas decorations did not go well with the temperature in the high 90s!

2021 Planning

[New counties for 2021](#)

The counties have been identified. We hope that the five counties across the northern border should see good traffic because of next year's convention. The start point and rough trail description must be completed by Sept. 1! Time's a-wasting!

- Dickenson - Sheila Condon
- Mitchell and Howard (one walk) – Peggy Watts
- Winneshiek - Phyllis and Norma
- Allamakee – Susan P
- Appanoose – Deb Gaskins
- Warren – Diana W
- Des Moines – Peggy Watts
- Lee – Diana R

Scheduling 2021 events and group walks

On Tuesday, July 28, at 6 PM the officers and interested POCs met at Diana R's to finalize next year's schedule. We have four goals this year:

1. **Tie into the convention.**
2. **Tie into community events and tourist attractions.** Every POC should notify Diana R of any community events that we can promote in our event booklet. Much better to promote the Strawberry Festival than have blank space on the page.
3. **Refresh and update older walks.** POCs should recruit someone to walk their routes and verify that the directions are up to date. If possible, change up the walk a little to increase interest. For example, change the route slightly to pass different homes or sites of interest.
4. **Add group walks or special events "outstate."** We love to travel throughout Iowa!

Convention news

At the meeting, the club voted to volunteer as a group for one walk during the convention. Of course, members can volunteer in other capacities as they desire. We've since learned that we will be in charge of the start tables for the pre-convention walk in Galena IL on June 26. More details will follow!

Tentative schedule:

[http://cb.ava.org/checkpoint/2020/May/Checkpoint-Tentative 2021 Schedule Outline May 2020.pdf](http://cb.ava.org/checkpoint/2020/May/Checkpoint-Tentative%202021%20Schedule%20Outline%20May%202020.pdf)

Club information

Contact us

Email or address change gdmva.iowa@gmail.com

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Quick links

[GDMVA, Iowa's Walking Club](#)

[The American Volkssport Association](#)

[The International Federation of Popular Sports](#)

Facebook at facebook.com/iowaswalkingclub.org/

Officers

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Newsletter

The newsletter is published on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The deadline for photos and proposed articles is the 3rd Monday of the month.

Meeting minutes

Minutes are available at the meetings, on our [website](#) [on the membership page](#), or upon request.



A volksmarcher at Whiterock Conservancy in Coon Rapids