

Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD SUMMER 2017

Get Outdoors!

By Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator

We've all heard the reports—being outdoors is good for our health, both physically and mentally. When outside, it's easier to exercise and be physically active and also contributes to weight loss. One study found that walking outside increases creativity. The list goes on, improves brain function, increases vitamin D intake, reduces stress, etc... So, let's take action. Challenge yourself to spend time outside each day this summer. Whether it's simply going for a walk, weeding in the garden or sitting on the back deck and watching the sun go down. If you are looking for more, check out our website www.JacksonCCB.com and find information and maps on the numerous parks we manage in Jackson County, such as campgrounds, bike trail, wildlife areas, historic sites, river accesses, fishing pond and nature center. We also invite you to join us for our public events (see page 4). Go for a hike, explore the Maquoketa Caves, rent a canoe and paddle the Maquoketa River, pick up a field guide at the library and learn some new birds or plants found in our woodlands, grab a net and go frogging, pack a picnic. There are so many great outdoor opportunities right here in Eastern Iowa. **We'll see you outside!**

Yellow River Backpacking Trek

July 25—27
2 nights/3 days

Backpacking, camping, hiking, outdoor cooking—some great outdoor fun for 13-18 year olds. Join naturalists with Clinton, Dubuque and Jackson County Conservation in exploring Yellow River State Forest in NE Iowa this July. All gear and food are provided. Cost is \$75; with \$50 scholarships available on a first come first serve basis. Registration required by July 7th. A pre-trip meeting is planned for July 17th.

Summer Day Camps

Ranger Camp
July 11, 12, 13 from 9:00-2:00 each day
Youth in 2nd-4th grade will have fun learning about Iowa's wildlife and habitats through fun games, activities and crafts at the Hurstville Center. Cost: \$35/child.



Explorer Camp
July 18, 19, 20 from 9:00-2:00 each day
Kids in kindergarten-1st grade will have fun exploring nature through games, crafts and activities at the Hurstville Center. Cost: \$35/child.

Adventure Camp in June is full

Registration forms are available at the Hurstville Center or register online at JacksonCCB.com.

Thanks to the Maquoketa Optimist Club, scholarships for camp are available. Simply call our office to request a scholarship for your child to attend camp. Registration is due by the Friday before camp starts. Camps are limited to 20 youth; first come first serve. Lunch and snacks are provided. Questions? Call (563) 652-3783

Hurstville Happenings



Newly Paved Parking Lot

The parking lot at the Hurstville Center, after 13 years on the to-do list, has been paved. A blessing for visitors and maintenance alike, the parking lot is now more accessible and will tie in well with the paved bike trail that will eventually make its way from the City of Maquoketa to the Hurstville Center. Thank you to our visitors for being patient these past couple of weeks.

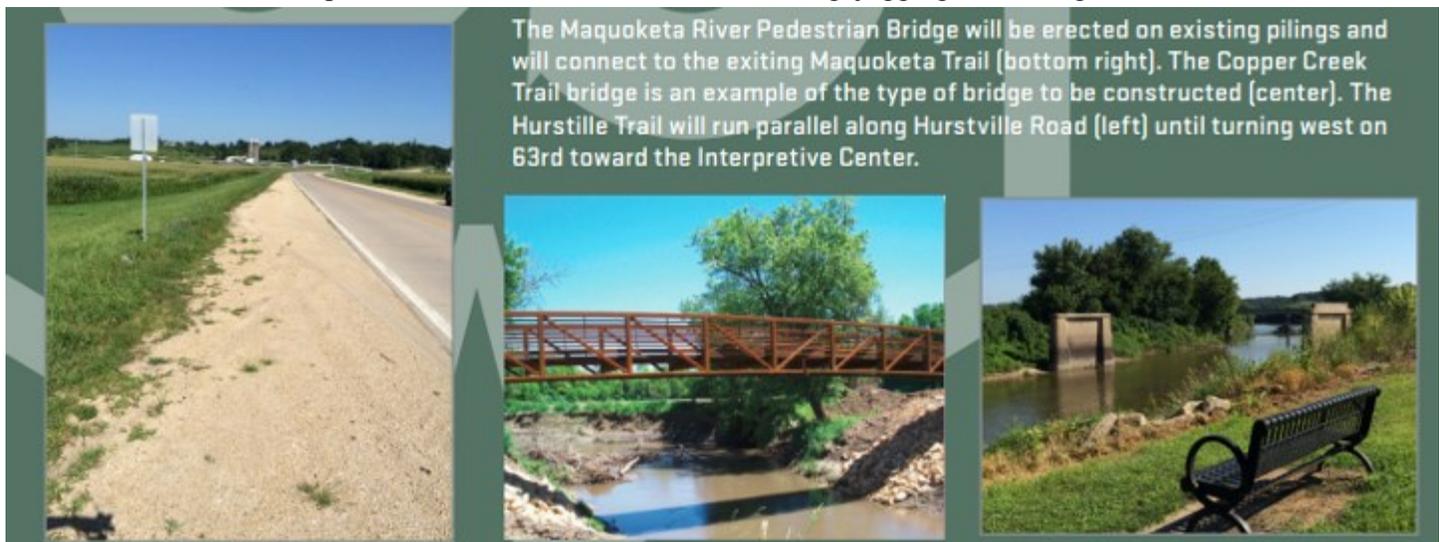
Water Pump for Marsh

A water pump has been purchased and piping is being installed to be able to bring water from the North Fork of the Maquoketa River to the Hurstville Marsh. This will allow us to manage water levels for better habitat; for example, we can flood out the invasive reed canary grass and ensure good water levels during spring and fall migration. *Funding for this project was provided by the Iowa DOT, Whitetails Unlimited Maquoketa Chapter, Friends of Jackson Co. Cons. and Ducks Unlimited.*



Maquoketa—Hurstville Trail

Work begins this fall on the bike trail from the City of Maquoketa to the Hurstville Interpretive Center. The City of Maquoketa has hired a contractor to build the bridge across the river beginning this fall. The Conservation Board will let bids for trail work construction this fall to take place in 2018. There are enough funds to take the trail from the Maquoketa River north to 55th Street. This is part of the Parks to People project, which brings in 15% of the cost of the trail. Funding is still being sought for the trail connecting to the Hurstville Center. The Conservation Board is applying for state and federal recreation trail grants and is accepting private donations for the project. The trail will be 10 foot wide, paved, off road and will allow for walking, jogging and biking.



Trumpeter Swans

As many of you know, we have been part of the Iowa DNR's trumpeter swan reintroduction program for more than 10 years. Following the death of our female, Fredericka, we acquired Ginger from the Chicago Botanical Gardens. This is our third year with Fred & Ginger. Unfortunately, all three years Ginger has laid eggs but none have hatched. We've worked with wildlife biologist, Dave Hoffman, with the Iowa DNR and still haven't figured out the problem. We are sad to report, no cygnets again this year.

Its not all bad news for trumpeter swans though, quite the contrary. Since the trumpeter swan reintroduction program began in the mid-90s, the population of swans in Iowa has increased dramatically. Swans are seen nesting and migrating through all parts of the state. We are excited that a pair of trumpeter swans have nested on the marsh on the west side of Highway 61 from the Hurstville Center two years in a row. Five cygnets were spotted with their parents the first week of June. We have also had swans nesting at Baldwin Marsh for the past 3+ years.

Prairie Creek Connections

Developments continue at Prairie Creek Recreation Area this summer.



Fishing Pond

This spring bluegill and largemouth bass were stocked in the newly constructed fishing pond. Catfish will be stocked next year. In a few years, we anticipate the pond to be a popular fishing spot for anglers.

Pavilion

Community members gathered on May 2nd for the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Pavilion. Construction began the same day and will continue through the summer.



Park News



Trail counters being installed

We recently acquired two trail counters to put at the Copper Creek and Bear River Recreation Trail. The counters will help us gauge visitor use and are part of an Iowa DOT program to aid in future trail planning and grant opportunities for trails.

The counters will be placed at either end of the 6.7 mile trail on posts. We even put stickers letting trail users know these are counters, not cameras!



Sunflower Plots

Park staff planted a little over 5 acres of sunflowers at Pine Valley Nature Area and Buzzard Ridge in early June as food plots for fall dove hunting. Dove hunting has gained popularity since the Iowa DNR opened the first mourning dove season in 2011. Iowa became the 42nd state to have a hunting season for mourning doves. Dove hunting provides an opportunity for hunters of any age or experience level to participate due to an abundance of birds, simple equipment needs and moderate physical activity.

Seasonal Employees

Andy Benson is working as our seasonal naturalist. Andy has 13 years of experience in interpretation and is also an educator at the Mississippi River Museum. Jacob Schmitt, Lillian Kies and Jacob Kloft have been hired as our summer conservation workers. Lily will be a junior at Iowa State University and is studying animal ecology and criminal justice. Jacob Schmitt will be a softmore at South Dakota State University at Brookings and is studying wildlife fisheries sciences.



Andy Benson, Jacob Schmitt, Lily Kies



Our 4th summer of My Community My Future is in full swing. We've hired four high school students from Maquoketa and Easton Valley. Pictured left to right is Naturalist Jen Meyer,

Thomas Detro, Alexis Ganzer, Trace Rosenbohm, Dylan Jones.

Campground Attendants

Jack & Sandra Kempter have returned for their 14th summer at South Sabula Lake Park. Jim & Reba Ellis join us for their 2nd summer at Spruce Creek Park. We are glad to welcome them both back as campground attendants. If you have any questions while visiting either park, please don't hesitate to ask them.



Summer Events

Bows, Slings, Strings, & Things **Sunday, June 18 at 2:00 PM** **Hurstville Fishing Pond**

Is it possible to effectively hunt without firearms? Join Naturalist Andy Benson in learning about rock slings, atlatls, bows, and some of the materials used to make them. Test your skill with these ancient weapons and get a deeper understanding of how our ancestors may have hunted. No outside weapons allowed.

Salad Luncheon **Saturday, June 24 at Noon** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

A delicious array of salads awaits you for lunch made by our wonderful Friends members and volunteers! Freewill donation will be accepted and all proceeds go to the Prairie Creek Pavilion. Stay for the Flowers of the Prairie program following the luncheon.

Flowers of the Prairie **Saturday, June 24 at 1:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Learn more about prairie wildflowers, how to identify them and what medicinal and food uses they served for the pioneers and Native Americans from Danuta Hutchins of Storm Lake. Following the indoor presentation, Danuta will take us outside for a walk in the prairie and a “hands-on” activity of drawing/coloring images of the flowers we learned about and the flowers blooming on the Hurstville Prairie. Come for either the indoor or outdoor component or both! This program is sponsored by the Humanities Iowa Speakers Bureau and Friends of Jackson County Conservation. This program is free and open to the public.



Stream Monitoring **Sunday, July 9 at 2:00 pm** **Hurstville Lime Kilns**

Assist Naturalist Jessica Wagner in conducting basic water chemical, physical and biological measurements on the stream as part of the Iowa DNR’s IOWATER program, a citizen volunteer water monitoring program. Equipment will be provided. Wear clothes and shoes/waders that can get wet. You can also assist from shore. All ages welcome.

Butterfly Roundup **Saturday, July 15 at 10:00 am** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join Naturalist Jen Meyer in catching and identifying the butterflies at the Hurstville Prairie. Learn more about butterflies in Iowa and how to identify them. Nets will be provided. All ages welcome.



Herps Herps Hurray **Saturday, July 22 at 1:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join Naturalist Andy Benson in learning all about reptiles and amphibians of Iowa. Shed skin like a snake, touch live animals and take part in helping collect some critters too!



Paddling Trip on the Maquoketa River **Saturday, July 29 from 9:00—2:00** **Canton-Royertown**

Take in the views while enjoying a leisurely paddle down the river. We have canoes and kayaks available for use or bring your own. We’ll help shuttle people and vehicles from start to end. There is also the option of canoeing Friday evening and camping overnight at Buzzard Ridge and continuing down the river Saturday morning. If interested, contact Emily at Emily@JacksonCCB.com or 652-3783. Registration required by Monday, July 24 at noon.

Sal, Fink, Catfish Wrangler **Sunday, August 6 at 2:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre is coming to town! Live music and lots of fun for all ages! Eulenspiegel celebrates our rivers and prairies with tall tales starring Iowa folk heroine, Sal Fink, legendary daughter of Mike Fink, the mighty keel boatman. Sal tames a bear, wrestles a vicious snake, vanquishes a tornado, and plays with her pet pig, Suey. This program is free thanks to Friends of Jackson County Conservation.

OWLS Day Trip to QCA **Wednesday, August 9**

Join the Dubuque, Jackson & Jones OWL group for a day trip to the Quad Cities. We’ll visit Vanderveer Park and Conservatory, the Quad City Botanical Center, Nahant Marsh, with a lunch stop at the Freight House District. Cost is \$20 and includes all tour fees; lunch on your own. Carpooling is available from the Hurstville Center & Swiss Valley Nature Center. Register by August 3.

Paddling Excursion **Saturday, August 12 at 8:30 am** **Green Island Wildlife Area**

Enjoy a morning of paddling on the wetland. Canoes and kayaks available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Free and open to all ages.



Solar Eclipse Party! **Monday, August 21 at 12:30 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join us for a solar eclipse party! While we are not in the path for a total eclipse, we are going to have fun learning about the sun, make pinhole projectors to safely view the partial eclipse and more activities!



Spring Activities with Jackson County Conservation

Easton Valley 4th graders enjoy an outdoor scavenger hunt as they discover geocaching and how GPS works.



Our May OWL event was a success! We foraged for wild edibles, canoed Catfish Creek and came back to a delicious meal of wild foods. Join us for our next OWL event in August for a day trip to the Quad Cities. Details on page 3.



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Folks gathered at Whitewater Canyon for our annual woodcock walk in April. We were greeted with the male's impressive "sky dance" and also called in some barred owls!

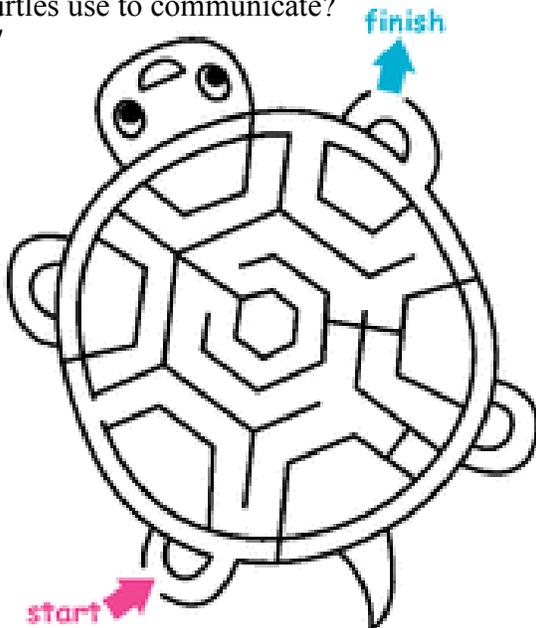


Kid's corner

What kind of jokes do box turtles tell?
Shell-arious ones!

What do turtles use to communicate?
A shellphone!

Visit the box turtles at the Hurstville Center!



Learn about turtles in Iowa at www.HerpNet.net/Iowa-Herpetology/

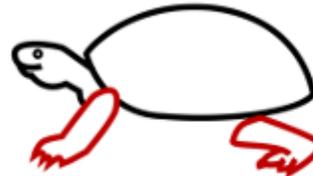
DRAW A BOX TURTLE!



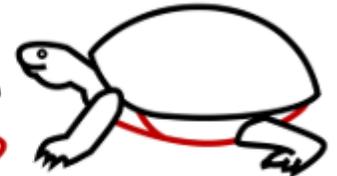
Step 1: Draw the head



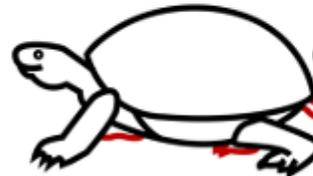
Step 2: Followed by the shell



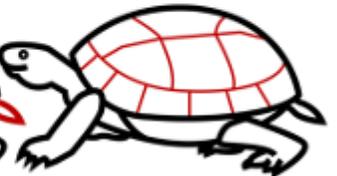
Step 4: Draw the front and hind leg



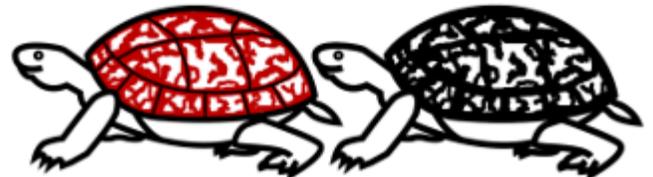
Step 5: Draw the lower shell



Step 6: Add the tail and the other pair of legs



Step 7: Add lines on the top shell



Step 8: Then draw patches on it

Your eastern box turtle is done!



Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Friends Mission Statement

The Friends of Jackson County Conservation brings people together through educational and recreational opportunities in partnership with the Jackson County Conservation Board and inspires people to understand and care for our environment.

Friends Meetings

Join Friends members for one of their quarterly meetings to get involved in environmental education and outdoor recreation in Jackson County.

Meetings are held:

2nd Tuesday of January, April, June and October
7:00 pm at the Hurstville Interpretive Center
Come early for a potluck at 6:30 pm

Next Meeting is October 10th

Friends Membership

Support our efforts and become a member! Membership is from January 1—December 31st.



Friends of Jackson County Conservation Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of Membership (Please check one per form and make checks payable to Friends of JCC)

Student \$5

Regular \$10

Senior Citizen \$5

Family \$20

Sustaining \$50

Individual Life \$500

Amount Enclosed..... _____

Please send membership form and fee to:

Friends of Jackson County Conservation
18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

Prairie Creek Pavilion

We are excited to announce we received a DRA grant for the pavilion for the amount of \$5,000! The Dubuque Racing Association through its gaming and entertainment facilities provides for social, economic and community development.

A big thank you to all of our donors that have contributed to this project. We are truly grateful for your support! We are excited to announce that construction has begun on the picnic shelter and restroom facility. Over 50 people gathered in early May for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Fundraising continues as we make a push to raise the remaining \$10,000.

Donate today!

Join us for the Luncheon Saturday, June 24 to help raise dollars! Details on page 4.



Bus Scholarships

Friends is committed to assisting schools with busing costs for conservation related field trips. \$1,000 is allocated each school year to assist Jackson County schools with transportation costs for field trips. Applications are available on our website at www.JacksonCCB.com.

This spring, Bellevue 5th graders used the scholarship to attend a Geology Day at

Eden Valley Nature Area south of Baldwin. Jackson, Clinton and Jones County Conservation Naturalists collaborated to provide geology related activities to area 5th graders for the day, including spelunking at Werden's Cave, stream geology in Bear Creek, Iowa geology with state geologist Ryan Clark and a landforms hike. A lot of fun was had by all!





A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Jackson County Conservation would like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals, organizations and businesses for their continued support and donations. With your help, we have been able to do so much more!!!

Volunteered for JCCB— Wendy Hainstock, Alice Gilmore, Karen Manning, Mary Hayward, Chris Tubbs, Karen Krueger, Mary Mether, Julie Blanchard, Linda Grobstick, Peg Miller, Randy Turner, Tom Schwenker, Bob Walton, Michelle Turner, Pete Maier, Julie Reuter, Jim England, Pam Bahr, Clayton Pederson, Joe Rauch, Gerald Gordon, Zola McMahan, Dave Gossman, Jennie Wilcox, Linda Skoff, Green Iowa AmeriCorps Members, Ray Hayes, Ann Burns, Lisa Davis, Will Davis, Dave Hayes, Hannah Davidson, Barb McCray, Dean Nelson, Bob Walton, Chris Cornelius, Kathi Atkinson

Donations— Maquoketa Web Printing (office supplies), Kathleen Eltrich (owl pellets), Ben Hoksch (trees), Lisa Davis (candle jars), Chloe Swanson (measuring utensils), Ben Wagner (plants), Ray & Chris Johnson (beeswax)

Donations for Pavilion Groundbreaking—Kathi Atkinson, Chris Cornelius, Jennie Wilcox, Dave Gossman, Barb McCray, Pam True, Chris Tubbs, Julie Retuer, Voy Theatre, KMAQ, Obies Restaurant

Cash Donations—Jane Bentrrott, Amanda & Kyle Leinen, Prudential Financial Employee Match, D.W. Yanda DVM, Jack & Marilyn Willey, Delmar Lions, Chris & Vicki Meinecke, Florian & Karen Steffen, Diane Stockham, Wanda Cornelius, Delwood Kindergarteners, Joseph Tollari, Jeff & Denise Swanson, Jane & Robert Thiel, Robert & Heather Waack, Bob & Ruth Sheets, Nick Willey, Angela Condon, Marcia Killien, Richard Dietz, Mary Jo Gothard, Jane Schmidt, David Gossman, Epworth Elementary PTA, Rock Island Elementary, Jackson County Cemetary Commission, Geraldine Lambert Trust

Donations for Friends Endowment on Great Give Day—Verna Flagel, Anonymous, Chris Nissen, Richard Worm, Wendy Hainstock, RaeAnn Dickinson, Marie Rossman, Pete Maier, Steve & Chris Tubbs, Nancy Van Milligen

Donations for Pavilion on Great Give Day—Kevin & Ann Burns, Daryl Parker, Kathi Atkinson, Sarah Hobbs, Al Tubbs, Pam True, Maquoketa State Bank Employee Match

Jackson County Conservation

Conservation Board Members

Randy Bender, Chair	Bellevue	563/872-5953
Kathy Wosoba	Monmouth	563/673-4551
Larry McDevitt	Maquoketa	319/541-6357
Don Yanda	Maquoketa	563/652-2706
Kathi Atkinson	Sabula	563/343-5888

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm.

Address & Contact Information

Offices at the Hurstville Interpretive Center
18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060

Phone: (563) 652-3783

Fax: (563) 652-2191

Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621

E-mail jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com

JacksonCCB.com

www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter

Conservation Staff

Daryl Parker	Executive Director
Jessica Wagner	Environmental Ed. Coordinator
Ryan Owen	Park Ranger
Jeannie Collins-Heer	Park Ranger
Jerry Widel	Operation Technician
Pam True	Office Manager
Jennifer Meyer	Naturalist
Emily Highnam	Naturalist
Andy Benson	Seasonal Naturalist
Lillian Kies	Seasonal Conservation Worker
Jacob Schmitt	Seasonal Conservation Worker
Jacob Kloft	Seasonal Conservation Worker
Jack & Sandra Kempter	Campground Attendant
Jim & Reba Ellis	Campground Attendant

Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:

In memory of Denny Stange
In memory of Don Nissen
In memory of Willard Peterson
In memory of Curt Gothard
In memory of Owen Wallroff
In honor of White Pine Sierra Club
In memory of Orpha Manning
In honor of True, Bahsen & Thomson Grandchildren



Jackson County Conservation
Hurstville Interpretive Center
18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060

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Hurstville Interpretive Center

Offices for Jackson County Conservation

Hours Monday—Friday 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Saturday—Sunday April-Oct 12:00—5:00 pm
Outdoor Area is open 6:00am—10:30 pm

No Admission Fee!



Holidays:

No Holiday Closings this Spring

We are OPEN Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day

Join the JCCB E-Mail List

You can receive this newsletter plus other correspondence via email. Send your name and e-mail address to jess@jacksonceb.com or go online to http://eepurl.com/_DS4D to join the email list.

In addition to the quarterly newsletter, you can opt in or out of the Hurstville Happenings, Friends JCC list and other email blasts from us.

Bonus, photos and text are in color!

mycountyparks .com

Seeking Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers to help weekends at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Volunteer shifts are 12:30-4:00 on Saturday or Sunday. Tasks include: greeting visitors, answering questions, and other miscellaneous tasks. If you are interested, contact Volunteer Coordinator Kathi Atkinson @ 563-343-5888. There are many other volunteer opportunities at the Hurstville Center and county parks, talk to our staff about how you can help!



Natures Novelties

Do you have a cool rock? A favorite stick? Share the fun, fantastic and just plain weird items you have in your collection. We have a display case that we'd love to fill with your treasures. Items will be on temporary loan and will, of course, be returned to you!