

Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FALL 2017

Prairie Creek Happenings

By Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator

The walls are up, the roof is on, stone is being laid; pavilion construction is coming along nicely. Staff and Friends members are excited for the opening of the pavilion this fall. No date has been set at this time but we'll be sure to get the word out when a grand opening event is planned. Friends is still undergoing fundraising efforts to bring in the remaining dollars necessary for the pavilion. Read through this newsletter to learn more about how you can help fund the pavilion by attending a dinner October 15th, buying raffle tickets or making a donation.

We've received a few phone calls over the summer asking if the park is open. Answer: YES! Even though the road is closed, the park has remained open. There are two parking lots on the east side of the park off 223rd Avenue to access the hiking trails. As I am writing this, the west side is not open to traffic but hopefully that will change by the end of August. The roadway that enters the park from the corner of Summit Street and Jacobsen Drive is finished and leads to the pavilion. The Conservation Board is working with the Maquoketa Police Department to help patrol the park. Once an agreement is signed, the road will open to the public. Please be respectful of ongoing construction.

Now that Phase 1 is nearing completion, the Board is looking at other opportunities at the park. The crop lease expires this year and the Board plans to take 35 acres near the creek out of the lease and plant those fields to pollinator and wetland habitat. The Board received funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant and match dollars from Parks to People, Whitetails Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Friends of JCC and the Iowa Ornithologist's Union to create the pollinator and wetland habitats this fall. The Board will bid out a new crop lease this winter. They'll enter into a 5 year lease for the large field at the southeast side of the park and an option for year to year for the field on the west

side of the park that is the site for the future campground. The Board is in the planning stages and looking at funding options for a campground, as part of Phase 2 for the park.



**Update 9/1/17:
The roadway in
the park is open!**



My Community My Future Youth Corps

A small but mighty crew spent the month of June working to improve public enjoyment of our public areas.

Returning for their second summer were Thomas Detro and Trace Rosenbohm of Easton Valley and joining us for the first time were Dylan Jones and Alexis Ganzer of Maquoketa. Their work this summer included planting milkweed at Prairie Creek, painting the outhouses at Millrock, earning their CPR certification, cleaning up a portion of the Maquoketa River, and they fought a good fight against invasive plants.

MCMF YC began in 2014 and has worked to connect area youth to their environment, strengthen community ties, form positive adult - youth relationships and provide meaningful work experiences. If you would like more information on the program or are interested in sponsoring a student, please contact Jen Meyer, jen@jacksonccb.com.

StoryWalk® at Hurstville

The Jackson County Grade Level Reading Campaign partnered with us to bring literacy and nature together! Visitors to the Hurstville Center can now read a book as they walk the 1/3 mile prairie trail loop.

For our first story, we chose Near One Cattail because it ties in with our wetland and the wildlife that live here. Visitors will find pages from the story laminated and attached to wooden posts as they walk the trail. We hope to change out the story a few times a year. Follow us on Facebook to hear when a new story is put out.

A big thank you to the Philanthropy Board in Jackson County for funding our Story-Walk®.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library and has gained in popularity at libraries, nature centers and other locations throughout the US.



Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee

Bombus affinis

Status: Endangered

Information from USFWS website

www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/

Just 20 years ago, the rusty patched bumble bee was a common sight, so ordinary that it went almost unnoticed as it moved from flower to flower, collecting nectar and pollen. But it's now balancing precariously on the brink of extinction and has become the first-ever bumble bee in the United States to be declared endangered. It was listed on March 21, 2017.

Once abundant across 28 states, the rusty patched bumble bee has experienced a swift and dramatic decline since the late 1990s. Abundance of the rusty patched bumble bee has plummeted, leaving only a few small, scattered populations in 9 states and one province.

As their name states, they have a rusty reddish patch centrally located on their back.

Several rusty patched bumble bees were found in Jackson County on private land by Daryl Parker this summer!



Why conserve rusty patched bumble bees?

Bumble bees are keystone species in most ecosystems, necessary not only for native wildflower reproduction, but also for creating seeds and fruits that feed wildlife.

Bumble bees are among the most important pollinators of crops such as blueberries, cranberries, and clover and almost the only insect pollinators of tomatoes. Bumble bees are more effective pollinators than honey bees for some crops because of their ability to "buzz pollinate." The economic value of pollination services provided by native insects (mostly bees) is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the United States.

What you can do?

- ⇒ Grow native flowers, including trees and shrubs.
- ⇒ Provide something in bloom from spring through fall.
- ⇒ Include native milkweeds for monarch butterflies.
- ⇒ Leave areas of your yard unmowed in summer, unraked in fall and leave plant stems over winter.
- ⇒ Do not use pesticides.

Not only do these things help bumble bees, they can help all our pollinators thrive in our yards and on our land.



Fall Events



Nature Tales: Butterflies

Friday, September 1 at 10:00a

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join us with your pre-school aged tots to learn all about butterflies! Have fun with stories, games, crafts and other activities that relate to the monthly theme. Geared towards children ages 3-5; must be accompanied by a guardian. Nature Tales is held monthly September-April.

Monarch Tagging

Every Saturday in September at 1:00p

Saturday, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Be a part of the Monarch Butterfly's incredible journey to Mexico! We will catch, tag and release monarchs to contribute data to learn more about their migration.



Jelly Night

Thursday, September 7 at 6:30p

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn to make jelly from foraged food with Naturalist Jeny Meyer! This make and take workshop will make a great gift or sweet treat at home! This month will feature elderberry and Queen Anne's lace. Cost is \$5. Registration required.

Bow Hunting Workshop

Sept. 9 from 9a-3p & Sept 10 from 9a-12p

Hurstville Center & Prairie Creek Recreation Area

This hands-on, two day course will build and improve your skills as a bow hunter, just in time for fall deer season. Whether you've bow hunted before or are coming in fresh, you'll come away with a new skill set and appreciation for this technical sport. Instructed by Daryl Parker. Ages 13+. Registration required.

Hike Hamilton Prairie

Tuesday, September 12 at 5:30p

Ray Hamilton's Prairie

Celebrate Iowa Prairie Heritage Week by hiking a privately owned prairie remnant. Ray Hamilton will give us a tour of his prairie, giving a history of the land and highlighting rare species growing abundantly on the property. To get to the prairie: head 4 miles East on 35th St (Codfish Hollow Rd). Turn left on 288th Ave and park near outbuildings.

Day Trip to Seed Savers Exchange

Thursday, September 14 from 8:00a-6:00p

What began as a way to protect a family heirloom is now an operation that has 13,000 members and over 20,000 plant varieties. Tour the facilities that house some of the greatest diversity of vegetable, herb and plant varieties in the country. We will explore other Decorah favorites including Mabe's Pizza for lunch and a tour of the fish hatchery. Cost is \$8. Lunch on your own. Carpooling available from the Hurstville Center and Swiss Valley Center. Registration required.

Butterfly Event & Butterfly Bus!

Saturday, September 16 from 9:00a-3:00p

Hurstville Interpretive Center

The butterfly bus is rolling into town! Rhonda Brady, otherwise known as the "butterfly lady" will showcase butterflies and their habitats in her rolling classroom! Morning learning sessions presented by Master Gardeners, Naturalists and Rhonda Brady are from 9:00-Noon and are geared towards adults. Afternoon activities for all ages! 12:00-3:00 Visit the Butterfly Bus; 1:00 pm Monarch Tagging; 2:00 pm Make & Take a Bug House \$5. Free event.

REAP Assembly—Region 8

Wednesday, October 11 at 6:00-8:00p

Hurstville Interpretive Center

REAP Assemblies are public meetings at which information is given out about REAP and the public can make recommendations about the program. Plan to attend to have your voice heard regarding natural resources in Iowa.

Drive the Rec Trail

Saturday, October 14 10:00-11:00a

Bear River Recreation Trail

We're making a one-hour exception to the motor vehicle rule on the Recreation Trail! Bring your vehicle or 4-wheeler to the Spragueville entrance and drive to Z34 on the trail between 10-11 am only.

Dinner in the Diner

Sunday, October 15 at 12:30p

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Enjoy a special lunch of recipes from the great Railroads of the past, taken from Will C. Hollister's "Dinner in the Diner" cookbook, 1986. Savor a delicious 5-course meal prepared by Friends of Jackson County Conservation members. All proceeds go to the Prairie Creek Pavilion. Tickets are \$20/person and must be purchased in advance.

Grass Between the Rails

Sunday, October 15 at 2:00p

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Celebrate Iowa's railroad heritage with a unique blend of stories and original folk songs about the development of railroads in Iowa from Denny Rehder, a historian from Des Moines. Denny will share with us stories of national importance such as the race across Iowa to connect with the transcontinental railroad to the West, and local history, including the poor service offered by the "Slow Norwegian." Thanks to Humanities Iowa Speakers Bureau, this program is free and open to the public.

Nature Tales: Bats

Friday, October 20 at 10:00a

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join us with your pre-school aged tots to learn all about bats! Have fun with stories, games, crafts and other activities that relate to the monthly theme.

Fall Events Continued...

Voyageur Canoe Paddling Trip

Friday, October 20 at 5:00p

South Sabula Lake Park

Come and learn how to paddle a 29-foot voyageur canoe! Seating for 14 passengers, these large canoes will take you back to the time of fur traders. All ages welcome.

Registration required by October 18.



Youth Outdoor Skills Day

Saturday, October 21 from 9:00a-2:00p

Hurstville Fishing Pond

Youth ages 7-18 are invited to come and learn more about outdoor recreation opportunities such as kayaking, canoeing, fishing, shooting sports, archery and geocaching. Lunch will be provided. Parents can stay or drop off youth. Free event thanks to our sponsor Family Dollar of Maquoketa!

Registration required.

Nature Tales: Leafy Leaves

Friday, November 17 at 10:00a

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join us with your pre-school aged tots to learn all about leaves! Have fun with stories, games, crafts and other activities that relate to the monthly theme.

Natural Soap Making Workshop

Sunday, November 19 at 1:00p

Hurstville Interpretive Center

With recent interest in more "natural" lifestyles, the art of soap making is gaining popularity. Join a naturalist in learning the history, chemistry, process, and benefits of making your own homemade soap. The best part of this class is customizing and taking home your own unique soap. Whether you are using it as gifts or for personal use, you're sure to be hooked on your first batch! Cost is \$10 per person.
Registration & payment required by Nov. 14.



Basket Weaving Workshop

Thursday, December 7 at 5:30p

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Basket weaving is one of the most widely spread crafts in the history of human civilization. And now's your chance to learn this great skill. Beginners to experts can make this fun and unique melon shaped basket. Cost is \$10. Registration required by December 1st.

Nature Tales: Mammals

Friday, December 15 at 10:00a

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join us with your pre-school aged tots to learn all about Iowa's mammals! Have fun with stories, games, crafts and other activities that relate to the monthly theme.

Soil Health

Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes. Soil works for you if you work for the soil! By doing things to improve the health of your soil, you will ensure better soil for your vegetables, crops, and other plants.

What can you do to improve your soil?

- ⇒ **Manage More by Disturbing Soil Less.** Tillage, misapplication of farm inputs and overgrazing are just a few examples of disturbing soil. Too much disturbance is destructive and disruptive to soil microbes and result in a diminished soil food web.
- ⇒ **Diversify Soil Biota with Plant Diversity.** A diversity of plant carbohydrates is required to support the diversity of soil microorganisms in the soil. In order to achieve a high level of diversity, different plants must be grown. Biodiversity is ultimately the key to the success of any agricultural system. Increasing the diversity of a crop rotation and cover crops increases soil health and soil function, reduces input costs, and increases profitability.
- ⇒ **Keep a Living Root Growing Throughout the Year.** Healthy soil is dependent upon how well the soil food web is fed. Providing plenty of easily accessible food to soil microbes helps them cycle nutrients that plants need to grow. Plant cover crops and perennials.
- ⇒ **Keep the Soil Covered as Much as Possible.** Soil cover conserves moisture, reduces temperature, intercepts raindrops (to reduce their destructive impact), suppresses weed growth, and provides habitat for members of the soil food web that spend at least some of their time above ground.

A graphic from the USDA/NRCS Soil Health campaign. It features a stylized sun-like shape with a dotted outline. To its right, the text reads: "One teaspoon of healthy soil contains 100 million-1 billion individual bacteria". Below this, smaller text says "Source: Soil Biology Primer page c-1 (Elaine Ingham, Andrew R. Moldenke, Clive Edwards)". At the bottom left is the USDA logo with the text "United States Department of Agriculture". On the right, it says "Want more soil secrets? Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov". A small note at the bottom center states "USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer".

One teaspoon of *healthy* soil contains

**100 million-
1 billion** individual bacteria

Source: Soil Biology Primer page c-1 (Elaine Ingham, Andrew R. Moldenke, Clive Edwards)

Want more soil secrets?
Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Registration
Some programs require advance registration.
To sign up, call us at (563) 652-3783
or go online to JacksonCCB.com

Graphic and text from USDA/NRCS Soil Health Campaign. More information can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/

Summer Activities with Jackson County Conservation



Adventure Camp participants learned how to build and start a fire.



Danuta Hutchins demonstrates how to sketch prairie flowers during her presentation in June.



For some reason we always end up swimming in the marsh during summer day camps!

Jason Johnson and fellow boy scouts next to the snake hibernaculum they built at Prairie Creek for his Eagle Scout Project.



Kid's corner

Raising Butterflies!

It can be very rewarding to watch a caterpillar transform into a butterfly.

1. Find caterpillars. This time of year, monarchs can be found on milkweed plants.
2. Put your caterpillars in an aquarium, cage or other suitable container in your home. Make sure air gets into the cage, it is clean and large enough.
3. Feed your caterpillars. You must feed your caterpillars the right foods. Monarchs will require fresh milkweed leaves daily. They get their water from their food.
4. Keep your cage clean. You will need to clear out the caterpillars waste and old food regularly.
5. Watch your caterpillar turn into a chrysalis and then a butterfly! Release your butterfly soon after it emerges.

We are rearing monarch caterpillars at the Hurstville Center. Come and take a look during September!



Coffee Filter Butterfly Craft

Simple materials, easy to do and fun for all ages!

Materials:

- coffee filter
- washable markers
- squirt bottle with water
- pipe cleaner

Instructions:

1. Flatten out a coffee filter on a plate.
2. Color the filter with washable markers.
3. Use a squirt bottle and spray the coffee filter.
4. Let dry.
5. Scrunch the filter and wrap a pipe cleaner around the center. Twist the ends to hold the coffee filter tightly and create the antennae.
6. Fluff the wings a little bit to make a perfectly lovely little butterfly!
7. Display it! You can hang your creation in the window for the light to shine through or in a group from the ceiling. Make a mobile. String up several to make a curtain. Be creative!





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 their quarterly meetings to get involved in environmental education and outdoor recreation in Jackson County.

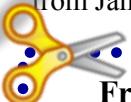
Meetings are held:

**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 31.



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

Buy your ticket now for a Friends Fundraiser event:
Dinner in the Diner
Sunday, October 15 at 12:30 p
Details on calendar of events page!

Friends of JCC
Raffle Ticket Fundraiser

Enter for your chance to win
1 of 3 great prizes!

Tickets on Sale Now!
\$300 Cash,
Bike or Canoe!

\$5/ticket \$5 5 for \$20

Drawing October 23, 2017

Proceeds go to Prairie Creek Pavilion

DesignMyOwn.com

Buy a ticket, help us build! We are so close to completing our fundraising efforts for the Prairie Creek Pavilion. Help us with this final push. Tickets can be purchased at the Hurstville Center, online at www.mycountyparks.com/county/Jackson/Events.aspx, or mailing a check to Friends of JCC 18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, Iowa 52060.

Tickets on sale September 5—October 20

Prizes: \$300 cash, WaterQuest Canoe with trolling motor, valued at \$300 and a Sun Cruiser Bike, valued at \$100.



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—Dean Nelson, Wendy Hainstock, Alice Gilmore, Ann Burns, Chris Tubbs, Mary Hayward, Karen Manning, Mary Mether, Jennie Wilcox, Michael Jordan, Dakota Jordan, Casey Bock, Ray Hayes, Lou Behrend, Judy Bickford, Bill Schwenker, Bonnie Schwenker, Cheyanne Browne, Tate Martin, Peggy Miller, Bob Koranda, Robin Koranda, Marie Rossman, Grace Trenkamp, Joyce Blanchard, Kathi Atkinson, Jo Ellen Langerman, Clayton Pederson, Patty Wilson, Chloe Swanson, Sean Swanson, Grace Trenkamp

Donations—Theisen's (bird seed), Jeff & Denise Swanson family (bird feeder), Sherri Schnoor (books), Jenny Schulz (turtle shell), Richard & Eunice Till (paper, rocks), Ann & Kevin Burns (lodging for guest speaker), Dave & Sue Gossman (raffle tickets), Wendy Hainstock (cookies, bars), Karen Krueger (cookies), Kathi Atkinson (cookies), Rachel Williams (dessert)

Cash Donations—Paul Pasternock, Brenda Van Keuren, Janet Stange, Kiwanis Club of Maquoketa, David Manning & Sarah Hobbs, Matthew & Marilyn Osterhaus, Richard & Eunice Till, Eric Faust, Verna & Steve Flagel, Joannie Bowman & fellow trail riders, John & Lynn McCullough

Donated Food for June Luncheon—Mary Hayward, Karen Krueger, Jess Wagner, Kathi Atkinson, Alice Mans, Dawn Carstensen, Clayton Pederson, Dianne Henry, Jo Ellen Langerman, Roberta Rosheim, Kathy Bahl

Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:

Denny Stange
Don Nissen
Steve Rossman
Jimmy Wagner



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@jacksonccb.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 e-mail blasts from us.

Bonus, photos and text are in color!

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

Thank you to our summer staff

Conservation Techs

Lillian Kies, Jacob Kloft, Jacob Schmitt

Summer Naturalist

Andy Benson

Youth Corps Members

Trace Rosenbohm, Thomas Detro,

Dylan Jones, Alexis Ganzer

For a job WELL DONE!

mycountyparks.com



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

PRE SORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
MAQUOKETA IA
PERMIT NO. 123

Address Service Requested

Printed on recycled paper

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Offices for Jackson County Conservation

Hours:

Weekdays 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Weekends Jan-Mar Closed: April-Oct 12:00-5:00; Nov-Dec 12:00-4:00
Outdoor Area is open 6:00 am—10:30 pm

No Admission Fee!



Holidays:

OPEN Labor Day, September 4
Closed Veteran's Day, November 10
Closed Thanksgiving, November 23-26
Closed Christmas, December 23-25
Closed New Years, December 30-January 1

Student Volunteers Spotlight!

We are so thankful for the many youth who volunteered their time with us this summer! From mowing the lawn, weeding in the pollinator garden, to helping with our summer camps and feeding our animals, we are grateful for their time, energy and enthusiasm for nature! **Thank you Dakota Jordan, Michael Jordan, Cheyenne Browne, Tate Martin, Casey Bock, Chloe Swanson and Sean Swanson!**

Dean's List

Logging over 50 volunteer hours this summer, our construction connoisseur Dean Nelson has once again blown us away with his craftsmanship and repurposing vision. This year's projects include an interior bench, an outdoor turtle enclosure for educational animals, bug box kits, framing for light table, office shelving and more. And it was almost all completely created with repurposed decking and scrap lumber. Thank you Dean!



Sean Swanson coordinates turtle races at our StoryWalk event with our new outdoor turtle enclosure Dean built!



Cheyenne Browne & Casey Bock help set up for an event