



Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FALL 2023

Hurstville Center Makeover *Indoor Edition*

Jackson County Conservation Staff and Friends of Jackson County Conservation Members are working with an exhibit design company to construct a brand new exhibit for the Hurstville Center. The exhibit will include a woodland diorama, walk-through cave, hill prairie, and bluff! Design plans will be unveiled at our Fall Festival Fundraiser on Saturday, October 14. We hope to see you there!

Fall Festival Fundraiser

Saturday, October 14
Noon-3:00

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Head out to the Center for a fun fall day!! Enjoy a chili contest (come hungry!), live music, campfire & s'mores, scavenger hunt, and other games and activities.

The Wolves and Wild Lands traveling exhibit will be on display as well as the unveiling of the plans for the new exhibit coming to the Center.

Freewill donations will be accepted at the event for the new exhibit project.

*Free event for all ages! Open house style.
Registration not required.*

We'll see you there!



Traveling Exhibit coming to the Hurstville Center October 14—November 1

Wolves & Wild Lands

From the International Wolf Center

The exhibit shows the compelling stories of wolves and their relationship with humans. Learn more about the six species represented through preserved taxidermy specimens. The exhibit also expands on the human perspective on what it means to live with, or without, wolves.

*Mark your
calendars!*

*There is no
admission fee!*





Fall Calendar of Events



Registration is REQUIRED at least 48 hours in advance for ALL programs.

Register by calling (563) 652-3783 or email conservation@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov

Programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Donations are accepted.

For up to date information on our programs, check online at www.JacksonCCB.com or visit the Hurstville Interpretive Center's Facebook page.

Prairie Seed Harvest

Saturday, September 2 at 1:00 PM

Saturday, September 30 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn about native prairie plant seeds and seed harvesting. Participants will help hand collect seed from the prairie to be used at county parks. Bring gardening/work gloves.

Monarch Tagging

Wed. Sept 6 2:30 PM *Prairie Creek Recreation Area*

Sat. Sept 9 1:00 PM *Hurstville Interpretive Center*

Sat. Sept 16 12:30-2:00 *Maquoketa Greenspace*

Learn about the monarch butterfly's life cycle and their migration to central Mexico. Then head out to the prairie to catch monarchs and participate in a citizen science project to place stickers on the butterfly's wings to help researchers learn more about their migration. Nets will be provided.

Walking Adventures

Thursday, Sept 14 & Oct 12 at 9:00 AM

Pine Valley Nature Area

Visit Jackson County Parks with Friends Members Mary Hayward and Pam True this year. Enjoy a walk with others and learn more about our local areas.

Hudson Bay Bound

Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 PM

EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Dubuque

See box to right for more details. Collaborative event with Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones County Conservation Departments.

KinderNature—Homeschool Series

Fridays at 10:00 AM *at the Hurstville Center*

Sept 15—Kayaking Selzer Pond, 10047 168th Ave Maq

Oct 20—Archaeology Dig

Nov 17—Wild Turkeys

Dec 15—Bison

KinderNature programs are geared towards home-school families with elementary students. Youth will learn more about nature and the outdoors.

Science Homeschool Series

Sept 18, Oct 2 & 16, Nov 6 & 20, Dec 4 & 18

1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 10:00 AM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Middle & High School students are invited to learn more about various science topics with Dave & Sue Gossman of ChemRight Laboratories and Gossman Consulting in Maquoketa. This year's theme is Fundamentals of Science. Fall topics: Scientific Method, Observations and Measurements, Equalities and Equations, and Introduction to Statistics. Future topics TBD. Series will continue through May.

North Fork River Cleanup

Wednesday, September 20 at 9:00 AM

North Fork Maquoketa River—Ozark to Caven Bridge
Enjoy a fall paddle while helping keep our rivers clean. Join Conservation Staff in cleaning up a section of river. Canoes available or bring your own.

Hudson Bay Bound

An Evening with Natalie Warren

Thursday, September 14

6:00 PM

At EB Lyons Interpretive Center

8991 Bellevue Heights Rd, Dubuque, Iowa

Avid paddler and public speaker Dr. Natalie Warren will present on her 2,000 mile paddling expedition from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay. Natalie Warren is one of the first two women to have paddled 2,000 miles from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay and will connect you with adventure and natural resources issues that concern us all.

Event funded by Friends of Jackson County Conservation, Friends of Dubuque County Conservation, Friends of the Mines of Spain, White Pine Northeast Iowa Sierra Club, Friends of Jones County Conservation.

Registration not required

Hamilton Prairie Walk

Wednesday, September 20 at 6:00 PM

Ray Hamilton's Prairie, Codfish Hollow Road

Enjoy a guided prairie hike through Hamilton's Prairie. It has been managed as a biological preserve for the past 35 years and is a shining example of a privately owned prairie. With a mixture of remnant and restored prairie, Hamilton's prairie will entrance plant lovers and give a glimpse into Iowa's natural history. Participants should be comfortable walking on rough terrain.

Drones 101

Saturday, September 23 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn about drones with Dave Updegraff. Dave will discuss the availability of drones, additional equipment needed, and the rules and regulations governing drones. Dave will share some video of his flying and discuss different techniques for using drones. Weather permitting, we will then head outdoors for a live demonstration.

Pine Needle Basket Class

Thursday, September 28 from 4:00-7:00 PM

Bellevue State Park – Lodge

Explore the lovely art form of basket making by coiling pine needles. Materials and instruction will be provided for participants to make their own basket. Cost is \$10. Class is for adults and youth ages 12 & up. Registration is required and class size is limited. Call Jackson County Conservation

Maquoketa River Fall Colors Paddle

Friday, October 13 at 10:00 AM

Maquoketa River – Jones County

Join Dubuque, Jones & Jackson County Naturalists in paddling the river and enjoy fall colors from Pictured Rocks to Eby's Mill. Kayaks available to rent or bring your own.

Fall Festival Fundraiser

Saturday, October 14 from Noon-3:00

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Head out to the Center for a fun fall day!! Enjoy a chili contest, live music, campfire & s'mores, scavenger hunt, and other games and activities. The Wolves and Wild Lands traveling exhibit will be on display as well as information about the new exhibit coming to the Center. Freewill donations will be accepted for the new exhibit project. Free event for all ages—open house style. *Registration not required*

Mentored Youth Hunt

Saturday, October 21 at 8:00 AM

Baldwin Marsh

Youth ages 11-15 are invited to participate in a mentored hunt for upland birds. Youth will be partnered with an experienced hunter. Limited space. Contact our office for more details.

Prairie Creek Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, October 21 from 1:30-3:30 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Fall is here and it is a good time to work on removing invasive bush honeysuckle. Volunteers will help lop, drag, and pile honeysuckle bushes. Volunteers should dress for the weather, field work, and bring work gloves.

Bat House Workshop

Saturday, October 28 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

You might be surprised: bats don't always live in caves. A bat house is a great way to provide shelter for bats. Materials and instruction will be provided at this workshop. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$20. Bring a cordless drill.

Geocaching in the Park

Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 PM

Bellevue State Park Nature Center

Come and learn how to participate in the world wide game of geocaching. We'll explore official and some just for fun caches hidden at the park. Instruction on how to use the provided gps receivers and the Geocaching app for smart phones will be provided. Fun for all ages and will involve walking outdoors.

Images of our Landscape

Saturday, November 18 from 1:00-3:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join Naturalist Tony Vorwald for a photo gallery showing of Tony's nature photography. Photos in this gallery will be of Iowa's natural landscapes with a heavy focus on Jackson County and Eastern Iowa.

Winter Solstice Luminary Walk

Thursday, December 21 from 5:00-7:00 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Celebrate the longest day of the year! Enjoy a campfire, hot cocoa, and walk the lighted trails as we celebrate the winter solstice and coming of winter.

Your Voice Counts

By Nate Jones, Director

Jackson County Conservation areas offer opportunities for families and friends to gather to enjoy the outdoors. Parks and Wildlife areas offer protection for plant and animal species through conservation of crucial habitats, but also provide room for outdoor recreational pursuits. Jackson County Conservation areas contribute to environmental, physical, and emotional wellbeing while also bolstering local economies.

It's believed people with a greater connection to the outdoors care about conservation of natural resources, contributing to a healthier environment through daily choices and actions. Walking, hiking, and other outdoor recreation activities keep individuals active and healthy throughout their life. Spending time outdoors disconnects us from work, technology and everyday tasks reducing stress and re-energizes us to take on the tasks of the day.

People who participate in outdoor recreation contribute to their communities through local spending contributing to area growth. People choose where to live based off availability of close-to-home outdoor opportunities, such as local outdoor recreation on local rivers, and trails.

Any of these things alone should bolster support for conservation and parks. In a state with 98% of the land under private ownership it may be a surprise that Iowa's public land and parks have been under attack from special interest groups the last several years. It has become reality that political interest recently started pivoting control of the future of Iowa's recreational opportunities along with natural resource protection. It's fair to assume in some political spectrum conservation and recreation will continue be in the spotlight.

Your actions can and will help bolster support for these areas. Connecting with your local state and federal politicians now can pay off as legislators set their policy agenda for the upcoming year and beyond. Now is the time to let them know that you support investment in parks, trails and wildlife areas, or that you want to see action to improve water quality. We hope you enjoy Jackson County Conservation areas and look forward to growing and enhancing them in the future.

REAP Assemblies

This fall, 18 REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) Assemblies will be conducted throughout Iowa. REAP Assemblies are locally led public meetings at which information is given out and ideas are taken in by the attending state officials. Learn about how REAP dollars are used in your community and offer input on REAP policies and programs. Watch for more information this fall about dates/times/locations.



Remnant Prairie Restoration Update

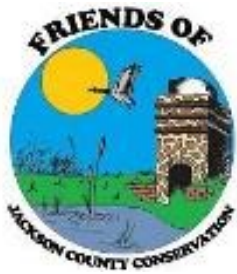
By Tony Vorwald, Naturalist

Summer is over and I am reflecting on this past warm season's remnant prairie restoration efforts. I became involved with Jackson County Conservation remnant prairie restoration in the early spring of 2020. Three and a half years later, there is a lot of progress to report. In the beginning, JCCB started with identifying remnant prairie/savanna areas on our properties, conducting plant surveys, and implementing the initial stages of restoration management. At this time, the majority of our restoration efforts is removing unwanted invasive and woody plants from the remnant sites. We have now moved passed the initial areas of "attack", so to speak, to the second stage of pushing the woody plants back towards the remnant prairies' "original" boundaries. We are also starting to connect several remnant prairie pockets on our largest remnant prairie site at Ozark Wildlife Area.

A new stage of restoration that we are experiencing is cutting and treating resprouts of woody/invasive vegetation on areas we cleared 2-3 years ago. This is an annoying but common phenomena when dealing with restoration management. A very encouraging and gratifying stage of this restoration work is seeing the vegetative response on the areas where we removed woody encroachment. Though there are invasive species resprouts, we are also observing native prairie/savanna vegetation showing above ground growth on areas we had cleared.

We were very fortunate this past year to have received a grant from the Iowa DNR's Habitat Diversity Small Grants Program, as well as receiving financial support from the Friends of Jackson County Conservation to be able to bring in a Conservation Corps of Iowa crew. This crew came this past July and spent a week performing intense woody shrub and tree removal.

I am happy with the progress that we have made over the past three years but there is still more work to be done. We will continue to expand the boundaries of the remnants by means of woody encroachment removal. As well as incorporate a more varied and frequent burn regiment to these sites.



Friends of Jackson County Conservation

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

Join us for the Next Friends Meeting Tuesday, October 10

6:00 PM at the Hurstville Interpretive Center
Potluck at 5:30 PM, tableware & beverages provided—bring a dish to share!



Agenda and minutes from last meeting will be sent via email a few days before the meeting.

Didn't get the email? Make sure we have up to date contact info for you!

Friends of JCC is instrumental in providing funding for improving county parks and providing materials and equipment for programming. Jackson County Conservation could not do what they do without the Friends' support.

Friends of JCC is a 501c3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible and go towards projects and programs in conjunction with Jackson County Conservation.

Friends of JCC welcomes members and donors to get involved with ongoing activities. Join us for our next meeting to learn more!

Summer Activities with Jackson CCB!



Jackson County Conservation Board Members toured remnant prairies at Ozark Wildlife Area before their July Board Meeting. During the summer months, the Board tours county parks to keep up to date on management activities. See article on previous page for more information about our remnant prairie management.

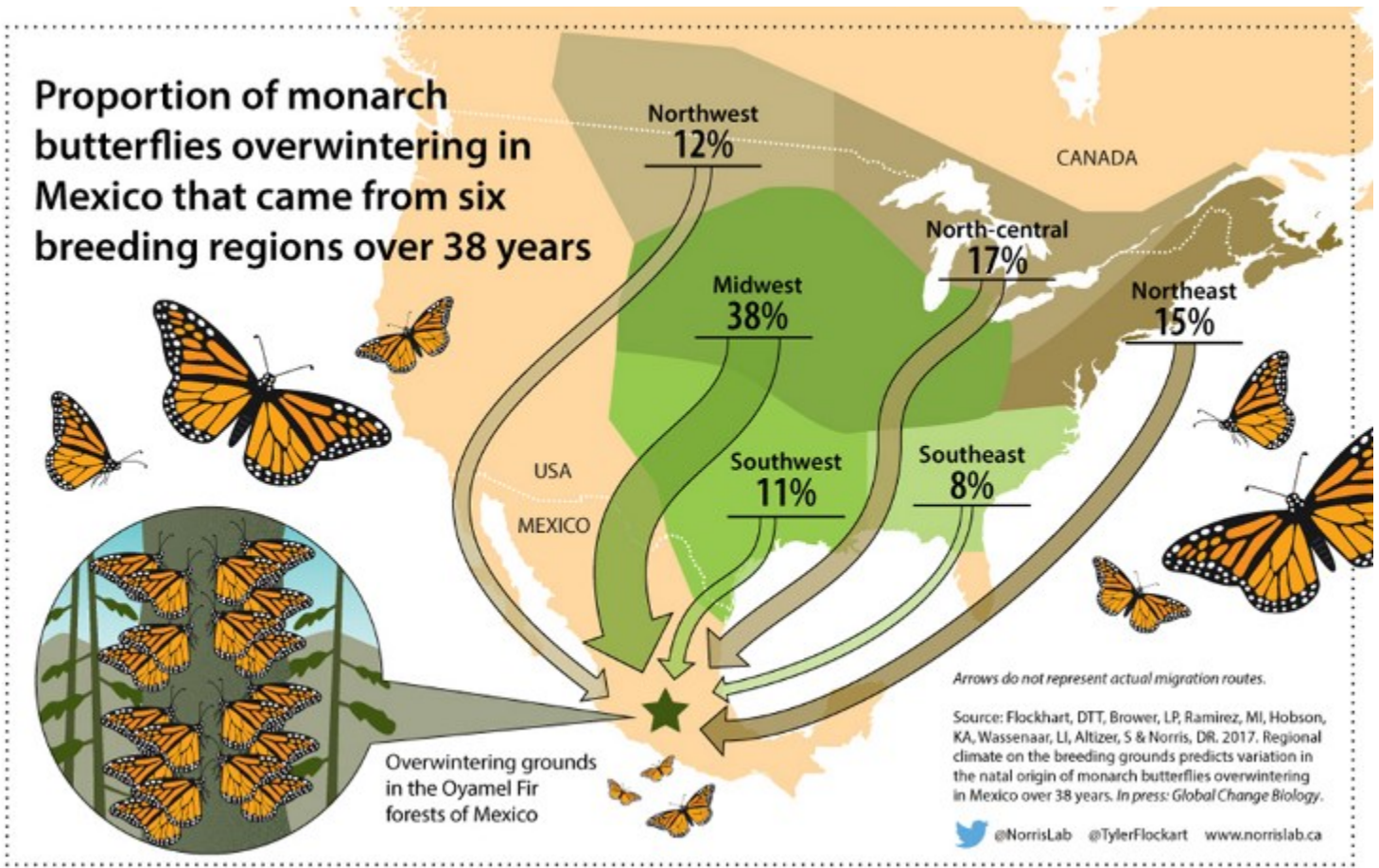


Due to drought conditions, the Center's front pond has dried up this year. Not fun for kids who want to catch frogs and bugs, but the staff has used the opportunity to do some clean-up.



Youth enjoyed many outdoor activities during our day camps this summer. Exploring the marsh for critters, touching and holding our live snakes and turtles, and creating art with natural items are just a few of the many activities.





Raising the Super Generation

By Jennifer Stroyan, *Naturalist*

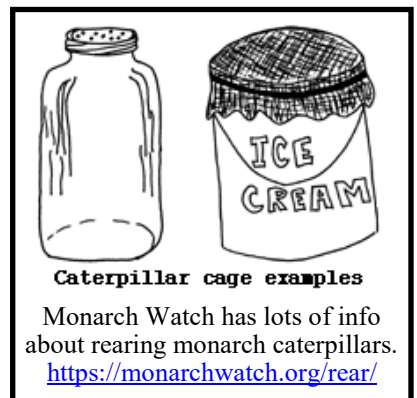
It doesn't matter what species it is, the young are adorable and evoke feelings of protection. With monarch butterflies, raising them at home can be a wonderful experience with a bit of planning and dedication.

A good homemade enclosure for a caterpillar is a glass jar with a thin towel rubber banded on the top or a commercial mesh enclosure – both have adequate ventilation and are easy to sanitize. Having a separate container for caterpillars and those in chrysalis make cleaning easier.

An ample supply of fresh milkweed is essential. Did you know that caterpillars prefer to eat the same species of milkweed that they were laid up on as an egg? Milkweed should be changed out daily. Washing your hands and the milkweed before presenting it to the caterpillars is always a good idea to prevent accidentally introducing a possible predator or a disease shed by a previous visitor. To wash the milkweed and enclosures, it has been suggested that you use a 10% bleach solution and thoroughly rinse with fresh water.

If possible, put the jar outside so the larvae can experience the wind, sun, and temperature changes. For a marathon, you have to train—get stronger, build up your resistance. The monarchs do this by surviving an Iowa summer in all of its glory. The caterpillars have to hold on to the milkweed through storms, resist predation, and be able to eat enough.

Most of all, enjoy the magic of watching them go through their life changes. The monarchs that emerge in the fall will migrate. They are the super generation, the one of five generations born in a year that live for several months instead of the usual few weeks.



Why did they die? The following links provide information about various disease and parasites monarch caterpillars can get.

<https://www.monarchparasites.org/oe>

<https://monarchbutterflylifecycle.com/blogs/raise/monarch-diseases-parasites-prevention>



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!!!*

Volunteers

Nancy Flagel, Pam Bahr, Mary Hayward, Sarah Hobbs, Deb Holm, Brenda Kunau, Kenny Derganz, Ethan Kalaukoa, Jeff Tampir, Kent Crawford, Jack Willey, Kim Jochum, Dean Nelson, Karen Krueger, Karen Manning, David Manning, Pam True, Dawn Strait-Carstensen, Connie Breno, Jim Dean, Jo Ellen Langerman, Bruce Fisher, Carolyn Keck, Ann Burns, Wendy Hainstock, Lori Roling, Larry McDevitt, Mike Griffin, Jim England,

Donations

Quad-Cities Women's Outdoor Club, Kevin & Ann Burns, Marilyn & Jack Willey, Daniel & Dorothy Morizzo

Donations made in memory or in honor of:

In Honor of Bob & Sandy Walton's
50th Wedding Anniversary



Prairie Strips

Prairie strips are a conservation practice that protects soil and water while providing habitat for wildlife.

The STRIPS (Science-based Trails of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips) team has been conducting research on prairie strips for over ten years. Integrating small amounts of prairie within corn and soybean field can yield benefits for soil, water, and biodiversity. Prairie strips benefit to a greater degree than other perennial vegetation types because of the diversity of native plant species incorporated, their deep and multilayered root systems, and their stiff stems that hold up in a driving rain. Research shows that by converting 10% of a crop-field to diverse, native perennial vegetation, farmers and landowners can reduce sediment movement off their field by 95 percent and total phosphorous and nitrogen lost through runoff by 90 and 85 percent, respectively. Prairie strips provide a win-win scenario for farmers and wildlife. Prairie strips have been established in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Information from Iowa State University, <https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/>

Jackson County Conservation

Conservation Board Members

Larry McDevitt, chair	Maquoketa	319/541-6357
Mike Griffin	Springbrook	563/357-1736
Jim England	Maquoketa	563/652-3213
Lori Rolling	Bellevue	563/872-3299
Mary Hayward	Maquoketa	563/357-0814

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

Conservation Staff

- Nathan Jones, Executive Director
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- Sheila Root, Office Manager
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Address & Contact Information

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Phone: (563) 652-3783
Fax: (563) 652-2191
Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621
Website:

JacksonCCB.com

www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter

Office Hours / Hurstville Center

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060
Weekdays: Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Weekends: Saturday & Sunday April–October 12:00–5:00 pm; November 12:00–4:00 pm

Holidays:

OPEN Labor Day September 4
CLOSED Veteran's Day November 11
CLOSED Nov 23-26 for Thanksgiving
CLOSED Weekends December-March

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

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JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD UP AND DOWN THE RIVER—Fall 2023 Newsletter

WE'RE HIRING

24+ LOCATIONS IN IOWA

JOIN OUR TEAM



GREENIOWAAMERICORPS.ORG



Jackson County Conservation is seeking two individuals to serve an 11-month AmeriCorps term with us!

Green Iowa AmeriCorps Members will assist our staff in providing environmental education programming and get hands-on experience working in conservation.

For more information:

www.JacksonCCB.com, click on Employment
GreenIowaAmeriCorps.org



Goodbye Swans

After 15+ years with captive trumpeter swans at the Hurstville Interpretive Center, we say goodbye to the swans. Due to drought conditions, the pond

levels have dropped too low to house the swans. The swans are headed to a park managed by Marshall County Conservation where they will spend their days. We have been excited to be part of the Iowa DNR's Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction efforts!

Looking ahead to winter, we will be holding holiday light and Styrofoam recycling drives over the holidays. Watch for details to come later this fall and start saving broken Christmas lights and clean, white Styrofoam. (Items will not be accepted early so wait for start dates!)