

Jackson County Conservation Board Environmental Education Programs for 2005-2006 School Year



Popular Classroom Naturalist Hands-On Programs

1st Grade

This long list of activities are just some of the other types of activities we can do with your students. They don't need special sites to do them, most will work in a local park, the school yard or your classroom. A few exceptions are water testing (any stream or pond will do).

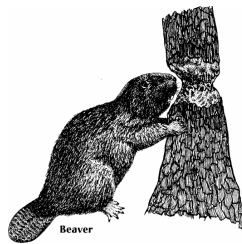
Kindergarten

1. Feathers, Fossils, and Fuzz– Learn about textures in nature. We will touch and sort things that are rough, smooth, hard and soft in nature.

2. Are We the Same? Students will classify animals by sorting pictures. Some real artifacts are included so students can observe differences between animal groups.

3. Where's Your Winter Coat? This program will look at how animals survive the changes in the seasons. We'll talk about migration, hibernation, and warm thick coats of fur or feathers. Some real furs, stuffed animals and pictures give the students a hands-on-experience.

4. The Pond Builder– This program focuses on adaptations that help the beaver “do its job” in nature. Fur, tracks and other artifacts are included in the program.

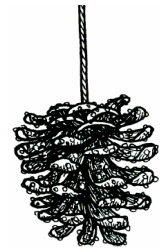


5. Turkey's Gift to the People– After a story we will use “turkey stuff” to learn more about this creature of our Iowa woodlands. (A great Thanksgiving time tale!)

1. Snake Sense– How does an animal with no ears, no fingers and not much of a nose use its senses to find out about the world around it? A real snake skin, skull and other snake things will be included for passing around and touching. (When available, a real snake is used during the program.)

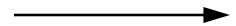
2. Bats– Let's correct the many misconceptions people have about bats. A stuffed bat, some bat products (!) and a game help bring about a change in attitude and illustrate how these amazing animals find their food and their way in the dark.

3. Build a Bird Feeder– Students will make their own simple feeders to take home. An illustrated checklist will be provided to help them recognize common birds that may visit their feeders.



4. The First Dog– The Jan Brett book will be read and a tape of wolf howls, a wolf skin, and other materials help the students visualize this wild ancestor to our pet dogs. The program is designed to encourage reading to “learn more about it”.

5. Animal Homes– What do animals need to survive? Food, water, shelter and space are the four basic needs. We'll focus on the need for shelter and look at a variety of animal homes from “apartments” to “mobile homes”. The students will take a *MORE PROGRAMS ON OTHER SIDE* tour of some animal homes at the end of the program.



*The noted grade levels for each program are based on the school curriculums we have seen.
To schedule programs for your class,
contact Ann or Nicole, Naturalists, Jackson County Conservation, (563) 652-3783.*

Hands on Programs cont'd

2nd Grade

1. Bison— The class will learn why bison were so important to the Native Americans of the Great Plains. Students will examine bison bones, a bison hide, and other materials to learn about these great shaggy beasts. We will also discuss how the bison and other animals of the prairie benefited each other.

2. Forests are More Than Trees— A slide show and art activity will illustrate the many services and materials that forests provide for wildlife, water resources, and humans.

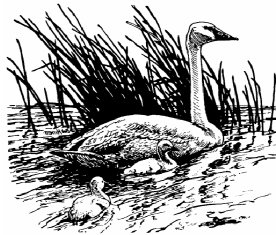


3. Endangered Species— What causes animals and plants to become endangered species? Museum mounts and furs of some of Iowa's special animals will be used during the program.

4. This is GREAT Water— Students will use ground water models to illustrate sources of drinking water and investigate how water resources can be polluted.

5. The Lunch Box—We will bring two 'picnic lunches' to your classroom and guide your students through a comparison of the amount of trash each one produces. The program encourages students to make wise choices when selecting foods for their lunches.

6. Swan by Chance— At one time, wild trumpeter swans numbered only about 69 birds in all the lower 48 states. Feathers, eggs, and other hands on materials help students "see" just how big these birds are.



They will also learn how these magnificent birds are making a comeback in Iowa— with a lot of help from volunteers just like your students!

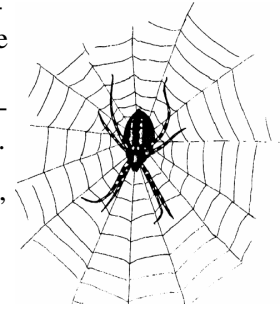
3rd Grade

1. Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!— Insect exoskeletons, chrysalides, insect homes, and other items are used to examine the natural history of our six-legged neighbors. Students will use a special lens to see the world through the eyes of an insect.

2. Monarchs—EARLY SEPTEMBER ONLY. Students will investigate the migration of monarch butterflies to their winter home in Mexico. If specimens are available, they will help tag some fall migrants as part of a North American study of the migration.

3. Nature Did It First— Students will examine similar functions of some man-made tools, and animal and plant adaptations. Lots of natural artifacts are passed around during this program.

4. How Grandmother Spider Stole the Sun— This Native American tale explains how the sun was brought to all the creatures of the earth. After the story is told we'll learn more about one of the characters— the Turkey Vulture. We have a display featuring "nature's garbage man" and will discuss the importance of all creatures, no matter what their appearance.



5. Nature's Engineer—This is an upper elementary version of "The Pond Builder". While we still look at adaptations, the program investigates how the beavers actually change the surrounding environment for other animals and humans.

6. A Feather in Her Hat— This program explains the reasons behind the law that says your students can't bring a pretty cardinal feather back from a field trip. Using excerpts from a children's book we will also discuss how concerned, committed citizens can make a difference. Feathers from the JCCB collection and other items will be used during the program.

For more information, or to schedule a program, call the Jackson County Conservation Board naturalists at 652-3783. Email at aburns or nmoestchen@co.jackson.ia.us



Hands on Programs cont'd

4th Grade

1. A Country So Full of Game—Why do we have white tail deer in Iowa, but not elk? What happened to cause the bison and black bear to disappear from the state?



Learn the history of wildlife and wildlife management in Iowa. Furs, antlers and other items will give the students a close up look at some of Iowa's wildlife from the past and present.

2. Who-o Goes There? This program explains the relationship between owls and their prey. Students will identify the adaptations that enable owls to be night-time hunters.



3. Oh Deer! This “active” program will illustrate how availability of food, water, shelter and space in an animal's habitat affect the animal's population.

4. Predators—A slide show and discussion will examine the role predators play in natural communities, as well as attitudes toward some of these predators. Some predator artifacts are used to help the students understand how adaptations help predators “do their jobs”.

5. The Better to Eat With— Pictures and actual museum mounts are used to explore how birds beaks are adapted to enable them to feed on a variety of food sources. The students will also have a chance to try to “eat like a bird” to show what they have learned!

5th Grade

1. Pillbug Project— (Available Spring & Fall) Would your students enjoy a chance to be scientists? Pillbugs make it easy! We'll bring in some pillbugs, some ideas for questions and materials to help the students explore the world of pillbugs. Along the way they will use their scientific skills of inquiring, observing, recording information and reporting their findings to share their new-found knowledge of pillbugs.

2. What is an Artifact?— Students will make observations and measurements of “artifact's” and use this information to determine the “artifact's” uses. This activity will help the students understand the methods archaeologists use when conducting a dig. The students will also have the opportunity to observe some artifacts from native Iowa cultures and will learn the proper way to record found artifacts.

3. Make Your Own Paper— Students will participate in the process of papermaking. At the conclusion of the activity, they will be able to state the importance of sorting and recycling paper products.

4. Wetland Wonders—During this “audience participation” slide show, students will learn some of the sounds and sights to be found in wetlands. We will also discuss the services wetlands provide for wildlife and humans.



Hands on Programs cont'd

6th Grade

1. *Deadly Links*— After playing this active game, students will be able to describe ways in which poisons enter food chains and suggest possible results of contaminated food chains.

2. *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*—



Your students will take a look at what happened to the three little pigs from the wolf's point of view. We will discuss how attitudes towards wolves have changed as scientists have learned more about their true role in nature. A real wolf skin and a recording of wolf howls make is an interactive program.

3. *Skulls*— Students use real skulls to identify the parts of various mammal skulls and make observations about differences in structures. They will use this and other information to make inferences about the identity of skulls brought to the classroom by the JCCB staff.

These are the programs that we have “ready to go”. We are always open to special request programs. If you have a need and we have the resources, we can develop special programs. We need a minimum of 4 weeks notice for special requests– and may require more.

If a program fits better at a different grade level in your building, let us know. We will be glad to do a little rearranging. Thank you for supporting our environmental education program! JCCB

Programs offered at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Select Programs held at the center:

- *Bison Program*
- *Skulls*
- *Prairie Hike*
- *Marsh Study-Invertebrates*
- *Nature Center Tour*
- *Orienteering*

Facilities & Attractions:

- Diorama featuring a local ecosystem such as a wetland

(Still to come: Prairie Diorama, Hurstville Diorama)

- HO scale model railroad of Hurstville
- Waste Reduction Kiosk
- Library
- Touch table
- Live animal including box turtle

Bird Blind

Observation Deck

Prairie Ecosystem– A beautiful prairie, complete with a wide variety of prairie plants.

Wetland Ecosystem- A great place to catch tadpoles, water bugs, watch the Canada geese and ducks and learn more about the critters that live in the wetland.



Other Good EE sites in Jackson County:

All Grades

A Visit to Millrock School—A visit to this limestone one room schoolhouse would bring their Iowa history to life. Volunteers from the Jackson County Retired Teachers Association can join your class to provide lessons and other activities, or you can plan and carry out your own program. **Call the JCCB office 652-3783 to schedule your visit.**

- **Andrew/Jackson Demonstration Farm**
- **Baldwin Marsh**
- **Blackhawk Wildlife Area**
- **Hurstville Lime Kilns**
- **Jackson County Recreational Trail**
- **McNeil Nature Preserve**
- **Millrock School**
- **Ozark Wildlife Area**
- **Weber Park**

We have listed a few of our school field trip programs above. If there is something not on that list that you would like to do we are open to suggestions. Our naturalists are available to assist in planning and conducting field trips to parks, wildlife areas, stream sides, prairies, and more in Jackson County.

Outdoor Education (recreation and equipment* used to learn about and interact with nature).

Canoeing- Upper Elementary & above. The sport of canoeing offers a means to many interests. Canoes provide access to great wildlife viewing, fishing and an escape from machines. We can also go way beyond the basics to include strokes, packing light, etc. We offer canoeing at Green Island. Paddlers learn what team work and self reliance mean all in one activity.

Fishing- _____ age

We have 20 rods & reels available so kids can try their luck at catching pan fish, bass & catfish. While most groups just want to fish, we can get more in-depth with techniques, tackle and a fun casting contest with prizes! Younger classes need a lot of adult supervision (adults that will handle worms and fish!).

Snowshoeing- Lower elementary & above. The JCCB uses 30 sets of snowshoes to teach about the history and use of the snowshoe by Native Americans, early pioneers and people today. The highlight of the course is going outside to make our own tracks!

Map & Compass— Upper Elementary & above. Using JCCB owned compasses, students learn about directions, map reading, and finding their way.

Archery??

To schedule a program, contact:
Jackson County Conservation Office
18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060
563-652-3783

(You may call Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

**Even better! Email us at
aburns@co.jackson.ia.us
nmoestchen@co.jackson.ia.us**

Field Trip Planning

To begin planning your field trip you should contact the Jackson County Conservation Office at 563-652-3783 to select possible dates for your field trip.

Some of the teacher's responsibilities include:

- Arranging transportation for the students to the field trip site, where the naturalist will meet the group.
- Organizing students into assigned groups.
- Informing the naturalist, in advance, which students require special attention.
- Asking questions during the activities, to encourage the students to ask questions.
- Participating in the activities with the students.
- Sending out permission slips to parents, if required and include a note requesting adult helpers.
- Selecting adult helpers for the field trip, ideally one adult minimum for each activity group. We would like to avoid over fifteen students per adult, if at all possible. Adult helpers must understand that they are responsible for discipline and that they must take part in activities.
- Dividing the students into even-sized groups. Assign adult helpers to each group. Most activities work best with 25 kids or less per group.
- Conducting related classroom pre-trip and post-trip activities.
- Discussing safety and conduct rules with the students. Bring a first-aid kit and contact the school nurse as a possible adult helper.
- Lunches that reduce the amount of garbage put into the garbage cans. Please use reusable containers where ever possible. Each classes garbage will be weighed. The school or group with the least amount of garbage will receive an award!
- Consider asking your local newspaper to cover your field trip.

Stress Proper Clothing

- Wear old clothes because students will be involved in outdoor activities where they might get dirty.
- Long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes and socks are recommended for protection against poison ivy, prickly bushes, and insects.
- Sandals, dress shoes, jewelry and anything that is not allowed to get wet and dirty are not proper clothing.
- Spring, fall and even summer mornings can be cool so be prepared. Dress in four layers: T-shirt, long sleeved shirt, sweater or sweat-shirt, and jacket.
- For winter hikes, don't forget hats (that come down over the ears), scarves, coats (that come down over hips), insulated snow boots and gloves.
- Other things to remember: hats, for keeping out bugs and the sun, rain gear (you can still work and learn outside in the rain), old sneakers (for wading during pond and stream studies, no bare feet!), insect repellent with the active ingredient DEET (seasonal).

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Hurstville Interpretive Center

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Maquoketa, IA 52060

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(You may call Monday thru Friday
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