



Jackson County Conservation Teacher Newsletter Spring 2008



What's new at the Hurstville Interpretive Center?

"A Salute to Songbirds" traveling exhibit is here till April 16, 2008. The exhibit includes information on America's fastest growing sport—*Bird Watching!* Great exhibit to see- learn the songs of Songbirds, find out what to do if you find a baby bird, learn what you can do to help migratory songbirds in your backyard, and more! Contact us to schedule a field trip!

A few changes in the Environmental Education staff. Jessica O'Connor (previously AmeriCorp volunteer & summer intern) is the new Naturalist for the conservation department. Taking over the AmeriCorp position is Vanessa Vanis, who started this past December. Some of you may have seen her around in the schools. She has been observing, as well as doing some programs on her own!

Jackson County Conservation Spring Public Programs

- March 2 Bird House Workshop
- March 13 Nature Tales– Insects
- March 15 Duck Waddle 
- March 30 Bird Hike
- March 30 Iowa Wildlife Action Plan
- April 6 Bird Banding
- April 10 Nature Tales– Stars & Planets
- April 13 Soil & Kids
- April 20 Rain Gardens 
- April 26 Wildflower Walk
- May 3 Spring Clean-up
- May 4 Adventures with Microscopes
- May 10 GPS/Compass workshop
- May 23 & 24 Campground Programs

Nature Tales

Introducing pre-school age children to nature!

March- Insects April- Stars & Planets May- Flowers

Our Naturalists would like to bring these programs to your pre-school. Call us to schedule a time!

The best field trips in Jackson County!



A Visit to Millrock School– A visit to this limestone one-room schoolhouse would bring your Iowa history to life. Volunteers from 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.

Hurstville Interpretive Center: Explore the prairie and wetlands, butterfly garden, bird blind, outdoor classroom, go fishing, snowshoeing, guided nature hike, and many other great educational programs.



Maquoketa Caves State Park: Tour the Maquoketa Caves and enjoy many other cool programs that will help you learn about the caves and the animals that live in and around them.

Eden Valley: Some great hiking trails, a suspension bridge, rock climbing, IOWATER testing. A beautiful park! Could combine with Millrock School...

Time to start scheduling those spring field trips!

To schedule a program, field trip, or for more information please contact:



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Jess O'Connor jess@jacksonccb.com

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Phone: (563) 652-3783

Old Tennis Shoes, Anyone?

We all have them—sneakers the kids have outgrown, running shoes that don't have enough support left in them, and old "tennies" that we no longer wear. They are too "good" to throw away, but what do you do with them?!



Jackson County schools, Jackson County Conservation, and the Jackson County Solid Waste Agency are teaming up to "Re-use those Shoes!"

This April, in honor of Earth Day, area schools and the Hurstville Interpretive Center will accept your CLEAN, DRY used athletic shoes. The shoes will be sent to the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program.

Nike separates the shoe materials and recycles components into basketball and tennis courts and track surfaces.

Shoes can be brought to the cooperating Jackson County Schools or the Hurstville Interpretive Center April 17, 18, 21 and 22. Hours of collection at the schools will be sent home with students in their school to home newsletters. Shoes can be brought to the Hurstville Center during regular hours those four days as well as the 19th & 20th. Watch for more information in local media.

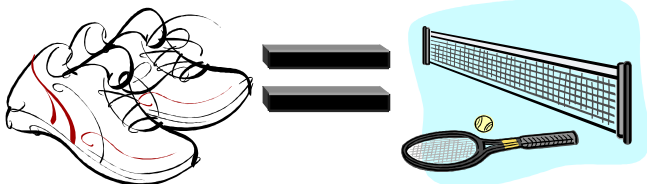
The rules are pretty basic:

1. Only lace up athletic shoes
2. **NO shoes with cleats, spikes, etc.**
3. Shoes **MUST** be clean and dry.
4. Tie the shoes together
5. Shoes can be any brand.

That's it. We will be saving space in landfills and recycling materials for a great use! Happy Earth Day!

This project is possible through the cooperation of the City of Madison WI.

If your school or classroom hasn't yet got involved and you would like to, contact Ann Burns at the Conservation office for more information.



Nature-themed Park Packs for you!



Want some nature related activities to do with your family, scout group, or home school children? We have nature-themed back packs that will get you out hiking, investigating, and learning more about Iowa's natural resources. Each pack comes with a field guide, a variety of activities, and fun facts to assist in the discovery of the specific nature topic. Packs can be checked out for FREE for two weeks. To check out a park pack, stop by the Hurstville Interpretive Center or call (563) 652-3783.

Ways to use a Park Pack:

- Take on a camping trip
- Use with a youth group
- Take on a day trip
- Take on vacation
- Use in your backyard
- Take it to the park
- In the classroom

Available Park Packs:

- Wetland Wonders
- Animals of Iowa
- Treeific Trees
- For the Birds
- Insect Safari



"A Salute to Songbirds" Traveling Exhibit



Will be at the Hurstville Interpretive Center from February 10—April 16. The exhibit includes information on America's fastest growing sport—*Bird Watching!* This informative and interactive exhibit delights and educates visitors while addressing the challenges facing migratory songbirds and what individuals can do to help them. Visitors can explore the Giant Bird's Nest, the Wheel of Flight, the Nest Parasites & Predators, and more! Don't miss the chance to see this very exciting exhibit!



Schedule a field trip today to see this Songbird Exhibit for you and your students!