

Jackson County Conservation Teacher Newsletter Fall 2009



What's new at the Hurstville Interpretive Center?

We are delighted to announce the hatching of 5 trumpeter swan cygnets here at the Center this summer. The cygnets hatched June 17th. They are healthy and growing at a fast rate. The cygnets will stay in captivity until spring, at which time they will be released into the wild. Stop in to see them!



Meet our new AmeriCorps Volunteer! Jessica Howell will be joining the Jackson County Conservation staff for 12 months (Sept-Aug). She will aid the environmental education staff with school and public programs, work on exhibits, and assist with special projects throughout the county. You'll be seeing a lot of her in the next 12 months! Jessica enjoys working on her hobbies—photography and art and loves the outdoors. She will draw on her experiences working with elementary students during Mrs. Spaulding's class back in high school and as a parent - to help us with our school programs!

Fall Public Programs

September 5	Monarch Tagging
September 12	Monarch Tagging
September 19	Monarch Tagging
September 26	Monarch Tagging
September 27	Fall Canoe Trip on the Maquoketa River
October 10 & 11	Leaves & Limestone Tour in JC
October 10	Taste of Jackson County at HIC
October 24	Halloween Hike
October 25	The Truth about Bats
November 1	Bird Feeder Workshop
December 30-31	Youth Winter Overnight



For more information on these programs please visit www.jacksonccb.com or contact the Hurstville Interpretive Center at (563) 652-3873.

Field Trips and Programs

Our staff is ready to schedule field trips and programs for the 2009-2010 school year.

A list of available in-school programs has been included with this newsletter. We will also work with you on any other topic related to science or nature you would like assistance with.

Fall field trips are also popular—call early to get yours scheduled!

Options include but are not limited to:

- Hurstville Interpretive Center
- Millrock School House
- Maquoketa Caves State Park
- Eden Valley
- Hurstville Lime Kilns
- Other parks/natural areas in Jackson County

Sand Box Archeology Dig

September 21—25

Schedule your 4th grade class' field trip to the Hurstville Interpretive Center. The dig gives students a chance to be an Archeologist and uncover artifacts from different time periods. (Any grade is welcome). Other programs/activities can be done on your visit.

Monarch Tagging Programs

Month of September

Schedule a Monarch Tagging Program for your class! Be part of the research as we catch and tag monarchs during their journey south for the winter. Some background information on monarch butterflies will be given during this program.



To schedule program or for more information please contact:

Environmental Educator **Ann Burns** amburns29@jacksonccb.com
Naturalist **Jess Wagner** jess@jacksonccb.com
AmeriCorps Volunteer **Jessica Howell** americorps@jacksonccb.com



Phone: (563) 652-3783



New Program Developed

Suitcase for Survival

Jackson County Conservation has received the Suitcase for Survival program from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to use in educating people on wildlife trade and biodiversity issues. Artifacts within the suitcase have been confiscated at ports of entry and then disseminated to environmental educators.

The Suitcase for Survival program is designed to raise awareness about the devastation caused by illegal wildlife trade worldwide. Uncontrolled and illegal trade threatens many species of wildlife (both plants and animals) and is a significant factor in the loss of biological diversity throughout the world. The United States is the world's largest importer of wildlife, some legally, some not.

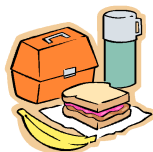
This program helps consumers understand the importance of biodiversity and how their buying habits can contribute to biodiversity conservation. This program is geared towards 5th-12th graders. Call us to schedule a visit to your classroom.

Smart Lunch Program

As you know, here at the Hurstville Interpretive Center, we like to reduce our impact on the environment by reducing the amount of garbage thrown away. We challenge all school groups who visit the center to pack Smart Lunches to accomplish this (such as using reusable containers instead of throwaway items, reusable drink containers, etc). We weigh the trash of each school and divide it by the amount of people with the school and give out a prize to the top class each fall and spring.

Fall 2008 winner: Bellevue 4th grade!

Spring 2009 winner: Cardinal 2nd grade!



New critters for education!

Jackson County Conservation has acquired 2 native Iowa snakes for educational use.

A Milk Snake & a Black Rat Snake

Both snakes are protected by state law, meaning they may not be collected or killed without a permit. You may be seeing them in your school this year!



Bus Grant money still available

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area has bus grants available to schools in NE Iowa. They will help fund up to \$350 per school to help with transportation costs for field trips to Silos partner sites (Hurstville Interpretive Center is included).



Applications were accepted starting August 1. Grants are awarded first come first serve. Funding goes till Dec 1 or until funds are depleted. As of August 12th, half of the \$12,000 was still available. Money is usually depleted by the end of September.

Go to www.silosandsmokestacks.org, scroll down and click on grants on bottom bar. Fill out very short application and submit! For more info, contact Silos Education Manager– Angi Reid at (319) 234-4567. One application per school but multiple field trips/grade levels can be done per application.

DNR Environmental Ed Resources

Looking for science based educational resources, activity manuals, workshop/training opportunities, field trip locations, and hands-on activities for your students? Visit the DNR Education website at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/education/index.html>.

Jackson CCB staff is trained in Fish Iowa, IOWA-TER, Archery in the Schools program, and more! We can help you and your students get started with some of the DNR's great programs!

Nature Tales

Pre-school teachers can sign their class up for Nature Tales, a program that promotes awareness, appreciation, and understanding of our natural world to young children. Either join us at the Center or a naturalist can visit your classroom. We will read a story and involve the students in activities related to the topic of the month. Topics this year include: Terrific Trees, Animal Tails, Moms on the Go, Animal Tracks, Salamander Room, Bugs Bugs Bugs. This is part of our 2-year rotation, more program topics are available to correspond with your themes/lesson plans. Contact us to schedule Nature Tales for your preschoolers!



Updating Information

Every fall new teachers and staff changes take place. Please help us update our contact lists by sending us names and email addresses for those that are new at your location so they won't miss out on information from us. Information can be emailed to Jess Wagner at jess@jacksonccb.com or phone (563) 652-3783. Thanks so much for your help!