

Jackson County Conservation Teacher Newsletter Summer 2009



What's new at the Hurstville Interpretive Center?

A new exhibit—"Stories of Hurstville" is now on permanent display at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. The exhibit features historic photos as well as recorded memories of Hurstville. Thanks to funding from Doris Miller in honor of Sara Hurst Cooper, the historic photos and recordings are now assessable to the public. Sara Hurst Cooper was the granddaughter of Alfred Hurst, founder of the lime kilns. Additional funding came from Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area's general grant fund.



The Early Bird gets the Worm

It's never too early to start thinking about next year. Our staff is available to meet with you and schedule field trips and programs for the 2009-10 school year.

A list of available in-school programs is available on our website at www.jacksonccb.com/EE.html. We will also work with you on any other topic you would like assistance with.



Fall field trips are also popular—call early to get yours scheduled! Options include but are not limited to: Millrock School House, Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa Caves State Park, Eden Valley, and the Hurstville Lime Kilns.

Smart Lunch Winner Announced

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). We weigh the trash bag 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.

Spring 2009 winner is **Cardinal 2nd grade!** Over 100 people with the Cardinal 2nd grade field trip left less than 3/4 pound of trash! Great job 2nd graders!

Results from Earth Day Project

The goal of this Earth Day project was to get students involved through awareness/education of wildlife rehabilitation and to get involved by raising money to help injured/displaced wild animals. Schools raised money through donations, pop can collections, 'hat days', and other sources.



A big **THANK YOU** to all the students and teachers who got involved in this great project! Because of you, a great deal of money was raised for area wildlife rehabilitators to help wildlife in eastern Iowa. Rehabilitators helped include the MacBride Raptor Project, which takes in injured birds of prey and is sponsored by the University of Iowa and Kirkwood Community College. The second recipient was Bat World Heartland (Vera Blevins), which takes in injured and displaced bats. Vera is in Bettendorf and takes in bats from all over eastern Iowa.

In all, Jackson County students/schools raised more than **\$1,300** for wildlife rehabilitation!!!

Top schools were:

- Preston (K-6): Goal was to collect 3,000 pop cans, and they ended up with 8,727 (\$436)!!!
- Delwood (K-6): Goal was to collect 2,000 pop cans, and they ended up with 5,720 (\$286)!!!

GREAT JOB to everyone who participated!



To schedule a program or for more information please contact:

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Bus Grant for Jackson County Schools



What?

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area is offering bus grants of up to \$350 per school to help with transportation costs for field trips to Silos partner sites. There is a total of \$12,000 in the bus grant fund for 2009-10.

Silos & Smokestacks partner sites in the area include: Hurstmville Interpretive Center, Hurstmville Lime Kilns, Historical Society Museum, Mississippi River Museum, Mines of Spain, Putnam Museum, and more!

This is a grant initiative designed to help schools fund the transportation costs associated with field study trips.

Who is eligible?

Administrators and teachers employed by an accredited Pre K-12 public, private, or charter school within the Heritage Area (includes Jackson County).

When can I apply?

Applications for the 2009-10 school year will be accepted starting **August 1, 2009**. Grants will be awarded on a first come first serve basis, so get in the application for your school ASAP. Funding goes till Dec 1, 2009 or until funds are depleted.

How to apply?

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 or areid@silosandsmokestacks.org.

We hope that area schools will utilize this great funding source!

Monarchs from Jackson County Recovered in Mexico!



Three tagged Monarchs from the Jackson County area were recovered in Mexico this past March! One was tagged at the Hurstmville Interpretive Center Sept 6, one by Delwood students on Sept 10, and one by Briggs teacher Jane Long on Sept 17.

The Jackson County Conservation environmental education staff tag about 200 monarchs every fall on their journey south. You and your students can learn more about this amazing journey and be involved in the tagging by scheduling a program with us during the month of September.

Ann Burns, environmental education coordinator with JCCB, traveled to the wintering sites of the Monarch Butterflies in Michoacan, Mexico this past March. She will be sharing her experience of that trip at school and public programs this fall.

Farewell Vanessa



AmeriCorps member Vanessa Vanis has been with the conservation board since Dec 2007. She will complete her 2nd AmeriCorps term at the end of August this year. Vanessa has been a great asset to the environmental education staff these past couple years. She has been busy with in-school programs, field trips, AmeriCorps work days in fellow counties, and other special projects. Vanessa's future plans are to finish her BA in psychology and to go further in anthropology.

Attention kids and parents!

Announcing the 2009 Summer Camps

Mark your calendars! Note changes from last year, we are doing things a little different this summer.

Explorer Camp

Age: **5-7 years old**

Theme: Nature Detectives

Dates: June 16, 17, 18 from 9-1



Adventure Camp

Age: **11-15 years old**

Theme: Outdoor pursuits

Dates: July 7, 8, 9 from 9-1



Ranger Camp

Age: **8-10 years old**

Theme: Water Works

Dates: July 14, 15, & 16 from 9-1



Cost is **\$40** for 3-day camp. *Cost includes: lunch, snacks, materials, and equipment.*

Registration Required. Forms available online and at the center. Maximum participants is 20, so sign up early!

Thanks to a donation from the John & Jeanne Hoesley family, **scholarship money** is available. Don't hesitate to ask for help for all or part of your child(ren)'s registration cost!

Summer Programs

June

Free Fishing Clinic Saturday June 6 from 9-11 AM Hurstville Fishing Pond

It's free fishing weekend for Iowa residents! This year's clinic is being organized by Tom Ehlers for his Eagle Scout project. Youth and families are invited to come and practice their fishing skills. Some fishing poles will be available for use.



Junior Naturalist Days at 1:00 Sunday June 7; Friday July 3; Sunday August 16 Hurstville Interpretive Center

Children ages 6-12 are invited to join a naturalist in a fun nature-related activity to complete requirements for their Junior Naturalist badge! June 7th—Explore the Hurstville Marsh!

Jackson County Conservation Board Meetings Tuesday June 9 at 7:30 PM: Meet at Papke Farm. Meeting at JC Welcome Center in Sabula. Tuesday July 14 at 7:30 PM: Meet at Pine Valley. Meeting TBD

Tuesday August 11 at 7:30 PM: Meet at Preston Trail.
Meeting at Preston City Hall.
During the summer, the board tours different areas of the county before the meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

River Clean-Up/ Canoe Trip Sunday June 14 at 1:00 PM Maquoketa River

Enjoy some beautiful scenery in Jackson County while cleaning up along one of our precious streams. Participants will canoe and pick up trash along a portion of the Maquoketa River. A limited supply of canoes will be available or you can bring your own. **Pre-registration is required by June 10th.**



Friends of Jackson County Conservation Meeting Tuesday June 16 at 7:00 PM Hurstville Interpretive Center

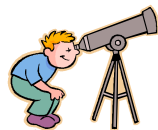
Get involved in conservation and environmental education!

Aldo Leopold Reading Sunday June 21 at 3:00 PM Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join us this Father's Day as we celebrate Aldo Leopold, ecologist, forester, and father of wildlife management. Leopold's book *A Sand County Almanac* has been read by millions and has informed and changed the environmental movement and a widespread interest in ecology as a science. Join us as portions of his book are read aloud by community members.

Science Under the Stars Thursday June 25—Friday June 26 Hurstville Interpretive Center

For youth who are going into 5th-7th grade & are interested in learning more about nature, science, & want to have fun! Campers will make their own supper and spend the night at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Cost is \$15. **Pre-registration is required by June 19th, please contact the Jackson County Extension Office at (563) 652-4923 to register your child.**



Canoe Class

Tues. June 30 & Wed. July 1 from 5-8:30 PM Hurstville Fishing Pond & Maquoketa River

Participants will learn or improve their canoeing skills. Cost: \$5/person. Limited to first 10 sign-ups. **Pre-registration required by June 25th.**

Nature Tales

June 11—Zoo Safari

July 2—Animal Olympics

August 13—Yummy Plants

Hurstville Interpretive Center at 10:00 AM

Pre-school age children and their families are invited to join AmeriCorps member Vanessa Vanis in learning more about the natural world. Story and activities will go along with the theme.

Naturalist Lunch Box

June 11— Dem Bones

June 25— Trumpeter Swans

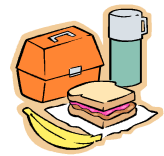
July 9— Buzzy Bees

July 23— Wonderful Wetlands

August 13— Nature Did it First

Hurstville Interpretive Center at Noon

Bring a friend, grab a lunch, & join a naturalist for an entertaining & educational program on natural resources while you dine!



July

Campground Programs

Friday July 3 at 7 PM at South Sabula Lakes Park

Saturday July 4 at 7 PM at Spruce Creek Park

Join naturalist Ann Burns for an entertaining and educational program at the picnic shelter in the campground.

GPS & Geocaching Demo

Saturday July 18 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join area geocachers for a short demo on how to use a GPS to find hidden caches. Some GPS's will be available for use or bring your own. Demo is for people of all skill levels.

Kite Flying

Sunday July 26 between 1:00—3:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Bring a kite or make & decorate one fly over the prairie. Cost is \$4 to make a kite.



August

Youth Outdoor Skills Day

Saturday August 8 from 9-1

Hurstville Fishing Pond

A day of outdoor recreation— archery, fishing, canoeing, orienteering, outdoor cooking, and more. Cost is \$5/person in advance, \$7 day of event. Great for youth and their families!



Baraboo Trip

Saturday August 15 from 6 AM—7 PM

Baraboo, Wisconsin

Travel to Baraboo to visit the International Crane Foundation and the Aldo Leopold Center. Cost: \$45/person.