



Jackson County Conservation Teacher Newsletter

Spring 2010



What's new at the Hurstville Interpretive Center?

This past fall, Jerry Birch of LaMotte, built a wickiup on the prairie at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Jerry set long willow stakes into a circle, then bent the stakes into a domed frame and lashed them together. Since none of the Conservation Board staff offered to live in the wickiup over the winter, there currently is no cover on it! The frame will remain in place as long as it holds together. The wickiup can be used during your class' field trip this spring. It will be a great setting for sharing American Indian stories and learning more about their culture.



Naturalist Jess Wagner had her baby November 24; 2 days before Thanksgiving. Arabella Iris was born 6 lbs 5 oz and 19 inches. The family is doing great and Jess is now back to work!

Spring Field Trips

Its never too early to schedule spring field trips. Our calendars fill up fast—call early!

Hurstville Interpretive Center:

Prairie, wetlands, wildlife/critters, nature hikes, birding, fishing, snowshoeing, and more. Let us know what you would like in this great outdoor classroom!



Millrock School: A visit to this one-room school-house will bring Iowa history to life. Bring along your reading, writing, and arithmetic lessons!

Maquoketa Caves State Park: Take a tour as you learn about these amazing limestone caves and the wildlife that live among them.

Any park or area in Jackson County:



There are green spaces all over Jackson County. We understand transportation is getting harder and harder, so let us come to you. Let's get the students outside and learn about the natural world through hands-on activities!

Spring Public Programs

At Hurstville Interpretive Center unless otherwise noted

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|-----------------------------|----------------|
| • Winter Glow | March 14 |
| • Iowa DNR Hunter Ed Course | March 20 & 27 |
| • Aldo Leopold Reading | March 21 |
| • Pure Water For All | March 28 |
| • Waterfowl Viewing | April 11 |
| • Basket Weaving Workshop | April 18 |
| • Earth Day | April 22 |
| • The Birds and the Bees | May 2 |
| • Iowa DNR Boat Ed Course | May 4 & 8 |
| • 1st Great Bike Ride | May 15 & 16 |
| • Traveling Prairie Exhibit | May 29—July 21 |

Student Volunteers

If you have students that needs volunteer hours or are just interested in volunteering, send them our way!

Here at the Hurstville Interpretive Center, we always have projects (indoors & out) that we rely on volunteers to help us complete.



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



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Jess Wagner jess@jacksonccb.com
Jess Howell americorps@jacksonccb.com



Phone: (563) 652-3783

2010 Wildlife Week & Iowa Poster Contest

With the push across the nation to get kids outside, there's no better time to kick off the Iowa Wildlife Federation Wildlife Week Poster Contest for students in grades 1 through 6! Note that Wildlife Week is earlier this year; March 15-21, 2010.

This year, the Iowa Wildlife Federation theme is a 'fill in the blank';

'When I'm Outside, I Like To...'

We hope your students fill in that blank with visuals; Go fishing with Grandpa? Look for Insects? Catch Frogs in the Pond? Make Snow Angels? Or use his or her imagination; 'Fly With Eagles; Be a Wolf? We hope this new format lets each student want to BE OUT THERE!

You are invited to submit the winning poster entry from your grade. We only accept one entry per grade, per school.

The entry deadline is APRIL 8, 2010

- *Posters will be judged on originality, clarity of message, and artistic quality
- *Each poster must relate to the 2010 theme, "When I'm Outside, I Like To..."
- *Posters may incorporate drawings, photos, cut outs, 3D items, or any combination.
- *Maximum poster size is 12 by 18 inches.
- *Entries must include: 1) artist: full name, age, grade, address and phone number, 2) teacher: full name, home phone number, address, 3) School: full name and address

Mail your grades winning entry to:

Grades 1 & 2
IWF Poster Contest
Ruth Mertens
508 Virdell Ct.
Burlington IA 52601

Grades 3 & 4
IWF Poster Contest
Phillip Grothus
201 E. 6th Street
Madrid IA 50156

Grades 5 & 6
IWF Poster Contest
Twilah Raes
Box 4
Welton IA 52774



Learn more at the National Wildlife Federation;
www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek.

Join Friends of Jackson County Conservation for an enjoyable evening at their annual "Soup Supper"! Money raised at our fundraiser supports the free environmental education programs that are taught in your classrooms. We hope to see you there!

Winter Glow

Program & Soup Supper Fundraiser

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Program at 3:00 PM

Supper served 4:30—7:00 PM

Silent auction from 4:00—6:00 PM

Lighthouse Program at 3:00 PM

A great presentation about the Rock Island Lighthouse by Bill & Wendy Hainstock and Rich & Mary Hayward.



Soup Supper served from 4:30—7:00 PM



A hearty supper of vegetable beef or chicken noodle soup with rolls, beverages, and desserts.

Silent auction from 4:00—6:00 PM.

Cost for the meal is \$7/adults and \$5/child 5-10 yrs. \$1 off if you purchase tickets in advance as well as a 50 cent discount at the door for bringing your own place setting (to help reduce waste).

Smart Lunch Program Winner

- **Preston 4th Grade** is the winner of the Fall 2009 "Smart Lunch" program at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. The 30 students & 3 adults left only 6 ounces of garbage after lunch!! Congratulations Heidi Lippens and Preston 4th graders!!!
- They received a 'Clever Catch' (inflatable ball with nature questions) as a prize.
- Food waste was composted, and re-usable and re-cyclable containers were taken home by students to be used again or recycled. The Spring 2010 "Smart Lunch" program will begin in January and go through the end of the school year. Remember to pack a 'waste free' lunch on your next field trip!
- Thanks to Friends of Jackson County Conservation for providing prizes to our Smart Lunch Winners!