



Jackson County Conservation Teacher Newsletter

Winter 2011-2012



What's new at the Hurstville Interpretive Center?

Snakes, Rattles & Holes



Slither into the Hurstville Interpretive Center to view an amazing traveling exhibit about snakes. The exhibit is on display through May 2012. Whether snakes make you a little nervous or if you are totally fascinated by them, this exhibit is for you. Along with walking through the approximately 45 feet long wood skeleton replica, visitors will learn how snakes are able to swallow their prey, how they move and more at the learning centers that accompany the exhibit. Don't miss the opportunity to view this museum quality exhibit in your own neighborhood for free!

Schedule a field trip with your students!

Created by Purdue University, purchased and brought to Iowa by Dallas County Conservation, and on display in Jackson County thanks to Friends of Jackson County Conservation, Maquoketa State Bank, Century Concrete, and Smiles on Main!!

Winter Field Trips

Are you students feeling the winter blues? Winter is a great time to schedule a field trip with your students. At the Hurstville Interpretive Center, we have numerous activity options that accompany the temporary snake exhibit. Many schools enjoy activities such as snowshoeing, animal tracks, geocaching, bird watching, winter adaptations and handling furs. We can come to you too...

Spring Camping

Our campgrounds in Bellevue and Sabula open April 1st with group rates available. Build a sense of community and make lasting memories. Find out more at:

<http://www.jacksonccb.com/files/youthcampingpermit.pdf>

Student Volunteers



If you have students that need volunteer hours or are just interested in serving, send them our way! We have projects (indoors & out) that we rely on volunteers to help us complete.

Great Grants

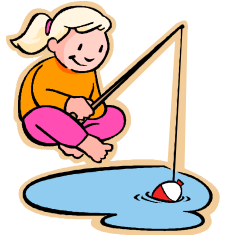
Dollars earned per hour of effort is phenomenal with these grants!

*Bussing from Friends of JCC— see attached

- *Fishing Field Experience Mini-Grants
- *Grant \$\$ for Archery in the Schools
- *Tree Planting—support conservation and teach children to care for wildlife

Find out the details at:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Education/ForTeachers/EducationalGrants.aspx>



Outdoor Play Ideas

Check out:
<http://betterkidcare.psu.edu/TIPS/TIPS05.pdf>

When you can't go outside:
Wad up the paper in your recycling tub for a pretend snowball fight.

Bridges- Choose one player to be the caller. When she shouts "Go!," the entire group walks around the play area until the caller shouts out, "Bridges," where two players hold hands and create an arch for a third child to duck under. Whoever is left out of the formations becomes the new caller. Read more: <http://www.livestrong.com/article/341694-winter-games-for-recess/#ixzz1dyfpmwwc>

To schedule a program or for more information please contact:



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Iowans Out West Series

A new dinner/speaker series at the Hurstville Center to raise funds for outdoor classroom renovations at the Center; including an amphitheatre, accessible pathways, a natural playscape, and welcome kiosk—all things to benefit school groups that visit for field trips!!!!

Grizzly Bears in Montana

Saturday December 3, 4:00 PM

Curt Kemmerer, Iowa DNR District Biologist, will share his experience researching grizzly bears out west.

Keeping People and Wildlife Safe in Wyoming

Tuesday February 7, 6:00 PM

Nate Johnson, Iowa DNR Conservation Officer, will discuss his experiences as a CO in Wyoming.

Photography Adventures around Jackson Hole

Sunday April 1, 2012

Chris Cornelius, with Cornelius Seed Corn and 4-H digital photography club leader, will share images and stories from a photography adventure in Wyoming.

Program and meal cost: \$9 per person

Buy tickets individually or purchase a table (6 people) and invite your friends, co-workers, or family!

Tickets must be purchased by the Wednesday prior to each program so we can prepare the right amount of food. There will be a limited number of tickets sold for each event.

Future speakers include: Pete Cueno as an adventure guide in Alaska and Kim Wahl protecting habitat for endangered species in Texas. Contact us for dates.



Park Packs— An entire unit in a bag!

Free to check out and enjoy, these portable learning units are stuffed full of books, games, interactives and tools for each theme. Pack themes include: Treerific Trees, Wetland Wonders, Animals of Iowa, For the Birds and Insect Safari.



Smart Lunch Program Winner

4th Graders at Bellevue Elementary

School are the winners of the Fall 2011 “Smart Lunch” program at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. The 53 students & 12 adults left only 4 ounces of garbage after lunch during their field trip, which equates to 0.006 ounces/person... WOW!! Congratulations Kim Jochum & Chris Isobaker and the 4th grade students!!! They received a pop-up port-a-bug container to use in their classroom. Thanks to Friends of Jackson County Conservation for providing prizes to our winners!

JCCB Winter Program for the Public

A Natural Holiday Sunday December 18 at 2:00 pm

We'll be making recyclable wrapping paper, gift bags and using fabric as a reusable wrapper. Free program!! Take home everything you make!!

Winter Adventure Overnight

Wed. December 28—Thurs. December 29

Youth in grades 4th, 5th, & 6th are invited spend the night at the Hurstville Interpretive Center while enjoying outdoor winter activities. Registration forms available online at www.jacksonccb.com.

Snowshoeing Sunday January 22 at 2:00 pm

Free equipment usage to the public!

Owl Prowl Saturday February 11 at 6:00 pm

Join a naturalist to learn more about owls in Iowa. Then we'll head to Maquoketa Caves where Bob Walton will lead us in calling the owls. Dress for the weather.

Duck Waddle Saturday March 10 at 7:00 AM

Green Island Wildlife Area

Join Dubuque Audubon Society for their spring waterfowl count. See if you can identify one waddle from another!

Great Annual Backyard Bird Count February 17—20

The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds How to participate? Visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc/

We need your feedback!

Our goal is to provide you with the resources to enhance your curriculum and share knowledge of the natural world to our students. Please respond to our survey email coming out soon so we can improve our services to you.



Social Media Race is On!

We have challenged Swiss Valley Nature Center to a race to see who can add the most ‘likes’ on Facebook by March 1st. **Help us out!!** Log on your account, search Hurstville Interpretive Center and ‘LIKE’! The losing nature center staff must “Hug Hog” Saturday March 3rd—a must see event.



Snowshoeing this Winter!!

Tired of being stuck inside this winter? Try snowshoeing, it's a great outdoor activity for youth groups, friends, **school groups**, kids, and families! We would love to snowshoe with you and your students this winter. Come out to the Hurstville Interpretive Center or we can bring them to your school! Free to use for schools in Jackson County. We also rent the snowshoes to the public at \$5 a pair for the day or weekend.

For more information on programs, check out our quarterly newsletter online at www.jacksonccb.com

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