



# Jackson County Conservation Teacher Newsletter

Spring 2011



## What's new at the Hurstville Interpretive Center?

We loved to throw them, and filled our pockets with them as kids. But as we grow older, most of us lose that fascination with rocks. A new exhibit will spark some of that interest in visitors once again. An interactive geology timeline has been installed on the "mezzanine" floor of the Hurstville Center. This exhibit adds to the display of rocks and minerals that was made from collections donated by Sherm Burns of Maquoketa and Jennifer Coldwell, formerly of Bellevue. By moving a panel along the timeline, visitors can make the connections between the various rock types found in Iowa with the environmental conditions and life forms that occurred in Iowa during various geological periods. For visitors who cannot negotiate the stairs to the mezzanine, we have a rock collection and a geologic timeline available for them to view. Simply ask at the front desk. The geology exhibit along with another about animal tracks were purchased from a nature center in Woodbury County. The Animal Tracks exhibit is located on the main exhibit floor and features track stamps that visitors can use with water and a slate surface to make their own stories in tracks. This is a kid friendly exhibit! Come and check out these new exhibits anytime.

## Spring Field Trips

Its time to think about spring field trips! Our calendars fill up fast—call early! We're available to go throughout Jackson County. Here are some of our more popular field trip destinations.

Hurstville Interpretive Center: Explore the tall-grass prairie, wetlands, and butterfly garden. View our indoor exhibits and enjoy a nature hike, birding, fishing, and many other great environmental education programs.

Millrock School: A visit to this one-room schoolhouse will bring Iowa history to life. Your students will get a feel for what it was like to be a student at the turn of the 20th century.



Maquoketa Caves State Park: The caves are closed but the park is still a great outdoor classroom for learning about life in the woods. We can explore the trails and rock shelters, as well as check out the natural bridge!

Hurstville Lime Kilns: Learn about Iowa history from the largest operation of its kind west of Chicago at the turn of the 20th century. Could combine with a visit to the Center.

Eden Valley: Great hiking trails, a suspension bridge, rock climbing, IOWATER testing, nature center, and more. Could combine with a trip to Millrock School.

### Any park or area in Jackson County:

There are green spaces all over Jackson County. We understand transportation is an issue, so let us come to you. Let's get the students outside and learn about the natural world through hands-on activities in your local parks and other outdoor classroom!



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



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## Public Programs this Spring

Bat & Cave Program	March 27
Soup Supper Fundraiser	March 27
Geology Rocks!	April 2
Waterfowl viewing	April 3
Woodcock Walk	April 8
Outdoor Fitness Club	April 9
Leopold Bench Workshop	April 9
Nature under a Microscope	April 10
Tree Planting—Earth Day Project	April 16
Turkey Calls	April 17
Green Cleaning Party	May 1
Dutch Oven Demo	May 8
Outdoor Fitness Club	May 14
2nd GEAR Bike Ride	May 14 & 15
Basket Weaving	May 15
Kite Flying	May 22
The Birds & the Bees	May 28
Free Fishing Clinic	June 4
Canoe Trip on the Maquoketa	June 12

For more information about the above programs, go to [www.jacksonccb.com/CalendarofEvents.html](http://www.jacksonccb.com/CalendarofEvents.html).

## Swans and Schools

The swan restoration program is moving into its “mature” stage with the Iowa DNR. That means more chances for your students to see the entire swan family at the Hurstville Center, and perhaps even a chance to see them up close at school!

With the additional cygnets to feed over the winter, we are looking for sponsors to adopt one or more cygnets each year. Individuals, families, schools or classrooms can sponsor a cygnet for \$50. Any school that is a sponsor will have the opportunity to have a cygnet visit their school in April 2012 – prior to their release into the wild. During the cygnet’s visit the students will learn about the connections between swans, people and clean water.

Friends of Jackson County Conservation would like to thank The David & Beth Sybesma family for their continued sponsorship of the swan family in 2011. Also, thanks to Barb & Gary Miller, Bethany Schiefelbein & Matt Burns for sponsoring this past year’s cygnets.

Another way to help with the swans is to take video footage of them. Their antics as they feed and bathe are fun to observe, but too often our staff are the only ones who get to see the fun! If you have a digital video camera and are willing to spend some relaxing time watching the swans so you can capture the family in action, please contact us!

## Workshops for Teachers about the Mississippi!

### River Quest

*Workshop for teachers of 3rd-5th grades*

**June 8-10, 13-16, August 4-5**

*At Clarke University & Miss. River Museum, Dubuque*  
Receive a paid field trip for your class to the Mississippi River Museum in DBQ, enhance your teaching skills and increase your content knowledge in science, prepare yourself to go beyond the kits, receive materials for your classroom, graduate credit for recertification, and more!

Carol Priest, 563-588-6353, [carol.priest@clarke.edu](mailto:carol.priest@clarke.edu)  
<http://www.clarke.edu/page.aspx?id=4794>

### Exploration of the Mississippi River

*Workshop for teachers of 4th-12 grades*

**June 26—June 29**

*At Wyalusing State Park, Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin*  
Field trips and practical experiences, history of the River, techniques used to monitor the health of the River, receive an activity guide for teaching about the River. Registration: \$80 (includes meals, workshop materials, and lodging). 2 graduate level credits available.

Jeff Janvrin, 608-785-9005, [jeff.janvrin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jeff.janvrin@wisconsin.gov)  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/teacher/pdf/miss11.pdf>

## Friends of Jackson County Conservation Goodbye Winter! Hello Spring!

**Sunday March 27**

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center

### *Bat and Cave Program at 3:00 pm*

“The Caves are closed”. This announcement caused some commotion in our community this past year. Come and learn more about white nose syndrome in bats and the status of the Maquoketa Caves.

### *Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup Supper served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm*

Cost: \$7 adults (\$6 advance); \$5 Kdg-6th grade (\$4 advance); Preschool & under Free. Bring your own reusable table service and receive a 50 cent discount!



### *Silent Auction from 4:00 – 6:00 PM*

Money raised from the soup supper goes towards environmental education in Jackson County. This is a great opportunity for those that benefit from our programs to help support them. We hope to see you all there!