

Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FALL 2009

Monarch Tagger Beats the Odds!

By Ann Burns, Environmental Education Coordinator

What are the odds? One in a million; maybe one in two million –no one figured it out mathematically. It was a totally unexpected (*but definitely hoped for*) event when I spotted a live tagged monarch while on a trip to Mexico this past March!

I was fortunate to travel with a group of 18 Iowans, including 6 County Conservation Board naturalists, on an adventure to Michoacán, Mexico to see the over-wintering monarch butterflies March 7-14. We were visiting our second monarch site of the trip, the LaSalud colony on a mountain side about 100 miles west of Mexico City.

We had seen hundreds of thousands live monarchs that morning. They were roosting in trees, “puddling” on small streams and flying down the draws. As we gathered to look at a lone monarch on a tree stump; I looked up into a small cluster on an oyamel fir tree branch above the stump and spotted the female monarch with a tag on her wing. We photographed her to document the tag number and our guide sent the information to Monarch Watch.



Ann Burns observes monarchs up close!

Just this month (August) the question of where that female had been tagged and released was answered. And amazingly she was tagged at the Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, IA. Again, what are the odds?! Of all the hundreds of people who tag monarchs each fall and of all the millions of monarchs in the reserves in Mexico; I managed to spot one that had been tagged practically “next door”!



Thousands of Monarchs gather on single trees in large clusters.

I have been tagging monarchs since 1988 and the whole story of their lives and migration is so amazing. The opportunity to experience their over-wintering site was a dream trip! Spotting a tagged monarch while on that dream trip was icing on the cake!

Be sure to join us Saturdays at 1:00 PM during September for monarch tagging at the Hurstville Center. If I am there, I'll gladly share more of my impressions of the trip to Mexico! (All you have to do is ask!)

Trumpeter Swans hatch cygnets

The Jackson County Conservation Board is delighted to announce the hatching of 5 trumpeter swan cygnets at the Hurstville Interpretive Center this year. The cygnets hatched June 17th and are growing at a fast rate! This is the second successful year for the conservation board as part of the restoration program with the Iowa DNR. The cygnets will be moved this fall to a pond near Mason City for the winter and then in the spring will be released into the wild.



Photo taken June 20th



Photo taken August 25th

Park Improvements

Trail Connection Project Continuing

Plans have been underway to connect the existing Jackson County Recreational Trail (3.7 miles; managed by JCCB) and the Copper Creek Trail (1 mile; managed by City of Preston). The project is at Phase 2 with a \$100,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Great Places Program and a \$50,000 grant from REAP awarded to the City of Preston to fund the land acquisition and construction of the trail. The trail is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2010. This 2.2 mile extension of the Copper Creek Trail will provide walkers and bicyclists a 7-mile trail from Preston to Spragueville and on up to Hwy Z34.

Picnic shelter at the Hurstville Fishing Pond



A new picnic shelter is being built for fishing enthusiasts to enjoy some shade while at the pond. This project was funded by Friends of Jackson County Conservation.

Additions to the Hurstville Marsh overlook deck

Tyler Polk added benches and a shade covering as his Eagle Scout project to the overlook deck on old Hwy 61. His addition helps make the overlook a great stop to view waterfowl!



Trail bridge at the Hurstville Interpretive Center



Brandt Reuter, for his Eagle Scout project, built a bridge from the parking lot to the trail to allow visitors better access over a 'wet' area.

New bridge built at Pine Valley Nature Area

Last year's high waters took out two bridges at Pine Valley. Staff has replaced one of the two this summer.

New exhibit at the Center: "Birds of 'Your' Backyard"

This new exhibit at the Center identifies common summer birds in our area. It also talks about their wintering habitats and fly-away routes. This exhibit was funded through memorials for Jon Nissen.



Be a Voice for Natural and Historic Resources in Iowa...

Attend Your REAP Regional Assembly! Regional REAP Assemblies are a "must attend" for people interested in natural and historic resources in Iowa, particularly those truly wanting to make a difference. Assemblies are held every 2 years in Iowa's 17 Councils of Government.

The Regional Assembly for Jackson, Clinton, Cedar, Dubuque and Delaware Counties will be held at the **Hurstville Interpretive Center Tuesday September 29 from 7-9 PM**. At this meeting staff with the DNR will give an overview of the statewide program and highlight some programs in our region. There will be time on the agenda for suggestions from the audience regarding the REAP program. The group will also elect five delegates to attend the 2010 state REAP Congress.

REAP truly is a grassroots resource program. Participation in these regional assemblies and on the county committees gives local people a voice in what is being done in their county and region for historic and natural resources.

Leaves and Limestone

Fall Driving Tour

October 10–11 in Jackson County

Autumn is a beautiful time in Jackson County as the trees show off their stunning colors for all to enjoy. Every year thousands of people head outdoors to view nature's wonderful display. Here in Jackson County, the best time to enjoy fall foliage is in the first three weeks of October.

In combination with fall foliage, the Jackson County Tourism Association is hosting a '**Leaves and Limestone**' Fall Driving Tour on **Saturday and Sunday October 10 and 11**. The 'Leaves' denotes the fall foliage and the 'Limestone' represents the National Register of historic places in Jackson County and other area attractions. Maps of Jackson County will be available with 'leaf viewing' routes and locations of all historic sites.

Also part of the driving tour will be 'Gold Leaf' stops where participants can get their 'passport' stamped and enter into a drawing for \$100. Gold Leaf stops include Andrew Jail, Brush Creek Winery, Circle C Restaurant, Clinton Engines Museum, Decker House, Graverts Apple Orchard, The Happy Bean Coffee Shop, Hometown Café, Hurstville Interpretive Center, Jackson County Welcome Center, Kalmes Restaurant, Maquoketa Caves Visitor Center, North Bend School, Tabor Winery, and Young Museum. Participants must visit at least 10 of the 15 Gold Leaf Stops to be eligible for the drawing.

Map and passport will be available mid-September and can be picked up at the 15 above locations. Passports can also be downloaded from www.jacksonccb.com.

Fall Programs



September

Monarch Tagging

Every Saturday in September at 1:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn about the monarch butterfly's journey south for the winter. Be a part of the research by catching and tagging this year's migrants.



Monarchs in Mexico

Sunday September 13 at 1:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join us for an opportunity to learn more about the reserves in Mexico where 'our' monarch butterflies spend the winter. Ann Burns will share photos and thoughts from her experience there this past March.

Fall Canoe Trip

Sunday September 27 at 1:00 PM
North Fork of the Maquoketa River

Enjoy fall colors and fresh air as you canoe along the Maquoketa River. Call us to reserve a free canoe, bring your own, or contact a local outfitter to rent. *Pre-registration required.*



REAP Tour

Saturday September 26, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Starts at Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn how Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection program has helped natural and historic resource projects in Jackson County. We'll start out with a photo tour of the many projects on public lands; then take a driving tour of projects around the county, including a timber stand improvement project at the Darcy and Susan Keil farm, a visit to the Insane Asylum near Andrew, and finish up at the Copper Creek Trail at Preston to see where the trail will be extended.

Regional REAP Meeting

Tuesday September 29, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

A "must attend" for people interested in natural and historic resources in Iowa. See page 2 for more info.

October

Leaves & Limestone Fall Driving Tour
Saturday & Sunday October 10 & 11
Jackson County

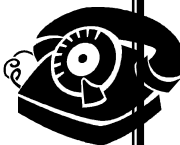
See page 2 for more info.



Taste of Jackson County

Saturday October 10 from 12-4 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

In conjunction with the Leaves & Limestone tour, Friends of Jackson County Conservation would like to invite you to their fall fundraiser. Sample food and drink that is made here in the county. \$5 donation for tasting.



Friends of Jackson County Cons. Meeting
Tuesday October 20th at 7:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

All those interested are welcome to attend. Help make decisions regarding exhibits, special projects, and more with the conservation office.

Halloween Hike—Iowa's State Symbols

Saturday October 24 between 6:00—8:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Bring your family to the Hurstville Interpretive Center for some Halloween fun with a nature twist. Activities include a craft, snack, and a trail hike full of characters with environmental messages. Wear your costumes and enter the judging contest! **Space is limited so call early—pre-registration recommended to ensure a spot on a hike.** Hikes every 15 minutes between 6-8 PM. Cost: \$2.00/person or \$5.00/family

The Truth about Bats

Sunday October 25 at 1:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

There are so many myths about bats—come and learn the truths of these flying mammals who aren't always our favorite friends. It will be a very informative program with tips on how to keep these creatures out of your house.



November

Bird Feeder Workshop

Sunday November 1 at 1:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Get ready to feed your winter visitors! This workshop will provide the materials and instruction to build your own bird feeder for your yard. We'll discuss what types of seed attract which birds and how to keep them safe and healthy! **Registration required by Oct. 26th.** Cost: \$7



Snakes of Iowa

Sunday November 15 at 1:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

We often fear what we don't understand. Join a naturalist in learning about snakes that inhabit Iowa. Live snakes will be used during this presentation. All ages welcome!

Our public programs are designed for enjoyment and education for all ages and varying abilities and knowledge. Programs are free and require no registration unless otherwise noted. Groups are always welcome. If you have special needs, please contact us prior to an event. To register for a program or for more information, please contact the conservation office at (563) 652-3783.

December

Reusable Christmas

**Sunday December 6 at 1:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center**



A winter craft that just keeps giving! To curb all the waste generated at Christmas time, join a naturalist for an afternoon of decorating reusable Christmas gift bags and recycling wrapping paper into decorations. Take what you make home with you to wrap this year's gifts! Cost: \$2/person. All ages welcome!

Winter Overnight

**Wed. Dec. 30 at 4 PM —Thurs. Dec. 31 at 9 AM
Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Spend the evening at the Hurstville Center and explore the winter world. You'll also have fun meeting other kids from the Jackson County area. Cost is \$15 which includes supper, breakfast, snacks, materials, and a mug to take home. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by Wednesday Dec. 23rd at 4 PM. Please contact Jackson County Extension Office at 563-652-4923 to register.

MEET THE NEW CRITTERS

Something new has slithered into the Hurstville Interpretive Center—a Milk Snake and a Black Rat Snake that is!

Both snakes are native to Iowa and will be used at the center and travel around the county for educational programs. Thanks go to Larry Zierklebach, former Maquoketa Caves State Park Ranger, for donating the snakes and their 'housing' needs. The snakes are protected by state law, meaning they may not be collected or harmed without a permit. Stop in at the Hurstville Interpretive Center and ask to see the snakes. Don't forget about the box turtles and Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches too!



WANTED: SNAKE SPONSORS

\$75/year will provide food and care for one snake. This is a great opportunity to help out our environmental education program. Any individual, family, or organization is welcome to sponsor!

MEET THE NEW STAFF

Operation Technician—My name is Jerry Widel and I am the new Operations Technician for Jackson County Conservation. I attended Kirkwood Community College where I received my Associates of Applied Science degree in Parks and Natural Resources. While in college I worked for Linn County Conservation for two seasons at Morgan Creek Park. Then I



moved back to the area and took a job at Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, Iowa where I had worked for the past nine years. I have lived in Andrew with my wife Melissa for the past 9 years. We have 3 children. Clayton is 7 years old and in 2nd grade, Cale is 5 years old and in Kindergarten, and Cora is 2 years old. Some of my hobbies include hunting, fishing, sports, and my taxidermy business. I really enjoy spending time and working outdoors, that is why this job is a perfect match for me.

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. Jessica enjoys working on her hobbies—photography and art and loves the outdoors.



Green tips for the Fall

We're always thinking of ways to be more environmentally friendly. Here are a few ideas of things to do this fall to help out the environment!



- ◆ **Don't throw out the leaves!** Shred them with the mower and leave them on the lawn. Use them as mulch around flower beds (keeps down the weeds and reduces moisture loss). Or compost them for fertilizer.
- ◆ **Buy eco-friendly school supplies**—from recycled paper to backpacks. Most office supply stores and many online sites offer green supplies.
- ◆ **Watch the temperature in your house.** Utilize the fresh air by opening up the windows this fall. When you do turn on the heat, each degree below 68°F (20°C) saves 3-5% on your heating bill.





Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Friends of Jackson County Conservation
fall fundraiser!

Taste of Jackson County

**Saturday October 10
from Noon—4:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Stop out and sample food and drink that is made right here in Jackson County! Locally made products are a sustainable alternative.

This event is in conjunction with Jackson County Tourism Association's 'Leaves & Limestone Fall Driving Tour' Oct 10-11.

The Hurstville Interpretive Center has been designated as 1 of 15 'Golden Leaf' stops.

Admission for tasting: \$5 donation.
Vendors will have products for sale as well

If you would like to help with this event, please contact Jess or Ann at the conservation office at (563) 652-3783 or jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com.

Become a Member!

If you would like to become a member of Friends of Jackson County Conservation, fill out the membership form to the right and mail it to the conservation office. Dues go towards ongoing projects in the county. Once you are a member, join us at our meetings to share your input of what the Friends group can accomplish!

**Next Friends Meeting
Tuesday October 20th at 7:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Interested in supporting and assisting the Jackson County Conservation Board? Join the Friends of Jackson County Conservation for their fall meeting and learn more about the benefits of being a friend and become involved!

Membership Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____
Phone number: _____
Email Address: _____

Type of Membership: (Please check one per form and make checks payable to Friends of Jackson County Conservation.)

Student
\$5.00

Regular
\$10.00

Senior Citizen
\$5.00

Family
\$20.00

Sustaining
\$50.00

Other Contribution
\$ _____

Amt. enclosed..... _____

Please send Membership form and fee to:

Friends of Jackson County Conservation
18670 63rd St.

Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

Memberships are on a fiscal year- July 1 to June 30

Snip and Take to Pizza Hut

Pizza Hut in Maquoketa will donate 20% of your purchase to Friends of Jackson County Conservation. Just turn in this ticket when you pay and the Friends will get the credit. Dine-in, carry-out, and delivery from 5:00 PM to close on *September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9* (2nd Wednesday)



Your Name: _____ Date: _____

I support: Friends of Jackson County Conservation

Total Spent: _____ (Pizza Hut staff will fill this out and attach it to your receipt.)

Summer Activities at Hurstville Interpretive Center



DAC Dayhab enjoyed a guided nature hike along the prairie and marsh!

Youth try their hand at archery, Frisbee golf, canoeing, fly fishing, and more at Youth Outdoor Skills Day.



Several people from the area joined our staff for a trip to Baraboo, WI to see the International Crane Foundation and the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center this past month.



Above—day camp participants learn about Iowa turtles from fisheries biologist Denny Weiss. Left—day camp participants get up close with a milk snake!

Kid's Corner



Fall is such a beautiful time of year. Here are some activities to really enjoy what the season has to offer!

- ◆ Go for a walk and identify trees (check out our tree park pack for tree guides).
- ◆ Collect leaves and create a nature collage
- ◆ Make placemats using leaves and contact paper
- ◆ Go to a local orchard and pick apples
- ◆ Bob for apples with your friends
- ◆ Make puppets with corn husks
- ◆ Make a wreath out of acorns
- ◆ Record the changes in temperature, length of day, and weather
 - ◆ Observe critters preparing for winter
 - ◆ Look for insect eggs and cocoons
 - ◆ Keep track of birds during fall migration



Fall Word Search

M	G	B	C	O	A	P	P	L	E
O	N	L	P	A	U	C	I	L	H
N	I	P	H	O	T	O	A	A	A
A	H	M	N	S	U	L	M	B	R
R	S	T	O	F	M	O	R	T	V
C	I	R	U	A	N	R	T	O	E
H	F	L	Y	O	L	L	Y	O	S
L	E	A	V	E	S	E	C	F	T

Leaves
Football
Photo

Frost
Fishing
Monarch

Harvest
Autumn
Fly

Apple
Color
South



A Special Thank You!

Jackson County Conservation would like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals, clubs, and businesses for their continued support and donations. With their help, we have been able to do so much more!

- Volunteered at the Hurstville Interpretive Center**— Heidi Ahrens, Lou Behrend, Myrna Cavanagh, Marlene Dalziel, Darlene Dalziel, Lorene Delagardelle, June Fisher, Ron Fisher, Ruth Hainstock, Wendy Hainstock, Mary Hayward, Jeanne Hoesley, John Hoesley, Karen Krueger, Geraldine Lambert, Jo Ellen Langermann, Andrew Manders, Linda Schuller, Mitchell Manders, Elizabeth Manning, Emma Manning, Sandra Maxwell, Margaret McCarthy, Barb McCray, Zoe McMahan, Donna Medinger, Mary Mether, Dorothy Nabb, Grace Otting, Amber Ruff, Asher Schroeder, Bel Tubbs, Chris Tubbs, Duane Westphal, Doris Yaddof, Hilary Martin
- Fill Bird Feeders at Center**— Ryan Current
- Manage Butterfly Garden**— Darlis Croce, Maxine Flock, Jeanne Hoesley, Karen Krueger, Chris Tubbs, Jack Tubbs
- Manage Flowerbeds at Kilns**— Don & Nancy Flagel
- Made Atlatl Kits**—Rich Current, Kevin Burns
- Helped with River Clean-up**— KJ Rebarcak, Nancy Wolber, Rock Island High School science students, Linda Schuller, Andrew Manders, Mitchell Manders, Ben Wagner, Kevin Burns, Dave Nissen, Lynn Nissen, Ronda Hulsebus, Jack Hulsebus, John Cavanaugh, Kelly Oberbreckling
- Eagle Scout Projects at Center**—Brandt Reuter, Tyler Polk
- Helped with Youth Outdoor Skills Day**— Dawn Wagner, Marty Wagner, Eric Strathman, Jerry Millwright, Tom Lane, Robyn Lane, Ashley Lane, Natasha Lane, Amber Ruff, Rick Small, Tammy Small, Ethan Small
- Program Presentations**— Denny Weiss, Gary Purtillo
- Monitor Bee Hive at Center**— Elmer Yaddoff, Ray Johnson, Chris Johnson
- Cash Donation**— Creative Learning Center, Clifford & Carol Rask, Harriet Sommer, Jacqueline Suerdahl
- Donations**— Vanessa Vanis (book), Olivia Cornelius (birdseed), Ken & Lucy Donovan (puzzle), Tom & Colleen Petaros (suitcases), Kenny Burns (photo display), Fran Lamb (photos)

Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:

Sara Hurst Cooper



A big thank you to Andrew Manders, Elizabeth Manning, and Emma Manning for all their great work volunteering at the Hurstville Interpretive Center this summer!

Jackson County Conservation Board

Board Members

Bill Hainstock	Maquoketa
Jerry Millwright	La Motte
Roger Schladetzky	Bellevue
Rick Small	Bernard
Eric Strathman	Andrew

Board Address

18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060
(563) 652-3783

Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621

E-mail jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com

Website www.jacksonccb.com &
www.MyCountyParks.com/Jackson

Daryl Parker	Executive Director
Ann Burns	Environmental Ed. Coordinator
Jeannie Collins-Heer	Park Ranger
Ryan Owen	Park Ranger
Jerry Widel	Operation Technician
Pam True	Office Manager
Jess Wagner	Naturalist
Jessica Howell	AmeriCorp Volunteer

Up and Down the River is distributed free of charge on a quarterly basis. If you are not currently receiving the newsletter and would like to, or if you know of someone who would like to, call us at (563) 652-3783 or email jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com.

A large print copy of this newsletter is available by contacting the JCCB office at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.

Save a tree!

To save resources we would like to reduce the number of newsletters printed and mailed. **Special Bonus- Photos & graphics are in color!** If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, email jess@jacksonccb.com.

Don't worry, you can still get your newsletter in the mail if you prefer. Please help us update our address book by checking the mailing labels to insure we have the address correct and please notify us of any changes. The post office does not forward bulk mail. Thanks for helping us update our mailing list!

Up and Down the River is available on the web at www.JacksonCCB.com/Newsletter & www.MyCountyParks.com/Jackson

Jackson County Conservation
Hurstville Interpretive Center
18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060

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For more information regarding Jackson County Conservation Board activities or events

Call (563) 652-3783 or

Email jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com

Check out our website at www.jacksonccb.com

mycountyparks 
.com

Printed with vegetable ink on recycled paper

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Home of Jackson County Conservation Office

Hours Monday-Friday 9 am — 4 pm

November—March

Saturday & Sunday 12 pm — 4 pm

April-October

Saturday & Sunday 12 pm — 5 pm

No Admission Fee!



Holidays:

Open Labor Day!

Closed Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving (Nov 26—29),
Christmas (Dec 24 at noon—Dec 27), and New
Year's (Dec 31 at noon—Jan 3)

Want to be a Citizen Scientist?

Do you actively feed birds, observe plants, watch wildlife, or want to help with on-going nature studies? Be a citizen scientist! These projects are also great hands-on activities using real world data for students or 4-H projects! There are several Iowa and national studies that rely on volunteers to collect data. Below are some places to check out:

Monarch Watch -tagging monarch butterflies in Sept/Oct for migration to Mexico www.monarchwatch.org

Journey North -observances of several species especially in spring www.learner.org

IOWATER -taking local water samples www.iowater.net

Project Feeder Watch -recording winter birds at feeders www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw

Iowa Nature Mapping -observe several species throughout the year www.extension.iastate.edu/naturemapping

Great Backyard Bird Count -counting birds within a four day period in February www.birdsource.org

Iowa DNR Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program -bird nest survey and frog/toad call survey during the spring and summer www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/diversity/vwmp.html

Project Budburst -observances of phenological changes in flowers, shrubs, and trees in the spring www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst

Environmental Ed. Wish List

- *Adopt bluebird houses at the center
- *Bird seed
- *Funds for taxidermy work
- *Nature books
- *Astronomy Buff to do a program
- *Wood samples
- *Costumes for Halloween Hike (deer, fox, and much more!!)
- * Hand-powered drills (with bits)

—Talk to the conservation staff and receive a detailed list of program books and materials needed.