



Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FALL 2011

****Park Spotlight****

Pine Valley Nature Area

Hiking, bird watching, hunting, geocaching, wildlife viewing, and more—all on this 676-acre nature area. Rare plants and animals, historical past, scenic quality, and archaeological significance make it one of the most diverse resource areas in our county. Take your family or a friend out this fall and explore the park via the great trail system! For a map of the area and trails, go online to www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jackson. Pine Valley is located 3 miles north of Monmouth on 30th Ave.



Whitetails Unlimited Chapter Purchases Property

By Daryl Parker, Executive Director

In May 2011 the Jackson County Conservation Department received title to a 10 acre parcel adjacent to the county managed Pine Valley Nature Area. This property was acquired by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in February 2011. With donations from local Whitetails Unlimited Chapters in Jackson, Clinton, and Jones Counties, plus a grant from the National Whitetails Unlimited Organization the entire 10 acre parcel was purchased utilizing Whitetails Unlimited funds.

This new acquisition has river frontage along the Maquoketa River and contains excellent quality upland hardwood tree species including white and red oak, walnut, cherry, basswood and hickory. The area has numerous limestone rock outcroppings with several scenic vistas of the Maquoketa River valley.

Acquisition of these river corridor properties, especially adjacent to existing county wildlife areas, has been a priority for the conservation department because of their unique character. Certainly this new 10 acre parcel fits the model for a priority acquisition.

The real benefit associated with this acquisition is that the property was purchased with completely donated funds from the local Whitetails Unlimited Chapters in Jackson, Clinton, and Jones Counties. The additional benefit was the sellers of the property wanted the property to be in public ownership and were willing to sell the area at a bargain price. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was willing to step into the picture to secure the parcel until the funding from the Whitetails Unlimited Chapters was secured.

The Jackson County Conservation Department is truly thankful for this gracious gift from the Whitetails Unlimited Organization. It is a great pleasure to work with organizations like WTU and the INHF as both of these organizations continue to do worthwhile projects throughout Iowa providing quality habitat for all of us to enjoy the outdoors.



Recap of Summer Internship

By Jessica Wagner, Naturalist

Visitors to the Hurstville Interpretive Center will now be able to learn more about the important role of animal pollinators. Michelle Turner, Watershed Coordinator with Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, received a grant from Rockwell Collins Green Communities Program to implement a pollinator garden in Jackson County. She chose the butterfly garden at the Hurstville Interpretive Center because of the large number of visitors each year. One of the main projects this summer for Education Intern Elizabeth Manning was to implement the pollinator garden. Elizabeth and Michelle worked together to develop the layout, till the soil, plant the perennials and vegetables, and mulch the garden.



Elizabeth and Michelle hard at work putting in the garden!

The pollinator garden serves as an educational tool to educate the public about the importance of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, and bats. These animals play a vital role in our ecosystem and are directly responsible for pollinating 35 percent of our global food crops. In conjunction with the garden, Elizabeth developed educational brochures for the public to learn more about animal pollinators and how to plant for them.

Elizabeth's internship was funded by Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area. Silos mission is to preserve and tell the story of American agriculture and its global significance through partnerships and activities that celebrate the land, people, and communities of the area. The Hurstville Interpretive Center is a partner site of Silos. Matching funds for the internship position was provided by Friends of Jackson County Conservation.



Elizabeth presents a program about pollinators at our Naturalist Lunch Box.

Elizabeth kept busy this summer with other projects. She planned and carried out our 3-day summer Ranger day camp held in June for 2nd-4th graders. Elizabeth spent time researching the historic communities of Millrock and Hurstville to gather information about these two sites that the Jackson County Conservation Board manages. And she presented several public programs and led activities for youth group visits over the summer. Thanks Elizabeth for all your hard work!

Recycling

By Jen Meyer, Naturalist Intern

Where do you take those odd and end items you no longer use? Instead of sending it to the landfill, recycle it! Lets work together to find a place for everything and put everything in its place.

Businesses that Recycle	What they take
Alliant Energy & Maquoketa Valley Electric	will <i>pay you</i> to haul away freezer, refrigerators, ac units
Best Buy	rechargeable batteries, gift cards, CDs, most home & office electronics
B G Salvage	anything with metal parts
Can City	5¢ refundable containers
DAC Inc. in Maquoketa	paper, cardboard, glass, tin, plastic #1-7, aluminum, shoes, and clothes
Jackson County Rural Recycling Drop-off Stations	plastic #1-2, tin, aluminum, paper, cardboard
Fareway	plastic shopping bags
Hermes Auto Shop	used motor oil and filters, tires (\$3-5 fee)
Jackson County Transfer Station	single-use batteries, hazardous materials (chemicals, cleaners, paints), electrical appliances (25¢/lb fee)
Lowes	CFL light bulbs, rechargeable batteries
Radio Shack	rechargeable batteries and ink cartridges
RCS Computer & Appliance	home or office electronics or appliance
Ron Ann's Floral Shoppe	gently used vases and baskets
Spartan Manufacturing	wood pallets
Sybesma Eye Care	used eye glasses
US Cellular	cellular phones and accessories

Schedule a fall program

In addition to public programs, our EE staff present programs for classrooms, colleges, civic organizations, social groups, businesses, homeschoolers, youth groups, etc. We have programs ready to go or we can work with you on a topic of interest. Please contact for more information.

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. *All ages welcome.*



Autumn under a Microscope **Sunday October 9 at 2:00 PM** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join a naturalist for a fun filled program on all the little things we have often wondered about but couldn't see. *Great fun for the whole family!*

Fall Prairie Hike **Sunday October 16 at 2:00 PM** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join a naturalist for a hike through the prairie and enjoy the season! *All ages welcome.*

Friends of Jackson County Cons. Meeting **Tuesday October 18 at 7:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

All are welcome to attend. Help make decisions regarding exhibits, special projects, and more.

Halloween Hike—Theme: Holey Homes **Saturday October 22 from 6-8 PM** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Bring your family to the Hurstville Interpretive Center for some Halloween fun with a nature twist. Activities include a craft, games, snack, and a trail hike full of characters with environmental messages. Hikes are every 15 minutes between 6:00-7:30 PM. Cost is \$2.00/person or \$5.00/family. Call ahead to pick a hike time.

Slithering Snake Exhibit Grand Opening **Saturday October 29 at 12:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

This is an exhibit you don't want to miss! A traveling exhibit on display at the Center from October—June. Thanks to MSB, our early bird sponsor for this exhibit.

Pooches in the Park **Sunday October 30 at 2:00 PM** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join us for an afternoon of hiking and socializing with our canine companions. All pooches must be on a 6-foot leash (maximum). Non-aggressive dogs only please!



Mushroom Foray

Saturday September 10 at 10:00 AM

Maquoketa Caves State Park

(our Outdoor Fitness Club will be in conjunction with this hike for September's get together)

The Prairie States Mushroom Club of Iowa will lead participants on a walk through the park looking for fungi. We'll be walking off the trail so wear long pants. After gathering a variety of specimens, we'll gather to learn more about fungi. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the hike.

Fall Canoe Trip / River Cleanup **Saturday September 10 at 8:30—Noon** **Maquoketa River—5th St Boat Ramp**

Join Club hOpe members and JCCB staff as we canoe down the Maquoketa River and clean up trash. Call to preregister. Lunch will be provided to participants.



Archaeology Dig

Sunday September 25 at 2:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Be an archaeologist for a day! Dig up artifacts to find clues about our past and then use those clues to learn more about how people lived. *All ages welcome.*

October

Babes on the Prairie

Saturday October 1 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Bring your little one(s) out to experience our prairie in a safe and gentle way. A naturalist will guide you along our stroller friendly trails as we introduce the children to the sights, sounds and textures of the great outdoors.



Leaves & Limestone Fall Driving Tour **Saturday & Sunday October 8 & 9**

Maps of Jackson County will be available with great 'leaf viewing' routes and locations of all historic sites in Jackson County. Visit at least 5 'Gold Leaf' stops and enter into a drawing for cash prizes! Visit www.jacksoncountyiowa.com.

Outdoor Fitness Club

Saturday October 8 at 9:00 AM

Buzzard Ridge Wildlife Area

Join a naturalist for a hike through this beautiful wildlife area and enjoy the changing colors of the season. Meet at the parking lot (off 30 Ave, east of Canton). All ages welcome!



November

Taxidermy 101 **Saturday November 5 from 9—4 PM** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Learn the techniques of mounting dead animals for display. Cost is \$25 (to cover materials). Bring a lunch. Minimum of 5 people needed to hold class. Pre-registration will be required by **October 14** to allow time to order the materials.

Fall Bike Ride **Saturday November 5 at 9:00 AM** **Jackson County Rec Trail & Copper Creek Trail** Enjoy a leisurely autumn bike ride. Meet at Twogood Park in Preston. *All ages welcome.*

Winter Garden Prep
Sunday November 13 at 2:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Your gardens and flower beds have worked hard all summer, let our staff give you the knowledge to tuck them in for the year and prepare for another full season of growth. We'll be preparing our pollinator garden so if you are inclined to join in, bring your gloves!

Iowans out West—Hiking the CDT
Sunday November 13 at 4:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Kevin Burns will share his story of hiking the Continental Divide Trail in Colorado. Food: Turkey Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, chips & salsa, dessert, beverage, and sample some of the Burns' favorite backpacking foods (*and no, John Dague, it is not tree bark!*) Cost \$9/person.

Bird Feeder Workshop
Sunday November 20 at 2:00 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 Nov. 14 to prepare materials.* Cost: \$7

December

Iowans Out West—Grizzly Bears in Montana
Saturday December 3 at 4:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Iowa DNR District Biologist, Curt Kemmerer, will share his experience of researching grizzly bears out west. Menu TBD. Cost \$9/person.

Bird House Workshop
Sunday December 4 at 1:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Bird houses are a wonderful addition to your yard and can increase the success of seeing birds around your home. Materials and information are provided. Cost: Wren- \$5, Bluebird- \$7, Kestrel-\$16. *Pre-registration and payment required by Nov 28th in order to prepare materials.* Great gift for the holidays!

Hurray for Herps
Saturday December 10 at 1:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center



Amphibians and reptiles are important components of the ecosystem, but are often overlooked. Join a naturalist in learning about reptiles and amphibians that inhabit Iowa. Live critters will be on display. All ages welcome!

A Natural Holiday
Sunday December 18 at 2:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Wrap up those gifts you so carefully chose in an environmentally friendly way. We'll be making recyclable wrapping paper, gift bags and using fabric as a reusable wrapper.

****Animal Spotlight****

Common Nighthawk

By Ann Burns, Environmental Education Coordinator

A Bird Easily Seen and Heard. If you spend any time outside on summer evenings you have probably observed the swooping flight pattern and heard the “peent” call of the common nighthawk. While their natural habitat is open landscapes such as shortgrass prairies, savannas and woodland clearings, they are now most commonly observed in urban areas in Iowa.



In natural landscapes, nighthawks nest sites are located in short vegetation where visibility is good. As early as the middle 1800's nighthawks were taking advantage of open, unobstructed sites on flat, gravel-covered rooftops in the developing towns and cities of Iowa. These rooftops continue to provide relatively safe nesting sites making nighthawks probably more abundant in Iowa today than before Euro-American settlement. (*Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas, 1996*). The female does not make a nest, rather she lays her two whitish (with olive to brown mottling) eggs on the bare dirt or gravel.

For those who pay attention, the nighthawk's “other” sound can be heard as well. During the courtship flight the males make steep dives; then pull up sharply. A rush of air over their primary feathers produces a “booming” or “roaring” sound.



These exclusively insectivorous birds feed on the wing at dusk and dawn. While their actual beaks are quite small, nighthawks have a large mouth opening. Whisker-like feathers around the mouth are thought to serve as sensors and may aid in capturing their insect prey.

As you read this fall issue of our newsletter, the nighthawks have already begun their fall migration. Large flocks of nighthawks may be seen drifting southward in late August and early September. Well lit settings such as a high school football field may attract good numbers of these birds as they pursue the moths and other insects that are attracted to the stadium lights.

To learn more about this interesting bird find a copy of *The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas*, or go online to Cornell University's birding website: www.allaboutbirds.org This excellent website will help you learn bird identification, sounds of common birds, as well search the site for more bird information.

A new website keeping people informed about Jackson County, visit www.listjacksoncountya.com.



Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Next Friends Meeting

Tuesday October 18 at 7 PM

Board Meets at 6:00 PM

General Meeting 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. Help make decisions about exhibits, special projects, and environmental education.



Iowans Out West

Researching bears in Montana, finding his way on the Continental Divide Trail in Colorado, or guiding a group of travelers on a multi-day adventure to hike, kayak or fish in Alaska are just some of the adventures Iowans have had out west. They are the topics for our fall/winter series "Iowans Out West"!

Join us for one or all of the programs and you will have the opportunity to see what some current and former area residents have experienced "out west". Each program will also feature food related (somewhat) to the speaker's topic.

This series of programs is also designed to raise funds for the Hurstville Extreme Makeover project. As such, there will be a fee for each program and meal. Join us for some interesting programs, a chance to visit with some adventurous people, and to support Friends of Jackson County Conservation as they raise funds to make the outdoor area around the Center more accessible, more fun, and more educational! **Cost for program & meal is \$9/person. Pre-registration is required by the Wednesday prior to the program so we can prepare the right amount of food.**

Sunday November 13 at 4:00 PM

Hiking the Continental Divide Trail

Kevin Burns will share his story of hiking the CDT in Colorado. Menu: Turkey Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, chips & salsa, dessert, beverage, and sample some of the Burns' favorite backpacking foods.

Saturday December 3 at 4:00 PM

Grizzly Bears in Montana with Curt Kemmerer

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

Dates and speakers for January-March

Iowans out West will be in our Winter Newsletter!

Hurstville Extreme Makeover:

An outdoor makeover to welcome and engage all ages at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

A committee was formed at the June meeting to get the project going. The committee is currently working with a landscape architect to develop a master plan for the area surrounding the Center. The goal is improve the butterfly garden and the area to the north of the ramp to make it more inviting and engaging for visitors.



Aspects of the project include:

- ◆ Putting in a kiosk near the parking lot with a map of the area to better orient visitors of what we have to offer
- ◆ Installing a trail from the parking lot to the butterfly garden as well as improving the current path around the garden by making it a hard surface handicap accessible trail
- ◆ Building a shade arbor that can serve as an outdoor classroom for students
- ◆ Creating a natural playscape area for children. Natural playscapes are designed with the intent of bringing children and people back to nature. The components of the play area will be as natural as possible, such as a stream of water, rocks to climb on, a maze of grasses, etc

If you have additional ideas of things we can include in the plan, please let us know! After the landscape architect has completed the master plan (approx mid-Sept), the committee will



begin submitting grants and fundraising for this project. Grants we are seeking require matching funds. If you are interested in making a donation for this project, please make checks out to Friends of JCC and mail to 18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060 with a note designating it for the 'Hurstville Extreme Makeover'.

Summer Day Camps with Jackson CCB!



Making ice cream at the Hurstville Center

Throwing darts using an atlatl!



Picking up litter at Twogood Park



Meet a tree at Cole Park!

Getting creative at South Sabula Lakes Park.



Canoeing and kayaking on the Hurstville Pond.

What do you call a fish with no eyes?

Fsh

Kid's corner

Which fish can perform operations?

A Sturgeon!

Match the Picture with the Name & Description!

Angler Challenge!



- A. **Paddlefish**—a primitive fish that has been reduced in numbers, found in the Mississippi!
- B. **Channel Catfish**—the most abundant sports fish in the state of Iowa, in lakes, rivers, and ponds.
- C. **Bluegill**—most abundant member of the sunfish family in Iowa.

- 1. Fish breathe with _____ instead of lungs.
- 2. Catfish have taste buds on their _____.
- 3. Fish use _____ to move, aim, and balance themselves.
- 4. Fishing _____ were developed so there will always be fish for us to catch.
- 5. Always ask _____ before fishing on private land.

For information about fish and fishing in Iowa, visit www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing.aspx

If fish lived on land, which country would they live in?

Finland

Answers: 1.gills 2.whiskers 3.fins 4.laws 5.permission 1.B 2.C 3.A



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 Hurstville Interpretive Center—

Heather Trenkamp, Amy Eads, Dave Macke, Bob Sheets, Jennie Wilcox, Phyllis Nissen, Marcy Cain, Lee Cain, Caleb Cain, Karen Manning, Myrna Cavanagh, Zola McMahon, Tom Hamilton, Alexa Huffman, Reighan Huffman, Vanessa Huffman, Randy Huffman, Darlene Elsner, Margaret McCarthy, Peg Miller, Asher Schroeder, Chloe Swanson, Sean Swanson, Bel Tubbs, Doris Yaddof, Tyler Dursky, Mary Hayward, Karen Krueger, John Hoelsey, Jeanne Hoesley, Mary Mether, Karen Manning, Linda Grobstick, David Manning

Interviews for information on Hurstville & Millrock—

Donna Hardin, Bill Woods, Peg Miller, Sid Seeberger

Helped with Fishing Clinic—Joel Cornelius, Denny Weiss, Jennie Wilcox, John Hoesley

Helped with Geocaching Program—Pete Maier

Helped with Summer Day Camps—Heather Trenkamp, Dawn Cartensen, RaeAnn Dickinson, Emma Manning, Karen Manning, Peg Miller, MSB staff Steve Thorson

Helped with Public Programs—Darlene Elsner, Bonnie Daemerich, Heather Trenkamp

Worked in Butterfly Garden—Chris Tubbs, Allison Tubbs, Jeanne Hoesley, Karen Manning

Helped with Youth Outdoor Skills Day—Heather Trenkamp, Kevin Oetken, Jennie Wilcox, Vanessa Huffman, Randy Huffman, Chris Tubbs, Steve Tubbs, Keenan Meinecke,

Fixed fishing poles—Dave Cahalan

Hunter Ed Instructors—Zacary Sedimayr, Nathan Johnson, Robert Laughlin, Curt Kemmerer, Jason Thomson, Gerald Miller, Jeromy Miller, Bill Bonney, Maurie Anderson, Rob Waack, Joel Cornelius

Donations—Maurie Anderson (diamondback snake), Pat Costello (books), Kylee Stanton (aprons), Jeanne Hoesley (large floor photo frame), Maynard Kloft (PB containers), Bob Sheets (dip net), Pat Walke (books), Vanessa Huffman (hula hoops)

Cash Donations—Maquoketa Chapter PEO, Big Timber Toms (local NWF for Youth Outdoor Skills Day), The Washington Post Company (company match—Marie Rossman), Maquoketa State Bank (snake exhibit sponsor)

Environmental Ed. Wish List

- *Funds for taxidermy work—red fox, pelican, song birds
- *Old versions of the books Little Red Riding Hood & Three Little Pigs
- *Plain gift bags & brown paper bags
- *Used books related to nature and the outdoors (field guides, story books, activity books, novels, etc...)



Jackson County Conservation Board

Board Members

Jerry Millwright	La Motte
Rick Small	Bernard
Eric Strathman	Andrew
Anne Hawks	Maquoketa
Steve Flynn	Maquoketa

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets in regular session the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Meetings are open to the public.

Address & Contact Information

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Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621

E-mail jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com

Website www.jacksonccb.com &

www.MyCountyParks.com/County/Jackson.aspx

Conservation Staff

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

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.

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

Spruce Creek Park and South Sabula Lake Park

****Camping Special****

Camp Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night
and receive Monday night FREE
(offer good Sept 9—Nov 7)



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

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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 Memorial Day, Fourth of July & Labor Day

Slithering Snake Exhibit

Slither into the Hurstville Interpretive Center this fall to view an amazing traveling exhibit about snakes. Whether snakes make you a little nervous or if you are totally fascinated by them, this exhibit is for you.

Walk through a gigantic snake skeleton! Explore what it's like to be a snake and emerge with a new appreciation for these exciting animals.

From October 29 until next June, this traveling exhibit will be on display at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Don't miss the opportunity to view this museum quality exhibit in your own neighborhood for free!

This display was developed by Purdue University and is on loan from the Dallas County Conservation Board. Thanks to Maquoketa State Bank for their early bird sponsorship to bring this exhibit to Jackson County!

