

Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD SPRING 2011

****Park Spotlight**** Buzzard Ridge Wildlife Area

This 273-acre area is located along the South Fork of the Maquoketa River. The unique beauty of Northeast Iowa is very evident here with limestone rock outcroppings, upland timber, flood plain, wildlife, and panoramic scenery. Wildlife food plots are planted throughout the area to help wildlife survive harsh winters.



Hiking, picnicking, stream fishing, hunting, paddling, primitive camping, geocaching, wildlife viewing, and birding are all popular activities at Buzzard Ridge. This area is a convenient stop for canoeists traveling down the Maquoketa River and great for those looking for camping along the river (pit toilets on-site).



Make sure to hike to the overlook for a great view of river!

There are two parking lots for this area. One off E17, just east of Canton and the other off county road 30th Avenue. A third way of accessing this area is from the south fork of the Maquoketa River between Canton and Millertown bridges. A trail map is available online at: www.MyCountyParks.com/County/Jackson/Park/Buzzard-Ridge-Wildlife-Area.aspx.

America's Least Wanted

Emerald Ash Borer and **Gypsy Moth** are two major insect pests in North America. Efforts are being made to keep these invasive insects from spreading across the country.



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle from Asia that was first found in the US in 2002 in Michigan. The larval stage of EAB feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree. The only Iowa report of EAB was in 2009 on an island in the Mississippi River near Allamakee County.

2010 EAB Survey in Iowa:

235 campgrounds and 29 sawmills in 55 counties were visually surveyed in 2010; all 1,267 ash trees inspected were negative for EAB. 1,554 purple sticky traps were setup in 10 counties nearest the Mississippi River and 328 additional traps were dispersed throughout the rest of the state at high risk sites (campgrounds and sawmills). All traps were negative except one; the trap that was positive was on the same island EAB was found in 2009. Surveys were done by the IA DNR, USDA, and ISU Extension.



New Administrative Rule—Firewood

Firewood has been shown to be a primary method of transporting EAB and numerous other tree pests to new locations. As a result, effective January 1, 2011, all packaged firewood offered for sale, sold or distributed in Iowa must include the harvest location of the wood by county and state. Please do not move firewood, buy locally. Quarantine areas (meaning no movement of firewood is allowed) in Iowa include Allamakee County. Other quarantined areas nearby include counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin touching the northeast corner of Iowa, as well as the entire state of Illinois.

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America's Least Wanted, continued from page 1

The **Gypsy moth** is another invasive insect in the US. The caterpillar eats large amounts of leaves; and high populations can decimate a large area, eventually leading to the death of the plants. They will eat several hundred different species of trees and shrubs but prefer oak, hickory, and maple. The gypsy moth is found in the eastern US. Small groups of gypsy moths have come into Iowa on nursery stock but were eradicated. However, this past year, high numbers were found in forested areas of Jackson, Allamakee and Winneshiek counties in Iowa.

To combat these populations, the infested areas in these counties - including about 25,000 acres of public and private forests in Jackson County - will be sprayed this spring. The spray is made up of tiny bits of plastic that have been treated with pheromones, a substance secreted by animals that communicates with others of its species. The 'spray' pheromones will prevent the males from finding the females to reduce their reproduction. The spray does not cause any harm to humans or other animals. For more information visit www.iowatreepests.com.

Remember, not all insects are pests.
What would we do without our pollinators?!

Book Review By Karen Manning

Birds of an Iowa Dooryard

By Althea R. Sherman & Edited by Fred J. Pierce

A charming book about a nineteenth century small town farmer's daughter who made her mark on the big world.

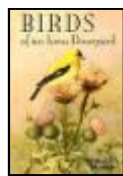
Althea Rosina Sherman, born before the Civil War in National, Iowa, (north of Garnavillo) was educated at Oberlin College, and in later life dedicated her time to documenting in words and paintings the habits of birds around her.

This book was compiled and published after Sherman's death in 1943 by others, and includes prints of her bird paintings and notes about the contributions she made to basic knowledge of the lives of birds.

Here is just a sample: in 1913 she documented and published an article titled "The Cardinal Arrives in Lansing, Iowa." Yes, our familiar year-round bird was strictly a bird of the south until early in the twentieth century.

One of her truly original contributions was designing and having constructed an elaborate chimney swift nest and observation tower. The 28-foot tower was designed to let her observe swifts nesting, and observe she did! She recorded observations which still stand as basic knowledge of swift family life.

The book is available at the Maquoketa Public Library and at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. I enjoyed every word, but it is well worth skimming the detailed observations and going for the human story.



****Animal Spotlight****

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

By Derek Leigh, Intern Naturalist

The bald eagle is our country's national symbol. There are over 60 species of eagles found throughout the world. However, the bald eagle is unique only to North America.



There are actually two subspecies of bald eagles, the southern bald eagle and the northern bald eagle. The northern species is slightly larger and often migrate south during the winter months. The southern species is smaller and often migrates north. Because of this migration switching done by the eagles, some literature has discontinued to acknowledge that there are actually subspecies.

At a distance, the bald eagle can appear to have a featherless head because of its white plumage. Although they are not actually bald, the term comes from an old English term "balde", meaning white. Juvenile bald eagles will be all brown or have patchy white and brown feathers. They won't develop their distinctive white head and tail for about 4-5 years, which is when they reach sexual maturity.

Bald eagles can have a wing span of up to 90 inches (that's 7.5 feet!) and weight up to 15 pounds. Like most birds of prey, they are known for their excellent eyesight and powerful talons.

Bald eagles were declared endangered and placed on the endangered species list in 1967. They were upgraded to threatened in 1995 and then removed from the endangered species list altogether in 2007. They are still protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Golden and Bald Eagle Protection Act. These acts prohibits the take, transport, sale, barter, trade, import and export, and possession of eagles, making it illegal for anyone to collect eagles and eagle parts, nests, or eggs without a permit.



JCC staff Ann, Jess, & Derek participated in the Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey this past December. Our route was along the south fork of the Maquoketa River and we tallied a total of 30 bald eagles. The information we gather is combined with observations from other areas of the state to give biologists an idea of the make up of the population. JCC has been participating in the survey since 1996 and the same exact driving route is done every year to better compare numbers year to year. Because this is a long-term survey, researchers are able to keep track of juvenile to adult ratios and population trends relative to weather conditions.

Spring Programs

April

Waterfowl Viewing **Sunday April 3 at 2:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Join birders Charlie Winterwood & Bob Walton, in viewing the migrating waterfowl and shorebirds at the Hurstville Marsh. Learn to identify different birds. We'll provide the scopes. Bring your own binoculars (optional). Beginner to expert birders and those of all ages welcome!

Animal Feeding Schedule **April 6, April 20, May 4, & May 18 at 3:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Ever wanted to see a snake eat a mouse or a turtle munch on a worm? Here's your chance! Join us on any of the above Wednesday's to view the feeding of our live animals and we might even let you help! Family friendly!

Woodcock Walk **Friday April 8 at 7:15 pm** **30703 320th Street La Motte**



The woodcocks mating ritual is truly a remarkable sight. Join us for a walk at dusk to look and listen for the elusive woodcock. Dress warmly! Meet in the driveway of the address above at 7:15 pm or at the Hurstville Interpretive Center at 6:40 pm to carpool.

Outdoor Fitness Club **Saturday April 9 at 9 am—Blackhawk** **Saturday May 14 at 9 am—McNeil Preserve**

A club that is sure to get you more active, introduce you to some exciting outdoor places in our county, and to meet others in your community. Come to one, come to all. We'll meet once a month at a different park each time. Meet at the parking lot. Using parks for physical activity is a prescription for better health! All ages welcome!

Nature Under a Microscope **Sunday April 10 at 2:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Check out the wonders not visible to the naked eye. Join a naturalist for a fun filled program on all the little things we have often wondered about but couldn't see. Great for the whole family!

Tree Planting Project **Saturday April 16 at 8:30 am** **Ozark Wildlife Area**



Calling all volunteers! 2,000 trees must be planted by hand at an area that was recently harvested for timber. What a great way to celebrate Earth Day! Bring gloves and a water bottle. Tree planting equipment provided. All ages welcome! Refreshments will be provided for volunteers. *Please contact us in advance if you plan to help.*

Bag It—Free Movie Showing! **Tuesday April 19 at 7:00 pm** **at the Hurstville Interpretive Center** **Tuesday April 26 at 7:00 pm** **at the Bellevue Community Center**

Plan to attend a showing of the film *Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic?* The movie takes a closer look at plastic bags and how they affect human health, marine life, and the overall health of our environment. The film also investigates the amount of waste generated and towns that have banned plastic bags. This showing is FREE to the public thanks to the following organizations: *DAC Incorporated, Friends of the Maquoketa Library, Friends of Jackson County Conservation, Jackson County Conservation and Jackson County Solid Waste Agency.*

May

Green Cleaning Party **Sunday May 1 at 2:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Did you know that many household cleaners contain toxic chemicals? Learn how to have a naturally clean house using common non-toxic ingredients. Receive recipes for making your own cleaners. You'll even get to make and take some cleaners with you. Cost is \$5 per person. *Preregistration required by Wednesday April 27 at 4 pm.*

JC Archaeology: The Paul Sagers Collection **Saturday May 7 at 1:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center & Buzzard Ridge**

Jackson County native, Paul Sagers collected over 16,000 prehistoric artifacts in the county that have become a legacy for Iowa archaeology. Come hear about Paul's work, see some of the wonderful finds he made, and learn how the collection is being cared for at the University of Iowa. We'll visit one of Paul's most important sites, the Levsen Rockshelter (at Buzzard Ridge) following the presentation.

Dutch Oven Demonstration **Sunday May 8 at 1:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Enjoy some delicious Dutch oven cooking from main dishes to dessert. Learn how to cook with a Dutch oven and get some insider tips! Preregistration appreciated in order to have enough food. Bring your own plate, silverware and beverage. Minimal cost for food sampling.

Our public programs are designed for enjoyment and education for all ages and varying abilities. If you have special needs, please contact the JCCB office prior to an event. Programs are free of cost unless otherwise noted. Some programs require pre-registration. You can do this by calling our office at 564-652-3783.

Spring Programs continued...

2nd GEAR Bike Ride

Saturday & Sunday May 14 & 15

Bellevue to Maquoketa to Bellevue

Are you up to the challenge of our hills, ridges & bridges? Join in on a bike ride around Jackson County. There will be comfort stations and food stops along the route. Camping available in Maquoketa. For route map & to register, go to www.jacksoncountygear.com

Basket Weaving Workshop

Sunday May 15 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Interested in basket weaving? Sign up for this workshop to learn how. Beginners to experts can make this fun melon shaped basket. Cost is \$14/basket. *Preregistration required by Friday May 6 at 4 pm.*



Kite Flying

Sunday May 22 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Bring a kite or make and decorate one to take home. Let's hope for a windy day as we fly them over the prairie! Cost is \$4 to make a kite.



Fun & Games

Friday May 27 at 7 pm

at South Sabula Lakes Park in Sabula

Saturday May 28 at 7 pm

at Spruce Creek Park north of Bellevue

Bring your family or friends to one of our campgrounds and join a naturalist for some fun outdoor games. We guarantee a fun time by all ages! Campers and the general public are welcome to attend!

The Birds and the Bees

Saturday May 28 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Who helps make 1/3 of the food you eat? That job rests on the tiny shoulders of bees, butterflies (and a couple birds and even bats!). Come and learn some of the fascinating stories of pollinators. Attendees can make a "bee box" to place in their yard to invite native bees to their home. **Register by May 23 to make a bee box.** Cost for the bee box is only \$1 thanks to a donation from Clark Saw.



June

Free Fishing Clinic

Saturday June 4 from 9:00—11:00 am

Hurstville Fishing Pond

Practice casting, learn how to clean a fish, learn who's who in the water, plus other activities. Then, see if you can catch the biggest or smallest fish! Bring your own equipment or borrow from us. Fun for all ages!

Iowa DNR Boat Education Class

Thursday June 9 from 5:00-9:00

Saturday June 11 from 8:00-3:00

Bellevue City Hall

In Iowa, youth ages 12-17 may operate a vessel propelled by a motor alone if he or she has successfully completed an approved boat safety education course. We will be offering this class to both youth who need the certification and to adults to learn the information or for a refresher. We will cover boat operation, maintenance, safety, and laws/regulations. *Pre-registration is mandatory by Tuesday May 31.* Register online at www.iowadnr.gov/training. Minimum of 15 people needed to hold class. No late registration taken. *Must attend both sessions to receive certification.*

Canoe Trip on the Maquoketa River

Sunday June 12 at 1:00 pm

Maquoketa River—Route TBD

Enjoy the beautiful scenery in Jackson County while cleaning up along one of our precious streams. A limited supply of canoes will be available or you can bring/rent your own. Pre-registration is required by June 7th at 4 pm.

Summer Day Camp!

Explorer Camp June 21, 22, 23 from 9:00–Noon

For those entering Kdg & 1st grade in the fall

Ranger Camp June 28, 29, 30 from 9:00–1:00

For youth entering 2nd–4th grade in the fall

Adventure Camp July 12, 13, 14 from 9:00–3:00

For youth entering 5th–9th grade in the fall

**Details TBD. Check our website or call our office for more information after May 15.*

Attention Youth Leaders

Looking for a program, assistance with badge requirements or a service project? We can help! Contact naturalists to schedule a program, find resource materials, or come to the Hurstville Interpretive Center for a field trip. You can join us for any of the public programs or schedule your own. Let us know how we can help!



Hurstville Interpretive Center

Visitor Numbers

2010 ~ 9,785*

2008 ~ 9,627

2009 ~ 9,785*

2007 ~ 9,195

**We seem to have a trend going!*

Winter Activities with Jackson County Conservation



People enjoyed snowshoeing along Copper Creek Trail in January



Volunteers enjoying themselves at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event!



Derek is putting up orange flagging over the swan pen to discourage wild swans from flying in. Job is best done in the winter when we can walk on the ice.



Winter time our education staff is busy doing programs in the schools. Here Ann and Derek make paper with 5th graders at Preston, tying in the importance of recycling.



Kid's corner



Springtime Scavenger Hunt!

Head outside this spring and see what you can find from the list on the right. Mark where and when you found it. Remember, don't collect the plants or animals, just leave them where they are. Take a friend or your parents along while you go on this fun nature hunt! Find 10 out of the 12 items and bring this sheet into the Hurstville Interpretive Center for a prize.

<i>Items to find:</i>	<i>Where did you find it?</i>	<i>When did you find it?</i>
Frogs chirping		
A tree blooming		
A seed from a tree		
A robin looking for worms		
Geese flying		
Dandelions		
A caterpillar		
A fossil		
A bird's nest		
A bee drinking nectar		
A mushroom		
Litter (put it in a trash can)		



Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Next Friends Business Meeting

Tuesday June 21 at 7:00 pm
Hurstville Interpretive Center



Interested in supporting and assisting the Jackson County Conservation Board? Friends of Jackson County Conservation holds a business meeting three times per year to decide what projects and events they will be involved with. We invite all those interested to attend!

10 Reasons why you should be a MEMBER of Friends of Jackson County Conservation (or why you should renew your membership)!



- 1.) You could dress up like a fox!
- 2.) You get advance notice of events and projects that are happening.
- 3.) You will receive a free snowshoe rental each winter!

4.) You get to chat with a FUN bunch of people (possibly while folding newsletters!)



5.) You get a discount off cool stuff in the gift shop at the Center!



- 6.) You get to get dirty working in the garden!
- 7.) You get to play in the sand (during an archaeology dig)
- 8.) And don't forget about the great discount you receive on any road trips we take.
- 9.) You get to be an advocate

for conservation of our natural resources and environmental education!

10.) And of course, you get to put in your two cents about programs and projects that we plan and carryout!

To join or renew, fill in the membership form to the right and mail it in along with the membership fee!

Recycle the Pleasure—Join the Nature Book Swap Shop

By Karen Manning, Friends member

I know I'm more of a book hound than most, but I do have quite a few nature-oriented books on my shelves. Some, like my bird and wildflower field guides, get used every year, sometimes almost every day. Others, however, haven't been picked up in years, but are still useful, inspiring and enriching or just amusing.

I would feel much better about sorting and removing these extras if I knew they might be re-used by another nature lover. So—we'll be starting a Used Book Sale for nature/animal/outdoor recreation titles at the Hurstville Interpretive Center in the gift shop. Those wonderful magazines can be recycled, too (not older than 6 months please). Bring in your contributions and browse the selection. The price will be right, and the proceeds will go to providing environmental education to people of all ages right here in Jackson County.

Friends of Jackson County Conservation Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of Membership (Please check one per form and make checks payable to Friends of JCC)

Student \$5

Regular \$10

Senior Citizen \$5

Family \$20

Sustaining \$50

Other Contribution \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed..... _____

Please send membership form and fee to:
Friends of Jackson County Conservation
18670 63rd St. Maquoketa, Iowa 52060



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—

Margaret McCarthy, Peg Miller, Jeanne Hoesley, Karen Manning, Wendy Hainstock, Barb McCray

Helped with Winter Newsletter— Darlene Dalziel, Jeanne Hoesley, John Hoesley, Karen Manning, Mary Mether, Dorothy Nabb

Helped with Dubuque Bald Eagle Watch—Dawn Carstensen, Maggie Carstensen, Jo Ellen Langerman, Clayton Pederson, Regan Small, Jennie Wilcox

Helped with Owl Prowl—Bob Walton

Cash Donations—Maquoketa Women’s Club, Maquoketa Izaak Walton League, Betty & Sherman Burns, Jacqueline Hamilton-Knapper, Bethany Scheifelbein, Matt Burns, Olivia Cornelius, Claire & Nell Sybesma, John & Barb McCray, Chris & Vicki Meineke, Charles & Christine Cornelius, Barb & Gary Miller, Mona Dague, Dick & Linda Ward

Donations— Breitbach Floor Covering (carpet for van), Vanessa Huffman (bird seed), Karen Portz (buckets), Tom Lane (dremel drill kit), Everett Bowling & Gary Laughlin (maze game), Charlene Andresen (bird seed), Kylee Stanton (bird seed), Cliff Waller (fossils), Karen Manning (bird book), Lois Wurster (Millrock school photo), Chris & Connie Domeyer (cygnet sponsor), Jeff & Sue Siems (cygnet sponsor)

Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:

Cliff Lamborn	Marie Kirchner
John Reuss	Clara Weimerskirch
Donna Stickley	Paul “Dub” Romer
Darlene Franzen	Harlan Tonderum



There are many areas in which people may serve as conservation volunteers. Please contact us for more information about volunteering.

Operation ReLeaf Program

Alliant Energy customers are eligible to purchase trees for \$25.00 each (*with the remaining cost funded through a grant from Alliant Energy*). Visit www.jacksonccb.com for an order form.

Trees ordered by April 25 will be available for pick up on May 5 from 4-6 pm at the Hurstville Center.

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. The public is welcome to attend.

Address & Contact Information

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060

Phone: (563) 652-3783

Fax: (563) 652-2191

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
Derek Leigh	Intern Naturalist

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.

Our public programs are designed for enjoyment and education for all ages and varying abilities. If you have special needs, please contact the JCCB office prior to an event. To preregister for a program, contact our office.

Environmental Ed. Wish List

- *Funds for taxidermy work—pelican, red fox, and more...
 - *Old versions of the books Little Red Riding Hood and Three Little Pigs.
 - * Sponsors for our swan cygnets (help cover cost of food over winter)
- Talk to the conservation staff to receive a detailed list of program books and education materials needed.

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
Weekends Jan– Mar Closed
Weekends Apr– Oct 12 – 5 pm
Weekends Nov– Dec 12 – 4 pm



No Admission Fee!

Holidays:

Closed Easter Weekend Apr 23-24
Open Memorial Day May 30
Open Independence Day July 4

Shelter Rental

There is a picnic shelter at Spruce Creek and South Sabula Lakes Parks that are available for reservation. They are popular for birthday parties, family reunions, and other gatherings. Each shelter has 8 picnic tables, electricity, and lights; restrooms and water nearby. Shelter capacity is 50. The shelters are available 6 am - 10:30 pm, Apr 1-Nov 1. Visit www.jacksonccb.com/specialusepermits.html to reserve a shelter. All unreserved shelters are available free of charge on a first come, first serve basis.

Camping



Spruce Creek Park & South Sabula Lake Park



will open for the 2011 camping season on Friday April 1 and water will be turned on April 15. **Dates depend on weather conditions and water levels.** Call our office at 563.652.3783 for up-to-date information about campground openings. Camping fees are \$15 per night for gravel sites and \$18 per night for paved sites. All sites have electricity. Campgrounds have a modern restroom & showers, picnic shelter, playground, and wireless internet.

Joinerville Park is open for day use year-round. A special permit is required for overnight camping. Contact the conservation office for details on the special use permit.

Duck Creek Park, Buzzard Ridge, and Ozark Wildlife Area

offer primitive tent-only camping.

For more information about our parks, visit our website at www.MyCountyParks.com/County/Jackson.aspx.

Receive 1 FREE night of camping

When you camp Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, receive Monday night FREE! This special runs prior before Memorial Day weekend and after Labor Day weekend.