



Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD SPRING 2009

Camping in Jackson County

Warm spring days are upon us and it will soon be time to get out the campers and tents! The Jackson County Conservation Board operates several campgrounds in Jackson County and we'd like to take a moment to tell you about them.



Spruce Creek Park

This modern 43-acre campground sits 2 miles north of Bellevue on U.S. 52 and then 1 mile north on 396th Ave, along the banks of the Mississippi River at the mouth of Spruce Creek. There are 85 camping sites available with electricity, water, modern showers and restrooms, free high-speed wireless internet, a large picnic area, two shelters (available to reserve), a trailer dump station, playground, firewood for sale, and handicap accessibility. The park contains a boat harbor with 92 dock slips including transient dock spaces. Two concrete boat ramps are provided for your convenience.

South Sabula Lakes Park

This modern 14-acre campground is located at the southernmost end of South Ave in Sabula. The park is surrounded by water and makes for an ideal spot for all water-related sports. There are 40 camping sites available with electricity, water, modern showers and restrooms, a trailer dump station, playground, picnic shelter (available to reserve), firewood for sale, and handicap accessibility. A concrete boat ramp and a public dock are provided for easy access to South Sabula Lake and the Mississippi River.



Campgrounds are open April—October. This year the campgrounds will be opening Friday April 3 (weather depending). All campsites at South Sabula & Spruce Creek are first-come first-serve; there is no reservation system at this time (but may change in the future). Camping fees have changed since last season—\$15 for gravel sites and \$18 for paved sites.



Joinerville

This primitive 8-acre campground lies 4 miles west of Maquoketa on Highway 64 and 2 miles north on 123rd Ave. It is great for camping (tent & campers), picnicking, fishing, and boating. It is the major recovery point for canoeists that float down the Maquoketa River before coming to the Lakehurst Dam. A concrete boat ramp is provided for easy access to the river. This land was a gift from the Wilbur Siders and Melvin Joiner families. To camp here, campers must obtain a permit at the conservation office (Hurstville Interpretive Center) during regular business hours. There is no cost for camping or day use at Joinerville.

The Jackson County Conservation Board also offers **Youth Group Camping**. Organized youth groups can apply for a group camping permit. The camping fee is \$1 per youth/adult per night.

Primitive camping is available at **Ozark Wildlife Area**, **Duck Creek Park**, and **Buzzard Ridge Wildlife Area**. All are pack-in tent camping, with pit toilets available at Buzzard Ridge. For more information on these and all other areas managed by the conservation board, visit www.jacksonccb.com/Recreation.html or call (563) 652-3783.

Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (IACCB) is now online!

Check us out at MyCountyParks.com.

Your gateway to the finest county park system in the country! A county conservation board in each of Iowa's 99 counties provides a special blend of local outdoor recreation opportunities. Explore all that is best about Iowa!

Fundraiser a Success!

Friends of Jackson County Conservation's fundraiser event, Winter Glow went great! Over 130 people were served during the soup supper and many took part in the luminary hike & silent auction. The Ice Golf tournament was canceled due to *warm* weather. Funds raised will go towards supporting Jackson County Conservation and the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Thank you to all those who helped with the event by volunteering your time or donating items, it could not have been done without you!



New exhibits on display

There will be some temporary exhibits on display at the Hurstville Interpretive Center this spring. Stop in and check them out!

White in a Colorful World

Learn about animals with albinism and see an albino deer, fox, and more! On display, now through July. This exhibit is on loan from Buchanan County Conservation.



Photo of an albino mink

Animals Among Us

An invitation asking the citizens of Iowa to explore the world of the animals around them started this traveling exhibit. The exhibit prompts people to discuss the many quality of life issues that animals and humans share. On display from April 2—May 25. This exhibit is on loan from the Old Capital Museum at the University of Iowa.

Country So Full of Game

A black bear has now joined our cougar on the exhibit floor, along with a wolf pelt and elk skull to show visitors the larger animals that once freely roamed the state.

Attention Boaters

Jackson County Conservation will be providing an Iowa DNR approved Boater Education Course this spring. In Iowa, a person under the age of 18 may operate a vessel propelled by a motor only if under the supervision of an adult. 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 ANYONE interested in attending. Only those age 12-17 will actually receive a certification. Information covered will include operation, maintenance, safety, and laws/regulations. Great for new boaters or experienced boaters looking for a refresher.

Thurs. April 30 from 5:30—9pm Bellevue City Hall

Sat. May 2 from 8am—3pm Bellevue City Hall

Must attend both sessions to receive certification

JC Through the Seasons

Jackson County Conservation staff are putting together a display of photos of Jackson County and would like your input. Go out and snap photos of the rivers, streams, flowers, landscapes, prairies, critters, wildlife, anything that captures nature throughout the seasons in Jackson County! (*This is not a contest.*)

Please send your matted photos to 18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060. Include name, permission to use photo, date and location photo was taken.

After we have received photos through the year, we will display them at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. So get out there and start snapping!!

Natural Resource trust fund

An amendment of Iowa's Constitution to dedicate a portion of state revenue from taxes to support natural resources passed the senate and house this February. The amendment passed back in 2008 and again this year. It will now go in the general election in November 2010. It will be applied to the next sales tax increase in the state.

Three-eighths of 1 percent from Iowa sales tax will go towards a natural resource and outdoor recreation trust fund for the purpose of protecting and enhancing water quality and natural areas in Iowa, including parks, trails, and fish and wildlife habitat, and conserving agricultural soils. This is a great step for conservation in Iowa. Don't hesitate to ask us or other natural resource agencies for more information about the trust fund.

Many states, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri, have such conservation funding sources. Now it is up to the citizens in Iowa to show how they feel about conservation funding when they vote in Nov. 2010.

Spring Programs

March

Nature Tales

2nd Thursday of the Month at 10:00 AM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn more about the natural world with a story and activity to go along with a monthly theme.

March 12—Terrific Turtles April 9—Spring Fling
May 14—Party in the Prairie June 11—Water is great!

Geared towards pre-school age children.



Duck Waddle

Saturday March 14 at 7:00 AM

Green Island Wildlife Area—Brown's Lake Parking Lot

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

Dress warm, bring binoculars, scopes will be available.

DNR Hunter Education Course

Sat. March 14 & 21 from 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Residents born after January 1, 1972 must complete a hunter education course in order to obtain a hunting license. Anyone 11 years or older may enroll. Deadline for registration is Wed. March 11. Must pick up booklet and complete chapter reviews before first class.

“Stay”cations

Sunday March 15 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

You don't have to travel far to have a great vacation! Travel less and have a good time. We'll tell you all about great outdoor places in the area to visit this summer. And we'd like you to bring your knowledge of great vacation spots that are within driving distance to share with everyone.



Birding with Audubon

Saturday March 21 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join Charlie Winterwood, with Dubuque Audubon in identifying the birds at the Hurstville Marsh. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Scopes will be available.



Tricky Tracks

Sunday March 29 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join us for an afternoon of learning to identify animal tracks. We will be taking a short hike around the center identifying tracks along the way. Be sure to dress for the weather.

April

Kite Flying

Sunday April 5 between 1:00—4:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Bring your own kite, or make & decorate one to take home. Let's hope for a windy day as we fly them over the prairie! Cost—\$4 per kite.



GPS & Compass Workshop

Saturday April 18 from 9:00—3:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Participants will learn how to find their way using GPS technology. Topics covered will include basic topographic map use, waypoints, determining location using GPS and maps, and internet resources. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for off trail hiking. Cost \$5. Pre-register by Apr 10.



Balancing Navigation with Conservation

Sunday April 19 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Brad Walker, Upper Mississippi River Coordinator of the Izaak Walton League, will discuss what projects are being done to restore ecosystems on the Mississippi River.

Earth Day

Wednesday April 22—Anytime... Anywhere

Participate in Earth Day and make our world a better place! Plant a tree, participate in a litter clean-up, or anything else that helps the environment and our planet.

Spring Clean-up

Saturday April 25 between 1:00—4:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Assist conservation staff in some spring cleaning around the center. Wear work clothes.



Waterfowl Viewing

Sunday April 26 at 2:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join Bob Walton & JCC staff in viewing the waterfowl and shorebirds at the Hurstville Marsh. Scopes will be set-up. Bring binoculars.



DNR Boat Education Course

Thurs Apr 30 from 5:30—9:00 PM &

Saturday May 2 from 8:00—3:00 PM

Bellevue City Hall

This course is open to anyone who would like to learn/review general information on boating: maintenance, operation, safety, and laws/regulations. Students under the age of 18 must complete a boat safety certification course before operating alone on public land.

May

New Exhibit—Grand Opening

Saturday May 9 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Grand opening of a new audiovisual, interactive exhibit about the Hurstville Lime Kilns!



For programs that require pre-registration, contact Jackson County Conservation at (563) 652-3783.

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.

Spring Programs continued....

June

Free Fishing Weekend
Friday June 5—Sunday June 7
Iowa



You can cast a line for free this weekend! No license is needed for Iowa residents to go fishing these 3 days. A fishing clinic will be held on Saturday June 6 from 9-11 AM at the Hurstville Fishing Pond. All are welcome!

River Clean-Up/ Canoe Trip
Sunday, June 14 at 1:00 PM
Maquoketa River



Enjoy the beautiful scenery in Jackson County while cleaning up along one of our precious streams. Participants will canoe and pick up trash along a portion of the Maquoketa River. A limited supply of canoes will be available or you can bring your own. *Pre-registration required—call for route.*

Naturalist Lunch Box
2nd & 4th Thursday in June, July, & August at noon
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a naturalist led program while you dine. Topics TBD—call ahead.

2009 Iowa Junior Naturalist Program

Children ages 5-12 are invited to become Junior Naturalists. The Iowa Junior Naturalist program is an opportunity for children to experience nature and learn more about the natural world.

Stop in at the Hurstville Interpretive Center (or any nature center in Iowa) to get a form.

Requirements: attend 3 public programs on nature at your local parks, library, or nature center on something you are interested in. Do 3 independent outdoor activities with your family or friends (i.e. riding a bike, hike, collecting bugs, fishing, etc). See article on *Nature-themed Park Packs* (see right) for activities to do on your own.

Fill out the form, bring it in, and you will become a Junior Naturalist! You will receive a cool patch and a certificate of achievement. There are 6 different patches, collect one each year!

This is a statewide program, if you are not in the area, visit your local county or state park/nature center for more information.

Participants can come to any public program we have to complete requirements. We will also be offering activities the following afternoons between 1– 3 PM specifically for junior naturalists (anyone is welcome though!).



May 25, June 7, July 3, August 16, September 7

Topics may include:
Critters, hikes, birds, water, and more!

Attention kids and parents!

Announcing the 2009 Summer Camps

Note changes from last year, we are doing things a little different this summer. Mark your calendars!

Explorer Camp

Age: **5-7 years old**

Theme: Nature Detectives

Dates: June 16, 17, 18 from 9:00—1:00 each day

Flowers, trees, bugs, animals, water—there is so much to see, do, and learn about—join us in exploring the natural world!

Ranger Camp

Age: **8-10 years old**

Theme: Water Works

Dates: July 14, 15, & 16 from 9:00—1:00 each day

Water is an all important resource—learn more about the quality and quantity, critters that live there, and how to have fun with it!

Adventure Camp

Age: **11-15 years old**

Theme: Outdoor pursuits

Dates: July 7, 8, 9 from 9:00—1:00 each day

Have fun with outdoor recreation—canoeing, archery, orienteering, caving, and more!!

*Cost is \$40 per child for the 3-day camp. Each day will be filled with activities, games, and crafts to go along with the theme. Lunch will be provided each day. Pre-registration and payment is required before start of camp. Maximum number of participants is 20 per camp. Scholarship money is available!

For more information or to register for a camp, contact the Jackson County Conservation office at (563) 652-3783 or jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com. Registration forms will be available online at www.jacksonccb.com and at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.

Pre-registration is required for all camps in order to have enough materials & equipment.

Nature-themed Park Packs

Want some nature related activities to do with your family, youth group, kids, or friends? Jackson County Conservation has 5 park packs available free of charge for anyone to check out. Great for use at home, in your backyard, at the park, on the road, or out camping. Topics below. Stop in at the Hurstville Interpretive Center to check one out!



Terrific Trees
Insect Safari

Wetland Wonders
For the Birds

Mammals of Iowa



Friends of Jackson County Conservation



** Special Thanks **

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On Thursday February 19, the Jackson County Conservation Board hosted a volunteer appreciation luncheon. Anyone who volunteered for the friends group or the conservation board in 2008 was invited to attend. Jackson County Conservation would not be successful without the help and support of our great volunteers!



Fundraising Dates for 2009

By eating out one night a month you can help Friends of Jackson County Conservation raise money for educational supplies, displays, and exhibits. A percentage of your order on the fundraiser nights goes to the Friends group.



Dates this spring at Pizza Hut in Maquoketa

Mar 11 Apr 8 May 13 Jun 10

Friends Meeting

**Tuesday, March 17th 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 spring meeting and learn more about the benefits of being a friend and get involved!

What's Happening— Get Involved

The Friends of Jackson County Conservation group meets the 3rd Tuesday of March, June, and October. During the meeting, money and resources are allocated for certain projects with Jackson County Conservation. Here are some of the projects the Friends group is currently involved with:

- ◆ Improvements at Stamp Park (south of Bellevue)
- ◆ Videotape public programs for publicity on the Maquoketa access channel— we are currently looking for volunteers to be trained for this!
- ◆ Give tours at the Hurstville Interpretive Center and Hurstville Lime Kilns to groups— we are currently looking for volunteers for this!
- ◆ Endowment fund
- ◆ Annual Fundraiser
- ◆ Gift shop at Hurstville Interpretive Center
- ◆ Monthly fundraiser at Pizza Hut
- ◆ Picnic shelter at Hurstville Fishing Pond
- ◆ Interpretive signs for prairie trail at the Center
- ◆ Eagle Scout or Gold Star projects—send your Boy or Girl Scouts our way for some great projects.
- ◆ Beaver 'tool box' display
- ◆ Advertisement of programs in the Sentinel Press
- ◆ Prairie & wetland discovery carts for Center

If you would like to get involved in any of these projects or have ideas for additional projects, join us for our next meeting Tuesday March 17th, 7:00 PM, at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Or contact us at (563) 652-3783 or jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com.

Snip and Take to Pizza Hut

Pizza Hut will donate 20% of your purchase to Friends of Jackson County Conservation. Just turn in this ticket when you pay on the dates listed above and the Friends will get the credit. Dine-in, carry-out, and delivery from 5:00 PM to close.



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.)

Winter Activities at Hurstville Interpretive Center



Winter overnight participants got to do some ice fishing at the Hurstville Fishing Pond over their winter break. A total of 91 fish were caught by 40 youth!



Eric Nemmers starts a fire during a winter survival program he did to earn his Eagle Scout Award.



Naturalist Jess Wagner talks about bobcats with the pre-school class at East Central in Miles

AmeriCorps member Vanessa Vanis visits Little Shepherd to do a nature tales program. The pre-schoolers enjoyed learning about owls this February!



Kid's Corner



Springtime Word Search

A	R	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	U	H
B	G	T	M	A	Y	P	F	O	M	Z
L	O	H	Y	K	A	L	G	N	B	R
O	P	G	E	T	E	A	D	G	R	E
O	K	I	T	E	Y	Y	U	B	E	H
M	E	L	F	C	A	P	R	I	L	T
I	B	N	E	S	T	H	T	R	L	O
N	H	U	I	O	I	N	A	D	A	M
G	K	S	H	O	W	E	R	S	L	N

Flower
Songbirds
Sunlight
Showers
April
May
Nest
Blooming
Kite
Umbrella
Play
Mother



Visitor Numbers

2008— 9,627 2007—9,195

Visitor Origins

2004—2008 **49 states, Wash D.C. & 30 countries**
Now we just need to get somebody from Utah to get all 50! Visitor origin information collected from visitor sign-in log and compiled by Mary Hayward.

Environmental Ed. Wish List

- *Adopt a plot in the butterfly garden
 - *Bird seed
 - *Funds for taxidermy work
 - *Nature books
 - *Adopt bluebird houses at the center
 - *Wood samples
 - *Astronomy Buff to do programs
 - *'Easy-up' style tent
- Talk to the conservation staff and receive a detailed list of program books and materials needed.



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!

Volunteer Hours!!
Total hours for 2008 = 1,005

Volunteered at Hurstville Interpretive Center— Bel Tubbs, Wendy Hainstock, Barb McCray, Margaret McCarthy, Matt Burns, Bethany Schiefelbein, Karen Krueger, Chris Tubbs, Asher Schroeder, Brandon Root, Owen Thorson, Vi Said, Mary Mether, Jeff Wilms, Jane & Sabrynn Dague, Myrna Cavanagh, Stephanie Davison, Erica Drake, Amy Eads, Jeanne Hoesley, John Hoesley, Eunese Roberg, Jordan Street, Sam Veach, Marilee Weuste, Doris Yaddof, Michelle Burns, Grace Otting, Bob Sheets, Denny Weiss, Gene Jones

Winter Glow Volunteers & Donors— Jeanne Hoesley, Chris Tubbs, Wendy Hainstock, Bill Hainstock, Bob Walton, Sandy Walton, Mary Hayward, Sandra Kempter, Jack Kempter, Kevin Kempter, Karen Krueger, Barb McCray, John McCray, Doris Yaddof, Myrna Cavanagh, Roger & Eunice Schladetzky, Chuck & Chris Cornelius, Dorothy Nabb, Wanda Cornelius, Vera Randall, Joan Miller, Helen Feeney, Larry Heneke, Lana Flagel, Kim Jochum, Mary Mether, Jo Ellen Langerman, Clayton Pederson, Dave Kunzweiler, Karen Manning, Hilary Markin, Don Kelly, Deb & Bob Lane, Sarah Sagers, Erica Drake, Kevin & Ann Burns, Pam True, Ben & Jess Wagner, Vanessa Vanis

2009 Turtle Sponsorship—Robb & Angie McColley, Chris & Vicki Meinecke

2009 Swan Sponsorship— Sybesma Eye & Vision Care, Claire & Nell Sybesma

Bird Feeders— Ryan & Tammy Current

Exhibits for Center— Kevin Burns, Master Gardeners, Buchanan County Conservation

Program at Center—Jack Tumbleson, Bob Walton

Cash Donations— Maquoketa Community School, Bill & Marlys Brown, Debra & Gary Pontenberg, Jerry & Darrell Florence, Evelyn Fagerland, Mary Harling, Family of John & Jeanne Hoesley, John & Arla Lubben, Kevin & Ann Burns, Don & Phyllis Nissen,

Donations— Emily Kloft (suet), Delwood Community School (birdseed), Century Concrete (swan grit), Mary Hayward (Rubbermaid tubs), Daniel & Karen Breitbach (carpet cleaner), Bob & Sandy Walton (suet), Bob Crist (grass for swan nest), Preston Times (advertisement in paper)

Jackson County Conservation Board

Board Members

Bill Hainstock	Maquoketa
Jerry Millright	LaMotte
Roger Schladetzky	Bellevue
Rick Small	Bernard
Eric Strathman	Andrew

Board Address

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

E-mail jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com

Website www.jacksonccb.com

Spruce Creek Shop 563-872-3621

Conservation Staff

Daryl Parker	Executive Director
Ryan Owen	Park Ranger
Jeannie Collins-Heer	Park Ranger
Jason Gilmore	Operation Technician
Pam True	Office Manager
Ann Burns	Environmental Ed. Coordinator
Jess Wagner	Naturalist
Vanessa Vanis	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 receive a copy, please contact us by phone: (563) 652-3783 or by 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 be a bit more eco-friendly and to cut back on cost, we are encouraging people to receive this newsletter via email or on our website. **Special Bonus- Photos & graphics are in color!** If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please email jess@jacksonccb.com with the email address you would like added in addition to your snail mail address as it appears on this newsletter. *Please, let us know if you would like to be removed from this mailing or if your address or name has changed.*

Check it out online at

www.jacksonccb.com/Newsletter.

Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:

Alice Burmahl	Chris Tubbs
John & Jeanne Hoesley	Bel Tubbs
Bill & Wendy Hainstock	Cathee Mendel Jay



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

PRE SORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
MAQUOKETA IA
PERMIT NO. 123
Address Service Request

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

Printed with soy 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:

Closed Easter Weekend

Open Memorial Day



been an annual event for people around the world to celebrate the earth and renew our commitment to building a safer, healthier and cleaner world for all of us. There are many ways you can get involved: volunteer, go to a festival, install solar panels on your roof, organize an event where you live, change a bad habit, help launch a community garden, communicate your priorities to your elected representatives. The possibilities are endless! Do something nice for the earth, have fun, meet new people, and make a difference. (Source: EPA)

NEW! *Animal of the month*

Check it out at www.jacksonccb.com

Thanks to Maquoketa High School students Sam Veach, Jordan Street, and Stephanie Davison for putting it together!

Earth Day—April 22

Earth Day is a driving force behind environmental awareness around the world. Forty years ago, a conference was held in Seattle in September 1969 to organize nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment. It was to be held in the spring of 1970. The story was carried from coast to coast and everyone was invited to participate. The American people finally had a forum to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air - and they did so with spectacular exuberance, 20 million people participated in the first Earth Day 39 years ago. Since the first Earth Day it has

Picture GPS Adventure

The Picture GPS Adventure has come to an end. Many individuals participated in finding the different areas using GPS coordinates, pictures, and clues. Those that participated got their name entered into a drawing for one of four complimentary 1-night stay at our campgrounds. Congratulations to Dave Lauricha of Sabula, IA; Bob Bergman of Clinton, IA; Heather Freebairn of Ottawa, IL; and Brittney Reed of Davenport, IA!

