



# Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD SPRING 2010

## What's in your Water?

By Jessica Wagner, *Naturalist*

Water is everywhere—in the sky, in the ground, in our homes—and we use it every day. Did you know that less than 1% of all the water on Earth can be used by people? The rest is salt water or permanently frozen. As our population grows, more and more people place demands on this limited resource. Therefore, it is important that we use our water wisely and work to keep it clean.

Here in Iowa, we have more than 70,000 miles of streams and rivers and more than 160,000 acres of lakes, ponds, and wetlands; this amounts to



*Baldwin Marsh, located between Baldwin and Monmouth along Hwy 64, is home to many wildlife species.*

less than one percent of the state's land area. The major threat to water quality in Iowa is nonpoint source pollution (NPS). NPS, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants or storm-water runoff, comes from many different sources and cannot be traced back to a single origin. NPS happens when rainfall, snowmelt or irrigation water runs over land or through the ground and picks up pollutants and deposits them into streams, lakes, or groundwater. Keeping these pollutants out of our water is important for people to use for drinking, recreation, and industries. And don't forget about all the wildlife that need clean water to survive.

Thankfully many citizens realize the importance of keeping our water clean and are working with governmental organizations to improve the quality of our water. While we swim, fish, and get some drinking water from lakes and rivers; it is important to remember that 80% of Iowans get their drinking water from underground. Thus, it is important to keep all water clean, since streams, rivers, lakes, and rain all help to resupply that groundwater.

We are fortunate that good clean water is as easy as turning on a faucet. Unfortunately this is not the case for everyone in the world. Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to clean water. But the Iowa based organization Hays Pure Water for All Foundation is “making a difference, one drop at a time”. The foundation provides handheld units to treat impure water. The foundation has provided 507 units in 37 countries around the world. Learn more about this unique solution to treating unclean water from Tracy Fromm, of Miles, IA and water ambassador for the foundation, on Sunday March 28th at 1:00 PM at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.



*A view of the south fork of the Maquoketa River from Buzzard Ridge Wildlife Area.*



*Farmers Creek in Jackson County. One of Iowa's creeks that has fallen below standards. NRCS is working with landowners in the watershed to reduce pollution from sediment and nutrients through conservation practices.*

*Photo by Dawn Wagner*

## WANTED: Rare Wildlife Sightings

The Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program needs your help. Reports of rare, endangered, and threatened wildlife in Iowa are wanted. This includes Blanding's turtles, sandhill cranes, prairie chickens, barn owls, bobcats, spotted skunks, mudpuppies, smooth green snakes, ornate box turtles, timber rattlesnakes, bald eagle nests, trumpeter swan nests, and heron or egret rookeries sightings.



*Blanding's Turtle*

The Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program uses these reports to help monitor species of greatest conservation need. The information helps to identify key habitat, set conservation priorities, and make recommendations to land managers. Additionally, threatened or endangered species reports are recorded in the Natural Areas Inventory database, which allows information to be shared and combined for comprehensive regional, national, and international assessments of species of concern.



*Barn Owl*

People who have seen the species listed above are asked to make a note of the date and location of the sighting, and report it to the Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program [stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-432-2823. An accompanying photo with clear identification characteristics is needed for all amphibian and reptile species and is helpful for all other animal sightings as well.

People can also help by getting involved with:

- ◆ Frog & Toad surveys  
[www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/diversity/frog\\_toad.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/diversity/frog_toad.html)
- ◆ Breeding Bird Atlas  
<http://bba.iowabirds.org/>
- ◆ Bird Nest Monitoring  
[www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/diversity/vwmp.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/diversity/vwmp.html)

## 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!



*Spotted Skunk (aka civet cat)*



*Sandhill Crane*

## Traveling Exhibit Coming in May!

*Tallgrass Prairie: Past, Present, & Future*, a traveling exhibit, is coming in May to the Hurstville Interpretive Center! View the exhibit anytime between May 29 – July 21. Developed by the Iowa Association of Naturalists and funded in part by REAP CEP, this fun and informative exhibit teaches us about Iowa's tallgrass prairie heritage.

The prairie, what it was, what happened to it, and what may lie in its future...is something you must discover! Visitors will learn about the role of prairies as natural resources and the importance of prairies as a future economic resource. This exhibit includes hands-on displays and interactive components to engage participants in learning about the prairie landscape and native plant species as well as to challenge the viewers to become personally involved in the preservation and restoration of the prairie ecosystem.

Prairie plants are finding their way back into our landscape, not only on public lands, but in gardens and yards. Native species are already well adapted to the soil and climate in Iowa and provide biodiversity to attract wildlife.

To promote planting native prairie plants and make it easier for you to get them, we are holding a

## Plant Sale

Listed in the table are 10 common prairie plants of our area that we are selling. Cost is \$0.50 per plug. Minimum order of 3 plugs per species. Plug sizes are about 1.25" wide and 3" deep.

Common Name	Color	Bloom	Height
Indian Grass	(grass)	Sept - Oct	3-6'
Little Bluestem	(grass)	Sept - Oct	2-3'
Black-eyed Susan	Yellow	June - Sept	1-3'
Butterfly Milkweed	Orange	July - Aug	2-3'
Cardinal Flower	Red	June - Aug	1-4'
Prairie Blazingstar	Purple	July - Oct	2-4'
Prairie Coreopsis	Yellow	July - Aug	1-3'
Purple Coneflower	Purple	June - Aug	2-3'
Foxglove Beardtongue	Pale Pink	May - June	2-3'

Pick up an order form at the Hurstville Interpretive Center or download an one at [www.jacksonccb.com](http://www.jacksonccb.com). Drop off order form and payment at the Hurstville Interpretive Center or mail to 18670 63rd St Maquoketa, IA 52060. Payment is due at the time you order. Order deadline is Wednesday April 14th at 4:00 PM. Call us with any questions at (563) 652-3783.



This exhibit funded in part Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP): *Invest in Iowa, our outdoors, our heritage, our people.*

# Spring Programs

## March

**Winter Glow Fundraiser Event!!**  
**Sunday March 14th between 3-7 PM**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Lighthouse Program & Soup Supper. See p.5 for details.

**Friends of JCC Meeting**  
**Tuesday March 16th at 7:00 PM**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Get involved with projects and events with the conservation staff!

**Iowa DNR Hunter Education Course**  
**Saturday March 20th from 9-3 PM at the**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**

**Saturday March 27th from 9-3 PM at the**  
**Izaak Walton Clubhouse in Maquoketa**

Participants must be at least 11 years old to enroll and must attend both days. Class size is limited. Register at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/law/hunter/education.html>.

**Aldo Leopold Reading**  
**Sunday March 21st at 1:00 PM**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Join us in celebrating Aldo Leopold—ecologist, forester, and father of wildlife management. Leopold's book *A Sand County Almanac* has been read by millions and has informed and changed the environmental movement and a widespread interest in ecology as a science. Join us as portions of his book are read aloud by community members.

**Pure Water For All**  
**Sunday March 28th at 1:00 PM**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**



The Hays Pure Water for All Foundation helps people living in developing countries who do not have clean water by make drinking water safe with handheld units. Tracy Fromm, from Miles, IA and water ambassador for the foundation, will educate us about unsafe drinking water in the world and how these units are helping so many individuals. Fromm will also demonstrate how the chlorine producing units work to disinfect water.

## April

**Waterfowl Viewing**  
**Sunday April 11th at 1:00 PM**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Join Dubuque Audubon members Charlie Winterwood & Bob Walton, along with fellow bird watchers in viewing the migrating waterfowl and shorebirds at the Hurstville Marsh. Learn to identify different birds. Scopes will be set-up; bring binoculars.

**Basket Weaving Workshop**  
**Sunday April 18th at 12:15 PM**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Make your very own basket! Beginners to experts can make this fun melon shaped basket. Cost is \$15/basket. Registration and prepayment is required. Workshop limited to 8 participants.

**Earth Day**  
**Wednesday April 22—Anytime... Anywhere**

Plant a tree, participate in a litter clean-up, or anything else that helps the environment and our planet.

## May

**The Birds and the Bees (mostly Bees)**  
**Sunday May 2nd at 1:00 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!). Join naturalist Ann Burns to learn some of the fascinating stories of pollinators and what you can do to make the world a better place for these friends of farmers and gardeners. Attendees can make a “bee box” to place in their yard or garden to invite native bees to their home. *Pre-registration is required by April 19 to make a bee box. Cost for the bee box is \$2.00*

**Iowa DNR Boat Education Course**  
**Tuesday May 4 from 5:30—9:00 PM**  
**Saturday May 8 from 8:00—3:00 PM**  
**Sabula, Iowa**

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. *Pre-registration required by Sunday May 2nd.*

**1st GEAR Bike Ride**  
**May 15 and 16**  
**Bellevue to Maquoketa & back**

Are you up to the challenge of our hills, ridges and bridges? Camp overnight in Maquoketa, or make your own arrangements for a room in Maquoketa. There will be comfort stations and a couple food stops along the route. Go to [www.jacksonccb.com](http://www.jacksonccb.com) for map & more information.

**Tallgrass Prairie: Past, Present, & Future**  
**Saturday May 29 – July 21**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Come and check out this fun and informative traveling exhibit about Iowa's tallgrass prairie heritage.



## June

### **Free Fishing Weekend**

**June 4, 5, 6**

#### **Iowa**

Iowa residents of all ages can cast a line for free this weekend! No license is needed to go fishing for these 3 days.

### **Free Fishing Clinic**

**Saturday June 5th from 9 -11 AM**

#### **Hurstville Fishing Pond**

#### **Cost: Free**

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 to win a prize! Bring your own equipment or borrow from us.

### **River Clean-Up/ Canoe Trip**

**Sunday June 13th**

#### **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 is required by June 10th, in case of bad weather or changing river conditions. Call us to reserve a free canoe!

### **Naturalist Lunch Box**

**2nd & 4th Thursday during the summer**

**June 10th & 24th at Noon**

**July 8th & 22nd at Noon**

**August 5th & 19th at Noon**

#### **Hurstville Interpretive Center at Noon**

Bring a lunch and join a naturalist for a program on natural resources. You will be entertained while you dine and hopefully will learn something new to share with your co-workers, friends, and family. *Topics TBD—call ahead.*

## **Environmental Ed. Wish List**

- \*Funds for taxidermy work—pelican, red fox, barred owl
- \*Black-oil sunflower seed for birds
- \*Funds for microphone system at the center
- \*Small cassette tape player with counter
- \*Aluminum coffee cans

### **Volunteer Wish List**

- \*Someone to sew new curtains for Millrock Schoolhouse
  - \*Someone to maintain fishing poles
  - \*Someone to adopt and maintain bluebird houses at center
  - \*Program Presenter—what's your expertise/hobby/interest?
- Would you like to share your nature/outdoor/conservation related knowledge by doing a public or school program?

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

## **Swan Update**

Once again the captive trumpeter swans amazed visitors by their quiet presence on the ice during the coldest weather this winter had to offer. Most winter days, they would

spend the majority of their time sleeping; head tucked under a wing. A few lucky visitors were surprised to see them enthusiastically bathing in the open water—even on



sub-zero days! Spring chores include replacing the dried switch grass on their nesting platform and adding new flagging to the overhead lines to warn wild swans that the enclosure is not a place for them

to try to land. Already three wild swans did several fly-bys back in February to check out the enclosure. Additional flagging material will encourage them to find their own nesting site elsewhere! Check our website in May and June for egg laying and hatching announcements!



*Swan photos by Rita Glow*

Don't forget to renew your membership with (or join) Friends of Jackson County Conservation!



## **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 63<sup>rd</sup> St.

Maquoketa, Iowa 52060



# Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Join Friends of Jackson County Conservation for an enjoyable evening at their annual "Soup Supper"!

## Winter Glow

Program & Soup Supper Fundraiser

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Lighthouse Program at 3:00 PM

Soup Supper served 4:30—7:00 PM


Silent auction from 4:00—6:00 PM

### Lighthouse Program at 3:00 PM

Don't miss a great presentation about the Rock Island Lighthouse by Bill & Wendy Hainstock and Rich & Mary Hayward. The Hainstocks and Haywards have spent several vacations serving as volunteer guides and lighthouse keepers at this "light station" located off the northern tip of Door Peninsula, Wisconsin. They will share the history of the light station and stories of how they spend their volunteer week greeting visitors, shining the Fresnel lens, and carrying water to their living quarters during their volunteer vacations at the station.



### Soup Supper served from 4:30—7:00 PM

 A hearty supper of vegetable beef or chicken noodle soup with cornbread, beverages, and desserts. Cost for the meal is \$7/adults and \$5/child 5-10 years. There will be a \$1 discount for buying tickets in advance as well as a 50 cent discount at the door for bringing your own place setting (to help reduce waste).

### Silent auction from 4:00—6:00 PM.

Funds raised by Friends of Jackson County Conservation help us do so many projects such as purchasing equipment for school and public programs, matching funds for exhibit grants, building picnic shelters in parks, and much, much more!



Hope to see you there!

### Current Friends Board members:

John Hoesley,	Margaret McCarthy,
Karen Krueger	Kim Jochum
Jo Ellen Langerman	Ann Burns (Staff Representative)
Jerry Millwright (Conservation Board Representative)	

### Next Friends Meeting

Tuesday, **March 16th 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!

### Tribute to a Founding Board Member

I remember waiting before the organizational meeting for Friends of Jackson County Conservation eight years ago wondering: How many people will show up? Will they step up to take leadership roles? Thankfully, Kay Manuel was one of those who did attend and step forward. Kay was elected to the founding board of directors for the group and served as the treasurer for two three-year terms.

Growing up just west of Hurstville and attending the Hurstville School, Kay had a keen interest in the plans that were being made for the Hurstville Interpretive Center and, especially, the exhibits that were being planned. Kay not only kept the organization's checkbook up to date during the hectic days of fund raising and construction, she was one of the idea and hands on people as we added the scenery and detail to the HO scale model of Hurstville. Kay and her daughter Mattie were the design and production team for the donor recognition wall at the Center too.

On a personal note, if I had a basket or decorative container at home that needed updating, I knew if I took it to the flower shop, Kay would work her creative magic and I would have the perfect piece for my house. Many people appreciated Kay's creative talents and enthusiasm for everything she did.

Sadly, Kay died January 14, 2010. We will miss her enthusiasm and that smile that lit up the room when she came in to the Center. Her friends from the Maquoketa High School Class of 1972 have purchased a memorial bench to be placed at the entrance to the Center where visitors can enjoy the view up the rolling hill to the west and think of Kay and other people whose enthusiasm helps move organizations like ours along toward reaching their goals. Our sympathies to Kay's husband, Sandy, and her entire family.

- Ann Burns, *Environmental Education Coordinator*

### Fundraising Dates for 2010

Pizza Hut in Maquoketa the following  
Wednesdays—March 10, May 12, July 14



# Winter Activities with Jackson County Conservation



4th, 5th, & 6th graders try ice fishing at the Hurstville Fishing Pond during the winter overnight!



Volunteer Bel Tubbs is sorting artifacts for an exhibit.

Visitors enjoying the new Hurstville Kiosk on the exhibit floor.



Ann Burns showing a group of high school students our milk snake.



## Kid's Corner

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

Caterpillar  
Duckling  
Earth Day  
Egg  
Garden  
Growing  
Hatch  
Jacket  
Lilacs  
Puddle  
Seed  
Tulip  
Umbrella



## 2010 HIC Critter Sponsors

Trumpeter Swans ~  
Claire & Nell Sybesma & Family



Black Rat Snake ~  
RB & Beth Melvold family  
Milk Snake ~ John & Jeanne Hoesley

Roxie the Box Turtle ~  
Chris & Vicki Meineke  
Michelangelo the Box Turtle ~  
Beach great-grandchildren



**A big Thank You to our Sponsors!!**



# 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—

Charlene Andresen, Lou Behrends, Kevin Burns, Myrna Cavanagh, Jerry Dalziel, Marlene Dalziel, Darlene Dalziel, Linda Grobstick, Wendy Hainstock, Jeanne Hoesley, John Hoesley, Chris Johnson, Ray Johnson, Karen Krueger, Jo Ellen Langerman, Barb McCray, Margaret McCarthy, Zola McMahan, Mary Mether, Dorothy Nabb, Jeanne Norton, Amber Ruff, Asher Schroeder, Bel Tubbs, Duane Westphal, Doris Yaddof

**Helped with Winter Newsletter—** Jeanne Hoesley, Dorothy Nabb, Darlene Dalziel, Marlene Dalziel,

**Helped with Programs—**Jeanne Hoesley, John Hoesley, Denny Weiss, Gene Jones, Ron Jones, Nate Jones, Duane Westphal, Kelly Jacobsen, Mikey Tschantz, Justin Kruse, Paten Proesch, Brittany Karr, Deborah Christiansen, Darin Risinger, Andrew Keil, Jerry Dalziel, Erica Drake, McKenzie Moore, Jo Ellen Langerman, Dawn Carstensen

**Cash Donations—** Bill & Wendy Hainstock (used to purchase digital microscope), Bill & Marlys Brown (used for bird mount), Kevin & Ann Burns, Maquoketa Tuesday Club, Becky Miller, Barb Miller, Mark Mendel, Kathy Greeson, Margo Park, Amy Gunn, Sue Bomia, Kandy Franzen, Nancy Willner, Jo Wilson, Roxi Riley, Al & Myrna Tubbs, Chris & Chuck Cornelius, Family of Marguerite Stamp, Sam & Pam True (endowment fund), Dave & Elaine Edwards (endowment fund)

**Donations—** Maquoketa Web Print (end rolls of news print), Deb Shady (Hurstville class photo), Karen Manning (guide books), Charlene Andresen (bird seed), Sunshine Day Care (bird seed), Jeff Glaw (scroll saw), Rita Russel (tools), Preston Times (advertisement in paper), Shopper (advertisement in paper), Nancy Toutsch (owl pellets)

## Visitor Numbers

2009 ~ 9,785    2008 ~ 9,627    2007 ~ 9,195

## Jackson County Conservation Board

### Board Members

Jerry Millwright	La Motte
Roger Schladetzky	Bellevue
Rick Small	Bernard
Eric Strathman	Andrew
Anne Hawks	Maquoketa

### Board Address

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

Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621

E-mail [jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com](mailto:jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com)

Website [www.jacksonccb.com](http://www.jacksonccb.com) &  
[www.MyCountyParks.com/Jackson](http://www.MyCountyParks.com/Jackson)

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
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](mailto:jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com).

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



### Volunteer Hours!!

Total hours for 2008 = 1,005

Total hours for 2009 = 1,170

That's like having an additional part time staff person for the whole year!

### Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:



Kay Manuel  
Mary Schwager  
Harry Hauger  
Marguerite Stamp

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:

Closed Easter Weekend April 3 & 4

Open Memorial Day & Weekend!



## Baby Animals

Each year many people contact us who have found an “abandoned” baby animal. Most people think that because the baby is alone, it has been orphaned. Unlike human babies, wild babies are not constantly watched by their parents and spend large amounts of time alone. The parents also leave their babies to look for food or if they sense danger (you!). Although it may seem hard, the best thing you can do for the animal is to leave it alone. By disturbing the animal, you could cause it to injure itself or attract predators to the area. Unless the death of the parent is witnessed, it is likely the parent is hiding or feeding nearby. A baby animal’s natural parent can raise them better than a human.

Often people wish to take the baby animal in to care for it. Realize that most wildlife in Iowa is protected by law and is illegal to have them in your possession without proper permits from the federal and state government. Also, baby animals easily imprint onto whoever is feeding them. An animal that is imprinted on people will most likely not survive if released back into the wild.

If you know for sure that the animal is orphaned or injured, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator (or us and we can refer you).

## Electronic Newsletter

To cut down on cost and save on resources we would like to reduce the number of newsletters printed and mailed. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, email [jess@jacksonccb.com](mailto:jess@jacksonccb.com) to be added to the e-list! If you would like to continue receiving it in the mail, that’s okay—just help us clean up our mailing files by letting us know of if an address needs correcting or changed.

