

Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD SUMMER 2010

Traveling Prairie Exhibit on Display



Americans and millions of people around the world will sit down to a meal sometime today courtesy of the prairies that once covered much of Iowa. We invite you to experience the story of our prairie heritage through the exhibit “**Tallgrass Prairie: Past, Present and Future**”; a traveling exhibit on display at the Hurstville Interpretive Center May 29—July 21.

Hands-on displays and interactive components will engage visitors in learning about the prairie landscape and animal and plant species. We also invite you to become personally involved in the preservation and restoration of the prairie ecosystem through our prairie related events this summer! (*See page 3*).

The exhibit was produced by Iowa Association of Naturalists with funds from Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP – CEP), Living Roadway Trust Fund, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Trust for Local Conservation, Tallgrass Prairie Center – UNI, and Truax Company.

Trail Project Moving Forward

By Daryl Parker, Director

Contractors are hoping for a nice stretch of dry weather to continue construction of Copper Creek Trail. The 2-mile trail project will connect the City of Preston to the existing Jackson County Recreation Trail and when completed will total nearly 7 miles of trail.

The project is expected to be completed by mid-June and plans are already underway for a trail grand opening which is set for Saturday, August 7th. The City of Preston is planning a weekend festival to celebrate the grand opening of the new trail segment.

This project is the result of some 3 years of planning and preparation which first started when a group of active volunteers formed a committee and submitted a request to the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to designate Jackson County as an Iowa Great Place. Within the Great Place request was the development of a bike trail in Jackson County. Jackson County was lucky enough to be named an Iowa Great Place in 2006 and with that designation came state funding to assist in completing the “puzzle piece” projects in Jackson County. Over the next 2 years a series of grant applications, and fortunately grant awards, allowed this trail project to move from dream to reality.

Upon completion of the trail surfacing and final grading, the conservation department is planning to plant the available open area along the trail to trees and native prairie to enhance the outdoor experience for trail users. The trees and grass will also improve the stream corridor and improve water quality along Copper and Deep Creeks.

Please stay tuned for further developments on the trail and join us on August 7th for the official ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Copper Creek Trail. Tune up your bikes or lace your sneakers—it’s time to enjoy the great outdoors.



Low water crossing for Copper Creek

Phantom Energy Loss

By Jess Wagner, Naturalist

Did you know that even after you push the OFF button on your TV remote, it continues to draw electric power, costing you money? This is called standby mode or phantom energy loss. Computers, microwaves, toasters, televisions, cell phone chargers, coffee makers, and many other appliances and electronics continue to draw electricity when not in use. Because these devices are ready to operate at all times, they act like vampires silently sucking away energy even when they are turned “off.” Alliant Energy estimates that this ‘phantom’ energy loss can account for 5-10% of your total energy bill each month. Wow!

So what can we do to reduce this phantom energy loss?

- ◆ **UNPLUG** items when not in use!
- ◆ **Check the label.** Look for energy saving ENERGY STAR® home electronics and appliances.
- ◆ **Keep it simple.** Avoid buying products with lots of “bells & whistles” you don’t need.
- ◆ **Invest in a Smart Strip.** Smart strips are power strips that detect when you are not using your appliance and automatically cuts off power.

Want to find out which appliances and electronics in your home are sucking away electricity? Thanks to a donation from Karen Manning of Maquoketa, we have several **Kill-A-Watts** and **Smart Strips** available to loan out so that you can find the phantom energy loss in your home.

Kill-A-Watts assess how much electricity an item is using when plugged into an outlet, whether turned on or off. Simply plug the Kill-A-Watt into the wall and then connect your appliances to the Kill A Watt™, and it will assess how much energy is being used.

Smart Strips are power strips that sense when your computer or television shuts off. When it does, the Smart Strip automatically cuts power to your peripheral devices (monitor, speakers, DVD, etc.) to eliminate energy loss.

Jackson County Conservation is loaning out Kill-A-Watts and Smart Strips at no cost to you for up to 2 weeks. Simply stop in at the Hurstville Interpretive Center, pick up a Kill-A-Watt and/or Smart Strip, leave a deposit, take home and try it. For more information, call us at (563) 652-3783.

Experiment with a Kill-A-Watt (KW)

KW plugged into wall	1 KWH
KW plugged into wall and power strip (turned off)	1 KWH
KW plugged into wall and power strip (turned on)	4 KWH
KW plugged into wall, power strip, & computer (on)	116 KWH

Example—a typical 24 hour day:

Computer turned on for 6 hours x 116 KWH = 696 KWH

Computer turned off for 18 hours x 4 KWH = 72 KWH

*10% of the electricity used is when the computer is turned off!!

**Note: This experiment was done in a short time frame. Longer time span will result in more accurate results.

Focus on Teen Volunteers

By Ann Burns, Environmental Education Coordinator

They’ll admit it – a big part of the reason some of them volunteer is to receive extra credit or complete a class requirement. Others volunteer as members of youth service or community organizations. Some volunteer totally on their own to learn new skills or to make a difference. No matter their reason, they do choose us and they do get some cool projects completed for us!

Maquoketa Community High School government students have built work benches and bird houses, pulled invasive weeds, painted, developed web pages, fixed fishing poles, sorted and identified animal skeletons, and more!



Cody Dunkel

Cards Club



The Maquoketa Middle School Cards Club members have planted trees and shrubs, helped at our Halloween Hikes and other special events, and tended the butterfly garden.

Bellevue and Maquoketa students who are members of the Leadership & Resiliency Program (LRP) have assisted with our youth camps, painted our bird blind, and took on roles for our Halloween Hikes. Again, I could go on.



LRP Students

UNI Public History Course students have inventoried some of our collection materials and have developed lesson plans for Hurstville and Mill-rock School field trips.

Briggs 4th grade



And even though they are not teens, we need to give credit to some elementary classes from Bellevue, East Central, Delwood and Maquoketa who have picked up litter, pulled weeds in the butterfly garden, mulched our young trees and scattered prairie seeds for us.

Individual students have volunteered on weekends and during the summer to develop exhibits, care for animals and fill bird feeders. One especially dedicated young man met us at 7:30 AM two mornings a week all last summer to help us fill and lug five gallon buckets of duck weed for our captive trumpeter swans and their cygnets.

Kids today don’t know how to work? Our staff can point to some shining examples that prove that statement wrong! Thank you to all our volunteers – and in this instance – especially our youth volunteers.



Summer Programs

Jackson County Conservation Board Meetings

June 8—South Sabula Lakes Park

July 13—Copper Creek Trail & Preston City Hall

August 10—Blackhawk Wildlife Area & HIC

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets in regular session the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM. During the summer, the board tours an area at the start of the meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

Nature Tales

June 9— Buzzy Bees

July 14— Party in the Prairie

August 11— Animal Olympics

Hurstville Interpretive Center at 10:00 AM

Children ages 2-6 and a guardian are invited to join a naturalist the 2nd Wed. of the month this summer to learn more about nature. Stories and activities go along with the theme.

Naturalist Lunch Box

June 10— Tallgrass Prairie

June 24—Trumpeter Swans

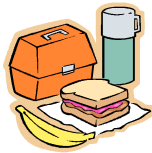
July 8— American Kestrel

July 22— Wetland Wonders

August 5— Insects Galore

Hurstville Interpretive Center at Noon

Bring a friend, grab a lunch, and join a naturalist for a fun program while you dine!



Junior Naturalist Days

Monday May 31— Honey Bees

Sunday June 20— Salamanders

Monday July 5— Prairie Animals

Sunday August 15—Trumpeter Swans

Hurstville Interpretive Center at 1:00 PM

Children ages 6-12 are invited to join a naturalist in a fun nature-related activity to complete requirements for their Junior Naturalist badge!

Campground Programs

Friday May 28— South Sabula Lakes Park

Saturday May 29— Spruce Creek Park

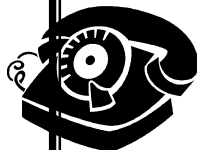
Friday July 2—South Sabula Lakes Park

Saturday July 3— Spruce Creek Park

Join a naturalist for an entertaining and educational program at the picnic shelter in the campground at 7:00 PM. For all ages. Non-campers welcome too! *May topic is American Kestrel; July topic is Water Safety.*



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 unless otherwise noted. Some programs require pre-registration. You can do so by calling the conservation office at (563) 652-3783.



June

Free Fishing Clinic

Saturday June 5 from 9-11 AM

Hurstville Fishing Pond

It's free fishing weekend for Iowa residents! Practice casting, learn how to clean a fish, plus other activities. Bring your own pole or borrow from us. Fun for the whole family!



Science Under the Stars

Thursday June 10 —Friday June 11

Hurstville Interpretive Center

For youth who are entering 5th-7th grade in the fall & are interested in learning more about nature, science, & want to have fun! Campers will spend the night at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Cost is \$15. Registration forms available at www.jacksonccb.com. **Pre-registration is required by June 4th, contact the Jackson County Extension Office at (563) 652-4923 to register your child.**



Prairie Rescue

Saturday June 12 at 9:00 AM

Buzzard Ridge Wildlife Area

Help us clear brush and invasive species on a native goat prairie at Buzzard Ridge. Bring gloves, water, loppers, and a smile! Please pre-register by Wed June 9th.

River Clean-Up/ Canoe Trip

Sunday June 13 at 1:00 PM

Maquoketa River

Enjoy some beautiful scenery in Jackson County while cleaning up the river. Participants will canoe & pick up trash along a portion of the Maquoketa River. Call to reserve a canoe or bring/trent one. *Pre-registration is required by June 10th.*



Friends of Jackson County Conservation Meeting

Tuesday June 15 at 7:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Get involved in conservation and environmental education!

Prairie Walk

Sunday June 27 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Take a stroll through the Hurstville Prairie. Enjoy blooming wildflowers, and learn about prairie life.

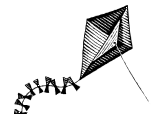
July

Kite Flying

Sunday July 18 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

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



GPS & Geocaching Demo

Sunday July 25 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join area geocachers for a short demo on how to use a GPS to find hidden caches. Demo is for people of all skill levels.

August

Neal Smith Trip Friday August 6 Prairie City, Iowa



Join a naturalist for a trip to Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Experience the breathtaking beauty of over 5,000 acres of the largest reconstruction of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem in the entire U.S. See bison and elk, take a hike in the prairie enjoying blooming wildflowers, and enjoy world class exhibits. Lunch and transportation provided. Cost is \$35 (\$30 for Friends of JCC members).

Copper Creek Trail Grand Opening Saturday August 7



Two Good Park, Preston

Bring your bike and take a ride along the trail. Ribbon cutting at 10:00 AM. Food, games, and lots of fun!

Youth Outdoor Skills Day Saturday August 14 from 9-1 Hurstville Fishing Pond

A day of outdoor recreation— archery, shooting sports, fishing, canoeing, rock climbing, orienteering, outdoor cooking, and more. Cost is \$5/youth in advance, \$7 day of event (adults free). Great fun for the whole family!

**Grilling for Charity Event
Wednesday August 18th from 11-2 PM
Maquoketa State Bank, Main Branch Parking Lot**
Come out for some brats & hotdogs, chips, lemonade, ice cream and fun events! Free will donations—to go to Jackson County Conservation!

Millrock School Ice Cream Social Saturday August 21 from 3-5 PM Millrock Schoolhouse



Rural schools were social centers for their communities through the 1950's. Millrock School will once again serve that purpose when we serve up home-made ice cream! Enjoy some old fashioned fun with your yum by participating in some games from early school days! We ask a \$1 per person donation to help cover the cost for the ice cream ingredients. Please bring your own bowl, spoon, drink, chairs or picnic blanket. **Please pre-register by August 18.** Millrock is located just south of Baldwin. Follow 50th Ave south out of Baldwin, turn east on 33rd St., then south on 53rd St.

Become an Iowa Junior Naturalist

Youth, ages 6-12, are encouraged to participate in the Iowa Junior Naturalist Program. The program is simple. Interested participants can pick up an Iowa Junior Naturalist program record sheet at most county conservation board offices and nature centers, as well as some state parks. To earn a certificate and official Iowa Junior Naturalist patch, participants must attend three programs and explore the outdoors on their own or with their families. Join us for our Junior Naturalist Days (see calendar of events) or any public program to earn your Jr. Naturalist award!



Attention kids and parents!

Announcing our 2010 Summer Day Camps Mark your calendars!

Explorer Camp

June 15, 16, & 17 from 9–Noon each day

For youth entering Kdg & 1st grade in the fall

Cost is \$25. Flowers, trees, bugs, animals, water—there is so much to see, do, and learn—join us in exploring the natural world!

Ranger Camp

June 29, 30 & July 1 from 9–1 each day

For youth entering 2nd, 3rd, & 4th grade in the fall

Cost is \$25 (*price reduced thanks to a donation from Chuck & Chris Cornelius!*). Explore the connections between natural resources and the foods we eat. Where does a deer or a goat fit in a food web? Can you make your own pemmican? Could you take down a turkey or a deer with an atlatl and a dart? Can you grow soup?

Adventure Camp

June 22, 23, & 24 from 9–3 each day

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

Cost is \$40 (*price reduced thanks to a PBNJ grant through the Maquoketa Area. Comm. Found!*) Have fun with outdoor recreation—canoeing, archery, fishing, orienteering, and a high ropes course adventure!

- ◆ Registration & payment is required the Friday before camp begins. Maximum # is 20 per camp.
- ◆ Lunch is provided each day.
- ◆ Thanks to a donation from the John & Jeanne Hoesley family, scholarship money is available—don't hesitate to ask for help for all or part of your child(ren)'s registration cost.
- ◆ For more information or to register for a camp, contact us at (563) 652-3783.
- ◆ Registration forms available online and at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.

Hurstville Exhibit Contest!



We have made a few additions to the train model exhibit of the Hurstville Lime Kilns here at the Center. Can you find the things we added to the model? Find 3 out of the 8 additions and enter your name into a drawing for prizes!! Deadline is June 30th.



Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Renew Yearly Membership this Month



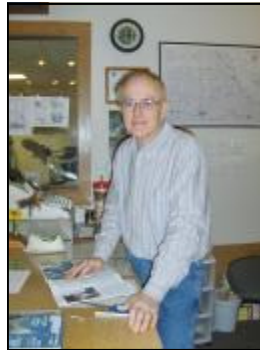
Current Friends members— remember to renew your membership this month. Membership runs from July 1- June 30. You can renew your membership at the Friends meeting June 16th or mail in the membership form to the right. And it's a great time to become a member if you aren't already! Benefits include 10% discount in the gift shop, a free rental of snowshoes each year, early notice of events, and you get to put in your two cents on activities, projects, and events sponsored by Friends of Jackson County Conservation.

Friends members busy volunteering!!!

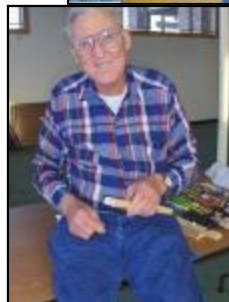


Volunteers who helped with our Spring Work Day at the Center!

Lou Behrend volunteering on the weekend to help greet visitors.



Jeanne Hoesley busy cleaning up the butterfly garden to get it ready for summer!



Duane Westphal putting together some ice fishing poles.



Volunteers served soup to over 100 people at the Winter Glow fundraiser soup supper.

Look like fun?
Contact us to see how you can help!

Next Friends Meeting

Tuesday, June 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 summer meeting and learn more about the benefits of being a friend and become involved!

Membership Form

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

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

Student
\$5.00

Regular
\$10.00

Senior Citizen
\$5.00

Family
\$20.00

Sustaining
\$50.00

Other Contribution
\$_____

Amt. enclosed....._____

Please send Membership form and fee to:

Friends of Jackson County Conservation
18670 63rd St.

Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

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

What's Happening – Get Involved

Here are a few of the many projects the Friends group is currently involved in:

- ♦ Planning the 2nd annual Taste of Jackson County
- ♦ Adding on a deck to the south side of the bird blind
- ♦ Helping with public & group programs

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 June 16 at 7:00 PM.

Spring Activities at Hurstville Interpretive Center



Volunteers enjoying some goodies at the Volunteer Appreciation Day.



Cardinal 2nd graders learn about water conservation on a field trip to the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Students from Cuba City, WI came down to the Center for a field trip! Here they are catching aquatic invertebrates with naturalist Ann Burns to learn more about life in the wetland.



Students crowd around the bee hive at the Center, definitely a favorite among visitors!



Michelle Turner, with NRCS, helps us with a field trip. Here she is showing students how to test water quality.

Kid's corner

Match the animals on the left to its food on the right!



Nature Backpacks for YOU

Park Packs Available:

Wetland Wonders Animals of Iowa Terrific Trees
For the Birds Insect Safari

Looking for nature-related activities to do with your family this summer? These 5 packs each come with field guides, games & activities, and fun facts to assist in the discovery of each topic. Packs can be checked out for FREE and are available year round for anyone to use.

Ways to use a Park Pack:

- ◇ Use with a youth group
- ◇ Take on a day trip, vacation, or camping
- ◇ Use in your backyard or local park
- ◇ Use with home schooled or daycare children



Jokes!

- Q:** What is a tree's least favorite month?
A: Sep-timber!
- Q:** What kind of flower grows on your face?
A: Tulips!
- Q:** What bow can't be tied?
A: A rainbow!



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— Bob Sheets, Kevin Burns, Cody Dunkel, Charlene Andresen, Ray & Chris Johnson, Bel Tubbs, Judy Bickford, Karen Krueger, Margaret McCarthy, Mary Mether, Myrna Cavanogh, Linda Grobstick, Jeanne Hoesley, John Hoesley, Zola McMahon, Asher Schroeder, Chris Tubbs, Doris Yaddof, Jeanne Norton, Lou Behrend, Mary Hayward, Mary Pat Burns

Volunteers and Donors for Winter Glow Soup Supper Fundraiser—Jean Buchner, Ann & Kevin Burns, Ron & Joan Delagardelle, Lana Flagel, Richard Gehring, Jeanne Hoesley, Kim Jochum, Karen Krueger, David Manning, Sarah Hobbs, Margaret McCarthy, John & Barb McCray, James Merrick, Betty Miller, Gerald Millwright, Dorothy Nabb, Vince & Michele O'Connor, Matt & Marilyn Osterhaus, Grace Otting, Daryl & Cindy Parker, Dennis & Michelle & Maddy & Jack Rolling, Asher Schroeder, Roger & Eunice Schladetzky, Phyllis Simonin, Dennis & Janet Stange, Mary Stephany, Helen Stewert, Sam & Pam True, Lorraine Volkers, Robert & Sandra Walton, Vannesa Vanis, Voy Theatre (Dennis Voy), Rich & Mary Hayward, Bill & Wendy Hainstock, Steve & Chris Tubbs, Dean & Darlene Dalziel, Jerry & Marlene Dalziel, Don & Phyllis Nissen, Karen Manning, Hilary Marken, Jack & Sandra & Kevin Kempter, Donna Hefel, Jeannie Collins-Heer, Ben & Jess Wagner, Chuck & Chris Cornelius, Jeff & Denise Swanson, Bonnie Daemmrch, Clayton Pederson, Judy Bickford, Linda Grobstick, Randy Huffman, Dena Donatsch, Jeff & Rita Glaw, Marilyn Junk, Karen Steffen

Environmental Education Programs—Tracy Frahm, Bob Walton, Carolyn Bybee, Marissa Duwa, Amelia Rogers

Helped with Spring Workday at HIC—Wendy Hainstock, Dawn Wagner, Vince O'Connor, Cody Dunkel, Margaret McCarthy, Jo Ellen Langermann

Helped with Spring Newsletter—John Hoesley, Jeanne Hoesley, Darlene Dalziel, Marlene Dalziel, Bel Tubbs, Margaret McCarthy, Linda Grobstick

Painted the Bird Blind—Leadership & Resiliency Program—Paten Proesch, Amanda Senger, Michael Tschantz, Kelly Jacobsen, Kristin Wright, Rachel Wilbers, Anna Hankemeir, Brittany Karr

Cut Wood for Birdhouses—Jerry Dalziel

Cut Wood for Bee houses—Jeff Glaw

Sewed Curtains for Millrock School—Mary Mether

Animal Sponsors—Beach Great-Grandchildren (Michelangelo), Chris & Vicki Meinecke (Roxie), RB Melvold (Black Rat Snake), John & Jeanne Hoesley (Milk Snake), Clare & Nell Sybesma (Trumpeter Swans)

Jackson County Conservation Board

Board Members

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

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Website www.jacksonccb.com &
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
Jess Howell	AmeriCorp Volunteer

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

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

Donations— John & Barb McCray (pin oak trees), Jackson County Solid Waste Commission (compost bin), Linda Behne (ice cream buckets), Mary Mether (curtains for Millrock), Pat Gent (13 liner toy), Big Timber Toms NWTF (DVD player), Nancy Toutsch (owl pellets), Mic Clark (wood for bee hives), Pat & Phil Gent (silverware), Ryan & Alex Gent (silverware), Sean & Chloe Swanson (bee book)

Cash Donations— Jackson County Master Gardeners, Bill & Bonnie Schwenker

Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:

Don Smith



