

Jackson County Conservation Teacher Newsletter Fall 2011



What's new at the Hurstville Interpretive Center?

Thanks to Friends of Jackson County Conservation we now have more room for classes that use the bird blind at the edge of the marsh. A 10' x 10' deck was added to the north end of the walkway which will allow more students to view the waterfowl activities as well as provide extra space to conduct wetland related activities. If you venture out that same trail in the evening you might be lucky enough to spot some bats flitting about the new bat house that was installed by volunteer, Tom Hamilton. The bat house was installed in mid-summer, so the bats may not take up residence until next year. But the house is still a great way to start a discussion about the importance of bats and their habitat needs.



Field Trips and Programs

Our staff is ready to schedule field trips and programs for the 2011-12 school year.

Field trips

Anytime of the year we are available to work with your students in discovering all that our natural world has to offer! Locations include but are not limited to:

- Hurstville Interpretive Center
- Millrock School House
- Bellevue State Park
- Eden Valley
- Green Island Refuge
- Maquoketa Caves Park
- Streams/river
- Any parks/natural area in Jackson County



In-school Programs

A list of available in-school programs has been included with this newsletter. We will also work with you on any other topic related to science or natural resources you would like assistance with. We are available for in-school programs Nov—Mar (with some exceptions).

Schedule your field trip and school programs soon—our calendars fill up fast!



Monarch Tagging Program



August 29—September 30

Schedule a Monarch Tagging Program for your classroom! Be part of the research as we catch and tag

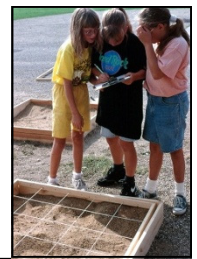


monarchs during their journey south for the winter. Some background information on monarch butterflies will be given during this program. Great for all grade levels!

Sand Box Archeology Dig

September 19-23

Once again, your students can make observations, use their mapping skills, record information, classify objects, and develop theories during Sandbox Archaeology Week at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. During the activity the students will learn how archaeologists find clues about our past, use those clues to learn more about how people lived, and apply what they've learned to some issues in our lives today.



Contact us to schedule your **4th grade class'** visit to the Hurstville Interpretive Center (or any grade that this topic is relevant too). Other programs/activities can be done during your visit to the Center.

To schedule program or for more information please contact:

Environmental Educator **Ann Burns** amburns29@jacksonccb.com

Naturalist **Jess Wagner** jess@jacksonccb.com

Intern Naturalist **Jen Meyer** intern@jacksonccb.com



Phone: (563) 652-3783



Bus Grant for Field Trips



The Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area Bus Grant program is a grant initiative designed to help schools in the heritage area fund the transportation costs associated with field study trips to designated SSNHA partner sites. **All schools in Jackson County can apply!** If one or more grades at your school plan to visit one of the following places this school year, this grant is for you! One application per school but multiple field trips/grade levels can be done per application—up to \$350 or 75% of transportation cost.

- * Hurstville Interpretive Center
- * Hurstville Lime Kilns
- * National Mississippi River Museum
- * Mines of Spain/EB Lyons
- * Jackson County Historical Museum
- * And others (see their website)

Applications will be accepted starting August 1 and are awarded first-come-first-serve until funds are depleted (last year funds were gone mid-September). Grant application can be found at:
<http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/home/CMS/Grants.php>.

High School Scholarships

Keep Iowa Beautiful is offering up to four, \$500 scholarships to Iowa high school seniors in 2012! Students across Iowa enrolling in an Iowa college or university to major in community enhancement or environmental areas of study are eligible.

“Keep Iowa Beautiful programs are focused on enhancing Iowa’s image through community assistance and collaboration,” said Gerry Schnepf, Executive Director of KIB. “We seek to improve behavior patterns in our younger generations and reinforce values in older generations that encourage respect for home, neighborhood, community and state.”

Students can download the application on-line at www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com/byers-environmental-scholarship.cfm and return it postmarked by February 7, 2012. Please contact the KIB office at 515-323-6507 with any questions.



Fall Public Programs

**Programs at the Hurstville Center unless otherwise noted*

September 3, 10, 17, 24	Monarch Tagging
September 10	Mushroom Foray
September 25	Archaeology Dig
October 1	Babes on the Prairie
October 8	Outdoor Fitness Club <i>at Buzzard Ridge</i>
October 9	Microscopes
October 16	Fall Prairie Hike
October 22	Halloween Hike
November 5	Taxidermy 101
November 5	Fall Bike Ride <i>on Copper Creek Trail</i>
November 13	Winter Garden Prep
November 20	Bird Feeder Workshop
December 3	Bird House Workshop
December 18	A Natural Holiday



For more information on these programs please visit
www.jacksonccb.com/CalendarofEvents.html
Or call our office at (563) 652-3783

On-line IA DNR Course

The goal of this 12 week course is to help you incorporate local natural resources into your curriculum. Each week you will have required readings, resources and references, assignments, and occasional guest speaker discussions. For more info, contact Shannon Hafner, (641) 747-2051, website https://prodev.aeapdonline.org/4DCGI/SC007499991201INV&*



Search: **Hurstville Interpretive Center** on Facebook and “Like” us to keep up with conservation news, upcoming programs, nature tips, and more!

Update Information

Every fall new teachers and staff changes take place. Please help us update our contact lists by sending us names and email addresses for those that are new at your school so they won't miss out on information from us. Email updates to Jess Wagner at jess@jacksonccb.com or phone 563.652.3783. Thank you for your help!