



# Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FALL 2012

## Hurstville Outdoor Makeover Taking Shape

*Written by Ann Burns, Environmental Education Coordinator*

It started with area students removing critters from the cattail-choked pond and turning shovels of dirt on April 22. Next, contractors renovated the pond, poured accessible walkways and built a footbridge and an intriguing stone and wood tower. Now, volunteers are moving wheelbarrows full of dirt, picking up stray rocks, installing silt fences and planting a cover crop of annual rye on the re-worked soil. The Hurstville Outdoor Makeover project, spearheaded by Friends of Jackson Conservation, has progressed nicely during the hot summer of 2012.



**THANK YOU** to our wonderful volunteers for coming out this summer and helping with this project!

Join us for the  
**Grand Opening**  
for Phase I & II  
**Saturday**  
**October 13**  
at 1:00 pm



## It's For the Swifts!

Written by Karen Manning, HOM Committee Member



This stone structure and information kiosk is more than just decorative, it is a carefully designed nesting and roosting tower for chimney swifts.

Chimney swifts are dark-colored little birds which gather in flocks. You may have seen them funneling down into an industrial or home chimney in the evening.

The design was researched and developed by a Texas couple and made available in their book, *Chimney Swift Tower; a Construction Guide*, by Paul and Georgean Kyle, 2005. They state: swifts “need an interior shaft that is deep, dark, open at the top, and roughly textured on the inside.” This kind of habitat is becoming scarce.

The committee that worked on the design of the project included this element for several reasons:

- ◆ It is designed to provide ideal conditions for nesting chimney swifts, small insect-eating birds which are declining in number.
- ◆ It provides a dramatic visual statement to draw attention to the information on the four panels of the kiosk.
- ◆ The stone construction echoes the use of limestone in the building and the large sign facing the highway, and of course in the lime kilns themselves.

Did you know?

- ◆ Swifts are not equipped to perch on branches or hop on the ground—they catch and eat insects while flying all day, then return in the evening to their roosting place in a hollow tree or rough-textured chimney.
- ◆ Only in 1943 did ornithologists learn that swifts which nest in North America spend the winter in the upper Amazon basin of Peru, Chili, and northwest Brazil.
- ◆ The pioneering studies of chimney swift nesting habits was done by an Iowa woman from rural Clayton County, Althea Sherman, from 1918-1936. You can visit a replica of the tower she designed to make observation of swift roosting and nesting, the Sherman Swift Tower in Clayton County.

Coming soon will be signage and a map on the kiosk.

The chimney swift tower is sponsored by Lechtenberg Dental, LLC of Maquoketa. The information kiosk is sponsored by the Maquoketa Area & Wapsie Bottoms Chapters of Whitetails Unlimited. Two of the interpretive signs on the kiosk are sponsored by Delila Flagel in memory of Lyle Flagel. Funding was also available from Dubuque Audubon and The Iowa Ornithologist Union.

## It's For the Kids!

Written by Jess Wagner, Naturalist & HOM Committee Member

Adults too can enjoy the new playground at the Hurstville Center. Our natural playscape encourages outdoor play while utilizing natural materials and brings people closer to nature.



Eagle Scout Candidate Cody Schweiger and his crew of family, friends and fellow scouts installed low balance beams, wooden stumps and other active play features as part of the makeover. Already, young visitors have enjoyed the challenge of stepping from stump to stump as they

explore a part of the landscape that was not impacted by the contractors. Cody also created tic-tac-toe and checker boards using stone and a ‘building center’ which consists of twigs, sticks, pebbles, pine cones and other natural materials to encourage creativity in children’s play.

And of course where there is water, children will gather! The pond and dry bed stream have many stepping stones to and around them so visitors can approach the water to observe critters that live there. “My children love searching for tadpoles and frogs in the pond and re-arranging rocks in the small stream,” noted Hilary Markin, Outdoor Makeover committee member. “Clearing the cattails from the pond makes it much easier for them to pursue their hopping friends!”



Other items to be installed this fall are a farm pump and trough, an outdoor “chime wall” and a “whale drum” which is made from a re-purposed steel tank. Combined with the colors and smells of the pollinator garden these

features will give visitors textures, sights, sounds and even smells to explore when they visit the Hurstville Center.

The natural playscape is sponsored by John & Vesta Glesener Living Trust. The farm pump is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Maquoketa. The stream is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Jackson County. And thank you to Cody Schweiger and his fellow scouts for all their hard work!

Bring the kids and family for some outdoor fun at the Hurstville Center!

# Fall Programs

## September

### **Monarch Tagging**

**Every Saturday in September at 1:00 PM**

**September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Learn about the monarch butterfly's journey south for the winter. Be a part of the research by catching and tagging this year's migrants. *All ages welcome.*



### **Fall Canoe Trip**

**Thursday September 13 at 5:00 pm**

### **Green Island Wildlife Refuge**

Enjoy a leisurely paddle with a naturalist through the channels at Green Island. Keep your eyes out for migrating waterfowl! Limited supply of canoes available. Call to register for this outing by Monday Sept 10.



### **DNR Hunter Education Course**

**Saturday September 22 & 29 from 9:00-3:00**

### **Hurstville Center & Ikes Clubhouse**

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. **Register online at [www.iowadnr.gov/training](http://www.iowadnr.gov/training).** Participants must pick up booklet from Hurstville Center and complete chapter reviews before first class.

## October

### **Basic Tree ID**

**Sunday October 7 at 2:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join a naturalist in learning to identify trees by their leaves and bark at this interactive program. All ages welcome.



### **Friends of JCC Quarterly Meeting**

**Tuesday October 9 at 7:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Help make decisions regarding exhibits, special projects, and more. The public is welcome to attend. Potluck at 6:00 pm; bring a dish to share.

### **Leaves & Limestone Fall Driving Tour**

**Saturday & Sunday October 13 & 14**

Maps of Jackson County will be available with great 'leaf viewing' routes and locations of all historic sites in Jackson County. Stop at 5 'gold leaf' stops and enter in a drawing for cash prizes. [www.jacksoncountyiowa.com](http://www.jacksoncountyiowa.com)

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. Register by calling (563) 652-3783.

### **Grand Opening Hurstville Outdoor Makeover**

**Saturday October 13 at 1:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join Friends of Jackson County Conservation in celebrating the completion of Phase I & II of the Hurstville Outdoor Makeover project. Ribbon cutting at 1:00. Activities will be going on throughout the afternoon. Refreshments will be served. More details to come!

### **Halloween Hike—Theme: **Stuck on You****

**Saturday October 20 from 6-8 PM**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Bring your family to the Hurstville Interpretive Center for some Halloween fun with a nature twist. Activities include a craft, games, snack, and a trail hike full of characters with environmental messages. Cost is \$2/person or \$5/family. *Call ahead to sign up for a specific hike time.*

## November

### **Flying Squirrels**

**Sunday November 4 at 2:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Elizabeth Bainbridge and Chelsie Cruise, students at the University of Dubuque, will present about flying squirrel populations in Eastern Iowa. Their team has been studying the forest habitat structure and flying squirrel populations at Mines of Spain in Dubuque.



### **Small Mammal Study**

**Sunday November 11 at 2:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Kyle Redmond, student at the University of Dubuque, will present on variations in small mammal distribution at Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area in Dubuque County.

### **Bird Feeder Workshop**

**Saturday November 17 at 1:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Get ready to feed your winter visitors! This workshop will provide the materials and instruction to build your own bird feeder. We'll discuss what types of seed attract which birds and how to keep them safe and healthy! *Registration required by Nov. 14 to prepare materials.* Cost is \$7.



### **Iowans on Adventures—New Series!**

**Topic: *Exploring the Galapagos!***

**Sunday November 18 at 2:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join us for the first in our new series. Ann & Kevin Burns of Maquoketa and Bill & Wendy Hainstock of Delmar recently traveled to the Galapagos Islands and will share their adventures with us. Cost is \$5 and includes refreshments. Must preregister for this program by November 15.

## Calendar of Events Continued

### December

#### **Bird House Workshop**

**Saturday December 1 at 1:00 pm**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Bird houses are a wonderful addition to your yard and can increase the success of seeing birds around your home. Materials and information are provided. Cost: Wren- \$5, Bluebird- \$7, Kestrel-\$16. *Pre-registration and payment required by Nov 28th in order to prepare materials.* Great gift for the holidays!

#### **Winter Overnight**

**Thursday December 27—Friday December 28**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Youth in grades 4th-6th will have fun spending the evening at the Hurstville Center and exploring the winter world. Register by Friday Dec 21. Forms will be available at [www.jacksonccb.com](http://www.jacksonccb.com). Sign up with the Jackson County Extension office at the courthouse.

### **Create a Monarch Waystation**

Information from <http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to their wintering grounds in Mexico and California. The monarch migration is truly one of the world's greatest natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss at their overwintering sites and throughout their migration route.



Let's create, conserve, and protect milkweed/monarch habitats. You can create a monarch habitat in gardens, at schools, businesses, parks, zoos, nature centers, along roadsides, and on other unused plots of land. Milkweed is a necessary plant to provide a place for monarchs to lay eggs

and food for the caterpillars. Good nectar sources are needed for the adults throughout the summer and into the fall, during their migration. Plant flowers such as: Black-eyed Susan, blazing star, goldenrod, Joe-pye weed, milkweed, aster, bergamot, zinnas, yarrow, bee balm, phlox, coneflower, marigold, impatiens and cosmos.

By creating and maintaining a Monarch Waystation you are contributing to monarch conservation, an effort that will help assure the preservation of the species and the continuation of the spectacular monarch migration phenomenon.

Once created, register your Monarch Waystation at [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org). Seed kits are also available.

## **Bountiful Year for Bees**

*Written by Ann Burns, Environmental Education Coordinator*

While the hot dry summer is having serious impacts on farmers and gardeners in Iowa, most bee keepers are having a good year. Ray and Chris Johnson of Yaddof/Johnson Apiaries say the early bloom of white sweet clover and basswood trees has resulted in full hives and a very light honey. Bees do well in hotter and dryer weather than they do in cool wet weather.

The excessive heat of this summer may even be causing some flowers to go into "over-drive" —producing even more nectar while they can, according to information from the State Apiarist Andy Joseph, and other bee keepers. It is as if the flowers are producing as much nectar as they can to attract as many pollinators as they can – and the honey bees are responding. In an average year a hive will produce about 60 pounds of surplus honey— almost 5 gallons. Some apiarists are expecting 80-90 pounds of honey this year.

That is not to say bee keepers are not having problems. Colony collapse disorder is still a problem and a puzzle. And the "old problems" of pesticide drift, mites and wax moths can still cause problems for bee keepers.

Wax moths invaded the hive that Chris and Ray manage at the Hurstville Interpretive Center for visitors to enjoy. In late July it became apparent that the hive was not thriving. There were no drones (males) visible in the hive and there were no new brood cells with eggs or larvae. In early August the first small moths were spotted in the hive. Johnsons came to our rescue by removing the infected hive and replacing it with a healthy colony including a new queen. The queen is marked with a white dot of paint on the back of her abdomen, so she will be easy for you to spot when you come out to visit!

The goldenrod is just starting to bloom, which along with the asters, will give pollinators there last big feast for the season. Stop out at the Hurstville Center and watch the bees in action as they bring brightly colored pollen back to

the hive – and see if you can spot the queen!



*Chris Johnson with Yaddof/Johnson Apiaries, returning a new colony of bees to us this past month.*



# Friends of Jackson County Conservation



## Next Friends Meeting

**Tuesday October 9 at 7:00 pm**

Potluck at 6:00 pm

Board Meets at 6:00 pm

General Meeting 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 fall meeting and learn more about the benefits of being a friend and become involved. Help make decisions about exhibits, special projects, and environmental education.

## Bus Scholarships

A reminder to teachers at area schools that bus money is available for environmental related field trips. More information and to download an application, visit [www.jacksonccb.com/friendsjcc](http://www.jacksonccb.com/friendsjcc)

## Special Edition T-Shirts

All individuals and organizations who donate \$100 or more to the Hurstville Outdoor Makeover are entitled to a special edition t-shirt. Please stop in at the Hurstville Center and pick up your t-shirt or contact Jess Wagner at [jess@jacksonccb.com](mailto:jess@jacksonccb.com).

## Hurstville Outdoor Makeover Donations

Tandem Tire & Auto Service, Miner, Gilroy & Meade, Certified Public Accountants, PC, Pearson Memorial Board Center, John & Jeanne Hoesley, John & Vesta Glesener Living Trust, Jerry Millwright Family, Goric Marketing Group, Willenborg Lawn Ornaments, Mary Anne Hayward, Kiwanis Club of Maquoketa, Ken Burns, Brian Deppe Landscape & Design, Bob & Myrna Larkey, Community Foundation of Jackson County

Thank You to ALL of our donors and volunteers that have helped with the Hurstville Outdoor Makeover project. You are truly appreciated!

## New Member Joins the Board

We'd like to welcome our new board member, Kathi Atkinson! Taking the place of Karen Krueger who served two terms—Thank you Karen! You will be hearing from Kathi more often now that she is the new Volunteer Coordinator for the Hurstville Interpretive Center.

Kathi Atkinson ("Dr. A") Lauricha and her husband Dave live in Sabula, right on the main channel of the Mississippi River. The River drew them out of California, after their 5 kids were launched. Kathi is the High School Science teacher at Prince of

Peace Catholic School in Clinton, and teaches all 9th grade through 12th grade lab classes, in Biology, Chemistry, and coaches an online class and lab in

Physics. This summer, she is back in online college, learning more, to be prepared to teach Advanced Placement

Environmental Sciences. Learning new science is fascinating, and the combination of lab science and a love of Nature drew her in, to join the Friends of Jackson County Conservation. Kathi and Dave love the Hurstville Center, and love the sport of GeoCaching, going out in Nature treasure-hunting.



*Kathi & Dave geocaching at Spring Lake Wildlife Reserve, right across the River from Sabula*

### Current Board Members for Friends of JCC:

Chair	John Hoesley
Vice Chair	Jo Ellen Langerman
Secretary	Kim Jochum
Treasurer	Margaret McCarthy
Volunteer Coordinator	Kathi Atkinson

## Save us Time & Money by Renewing Your Membership

Friends of Jackson County Conservation membership run from July 1—June 30. The Friends membership committee is gearing up to send notices to those that have not renewed. **Save us the paper and postage** by sending your membership dues in this month!

### Membership Rates:

Student \$5	Regular \$10	Senior Citizen \$5
Family \$20	Sustaining \$50	Individual Life \$500

# Summer Fun with Jackson CCB!



Finding life in the pond at our summer day camp!

Treasure hunting using GPS.

All bundled up in our wet suits for a Coldwater Cave adventure!



Planting milkweed seeds in the prairie!



Canoeing and kayaking during our summer Adventure Camp!



## Kid's Corner

### SCAT RAP

Starts with an "S", ends with a "T"  
It comes out of you, and it comes out of me,  
I know what you're thinking, it could be called that,  
But let's be scientific, and call it SCAT.

If you wanna find out what animals eat,  
Take a good look at what they excrete.  
Stuck in the scat are all kinds of clues,  
Parts of the food that their bodies can't use.

Down by the creek on a hollow log,  
Scat full of berries and bones of frogs.  
Fresh last night he was out with the moon,  
Hunting crawdads, it was Mr. Raccoon.

You park your car by a wood or field,  
Gonna find scat on your window shield.  
Full of seeds, purple and white  
You just got bombed by a bird in flight.

If you wanna know what's in the woods or around,  
Take a good long look at the scat on the ground.  
It tells us what they eat and tells us who they are,  
And that's what we know about scat so far.

Written by Rodd Pemble, Mary Keebler, and Andy Bennett

### Can you match the pictures below with the animal?



1. Whitetail Deer
2. Cottontail Rabbit
3. Raccoon
4. Turkey (Tom)



D



B



C



Answers: 1.A; 2.D; 3.B; 4.C



# 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**—Jeanne Hoesley, Margo Sprenger, Randy Sprenger, Karen Manning, Clayton Pederson, Dave Lauricha, Jo Ellen Langerman, Margaret McCarthy, Mary Hayward, Bel Tubbs, Wendy Hainstock, Linda Grobstick, Peggy Miller, Duane Westphal, Mark Intlekofer, Cody Manning, Dave Lauricha, Kathi Atkinson, Zola McMahon, Mary Methner, Karen Krueger, Chris Tubbs, Kevin Burns, Judy Bickford, Myrna Cavanagh, Doris Yaddof, John Hoesley, Lou Behrends, Kylee Stanton, Carlie Stanton, Emily Kloft, Darlene Elsner, Darlene Papke, Angel Papke, Hailey Papke, Asher Schroeder, Denny Weiss, Duane Westphal

**Volunteered at Baldwin Marsh**—Dawn Carstensen, Cory Reuter, Margo Sprenger, Randy Sprenger, Susan Kunde, Cathy Pollack, Kristen Lyndh

**Helped with Geocaching**—Dave Lauricha, Pete Maier

**Helped with Summer Swan Roundup**—Curt Kemmerer, Margo Sprenger, Randy Sprenger, Frank Strathman, Bill Hainstock, Rob Waack, Kaden Waack, Jeb Miller, Lance Miller, Cory Wirth, Will Tubbs, Ben Strathman, Buchanan Waller, Luke Bowman, Beau Bowman, Brad Johnson, Isaac Biehl, Ty Thede, Cam Thede

**Volunteered with Hurstville Outdoor Makeover Projects**—Jeanne Hoesley, Margo Sprenger, Randy Sprenger, Karen Manning, Clayton Pederson, Dave Lauricha, Bill Pettyjohn, Garrett Pettyjohn, Michele O'Connor, Vince O'Connor, Mary Hayward, Wendy Hainstock, Margaret McCarthy, Jo Ellen Langerman, Chris Domeyer, Cassie Burns, Sheryl Burns, Ken Burns

**Helped with Youth Outdoor Skills Day**—Rob Waack, Angel Papke, Darlene Papke, Hailey Papke, Jennie Wilcox, Heather Waack, Karen Manning, Tom Lane, Dan Elmgreen, Kevin Burns, Marty Wagner THANK YOU BIG TIMBER TOMS for sponsoring!

**Donations**—Sharon Steiner (nets, binoculars, EE supplies), Gloria Petesch (petrified wood, stone), Bill & Bonnie Schwenker (sponsor box turtle), Linda Ward (balls, pencils), Gretchen Breitbach (owl pellets), Wendling Quarries Inc (pea gravel), Chuck Fey (black dirt), Dave Pilgrim (boulders), Chris & Chuck Cornelius (straw bales), Chris Domeyer (straw bales), Steve & Joel Tubbs (cracked corn), Dolores Mitchell (life jackets), Margo & Randy Sprenger (rakes & shovels)

**Cash Donations**—Matthew Burns & Bethany Schiefelbein (swan cygnet sponsor), Jeff & Suasan Siems (swan cygnet sponsor), Gerald & Connie Owen (sunflower food plot), Dubuque Area Re-enactors, Big Timber Toms (sponsor Youth Outdoor Skills Day), Bill & Bonnie Schwenker (turtle sponsor)



## Jackson County Conservation Board

### Board Members

Jerry Millwright	La Motte
Rick Small	Bernard
Anne Hawks	Maquoketa
Steve Flynn	Maquoketa
Christine Cornelius	Bellevue

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets in regular session the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM. Meetings are held at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Meetings are open to the public.

### 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](mailto:jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com)

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

[www.MyCountyParks.com/County/Jackson.aspx](http://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
Jen Meyer	Naturalist Intern

**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.

## Environmental Ed. Wish List

- \*Multi-CD changer player
- \*Funds for taxidermy work—red fox, pelican, song birds
- \*New & Used Books related to nature and the outdoors—old field guides, nature related story books, activity books, novels, etc...
- \*Black-oil sunflower seed for birds

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:

Open Monday September 3 for Labor Day!

Closed November 12 for Veteran's Day

Closed November 22-25 for Thanksgiving

Closed December 22-25 for Christmas

Closed December 29-January 1 for New Years

**Spruce Creek Park and South Sabula Lake Park**

**\*\*Camping Special\*\***

Camp Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night  
and receive Monday night FREE

(offer good Sept 9—Nov 7)



*Think of Jackson County Conservation for gifts  
for your loved ones this holiday season!*

Gift Certificates available for:

Spruce Creek Park & Campground

South Sabula Lakes Park & Campground

Hurstville Interpretive Center Gift Shop

Jackson County Conservation Summer Day Camps

For more information, call (563) 652-3783

## National Public Lands Day

NPLD is the nation's largest single-day volunteer event for public lands. This year, it occurs on **September 29, 2012**. Public land managers, friends groups and youth groups lead volunteer, recreation and education events in celebration of public lands. To learn more and find a volunteer event near you, visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org)

NPLD is also a fee-free entrance day at many federal public lands including national parks. It's a great opportunity to help a local or favorite public land near you and spend the rest of the day recreating or relaxing on the land.

**Volunteer with the Monarch Tagging program at the Hurstville Interpretive Center September 29 at 1:00 pm!**