



# Up and

# Down

# the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD SPRING 2015

## **Blank Pages Can Be Frustrating ... or Exciting!**

*By Ann Burns, Environmental Education Coordinator*

Perhaps you haven't faced the challenge of a blank page needing to be filled since a high school or college composition class. Perhaps you face that challenge on a regular basis. When Jess, Jen or I plan a new program or project we begin with a blank page. Nearly thirty years ago I faced that "blank page" as I prepared to become the first naturalist for Jackson County Conservation. I had some ideas, brought from a previous position in environmental education. But, I was new to Jackson County and new to being the person in charge of an interpretive program. What outdoor experiences would people enjoy trying? What services could Jackson County offer to help teachers achieve their goals and get kids outside at the same time?

It wasn't really a one person operation – filling those blank pages. If you have enjoyed a JCCB environmental education program or outing during the past 29+ years, you can thank the members of the 1985 Board of Supervisors and Jackson County Conservation Board (JCCB); and, then JCCB Executive Director, Gary Speckmann. They believed that environmental education and outdoor recreation are important enough to fund the naturalist position. I thank them, because they believed enough in my abilities to offer me the job. Subsequent Board members, and current director, Daryl Parker have continued that support.

I recently looked back at my first "work" calendar to verify a couple items in preparation for my pending retirement (*yes the rumors are true*). This started out as a part time position, so there were blank pages on that calendar. But the pages began to fill up - fast. For that, I have many people to thank!

Thanks to the teachers and school principals who invited me to spend time with their students – (*penciling me in on planners that no doubt had little blank space*). Many thanks to co-workers, summer interns and volunteers - some who worked side by side with me, some who helped in supporting roles. The growth in the variety and number of program offerings could not have happened without them. I was also fortunate to meet, work with, and call on the expertise of many specialists in the field of natural resources conservation and environmental education/interpretation. I thank them for the opportunities, information and advice they provided.

I also thank the many people who participated in our programs throughout the years. If it weren't for your interest and expressed appreciation for these natural resource based experiences – we would just be planning fun outdoor activities for ourselves (*nice idea, but hard to justify on a budget sheet*). I save my greatest thanks for Kevin, Matt and Michelle. They were my volunteers before there were other JCCB education staff or a core of volunteers. Kevin continues to be a major behind-the-scenes volunteer and my important home base.



A blank page can be a stressful thing. Conversely, a blank page (or two) on a calendar can be a wonderful gift – a day to do something you really love on your own terms! It will be very hard to say goodbye to a job that I love and all the great people I have worked with. But, I am looking forward to a few more blank pages on my calendar.

# Turning the Page on a New Chapter

By Daryl Parker, Executive Director

Environmental Education is a term we use very regularly within the Jackson County Conservation office. The word environmental is defined as “conditions by which one is surrounded, including climate, soil, and living things, cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community”. Education is defined as “the art or process of educating, methods of teaching”.

Since July 24, 1985 Ann Burns has committed her life to doing just what those words mean. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, after nearly 30 years as a naturalist for Jackson County Conservation, Ann has decided to turn the page on a new chapter in her life and retire. It is one thing to commit yourself to your profession it is another level to dedicate your life both professionally and privately to a fundamental principal of environmental education and conservation.



Ann has touched literally thousands of lives through her work with Jackson County Conservation. She has molded hundreds of young lives through the school programs throughout the county. Those students have now grown up and their children are now part of the environmental education program within our local schools. She has educated our youth on how the environment influences you as a person and your community. She models how we can make a difference in making this world a better place to live and grow.

Ann started her career as a part-time naturalist in 1985 and the education program was in its infancy. The conservation office was located in the basement of the Jackson County Courthouse. The entire Environmental Education program was brand new and Ann was tasked with developing this program. As the program continued to grow the Naturalist position was increased to full-time in 2002. Ann was promoted to Environmental Education Coordinator in 2005 after the construction of the Hurstville Interpretive Center and additional education staff were added to the program.



We now have the pleasure of providing 3 full-time employees under the environmental education program for Jackson County Conservation and the program that Ann has developed and molded is truly a model for the rest of Iowa. The EE program provides nearly 700 programs yearly and touches over 11,000 people yearly and those number continue to grow on an annual basis.

Ann was very instrumental in the creation of the Friends of Jackson County Conservation and that organization has continued to grow and develop over the last 12 years. Friends has now expanded to over 125 memberships and that volunteer base is critical to the Hurstville Interpretive Center and Jackson County Conservation. Ann has created, developed, and incorporated so many ideas, projects, and programs over the years I don't know where to start to give her credit. She has left a legacy within our organization and very big shoes to fill. We certainly wish her the very best in her retirement and know she will continue to be involved as a volunteer in the future. We will have a retirement celebration for Ann on May 2<sup>nd</sup> here at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. The invitation list is very extensive as I encourage everyone to stop by and wish Ann well in the future.

I would like to say thank you Ann for the pleasure of working beside you over the past 22 years. You have done a masterful job in developing the environmental education program and Jackson County Conservation as a whole. I know you will continue to be an advocate for conservation and education as you turn your page and start an new chapter.

Dear Ann,

We would like to express our most sincere thank you for all you have done for us! You have been our mentor from the start and have helped us grow into a career that we love. We have learned so much from you and appreciate your time, patience and dedication. We wish you the best in your retirement.

~Jess & Jen

Ann Burns is retiring on May 1st,  
after 29 years with JCCB.

Join us in celebrating her career at her

**Retirement Party on**

**Saturday, May 2 from 2:00-5:00 pm**

**at the Hurstville Interpretive Center**



# Spring Programs



## March

### **Woodcock Walk**

**Friday, March 27 at 7:00 pm**

### **Whitewater Canyon**

The woodcock mating ritual is truly a remarkable sight. This small, camouflage, timber nesting bird has a few strange attributes and will amaze hikers with its aerial acrobat moves! Dress for the weather and be prepared to hike up to 1 mile. Whitewater Canyon is located 5 miles NE of Cascade.



### **Trumpeter Swan Program**

**Tuesday, March 31 at Noon**

### **Clinton Engines in Maquoketa**

Bring a sack lunch for the historical society's brown bag lunch while learning about the life history of trumpeter swans and the reintroduction effort in Iowa. Bonus: see a live swan cygnet up close!

### **Swan Cygnet Public Release**

**Tuesday, March 31 at 5:30 pm**

### **Green Island Wildlife Refuge**

Join us in releasing two trumpeter swan cygnets that we held over the winter at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.



## April

### **Prairie Creek Design Community Meeting**

**Saturday, April 4 at 10:30 am**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

ISU landscape architect students will present concept ideas and drawings to the conservation board and interested community members. This student design project for the Prairie Creek Recreation Area was made possible in partnership with the National Park Service through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program.

### **Annual Soup Supper & Program Fundraiser**

**Sunday, April 12 from 3:00—6:30 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

3:00 pm Lori Roling to present on the Great River Rumble  
4:30-6:30 pm Soup supper served. *See page 5 for details.*

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

**Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Anyone welcome. Potluck at 6:30. *See page 5 for details.*

### **Volunteer Fair**

**Saturday, April 18 from 10:00-11:30**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Wanting to volunteer but not sure where to go? Invite your family and friends and stop out at this fair to learn about what 15+ organizations in Jackson County are doing and how you can help them. Visit the booths to learn about how you can volunteer in our community. *See page 5 for more details.*

### **Jackson County Conservation Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 21 at 6:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

The public is welcome to attend the monthly conservation board meetings. Learn more about what is happening with our county parks.

### **BioBlitz**

**Friday, April 24—5 pm – Saturday, April 25—5 pm**

### **Prairie Creek Recreation Area**

Join us in this 24-hr event where we will survey and inventory as many plant and animal species as possible at the park. Participant sign up required by Monday, April 13 at 4:00 pm. *See additional information and registration form.*

### **Geocaching CITO**

**Sunday, April 26 at 10:00 am**

### **Prairie Creek Recreation Area**

Join area geocachers for a litter pick-up at the park. CITO—cache in, trash out. Also get a chance to find the geocaches placed out at the park.



### **OWL Day Trip**

**Wednesday, April 29 from 9:00-2:30**

### **Savanna & Thomson, Illinois**

It's a field trip for adults! Join Jackson, Dubuque and Jones County Naturalists for a fun day exploring western Illinois with the adult OWL (older wiser livelier) group. Enjoy a wildflower hike at Mississippi Palisades State Park, a tour of the Ingersoll Learning Center, and learn about ornate box turtles at Thomson Prairie. Carpooling is available. Meet at the Hurstville Center at 8:00 am; HyVee on Locust, Dubuque at 8:00 am; or Palisades Park at 9:00 am. *Sign up by April 27.*

## May

### **Ann's Retirement Party**

**Saturday, May 2 from 2:00-5:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Ann Burns is retiring from Jackson County Conservation. Join us at an open house in her honor and celebrate her 29 years as an interpreter and naturalist.



### **Astronomy Night**

**Friday, May 8 at 8:30 pm**

### **Dave Gossman's Farm—19502 159th Ave Zwingle**

This is a great chance to look at the stars and visible planets in the night sky, to try out some telescopes, and to talk to knowledgeable amateur astronomers about the sky. Event led by Dave Gossman. If cloudy skies or poor weather it will be rescheduled for Sat, May 9.

### **Geodes Galore**

**Sunday, May 10 at 2:00 pm**

### **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join us in learning more about Iowa's state rock—the geode. Then enjoy cracking them open and finding the crystals inside. Participants may keep a geode (\$1/rock/person).

**Raised Garden Bed & Window Box Workshop**  
**Date & Time TBD—sometime this spring**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Bonnie Daemerich & Dean Nelson are back again with their carpentry skills! Registration and payment are due by Mon. April 27 at noon. Raised bed measures 2 feet high (legs) x 4 feet long x 2 feet wide, with a depth of 9.5 inches for plants. Cost is \$75 using cedar wood. Window planter box measures 4' long x 7.25" high (we can change to fit your window). Cost is \$25 using pre-treated lumber or \$45 with cedar wood. Participants will need to take their planter boxes home to finish and mount them as they choose. *Photos on page 7.*

**Hike, Geocache, Mushroom Hunt**  
**Friday, May 15 at 5:30 pm**  
**Blackhawk Wildlife Area**

Enjoy a spring hike. We'll hunt for mushrooms, watch for wildlife, identify spring wildflowers and have a good time enjoying the outdoors! All ages welcome.

**Jackson County Conservation Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00 pm, Location TBD**

The public is welcome to join the board for a tour of one of our parks, followed by the monthly board meeting.

**Dutch Oven Demo**  
**Saturday, May 23 Time TBD**  
**Spruce Creek Park**



Join Doug Gonner in learning how to turn your cast iron pot into an oven. Pizza, bacon wrapped peppers, and a dessert will be featured. Donation appreciated to cover food cost.

**Geocaching**  
**Sunday, May 24 at 6:00 pm**  
**South Sabula Lake Park**

Join a naturalist in looking for hidden treasure at the park. GPS units will be provided.

**Kite Flying**  
**Monday, May 25 anytime between 10:00-3:00**  
**Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Bring your own kite or build one at the Center and fly it over the prairie! \$5 to make a kit. No cost if you bring your own.

**June**

**Free Fishing Clinic**  
**Saturday, June 6 from 9:00-11:00 am**  
**Hurstville Fishing Pond**



All ages are welcome to learn fishing basics at this clinic. Practice casting, learn to tie a fisherman's knot and more. Then head to the pond to see if you can catch the biggest fish. Lots of door prizes! Free event. Sponsored by Family Dollar.

**Bridge Opening**  
**Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 am**  
**Prairie Creek Recreation Area**

Join us in a ceremony for the official opening of a new bridge that will connect the trail systems at the park. A big thank you to UW Platteville Engineering students who are designing the bridge and Wellmark for their donation to build the bridge. We'll also take a short hike at the park.

**Prairie Creek Recreation Area**

**BioBlitz**

*Join our 24-hour race to find as many plants and animals as possible at Prairie Creek Recreation Area!*

**Volunteers needed!**

Registration form  
included with newsletter.

**April 24—25**  
**July 10—11 September 11—12**

Programs & Events also listed online at  
[http://www.jacksonccb.com/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.jacksonccb.com/calendar_of_events)

**Native Plant Seed Sale**

Native plants are well adapted to our climate. They can better withstand the severe temps, drought and flooding of Iowa. Native plants are also important for native wildlife, including our pollinators; such as the monarch butterfly pictured at left feeding on the nectar of butterfly milkweed.



*Photo courtesy Dawn Wagner*

Finding native plants to include in your yard is not always easy, but definitely worth the extra effort it takes to locate them. Many of the plants found in stores are not native and will not provide the long lasting benefits of plants that have spent years adapting to the Iowa climate and soils.

Jackson County Conservation is holding a native plant seed sale this spring to help people obtain native species. Plants for sale include two grasses: little bluestem and prairie drop seed, and nine wildflowers: common milkweed, butterfly milkweed, new England aster, early sunflower, prairie blazing star, cardinal flower, wild bergamot, Jacob's ladder and black-eyed Susan.

**Cost is \$2.50 per seed packet**  
**Order forms and payment due by**  
**Monday, March 23 at 4:00 pm**

Order forms available at the Hurstville Center and online at [www.jacksonccb.com](http://www.jacksonccb.com).



# Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Mark your calendars for  
**Friends of Jackson Co. Conservation's**  
**Annual Soup Supper Fundraiser**  
**Sunday, April 12**

**Program at 3:00 pm—Great River Rumble**  
 Lori Roling will present about the Great River Rumble, a week long canoe trip on the Mississippi that she has participated in for the past five years. The canoe trip allows people to enjoy our rivers and to promote environmental consciousness. Enjoy Lori's presentation, including a video.

### **Silent Auction from 2:30—6:00 pm**

A wonderful array of baskets, baked goods and unique items. Something for everyone!

### **Soup Supper served from 4:30—6:30 pm**

A delicious spread of chili, chicken noodle and other soups, sandwiches, fruit, desserts and beverages.

### **Cost**

Program—Free, donations welcome

Supper—Adults \$7.00; Kids \$5.00 (5-10 years)

\*\*\*We'd like to do our part in cutting back on garbage at our events. To do so, we will be giving anyone who brings their own reusable table service (plate, bowl, spoon, fork, cup) to the soup supper \$1.00 off their ticket price!!

*To make the soup supper a successful fundraiser, we appreciate food and silent auction donations and volunteers to help at the event. Please contact us if you'd like to volunteer or make a donation. Call (563) 652-3783 or email [jess@jacksonccb.com](mailto:jess@jacksonccb.com) for details. Thank you in advance!*

## **Next Friends Meeting**

**At the Hurstville Interpretive Center**

**Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm**

Join Friends of Jackson County Conservation for their spring meeting and learn more about the benefits of being a friend and become involved. Help make decisions about exhibits, special projects, and environmental education. Bring a friend! **Potluck at 6:30**; Bring a dish to share; drinks and table service provided.

*You're Invited!*

## **Volunteer Fair**

**Saturday, April 18**

**From 10:00—11:30 am**

**At the Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Learn how you can have fun and help make your community a great place to live at the same time!

**Refreshments and Drawings for Prizes**

Participating groups:

Friends of Jackson County Conservation, Maquoketa Art Experience, Delmar Depot, Foster Grandparents, Friends of Maquoketa Caves, Trees Forever, Friends of Maquoketa Library, Hospice of Jackson County, Jackson County Hospital Auxiliary, Jackson County Historical Society, Jackson County Humane Society, Jackson County Senior Center, Jackson County Area Tourism, Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce, Maquoketa Farmers' Market, Maquoketa Local Access Channel, Maquoketa Valley Izaak Walton League, Master Conservationists, Ohnward Fine Arts Center

*Bring your family and friends. Browse the booths. Learn how you can volunteer and have fun giving back to your community!*

## **Great Give Day**

**Tuesday, May 5**

<http://www.greatgiveday.org/>



The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is sponsoring Great Give Day, a 24-hour, online giving event designed to recognize and support the positive work of local nonprofits in Northeast Iowa! On **Tuesday, May 5, 2014**, every gift made at GreatGiveDay.org between 12 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. will go directly to nonprofits and will be amplified by local and national match dollars. The goal is to help nonprofits attract new donors and build online fundraising capabilities to support long-term success.

***We appreciate any and all gifts to the Friends of Jackson County Conservation Endowment Fund!***

# Winter Activities with Jackson County Conservation



Thank you to all who brought us milk jugs. We had a lot of fun building our igloo at the winter overnight. After a few attempts we ended up with an igloo made up of 244 gallon jugs.



Snowshoeing was a hit with students at Easton Valley during PE class!



On March 4 we received a flightless swan. This female cygnet hit a power line in Boone; was stunned but sustained no injuries.

On March 31, we will release this new cygnet with the one we have been holding since December into the wild. Join us for the public release at 5:30 pm at Green Island Wildlife Refuge.

## Kid's corner

### Spring Word Search

Green	Raindrops	Umbrella	Tulips
Baby animals	Blossom	Sunshine	Puddle
Seeds	Flowers	Rabbit	Toad

  

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

### Natural Playground

The natural playscape at the Hurstville Center has been a big hit with visitors of all ages. Here are some ideas to bring nature play to your yard!

1. Create a sand pit. Throw in some old cups and containers for endless play!
2. Add logs and stumps for balancing and walking on.
3. One word: water. Kids love to play with water. A fountain, a water table, a small pool, a dry bed stream. There are many ways to bring water to your yard. *Please remember safety with water and children.*
4. Bring together sticks, blocks, bark, rocks, acorns, pinecones, leaves, etc.. Let the imagination run with the endless possibilities of what can be created.
5. Plant a sensory garden to engage your five senses!



We'd love to hear other ideas of things you have incorporated into your yard for outdoor nature play.

# 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 for JCCB**— Jarrod Isbell, Ashley Quinlan, Karen Manning, Jeanne Hoesley, Wendy Hainstock, Karen Krueger, Mary Hayward, KJ Breitbach, Lane Fields, Cole Wentworth, Dawn Carstensen, Maggie Carstensen, Dave Lauricha, Kathi Atkinson, Jeremy Meyer, Nancy Kilburg, Bob Walton, Ben Wagner, Julie Reuter, Barb McCray, Cassie Sheehan, Mary Mether, Dave Gossman, Bob Sheets, Larry McDevitt, Chris Cornelius, Randy Bender, Kathy Wosoba, Dr. DW Yanda

**Donations**—Charlene Andresen (bird seed), Juliann Couch (sign holders), Jeanne Hoesley (Hal. Hike clothing), Mary Jo Gothard (serving bowls), Chris & Connie Domeyer (cracked corn), Crouch Weaver (Hurstville School items)

**Cash Donations**—Dale & Nancy Kilburg, Jack & Lynn McCullough, US Bank Employees of Maquoketa, MSB Golden VIP, Don & Janice Carr, Ann & Kevin Burns, Ron & Helen Snell, Meinecke Richards Agency, Jeff & Amy Wilms, Jennifer & Todd Westphal, David & Angie Burmahl, Bryan & Heather Hafner, Bill & Bonnie Schwenker, Margene Beach, Deb & Bob Lane, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Heidi & Michael Coyle, Beth & Steve Norpel, Robert & Beth Melvold, Sybesma Eye & Vision Center, Chuck Current, Barb & John McCray, Chris & Chuck Cornelius, Chris & Connie Domeyer

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

In Memory of Connie Owen  
In Honor of Ann Burns



## Campgrounds Opening Soon!

Spruce Creek & South Sabula Lake Parks will open April 3 for the 2015 camping season. Water will be turned on April 15. Dates are dependent on weather and water levels



**Camping coupon books.** Available for purchase: coupon books for 7 nights of camping, a \$119 value, for only **\$99!** That's a \$20 savings. Purchase at the Hurstville Center or from your campground host.



Pictured here are examples of the raised garden bed and window planter box that you can build at a workshop this spring. Details under calendar of events.

# Jackson County Conservation

## Conservation Board Members

Christine Cornelius, Chair	Andrew	563/672-3590
Randy Bender	Bellevue	563/872-5953
Kathy Wosoba	Monmouth	563/673-4551
Larry McDevitt	Maquoketa	319/541-6357
Dr. DW Yanda	Maquoketa	563/652-2706

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm.

## 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)

[www.JacksonCCB.com](http://www.JacksonCCB.com)

[www.MyCountyParks.com/County/Jackson.aspx](http://www.MyCountyParks.com/County/Jackson.aspx)

[www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter](http://www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter)

## 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
Jessica Wagner	Naturalist
Jennifer Meyer	Naturalist

## Nature Day Camps

at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

### Explorer Camp

for youth entering Kdg & 1st grade

July 14, 15, 16 from 9:00-2:00 each day

### Ranger Camp

for youth entering 2nd-4th grade

June 16, 17, 18 from 9:00-2:00 each day

### Adventure Camp

for youth entering 5th-8th grade

June 23, 24, 25 from 9:00-3:00 each day.

Registration forms will be available April 1st. Pick one up at the Hurstville Center and on our website.



First Round: March 16-22 • Finalist Round: March 24-30

**CAST YOUR VOTE**

Winner announced during Golden Silo Awards on April 1

Sponsored By  
**THE IOWAN.**  
magazine

**Please vote for the Hurstville Interpretive Center  
for  
**Silos & Smokestacks People's Choice  
2015 Site of the Year!!!****

One vote per person—first round March 16-22. Help us move onto the 2nd round!  
We'll have the link on our website, Facebook page and you can also visit the website  
directly at [www.silosandsmokestacks.org/peoples-choice-voting/](http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/peoples-choice-voting/)

*And if you remember from last year, we came in 2nd, losing by only 2 votes....  
So please vote for us!!!!*

**Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Offices for Jackson County Conservation

**Hours** Monday—Friday 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Saturday—Sunday April-Oct 12:00—5:00 pm

We reopen for weekends on April 11

**No Admission Fee!**



**Holidays:**

Closed April 4-5 for Easter

Open Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day

**Join the JCCB E-Mail List**

You can receive this newsletter plus other  
correspondence via email. Send your name and e-mail  
address to [jess@jacksonccb.com](mailto:jess@jacksonccb.com) or go online to  
[http://eepurl.com/\\_DS4D](http://eepurl.com/_DS4D) to join the email list.

In addition to the quarterly newsletter, you can opt in or  
out of the Hurstville Happenings and other email blasts  
from us. *Bonus, photos and text are in color!*

The Jackson County Safari will be  
taking place again this year!

People of all ages will have fun exploring  
Jackson County's parks! Participate in  
one or both Safaris.

**Jackson County Safari**  
**Jackson County**  
**Bird Geocache Safari**

Details online at  
[www.jacksonccb.com/safari](http://www.jacksonccb.com/safari)

*Safaris begin May 1.*



Prairie Creek Recreation Area

# BioBlitz

*Friday, April 24– Saturday, April 25, 2015*

Our BioBlitz will be a 24-hour snapshot of all the flora and fauna found at our new park, Prairie Creek Recreation Area. There will be specialists covering such fields as birds, insects, plants, mammals, snakes and much more. It will run from 5:00 pm on Friday – Saturday at 5:00 pm. At various times we will head out in teams conducting surveys with the different specialists. You don't have to be an expert in any particular field, you will be assisting the specialists in finding the species and they will help in identification. Sign up for the areas that interest you!

This event is open to the public; we invite individuals, adults, families with kids, civic groups, youth groups and students to help us inventory the variety of species at Prairie Creek and learn more about Iowa's plants and animals. Children ages 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult.

Prairie Creek Recreation Area is located on the SE side of Maquoketa, Iowa. Our "base camp" will be set up at 605 Birch Drive Maquoketa (Woodform, Inc.); this is where registration will take place and you will meet up with your team. From base camp, teams will carpool to one of the three parking lots to access the park.

**Pre-registration is REQUIRED by Monday, April 13 at 4:00 pm.** Some surveys have limited group size; early registration is recommended. Cost is \$5 per person (\$3 for students and Friends of JCC members). We cannot guarantee a spot for late registrations.

Participants should wear clothing appropriate for outdoors, including hiking shoes/boots. Bring a water bottle and sack lunch (we will provide snacks but bring a lunch if you are here for multiple surveys). It is also recommended you bring sunscreen, insect repellent, camera, binoculars (birding) and a hand lens (insects, wildflowers, etc.) if you have them.

A map of the park can be found at [www.jacksonccb.com/prairie\\_creek\\_recreation\\_area](http://www.jacksonccb.com/prairie_creek_recreation_area). Additional information will be posted about the BioBlitz online at [www.jacksonccb.com/bioblitz](http://www.jacksonccb.com/bioblitz).

We'd like to thank the following organizations and businesses for helping to make the BioBlitz event happen; Friends of Jackson County Conservation, National Environmental Education Foundation/Toyota, Iowa Native Plant Society, Woodform Inc., Premier Communications and all the specialists who are committing the time to conduct the inventories and the agencies they work for.

Please let everyone know about this fantastic event! It is looking to be a fun-filled weekend exploring nature!

Send registration form to  
[BioBlitz@jacksonccb.com](mailto:BioBlitz@jacksonccb.com)

Or  
JCCB – BioBlitz  
18670 63<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Maquoketa, IA 52060

Questions, call us at (563) 652-3783

# April BioBlitz Participant Registration Form

*To participate in this event, registration is required by Monday, April 13 at 4:00 pm.  
All participants must sign a liability waiver and a photo release form upon arrival at the event.*

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Note: you can use one form per family per home address if family members are signing up for the same surveys)*

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to sign up for our email list? Y or N

**Do you have any medical conditions that we need to be aware of?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about the BioBlitz?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the surveys you'd like to assist us with in the chart below.**

For each row: Circle your **FIRST CHOICE** & Put a star next to your **SECOND CHOICE**

*Participants can sign up for a minimum of 1 survey and a maximum of 4 surveys.*

*Please arrive 15 minutes early. End times vary.*

<b>Friday PM</b>	Aquatic Inverts 5:00 pm	Frogs/Toads 6:00 pm	Moths 7:00 pm	Nocturnal Birds 7:00 pm		
<b>Saturday AM</b>	Birds 7:00 am	Land Snails 8:00 am	Amphibians 8:00 am	Plants 8 am		
<b>Saturday AM</b>	Aquatic Inverts 10:00 am	Butterflies 10:00 am	Dragonflies 10:00 am		Fungi 10:00 am	Insects 10:00 am
<b>Saturday PM</b>	Fish 1:00 pm	Reptiles 1:00 pm	Insects 1:00 pm	Plants 1:00 pm	Dragonflies 1:00 pm	

**Expertise Level** – Please let us know your skill level when it comes to identifying Iowa's plants and animals

\_\_\_ **Expert** – I am very skilled at identifying species such as: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Amateur Naturalist** – I have a moderate level of skill in identifying species such as: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Learner** – I am interested in natural history and am participating in the BioBlitz because I'd like to learn more about the plants and/or animals.

**Volunteer**

\_\_\_ YES, I'd like to volunteer at the event to help make it a successful BioBlitz!

*Please circle the shifts/tasks you'd be willing to help with:*

Registration Table      Food Table      Data Entry/Computer Work      Specimen Table  
Fri. 4:30-7:30pm    Sat. 7-10am    Sat 10-1pm    Sat 1-3pm    Sat 3-6pm

**Payment**      Cost is \$5 per participant (\$3 for students & current Friends of JCC members)

\_\_\_ Cash or Check (make check out to Friends JCC)