



Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD SUMMER 2015

MCMF's 2nd Season

MCMF stands for My Community, My Future. This is the name of our summer youth corps program that is now in its 2nd year. We hired 5 Maquoketa, 1 Easton Valley and 1 Bellevue at-risk high school students for this year's crew. Let by Naturalist Jennifer Meyer and Co-Leader Cole Wentworth, the MCMF crew will spend 8 weeks working to improve area parks while gaining job and life skills. Part of the program also involves outdoor recreation and education opportunities for the students. We look forward to a great summer with our MCMF crew!

Youth corps members have spent their first two weeks completing a painting project in Sabula and removing brush and invasive species from the Hurstville prairie.



A Familiar Face in a New Place

Not new to our department, but a new title for Jessica Wagner. After 8 years as the county's naturalist, Jess was the natural fit to fill the job as Environmental Education Coordinator, vacated by Ann Burns earlier this year.

With her passion and commitment to the pursuit of quality outdoor educational and recreational opportunities for our communities, Jess's future with county conservation is nothing short of bright.



Jess started working for the conservation department in the summer of 2007 as the summer intern naturalist after she graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in May with a degree in Outdoor Recreation. She was hired as the full time naturalist in the fall of 2007.

"We look forward to continuing the excellent environmental education programming we offer under the direction of our new environmental education coordinator, Jess Wagner" said Daryl Parker.



With the staff changes that have taken place this spring, we have an opening for a new naturalist. Hopefully we will have a new hire later this summer.

Summer Staff

With more than 30 parks, Jackson County Conservation hires seasonal staff to help maintain our areas during the busy season.

You may see Derek Hopson & Cory Thielen, our summer conservation workers, mowing trails, clearing brush, and completing other park maintenance projects this summer. Their first week on the job, Derek & Cory were busy helping our park staff with prairie burns.



Fred & Ginger Update

Ginger joined us last fall, after our previous female Frederica died. Our swans did nest, albeit a bit late this year. Ginger has an 8 year record of raising cygnets at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. Staff noticed a nicely formed nest was made on the platform on their pond the 3rd week of May. Ginger starting laying eggs just after Memorial Day. Swans generally lay an egg every other day and begin incubating the eggs after all have been laid. Ginger laid 5 eggs in all. Unfortunately, a couple weeks into incubation, the nest just disappeared. All that was left was one egg laying on the platform—no other eggs or nest. Staff were a bit baffled—was it a pelican, a snapping turtle, the wind or the swans themselves that pushed the nest off the platform? We don't know for sure and sadly we will not have any cygnets this year.



Student Partnerships

We worked with two colleges this past spring on projects relating to Prairie Creek Recreation Area.

⇒ University of Wisconsin in Platteville: Engineering students put together detailed plans for a bridge and kiosk at the park. The bridge is slated to be built later this summer. The bridge and kiosk are funded by a Wellmark grant we received last year. The bridge will help to connect the trails at the park.



⇒ Iowa State University: Landscape architect students created concept plans for the park with a variety of outdoor recreation possibilities. The students visited the park in early April and help a public forum at the Hurstville Center to gather input from community members about what they'd like to see at the park. The students then went on to put together plans for different layouts of the park.



To see their concept plans in full, visit:

<http://www.flipsnack.com/FA7FD9B8B7A/prairie-creek-recreation-area-la302-iastate.html?b=1&p=1>



Each summer, Friends of Jackson County Conservation help fund a summer naturalist intern to help with education programming. “Hi, my name is Anthony M. Vorwald. I come from a small farm between Bernard and Zwingle Iowa. My high school years were spent attending Cascade Jr/Sr High School where I graduated in 2012. I went to further my academic career at Hawkeye Community College and

received my Associates of Applied Science in Natural Resource Management. I transferred to the University of Dubuque where I am anticipating graduating in May of 2016 with my bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. I am very glad to be the education intern for Jackson County Conservation, and am looking forward to working at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. I am glad for this opportunity, and hope to gain experience working with nature and the public that will help me in my future experiences.”

Cole Wentworth has joined us for a second summer as the My Community My Future summer youth corps Co-Leader. Cole is a Maquoketa graduate and resides near Preston. He attends the University of Dubuque and anticipates graduating next spring with a degree in Environmental Science. We are glad to have Cole back for the 2nd year of our youth corps program!



WELCOME SUMMER STAFF!



Summer Programs



Terrific Turtles

Friday, July 3 at 1:00 pm at the Hurstville Center

Friday, July 3 at 6:00 pm at Spruce Creek Park

Saturday, July 4 at 6:00 pm at South Sabula Park

Join a naturalist in learning more about turtles of Iowa. Live turtles will be used to highlight turtle adaptations and how to identify Iowa's species. All ages welcome!

BioBlitz

Friday, July 10—Saturday, July 11

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Base Camp: 605 Birch Drive, Maquoketa

Join us for our 24-hr event where we will attempt to count as many plant and animal species as possible. Participants are needed to help specialists find plants and animals; sign up for the surveys of species that interest you! Anyone is welcome to stop by base camp at 605 Birch Drive Maquoketa throughout the event to see what the teams have found. Event is held 5:00 pm Friday—5:00 pm Saturday. To participate in the bio-blitz, sign up is required by July 6 at 4:00 pm.

Ranger Day Camp

Tuesday-Thursday July 14-16 9-3:00 each day

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Youth entering grades 2nd-4th in the fall are invited to sign up for day camp. Participants will have fun learning about wildlife and nature through activities, games and crafts. Limited to the first 20 kids. Deadline to sign up is July 10.

Froggin'

Saturday, July 18 at 1:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join a naturalist for some froggin! Be prepared to get muddy as we go in search of frogs on the Hurstville Marsh. Nets, buckets and ID guides will be provided to aid in our discovery of these cool critters!

Ding Darling Day

Saturday, July 18 from 10:00-4:00

Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Free event celebrating conservation. Activities throughout the day include various conservation agency presentations, animal programs, fish and wildlife stations, and hands-on activities. Stop by the Jackson County Conservation booth!

Geocaching: No Purchase Required

Sunday, July 19 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join Geocacher Bob Koranda in learning how to get started in geocaching. We'll discuss the basics of the game, including how to sign up for a free online account and how to geocache using your smart phone at no cost. Bring your wifi enabled laptop or tablet and a smartphone if you have them. GPS units will be available for those without smartphone.

Jackson County Conservation Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 21 at 5:00 pm

Papke Farm & Welcome Center

Join the conservation board for their monthly meeting and learn more about what is happening with our county parks. This month the board will tour the Papke Farm near Miles, which is being donated to the conservation board in a few years. The meeting will follow at the Jackson County Welcome Center in Sabula.

County So Full of Game

Sunday, July 26 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Are there black bears in Iowa? Wolves? Join a naturalist in learning more about animals that were once extirpated from Iowa. Furs, antlers and skulls will be used during this program. Fun for all ages.

Chain Reaction

Tuesday, July 28 from 5:00-6:00 pm

Maquoketa Farmers Market, Ohnward Fine Arts Center

Jackson County Conservation Naturalists will be at the kids table at the farmers market! Have fun with crafts, games and activities while learning about the food chain and Iowa's plants and animals.

A Swift Night Out

Friday, August 7 at 7:30 pm

Downtown Maquoketa—meet Jen at Brick Tap

Hurstville Lime Kilns—meet Jess in parking lot

Chimney swifts are aerial insectivores that are often found foraging for insects over towns, cities, and rivers. They are most known for their amazing flight demonstrations in autumn, when chimney swifts gather in enormous flocks around large chimneys before migration. Join us for an evening counting chimney swifts and enjoying their amazing flight demonstrations. We will then report our #s to the Chimney Swift Conservation Association.

Atlatls

Sunday, August 9 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

An atlatl is a spear-thrower that pre-dates the bow and arrow. Join us in learning more about this ancient hunting tool and try it for yourself using our set of atlatls and darts.

Canoe Trip

Wednesday, August 12 from 8:45—3:00

Maquoketa River

Join the OWL adult group (older wiser livelier) for a canoe and kayak trip down the Maquoketa River from Mon Maq Dam to Pictured Rocks. Sit back and enjoy the cave-ridden, heavily wooded scenic bluffs and hills making up the Maquoketa River valley. Come and see what you can discover! Limited supply of canoes and kayaks are available at no cost. Pre-registration is required; call (563) 652-3783.

Programs & Events also listed online at:
http://www.jacksonccb.com/calendar_of_events

Summer Programs Continued

Jackson County Conservation Board Meeting Tuesday, **August 18** at 5:00 pm South Sabula Lake Park

Join the conservation board for their monthly meeting and learn more about what is happening with our county parks. This month the board will tour South Sabula Lake Park. The meeting will follow at the picnic shelter at the park.

Vermicomposting Workshop Sunday, **August 23** at 2:00 pm Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn about vermicomposting—the art of using worms to process food scrapes into compost. Learn about basic worm biology and worm bin construction and maintenance. Participants will construct a worm bin—complete with worms—to take home. Cost: \$5/person. Registration required by Aug 19.

Monarch Tagging Saturday, **August 29** at 1:00 pm Every **Saturday in September** at 1:00 pm 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.*

Special Needs— Our public programs are designed for enjoyment and education for all ages and varying abilities. If you have special needs, please contact our office prior to an event.

Pre-registration— To sign up for a program, email jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com or call (563) 652-3783.

Cost— Programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Donations are accepted.

Program Cancellation Policy— In some circumstances, weather or otherwise, we may have to cancel a program. Anyone who pre-registers for a program (whether required or not) will be contacted if the program is canceled. We will also post the cancellation information on the Hurstville Center's Facebook page and send it to KMAQ 95.1 FM.

Do you have an idea for a program that relates to nature or conservation? We'd love to hear what you'd like to see on our calendar of events page. Contact one of our education staff with any suggestions. Thank you!

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.

July 10—11
September 11—12

Jackson County Safari



Join in on the 2nd annual Jackson County Safari and explore our county's parks! Pick up a safari journal at the Hurstville Center or any of the five libraries in the county.

Visit the parks and libraries listed in the journal. Enjoy hiking, wildlife viewing, exploring and more during your safari. After visiting 6 or more sites, turn your journal in for a prize!



Jackson County Bird Geocache Safari

Using a GPS receiver, locate the 12 hidden bird houses and collect the code words to complete the mission. Pick up a journal at the Hurstville Center or download it from our website. All geocaches for the safari are listed on www.geocaching.com. Once you've collected all 12 code words, turn in your journal for a pathtag.



More information about both Safaris online at
www.jacksonccb.com/safari



Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Friends new Mission Statement

Friends members have been working the past year on updating our mission statement to better reflect what the group does. The following was approved at the June business meeting:

The Friends of Jackson County Conservation brings people together through educational and recreational opportunities in partnership with the Jackson County Conservation Board and inspires people to understand and care for our environment.

Committee Reports

Bus Scholarship

Friends allocate up to \$1,000 each year for transportation costs for area schools to participate in nature related field trips. This spring Cardinal 2nd graders & Bernard Elementary students visited the Hurstville Center thanks to the bus fund!

Fundraisers

A big thank you to all the volunteers and donors that helped with the annual soup supper this year!! Numbers were down in comparison with past years. The committee is going to look at what changes can be made to increase attendance. Great Give Day was a great success! A big thank to all of our donors!! Great Give Day is a 24-hr online giving event. Area non-profits participated through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. 24 donors made a donation to Friends of Jackson County Conservation, totaling \$4,278. That money goes directly to our endowment fund.

Strategic Planning

Members met in January and February to discuss some long range planning goals for the Friends group. They focused on 5 main areas and the recommendations they presented to the members at the April meeting include:

- ◆ Prairie Creek Recreation Area
Recommends we sponsor one or more large scale projects at Prairie Creek Recreation Area. Friends can start to create a campaign for raising money to leverage more dollars for projects.
- ◆ Budget
Recommends we budget responsibly so that we can assist the conservation board with larger scale projects that require more funds. Save and raise at least \$50,000 over the next 5 years.
- ◆ Biodiversity
Recommends we make it a priority to promote biodiversity both at our parks and on private lands through projects and education.
- ◆ Internships
Recommends we continue to support student internships with Jackson County Conservation.
- ◆ Endowment
Recommends we increase our endowment and continue to promote the endowment as an option for donors.

Next Friends Meeting

Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 pm at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join 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. Bring a friend! **Potluck at 6:30**; Bring a dish to share; drinks and table service provided.

Elections for two Board Members will take place at the Fall Meeting. Let us know if you are interested in serving on the Friends Board!

A big thank you to Jo Ellen Langerman for serving two three-year terms on the Friends of Jackson County Conservation Board of Directors. We thank you for your service to the group!!

Spring Activities with Jackson County Conservation

Far right: Board Chair Chris Cornelius presented to Ann that the Exhibit Area at the Hurstville Center has been dedicated in her honor.

Right: Jess & Jen were busy this spring with fields almost every day in May. Briggs 4th graders learned about rocks and geology during their trip to Maquoketa Caves.

Below: 90+ people attended our free fishing clinic in early June. Youth learned casting and knot tying skills and got a chance to catch some fish!



More than a dozen area non-profits were represented at our volunteer fair.



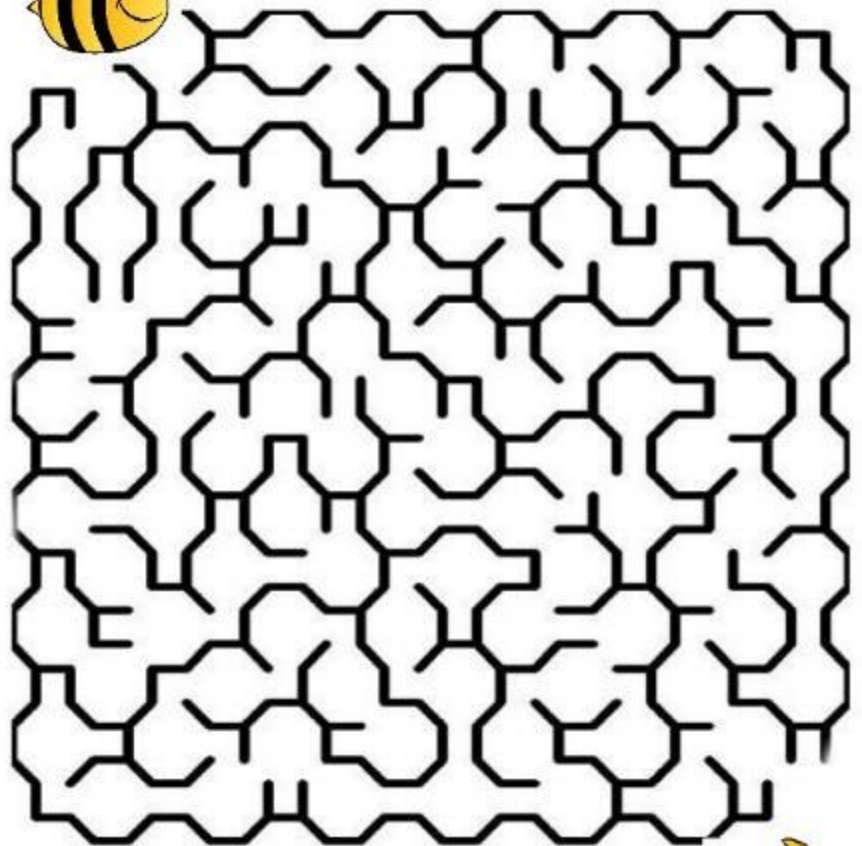
Briggs 4th graders learned about geology during their field trip to Maquoketa Caves this spring.



Kid's corner



Help the bee find the flower



Plant some native wildflowers in your yard to help our insect pollinators!



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— Bob Koranda, Mark Intlekofer, Jarrod Isbell, Jeanne Hoesley, Sarah Hobbs, Mary Hayward, Rusty Hayes, Ray Hayes, David Manning, Karen Manning, Barb McCray, Larry McDevitt, Mary Ann McLaughlin, Zola McMahan, Mary Mether, Jeremy Meyer, Alice Gilmore, Dave Gossman, Bill Hainstock, Wendy Hainstock, Kathi Atkinson, Bob Walton, Sandy Walton, Jo Ellen Langerman, Don Becker, Lou Behrend, Judy Bickford, Ann Burns, Kevin Burns, Jolinda Burr, Jim Durbin, Darlene Elsner, Family Dollar, Mark & Tina Fier, Keith Diltz, Kathy Graf, Olivia Van Keuren, Justin Fry, Chris Brune, Joe Assenmaches, Randy Fens, Ryan Springer, Mat Graf, Joe Westcott, Emily & Travis Dentjo, Jay Smith, Steve Tubbs, Robin Sokol, Ashley Quinlan

Donations—Chris & Connie Domeyer (cracked corn), Bill & Stacey Borrenpohl (books), Chris & Chuck Cornelius (lodging), Denise Swanson (stuffed animals), University of Wisconsin Platteville Engineering Students (bridge plans), Iowa State University Landscape Architect Students (plans for Prairie Creek)

Cash Donations—Bel Tubbs, Mary Mether, Betty Miller, Grace Otting, Chuck & Chris Cornelius, McDonalds, Robert & Beth Melvold, Robert Osterhaus, Tom & Joanne Evans, Steven & Elaine Kahler, Mark & Kendra Beck, Alan & Myrna Tubbs, Kevin & Ann Burns, Teresa Schwarz, Graham Holdings Matching Gifts Program, Maquoketa State Bank Employees, Maquoketa Sodbusters 4-H Club, Delwood Kindergarten Students, Rock Island School District, Geraldine Bahr Lambert Endowment

Donations on Great Give Day—Peter Maier, David Heiar, Karen Manning, Kevin & Ann Burns, Chuck & Chris Cornelius, Karen & Mark Intlekofer, David & Angie Burmahl Family, Marie Rossman, Trisha Manthei, Wendy Hainstock, Jessica Wagner, Steve & Chris Tubbs, Jerald & Caroline Bybee, Heather Waack, Cindy Hepker, Mary Hayward, Tom & Carol Breuch, Kathi Atkinson, Doug & Mary Melvold, Jo Ellen Langerman, Mary Helen Stewart

Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:

Ann Burns
Lavern Cruise
Noah McMahan
Robert & Frances Melvold
Lucy Donovan
Walter Janoskey



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
Don Yanda	Maquoketa	563/652-2706

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm (during the summer months, the board will meet at 5:00 pm for a tour of a park). Public is welcome.

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

www.JacksonCCB.com

www.MyCountyParks.com/County/Jackson.aspx

www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter

Conservation Staff

Daryl Parker	Executive Director
Ryan Owen	Park Ranger
Jeannie Collins-Heer	Park Ranger
Jerry Widel	Operation Technician
Jessica Wagner	Environmental Ed. Coordinator
Pam True	Office Manager
Jennifer Meyer	Naturalist
Tony Vorswald	Intern Naturalist
Cole Wentworth	Youth Corps Co-Leader
Cory Thielen	Summer Conservation Worker
Derek Hopson	Summer Conservation Worker

A big thanks to Bob Koranda, the folks of Iowa Geocachers Organization, and other area geocachers for their efforts in CITO (Cache In - Trash Out) events at our county parks. Bob and fellow geocachers lead hikes, give informational programs, plan and volunteer at educational events, clean up our parks and promote good land stewardship while having fun.

THANK YOU!

Jackson County Conservation
Hurstville Interpretive Center
18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060

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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

No Admission Fee!

Holidays:

Open Memorial Day
Open Independence Day
Open 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 or go online to 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!*

Thank you to Family Dollar for co-sponsoring our annual Free Fishing Clinic at the Hurstville Pond.

*Quote of the day from a little boy to his grandpa:
"This is the best day ever"*

Overall there were 21 fish caught

- ◆ Tyler Killberg and Brandon Bowman tied for largest fish of the day, 9" largemouth bass
- ◆ Dillon McDermott caught the 1st fish of the day, a 5 ½" bluegill
- ◆ Austin Campbell, age 3, won the 4 & under group with a bluegill slightly over 5 ½"
- ◆ Easton Schwartz, age 5, won the 5-7 group with a 6.75" largemouth bass
- ◆ Cam Fens, age 11, won the 8-11 group with a 7 ½ sunfish
- ◆ Brandon Bowman, age 12 won the 12 & over group with a 9" largemouth bass

