



Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD WINTER 2011-2012

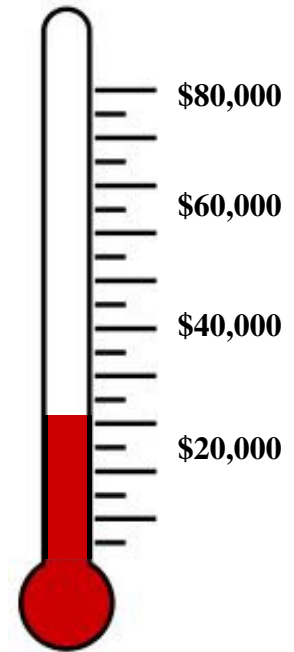
Hurstville Outdoor Makeover!

*Help us reach our goal!
Make a donation today!*

Friends of Jackson County Conservation is working to improve the outdoor area at the Center to engage visitors of all ages in nature. Goals include making the garden walkway accessible, improving the area for field trips, and allowing children to interact with nature more. Plans include: *Install a information kiosk near the parking lot with a map of the area to better orient visitors to the area; *Establish a hard-surface accessible trail from the parking lot & around the garden so all can enjoy the area; *Enhance the pond and create a stream for water exploration; *Build a shaded amphitheatre that can serve as an outdoor classroom for programs and field trips; *Create a natural playscape; allow children the freedom of play outdoors with natural materials; *Other items include: a chimney swift tower, archway to butterfly garden, rain catchments, and artwork.

Friends members are currently working with landscapers and contractors for bids and staff are writing grants to acquire funding. The fundraising goal is **\$80,000** for this multi-year project. Most grants require matching funds—this is where we need your help! If you are interested in making a donation for this project, please make checks payable to Friends of JCC and mail to 18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060. You can also help by inviting your friends and family to an “Iowans Out West” program and purchasing raffle tickets for the canoe (see page 5 for details). Thanks in advance for your support! Remember, every penny helps; there is no donation too big or too small!! As of November 21st, \$20,450 has been raised through grants (Community Foundation of Jackson County and Theisen’s More For Your Community) and private donations—a big thank you to those that have donated!

~Friends HOM Committee Members: Ann Burns, Jess Wagner, Hilary Markin, Margo Sprenger, Pam True, Karen Manning, Jeanne Hoesley, John Hoesley, Barb McCray, Chris Cornelius, Ben Wagner



Go to our website to view the design plans for this project at www.jacksonccb.com

SNAKES, RATTLES, HOLES

Slither into the Hurstville Interpretive Center this winter to view an amazing traveling exhibit about snakes. Whether snakes make you a little nervous or if you are totally fascinated by them, this exhibit is for you. Walk through a 45 foot long wooden snake skeleton! Explore what it’s like to be a snake and emerge with a new appreciation for these exciting animals.

A big thank you to Friends of Jackson County Conservation, Maquoketa State Bank, Century Concrete, and Smiles on Main for bringing this exhibit to Jackson County! Bring your family and friends for an opportunity to view this museum quality exhibit in your own neighborhood for free; on display till May. Exhibit was produced by Purdue University and on loan from Dallas County Conservation.



Park Spotlight

Black Hawk Wildlife Area

Visit this gorgeous 180-acre track of largely wooded area bordering the Maquoketa River that is located just 5 miles from Maquoketa. Enjoyable year round, there are well established trails for hiking, birding, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. The trails are open to equestrian use during daylight hours in June, July and August. Over the years a food plot for wildlife and native trees and grasses have been planted. The features of this area make it a perfect place to observe many species of wildlife, particularly birds and insects. Deer and turkey are commonly found and may be hunted as per Iowa DNR regulations.



Black Hawk Wildlife Area is located 3 miles west of Maquoketa on Hwy 64 then 2 miles north on 138th Ave. All of our wildlife areas are open 4 am to 10:30 pm.

For more information and a map of the park, go online to: www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jackson.aspx.

Adopted Swans

The captive pair of trumpeter swans along with their one cygnet welcomed 5 additional cygnets this past September after their own mother was killed by a coyote. They come from a captive breeding pair in Clinton County. The cygnets will spend the winter in the enclosure at the Hurstville Center. They will visit schools in April; and then be released into the wild. A big thank you to our sponsors who cover costs of food and care for these swans!! Claire & Nell Sybesma, Keaton Oberbreckling, Cascade Elementary 2nd Grade, Sageville Elementary School, Barb & Frank Strathman, Chris & Connie Domeyer, Matt Burns & Bethany Schiefelbein.



Keaton helped feed the swans during a recent visit.

1,940 Pounds and Counting...

A deep fat fryer, a car door, LOTS of cans and bottles, a car battery, a stuffed toy bunny and a chair... The fall river clean up yielded a variety of trash from the Maquoketa River over the course of two days. Club hOpe members, and their adult leaders and other volunteers paddled with EE coordinator, Ann Burns, on September 10. Along the way they dug, pried and hefted trash from the sandbars and riverbanks.

They also stopped along the way to listen to Michelle Turner, Watershed Coordinator with Jackson Co. NRCS, and KJ Rebarcek, an avid river volunteer, share their work and passion for clean rivers & streams in Iowa. Michelle talked with the students about stream monitoring and restoration projects in Jackson and northern Clinton counties. KJ shared her message of how one person's actions can inspire others to join the effort and multiply the results. KJ has participated in Iowa DNR Project AWARE river clean ups around the state and conducts impromptu clean ups when she paddles with friends.

Club hOpe members arrived at the 5th Street boat ramp at 8:30 AM that Saturday to review some paddling basics and water safety. They enthusiastically tackled the stretch of river from 5th Street to Bridgeport Access and collected 120 lbs of trash.



Jacqueline Tabor & Michelle Lanham during the clean-up.



KJ Rebarcek filling her canoe with trash from the river.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, KJ, and a group of friends completed the run down to Iron Bridge and picked up another 100 lbs. These efforts built on previous years of work with the Maquoketa Ikes, students from Rock Island HS, and numerous local paddlers to add up to more than 1,940 lbs of trash cleared from the Maquoketa River (*and this doesn't include the years we didn't weigh the trash!*).

HUSH Program

Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) is a program to provide needy families in Iowa with high quality red meat and to control the deer population. To donate any legally taken, field dressed wild deer, drop it off at a participating meet locker. Local lockers include: World's Best Meats, Andrew (563) 672-3212 and Preston Meats Inc., Preston (563) 689-5611. Any legally-taken, wild Iowa deer from any season and any sex may be donated. Hunters must donate the whole deer. Deer must be field dressed and not frozen. HUSH does not accept road killed deer. More details at www.iowahush.com.

Winter Programs



December

A Natural Holiday

**Sunday December 18 at 2:00 pm
Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Wrap up those gifts you so carefully chose in an environmentally friendly way. We'll be making recyclable wrapping paper, gift bags and using fabric as a reusable wrapper. Free program!! Take home everything you make!!

Winter Adventure Overnight

**Wed. December 28—Thurs. December 29
Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Youth in grades 4th, 5th, & 6th are invited to come and spend the night at the Hurstville Interpretive Center while enjoying outdoor winter activities—ice fishing, outdoor games, snow crafts, and more! *Pre-registration and payment required by Thursday Dec. 22nd.* Registration forms available online at www.jacksonccb.com. Turn in form and payment to Jackson County Extension Office.

January

Friends of Jackson Co Cons Quarterly Meeting

**Tuesday January 10 at 7:00 pm
Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Get involved! See page 5 for details.

Bald Eagle Days in the area:

January 6—8

QCCA Expo Center—Rock Island

Wildlife art show, exhibits and seminars on everything from eagles & alligators to solar-powered cars and robots



January 7

Clinton Community College

Eagle viewing at lock & dam, seminars, wildlife exhibits and children's activities.

January 21

Grand River Center—Port of Dubuque

Hosted by Dubuque Audubon, eagle watching, exhibits, special programs, and activities for kids. JCCB Staff & Volunteers have a booth at this event, stop by to see us!

Snowshoeing

**Sunday January 22 at 2:00 pm
Hurstville Interpretive Center**



It's a great activity for everyone! From young kids to senior citizens, snowshoeing is fun and provides great cardiovascular exercise. Plus, it gets you outside enjoying some beautiful winter days. Bring the family or friends for this free event!

February

Keeping People and Wildlife Safe in Wyoming

Tuesday February 7 at 6:00 pm

Iowans Out West Series—see page 5 for details.

Owl Prowl

**Saturday February 11 at 6:00 pm
Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Hooting for a good time? Join a naturalist to learn more about owls in Iowa and their excellent adaptations. Then we'll head to Maquoketa Caves where Bob Walton will lead us in calling the owls. Dress for the weather. All ages welcome!

Volunteer Appreciation Event

**Thursday February 16 between 4:00-5:30 pm
Hurstville Interpretive Center**

We invite everyone who volunteered or helped Jackson Co. Conservation this past year to attend! We'll provide food and drink and some entertainment! This is a great chance to meet other volunteers and hear their stories. Open house style. *Please RSVP by Mon. Feb. 13 so we can prepare food.*

March

Volunteer Training/Review

**Thursday March 8 from 2:00-4:00 pm
Hurstville Interpretive Center**

This is for all our volunteers, young and young at heart, new and the veterans. We'd like to share with you some updates about parks, exhibits, and programming that we do so you are better prepared for visitor questions. We'll train you to handle the critters (if you want!) and we'll bring you up to speed about other aspects of the conservation department. *Please RSVP by Monday March 3 so we can plan accordingly.*

Duck Waddle

**Saturday March 10 at 7:00 AM
Green Island Wildlife Area**



Join Dubuque Audubon Society for their spring waterfowl count. See if you can identify one waddle from another! Dress warm, bring binoculars, scopes will be available.

Environmental Ed. Wish List

- *Sponsor for Corn Snake (newest animal to the Center!) \$75/year for food & care, your name posted on cage!
- *Sponsor for Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches. \$10/year covers food & care, your name posted on cage!
- *Sponsor a red fox, pelican, snake, or various song birds—taxidermy to mount for education programs
- *Old versions of the books Little Red Riding Hood & Three Little Pigs
- *Plain gift bags & brown paper bags
- *Used books related to nature and the outdoors (field guides, story books, activity books, novels, etc...)
- *Snowshoes (adult & youth size, new or used)
- *Worms, fruit, vegetables for turtles (please call ahead)
- *Volunteer to maintain fishing equipment as needed
- *35 mm empty film canisters (to make turkey calls)
- *Pry bars, pulleys, levers, brace & bit—in good condition

Great Annual Backyard Bird Count



Mark your calendars
February 17—20, 2012

The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. How to participate: 1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. 2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time. 3. Visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc/ to enter your results. It's fun, free, fast, and easy & you are helping collect data on bird populations in your area!

****Animal Spotlight****

Animals that Hibernate...

For starters, let's look at the definition of hibernation. From the American Heritage Scientific Dictionary: An inactive state resembling deep sleep in which certain animals living in cold climates pass the winter. In hibernation, the body temperature is lowered and breathing and heart rates slow down. Hibernation protects the animal from cold and reduces the need for food during the season when food is scarce. Animals that enter a true period of hibernation can be exposed to loud noises, touched and moved and remain completely unaware. Their bodies will be nearly the same temperature as the world around them and their heart will beat only a few times per minute.

Bears are the classic example of hibernators but research has revealed that may not be true. Compared to other animals, their body temperature and heart rate do not reduce significantly and they are relatively easy to rouse. Plus, females give birth during the winter! There is still debate as to how to classify their winter rest, is it a different type of hibernation or should it be called something entirely new? Badgers & raccoons are also winter 'resters'.

When an animal prepares for hibernation it must eat a lot to pack on body fat and create a safe place to weather out the season. True hibernators must live off the fat they store until warmer weather arrives. A few animals, again the questionable hibernators, store food in their homes and wake every few weeks to snack and move around. Chipmunks do this.

So who fulfills all the technical requirements for hibernation as we know it? Groundhogs, bats, dormice and hedgehogs fit those requirements.

On the flip side, there is the warm weather equivalent known as estivation: an inactive state resembling deep sleep, in which some animals living in hot climates, such as certain snails, pass the summer. Estivation protects these animals against heat and dryness. Earthworms, bees, frogs and snails will do this.

2011 Iowa Junior Naturalists

In Jackson County

Chloe Swanson

Sean Swanson

Kacie Varner

**Great
Work!**

The Iowa Junior Naturalist program is an opportunity for children ages 6-12 to experience nature by attending public nature programs and doing independent outdoor activities. Activities can be done at any park, nature center, library, etc.. in the state. After completing the requirements, youth receive a cool patch and a certificate of achievement! Contact us for more information. Participate each year to collect all the patches! Forms available at the Hurstville Interpretive Center and on our website at <http://www.jacksonccb.com/JRNaturalist.html>.

Deck Addition to Enjoy Wildlife

A deck has been installed adjacent to the bird blind out on the Hurstville Marsh to allow better viewing with large school groups. The deck has a bench to allow visitors to sit, relax, and watch the ducks, geese, and other wildlife



move about in the marsh. Stop out and enjoy!

Jessica Wagner takes preschoolers from Cardinal to the deck to watch the geese and swans during a field trip.

Smart Lunch Winners Announced

School groups that visit the Hurstville Interpretive Center for field trips are encouraged to pack waste-free lunches, reducing the amount of garbage that heads to the landfill. Students pack their lunch using reusable and recyclable containers. The winners of the 2011 contests are:

Spring 2011:

Andrew 4th Grade

Karen McClintock

28 students had only 1 ounce of garbage

Fall 2011:

Bellevue 4th Grade

Kim Jochum & Chris Isobaker

53 students had only 4 ounces of garbage

Congratulations students and teachers for reducing your waste! Thanks to Friends of Jackson County Conservation for providing prizes for winners!



Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Friends JCC Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday January 10 at 7:00 PM
Hurstville Interpretive Center

Interested in supporting and assisting conservation education in our county? Join the Friends of Jackson County Conservation for their quarterly meeting and learn more about the benefits of being a friend and become involved. Help make decisions about exhibits, special projects, and environmental education. *Potluck at 6:00 pm.*

Bus Scholarships for Schools

Friends will be offering bus grants to assist schools with busing costs for conservation oriented field trips to educational areas in Jackson County. The grants will be awarded to school districts with a majority of students from Jackson County (Andrew, Bellevue, Delwood, East Central, Maquoketa, Marquette, Preston and Sacred Heart). A Jackson County naturalist must be present for programming. Email friends@jacksonccb.com for an application or more info.

~Bus Scholarship Committee:

Hilary Markin, Clayton Pederson, Ben Wagner

Friends Membership Update

The Friends JCC Membership Committee worked hard this past summer. Two mailings were sent to people who had paid a membership sometime in the past but have not paid recently. 63 people updated their memberships.

At the present time we have 80 paid units (single, family, senior, sustaining, etc..) of membership - possibly an all-time high. (Even though it does not seem like a very big number when I look at the population of the county.)

We would love to greatly increase the number of units of paid memberships with Friends of Jackson County Conservation. If you have not recently paid your membership, visit www.jacksonccb.com/Friends.html for membership levels. Mail a check or stop at the Hurstville Center.

We have also started hosting potlucks before our quarterly Friends meetings. These have been very well received and allow for all kinds of socializing among friends, new and old. They are an added opportunity to learn more about Jackson County Conservation projects and give everyone more chances to contribute their time and talent. We usually manage to rustle up something for a raffle prize too!

Thanks to all of you who pay your membership fee to belong to Friends of Jackson County Conservation.

~Membership Committee: Mary Hayward, Bel Tubbs, Karen Krueger, Barb McCray

Looking for gifts for the holidays?

Go no further! Support conservation and fill up on great gifts for family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors! The gift shop at the Hurstville Interpretive Center is stocked with items for all ages. Toys, bug collection items, tattoos, story books, and more for kids. Locally made wine, honey, sorghum, and spices, as well as field guides, novels, hats, t-shirts, bird feeders, trinkets, and more. All proceeds directly benefit environmental education in Jackson County! Also available are camping certificates to our campgrounds & certificates for programs, youth camps, etc...

Win a Canoe!

You have a chance to win a used canoe valued at \$350 for only \$10!! This raffle is to raise funds for the Hurstville Outdoor Makeover project. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or \$50 for 6 tickets. This lovingly used 17-foot aluminum Lund canoe, along with two wooden paddles, were donated by Rick & Alice Henshaw! Purchase tickets between now and April 1, 2012 (need not be present to win).



Iowans Out West

A new program series is underway this winter to raise money for the Hurstville Outdoor Makeover project. We are featuring local residents who will present exciting programs about something of interest they have done 'out west'! Along with each program, supper will be served; the food will relate (somewhat) to the speaker's topic. Cost for program & meal is \$9/person (come hungry!). Tickets must be purchased by the Wednesday prior to the program for meal planning. Limited seating is available. November's Hiking the CDT program was sold out!

Keeping People and Wildlife Safe in Wyoming Tuesday February 7 at 6:00 pm

Nate Johnson, Iowa DNR Wildlife Conservation Officer, will discuss his experience as a CO in Wyoming.

Adventure Guide in Alaska Date & Time TBA

Pete Cueno will fascinate us with his job of leading groups of travelers on multi-day adventures of hiking, kayaking, fishing, and more in Alaska's wilderness.

Photography Adventures in Jackson Hole Sunday April 1 at 3:00 pm

Chris Cornelius, Executive Assistant, Cornelius Seed Corn and 4-H digital photography club leader, will share images and stories from a photography adventure in Wyoming.

Activities with Jackson CCB!



Over 100 people participated in our Halloween Hike! Left: crayfish & river otter, Below: red foxes



Staff enjoy putting together the giant snake skeleton—just one very large puzzle!



Participants mount a pheasant at our taxidermy workshop this fall.



Briggs 3rd grade students release a monarch butterfly after helping tag it.



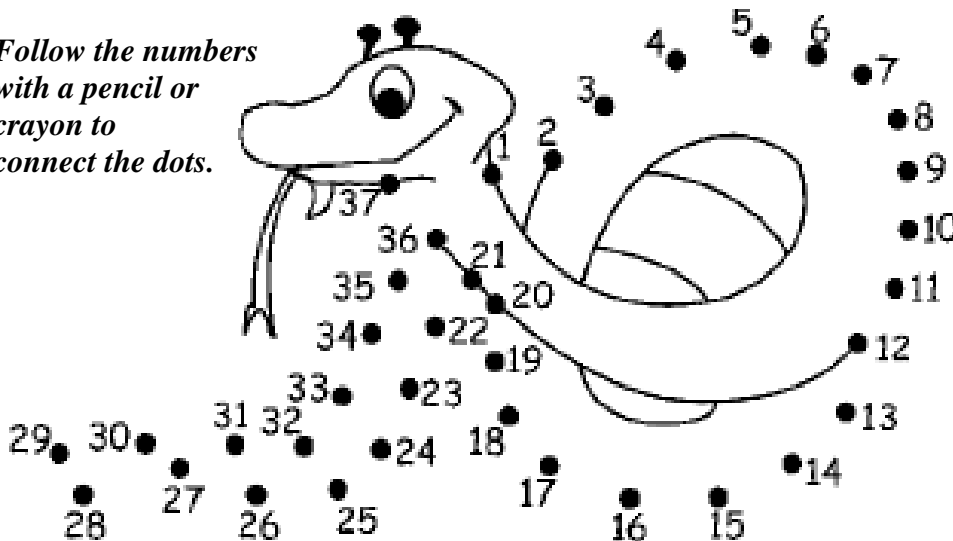
Retired teachers Betty Miller & Chris Tubbs assist with a field trip to Millrock One-room Schoolhouse with Cardinal 1st graders.

What do you get if you cross a snake and a Lego set?

A boa constructor!

Kid's corner

Follow the numbers with a pencil or crayon to connect the dots.



Slithering Snake Anagrams

Unscramble the letters to create words related to snakes.

n o s i o p _____

r e p y _____

s s a l e c _____

m n v e o _____

t e l i s h r _____

Now unscramble the underlined letters to finish this sentence:

Snakes are _____!

What is a baby's favorite snake?

A rattie snake!



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—Christina Clark, Andrew Manders, Darlene Elsner, Margaret McCarthy, Barb McCray, Mary Mether, Peg Miller, Asher Schroeder, Bel Tubbs, Doris Yaddof, Myrna Cavanagh, Charlene Andresen, Vera Randall, Karen Manning, Wendy Hainstock, Hilary Markin, Jeanne Hoesley, John Hoesley, Margo Sprenger, Diane Frett, Larry Frett, JoEllen Langerman, Zola McMahan, Duane Westphal, Lou Behrends, Karen Krueger, Phyllis Nissen, Chris Tubbs, Judy Bickford, Kylee Stanton, Carlie Stanton, Nancy Wagoner

Helped with Halloween Hike—Christina Clark, Jeanne Hoesley, June Wahl, Maquoketa Cards Club Middle School Students, ASAC Leadership Resiliency Program High School Students, University of Dubuque Education Students

Helped with Millrock School Field Trip—Chris Tubbs, Zola McMahan, Thelma Kerkman, Karen Krueger, Betty Miller, Mary Flagel, Margo Sprenger, Marge Fowler

Helped with Public & School Programs—Christina Clark, Bel Tubbs, Vanessa Huffman, Darlene Elsner, Cassie Sheehan, Lisbeth Monhardt, Kevin Burns, Bonnie Schwenker, Curt Kemmerer, Jeanne Hoesley, JoEllen Langerman, Karen Krueger, Margaret McCarthy, Margo Sprenger, Barb McCray, Pam True, Jess Wagner, Deb Lane, Joan Bollman, Bill Hainstock, Wendy Hainstock, Amanda Edwards (Bear Creek Catering)

Fixed Atlats—Gary Purtilo

Cut Wood for Bird Feeders—Charlie Veach

Worked in Butterfly Garden—Jeanne Hoesley, Lana Flagel, Barb McCray, Julie Klecker, MaryAnn McLaughlin, Mary Mether

River Clean-up Volunteers—Chuck Fey, Mindy & Craig Orris, Pat Walke, KJ Rebarcek, Michelle Turner, Nick Gaeta, Maureen McMahan, Andrea & Jack Dostal, Kent Kinion, Mary Jean Blaisdell, Maquoketa High School Club hOpe Students, Jackson County Solid Waste Commission, Bob Laughlin, Arnold & Will Brewer, Richard Ganzer

Maquoketa High School Students for Service Learning Hours—Matt Hansen, Skyler McCreedy, Cody Schvieger, Cole Wentworth, Garret Pettyjohn, Luke Berner, Dominick McPherson

Sponsors of Trumpeter Swans (adult captive pair)—Dave, Beth, Claire, & Nell Sybesma

Sponsors of Swan Cygnets—Keaton Oberbreckling, Cascade Elementary 2nd Grade, Sageville Elementary School, Barb & Frank Strathman, Chris & Connie Domeyer, Matt Burns & Bethany Schiefelbein

Jackson County Conservation

Board Members

Jerry Millwright	La Motte
Rick Small	Bernard
Eric Strathman	Andrew
Anne Hawks	Maquoketa
Steve Flynn	Maquoketa

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets in regular session the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 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

Website: www.jacksonccb.com & 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

Donations—NWTF Big Timber Toms (bookmarks for students), Jeanne & John Hoesley (serving trays), Dixie Wyckoff (animal track kit), Kylee Stanton (wren house), Barb Downey (deer antler buttons), Dave Gossman (wood), Bel Tubbs (juice), Ann Burns (juice), Chris Tubbs (cookies), Pam True (cookies), Hilary Markin (cookies), JoEllen Langerman (cookies), Karen Krueger (cookies), Bob & Ruth Sheets (rocks), Rick & Alice Henshaw (canoe), Ann & Kevin Burns (food for program), Jack & Holly Parmer (books), Bill Pettyjohn (use of truck & hauled landscape rock)

Cash Donations—Century Concrete, Karen Manning, Maquoketa Garden Club, Rocky Junk, Heidi & Michael Coyle & family, Heather & Brian Hafner & family, Smiles on Main, Davenport North HS

Sponsors of Education Animals—RB & Beth Melvold (black rat snake), John & Jeanne Hoesley (milk snake), Bill & Bonnie Schwenker (box turtle), Chris & Vicki Meinecke (ornate box turtle), Beach Great-Grandchildren (box turtle)

There are many areas in which people may serve as conservation volunteers. Please contact us for more information about volunteering.

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

PRE SORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
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Address Service Requested

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Hurstville Interpretive Center

Home of Jackson County Conservation Office

Weekday Hours

Monday – Friday 9:00 – 4:00

Weekend Hours

January – March Closed

April – October 12:00 – 5:00

November – December 12:00 – 4:00



No Admission Fee!

Holidays:

Closed Dec 23-26 for Christmas

Closed Dec 30-Jan 2 for New Year's

Snowshoeing!

Tired of being stuck inside this winter? Try snowshoeing, it's a great activity for everyone! It's fun, inexpensive, and provides great cardiovascular exercise. Plus, it gets you outside enjoying some beautiful winter days. The snowshoes rent for \$5 per pair from the Hurstville Interpretive Center.



Ice Fishing

Spruce Creek Harbor and Hurstville Fishing Pond are both great spots for casting a line this winter! Be cautious of ice.

Build a Bat House for Pest Control

Due to unnecessary fear, humans have done a lot to damage the bat population. By providing a safe habitat for these important pest controllers and pollinators, we can encourage their existence in the area. Go to www.batconservation.org to get plans to build a bat house or to purchase one; and to learn more about bats in Iowa. Thanks to a donation, a bat house was installed along the prairie trail near the Hurstville Marsh by volunteer Tom Hamilton.



Social Media Race is On!

We have challenged Swiss Valley Nature Center to a race to see who can add the most 'likes' on Facebook by March 1st. **Help us out!!** Log on your Facebook account, search Hurstville Interpretive Center and **'LIKE'**!



The losing nature center staff have to 'volunteer' for the winning center doing some 'dirty jobs' at the nature center.