



Up and Down the River

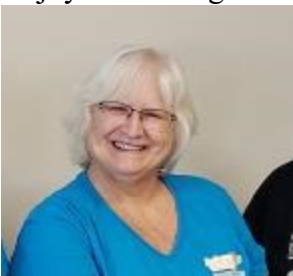
JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FALL 2022

Happy Retirement!

Up to one year ago I only dreamed of the day I would be able to announce that I was going to retire. Seriously, I never thought I would be able to retire, let alone follow through with it. On September 30, 2022, I will be walking out the door of the Hurstville Interpretive Center and start a new career in my life, RETIREMENT.

Twenty-six years ago on July 1, 1996, I walked into the office of the Jackson County Conservation Department as the first Office Manager. I was so excited, yet so nervous and afraid, but Daryl Parker and Ann Burns made me feel so welcomed. The position started out as part-time, then after three years I was offered full-time and again I couldn't believe that this was happening to me.

Over the 26 years there have been some wonderful changes from starting out in the basement of the Jackson County Courthouse to moving into the Hurstville Interpretive Center in 2004. My work environment has been awesome and I have had the opportunity of meeting new faces. Before I end, I would like to thank all of my past and present Co-workers, Board Members, Friends Members and Volunteers. You all have been so wonderful and I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you.



So, out with the old and in with the new; I would like to introduce and welcome Sheila Root, Office Manager for Jackson County Conservation.

Sincerely, Pam True

Meet our newest staff member!

Hi, my name is Sheila Root and I will be replacing Pam as office manager at the Interpretive Center. Pam has a wealth of knowledge and I have big shoes to fill!



I have lived in Jackson county my entire life. I grew up on a farm between Cottonville and Otter Creek. My husband and I moved to Maquoketa 32 years ago and have resided right outside of town for 25 years now. We own 14 acres and enjoy living in the country. I like to spend my free time working in my flower and vegetable gardens, canning, hiking, going on motorcycle rides and traveling with my husband. We have 3 adult children and one very sweet grandson. Until I had a grandchild, I never understood how much joy they bring to your life!!!

I am very excited about the opportunity to work for the conservation office! I have enjoyed meeting all the staff and they have been a great resource teaching me about all the different events and opportunities they offer. I have also learned how to identify the endangered rusty patch bumble bee, about the life cycle of a bee, the migration of swans, the life cycle of monarch butterflies and am excited to learn anything the staff here would like to share with me.

Prairie Creek Recreation Area awarded \$750,000

The City of Maquoketa, in partnership with Jackson County Conservation, applied for funding through Destination Iowa to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities at Prairie Creek Recreation Area and improve water quality of Prairie Creek.

Destination Iowa is a \$100 million investment to bolster the quality of life in Iowa's communities and attract visitors and new residents to the state. The new effort will provide grants to help communities move forward on transformational, shovel-ready attractions. Funding is being made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Projects for Prairie Creek Recreation Area that were included in the grant application include:

- ◆ Water quality projects: bank protection, rock weirs, boulder clusters, j-hooks, wetland grading, and bank grading along Prairie Creek in the park to help slow sediment and water flow
- ◆ Trail connection from City of Maquoketa along Highway 64 to 223rd Ave portion of Prairie Creek Recreation Area
- ◆ Picnic shelter and pit toilets in the NE corner of the park
- ◆ Disc golf course
- ◆ Tent camping
- ◆ Improved fishing along creek

The grant requires projects to be completed by June 2026.



Spruce Creek Park and South Sabula Lake Park are open through November 1st for camping. Water will be on and restrooms open through Monday, October 17 (weather pending).

Save our Streams Field Training **Open to the Public**

Sat. Oct. 8 at 9:30 AM, Felderman Park, Bellevue
Sun. Oct. 9 at 1:00 PM, Prairie Creek, Maquoketa

Save Our Streams is a fun way to test water quality by collecting and identifying underwater critters called aquatic macroinvertebrates. Volunteers across the country monitor the health of their local creeks and streams to educate the public and provide data to partners, agencies, and organizations. The Izaak Walton League is partnering with Jackson County Conservation to provide a certification workshop for anyone interested in becoming a monitor.

Becoming a Save our Streams monitor starts with a few online webinars to explain the program and really give you a feel for what the job of a citizen scientist is with this program.



After watching the webinars, contact Jackson County Conservation to sign up for a field session (Oct 8 or 9). Only one session is necessary so pick the day and location that works for you, the event will last under 4 hours. Please be sure to dress to get wet! Waders are encouraged.

Save our Streams takes up where IOWATER left off by training the public in how to conduct water quality surveys in their local areas. The protocols for the chemical and invertebrate sampling are relatively simple to do with two people and can be done in about an hour. Folks are encouraged to collect invertebrate data twice a year and chemical data monthly. The equipment and supplies for sampling are available to borrow from the Hurstville Center and the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium or folks have the option of purchasing their own.

The data from IOWATER and Save our Streams has been included in a nationwide water quality database available at www.cleanwaterhub.org. Monitors are urged to share their data to add to our public understanding of water quality issues and aid scientists in collecting a wider range of data.

For more information, to get links to the webinars, or register for a training session, please contact Jen Meyer with Jackson County Conservation, at (563) 652-3783 or jmeyer@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov.



Fall Calendar of Events



Monarch Tagging

Sat. **Sept 3** at 1:00 PM *Hurstville Interpretive Center*
Sat. **Sept 10** at 1:00 PM *Prairie Creek Recreation Area*
Sat. **Sept 17** at 1:00 PM *Maquoketa Greenspace*
Sat. **Sept 24** at 1:00 PM *Hurstville Interpretive Center*
Learn about the monarch butterfly's life cycle and their migration to central Mexico. Then head out to the prairie to catch monarchs and participate in a citizen science project to place stickers on the butterfly's wings to help researchers learn more about their migration. Nets will be provided. All ages welcome.

KinderNature: Drumming in Nature

Friday, **September 9** at 10:00 AM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Connecting nature and music in this fully interactive program! Come and feel the beat and try your hand in making music. Instruments are provided. This program will be presented by Gwen Deming. *KinderNature programs are geared towards homeschool families with elementary students and will be held one Friday a month.*

Other KinderNature Dates—all at 10:00 AM

Fridays, October 21, November 18, December 16

Drumming in Nature

Saturday, **September 10** at 10:00 AM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Connecting nature and music in this fully interactive program! Come and feel the beat and try your hand in making music. Instruments are provided. This program is geared for adults. We will meet at the Prairie Creek Pavilion and hike ~1 mile to the rock shelter. Program will be presented by Gwen Deming.

Gardening with Native Plants

Sunday, **September 11** at 2:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

There is a lot of buzz about planting native flowers in our gardens to support native insects, wildlife, and our important pollinators. Naturalist Jess will share tips and tricks for establishing native species, how to get started, and what to plant in your landscaping.

Basket Workshop Series

Sunday, **Sept 18, Oct 23, Nov 20** from 1:00-4:30 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Sign up to make your own woven reed baskets over the course of 3 months, just in time for the holidays! Progressive classes will teach incremental steps to completing a basket; attendance at all three classes is required. The final class we will dye the baskets using walnuts. Class fee: \$15/person. Supply fee: \$15/basket (1-3 baskets can be made during the 3 sessions). Instructor is Pam Bahr. Class for adults only.

Registration is REQUIRED at least 48 hours in advance for ALL programs.

Register by calling (563) 652-3783 or email conservation@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov

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

For up to date information on our programs, check online at www.JacksonCCB.com or visit the Hurstville Interpretive Center's Facebook page.

Physical Science Homeschool Series

1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 10:00 AM

Hurstville Interpretive Center (or other location)

Middle & High School students are invited to take part in a new homeschool series we are offering this school year. Learn more about various science topics in a fun and hands-on way. Programs will be led by Dave & Sue Gossman of ChemRight Laboratories and Gossman Consulting in Maquoketa.

Monday, September 19 – What is Science

Monday, October 3 – Science & Agriculture

Monday, October 17 – What is Physics

Monday, November 7 – What is Chemistry

Monday, November 21 – What is Biology

Monday, December 5 – What is Geology

Future topics will be selected based on interest of students attending and any science standards they are wishing to cover.

Hamilton Prairie Walk

Thursday, **September 22** at 6:00 PM

Ray Hamilton's Prairie, Codfish Hollow Road

Enjoy a guided prairie hike through Hamilton's Prairie. It has been managed as a biological preserve for the past 35 years and is a shining example of a privately owned prairie. With a mixture of remnant and restored prairie, Hamilton's prairie will entrance plant lovers and give a glimpse into Iowa's natural history. Participants should be comfortable walking on rough terrain.

Hunter Education Field Day Course

Saturday, **September 24**

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Hunter education is a mandatory program that is designed to introduce students to various hunting topics. Registration for this field day is required online at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/hunting/hunter-education> To attend this field day, students must complete the online course work. Once completed, print off the field day voucher and bring it with you to class.

Registration is REQUIRED at least 48 hours in advance for ALL programs.

Register by calling (563) 652-3783 or email conservation@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov

Bats of Iowa!

Saturday, October 1 at 1:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

As fall sets in many species of native Iowa wildlife start their fall migration or begin to go dormant. Come and learn about a group of Iowa animals that do both, bats! Naturalist Tony will present about native bat species of Iowa and their natural history.

Bat Monitoring Walk

Saturday, October 1 at 6:45 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Learn about native bats of Iowa while also monitoring what bat species are present at the park. We'll use a special piece of technology that can identify bat species by their vocalization as we walk the trails at dark.

Save our Streams Field Training

Sat. October 8 at 9:30 AM Felderman Park, Bellevue

Sun. October 9 at 1:00 PM Prairie Creek, Maquoketa

Save Our Streams is a fun way to test water quality by collecting and identifying underwater critters.

Volunteers across the country monitor the health of their local creeks. First, complete a few online webinars and then attend a field training (under 4 hours). More details on page 2 of this newsletter.

Maquoketa River Fall Colors Paddle

Friday, October 14 at 10:00 AM

Join Dubuque, Jones & Jackson County Naturalists in paddling the river and enjoy fall colors from Hwy 136 to Canton. Kayaks available to rent or bring your own.

Prescribed Prairie Burn

Friday, October 21 at 6:00 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

The public is invited to learn more about prescribed burns for prairie management and see a night burn at the park. Attendees can learn how to do prescribed burns on their land, learn techniques and tips, and enjoy viewing the blaze after dark.

Mentored Youth Hunt

Saturday, October 22 at 8:00 AM

Baldwin Marsh

Youth ages 11-15 are invited to participate in a mentored hunt for upland birds. Youth will be partnered with an experienced hunter. Limited space. Contact our office for more details.

Lunch & Learn: BioBlitz and Beyond, Prairie Creek Past, Present and Future

Saturday, October 22 at 12:30 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Jennie Wilcox, Friends of JCC Board Member, compiled data from BioBlitz inventories at Prairie Creek from 2015, 2021, 2022. From this data and through further research, the current plant and animal species populations were analyzed to identify quality of habitat at the park. She will present her findings on historical ecosystem and land use patterns of the Prairie Creek area. Enjoy a delicious lunch along with the presentation prepared by Friends of JCC members. Cost for program is free; freewill donations accepted for lunch. Proceeds from lunch will go to park improvements at Prairie Creek Recreation Area.

Make your own Fire Starters

Saturday, November 12 at 2:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Using a variety of materials, participants will make and customize their own fire starters, perfect for the coming cold months. Materials will be provided.

Luminary Walk

Friday, November 18 from 5:30-8:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Let luminaries light your way around the Hurstville Prairie after dark. Follow the new paved trail and an optional path through the grass trail. Warm up inside with chili or outside around the campfire roasting s'mores. Event is sponsored by Friends of JCC. Freewill donations are accepted and will go towards an east ramp for the Center. Register by November 16.

Cedars for Celebrations

Friday, December 9 from 1:00-4:00 PM

Hurstville Fishing Pond

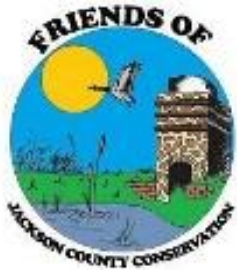
Get the ultimate in local and sustainable Christmas trees! The public is welcome to select a cedar tree from our prairie to grace their home this year. Although cedar trees are native, they can quickly shade out prairie species. Staff will be available to cut down the tree and load it up. The trees are free; donations are welcome.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Wednesday, December 21 from 4:00-7:00 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Celebrate the longest day of the year! Enjoy a campfire, s'mores, night hike, star gazing, and more as we celebrate the winter solstice and the coming of winter.



Friends of Jackson County Conservation

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

Join us for the Next Friends Meeting Tuesday, October 11



6:00 PM at the Prairie Creek Pavilion

Potluck at 5:15 PM, bring your own beverage, tableware, and a dish to share!
Agenda and minutes from last meeting will be sent via email a few days before the meeting.
Didn't get the email? Make sure we have up to date contact info for you!

FJCC Project Highlights

Hurstville Center East Ramp

A project in the works for this fiscal year is an east ramp at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. An east ramp was in the original plans for the building but because of budget restraints at the time was not completed. The idea is that the west ramp from the parking lot welcomes people into the Center. An east ramp would then welcome visitors to extend their visit outdoors exploring the trails and amenities. And now that the multi-use trail from Maquoketa is in the works and a new solar kiosk was built, an east ramp would help connect the trail system on that side of the Center.

Maquoketa River Water Trail—Bridgeport Access

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Jackson County Conservation worked with the Iowa DNR and other local stakeholders in completing “The Jackson County Water Trail Plan”. This plan will provide us and the community a guide for future decision making. The plan establishes a vision for the future of the Maquoketa River and the North Fork and identifies a set of actions to be taken to realize this vision. Throughout the planning process, the Project Steering Committee collected input from stakeholders, river users, and the general public. Using all the information they had collected; the Project Steering Committee developed a list of improvement projects for Jackson County’s water trails. The top priority is improving Bridgeport Access for river users. Jackson County Conservation has submitted a grant request for \$75,000 for the Iowa DNR Water Trails Program to install a paved boat ramp at Bridgeport. The grant requires a 25% match (\$18,750).

Friends is committed to helping Jackson County Conservation move projects forward. Both projects are priorities for FJCC this fiscal year. **FJCC has an amazing community of donors or supporters—and we are calling on that community to help us with these projects.** FJCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit and all donations are tax deductible. If you'd like to donate, you can send contributions to:
Friends of Jackson County Conservation, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

Later this fall, FJCC is sponsoring an event: Luminary Walk on Friday, November 18 from 5:30-8:00 PM at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. See calendar of events for more details. ALL freewill donations from this event will go towards the east ramp. Watch our calendar for an event at Bridgeport Access in the spring to highlight improvements needed and raise funds for those improvements.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Summer Fun with Jackson CCB!



Youth backpacking and camping at Yellow River State Forest in June.

YMCA Summer Camp youth walked to Prairie Creek for some kayaking, swimming, and catching frogs with our Naturalists.



Prairie States Mushroom Club joined our BioBlitz event in June at Prairie Creek to see what fungi could be found at the park.



Kids playing a game while learning about predators and prey at Ranger camp.

A Fun Fall Scavenger Hunt

Head outside—your backyard, nearby park, etc.— and have fun finding everything on this list!

Find:

- ◆ a large red leaf
- ◆ the smallest yellow leaf
- ◆ animal signs...a track, a feather, a bone, etc. What animal was here?
- ◆ an old bird's nest
- ◆ rough bark
- ◆ smooth bark
- ◆ 2 different kinds of grasses and compare them
- ◆ a smooth pebble that fits in the palm of your hand; take it home and paint it with fall colors
- ◆ birds by sound; how many different birds did you hear?
- ◆ 3 different kinds of flowers
- ◆ the most beautiful thing you can find in nature today and show it to someone



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

*Jackson County Conservation would like to **thank and acknowledge** the following individuals, organizations and businesses for their continued support and donations. With your help, we have been able to do so much more!!!*

Volunteers

Nancy Flagel, Pam Bahr, Mary Hayward, Sarah Hobbs, Karen Manning, Deb Holm, Laura Fisher, David Manning, Jeanette Hartung-Schroeder, Chris Tubbs, Connie Breno, Linda Davidson, Carolyn Keck, Shelby Yearwood, Dale Caraway, Karen Watters, Kathy Miller, Dawn Carstensen, Ann Burns, Kim Jochum, John Millman, Judi Henningsen, Maurie Anderson, Jennie Willcox, Judy Bickford, Marie Holst, Marilyn Willey, Wendy Hainstock

Cash Donations

Whitetails Unlimited, Lin Redling, Shelly Hinz, Quad Cities Women in the Outdoors, The Blackbaud Giving Fund, Jackson County Pheasants Forever

Donations

Linda Davidson (trees), Sandy Walton (bird nest), Bruce Bassler (books)

Volunteer shout out to Nancy Flagel, pictured right, for all her work in the gardens at the Hurstville Lime Kilns and Prairie Creek Recreation Area. Thank you Nancy!



A big thank you to our seasonal staff that help us during our busy summer!

Summer Conservation Workers:

Duane Garien, Ryan Owen, Charlie Sandholdt, Ethan Klemme
They helped take care of our 35+ parks throughout the county.

Naturalist Intern: Hailey Wedewer

Teacher Extern: Claire Molony
They helped our Environmental Education Staff with programs.



Conservation Board Members

Mike Griffin, <i>chair</i>	Springbrook	563/357-1736
Jim England	Maquoketa	563/652-3213
Lori Rolling	Bellevue	563/872-3299
Larry McDevitt	Maquoketa	319/541-6357
Mary Hayward	Maquoketa	563/357-0814

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

Conservation Staff

Our emails have changed!

- Nathan Jones, Executive Director
njones@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Sheila Root, Office Manager
sroot@jacksonccb.com
- Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator
jwagner@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Jennifer Meyer, Naturalist
jmeyer@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Tony Vorwald, Naturalist
tvorwald@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Jeannie Collins-Heer, Park Ranger/Roadside Manager
jcollinsheer@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Jerry Widel, Operation Technician
jwidel@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Katelyn Yauslin, Park Ranger
kyauslin@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Adam McPherson, Park Ranger
amcpherson@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov



Address & Contact Information

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060

Phone: (563) 652-3783

Fax: (563) 652-2191

Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621

Website:

JacksonCCB.com

www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter

Office Hours / Hurstville Center

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060

Weekdays: Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm

Weekends: Saturday & Sunday April–October 12:00–5:00 pm; November 12:00–4:00 pm

Holidays:

OPEN Labor Day September 5

CLOSED Nov 24-27 for Thanksgiving

CLOSED Weekends December-March

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

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JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD UP AND DOWN THE RIVER—Fall 2022 Newsletter

Jackson County Building Better Birders Final Report

By Tony Vorwald and Kelly McKay

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Jackson County Conservation participated in and helped put on four Building Better Birders workshops. Building Better Birders Citizen Scientist workshops are a collaborative project administered by Kelly McKay of Kelly J. McKay of BioEco Research and Monitoring Center, Mark A. Roberts of Clinton County Conservation Board, Brian P. Ritter and James M. Wiebler of Nahant Marsh Education Center and County Conservation Boards. Major funding for this program was provided by the Resource Enhancement And Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP).

Building Better Birders Citizen Science workshops are aimed to engage the public with birding and bird identification skills. These workshops were a combination of educational presentations and in the field birding sessions performed by renowned ornithologist Kelly McKay. Jackson County Conservation held 4 “Building Better Birders and Citizen Scientists Workshops” in 2020-2021 (17 September 2020; 2 November 2020; 24 April 2021; and 25 June 2021). Overall, the programming during these workshops included: 5 bird identification presentations and 5 bird hikes. The workshops provided 31.75 total hours of programming, producing an average of 7.9 hours of programs per workshop. During these workshops, 25 total individuals participated (i.e., actual number of people attending a workshop), with 54 cumulative participants (i.e., total number of people attending the various sessions during each workshop). Since all data collected during bird hikes were included in seasonal avian reports to the Iowa Ornithologists’ Union, all participants on these workshop sessions were contributing as citizen scientists. During these 4 workshops, Jackson County produced 25 citizen scientists.

A total of 127 species of birds were recorded during these workshops (#2 ranking among all counties). For a complete list of birds identified during the workshops, contact Tony at tvorwald@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov.