

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, SPRING 2023

Middle & North Sabula Lake Restoration Process

By Nathan Jones, Director

Opportunity for enhancement and development of the Middle and North Sabula lakes have been on the radar of local biologist for years. With close to 380 surface acres of water adjacent to the community of Sabula, prospects for projects are enormous. No question that enhanced recreation and wildlife habitat to these lakes will have an enormous impact locally and across the county.

Funding has always been an issue with a project of this scale, making it feel like a hopeless endeavor. In 2022 restoration and enhancement of these lakes gained some traction. The United States Army Corps of Engineers received funding for a program called the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP). NESP is a program designed for navigation and ecosystem restoration projects along the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS). The program has several objectives, including:

- Maintaining and improving the existing Upper Mississippi River System navigation infrastructure while minimizing impacts on the ecosystem.
- Implementing ecosystem restoration projects to improve the health and sustainability of the UMRS.
- Developing partnership and collaborative efforts to achieve program objectives.

With the development of the NESP program local fisheries and wildlife biologist submitted a project proposal for restoration of Middle and North Sabula Lakes. In the Fall of 2022 this project proposal was selected as a possible enhancement site. The project funds were capped at \$25 million for all work related to this enhancement. The lakes are now in a feasibility study to see if enhancement is viable without causing a negative impact to the system along with possible impacts to the surrounding community. This coming year you may see boats out mapping, drilling core samples and taking inventory of the plants and animals utilizing the system. Our fingers are crossed no negative impacts are located that stall this project from moving forward.

As the Army Corps of Engineers and partners work through planning and design, look for public input meetings to help support and provide positive ideas to the project leaders. This isn't going to be a fast process but it will be worth the wait!



Self-guided Silhouette Hike



Scattered along the trails around the rock shelter at Prairie Creek Recreation Area are 12 animal silhouettes hung in the trees. Challenge your ID skills by locating each animal and determining what species it is. Each animal is commonly found in our area for at least part of the year.

This challenge is for visitors of all ages and can be done by simply hiking around and spotting them or you can access an interactive Google map. The map can be found on our website, https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jackson/Park/Prairie-Creek-Recreation-Area/Activity/Trails-Hiking.aspx. When you click on each pinpoint on the map, you can learn the name of the animal, see a picture of it, and learn more about it.

Share any photos of your adventures with us! Once you find all 12, email Jen Stroyan and receive a certificate, jstroyan@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov.

Baby Shower for Wildlife March 9—April 8

Donations can be dropped off weekdays 8:00–4:00 and weekends 12:00–5:00 at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

The big hearted folks that do wildlife rehabilitation in Iowa are 100% volunteers. From each phone call they take, load of laundry done and hand feeding performed; it is done with their own time and funds. Let's support the great work of these volunteers. Jackson County Conservation is hosting a supply drive to help wildlife rehabbers stock up on supplies during the spring baby boom.

Items such as animal training pads, used towels and receiving blankets, unscented laundry soap, Dawn dish soap, bleach, paper towels, trash bags, disinfecting wipes, unscented baby wipes, gift cards for gas and supplies, and animal carries are welcome. You can also order items from an Amazon Wishlist we created and have your ordered sent to the Hurstville Interpretive Center. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3L2G8T92596UH?ref_=wl_share

All donations we collect will be distributed among local licensed wildlife rehab volunteers.

If you see an animal in need of assistance, please note that we at Jackson County Conservation are not wildlife rehabbers, but we will do our best to help connect you to the right person to care for the animal. You can find a list of licenses wildlife rehabbers in Iowa online at both the Iowa DNR and Iowa State University websites. https://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/files/wildliferehab.pdf

For more information please contact Jen at 563-652-3783 or jstroyan@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov.

Rare Bumblebees in our Parks and Yards

By Tony Vorwald

There are many great native pollinators that call our part of Iowa home. These pollinators help support our native plants and ecosystems, as well as helping pollinate some commercial crops. Unfortunately due to the conversion of native habitat to non-native systems we have experienced a dramatic decline in many native insect and pollinator species.

One native pollinator species that has become a focus in the public eye in recent years is the Rusty-patched Bumblebee (B. affinis.) The Rusty-patched Bumblebee is one of 16 native bumblebee species found in Iowa and 1 of about 11 bumblebee species that you can find in Jackson County. The Rusty-patched Bumblebee was listed as a

federally endangered species in 2017 due to an estimated 90% population reduction from its historic population. This is quite unfortunate for the Rusty-patched Bumblebees but fortunately for us Rusty-patched Bumblebees are still found in Jackson County.



Following a bumblebee identification workshop that I attended last August, I got really turned on to looking for Rusty-patched Bumblebees on Jackson County Conservation properties. Starting last August and going through last October we have positively documented Rusty-patched Bumblebees on 4 JCCB properties. This is awesome news! It is great to see that our conservation properties are providing habitat for a federally endangered species!

What we know about Rusty-patched Bumblebees habitat is that queen Rusty-patches overwinter underground, or maybe in a dead log, in a woodland setting and they forage on native flowers in the prairie throughout the summer/early fall. So what we are finding is that where we have a diversity of native woodland and prairie flowers we are finding bumblebees of all kinds, including the Rusty-patched Bumblebees.

Also some cool findings from our neighbors to the north, Dubuque County Conservation has positively documented Rusty-patched Bumblebees foraging on native prairie flowers in town which were planted as pocket prairies through DCCB's Mowing to Monarchs program. This is great news but to me it's not rocket science, native pollinators need native plants. What we know about Rusty-patched Bumblebee conservation, as well as native pollinator/insect conservation, is that the more native plants we have on the landscape the more native pollinators we will have. I plan on continuing looking for Rusty-patched Bumblebees on JCCB property this warm season, as well as hosting a few public education opportunities for folks to learn about the Rusty-patches.

Spring Calendar of Events

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. Programs are open to all ages and are family friendly unless otherwise noted.

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

Live Birds of Prey Program Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 PM

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center
Get an up close and personal experience with live birds
of prey. Meet a great horned owl and barred owl and
learn more about Iowa's raptors and their amazing
adaptations. Presented by a Naturalist with Muscatine
County Conservation. Free event for all ages!

Homeschool Science Series 1st & 3rd Fridays at 10:00 AM, Sept-May

April 3 – Prairie Sciences

April 17 - Fire & Explosion Sciences

May 1 - Soil Sciences

May 15 - Water Quality

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa

<u>May 16</u>—Water Quality Field Day *at Prairie Creek* <u>May 23</u>—Prairie Ecology Field Day *at Hamilton Prairie* Middle and high school homeschool students are

invited to learn more about various science topics.

Chicken Care Classes Wednesday, <u>April 5</u> 6:30 PM OR Saturday, <u>April 15</u> at 10:30 AM

At 15027 Bellevue-Cascade Road, Zwingle
A beginners level course in keeping poultry for egg
production and companionship. This class fulfills the
Maquoketa city ordinance requirement for owner
education. Please dress for the weather and wear
footwear suitable for mud.

Woodcock Walk Friday, April 14 at 7:30 PM

At Whitewater Canyon, Bernard
The American woodcock has quite the mating ritual.
This small, camouflaged woodland bird amazes spectators with its aerial acrobatics! We'll take a short walk

to find these birds during sunset.

Maquoketa Caves Wildflower Walk Saturday, <u>April 15</u> at 10:00 AM

At Maquoketa Caves State Park, meet at stone pavilion Explore the diverse array of early spring wildflowers in bloom with Naturalist Tony Vorwald, who will provide insight into the biology and ecology of the plants.

Save Our Streams Training Saturday, <u>April 15</u> at 1:30 PM

At Felderman Park, Bellevue

Save Our Streams is a fun way to test water quality by collecting and identifying underwater critters called macroinvertebrates. Volunteers across the country monitor the health of their local creeks and streams. The Izaak Walton League is partnering with Jackson County Conservation to provide a certification workshop for anyone interested in becoming a monitor. Taking this class does not obligate you to report data. Participants are welcome to attend just for their own personal information.

KinderNature - Drumming in Nature Friday, <u>April 21</u> at 10:00 AM

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center
Homeschool families with elementary aged children
are welcome to join us in learning more about nature.
Connecting nature and music in this fully interactive
program! Come and feel the beat and try their hand in
making music. Instruments are provided. Program will
be presented by Gwen Deming.

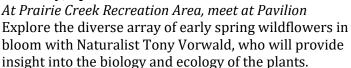
OWLS—Beginner Fly Fishing Workshop Friday, <u>April 21</u> from 10:00 AM—2:00 PM



At Felderman Park, Bellevue

Learn flyfishing basics like setting up a rod, learning some casts, and having time to fish. Bring your own equipment or borrow from us. Participants must have a valid fishing license with a trout stamp. Bring a sack lunch. OWLS programs are open to all adults looking to learn more about the outdoors and are a partnership between Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones County Conservation Departments.

Prairie Creek Wildflower Walk Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 AM



Spring Calendar of Events Continued

Gardening with Native Plants Sunday, April 30 at 2:00 PM

At the 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. Educator Jess Wagner will share tips and tricks for establishing native species, how to get started, and what to plant in your landscaping.

Composting 101 Sunday, <u>May 7</u> at 2:00 PM

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa
Food is the single largest category of material that goes
to landfills. Composting is a resourceful way to recycle
food scraps (and yard waste), keeping it out of the
landfill, and living more sustainably. Learn more about
composting at home and how to get started. Educator
Jess Wagner will share tips and tricks for home
composting and vermicomposting.

OWLS—Hamilton Tapken Prairie Walk Wednesday, May 10 from 10:00—Noon

At Hamilton Tapken Prairie, 16639 60th Ave, Onslow
Tampken Prairie is home to one of the most unique and diverse ecosystems in the Midwest - remnant prairies.
Explore the prairie with Dr. Ray Hamilton, county naturalists, and the Iowa Prairie Network. Participants should come prepared to hike, wear long pants, and bring a water bottle. Carpool/caravan from the Hurstville Center is available. OWLS programs are open to all adults looking to learn more about the outdoors.

Wild Edible Nibble Hike Saturday, <u>May 27</u> at 1:30 PM

At Prairie Creek Recreation Area, meet at Pavilion Join Naturalist Jen Stroyan in exploring the park to hunt for wild edibles. People of all ages and plant identification skill levels are welcome! Be prepared to hike.



Student Prairie Project

Summer Camps & Activities

Registration opened March 15 for our summer day camps. Most camps are full at this time. For more information about camps, go to www.JacksonCCB.com and click on News. You can be added to the waiting list if spots open up.

Youth Ice Age Backpacking Trip July 11-13 Ages: 12-17 Cost: \$50

Youth ages 12-17 are invited to participate in a backpacking trip along the Ice Age Trail in Chippewa County, Wisconsin. Youth will hike 10+ miles of the Ice Age trail, carrying gear in a backpack, tent camping along the way, filtering water, cooking over stoves, and



immersing themselves in the outdoors. A mandatory pre-trip meeting will be held Friday, July 7 from 9:00-Noon at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. **Youth need to apply by March 30** and will be notified in April if they are selected. Application form online at www.lacksonCCB.com—click on News.

Adult Voyageur Paddling Trip Iune 26-28 Ages: 18+ Cost: \$30

Calling all active and adventurous adults for a 3-day, 2-night paddling expedition in 29-foot Voyageur canoes on the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. In addition to paddling, there will opportunities for hiking, swimming, and fishing. A mandatory meeting will be held Sunday, June 11 from 1:00-5:00 PM at Rock Creek Marina and Campground near Camanche, Iowa. Sign up soon as there is limited space and it is first-come-first-serve. Application and medical forms available at www.JacksonCCB.com—click on News.



Do you know any middle school, high school, or college student that enjoys the outdoors? Would they like to learn more about prairies in Iowa? We are seeking students to join our Student Prairie Project this summer. Students will assist Conservation Staff in conducting plant surveys on remnant prairies and actively help with restoration efforts of prairies at Jackson County Parks, all while getting a \$150 stipend for their work. This is a great opportunity to practice plant ID, learn about prairie ecology, and explore some cool places in Jackson County! Students must participate in a minimum of 3 field days between May-August 2023. Applicants must be able to perform manual labor and work well with others. If you or a student you know is interested in this project, please contact Tony Vorwald at (563) 652-3783 or tvorwald@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov.



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, April 11

6:00 PM at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Potluck at 5:30 PM; tableware and beverages provided, bring a dish to share!



Agenda and minutes from last meeting will be sent via email a few days before the Reminder! meeting. Didn't get the email? Make sure we have up-to-date contact info for you!

Codfish Hollow Fundraising **Opportunity**

Codfish Hollow Barnstormers is a great concert venue in Jackson County! The owners at Codfish have partnered with Friends of JCC the past several years in helping with their concerts. Friends provides volunteers to help serve a meal for the band and provide party food for after the show. In return, Codfish makes a donation to Friends of JCC. Bonus—if you volunteer your time or donate food, you get to go to the concert for free!

This is a win-win fundraiser for Friends and we appreciate the opportunity from the folks at Codfish. If you'd like to help out by volunteering your time (usually about 2 hours) or contributing some food, text Friends Member Jo Ellen Langerman at (563) 593-1036.

Maquoketa Farmers Market Takes Another Green Step

Submitted by Ann Burns, Sustainability Committee

In 2022, the Maquoketa Farmers Market partnered with the Friends of Jackson County Conservation's Sustainability Committee to promote re-usable produce and shopping bags at the market. We are strongly encouraging Market shoppers to continue to use re-usable shopping bags. This summer, a second step toward a greener Farmers Market takes place. Market attendees who patronize the weekly community organization food stand will enjoy their meals on compostable plates while using real silverware. The "to go" containers provided by the Farmers Market Board will also be compostable.

The Friends Sustainability Committee has been working with the Farmers Market Board and their community groups in this effort to produce less waste. To this end, the Sustainability Committee will provide funds to help purchase the supply of compostable plates. Friends volunteers will be on hand at the weekly market to assist food stand patrons with learning the new step of separating the compostable plates from "regular garbage" while at the food stand area. They will also collect the reusable silverware to have it washed and returned for use at the following market evenings. The volunteers will also take the compostable plates to the Hurstville Center for the composting process. The composting at the Center will serve as a demonstration of a composting method for a non-food item.

The delicious and nutritious locally raised foods found at any farmers market provide consumers with food options that have a smaller transportation carbon footprint. Starting this summer, the food stand at the Maquoketa Farmers Market will have a smaller carbon footprint, too.

We applaud the Farmers Market Board and their community organizations for making this change from foam plates and plastic tableware. We also want to give a shout out to those food stand patrons we saw who brought and used their own re-usable tableware week in and out last summer. They are taking their own steps to reduce single use plastics. Way to go!

Winter Fun with Jackson CCB!

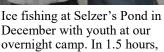


Friends Members Dan & Deb Holm coordinated the Styrofoam recycling drive this past January at the Hurstville Center. Pictured is about 1/3 of the total Styrofoam collected and recycled! Stay tuned for another drive this spring.



We packed the brewery for Nature Trivia Night in February. Thanks to everyone that came out! A good time was had by all. Thanks Maquoketa Brewing!





21 youth caught 115 fish. It was a great day for ice fishing! Thank you Iowa DNR staff for helping!



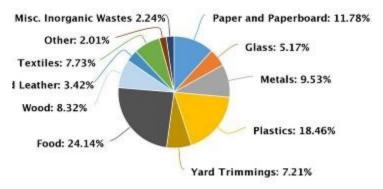
Paper Recycling

In 2018, paper and cardboard materials comprised the largest component of municipal solid waste at 67.4 million tons. 68% of this was recycled!!! The other 32% went to a landfill (see graph to right).

When we recycle paper we save landfill space and reuse the wood fibers, reducing the amount of new trees that are used for paper. When purchasing paper, look for the recycling symbol that the paper was made from recycled material.

Total MSW Landfill by Material, 2018

146.1 million tons



Make Your Own Paper!

Equipment & Materials:

Blender / Hot water / Newspaper or scrap paper / 2 screens (window screen works well, $\sim 10^{\circ}$ x8" or similar)

Steps to make your own recycled paper:

- 1. Tear the newspaper or scrap paper into very small bits. Place in a bowl. For every 1/2 cup shredded paper, add 2 cups of hot water.
- 2. After 30 minutes, place the paper and water mix into a blender to make a pulp. Add more water. Blend well.
- 3. Place the screen over the sink or a bucket. Pour the pulp onto the screen. Place a second screen over top. Use your hand (or a rolling pin or spatula) to press the water out and smooth the pulp. Remove the top screen.
- 4. Leave it to dry for 12 to 48 hours, depending on how thick the pulp is. Enjoy!



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—Kathi Atkinson, Pam Bahr, Ann Burns, Jim England, Bruce Fisher, Nancy Flagel, Dave Gossman, Sue Gossman, Mike Griffin, Sarah Hobbs, Bill Hainstock, Mary Hayward, Brandon Hicks, Dan Holm, Debora Holm, Jo Ellen Langerman, David Manning, Karen Manning, Forest Martin, Larry McDevitt, Doug Melvold, Mary Melvold, Pam True, Lori Roling, Jennie Willcox

Donations—Animal Sponsors—Sybesma Eye & Vision Center, Shelby & Ben Davison, Dan & Deb Holm, Henry & Nancy Joos, Carolyn Keck, Debra & Robert Lane, Curt & Angie Lichter, Jean Melick, Bill & Bonnie Schwenker

We are looking for more animal sponsors for the education animals at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.

If you are interested, give us a call!

Memorial Donations—Hans Deutmeyer, Kristin Deutmeyer, Renee Paulsen, Lindsay Krueger, Paula Parker, Kathleen A Kane, Heidi Snell-Anderson, Maria Gealy, Christine Cole, Jeff Tampir, Jeanne Miller, Jonathan Godes, Jake & Jessica Kendall, Caroline Ehlinger, Teresa Gilroy, Michael Lary, Kurt Deutmeyer, Nicole Cueno, Linda Redling, Matt Redling, Keith & Karen Krueger, Dr. Paul & Brenda Koob, Mary & Bob Ihrig & Family, Barbara & James Deutmeyer, Patricia & Raymond Hamilton, Mary Stephany, Susan & Charles Bomia, Susan Croatt, Deborah Lamphier, Florian & Karen Steffen, Jane Bentrott, John & Pamela Cameron, Lynne Quissell, John Kane, Dale & Judith Schmidt, Robyn Ceurvorst, Cale Ceurvorst, Dave and Joyce Ceurvorst, Jonathan and Carrie Godes and daughters. Addison and Nolah Godes, Michael and Lisa Hainstock and children. John Powell, Ken Klein, Jarred Luko, Maureen Kudola, Andrea Berger, Anonymous Friend, Roberta Rosheim, Helen Snell

Donations made in memory of:

Thad Stockham





Conservation Board Members

Springbrook	563/357-1736
Maquoketa	563/652-3213
Bellevue	563/872-3299
Maquoketa	319/541-6357
Maquoketa	563/357-0814
	Maquoketa Bellevue Maquoketa

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

Conservation Staff

Nathan Jones, Executive Director
Sheila Root, Office Manager
Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator
Jennifer Stroyan, Naturalist
Tony Vorwald, Naturalist
Jeannie Collins-Heer, Park Ranger/Roadside Manager
Jerry Widel, Operation Technician
Katelyn Yauslin, Park Ranger
Adam McPherson, Park Ranger

Address & Contact Information

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060 Phone: (563) 652-3783 Fax: (563) 652-2191 Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621 Website:

<u>JacksonCCB.com</u>

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 Apr–Oct 12:00–5:00 pm

Holidays:

OPEN Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day

Cash Donations—Dale & Nancy Kilburg, Gerald & Barbara Nelson, Dennis & Alice Mans, Craig & Kathleen Johnston, Jeanne Hoesley, Phil & Pat Gent, Maquoketa Brewing, Rosalie & Robert Ahrendsen

Donations—Chris & Ray Johnson (bees!), Dan & Deb Holm (binoculars; transported Styrofoam), Pam Bahr & Jim England (cooler, towels), Charlene Kilburg (program supplies), Make it Yours Upcycle (candles), Marie Rossman (candles), Kathy Weuste (wood duck mount), Ed Beranek (trout mount), Dave & Sue Gossman (digital microscope)

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

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PRE SORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID MAQUOKETA IA PERMIT NO. 123



JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD UP AND DOWN THE RIVER—Spring 2023

Native Plants & Seeds

Friends of Jackson County Conservation is holding a native wildflower plant sale again this spring to help people obtain native plant species. Plants for sale include native yarrow, lavender hyssop, prairie onion, pasque flower, marsh milkweed, whorled milkweed, silky aster, lance-leaf coreopsis, pale-purple coneflower, rough blazing star, golden alexander, cream wild indigo, plains oval sedge, prairie brome.

Seed packets are also available for native flowers and grasses in the gift shop at the Hurstville Interpretive Center for \$3 each. Plants include: poverty oat grass, purple locoweed, goat's rue, tall hairy agrimony, fragrant false indigo, cream wild indigo, blue joint grass, strawberry blite, wild lupine, wild four o'clock, prairie sundrops, shrubby St. John's wort, spotted bee balm, silky prairie clover, blue sage, and little bluestem.



Native plants are a great choice for your yard or garden for many reasons. Native flowers and grasses are well adapted to the local climate, and can better withstand the severe drought, flooding, and temperatures of Iowa. Native plants also require little to no fertilizers, are resistant to local diseases, insects, and other pests, as well as provide habitat and food for local wildlife, including our insect pollinators!

Order forms for live plants are available at the Hurstville Interpretive Center and online at www.JacksonCCB.com under News. Plants are \$3.00 each. Drop off order form and payment at the Hurstville Interpretive Center or mail to 18670 63rd St Maquoketa, IA 52060. Plants available while supplies last. Plants will be available for pickup May 19-21. For more information call (563) 652-3783 or email Jess at jwagner@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov.