



Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, SPRING 2024

Hurstville Center Awarded the Future Focus Award

By Bruce Fisher, Friends of JCC Chair

When the Hurstville Interpretive Center was christened 20 years ago, there was an ambitious vision to create a world-class nature center that modeled its mission for conservation of natural resources. With this mission and vision, the Staff, and Board of Jackson County Conservation, in partnership with their group of Friends, sought to develop a facility with zero waste and zero carbon emissions. The Center has nearly achieved that challenging goal following the installation of a solar array that generates 100% of the energy used by the Center. During the Center's construction, a geothermal system was installed to maximize energy efficiency in the heating and air conditioning of the Center. The Center's construction also included a high-quality septic system that returns used water to the aquifer, thus ensuring no waste or run-off from water systems.

The Center hosts events for the public, and for many of these programs, food and beverages are served. For these events, glassware and silverware is used to avoid the use of single use disposable plastic and Styrofoam.

Jackson County Conservation's programming is fully aligned with the concepts of conservation and sustainability. Whether it be a summer camp for youth to learn about conserving nature's beauty and bounty, or boots on the ground restoring our county's prairies and wetlands, the remarkable staff of the Hurstville Center consistently supports conservation.

Let's congratulate the Jackson County Conservation team for their fine work, which has earned them the 2024 Future Focus Award from the Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce.



Friends Member Doug Melvold and Environmental Education Coordinator Jessica Wagner pose for a photo with the 2024 Future Focus Award at the Maquoketa Chamber Gala event in January.



Friends of JCC Sustainability Committee held several recycling drives at the Center this past winter. The Styrofoam collection filled an entire 18-foot enclosed trailer. The holiday lights filled the back of a pickup truck. And the clothing drive overwhelmed us so much that we had to end early. All of these items were diverted from the landfill and recycled.



Welcome our new Naturalist Macey Yaeger



Hello all! My name is Macey and I cannot even begin to describe how excited I am to be working for Jackson County Conservation. Growing up in the Des Moines area definitely put a damper on a kid who wanted to play in the woods and explore all day but I always found my ways, and now my job is to play outside and teach other people all the amazing things about our Earth!

I graduated from Iowa State in May of 2023 (Go Cyclones!) with a degree in animal ecology, and a minor in animal science. After graduation, I worked at the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines for 6 months as part of their education team. I got to work with some very cool people and critters, including different snakes, turtles, birds, mammals, lizards, and amphibians, and get my foot in the door with environmental education. I am a pretty animal focused person, but I also LOVE to learn so I am excited to dive more into the

habitats and ecosystems in the Jackson County area.

I moved to Preston in November, leaving my two crazy, lovable Australian shepherds with my parents, and switching to a cat who tolerates my presence most of the time... (we're working on it). In my free time I love to hike, travel, read, draw, hang out with my family and friends, and do anything that gets me outside! I love to be busy! I have always had a passion for animals and the outdoors, and getting to share my passions with people of all ages and backgrounds is something that excites me every day!

Green Iowa AmeriCorps

Green Iowa AmeriCorps is part of the State/National branch of AmeriCorps. Green Iowa's vision is to mobilize their members to help communities in environmental stewardship, neighborhood revitalization projects, and for energy efficiency services. These individuals partner with different host sites around the state to further the missions of the AmeriCorps and the host site itself. At Jackson County Conservation, our AmeriCorps team helps with school programs, summer camps, prairie restoration, research, other education efforts, and much more.



Meet the AmeriCorps

Issac- "I am originally from Marion/ Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This is my second AmeriCorps term! My first term was an 11 month position with Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa. I am most excited for educating kids about natural resources in fun ways!"

Shelby- "I am a Maquoketa native! This is my first term serving with AmeriCorps, and I am really excited to learn about our native plants and animals, as well as serving alongside this cool team as we maintain our wildlife areas and parks."

Kayla- "I am originally from Detroit, Michigan but am now living in Dubuque. This is my second and longest AmeriCorps term, I served for 3 months at Polk County Conservation in the summer of 2021. I am most excited to restore and collect data on Jackson County's remnant prairies and their unique ecological communities!"

Molly- "I am originally from Ashton, Iowa. This is my first term with AmeriCorps, and I've been here for about 6 months. I am most excited about meeting new people, serving the community, and gaining experience in conservation."

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.JacksonCCB.com or visit the Hurstville Interpretive Center's Facebook page.

Homeschool Science Series

Monday, April 8, 22, May 6, 20 from 10-11 AM

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Middle and high school homeschool students will learn more about various science topics with Dave & Sue Gossman.

Woodcock Walk

Friday, April 5 at 7:30 PM

At Whitewater Canyon

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.

Terrarium Class

Sunday, April 7 at 2:00 PM

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Learn about terrariums and how to care for them. Participants will create a closed style terrarium to take home. This class is perfect for all levels of plant enthusiasts! Cost \$15. Register online.

Solar Eclipse Event

Monday, April 8—1:00-2:30 PM

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center

While not in the path of the total solar eclipse, we will experience a partial solar eclipse. Join our AmeriCorps members in learning more about the solar eclipse, making viewing boxes, and watching it happen. Bring a lawn chair.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 AM

At Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Take a guided walk through the park and learn how to identify woodland wildflowers. Naturalist Tony Vorwald will also provide insight into the ecology of the plants. Bring your questions and take photos!

Beers with Benefits

Every Thursday in April

Maquoketa Brewing

Every Thursday in April, Maquoketa Brewing will donate \$1 from every pint sold to go towards the new exhibit at the Hurstville Center. Gather your friends and family and head to the brewery!

Nature Trivia Night

Saturday, April 13 at 6:00 PM

At Maquoketa Brewing

Get your friends and family together for nature themed trivia at the brewery! \$5/person.

KinderNature—Life in a Pond

Friday, April 19 at 10:00 AM

At Hurstville Interpretive Center

Homeschool families with elementary aged children are welcome to join us in learning more about nature. Youth will have fun learning about the month's topic through various activities.

Gardening with Native Plants

Saturday, April 20 from 1:00-2:30 PM

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Dive into the world of native plants and learn more about the specifics of establishing native species in your garden and landscaping. Environmental Educators Jess Wagner and Tony Vorwald will share the benefits to native gardening, learn about several popular wildflowers, tips and tricks for native gardening, and more. Following the presentation, we will take a short walk outdoors. Please bring your questions about gardening with native plants!

***More spring events are in the planning stages.
Check our Facebook page or website for
additions to our spring calendar of events!***

Spring Calendar of Events Continued

Backyard Compost Bin Pickup Dates

Tues, April 23, 5-7 PM at Two Good Park, Preston

Thurs, April 25, 5-7 PM at Cole Park, Bellevue

Sat, April 27, 1-3 PM at the Hurstville Center

Increase your self-reliance by building good, nutrient-rich soil through backyard composting. Friends of Jackson County Conservation is selling high quality backyard composters to encourage residents to reduce waste and build healthy soil. Compost bins are \$70 and must be purchased online in advance, while supplies last.

JacksonCCB.com—click on News.

Codfish Hollow Spring Prairie Hike

Saturday, May 11 at 10:00 AM

Wednesday, May 22 at 10:00 AM

Codfish Hollow Prairie, 288th Ave Maquoketa

Spring is the time of year to see Iowa's remnant prairie as it first wakes up for the season. Join Naturalist Tony Vorwald for a guided hike and learn about the spring prairie flowers and ecology. Hamilton's Prairie has been managed as a biological preserve with a mixture of remnant and reconstructed high-quality prairie. Wear long pants and good walking shoes for off trail.

Birding Hike—OWLS program

Saturday, June 1 from 8:00-10:00 AM

At Bowstring Wildlife Area

More details to come

Nachusa Grassland— OWLS program

Tuesday, July 2 at 8:00 AM

Nachusa Grassland

Visit a 4,100-acre prairie with hundreds of plant and animal species— including a bison herd. Meet at the Hurstville Interpretive Center at 8 AM and carpool/caravan to Nachusa Grassland— roughly a 2 hour drive. Hike the trails and learn about prairie ecology.

OWLS programs are open to any adult interested in learning more about nature.

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

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

Summer Camps 2024

JCC Staff & Green Iowa AmeriCorps Members will lead summer day camps that allow children to explore nature and learn more about the outdoors!

Registration begins Monday, March 25

All registration is online through EventBrite—link on our website

Explorer Camp, Kdg/1st, July 9/10 or July 11/12

Ranger Camp, 2nd/3rd, July 16/17 or July 18/19

Adventure Camp, 4th/5th, June 12/13, June 17/18

Naturalist Camp, 6th-8th, June 3, July 1, Aug 5

Camp @ Spruce Creek Park July 30

Camp @ South Sabula Campground Aug 1

Thanks to Friends of JCC, scholarships are available for youth that would otherwise not be able to attend camp because of the cost. Scholarships are available to cover half the cost of camp.



Dubuque & Jackson County Conservation

2024 YOUTH & ADULT BACKPACKING TRIPS

Youth Trip - Yellow River State Forest - June 25-27

Adult Trip - Ice Age Trail - July 16-18



Guided introductory backpacking trips led by County Conservation Naturalists! Learn backcountry skills!

Cost \$50/person

Required attendance at pre-trip meeting



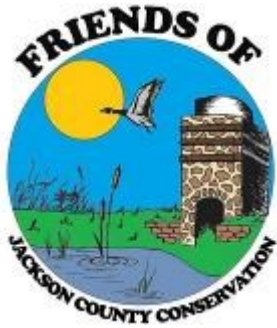
For more information or to sign up, contact
Jackson CC (563) 652-3783
Dubuque CC (563) 556-6745
Or email jwagner@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov



Apply Online for Backpacking Trips:

Youth Trip: <https://forms.gle/AR7ZjDhJENgM42tq7>

Adult Trip: <https://forms.gle/BDmAsEcpoEpeU5ndA>



Friends of Jackson County Conservation

Support Your Local Parks— Become a Friend or renew your membership today!

A big thank you to those who continue to renew their membership with Friends of JCC!! The dollars brought in through membership dues help sustain our organization and **we appreciate your support!**

Membership is for a calendar year. That means, January 1st is renewal time! If you haven't renewed your membership for 2024, you can still send in dues. \$5 seniors; \$10 individual; \$20 family; \$50 sustain- ing; \$500 lifetime. Thank you!

Join us for the Next Friends Meeting Tuesday, April 9

6:00 PM at the Hurstville Interpretive Center



Potluck at 5:30 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!

Mark your calendars for 2024 Friends Meeting Dates:
January 9, April 9, June 11, October 8

Native Plant Sale



Our plant sale is back again this year! Landscaping with native plants has a lot of benefits to your yard and garden as well as to the wildlife around us. We have over 20 flowers, grasses, and sedges to choose from this year. Plants are \$3/each and can be pre-ordered while supplies last. Order forms, plant details, and photos are on our website at JacksonCCB.com, click on News. Plants will be available for pickup May 24-26.

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.

Hurstville Exhibit Makeover

Friends of Jackson County Conservation is working with Jackson County Conservation to develop a new woodland diorama and walk-through cave exhibit this year. Fundraising is underway and as of early March, \$170,000 of the \$200,000 fundraising goal has been met! A huge thank you to the individuals, families, businesses, and organizations that have made a donation to support this project! We appreciate all of you!

Construction of the exhibit will take place in the fall, September or October. A grand opening is slated for October after installation is completed.

Please consider making a donation to help us reach our goal! Donations can be mailed to Friends of JCC, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060 or donate online at <https://givebutter.com/HurstvilleExhibits>

More details about this project are online at www.JacksonCCB.com—click on News. If you have any questions, please reach out to our office or email Jess Wagner at jwagner@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov.



Winter Activities with Jackson County Conservation!



Maquoketa 1st-5th grade TAG students visited the Center in March as they began a unit about wildlife in Jackson County. By the end of the unit, students will be able to evaluate the impact of limiting factors on wildlife populations.



The OWLS group gathered at Whitewater Canyon in February. Instead of snowshoeing, we enjoyed a hike while learning about the archaeological and geological history of the park.

4th-6th graders enjoyed an overnight camp at the Center in December. We partner with the Extension office every year to provide a fun experience involving science and the outdoors. Normally we ice fish and snowshoe, but the unseasonably warm weather had us geocaching and doing other outdoor activities!



Kids Corner

Iowa Animals

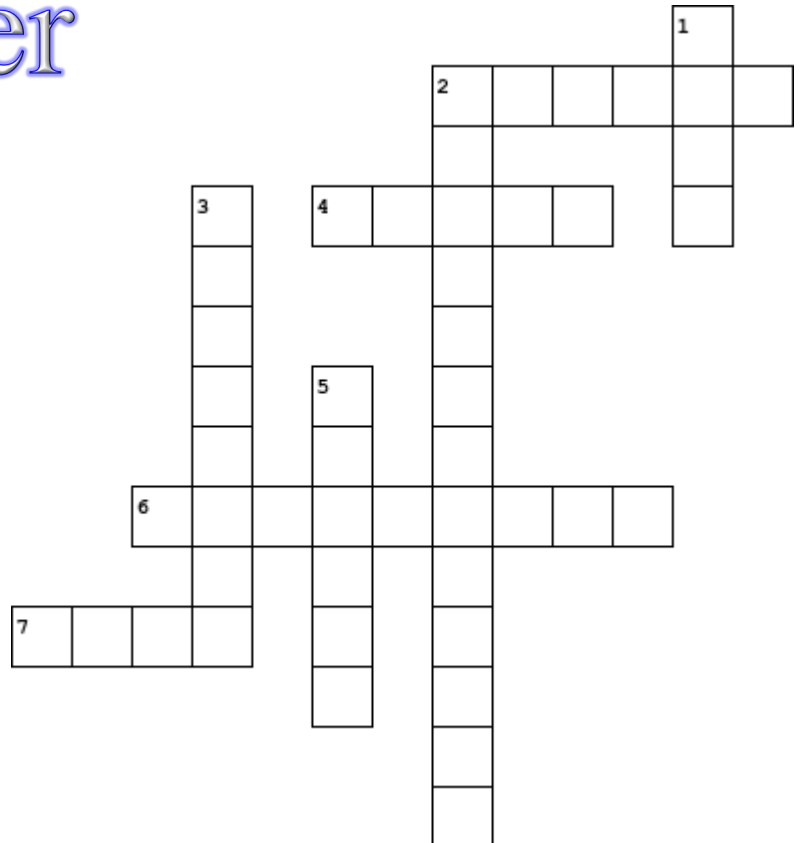
Crossword

DOWN

1. Antlers fall off and regrow
2. Iowa's largest waterfowl
3. Night time friends who like to play dead
5. Definitely not your average house cat

ACROSS

2. Thanksgiving favorite
4. Can stink up a family road trip
6. Buzz around in black and yellow
7. Find these in caves





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—Pam Bahr, Karen Manning, Deb Holm, Ann Burns, Mary Hayward, Kevin Burns, Ted Strait, Dan Holm, Dale Root, Bruce Fisher, Brenda Kunau, Kenny Derganz, Larry McDevitt, Mike Griffin, Jim England, Lori Roling, Sophia Presiado, Kory Kintzle

Hurstville Exhibit Makeover Donations—Optimist Club of Maquoketa, Phil & Pat Gent & Family, Pheasants Forever Jackson County Chapter, Andrew School, Sacred Heart Church & School, Friends of Maquoketa Caves, Maquoketa Whitetails Unlimited, Jay Kahn, Scott Anderson DDS PC, Jane Bentrrott, Ardo Schmidt Construction, Bellevue Lodge #51, Thomas & Joanne Evans, Maquoketa Valley Electric Coop, Matt & Marilyn Osterhaus, Hans & Lori Lensch, Bellevue State Bank, Joe & Linda Bullock, Plastics Unlimited, Connie Breno, Roberta Rosheim, Karen & Daniel Breitbach, Mark Rogge, Katheryn Reuter, Betty Miller, Jack & Marilyn Willey, Kathleen & Benjamin Banowitz, Ron & Louse Jones, McDonald's of Maquoketa, Kay Slade, Becker Veterinary Clinic, Jean Kelly, Elinor Crane, Terri & Kevin Raymond, David & Sue Gossman, Kevin Kutsch, Denny & Connie Wilcox, Jennie Willcox, Maquoketa Community Services, Clark Saw Center, Maury & Laurie Anderson, Nolan Smith, Bill's Radiator, Matt & Marcine Tracy, Charles Schwager, LuAnne Yearwood, Jenna Spain, Bellevue Elementary School, Caroline & Jerry Bybee, William & Colleen Lester

Animal Sponsor Donations—Bill & Bonnie Schwenker, Carolyn Keck, Dan & Deb Holm, Benjamin & Shelby Davison, Forrest Grey & Nolan Smith, Sacred Heart 2nd Grade Class, Mike & Andrea Payne, Curt Lichter & Angie Petit Lichter

Donations—Herbert & Cheryl Curl, Jeff Tampir (ice auger), Angie Petit Lichter (fishing poles and tackle), Tabor Home Winery (wine for event; wine tasting expertise), Ted Strait (use of trailer), Pat Gent (books, misc.)

Food for Events—Ann Burns, Jennie Willcox, Sarah Hobbs, Laura Fisher, Mary Hayward, Sheila Root, Jessica Wagner, Brenda Kunau

Jackson County Conservation



Conservation Board Members

Larry McDevitt	Maquoketa	319/541-6357
Mike Griffin	Springbrook	563/357-1736
Jim England	Maquoketa	563/652-3213
Mary Hayward	Maquoketa	563/357-0814
Angie Petit Lichter	Maquoketa	563/599-6573

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm. Public welcome.

Conservation Staff

Nathan Jones, Executive Director
 Sheila Root, Office Manager
 Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator
 Tony Vorwald, Naturalist
 Macey Yaeger, 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

Website:

JacksonCCB.com

www.MyCountyParks.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 Apr–Oct 12:00–5:00 pm; Nov 12:00–4:00 pm; Dec–Mar CLOSED

Holidays:

OPEN Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day

Donations made in memory of:

*Janis Seay
Arabella Tubbs
Thad Stockham
John & Jean McMurray*



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—Spring 2024 Newsletter

At Home Compost Bins for Sale

Friends of Jackson County Conservation is selling high quality backyard compost bins to encourage residents to reduce waste and build healthy soils. Purchase a compost bin and learn about common composting practices. These home composters are made from 100% recycled material and hold 125 gallons for maximum composting potential, and keeping organic materials out of landfills. **Pre-order your bin online while supplies last at [Jacksonccb.com](https://www.jacksonccb.com), click on news.**



What is composting? Composting is taking things such as food scraps and yard waste and letting it go through the natural process of decomposition to create nutrient rich soil amendments. It is another form of recycling that is natural, and helps revive your soil with important nutrients. Compost can be used as mulch, mixed into the soil of potted plants, spread around on lawns, raked into flower and tree beds, and used in vegetable gardens. Anyplace you want to give your plants (and soil) some extra love is a great place to mix in compost!

Why should I compost? Composting helps reduce the amount of organic waste that ends up in our landfills, reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers, conserves water, improves soil quality, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and so much more.

How do I compost? It's simple! Combine Carbon-rich materials ("browns"- dry leaves, plant stalks, shredded paper, cardboard (no coatings), untreated woodchips), Nitrogen-rich materials ("greens"- fruit and vegetable scraps, grass clippings, eggshells, paper tea bags (no staples), coffee grounds), moisture, and oxygen! Let your compost pile do most of the work! Occasionally add new materials and stir it around to start creating your very own compost at home!