



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2019

Caring For Conservation Auction

By Orrin Shawl, Newton Daily News

More than 200 guests braved rainy and icy roads to help raise money for the future Jasper County Conservation Environmental Education Center. The Caring for Conservation Auction took place Saturday, February 23. Guests were treated to food and hospitality at Sugar Grove Vineyards, west of Newton, and placed their bids in the silent and live auctions filled with outdoor-related items.

The auction was sponsored by more than 50 supporting business, individuals and organizations, including Blue Ribbon Cafe, 515 Design, Des Moines Astronomical Society, Greater Newton Chamber of Commerce and Capitol II Theatre. The goal of the event was to raise money to help build the Dana King Ceretti Environmental Education Center. Keri Van Zante, Jasper County Conservation director, said it's exciting to finally talk about the plans for the nature center in the form of a public event.

"It's really the first time that we've talked about it publicly," Van Zante said. "They're really excited about (the nature center). We've been planning this for so long and doing private fundraising. We're excited to tell everyone about it,



Above: About 200 people came out to Sugar Grove to support Jasper County Conservation.

and not just the individuals with whom we've had discussions about private donations."

More than 50 silent auction items and prize packages were on display and for bidding, as well as a punch wall and wine bottle ring toss. Silent auction items included as art, snowshoes, camping trips and bird houses for Iowa Hawkeye and Iowa State Cyclone fans. Among the 29 live auction items included a kayak, tent, guided fishing trip, a star party with the Des Moines Astronomical Society's observatory, an oil barrel bench and a painting Art Junkie Studio's Sommer Kibbee was actively creating at the event. According to Jasper County Conservation representative Jade Read, the unofficial total amount raised was more than \$18,000.

Two surprise live-auction items came from Jeremy Flores, Jasper County Pheasants Forever President, and Brandon Talsma, Jasper County Supervisor. Flores auctioned off a ticket for a Pheasants Forever game hunt with Gov. Kim Reynolds, while Talsma auctioned off his signature calling card — his beard. The winning bidder got to cut Talsma's beard at Saturday's event.

The hunting trip was won by Tanya Michener, associate director for Newton Development Corporation, for \$275. Michener said she won the bid as a surprise present for someone while learning about the educational and economic impact the education center will have.

"I kind of work with Keri on a lot of different



Above: Sommer Kibbee works on a painting throughout the evening. It was auctioned at the end of the night.

Auction, continued on page 2...

2 Conservation News

Auction, continued from page 1:

committees, so I knew about this building and I love the idea. People should support this for the educational aspect, and I also work with economic development for the Newton (area) and I think this will be good for Jasper County,” she said. “I hadn’t heard of that hunt before, but I thought it would make a good present for my son since it’s something cool and unique that he’d get to experience. And he likes to hunt.”

The winner of the Talsma’s beard was Bret Doerring on a \$500 bid. Doerring said his and Talsma’s family go back years and participating in the shaving of “the beard” was fun. “I’m happy to do that bid for Jasper County Conservation and their project,” Doerring said. “Brandon is a good friend of ours, and my wife Amy, who was cutting his beard, had his sister on the line from Little Rock, Arkansas. These are longtime family friends.”



Above: Amy Doerring starts cutting off Brandon Talsma’s beard.

Before the live auction began, Van Zante took time to present a slide show of what the proposed education center will feature. The center is intended to increase local tourism and create a home to promote other county conservation attractions. Talks for the center began 25 years ago, Van Zante told the crowd. The 12,640 square-foot building will be energy efficient, employing solar panels and geothermal power. The main level will have classrooms, offices, a lobby, laboratory, restrooms and kitchen. The upper level will be used for storage, while the lower level will be used for multi-purpose functions and have an outdoor patio. The main level will have a capacity of 400 people. The nature center will sit on 40 acres of land which includes two ponds, a sculpture trail systems, community garden, amphitheater, camping and picnic areas. Van Zante said the total cost of the building and the site all together is \$2.9

million. “It’s a long-time dream of conservation people,” Van Zante said.

Van Zante concluded her presentation with an announcement of a partnership with owners of Keystone Laboratories, Inc. Jeff and Jodi King, naming the nature center after their late daughter Dana King Ceretti. Dana died in 2009 from the genetic disorder cystic fibrosis. Jodi said their relationship with the project began because Jasper County Conservation Board Member and former Newton teacher Carol Kramer approached their family about the need for a nature center. “She and Dana were always connected at school. She was the inspiration for Dana to become a teacher, and they were friends after high school,” Jodi said. “Dana was passionate about education and kids getting outside and staying away from games and computers. She loved the outdoors and it seemed like a good fit.”



Above: Money raised from the auction will go toward the construction of the new Jasper County Environmental Education Center.

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Caring For Conservation Concert

Featuring Slipstream

Saturday, September 7

Ashton Wildwood Park

Bring the whole family to the park and enjoy some great music, lawn games and a fun activity area for kids. Food will be available for purchase at the Curbin’ Cuisine food truck. Drinks and desserts will also be available for purchase. Tickets are \$10/adult, \$5/children 12 and under. After August 30, tickets will go up to \$15/adult and \$10/child. All proceeds will go toward the Environmental Education Center! Watch our Facebook events page for updates.



Evening Prairie Burn

Friday, April 12, 7:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fire is a very important management tool for Iowa's tallgrass prairies. Learn about the history and use of fire in prairies and witness this spectacular event as the sun sets. Please meet at the parking lot at the east entrance of the preserve. Old clothing and shoes are appropriate and cameras may be desirable.

In case of rain or strong winds, the burn will be cancelled. Please call the JCCB office or check our Facebook page for updated information.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

Wednesdays, 10:00–11:00 AM

**Jasper County Armory/Annex Building
1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton**

April 10–Signs of Spring

Spring is in the air! Jade Read will share pictures and talk about our native spring wildflowers along with other signs of spring. Discover the best places to fully experience what nature has to offer in the spring!



May 8–Growing Heirloom Tomatoes

Pam and Andy Stone start their own heirloom tomato seeds every year and will share what varieties they are growing, how to grow them, and how to get garden seeds from Seed Savers. Andy will also talk about his “tomato tower”—a way to grow indeterminate varieties that don’t stop growing until the frost kills them.

June 12– Meet Your Representative

Wes Breckenridge, District 29 Iowa State Representative, will be discussing the last legislative session, with a focus on environmental topics.

Bird Banding

Saturday, May 4, 6:00 AM-3:00 PM

**Bob and Connie Van Ersvelde residence
224 420th Ave., Grinnell**

Stop by at any time to watch and/or assist with banding songbirds. See how this fascinating process works and how it is helping us learn more about birds in our area. All ages are welcome!

For more information, please call the Van Ersveldes at (641) 236-6600.

Women in the Woods With Wine– Spring Fling

Saturday, May 4, 6:30-7:30 PM

Ashton Wildwood Park

Join a naturalist on a stroll through the woods as we look for wildflowers and other signs of spring. We will have wine to taste and a campfire to sit by. At 8:00 pm there is a regularly scheduled public astronomy program at Ashton Observatory for those who would like to continue enjoying their evening at the park.

This program is for women ages 21+ who are interested in getting outside. Become more comfortable and knowledgeable about the natural world as you unwind and have fun. Pre-registration required; deadline to sign up is April 29. There is limited space. Fee: \$10, includes a complementary JCCB wine glass.

Signs of Spring Family Fun Hike

Sunday, May 5, 2:00-3:00 PM

Ashton Wildwood Park

Celebrate the return of spring! A naturalist led hike will take you on the hunt for spring wildflowers and the many songbirds who have returned for nesting. Discover wildlife under logs and among the treetops.

Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring along binoculars or a camera if you have them. The group will meet at the second picnic shelter. This program is for all ages! For more information, please call the JCCB office or check our Facebook page for updates.

Rendezvous with the Chichaqua

Free Skinners

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sunday, May 12, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Ashton Wildwood Park

See early 1800’s lifestyles of mountain men on the frontier at this free public event. Catch craftsmen and artists at work demonstrating skills from the 18th and 19th centuries, including blacksmithing, basket weaving, scrimshaw, leather working, and more. Many craftsmen offer their handmade items for sale or trade.

Also witness mountain men contests using primitive skills: bow shoots, tomahawk and knife throws, cooking contests and a cannon ball toss. Don’t miss the Candy Man with his Candy Cannon, several times each day!

4 Programs/Conservation News

Programs at Ashton Observatory

The Ashton Observatory telescopes at Ashton Wildwood Park will be open for public programs at 8:00 PM Saturday evenings, April-October. There will be talks given in the observatory, followed by observing through the telescopes. For more detailed information, go to the Des Moines Astronomical Society's (DMAS) website at www.dmastronomy.com.

NewtonFest: Archery at the Park

Friday, June 7, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Maytag Park, Newton

Naturalists will be at Maytag Park during the annual NewtonFest celebration with archery equipment. Stop by and try out something new, or come out to practice your skills! This program is recommended for ages 8+. More information about all the weekend activities in Newton can be found at www.NewtonFest.org and on the Get To Know Newton Facebook page.

Wagaman Mill and Museum Tours

Wagaman Mill in Lynnville will be open from 1:00-4:00 PM each Sunday afternoon between Memorial Day weekend and the end of September. For more information regarding Wagaman Mill, please call (641) 792-9780.

Chichaqua Trail Events

Sponsored by Friends of the Chichaqua Valley Trail (CVT)

Pedal CVT: On June 8 the Chichaqua Valley Cyclists will host Pedal CVT. This event will include a 5K run at 8:00 am in Bondurant and a bike ride at 9:30 am through Bondurant, Altoona, Mitchellville, Mingo, Ira, Valeria, and Baxter. Check out bikeiowa.com for more information.

Fall Color Ride: Scheduled for October 5. Riders set their own start time and distance. Hotdogs and chips served at Mingo City Park from 11:00-1:30 pm. More details to come!

The Friends of the Chichaqua Valley Trail continue to work with partners at the Jasper County and Polk County Conservation Departments as well as the communities along the trail to make improvements to the trail, and facilitate tourism and economic development. You can visit their website at www.chichaquavalleytrail.org, email at chichaquavalleytrail@gmail.com, and follow the group on Facebook.

Meet Jacob Arrowood, Maintenance Technician

I have been a resident of Jasper County most of my life. I graduated from Newton High School and completed the DMACC Welding Program. While in school, I participated in cross country and wrestling. I was a member of FFA & 4-H. I showed horses at the county and state fair. I started my own scrap recycling business, Jakes Scrap & Stuff, while in high school. I enjoy hunting, fishing, archery and trap shooting. I spend a lot of my free time at my acreage south of Newton. I am always on the go and enjoy working and being outside.

When the opportunity to work for JCCB came up, I thought it was a perfect fit for me. I have always looked up to the people who work for conservation. My position will be shared with the Jasper County Maintenance Department.

I am excited to work with the group at Jasper County Conservation. I am looking forward to helping the naturalists with the programs they put on and working with the park officers at the many county parks.



JCCB T-Shirts For Sale

Looking for an easy way you can support Jasper County Conservation? These great new t-shirts will not only look cool, but show that you support conservation and our projects! The front of the heather-blue shirt says, "I'd Rather Be Exploring Jasper County Parks" and our new conservation logo is on the upper back. You can purchase a t-shirt for \$15 at the JCCB office in the Jasper County Armory/Annex Building.



Community Garden Space Available

Have you ever wanted to try out your green thumb but haven't had the room to do it? A summer of growing fresh produce to enjoy is easier than you may think!

Thirteen raised beds are available to reserve at the Community Garden, located in Newton east of the Centre for Arts and Artists. A double-sided composting bin is available for use, along with a rain barrel for watering plants. Growers are responsible for weeding and maintaining the raised beds they reserve. Produce is reserved to the person(s) maintaining the plot unless that person has given permission to another grower to take produce from their plot. A produce stand will be at the garden site for those who wish to share their extra produce.

Jasper County Conservation is currently taking reservations for raised bed plots. Plots are free and open to all community members. To reserve a garden bed, call JCCB at (641) 792-9780 or email goldsen@co.jasper.ia.us.

New Interpretive Signs at Mariposa

Jasper County Conservation installed six interpretive nodes around Mariposa Park to identify educational opportunities for park visitors. The nodes consist of 24" x 36" interpretive panels, sharing information about water quality, sediment treatment, woodlands, native vegetation, fish habitat, and pollinators.

The panels provide education about our lake restoration project that will renovate the existing lake to increase depth and improve the fishery, water quality, and water clarity.

This project was made possible by grant funding provided through REAP CEP (Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program).



Right: Six interpretive panels were installed at Mariposa Park with a REAP CEP grant.



Sugar Shack Ready for Spring

Thanks to financial support from the Jasper Community Foundation, Jasper Conservation Connection, and the Krumm Family, Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve now has a sugar shack!

What is a sugar shack you ask? A sugar shack is a traditional style building used to store and process maple sap into syrup. This 12' x 20' structure was built at the east entrance of the park just a short walk away from the parking lot. The post and beam style structure features a brand new evaporator (used to boil sap), functional cupola for ventilation, and plenty of standing room for small groups to observe how maple syrup is made.

Our goal is to provide educational programs for schools and the public at the Krumm Sugar Shack. We will start tapping trees and collecting sap when daytime temps get above freezing.

Watch for updates on our Facebook page and at www.jaspercountyconservation.com to plan your visit to the Krumm Sugar Shack!



Above: The sugar shack at Krumm Preserve will be used for boiling maple sap into syrup.

Scholarship for Students

The Emerson Hough Chapter of the Izaak Walton League is offering a \$750 scholarship this year for a graduating Jasper County High School student who is majoring in conservation or natural resources.

The scholarship application is due April 1st. Information and applications are available through high school guidance offices, online at www.jaspercountyconservation.com, or at the Jasper County Conservation office, 1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton.



6 Summer Camps: The Wild is Waiting!

JCCB is offering programs for kids of all ages this summer with a generous donation from Newton Noon Kiwanis.

Registration begins **Monday, March 25**, from 4:00-7:00pm at the Jasper County Armory/Annex Building. A signed waiver and payment for each camp is required for registration. Cash and checks made out to Jasper County Conservation are accepted.

Many of the camps have limited space. The first 100 children to register will get a summer camp t-shirt.

More information about summer camps can be found at the JCCB office or at www.jaspercountyconservation.com.

Camps are sponsored by:



Junior Naturalists

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Thursday, June 6, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Friday, June 7, 7:00-10:00 PM

Ashton Wildwood Park

Fee: \$10.00; must attend both days, limit 15 kids

Campers will explore the woods with a focus on wildlife, habitat and nature discovery. Thursday morning will include a creek hike and building rockets to launch that afternoon. Friday night the group will enjoy a hotdog picnic and listen to a presentation by the Des Moines Astronomical Society, followed by stargazing. Families are welcome to stay for Friday's program. Please bring a sack lunch on Thursday.

Wildlife Explorers

for kids ages 8-12 years old

June 11, 12 and 13*, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

***Thursday special time 7:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$5.00 per session; lunch provided, limit 12 kids

Over three days our group will explore the things that fly, swim, trot and slither in Iowa's great outdoors. On Thursday we will join licensed bird bander Bob Van Ervelde to net local bird species. Transportation will be provided from Krumm Preserve to the bird netting location.

Nature Quest

for kids ages 5-8 years old

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17 and 18

9:00-11:00 AM each day

Newton Izaak Walton League

Fee: \$5.00 per session; limit 10 kids

Our quest is to have fun and explore the outdoors with activities including hiking, pond netting and fishing. Parents are welcome to stay and join their child for the activities, but not required.

Overnight Camping Adventure

for kids ages 10-16 years old

June 18, 5:00 PM through June 19, 12:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

July 10, 7:00 AM through July 12, 2:00 PM

Bailey's Ford Park, Manchester, IA

Fee: \$50.00; limit 8 kids, must attend both events

This tent camping trip is an experience your child will never forget. After learning about camping at Krumm Preserve, we will travel to explore places like Effigy Mounds National Monument, Pikes Peak State Park, Backbone State Park, and the numerous trout filled streams of Northeast Iowa.

For more information, contact Naturalist Greg Oldsen at goldsen@co.jasper.ia.us or go to www.jaspercountyconservation.com.

SciKids Camp: Harry Potter Science

for kids ages 7-10 years old

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 25 and 26

9:00-11:30 AM each day

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

Fee: \$10.00; must attend both days, limit 10 kids

Have a blast exploring through experimentation in our own "Harry Potter Science Lab" with some cool summer STEM activities. Campers will keep a science journal and make some fun things to take home.



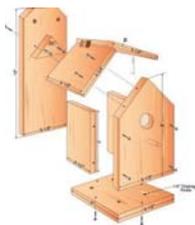
Summer Camps: The Wild is Waiting! 7

Woodworking For Wildlife

for kids ages 10-16 years old
Thursday and Friday, June 20 and 21
9:00 AM-12:00 PM each day
Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20.00; must attend both days, limit 10 kids

Woodworking is a great way to brush up on math and geometry skills during the summer. Come help out our local wildlife while having fun building things with wood.



Princess Adventures

for girls ages 5-8 years old
Thursday and Friday, June 20 and 21
9:00-11:00 AM each day
Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

Fee: \$5.00 per session; limit 10 girls

Do you know a little girl who loves princesses? Want to encourage her to dress up AND have fun exploring the outdoors at the same time? Girls ages 5-8 are invited to come in "princess attire" (whatever that means to them). We will learn about a courageous conservation woman from the past, participate in a nature activity, followed by a tea party with a snack.

June 20—"Weather Watching with Joanne Simpson": Learn about meteorologists, types of clouds, different weather patterns and fly kites!

June 21—"Surviving in the Wild with Hallie Daggett": Learn about the tools needed for an outdoor adventure, go on a nature walk, and help build a giant indoor tent!

Youth Photography Camp

for kids ages 10-16 years old
Tuesday and Wednesday, July 16 and 17
9:00 AM-1:00 PM each day
Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20.00; must attend both days, limit 12 kids

Outdoor photography is a great way to enjoy our parks all year long. Summer offers a wonderful variety of wildflowers, birds, and scenic views that can be captured by young photographers. Campers will manipulate their photos during an editing workshop at DMACC and transfer one onto a natural frame. Digital cameras will be provided for each child. Please bring a sack lunch.

Ocean Adventure Camp

for kids ages 10-14 years old
Thursday and Friday, July 18 and 19
9:00 AM-2:00 PM each day

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

Fee: \$20.00; must attend both days, limit 15 kids

Make connections from our watershed to the ocean and participate in some fun ocean activities. Please bring a sack lunch.

Watersports Tuesday & Wednesday

for kids ages 8-16 years old
Tuesday, July 23, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Wednesday, July 24, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$10.00; limit 20 kids each day

Spend a day on the water canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding. Slide down the giant slip and slide and take part in a fun relay and water balloon toss. Lunch and equipment will be provided, including life vests. Bring a water bottle and sunscreen. Campers can only attend ONE watersports day.

Drawn To Nature Art Camp

for kids ages 10-14 years old
Thursday, July 25, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Center for Arts and Artists, Newton

Friday, July 26, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

Fee: \$20.00; must attend both days, limit 15 kids

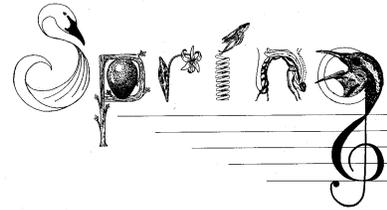
Make and keep some awesome new art projects inspired by nature! Campers will work with a variety of mediums, including painting on canvas, working with clay, weaving, and sketching. Please bring a sack lunch.

Attention Nature Campers!

Kids ages 6-12 years old can earn the official Junior Naturalist certificate and 2019 embroidered Oak Leaf Badge by attending any three JCCB programs and doing two independent activities this summer! Ask for a record book at the JCCB office.

Jasper County Conservation Board
1030 W. 2nd St. S.
Newton, IA 50208

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Jasper County Conservation Board

M - F 8:00 - 5:00 (641) 792-9780
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Ethan Vander Pol.....Maintenance Technician
Jacob Arrowood.....Maintenance Technician

A Big Thank You To...

To all our sponsors and volunteers who helped make the Caring For Conservation auction a success and to Ina Heidemann for sponsoring our environmental education animals.

Shelter House Reservation

Shelter houses located in Jasper County parks can be reserved for \$25 per day. Shelters are located at Ashton Wildwood Park, Mariposa Recreation Area, Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve, Reimer Refuge, Wagaman Mill, and the Chichaqua Valley Recreation Trail. Call (641) 792-9780 to make your reservation.

#ExploreJasperCountyParks

Jasper County Conservation Board's programs are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, age and handicap. If anyone believes they have been subjected to discrimination, they may file a complaint with the Jasper County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 29240