



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2019

Ashton Park Mural

Jasper County Conservation will be partnering with the Des Moines Astronomical Society (DMAS) and two local artists, Lauren Roush and Pauli Zmolek, to create a 270 ft² mural (30'x9'), painted by local youth, on the north outside wall of the observatory building at Ashton Wildwood Park. The mural will accurately depict the southern summer night sky settling over a prairie scene. DMAS provided guidance and expertise for which components of the night sky should be involved, including the moon, Milky Way, and the constellations Sagittarius and Scorpio, while Roush and Zmolek are creating the art for the mural.

Lauren Roush is a Newton native and now elementary art teacher for the Newton Community School District. Lauren has experience with murals, as she was invited to create one in Chisinau, Moldova (Eastern Europe) depicting two hands holding roses as a symbol of cooperation between Moldova and the United States. Lauren is excited to propose this project to her art students and will be enrolling 2nd-4th graders to help create and paint the mural!

Pauli Zmolek is also a Newton native and a painter and muralist with a long history of impressive works. Among her many accomplishments, Pauli was the first woman to ever serve

as a decorative painter for the Architect of the United States Capitol. She was responsible for designing the decorative panels that adorn the Senate Chambers and completed restoration work for the decorative artwork in the Library of Congress. JCCB is privileged to have such gifted local artists involved with this project!

Caring For Conservation Concert

Featuring Slipstream

Saturday, September 7, 5:00-9:00 PM

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. Greencastle Tavern in Mingo will have a beer garden and JCC will be selling root beer floats. 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.

Below: A depiction of what the Ashton Observatory mural will look like, including bison on the prairie and several summer constellations in the sky. Its completion is set for later this summer.



2 Conservation News

First Sugar Shack Season a Success!

This spring, Greg Oldsen, Ethan Vander Pol and Kent Dunsbergen were able to place 86 taps on maple trees at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve, the Gruhn property, Mariposa Recreational Area, and Wagaman Mill. Over two weeks, about 450 gallons of sap was collected, which boiled down to about 10 gallons of syrup.

Syrup production happened in March, around spring break time for many folks, but we were happy to host a homeschool group of students from Grinnell and an open house was held at the Sugar Shack for people to stop by and watch the process. This summer an interpretive panel will be installed outside of the building for visitors to learn more about maple sugaring, and the shack will be open again early next spring!

Special thanks to Scott Gruhn for allowing us to tap the silver maple trees around his property. We will be selling Uncle Jake's Pure Maple Syrup for \$15/pint while supplies last at our office in the Jasper County Armory/Annex Building, 1030 W 2nd St. S, Newton. Money raised will go back into running the Sugar Shack again next year.



Above: Naturalist Greg Oldsen shows students how maple tree sap is boiled down into syrup at the Krumm Sugar Shack.

Right: Pint jars of Uncle Jake's Pure Maple Syrup are for sale at the JCC office, \$15/jar. Our own very talented Jade Read designed the label graphic!



Mark Your Calendar Now!

Off the Beaten Path Fall Fest

Saturday, September 28, 9:00 AM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Registration for the 15th annual trail race will begin at 8:00AM at Ahrens Access of the preserve. The 6K trail race will kick off at 9:00AM and the 3K fun run will begin at 9:15AM.

Further information, including registration forms and directions to Jacob Krumm Preserve, will be at www.jaspercountyconservation.com and on Jasper County Conservation's Facebook page. All registered runners and walkers will receive a long sleeve t-shirt and an all-you-can-eat pancakes!

Pancakes will be served to the public by the Grinnell Fire Department starting at 10:00AM. This will be the kick-off for our annual Fall Festival, which will feature wagon rides, prairie maze, zombie archery shoot, pioneer photo booth, face painting, apple cider, and music. Please bring the whole family, your appetites, and lawn chairs.

Proceeds from the trail race and Fall Festival will benefit Jasper Conservation Connection.



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.



NEWLY ADDED Summer Camps!

More summer camps have been added to our program! For registration, a signed waiver and payment for each camp is required. Cash and checks made out to Jasper County Conservation are accepted.

For registration forms, please go to our website at www.jaspercountyconservation.com or stop by the JCCB office at 1030 W. 2nd St. S. in Newton.

Radical Reptiles Camp

for kids ages 5-12 years old

Thursday and Friday, June 27 and 28

9:00-11:00 AM each day

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

Fee: \$5.00 per session

What makes a reptile different than other animals? In this camp, you'll get up close and personal with snakes and turtles. You'll learn about adaptations that turtles have for land and water, traits that make snakes excellent predators, and which snakes and turtles are common in Iowa. You'll even get to see some real live ones!

Camouflage Camp

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Tuesday, July 2, 8:30-11:30 AM

**Agnes-Patterson Park and Arboretum,
Newton**

Fee: \$5.00

Learn how animals stay hidden in nature and try it out for yourself. This will be a fun morning spent outside full of learning, crafts and games.

Flying High

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Tuesday, July 9, 9:00-11:00 AM

Maytag Park, Newton

Fee: \$5.00

Learn about flying animals in Iowa while being introduced to the fun of Disc Golf.

100 Acre Woods Camp

for kids ages 5-8 years old

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17 and 18

9:00-11:00 AM each day

Jacob Krumm Preserve

Fee: \$5.00 per session

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.

Programs at Ashton Observatory

The Ashton Observatory telescopes 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 DMAS website at www.dmastronomy.com.

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.

Hunter Education Course

Wednesday, July 31, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Thursday, August 1, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

(students must attend both sessions)

Izaak Walton League Clubhouse, Newton

This course will be offered by the Jasper County Conservation Board and the Emerson Hough Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Students must attend both sessions to receive certification. Students need to pre-register for this course online at www.iowadnr.gov/huntered and pick up their workbooks at the JCCB office prior to the class.

The hunter education course is free and all materials will be provided. Persons must be at least 12 years old to take the course. Students should bring a sack lunch both days.



Attention, Kids!

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.

4 Upcoming Events/Programs

Public Lake Paddles

June 13 and 20, 6:00-8:00 PM

July 9, 18, 23 and 25, 6:00-8:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Ahrens Access (west entrance)

Canoes and kayaks will be available for open paddling. The paddle programs are for participants of all skill levels and ages; basic instruction can be given for beginners. On July 23 and 25 there will also be paddleboards available.

Participants must register for these programs by filling out a form, available online at www.co.jasper.ia.us or at the JCCB office in Newton. Payment can be made the day of the event. Children 12 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited, so get your registrations in early!

Fee: \$5.00 per person.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

10:00–11:00 AM

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton

July 10—Plastics in the Environment

Have you ever wondered where plastics came from? Or how we have become so dependent on them? Come explore the past, present and future of plastics with Jade Read and we will discuss our roll in reducing future plastic use!

August 14—Wildflowers at Kish-Ke-Kosh

Mary Stark, a professor at Central College, has been doing wildflower surveys at Kish-Ke-Kosh Prairie Preserve for several years and will talk about the native wildflowers she sees.

Kish-Ke-Kosh Prairie, a 17-acre sand prairie near Reasnor, is a native, unplowed prairie preserve growing on wind blown sand and loess from the last glacial period in Iowa, that ended about 12,000 years ago. The area is named for Chief Kish-Ke-Kosh, who was associated with Chiefs Black Hawk and Keokuk, and who was the leader of a Fox Indian band who often lived in this area.



*Look for us at these
Neal Smith NWR events!*

Pedal the Prairie

Saturday, June 29, 9:00 AM-1:00PM

Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge

Join us for a spring bike ride along the Prairie Parkway Bike Trail! Ride among wildflowers and toss prairie seed bombs along the trail. Enjoy a variety of exhibits, meet live animals, and participate in games and other activities or enjoy a hike along one of our trails. Exhibits and activities are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center. The Prairie Parkway Ride (10 miles) and Family Fun Ride (1.5 miles) both start at 9:00. The Visitor Center will be open until 4:00 p.m. while the trails and wildlife drive will remain open until sunset. To register go to “Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge” on Facebook and click “Coming”.



Above: Bicyclers starting down the trail in Prairie City and posing for photos with the bison sculpture at the annual Pedal the Prairie event. Look for JCC’s booth at the visitor’s center!

Bison Day at the Refuge

Saturday, August 3, 9:00 AM-2:00PM

Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge

Join the fun at this free and family-friendly celebration of bison and the prairie. Music, weaving, rope-making, archery, games and crafts will be available for all ages! See live bison and elk and compete in a bison chip throwing contest! Bison burger lunch available for purchase. Call (515) 994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov for more information.



Environmental Education Externs

Jasper County Conservation has two teacher externs working with us on EE programming again this summer. Iowa STEM Teacher Externships, a program of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, is supported through state-appropriated funds and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (NR) Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP) Grant for Teacher Externships with Environmental and Conservation Professionals, along with investments by Iowa business and industry partners.

During the summer, educators work side-by-side with knowledgeable and skilled industry employees who help bring the classroom curriculum to life. Teacher Externships provide educators with the exposure to answer questions about real-world application, prepare students for careers they may have in the future, and improve educational experiences.

Our externs are both local teachers who will not only assist JCCB naturalists in current summer programming, but will also help provide insight and updates to our curriculum, and will offer some summer programs of their own! Please keep watching our website and Facebook page @jaspercountyconservation for program updates.

Meet our teacher externs:

Hannah De Penning

Hannah is a fifth grade teacher who just completed her third year at Lynnville-Sully Schools. She currently lives in Sully with her husband and is originally from the Kalona area. Some of Hannah's interests include gardening, travel, and anything related to being an aunt to seven. She is really looking forward to an active summer serving as an extern for the Conservation Office! Hannah says her students get so much out of programs done with the naturalists, which is one of many reasons she is excited to assist with their curriculum and camps being held.

Hannah also loves spending time outside whether it is hiking, kayaking, sand volleyball, or Frisbee golf. Some of her favorite memories growing up are exploring State and National Parks, and she's excited to spend a summer helping to bring similar experiences to area youth. "I can't think of a better way to learn as a teacher and simply have fun this summer!"



Left: Hannah De Penning on one of her hiking adventures.

Michelle Delvaux

Michelle grew up in rural Carlisle on five acres of land surrounded by nature. She spent much of her time exploring the local woods with her brother and their dogs. Michelle is a 2003 graduate of Indianola High School. She received a Bachelor's of Arts in Biology and English from Lake Forest College in 2007 as well as a Master's of Arts in Teaching from Simpson College in 2012. Michelle spent six years teaching science at Dowling Catholic High School and just completed her first year at Newton High School.

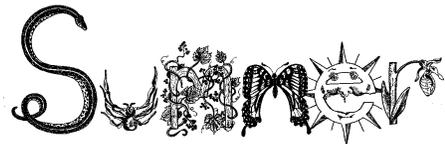
Though she lives in town currently in Altoona, Michelle still loves spending time outdoors. She takes her two sons and their dogs for walks and bike rides whenever possible. They also spend lots of summer weekends swimming and boating on the lake. When her boys are older, she intends to take them sightseeing in as many national parks as possible. Until then, she and her husband will take them to as many local parks as they can before coming home to their animals (which include a cat and three turtles in addition to their dogs).



Right: Michelle Delvaux and her son celebrate his first birthday.

Jasper County Conservation Board
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Newton, IA 50208

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Jasper County Conservation Board

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A Big Thank You To....

All the volunteers who helped this spring with school field trips, our wonderful OWLS presenters, and to Scott Gruhn for letting us tap his maple trees this spring!

Shelter House Reservation

Did you know that 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.

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