



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2022

Paddleboard Purchase With JCF Grant

Jasper County Conservation Board received \$8,000 from the Jasper Community Foundation (JCF) to purchase ten stand-up paddleboards to use in our public programming. Paddleboarding has become a popular sport and JCCB staff members are excited to offer this option at our events.

Prior to this, paddleboards had been borrowed from Warren County Conservation and usage was limited to one week in the summer. Now paddleboarding and kayaking will be offered at all of our public paddles and the watersports summer camps.

Paddleboards were purchased through Crawdaddy Outdoors in Waverly, Iowa. JCCB is purchasing a trailer to haul the equipment.

Public paddle events being offered in 2022 are listed on page 5 of this newsletter.

Below: Naturalist Greg Oldsen teaches the basics of safe paddleboarding to a youth summer camp group.



Right: Inflatable paddleboards similar to these have been purchased with a JCF grant.



Little Free Library Coming to Mariposa Playscape Trail

Development continues on the Nature Playscape Trail at Mariposa Park and it will be getting a new addition this spring. Volunteer Bill Yeager constructed a Little Free Library and naturalist Jade Read made it exceptionally beautiful by wood burning nature quotes and designs on the sides. It will be stained and placed along the trail for visitors to take and share books, especially nature/outdoor themes!

We are looking for individuals or organizations who would like to “adopt” the Playscape Trail. This would involve workdays to trim back brush, pick up litter, spread woodchips along the trail and help raise money for future additions. Please contact Katie Cantu if you are interested in this project at kcantu@jasperia.org.



Caring For Conservation Concert

Featuring Slipstream

Saturday, June 25, 6:00 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 from Magoo’s Pizza, Sticky Fingers and Sea Turtle Ice Cream. Drinks will also be available for purchase through Greencastle Tavern and JCCB. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by stopping in or calling the JCCB office at (641) 792-9780 to pay over the phone. Tickets will be mailed to you. All proceeds will go toward the construction of the Environmental Education Center! Watch our Facebook events page for updates.

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Dan Fenimore Memorial Work Day

The Dan Fenimore Memorial Work Day was held on March 26 at Hartley Heritage Fen. The event was in honor of our dear friend, Dan “the Prairie Guy” Fenimore.

Dan and his wife Laurie were instrumental in working with Iowa Nature Heritage Foundation and Jasper County Conservation to help secure a land donation and purchase of this special wet prairie area in 2008. Over 40 people attended this event on a very blustery and chilly March morning! What a dedicated group, commemorating a very special friend!



Above: A great group of volunteers remembering Dan Fenimore at Hartley Heritage Fen.

Below: Volunteers cut small trees out of the reconstructed prairie area at the fen.



Uncle Jake's Syrup for Sale

Uncle Jake's Sugar Shack at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve had a great season! Jars of our pure maple syrup are available for \$15/pint and \$8/half pint. They will sell out fast, so don't delay getting yours! We are also selling heather-green Uncle Jake's Sugar Shack t-shirts that have the syrup logo on the front. They are \$15/shirt. Money from the sales goes directly back into the Sugar Shack operation. These items are available for purchase at the JCCB office in the Jasper County Armory/Annex Building in Newton. Thank you for supporting conservation!



The Great Geocache Hunt 2022

Think you know Jasper County's parks pretty well? We are challenging you to find 10 hidden geocaches in 10 different county parks!

Coordinates for the Great Geocache Hunt 2022 will be posted on Jasper County Conservation's Facebook page, @jaspercountyconservation the first of every month starting in March. If you are not on Facebook, you can contact Naturalist Katie Cantu by email for the coordinates at kcantu@jasperia.org.

Each of the 10 geocaches will have a different wildlife card to collect. If you collect all 10 by the end of the year and turn them into the conservation office, you will receive a fun JCCB prize!

If you do not already have GPS on your mobile device, we recommend downloading the free Geocaching app. Geocaches will remain in the parks for the year so you'll have plenty of time to locate them all.

Right: Ten geocaches similar to this one will be hidden in Jasper County parks this year.



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 their raised beds. 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 jread@jasperia.org.

Summer Camps: The Wild is Waiting! 3

Summer Camp Registration

JCCB is offering programs for kids of all ages this summer! **Each child is limited to 2 camps only.**

Registration begins **Monday, May 2**, through a signup link on JCCB's website at www.jaspercountyconservation.com and also posted on JCCB's Facebook page.

A signed waiver and payment for each camp is required for registration. Cash, checks made out to Jasper County Conservation, and credit/debit cards (with usage fee) are accepted by calling our office at (641) 792-9780.

Payment and waivers are due within 14 days of signing up or the child will lose their spot. If a child fails to attend the camp they signed up for, their registration fee will be considered a donation to Jasper County Conservation.

A big thank you to our summer camp sponsor, Newton Noon Kiwanis!

Watersports Wednesdays

for kids ages 8-16 years old

Group 1: Wed., June 8, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Group 2: Wed., July 6, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Group 3: Wed., July 13, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20.00; limit 15 kids per camp

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. Equipment will be provided, including life vests. Bring a water bottle, sack lunch and sunscreen. Campers may only participate in **one** Watersports Wednesday!

Junior Naturalists

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Group 1: Wed., June 9, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Group 2: Thurs., June 10, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Ashton Wildwood Park

Fee: \$20.00; limit 12 kids per camp

Campers will explore the woods with a focus on wildlife, habitat and nature discovery. We will go on a creek hike and learn various outdoor skills. *Special note: the creek hike is very steep and challenging—this is only for kids who are good hikers and don't mind getting muddy!* Please bring a sack lunch to camp.

Wildlife Explorers

for kids ages 8-12 years old

June 14, 15 and 16*, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

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

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$40.00; must attend all 3 days, 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. Please bring sack lunches.

Princess Adventures

for girls ages 5-7 years old

Group 1: Thursday, June 23, 9:00-11:30 AM

Group 2: Friday, June 24, 9:00-11:30 AM

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

Fee: \$15.00 per session; limit 10 girls per camp

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 5-7 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, walk over to Maytag Park, and have a tea party with a snack.



Archery Camp

for kids ages 10-16 years old

Group 1: Tues. June 21, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Group 2: Wed., June 22, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$15.00 per person; limit 15 kids per camp

Learn basic shooting techniques and safety on the line. Kids will enjoy learning the sport of archery on our mini 3D course and through games such as "arrow tic-tac-toe." All equipment will be provided. Please bring a sack lunch.



4 Summer Camps: The Wild is Waiting!

Nature Quest

for kids ages 5-7 years old

Group 1: Monday, June 27, 9:00-12:00 PM

Group 2: Tuesday, June 28, 9:00-12:00 PM

Newton Izaak Walton League

Fee: \$15.00; limit 12 kids per camp

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



100 Acre Woods Camp

for kids ages 5-7 years old

Group 1: Thursday, June 30 9:00-12:00 PM

Group 2: Friday, July 1, 9:00-12:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$15.00; limit 12 kids per camp

Come explore our “100 Acre Woods” with Winnie the Pooh and all of his friends! We will hunt for heffalumps and woozels and explore pollinators. Please bring a sack lunch for a picnic in the park. Parents/guardians are welcome to stay and enjoy the activities.

Junior Botanists

for kids ages 10-14 years old

Thursday and Friday, July 7 and 8

9:00 AM-1:00 PM each day

Mariposa Park

Fee: \$40.00; must attend both days, limit 12 kids

Take a closer look at what makes plants unique, using art, science experiments, and outdoor exploration at Mariposa. Participants will work in the butterfly garden and create a miniature garden to take home. Please bring sack lunches.



SciKids Camp: Harry Potter Science

for kids ages 10-14 years old

Group 1: Monday July 11, 9:00-11:30 AM

Group 2: Tuesday, July 12, 9:00-11:30 AM

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

Fee: \$20.00; limit 10 kids per camp

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.

Drawn To Nature Art Camp

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Thursday, July 14, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Center for Arts and Artists, Newton

Friday, July 15, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

Fee: \$40.00; 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 sack lunches.



Youth Photography Camp

for kids ages 10-16 years old

Wednesday and Thursday, July 20 and 21

9:00 AM-1:00 PM each day

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve and

DMACC Campus in Newton

Fee: \$40.00; 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 sack lunches.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

10:00–11:00 AM

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

Come for coffee and a short presentation. All programs are from 10:00-11:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

April 13—Adventures in Antarctica

Jo and Randy Wadle traveled to Antarctica this past year and will share photos and stories from this amazing trip!

May 11—Composting 101

Rachel Longstreet, an education coordinator with Americorps, will present on the history and practice of composting in North America.

June 8—SILT

Kiara Fish, with the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT) program, will talk about sustainable farming and how they are working to save and protect small, diverse, and clean farms that feed Iowans.

Earth Day Fair

Friday, April 22, 3:30-6:00 PM

The Thunderdome, 1611 1st Ave. W, Newton

Celebrate Earth Day with a number of fun activities at this fair. Sponsored by Newton City Parks and Rec, Jasper County Conservation and a number of local organizations and businesses will have engaging activities for the whole family. JCCB naturalists will have some of our favorite critters out, including Franklin the box turtle and Cupcake the fox snake! Stop by and see us!

Signs of Spring Hike

Sunday, May 1, 3:00-4:00 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. This program is for all ages.



National Wetlands Month

Celebration

Saturday, May 7, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Various Locations in Jasper County

May is National Wetlands Month and JCCB would like to invite the public to a full day of events. From 8:00-10:00 AM there will be guided birding hikes taking place all over the county, including Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve, Mariposa Park, Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, and Ashton Wildwood Park. A bird banding demonstration will be at the home of licensed bird banders Bob and Connie Van Ervelde south of Grinnell.

Starting at 11:00 AM, there will be a Wetland Restoration Projects presentation at the Newton Izaak Walton League by Eric Imerman with the Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District.

At 11:45 AM, wildlife photographer Kip Ladage will share his photos taken at Sweet Marsh Wildlife Area in northeast Iowa, and at 12:15 PM JCCB Naturalist Greg Oldsen will talk about his floating wetlands project. Afterwards, volunteers can help plant a floating wetland that will be placed at the Izaak Walton League's pond and participate in an aquatic invertebrate study (pondnetting) from 1:00-2:00 PM.

A full schedule of the day's events will be at www.jaspercountyconservation.com and on our Facebook page @jaspercountyconservation. You can also call (641) 792-9780 for more information.

Public Lake Paddles

June 4, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

June 8 and 22, 6:00-8:00 PM

More summer dates coming soon!

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

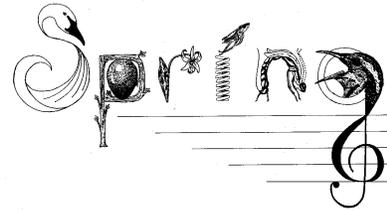
Ahrens Access (west entrance)

Kayaks and paddleboards 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.

Participants must register for these programs by filling out a form, available online at www.jaspercountyconservation.com 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; get your registrations in early! *Fee: \$5.00 per person.*

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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BOARD MEMBERS

Robyn Friedman Carol Kramer
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Katie Cantu.....Naturalist
Greg Oldsen.....Naturalist
Jade Read.....Admin/EE Assistant
Dennis Cooling.....Park Officer
Jerry Ratliff.....Park Officer
Kent Dunsbergen.....Maintenance Technician
Ethan Vander Pol.....Maintenance Technician
Jacob Arrowood.....Maintenance Technician

A Big Thank You To...

Ina Heidemann for supporting our educational programming, Bill Yeager for building a Little Free Library for the nature playscape and Glenda Duffus for her book donation. Thank you!

Shelter House Reservation

Shelter houses located in Jasper County parks can be reserved for \$25 per day. Shelters are located at Uhlenhopp Arboretum, 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