



Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board



Spring 2010

Open House and Eco Fair

Have you heard? We've moved! Come check out where to find us..The Cass County Conservation Board office. To celebrate we are having an **Eco Fair and Open House at Cold Springs Park, Saturday April 17th from 1-6PM!** The event is a "family friendly" special event to spread the word to "Get Out In Nature!" We will have booths highlighting events or places you can volunteer for Cass County Conservation. We will also have a craft station, and kid's games sponsored by some conservation groups that we partner with. The event is **FREE** and door prizes will be given away! The event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather. For more information or to get a booth please call Lora @ 712-769-2372.

Trade Pavement for a Path

Taking your stride to an uneven trail adds a balance challenge that helps you melt 82 percent more calories! Check out our great trails for this, located at Hitchcock Recreation Area and the Rock Cut Trail located next to Cold Springs Park. You can't reproduce the views of the Nishnabotna River on a treadmill!!

Results of 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count

Cass County Birders Are 2nd in the State...Cass County was once again very well represented in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)! Adel had 1st place again this year with 104 checklists, with Ames at our heels with 53 checklists! The GBBC is a national bird count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. Typically participants submit their checklists on the internet, however, for those that are not comfortable using computers, the Conservation Board collects the data and enters the checklists for them. The Conservation Board also visits the Atlantic High School each year to encourage students to participate in the count. Congratulations Cass County on a wonderful response! You can explore the results at www.birdsource.org/gbbc/.

Cass County Results

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Checklists Submitted</u>	<u># of Species Reported</u>
Anita	2	20
Atlantic	69	33
Cumberland	1	1
Griswold	7	23
Lewis	4	20
Marne	6	15
Massena	4	16
Wiota	4	12

More results: 111 of Iowa's 803 Ring-necked Pheasants individuals came from Cass County. The Blue Jay was on 38 of the 69 checklists for Atlantic.



Summer Camps



The Cass County Conservation Board has joined with the Cass County ISU Extension Office to sponsor summer camps for the youth of Cass County. These camps were developed to give children a chance to have fun exploring and learning about nature. Registration fee \$10 3-5th grade, and \$6 K-2nd grade, includes a t-shirt. If you have questions, please call Lora at 769-2372 or Susan at 243-1132.

Registration Information:

- ◆ The Atlantic school system will register on Registration Night, May 18th and 19th from 6:00-8:00p.m. at the Washington School Gym.
- ◆ All other county school systems will have forms passed out to school children in May that will explain the registration process.
- ◆ If your children are home schooled, please call 243-1132 for registration information.

Atlantic Schools ~Deadline May 19th!

K-2nd Grade: Rockin' Reptiles

For children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade
Location at Sunnyside Park
Rockin' Reptiles I: June 2nd (8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) OR
Rockin' Reptiles II: June 2nd (1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.)

3rd-5th Grade: To Earth and Beyond

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade
June 3rd at Sunnyside Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)



Anita & Massena Schools

Deadline May 19th!

K-2nd Grade: Rockin' Reptiles

for children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade.
June 9th at Lake Anita (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

3rd-5th Grade: To Earth and Beyond

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade.
June 10th at Lake Anita (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)



Griswold Comm. Schools

Deadline May 26th!

K-2nd Grade: Rockin' Reptiles

For children that have completed K, 1st, or 2nd grade.
June 16th at Cold Springs Park (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

3rd-5th Grade: To Earth and Beyond

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th or 5th grade.
June 17th at Cold Springs Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)



Camping Season updates

Holiday weekends are always the busiest in our campgrounds. Campground programs will be scheduled for the Fourth of July and Labor Day Weekends this year. These are open to the public, and you don't have to be camping at the park to attend! Join the naturalist at the shelter for these programs. More information on page 3 under Upcoming Events!

Excitement on the river is coming to Cass County this summer and it is called Project AWARE! We encourage you to explore the Nishnabotna River this summer by helping out on a river cleanup! Even if you don't have **any** of the equipment we can get you down that river! Even if you can only help for a day or the whole week! Check out the website below for more information or call our office!

We hope this summer you get out and Enjoy Cass County Parks!

8th Annual Project AWARE is coming to Cass County!



July 10-17; Project AWARE – East & West Nishnabotna Rivers

Contact: Brian Soenen at (515)205-8587

Brian.Soenen@dnr.iowa.gov

www.iowaprojectaware.com

A volunteer river cleanup is heading our way!! This week long, 100 mile river cleanup, canoe approximately 18 river miles a day, and tent camping provided each night. The website is now updated with the registration forms. We will be floating through Monday July 12th to Wednesday July 14th.

Upcoming Conservation Events

Eco Fair and Open House

Saturday April 17th, 1 PM—6 PM

Cold Springs Park

Come find out what Cass County Parks has to offer! Family friendly events, simple ways to GO Green, explore the rich history of the areas, tour our new offices, find out about upcoming events, and kick off earth week RIGHT HERE!



Geocache 101

Thursday April 22nd 6 PM

Atlantic Public Library Community Room

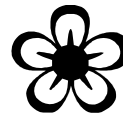
Spend Earth Day learning about a newer technology to help you EXPLORE nature! Time will be spent on “caching” with these units to prepare for our wildflower walk! GPS units will be available for the class or bring your own. **Please pre-register by calling 712-769-2372 and also let us know whether or not you will be providing your own GPS.**

Wildflower Geocaching Walk

Saturday, April 24th- 9AM-Noon (come and go)

Pellett Memorial Woods

Join our Naturalist for a geocaching event to locate the early spring Wildflowers. Find a cache find a wildflower! A beginner? Check Out the class listed above. **GPS units and guides will be available for checkout, please pre-register to guarantee a GPS unit for the event.**



Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival- The 18th annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th. Come visit the famous Hitchcock House (a National Landmark and former stop on the Underground Railroad) just west of Lewis and see tin punching, rope-making, butter making and many other skills that were vital to pioneer survival. This event will be open to the public from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be a \$5 fee for a tour of the Hitchcock House.

Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day

Kids, come to Lake Anita on Saturday, June 5th for a fun morning of fishing (bring your poles) and information! Learn about the fish in Lake Anita, followed by hands on fishing! Prizes will be awarded to participants, no child will leave empty handed! This event is planned in conjunction with Iowa's free fishing weekend so Iowa adults don't have to have a fishing license to join their children! To register meet at the beach parking lot at 10:00 a.m.



Campground program-

July 2nd at 7:00 PM at Cold Springs State Park –Campground shelter

July 3rd at 7:00 PM at Cocklin Fish Farm Shelter

These are open to the public, and you don't have to be camping at the park to attend!

Interesting Trip or Ideas for public programs. We are looking for guest speakers and ideas. We want to showcase our “Local” Talent!

E- Newsletter!

Save a tree, email Lora at lschwendinger@casscoia.us and let her know to add your email to get the email/PDF version of the Conservation Quarterly!

**Cass Co. Cons. Bd.
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, Iowa 51544**

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- ◆ **Making Shelter Reservations-** To reserve the shelter at Cold Springs Park and at Cocklin Fish Farm contact Ryan Lockwood at 769-2372.

People Making a Difference!

- ◆ Thank you to **Bob Voggesser** for feeding and caring for the Trumpeter Swans this past winter!
- ◆ Thank you to **Ken Lawton** for delivering corn to the Trumpeter Swan feeder.
- ◆ Thank you to **Harrison County Conservation** for letting us barrow the Snowshoes once again this year!
- ◆ Thank you to **ISU Extension Cass Co. and 4-H Leadership Council** for helping make our winter camp a success!
- ◆ Thank you to **Dean Downer** for all of his hard work over the past year at the Outdoor Educational Classroom.
- ◆ A continued thank you to **Donna Rourick and Donna Reimers** for maintaining our county's bluebird boxes!

★ **Cass County Conservation Board** ★
★
★ Duane Curtis- Cumberland
★ Phil Rink- Griswold
★ Bob Muldoon- Atlantic
★ Ken Lawton- Lewis
★ John Curry- Massena
★
★ **Staff** ★
★ Micah Lee- Director
★ Lora Schwendinger- Naturalist
★ Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent
★
