



Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board



Spring 2011

Camping Season updates

Spring has begun! Well according to my calendar (I don't think Mother Nature got that note). As it starts to warm up outside and things start to wake up and green up, the Cass County Conservation Board prepares for our busiest time of year.

There are a lot of opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature this time of year. The fish are starting to bite as they begin moving into the shallow areas of lakes and ponds for the warmer water. The crappies will be spawning soon and we know that means some fun action fishing. The Turkey's are gobbling and starting their yearly mating routines of strutting and displaying out in the open fields. Turkey season will be open before we know it (youth season opens April 8th) and runs through May 15th. The song birds are back and will begin nesting soon so get your feeders ready or get your binoculars in hand and get out to our areas for some birding. It's always just nice to get out for a nice quiet walk on one of our trails (just beware it may be muddy as we are still thawing out from this winter).

We are looking forward to another busy camping season in our parks and look forward to seeing everyone this spring and summer. Cold Springs will be open on April 15th, and the water will be turned back on at the Cocklin Fish Farm then as well.

Results of 2011 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 102 checklists, with Ames at our heels with 53 checklists! We beat Adel the number of species reported we had 47, they only had 40. Though Des Moines had the highest 53 species reported. 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	16
Atlantic	77	47
Cumberland	5	6
Griswold	4	8
Lewis	4	12
Marne	0	
Massena	1	14
Wiota	5	14

More results: Only 229 Ring-necked Pheasants individuals were counted in Iowa. 507 Bald Eagle individuals were counted and 18 of the were counted in Cass County.



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 4-6th grade, and \$10 K-3rd grade, includes a t-shirt. We have added SIXTH grade this year, we'll add new to the rotation next year. 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 24th and 25th 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 25th!

K-3rd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis

For children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade
Location for both days is at Sunnyside Park
M'azing Metamorphosis I: June 8th-9th (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) OR
M'azing Metamorphosis II: June 8th-9th (1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)

4th-6th Grade: Fun in Flight

For children that have completed 4th, 5th or 6th grade
June 10th at Sunnyside Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)



Anita & CAM Schools

Deadline May 23rd!

K-3rd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis

for children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade
June 1st and 2nd at Lake Anita (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

4th-6th Grade: Fun in Flight

For children that have completed 4th, 5th or 6th grade.
June 3rd at Lake Anita (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Griswold Comm. Schools

Deadline June 1st!

K-3rd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis

For children that have completed Kdg, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade.
June 15th and 16th at Cold Springs Park (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

4th-6th Grade: Fun in Flight

For children that have completed 4th, 5th, or 6th grade.
June 17th at Cold Springs Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)



Cass County Naturalist's Update!

Iowa Association's of Naturalists have 3 great conferences a year. This spring's Conference was held at the Raccoon River Nature Lodge in West Des Moines. That Nature Lodge just happens to have former Cass County Naturalist Melanie Perry running it. At this conference we happened to have a reunion going on because Andria Cossolotto was also able to attend. The picture above is from left to right Andria Cossolotto, Melanie Perry, and Lora Schwendinger. I, Lora asked each of them to write you a couple sentences to catch up! Andria's: Hello again everyone! My family has lived in State Center for over three years now. Matt continues to teach history at West



Marshall High School and is putting the finishing touches on his masters degree. My days are spent with our two kids, Ava and Mason. Ava will be starting Kindergarten in the fall and is currently keeping busy with swim lessons and preschool. Mason is two years old and loves exploring every corner of his little world. I have also done some children's work at our local library, as well as, some babysitting. Continued on page 3..

I recently attended the annual Naturalist meeting in anticipation of heading back to work in a couple of years and you'll never guess who I ran into!?!

Melanie's: Hello Cass County!!! Where have the years gone? It has been eleven years since we lived in Atlantic! We live in Ankeny, Iowa where I commute to West Des Moines and work as a naturalist for West Des Moines Park and Recreation. Tyler our oldest child is a freshman at UNI and Jordan is a sophomore in high school. We have grown older but Dave and I still have the same interests in our church and in outdoor activities. If you are ever in West Des Moines stop by at Raccoon River Park and say, "Hi!" I would love to see you!

Upcoming Conservation Events

Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday April 16th 9AM -12PM

Cocklin Fish Farm, Griswold, IA

Kick off Earth Week by learning about rain harvesting. After the presentation you will have the opportunity to build a rain barrel. The suggested donation for materials is \$40. **Please pre-register by April 4th calling 712-769-2372 and also if you will be making a rainbarrel.**

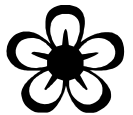


Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 30th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

Join our Naturalist for a hike to locate the early spring Wildflowers.



Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival- The 19th annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th. 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 4th 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- TBA

May 27th at 7:00 PM at Cold Springs State Park -Campground shelter

May 28th 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!



Summer event preview: Movie in the Park, Civil War programs at Hitchcock House and MORE!!

Cass County Conservation now has a Facebook page, search for us and click like!

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!

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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 borrow 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 **Barb Wollenhaupt** for the donation of a Digital Photo Frame.
- ◆ 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 ★
★
