



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2021

Make Plans to Visit Mariposa Park!

Mariposa Recreation Area is open for camping, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and now BOATING! A new boat ramp was installed at the north end of the lake and canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, and boats using electric motors may utilize the lake. A gas motor may be left on and used only to load or unload a boat.

Fish populations are also on the rise after a new stocking was done following the completion of the lake restoration project. In March of 2020, 5,250 2" bluegill were placed in the lake and the west pond. A few days later, 8 pre-spawn bass were stocked in the lake, as well as 6 in the west pond and 4 in the new top west pond. Then in June, 1,300 2" channel catfish were put in the lake and 400 more in the west pond. Finally, in September, 70 adult black crappie were moved to the lake from Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve.

Try out the new fishing jetty on the east side of the lake while the kids play on the playground or use the new playscape trail located adjacent to the shelter house. A new crushed limestone trail and mowed trails also lead you around the park for a beautiful hike. If you haven't checked out Mariposa since it has re-opened, this should definitely be on your summer to-do list!



Caring For Conservation Concert Featuring Slipstream

Saturday, August 28, 6:00-9:00pm
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 local food trucks. Drinks will also be available for purchase. 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.



Below: An aerial photo of Mariposa Park, taken after the lake restoration project was completed. The lake now has a boat ramp and is a great place for paddling around!



2 Conservation News

Wilcox Memorial

We lost a former conservation board member this year. Denis Wilcox of Newton passed away on March 25, 2021, in Tucson, Arizona.

Denis was well-known in the community, having worked for more than 40 years in the banking industry. He served as president of Jasper County Savings Bank and a Regional Vice President of US Bank in the final years of his career. During his working years and in his retirement, Denis served on many community boards and commissions, including the Jasper County Conservation Board of which he was a member for 29 years.

Denis was part of major developments in JCCB history, such as working to create the Chichaqua Valley Trail, developing the 450-acre Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve, and planning a new trail connection between Monroe and Prairie City, now called the Red Rock Prairie Trail.

Denis Wilcox's savvy financial and business expertise lead the conservation board through much change and development on the land, yet he always remained focused upon the importance of environmental education.

After stepping down from his conservation board member role in 2010, Denis continued to volunteer for JCCB, mowing the large expanse of grass at Ashton Park every summer. It is because of this, the conservation board is formally recognizing the large open area at Ashton as "Wilcox Green," and it will be marked by signage and a memorial rock accordingly. There will also be a new entrance sign made of concrete "stone" and metal at Ashton Park in his honor.



Above: Denis Wilcox served on the Jasper County Conservation Board for 29 years.

JCCB Items For Sale

Looking for an easy way you can support Jasper County Conservation? We have several items for sale that not only make great gifts, but the money raised goes directly back into our program budget!

Conservation greeting cards are available in packages of 16 (two of each photo) for \$15/package. The cards feature nature photos from around Jasper County and are blank inside.

Yowie face coverings are still available for \$5/each. They can be worn like a mask, scarf, headband or bandana and have the JCCB butterfly logo.

Uncle Jake's Pure Maple Syrup, produced at the Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve Sugar Shack, is available for \$15/pint.

JCCB t-shirts not only look cool, but show that you support conservation and our projects! We have a heather-blue shirt that says, "I'd Rather Be Exploring Jasper County Parks" and has our conservation logo on the upper back. We are also selling heather-green Uncle Jake's Sugar Shack t-shirts that have the syrup logo on the front. All conservation t-shirts are \$15/shirt.

These items are available for purchase at the JCCB office in the Jasper County Armory/Annex Building in Newton.

Thank you for supporting conservation!



Above: The Sugar Shack at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve has a new bench which was given in memorial of Wesley Krumm.

Public Lake Paddles

July 1, 27 and 28, 6:00-8:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Ahrens Access (west entrance)

July 8, 6:00-8:00 PM at Mariposa Park

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 27 and 28 there will also be paddleboards available.

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, so get your registrations in early! *Fee: \$5.00/person.*



Summer Camp in a Box

A themed summer camp box is available for purchase through the JCCB office this year. The theme this year focuses on STEM activities, including BugBots, solar ovens, kite making and nature journaling. The box also has a large STEM activity book full of information and activities, sure to keep kids busy all summer!

Boxes are \$40 each and can be reserved by calling the JCCB office at (641) 792-9780 or emailing jread@jasperia.org. Please arrange a time to pick up your box at the Jasper County Armory/Annex Building in Newton.

JCCB accepts cash, check or credit card.



Programs at Ashton Observatory

The Ashton Observatory building is still closed for now and hoping to open later this year.

For program updates and 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.

Yoga in the Parks

Saturdays in July, 9:00-10:00am

Jasper County Conservation and City of Newton Parks and Rec departments are partnering to offer free yoga classes at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve and Maytag Park. These classes will be led by Sequoia Fitness. They are free and open to the public; bring your own mat.

The yoga classes will be offered the following days, all from 9:00-10:00am:

July 10 at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

July 17 at Maytag Park in Newton

July 24 at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

July 31 at Maytag Park in Newton

Movie Night at Ashton Park

Saturday, July 17

Ashton Wildwood Park

Check out the new “big screen” at Ashton Park this summer. We are featuring three family-friendly movies at dusk. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets to sit on and a snack. Movies at the park are free and open to the public; there will be popcorn available for a free-will donation. Our third, and last, featured movie this summer leading up to the Slipstream Concert will be “Raya and the Last Dragon”.



4 Upcoming Events/Programs

Hunter Education Course

Wednesday, August 4, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Thursday, August 5, 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.gooutdoorsiowa.com 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.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

10:00–11:00 AM

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton

We are bringing our monthly OWLS programs back! Looking forward to seeing everyone in person again on the second Wednesday of the month, starting August 11th!

August 11—JCCB Update

Find out what has been happening the past year and a half at Jasper County Conservation! Even though programs were cancelled, staff adapted with other fun outdoor opportunities and many park projects were completed. Keri Van Zante, Director, will discuss many of the projects taking place and Katie Cantu, Naturalist, will give a program update.

Off the Beaten Path Trail Race

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 AM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Check-in and day-of registration for the 17th 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 pre-registration forms and directions to Jacob Krumm Preserve, will be at www.jaspercountyconservation.com and on Jasper County Conservation's Facebook page. Proceeds from the trail race and will benefit Jasper Conservation Connection.

120 Hours Outside Challenge

Whether you like to ride a bike, paddle a kayak, or simply enjoy a walk down one of our many nature trails, we'd like to challenge you to spend 120 hours of your time outdoors in 2021. This breaks down to only 2 hours a week!

To keep track of your hours, print off the 120 Hours Outside in 2021 chart on our website, www.jaspercountyconservation.com, and mark off your time each week. You are also welcome to make your own chart to keep track of hours. Once you've reached 120 hours, bring your chart to our office at the Jasper County Armory/Annex Building in Newton and you will receive a prize!

It has been proven over and over again that spending time outdoors not only helps you physically, but also mentally, improving your entire well-being. Something as easy as a walk outside and taking in nature around you can be extremely good for your health!

Need a place to start? Try your luck finding our 120 Hours Outside "leaf" which is hidden in Jasper County Conservation areas. Follow the clues we share on our Facebook page. Once you've found the leaf, take a selfie with it and share the photo with us for online bragging rights. The leaf will be hidden again with new clues the following week. So far this year our leaf has traveled to 16 different areas. If you find the leaf first, you will also be entered in a drawing for a fun conservation gift basket!



Above: The white, laminated "leaf" is traveling around JCCB areas. Look for clues to its location on Jasper County Conservation's Facebook page and be entered in a prize drawing if you find it first!

Environmental Education Extern

Jasper County Conservation has a teacher extern 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 extern will not only assist JCCB naturalists in current summer programming, but will also help provide insight and updates to our curriculum, and will offer summer programs of their own! Please keep watching our website and Facebook page @jaspercountyconservation for program updates.

Meet our teacher extern:

Hello all! My name is Natalie Brimeyer and I am a Truman State University graduate. I graduated with my biology degree in 2019 and went on to pursue a master's degree in Education. At Truman State I was part of the volleyball team for 4 years and was awarded various all-conference awards.

Other than playing volleyball, some of my other hobbies include: hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, and pretty much any other outdoor activity.

As a teacher and lover of the outdoors, I am always trying to learn more about nature. Starting fall of 2021, I will be teaching AP Biology at Southeast Polk High school.

This summer I am looking forward to exploring the variety of parks Jasper County Conservation has to offer as well as organizing and carrying out summer wilderness camps that allow students the opportunity to learn more about the world around them.



Above: Natalie Brimeyer will be working with JCCB staff this summer as a teacher extern.

Summer Bucket List

Are you having a good summer so far? How many outdoor things have you done? If you are looking for ideas of fun things to do outside, here is a list of our favorites! See how many of these you can do this year, and keep track of your hours for the 120 Hours Outdoors in 2021 Challenge (see page 4).

- Go fishing at a county pond
- Watch a movie under the stars at Ashton Park
- Try kayaking at a public paddle
- Roast marshmallows
- Have a picnic
- Go on a bike ride
- Catch fireflies
- Color with sidewalk chalk
- Watch the sunset
- Go bird watching
- Try yoga in an outdoor setting
- Tour a historic site in Jasper County (such as Wagaman Mill)
- Paint rocks
- Take a nature hike
- Go star gazing
- Visit a new park
- Go swimming
- Read a book outdoors
- Attend an outdoor concert (Caring for Conservation Concert at Ashton Park)

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Newton, Iowa
Permit No. 636



Jasper County Conservation Board

M - F 8:00 - 5:00 (641) 792-9780
email: conservation@co.jasper.ia.us
website: www.jaspercountyconservation.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Robyn Friedman Carol Kramer
Doug Smith Andrew Stone
Chris Herbold

STAFF

Keri Van Zante.....Director
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 her donations to the educational program and Bill Yeager for mowing,

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