



Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board



Spring 2013

REAP-CEP Perpetuate a Good Idea Grant

Cass County Conservation has been awarded a REAP-CEP Perpetuate a Good Idea Grant for Outdoor Educational Classroom Nature Trunks. This mini-grant provided funding to Cass County Conservation to complete two Nature Trunks that will be housed at the Outdoor Educational Classroom in Massena, IA. The project has 6 trunks total; the two funded are the Orienteering and the Birds' trunks. Each trunk will contain multi-grade activities on the topic for teachers to use at the Outdoor Educational Classroom.

These trunks are now ready to be used at the Outdoor Educational Classroom. We wanted to facilitate a better outdoor environmental education learning experience of all ages at our Outdoor Educational Classroom. This area is utilized by teachers on field trips with or without a Naturalist present. We hope after they are used, the teachers using them will fill out a survey to help us improve the boxes. Other grant opportunities will be sought for other four Nature Trunks.

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Results of 2013 Great Backyard Bird Count

This year was the first year Cornell Lab of Ornithology changed how the Great Backyard Bird Count results were shown through eBird. We can't tell what the other towns had for the number of checklists. **We can tell you Cass County Birders had a strong showing in the State...** We had 99 checklists, Dallas County (Adel) had 89 checklists. We beat Dallas County also on the number of species reported we had 54, they only had 36. Iowa as a state beat their old checklist record this year, we had 1,317 checklists submitted. 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>
Anita	2
Atlantic	79
Cumberland	5
Griswold	1
Lewis	0
Marne	6
Massena	2
Wiota	4



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. NEW this year a 6th-8th Grade Summer Camp offered in July. Registration fee is \$10 includes a t-shirt (except Adventure camp). If you have questions, please call Lora at 769-2372 or Susan at 243-1132. Please call Cass County ISU Extension Office at 243-1132 to register your child.

Registration Information:

- ◆ The Atlantic school system will register on Registration Night, May 13th and 14th 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.

K-2nd Grade ~Rockin' Reptiles

For children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade. 8 AM– 5 PM. Please bring a sack lunch.
 June 3rd at Sunnyside Park, Atlantic. **Deadline May 14th!**
 June 11th at Cold Springs Park, Lewis. **Deadline May 28th!**
 June 20th at Community Building, Anita. **Deadline June 3rd!**



3rd-5th Grade ~To Earth and Beyond!

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade. 8 AM– 5 PM. Please bring a sack lunch.
 June 14th at Cold Springs Park, Lewis. **Deadline May 14th!**
 June 28th at Community Building, Anita. **Deadline June 3rd!**



6th-8th Grade ~ Outdoor Adventure

For children that have completed 6rd, 7th, or 8th grade. Activities include Fishing, Archery. And Dutch Oven Cooking. Lunch is provided.
 July 11th 8 AM– 5 PM @ Cold Springs Park. **Deadline June 24th!**

Oak Strollers Nature Club for Families

If you've been seeing Oak Stroller activities and wondering what this is, let us explain! Oak Strollers Nature Club is sponsored by Cass County Conservation. We started the events this January. So join us for monthly events to guide your family outdoors! Events will be for all ages. Some events may be public Cass County Conservation and some may occur during the day when school is in. The nature club led by Naturalist, Lora Kanning, gives parents the comfort of exploring nature in Cass County. We'd like to foster an environment where families can bond together as they play, talk, and learn in nature. **The next event will be held at T-bone Trail I80/71 trail head. May 11th 2013, 11 AM.** We will walk/hike/bike/stroll south of the trail head to near Lorah. Bring the whole family, bikes or strollers are welcome. All events are for the purpose of getting families involved in activities outside. **Bring your child and plan to stay and have a great time-making a memory.**

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Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection Program- Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP) provides funding to public and private partners for natural and cultural resource projects, including water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, parks, trails, historic preservation, and more. Conservation Education Program is grants for programs that teach people of all ages about their environment and how to make intelligent, informed decisions about its well-being. For more information about the environmental education opportunities in Cass County, contact Lora Kanning at 712-769-2372 or lkanning@casscoia.us . For more information about the REAP program, contact Tammie Krausman, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319 (Tammie.Krausman@dnr.iowa.gov).

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

Upcoming Conservation Events

Oak Strollers– Strollin' the T-bone

Saturday May 11th 11 AM

T-Bone Trail I80/71 Trailhead

The Oak Strollers is a Nature Club for Families led by Lora Kanning our Naturalist. Let your children explore the natural world! We will walk/hike/bike/stroll south of the trail head to near Lorah. Bring the whole family, bikes or strollers are welcome.



National Bike Week is May 13th -17th.

Bike to Work Day is May 17th

Save some gas and bike around that day or all week!

Campground program– Recycling in Cass County Parks!

May 26th at 7:00 PM at Cold Springs State Park –Campground shelter

Come learn about recycling in Cass County and NEW this year recycling in our Campground at Cold Springs Park. These are open to the public, and you don't have to be camping at the park to attend!



National Trails Day– Trail Ride

Saturday June 1st,

T-Bone Trail I80/71 Trailhead

9:30-10:45AM-Registration

11:45-1PM Lunch (Brayton)

The Cass County portion of the trail ride will ride from the I80/71 trailhead North to Brayton. We will join any Audubon County riders for grilled lunch in the park. \$10 or \$25/ family suggested donation is for lunch and fundraiser to Nishna Valley Trails for further trail development. To register in advance call Bruce Henderson 712-249-8255.



Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day

Kids, come to Lake Anita on **Saturday, June 8th** 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.

Oak Strollers– Campout

Saturday June 22nd 3 PM Cold Springs Park– East Loop Campground

\$20/ family

Learn about camping and Nature safely! You are not required to camp overnight, but participate in activities (including fishing) provided by our Naturalist. All ages welcome, and food/camping fee provided.



John Brown Reenactor

June 23 2-4 PM FREE

Hitchcock House Recreation Area

Kerry Kaltenbernd is John Brown during this program at the Hitchcock House Barn. Learn about this historical figure in Iowa history! This program is sure to be a real treat, come join us!

Summer event preview: Movies in the Park, Music on the Lawn at Hitchcock House and MORE!!

**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 contact Ryan Lockwood at 769-2372.

E– Newsletter!

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

People Making a Difference!

- ◆ Thank you to **Bob Voggesser** for feeding and caring for the Trumpeter Swans this past winter!
- ◆ Thank you to **Zelda Marxen** for donating field guides to our Environmental Education Departments
- ◆ 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 **Dean Downer** for all of his hard work over the past year at the Outdoor Educational Classroom.

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