

# CASS COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD



January 2014

## CONSERVATION UPDATES:

Schedule now for the Great Backyard Bird Count, the count is February 14-17<sup>th</sup>! I will come in give some basic bird ID and run the class through the recording sheets and how to report on line if the teacher would like to go that route! We want the Atlantic area to be #1 again this year! Great for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up!

**Reminder: Snowshoes!** We have our OWN!! Thanks to an Iowa West Foundation grant! I have 5 pairs of snowshoes that fit children 90 lbs. and below. I have 25 pairs fit children weighing up to 175 lbs. and 3 pairs for children over 175 lbs. Here is how it will work, I am leaving five morning and afternoons open in February for snowshoe programs. You can email me and set up a program like you usually would, I will put you on the list for that month (if no snow yet) or if we have snow we can put you in on a date for the program. Another words very flexible!! Think about bundling up your whole class and getting them in the shoes, so 45 mins is preferred for 3<sup>rd</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and below (EVEN preschool!), same amount of time roughly, considering that your children are weighing less than 90 lbs. and we can rotate them in and out in groups of 5. Any green space will work near the schools, and with the least amount of concrete for the snowshoes to be near is best! Cancellation policy: if you do not have outside recess we won't go outside either. If there is no snow you may schedule a snowdate.

Field Trips: Reminder Outdoor Educational Classroom outside Massena is available to all school districts, ALL year round. Classroom/ lodge is heated. Lots of programming options available, including new trunks (Birds and Orienteering) are available, contact Lora. Each trunk will contain multi-grade activities on the topic for teachers to use 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.

## Featured Programs:

Mitten, Backbone Bonanza or Winter Adaptations (pre-K), Owls (1-3) this program is great during Jan and Feb, or Plant Basics (2-3). Programs to fit your schedule although most can take up to 45 min. Please contact me if you do not have a program list!

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

*Future monthly newsletters will be sent to E-MAIL accounts!*

I am hoping that you will continue to use my e-mail account as an easy way to contact me for scheduling programs.

**Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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