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Conservation Quarterly Cass County Conservation Board Winter 2018-2019



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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!

Cass County Conservation on Facebook!

Search Cass County IA Conservation and "like" us on Facebook! Easy way to keep up on events and wildlife sightings around Cass County!

People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Bird Feeder programs!**
Especially to our volunteers that helped with our **Preserving Pellett Memorial Woods Program!**

Camping Coupons

We have camping coupons/certificates available here at the office. These are only \$15 each, good for only Cold Springs Campground, electric hookup or Non-electric camping. They make great gifts!

Cass County Conservation Board Members

Phil Przychodzin- Massena
Rich Govig- Lewis
Judy Kennedy- Atlantic
Luanne Steffens- Griswold
Jerry Hudson- Lewis

Great Backyard Bird Count

The National Audubon Society & Cornell Lab of Ornithology needs every bird enthusiast in North America to count birds February 15th-18th. All you need is a basic knowledge of bird identification! This activity is extremely easy...you watch the birds in your yard, local park, or other natural area for 15 minutes or more and use a tally sheet to record the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time. There are two ways to participate in the bird count, 1. Call the Conservation Board at 712-769-2372 and we will send you everything you need or (you may pick it up in our office) 2. You can visit the Great Backyard Bird Count website at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> and submit your results from there. This is a great family event and the data collected will be used by scientists to analyze bird populations. If you are new to the count please see the Upcoming Programs on the next page. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. Last year Cass County Birders lagged behind in the State...but all county numbers were low last year. We had a great showing of 87 checklists. We ended up holding on to the 1st place, in terms of checklists. Story County had 2nd place this year with 63 checklists, with Johnson county at their heels with 61 checklists! Polk county fell to 4th with 57 checklists but tied with story county for 61 species. I think we can keep our top 5 showing in 2019! With the new eBird system the record keeping is by county so I can not really tell you anymore the species reported for each town, but Cass county as a whole. Iowa as a whole had 103 species reported and 777 checklists which is back closer to our Iowa average! United States reported 660 species and 110,879 checklists. 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. Let's get out there this year keep #1!!

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Upcoming Events

Winter Park Update

Cass County Results

Town	# of Checklists Submitted	51 Species Reported total
Anita	7	
Atlantic	78	
Cumberland	1	
Griswold	0	
Lewis	0	
Marne	1	
Massena	0	
Wiota	0	

More results: Most individuals counted was the Canada Goose, and we had 115 trumpeter swans over that weekend.

Bumper Crop of Trumpeter Swans in Cass County!

At the time of this printing, we had 164 Trumpeter Swans are over-wintering at Schildberg Recreation Area- Lake 4. We had one collared swan from Wisconsin, with its family but they stayed less than a week in December of 2018. We've have had our highest EVER recorded number of Trumpeter Swans this year, on Our former record was 12/28/16 at 150!!! Before 2016 our record was 79 in one day the population is doing great! The swan's official date of arrival was November 12th. There was on that day 10 Trumpeter Swans were here and they stayed more than twenty-four hours. The winners that picked the closest date were Carol, Macy and Nolan!

Winter Park Update!

Cold Springs Park and other South West Iowa ice fishing spots have had unsafe ice lately this early winter. You can signup for weekly fishing reports or look at certain fisheries report. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Reports> On our Facebook page this November we did a feature for #givingtuesday. We want to spotlight our Friends of the Outdoor Classroom; whose mission is to teach our youth to be stewards of the land through education and conservation. If you are interested in donating to this 501(c)3 please contact us and we can get you in touch with their board members. One of the many winter projects we always work on is tree removal. We look for hazard trees and invasive species. Keep a look out for us in any of our parks! We are also rolling out in 2019 surveys! We have one for our Cold Springs Campground experience, one for our Naturalist program experience and we will be asking our teachers and other facilities about their Field Trip experiences at our parks. Listed below you will find the campground and naturalist program survey links, feel free to fill the out we are always looking for suggestions! Cold Springs Camping: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8MCHVH> Cass County Conservation Naturalist Programs: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZCHBJ5L>

Winter Day Camps

FREE. Forms can be found at the quick links section at www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/. Register early, space is limited. Please contact Cass County Extension at 243-1132 for questions

Mammals R' Us Winter Day Camp

For youth in Kdg- 2nd grades.

February 18th 9AM-Noon or 1PM-4PM Atlantic Community Building- Atlantic School District

February 22nd 9AM-Noon Atlantic Community Building- CAM and Griswold Districts

Please register by February 13th. Students will learn about all about Mammals.

Nature Detectives Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades.

March 15th 9AM-4PM - Atlantic Community Building

March 25th 9AM-4PM - Griswold Community Building

Please register by March 8th. Students will explore nature using some detective skills!

Upcoming Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event! All Cass County Programs are FREE unless otherwise stated! Donations for programs are accepted.



Cabin Fever Escape

Saturday, January 19th 1-4PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Got Cabin Fever? Cure it by spending some time outside with family friendly FUN! Bring your mugs, sleds, dress for the weather, and snowshoes will be available! If you get cold, warm and tasty drinks and a movie will be playing inside our lodge! There will be no snow activities planned as well!



Great Backyard Bird Count—See Page 1&2 for more details!! February 15-18th

Monday February 4th 5:00 PM

Atlantic Public Library Community Room

Wednesday February 6th 3 PM

Massena Public Library

Wednesday February 13th 3 PM

Thursday February 14th 3:30pm K-3rd graders 4PM 3rd grade and up

Anita Public Library

Get ready to be involved in a great citizen science project! We will show and explain how to participate in the project. We will also include some tips on identifying birds.

Sweetheart Snowshoe Hike

Friday February 15th 7PM

Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA

We will bring our snowshoes for you to try on! If the sky is clear, the moonlight will light our way! Will be cancelled if not enough snow.



Owl Prowl Hike

Saturday February 16th 7:00 PM

Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA

Drive the short drive and hike off that dinner! We will hike and try to call in various species of Owls that may be in the park that night!

Bluebird Nest Box Program

Saturday March 9th 4PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena, IA

Learn all about placing a bluebird box, and discussing on how to increase the success of your bluebird box. We will discuss bluebird box design, correct placement, and maintenance practices that will increase the success of your efforts.

Mark your Calendars

Cass County's Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet

Saturday, February 23rd Cass County Community Center, Atlantic

Doors open at 5pm Contact Carrington Tolzin at (712)249-2323 for more information.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 27th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

Stay tuned for more on the April programs and Summer Camp Listings in the Spring Newsletter.