



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter Fall 2017

Eclipse Over Jasper County

Hundreds of people came to Ashton Park on Monday, August 21st to get a glimpse of the moon moving in front of the sun, a once in a lifetime event for many people. "The Great American Eclipse," as it was called, appeared as a dramatic 95% totality of the sun in Central Iowa.

A solar eclipse can only occur during a new moon. During this phase, the moon isn't visible because the illuminated side of the moon faces away from the Earth. However, a new moon isn't the only requirement for a solar eclipse. The moon's orbit around Earth is tilted five degrees to Earth's orbit around the sun, which means the moon's shadow usually misses Earth as it passes just above or below Earth during a new moon.

A total solar eclipse occurs over any given location once in about 375 years, on average. The reason experiencing a total solar eclipse is so rare is because the eclipse's path of totality (where on Earth the moon totally blocks the view of the sun's disc) is very narrow, as little as 70 miles across. That's a little less than the distance between Newton and Iowa City.

Eclipse day at Ashton Park was cloudy, even raining at times, but the crowd did get some good views and everyone remained in good spirits.

The Newton Public Library had activities and crafts for kids and several homemade solar viewers were on hand to look through. Everyone attending received a pair of solar glasses to look at the sun with. Inside, NASA's live broadcast was playing on the big screen so eclipse watchers could track the progression as the moon's shadow moved across the United States.

The next total eclipse for North America will happen on April 8, 2024.



Above: Eclipse watchers at Ashton Park get their first good view of the sun through a break in the clouds.



Left: Participants using their homemade solar viewer to see the moon's shadow.

Wanted: Apples & Fall Decorations

At our Fall Festival, volunteers will be demonstrating how apple cider is pressed and give out free samples of the sweet refreshment. Many bushels of apples are needed to provide for the large crowd expected on Saturday, September 30 at Krumm Preserve. If you have apples to spare, please contact us at (641) 792-9780. We will have a drop off area at our office building in the Jasper County Annex/Armory, 1030 W. 2nd St. S. in Newton.

We are also planning some additional night time fun at the Halloween Hike this year. If you have outdoor fall or Halloween decorations that you don't want anymore, please let us know! The Halloween Hike will be Friday, October 27 at Mariposa Park.

A Summer of Fun!

Kids participating in Jasper County Conservation Board's summer camps had a lot in store for them this year. A generous contribution from Newton Noon Kiwanis allowed each participating child to receive a t-shirt appropriately imprinted with the summer camp theme: "The Wild is Waiting". In addition, the funding helped Conservation staff to create camps focusing on cooking wild edible foods, archery, wildlife identification, watersports, camping, and much more! All of the camps quickly overflowed with participants when the registration opened in March. Nearly 300 campers, ages 5 to 16, have spent their summer with Conservation staff being "wild" in ten different camps that spanned 18 days!

Some of the more popular activities included fishing, star gazing, blacklight tracking, bird banding, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, racing down the giant slip-and-slide, taking nature photos and transferring them onto a natural wood frame, outdoor cooking, games, archery, and so much more.

We all had so much fun this summer! A HUGE thank you to the Newton Noon Kiwanis from Jasper County Conservation and summer camp participants for this wonderful learning opportunity! Please contact naturalists Katie or Greg if you have any questions about our summer programming.



Thank you Newton Kiwanis for sponsoring summer camps!



Congratulations Junior Naturalists!

Kyra, Kaylin, and Nathan Hauber, of Newton, went above and beyond this summer to earn their Iowa Junior Naturalist badge and certificate.

The Junior Naturalist program is offered every year for kids, ages 6-12, to encourage them to experience (and share with adults) programs offered by local County Conservation Boards, the Iowa DNR, local libraries and nature centers, YMCA camps, 4H, or any other programs with a nature theme. In addition, it encourages participants to work on independent activities.

The requirements to earn a Junior Naturalist award are to attend three public programs and complete two independent activities, including reading a nature book, fishing, hunting, camping, biking, hiking, etc. Kyra, Kaylin and Nathan attended summer camps offered by Jasper County Conservation and they reported about their own wildlife observation experiences.

For more information about Junior Naturalists, please contact Katie Cantu at the JCCB office.

Right: Kyra, Nathan, and Kaylin Hauber get ready for a day of summer camp at Krumm Preserve. They completed the 2017 Iowa Junior Naturalist program.



Monarch Migration

Tuesday, September 12, 6:30-7:30 PM
Maytag Park, Newton

Join Jasper County Conservation for a fun, educational program on Monarch Butterflies. The program will include everything you need to know about monarchs and what you can do to help them. The group will tag and release monarchs before they fly to Mexico for the winter. Please meet at the east parking lot. This program will be cancelled in the event of rain.

Off the Beaten Path Trail Race

Saturday, September 23, 9:00 AM
Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Registration for the 13th 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.

Proceeds from the trail race will benefit Jasper Conservation Connection. Further information, including registration forms and directions to Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve, can be found online at www.jaspercountyconservation.com.



Programs at Ashton Observatory

The Ashton Observatory telescopes will be open for public programs through the end of October on Saturday nights at 8:00pm. There will be talks given in the observatory, followed by observing through the telescopes.

The telescopes will be operated by the Des Moines Astronomical Society (DMAS). For more information, check out their website at www.dmastronomy.com.

Several DMAS members will be at our Halloween Hike on October 27th with their telescopes, sharing views of the night sky. *See page 4 for more details.*

Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off

Saturday, September 30, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Celebrate fall with us at Krumm Preserve! We are accepting entries for a chili cook off. Your favorite recipe will be up against other registrants and determined by event participant's votes. Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Please have your registration form in to the conservation office by Wednesday, September 27th. Forms can be found at www.jaspercountyconservation.com.

For those who just want to enjoy some good food and family fun, please join us for wagon rides around the trail, a prairie maze, zombie archery shoot, atlatl pumpkin hunt, scavenger hunt, face painting, apple cider, and music by Review Mirror. Newton Noon Kiwanis will be selling drinks and pizza by the slice. Please bring the whole family, your appetites, and lawn chairs.

Admission for the activities is \$5.00 per person, \$20.00 per family; ages 6 and under are free. Chili cook off registrants will receive free admission.



The 13th Annual Halloween Hike

Jasper Your Friendly Host
presents

Nature's Glow Show

Friday, October 27, 6:00 PM
Mariposa Recreation Area

This is a fun and educational, *not* scary, event featuring skits performed by Newton Community Theatre actors and members of Jasper Conservation Connection.



Hikers will step into a radio show, meeting various "glowing" characters along the trail and listening to some familiar and fun songs that span over the decades!

Hour-long hikes will begin at 6:00 PM and will depart every 15 minutes. Each time slot can accommodate around 25 hikers. The last hike will begin at 8:00 PM. Families with young children are encouraged to come earlier in the evening.

The hikes will end with the very popular black-light animal tracking, glow in the dark face painting, and stargazing with the Des Moines Astronomical Society. Participants will also be able to roast marshmallows while enjoying music by the fire!

The cost is \$3.00 per person. Children under age 3 are admitted free. Youth under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



Youth Mentored Hunt

The Jasper County Pheasants Forever Chapter will be offering a youth mentored hunt on October 14, for youth 12 to 16 years old, who have successfully completed the Hunter Education course. Pheasants Forever is offering this FREE event at Wild Feather Hunt Club in Baxter to allow young adults the opportunity to take part in a safe and successful pheasant hunt.

The day will include safety and ethics training, a pheasant hunt, and lunch. All participants will receive a free youth Pheasants Forever hat and hunting vest. Group size is limited to 12 and it typically fills up quickly, so please register early! Visit www.jaspercountyconservation.com and download an application, or an application may be requested at the Jasper County Conservation Office.

Online Hunter Education Course

Exam and Field Day

Tuesday, November 7, 6:00-9:00 PM

Izaak Walton League Clubhouse, Newton

This field day will be offered by the Jasper County Conservation Board and the Emerson Hough Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

It is necessary that students complete the online course study found at www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Hunter-Education and print off their field day voucher prior to the class. Students will not be admitted into the class without their vouchers.

All hunter education registration must be completed online. The DNR requires registration online at <https://register-ed.com/programs/iowa>. Children under 18 years old will be required to register under a parent or guardian's account.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building,
1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton

Come for coffee and a short presentation. All programs are from 10:00-11:00 AM unless noted otherwise.

Sept. 13—Garden Grillout

Sample a variety of produce fresh from the garden and collect ideas on how to cook and enjoy the season's harvest. Bring your own recipes to share!

Oct. 11—Blank Park Zoo

Zoo Curator Chad Comer will talk about his job and what working with the "large and dangerous" critters involves.



Nov. 8—Mariposa Lake Update

Learn what has been happening at Mariposa Park lately and about the lake restoration project that is just getting underway with Jasper County Conservation Director Keri Van Zante.

Dec. 13—Evergreen Wreaths

Make your own fresh evergreen wreath to take home in this hands-on, holiday program! Preregistration is required for this program.



Mariposa Park Update

The Mariposa Lake Restoration Project is moving right along, as is evident by a quick visit to the park. Lake levels are currently being drawn down by JCCB staff so that interested contractors can see what they might be dealing with if they are the successful bidder for the project.

The bid letting for the project will be held on September 21, 2017. If a bid is accepted, a construction contract will be created and the project will be slated to begin in November.

In addition to viewing the lake project, visit the park to check out the new memorial family grill area that was created for our dear friend Raymond Brown. So many individuals and groups loved Raymond and donated for this project, that we were also able to expand and add an additional bench to the playground area. Thank you Raymond for being a good friend and supporter of conservation.



Above: Fire ring and benches at Mariposa Park were purchased and installed in memory of Raymond Brown.

Roorda Wildlife Area Update

More activity is happening at the Roorda Wildlife Area! The roadway and parking area that allows boat and handicapped access has been completed. A gravel boat ramp was also created on the southeast side of the lake this past summer. The improvements were made possible by a generous donation from Leighton State Bank in Monroe.

Jasper County Conservation will be purchasing and installing a handicapped accessible fishing dock in the next year, as well as beginning work on a trail system around the lake.

Roorda Wildlife Area is located just off Hwy. 163 at the Monroe exit.



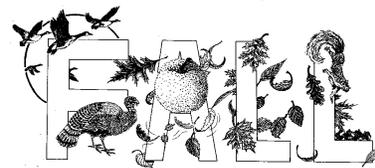
Above: The new boat ramp at Roorda Wildlife Area gives more access to the lake.

Right: Aerial photo of Mariposa Lake as the water level is being drawn down. Thanks to Alex Kingery for getting this amazing shot using a drone.



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

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Janet Rinehart.....Office Manager

A Big Thank You To....

Volunteers who helped at the annual Fishing Derby, Bob and Connie Van Ersvelde for hosting a summer camp bird banding program, Denise Christian for taking summer camp photos, DMAS for hosting Junior Naturalist Camp at Ashton Observatory, volunteer instructors who taught hunter education, and Newton Noon Kiwanis for sponsoring our summer camp programs.

Thank you!!

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, 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