



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2018

New Faces at JCCB

Two new staff members have begun work at the conservation department this past spring. Please take a minute to meet Jade Read, Administrative/Environmental Education Assistant, and Ethan Vander Pol, Maintenance Technician, and help us welcome them to Jasper County!

Hello, my name is Jade! I enjoy camping with my husband Chris and our dogs, as well as painting, reading and cooking. I am an avid gardener and spend most of my time outdoors. I am so excited to be a part of Jasper County Conservation; it's something I have always wanted.



I graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Animal Ecology focusing on environmental education. My degree has taken me many places like the Bahamas, Costa Rica and even Green Bay, Wisconsin. I am looking forward to exploring Jasper County and making my mark on JCCB. I'll be presenting at the August 8th OWLS program so please come visit me then (see page 4 for more details) or stop by the Armory Building between 9am-2pm. I'll be helping Katie and Greg with programs as well.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community and giving me this opportunity. See you in the parks!

Hi, my name is Ethan Vander Pol and I am the new Maintenance Technician for Jasper County Conservation. I am beyond excited to be able to fill the position. I previously worked seasonally for JCCB for the four summers that I was in college. I graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Natural Resource Ecology Management-Wildlife and have a minor in Criminal Justice Studies.

After graduating, I worked seasonally for the Marion County Conservation Board for almost 2 years. I then took a job as a natural resource manager for Guthrie County Conservation Board.

I have always loved working with my hands and being in the field, so the maintenance technician position fits perfectly. I spend my time away from work hunting, fishing, and spending time with my wife, Dallas. I look forward to being able to assist with maintaining and improving the beautiful areas that JCCB manages. If you happen to see me out and about feel free to say hi!



2 Conservation News

Turbine Repairs Complete

Lynnville Historical Society

Spring usually brings cleaning and that is what is happening at Wagaman Mill in Lynnville. Last year, the teeth in our turbine were starting to break off. Without this wheel, the mill loses its uniqueness as one of the few that still runs! So, we applied for a grant from Hometown Pride Lynnville United Fund and were awarded \$1,500 for this project. This was half the cost we were quoted from a company in Des Moines.

Walt Van Maanen, a Historical Society board member, designed, crafted, cut, and made 62 wooden teeth for our wheel. It takes 50 to run the wheel and Walt made 12 extra for spares.

The teeth are made from oak soaked in linseed oil for restoration. As you can see by the photos, they are no ordinary teeth!

In the fall of 2017, Kent Dunsbergen, JCCB Maintenance Technician, replaced 12 teeth to see if they would work. The week of March 19, 2018, the remainder of the teeth were placed in the wheel. This was no small task! The water gate had to be closed, the pit had to be drained out, the mud and debris had to be scooped out of the pit, and then came the task of climbing down into the pit to work on the wheel. And now it works!

Along with this restoration, new spindles in the railing around the pulleys and belts were added to insure safety for our visitors.

We want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to the Hometown Pride Lynnville United Fund for the

grant, to Kent and Walt for their expertise in keeping our wheelhouse in good running order, and to all the volunteers who help out with tours throughout the year. We also want to thank those who have donated in any way to our Lynnville Historical Society through monetary gifts and memorials.

So on a lazy Sunday afternoon, if you are looking for something to do, drive to Lynnville for a visit to the museum. We are open from Memorial Day through September on Sunday afternoons from 1-4pm. We are open by appointment for those who call ahead. Call (641) 527-2080, which forwards to Garnet Gertsma, who will line up tours as needed.



Above: Kent Dunsbergen and Walt Van Maanen spent many hours replacing the turbine teeth.

Below: The new wooden turbine teeth are helping to run the wheel at Wagaman Mill. The wooden teeth run with the metal gear to operate the pulleys and belts inside the wheelhouse.



Above: A new turbine tooth made of oak by Walt Van Maanen.



What's New in Jasper County

Roorda Wildlife Refuge is open for shoreline fishing and just got another new update. The 23-acre area is located just off the Monroe exit of Hwy 163. A road was installed last year so now users can access the entire area, and this spring a new handicapped accessible fishing dock and boat ramp was added. For safety reasons, swimming in the lake is not permitted.



Chichaqua Valley Recreation Trail has an improved bridge, thanks to Karl Peters with the Friends of the Chichaqua Valley Trail (CVT). Along with JCCB staff Kent Dunsbergen and Ethan Vander Pol, Peters resurfaced the bridge near Mingo.



Work continues on the lake restoration project at Mariposa Park. Drone photos show the progress being made on sediment removal. Work is scheduled to be completed later this fall.



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.

Programs at Ashton Observatory

The Ashton Observatory telescopes will be open for public programs at 8:00 PM Saturday evenings, April-October. There will be talks given in the observatory followed by observing through the telescopes. For more detailed information, go to the DMAS website at www.dmastronomy.com.

Hunter Education Course

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

Thursday, August 9, 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.iowadnr.gov/huntered 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.



Attention, Kids!

Kids ages 6-12 years old can earn the official Junior Naturalist certificate and 2018 embroidered Wild Rose Badge by attending any three JCCB programs and doing two independent activities this summer! Ask for a record book at the JCCB office.

4 Upcoming Events/Programs

Public Lake Paddles

June 14 and 21, 6:00-8:00 PM

July 10, 12, 19 and 24, 6:00-8:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Ahrens Access (west entrance)

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 10 and 12 there will also be paddleboards available to check out.

Participants must register for these programs by filling out a form, available online at www.co.jasper.ia.us 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 per person.*



Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

10:00–11:00 AM

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton

July 11—Hiking the Grand Canyon

Gordon Brand will share photos and stories from his adventures hiking the Grand Canyon and discuss the area's unique geology.

August 8—Get to Know Jade Read

Meet our Administrative/Environmental Education Assistant, Jade Read. Jade is an Iowa State graduate who has had some amazing opportunities, including a summer of researching sea turtles in Costa Rica. Come help us welcome Jade to the JCCB!

September 12—From Bees to Bottle, Making Mead

Wayne and Michelle Spohnheimer, owners of Buzzed Bee Meadery in Melbourne, Iowa, will talk about making mead and how their hobby turned into a growing business. As the oldest fermented beverage, mead is making a comeback and Buzzed Bee is the first exclusive mead producer in the state.



Bison Day at the Refuge

Saturday, August 4, 9:00 AM-2:00PM

Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge



Join the fun at this free and family-friendly celebration of bison and the prairie. Music, weaving, rope-making, archery, games and crafts will be available for all ages! See live bison and elk and compete in a bison chip throwing contest! Bison burger lunch available for purchase. Call (515) 994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryszyk@fws.gov for more information.

Pedaler's Jamboree

Saturday and Sunday, August 25 and 26

Chichaqua Valley Trail, Baxter

The 4th annual bicycle-music festival called "Pedaler's Jamboree Iowa" will again be held between Baxter and Bondurant for two fun days of music, food and riding. On Saturday, registered riders will be encouraged to leave Baxter on the Chichaqua Valley Trail by 11:00am in the morning. From there they will proceed down the trail for the day's ride to Bondurant. Starting at 9:30am in Ira, bands will play for three to four hours in the towns along the trail, with food and drink vendors in all communities. On Saturday night camping will be at Lake Petocka in Bondurant. Saturday night's music will feature bands playing on a major stage. The ride on Sunday will leave Bondurant between 7:00-9:00am in the morning for the return to Baxter, with bands playing in towns along the way.

Registration is now open. Participants can register at www.pedalersjamboreeiowa.com.

Off the Beaten Path Fall Fest

Saturday, September 29, 9:00 AM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Mark your calendars for these two great JCCB events, combined this year into one big fall celebration! Off the Beaten Path participants will enjoy the beautiful scenery of the preserve while running in a 6K race or a 3K run/walk. Fall Fest activities will include wagon rides, the prairie maze, archery, fresh apple cider, music, and more! Keep watching for more details on Facebook @jaspercountyconservation.

Environmental Education Externs

Jasper County Conservation has two teacher externs working with us on EE programming 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.

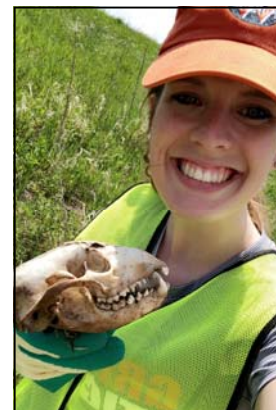
Our externs are both local teachers who will not only assist JCCB naturalists in current summer programming, but will also help provide insight and updates to our curriculum, and will offer some summer programs of their own! Please keep watching our Facebook page @jaspercountyconservation for program updates, or our website at www.co.jasper.ia.us.

Meet our teacher externs:

Angie Richards is a high school science teacher at Lynnville Sully High School. She is very excited to help out at Jasper County Conservation this summer! Angie loves hands-on activities, nature and astronomy. She hopes to provide outdoor adventures for all ages this summer.



Carly Sis grew up in Denison, Iowa and is a 2016 graduate of Wartburg College. She is in her second year at Grinnell Middle School where she teaches 6th grade science. Carly is also the high school JV volleyball coach and assistant girls tennis coach in Grinnell. In her free time, she enjoys spending as much time outdoors as possible, exploring, and traveling.



Conservation Crew Update

Jasper County Conservation's first youth Conservation Crew has already accomplished a lot this summer. A small group of students, with ages ranging from 12-18, have already completely reworked the butterfly garden at Mariposa Park. The garden was becoming overgrown with grass and weeds, and the crew spent a morning digging, planting, putting down new landscape fabric, and laying a new stepping stone path. To finish it, the crew will be spreading river rock around the plants, adding a larger butterfly puddling area, and re-setting the brick edgers.

Other projects on the list for this summer include invasive brush removal and trail work. Mariposa Park is still closed to the public while the lake restoration continues, however, the work can be viewed from the highway. The park is anticipated to be open later this fall.



Above and Right: Youth Conservation Crew members work at the Mariposa butterfly garden.

Jasper County Conservation Board
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Jasper County Conservation Board

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Greg Oldsen.....Naturalist
Dennis Cooling.....Park Officer
Jerry Ratliff.....Park Officer
Kent Dunsbergen.....Maintenance Technician
Ethan Vander Pol.....Maintenance Technician
Jade Read.....Admin/EE Assistant

A Big Thank You To...

Newton Noon Kiwanis for sponsoring JCCB summer camps and all the volunteers who helped this spring with school field trips.



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