



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2023

Caring for Conservation Golf Classic

The first annual Caring for Conservation Golf Classic went off with a bang at Westwood Golf Course in Newton on Saturday, May 20th. We had 19, four-person teams and 16 sponsors. The turnout was great, the weather was beautiful, and participants especially enjoyed the golf ball cannon drive, where golfers could donate \$5 and have the opportunity to drive their ball out of a pressurized cannon.

In total, the tournament raised \$10,621.68 for the future Jasper County Conservation Nature Center. We are now on the tail end of being fully funded for Phase One of this dream project. Thank you to all the participants, sponsors and volunteers who made this event such a success. We hope to continue this fundraiser in future years!

Right: A golfer wins golf balls in the “Silly Putt-y” game while wearing googly eye glasses.



Conservation Tops the \$2 Million Mark Raised for the Nature Center Project!

Jasper County Conservation just celebrated raising over \$2million for the nature center project! With this exciting accomplishment, engineering will begin for Phase 1 of the nature center this summer with a goal of construction starting in 2024! Such exciting news, but we are not done yet! Phase 1 is the education center itself, but Phase 2 and 3 include a maintenance building, outdoor restroom, and a three season pavilion for outdoor education and events.

Thank you so much to our supporters!

Thank You to Our Sponsors of the Caring for Conservation Golf Classic

Main Sponsors:

Newton Chapter of Izaak Walton League



Gregg Young Automotive Group



Other Sponsors:

Fritz & Carol Kramer
Dodd's Trash and Recycling
Edward Jones
Read Construction
Terpstra PHC
Walker, Billingsley & Bair
Tru Bank
DC Sports
4 Seasons Trailer
Armored Angel
Doug and Cindy Smith
Indian Creek Tree Service
Dimensions Accounting

Right: A golfer tees off using the golf ball cannon at the Caring for Conservation Golf Classic.



2 Conservation News

Volunteer Work This Spring

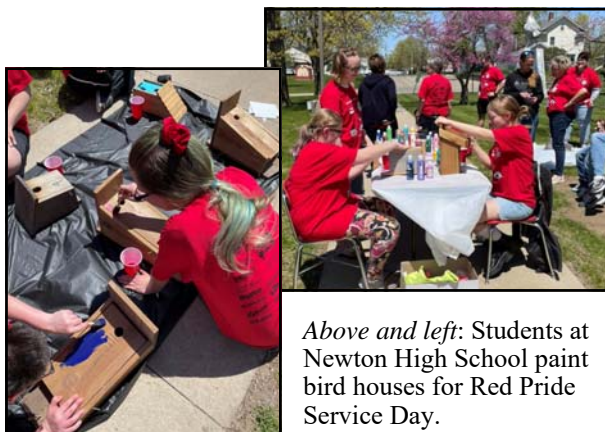
Employees from Chevron Renewable Energy Group volunteered for two full days with Jasper County Conservation this spring! The dedicated staff spent a day at Mariposa on the Nature Playscape Trail and then another day at Uhlenhopp Arboretum removing tree cages. Thank you so much to Chevron for your dedication to our community and the environment!



Left and Below: Staff from Chevron Renewable Energy volunteering in county parks.



Newton High School Extended Core students painted bird houses with Jasper County Conservation Staff during Red Pride Service day this year. The bird houses are now on display along the Chichaqua Valley Trail in Baxter. The group also painted houses last year and those are located at the Nature Playscape Trail at Mariposa Park. Stop by and check out this cool artwork created by an even COOLER group of kids!



Above and left: Students at Newton High School paint bird houses for Red Pride Service Day.

Fruit trees were planted at Uhlenhopp Arboretum this spring to start a new “Edible Forest” area at the park. The initial trees were purchased with donations and planted with volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church and 1000Trees in Grinnell. A variety of apple, pear, cherry, and plum were planted. Jasper County Conservation plans to add more trees as funding becomes available!



Nature Center Fundraising Challenge

Great news, Conservation Friends! We have received word from a very generous Environmental Education Center donor who would like to challenge all of our supporters to give to the project now! This supporter will match the first \$25,000 we receive from now until we reach that \$25,000! That means your donation will be doubled right away! Here’s how you can give:

1. An online donation can be made at <https://jasperia.ejoinme.org/jaspercountyconservation> (click the "Donation Page" button at the top left of the page)
2. Donations can be made to Jasper County Conservation, 1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton, Iowa, 50208
3. Donations can also be made to Jasper Community Foundation in the name of the Environmental Education Center and mailed to P.O. Box 1332, Newton, Iowa 50208
4. Or, stop in and see us! We LOVE to talk about this special project! We accept cash, check, and credit card donations at our office located at 1030 W. 2nd St. S. in Newton.

Thanks for helping us reach our fundraising goal!



Above: Architect’s image of the Environmental Education Center.

UTV Tours at Uhlenhopp Arboretum

Jasper County Conservation is providing UTV tours at Uhlenhopp Arboretum and Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve for individuals who aren't able to hike and view the beauty of our natural areas.

Tours are 1 hour long and can accommodate up to 5 people. Please call (641) 792-9780 to reserve a spot!

Tours in July are at Uhlenhopp Arboretum at the following times:

July 6, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

July 13, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

July 19, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

July 26, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

July 27, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

Uhlenhopp Arboretum is located at 2706 E 146th St N, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Tours in August are at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve at the following times:

August 2, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

August 3, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

August 10, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

August 17, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

August 23, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

August 24, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

August 30, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

August 31, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00AM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve is located at 15148 Jacob Ave., Grinnell, IA 50112.



Programs at Ashton Observatory

The Ashton Observatory telescopes at Ashton Wildwood Park 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 Des Moines Astronomical Society's (DMAS) website at www.dmastronomy.com.

Scavenger Hunt 2023

We had more people request another type of scavenger hunt and so here it is! We are challenging participants to solve riddles about something specific in Jasper County Conservation parks. You will have to find wherever the riddle takes you in the park to get the answer.

A riddle will be posted on our Facebook page, @jaspercountyconservation, the first Friday of every month. If you are not on Facebook, you can contact Naturalist Katie Cantu by email for the riddles at kcantu@jasperia.org. You may view all posted riddles in the "Jasper County Scavenger Hunt" event link on our Facebook page and you have all year to collect the answers. Please do not share your answers on social media so that everyone has a chance to find them on their own!

Each of the twelve riddle answers will be used at the end of the year to solve one last puzzle. Once you've solved the puzzle, send or bring us your answer by December 31st and you'll be entered into a drawing for a free, one night stay at the Uhlenhopp Arboretum cabin! Good luck, and enjoy your county parks!



Hook, Line and Sinker Camp for Kids

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Friday, June 30, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Newton Izaak Walton League

Fee: \$15.00; limit 16 kids

Join us in this fun camp that's all about fishing! Kids can participate in this workshop designed to get them outdoors and enjoying Iowa's many waterways and the fish that inhabit them. Kids will learn about fishing rules & regulations, fishing tackle, how to identify and clean their catch for consumption, and a whole lot more.

The event will include guided fishing so make sure to bring a pole if you have one. We can provide poles if needed. This event is outdoors and near water so please dress accordingly and wear sunscreen. Kids are also encouraged to bring a small snack and a water bottle. Lunch is not provided. Registration and payment for this camp must be made at <https://jasperia.ejoinme.org/jaspercountyconservation>.



4 Upcoming Events/Programs

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

10:00–11:00 AM

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 otherwise noted.

July 12—ISU Extension Inspiration Garden

Carol Camp, Jasper County ISU Extension and Outreach Program Coordinator, will talk about the Jasper County Master Gardener “Inspiration Garden” community project. Participants will get to see a 3D virtual walk through of the planned gardens. Carol will also explain some of the things happening in our area with Master Gardeners and Master Conservationist programs.

August 9—Chronic Wasting Disease in Iowa

Emma Kring, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Specialist with the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau, will talk about how the DNR has been monitoring CWD in white tail deer and are working to fight the spread of this 100% fatal disease. Learn how landowners and hunters can help stop the spread.

Public Lake Paddles

June 22, 6:00-8:00 PM

July 11, 13 and 18, 6:00-8:00 PM

August 8, 6:00-8:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve
Ahrens Access (west entrance)

Kayaks and paddleboards 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.

Participants must register for these programs by filling out a form, available online at www.jaspercountyconservation.com 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/person.*



Women in the Woods With Wine:

Paddleboarding

Friday, July 14, 6:00-9:00 PM

Mariposa Recreation Area

Join a naturalist for a guided trip around Mariposa Lake on paddleboards, followed by a campfire and wine to taste. This program is for women ages 21+ who are interested in getting outside. Become more comfortable and knowledgeable about the natural world as you unwind and have fun. Preregistration is required; deadline to sign up is July 7. Please call (641) 792-9780 or email kcantu@jasperia.org to register. There is limited space. *Fee: \$10, includes boat rental, lifejacket and refreshments.*

Hunter Education Course

Wednesday, August 2, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Thursday, August 3, 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.gooutdoorsiowa.com 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.



Off the Beaten Path Trail Race

Saturday, September 23, 9:00 AM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Check-in and day-of registration for the 19th 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.

Further information, including pre-registration forms and directions to Jacob Krumm Preserve, will be at www.jaspercountyconservation.com and on Jasper County Conservation’s Facebook page. Proceeds from the trail race will benefit Jasper Conservation Connection.

Environmental Education Externs

Jasper County Conservation has two teacher externs working with us on EE programming again 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 will not only assist JCCB naturalists in current summer programming, but will also help provide insight and updates to our curriculum, and will offer summer programs of their own! Please keep watching our website and Facebook page @jaspercountyconservation for program updates.

Meet our teacher externs:

Stacy Decoster

“Hi, my name is Stacy DeCoster and I can't wait to join Jasper County Conservation this summer! I am from Grinnell, IA where I have been teaching biology and general science for the past 7 years. Before moving to Grinnell, I went to the University of Iowa where I graduated with an undergraduate degree in Biology and a Master's in Secondary Science Education.

I enjoy gardening, bike riding, and cooking in my free time! Being outside in nature is my very favorite thing so I'm excited to have this opportunity to explore more of Jasper County parks. I also have a passion for conservation so I can't wait to learn all Jasper County Conservation has to offer.”



Above: Stacy DeCoster will be working with JCCB staff this summer as a teacher extern.

Jarret Horn

“My name is Jarret Horn, and I am the new ag teacher and FFA advisor at Lynnville-Sully High School. I previously served as the ag and industrial tech teacher at Berg Middle School in Newton. I'm excited to work with Jasper County Conservation this summer and learn more about the natural resources we have available in our county and how our young people can benefit from them!

Working at the JCC is particularly exciting for me as I will be working with a lot of the youth programs this summer, many of which I remember attending and participating in myself as a kid. I am also interested in the work that JCC does with pollinator and fishing habitat management and their work in water conservation.

In my spare time, I farm in Jasper County with my wife and two kids. I enjoy spending my spare time outdoors fishing, being with my family on the lake, or just strolling through our pastures. I can't wait to meet folks this summer at JCC events and make some new friends along the way!”



Above: Jarret Horn will be working with JCCB staff this summer as a teacher extern.

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

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Jasper County Conservation Board

M - F 8:00 - 5:00 (641) 792-9780
email: conservation@co.jasper.ia.us
website: www.jaspercountyconservation.com

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Ethan Vander Pol.....Maintenance Technician
Jacob Arrowood.....Maintenance Technician

A Big Thank You To...

Ina Heidemann for her donations to the educational program, Brad Van Zante and Kraig Holubar for providing UTV tours, volunteers who helped build and paint kestrel boxes, Glenda Duffus, Chris Noel, Mark Pollastrini, Pam and Andy Stone, Heidi Holley, Ina Heidemann and the Lynnville Historical Society for volunteering their time to help with school field trips, Darrell Batterson and Chris Read for being guides at the Youth Turkey Hunt, and a huge thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors who helped make the first conservation golf tournament a success! 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, 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