



Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board



Spring 2014

Camping Season updates

Spring has begun! As it starts to warm up outside and things start to wake up and green up, the Cass County Conservation Board prepares for our busiest time of year.

There are a lot of opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature this time of year. The fish are starting to bite as they begin moving into the shallow areas of lakes and ponds for the warmer water. The crappies will be spawning soon and we know that means some fun action fishing. The song birds are back and will begin nesting soon so get your feeders ready or get your binoculars in hand and get out to our areas for some birding. It's always just nice to get out for a nice quiet walk on one of our trails (just beware it may be muddy as we are still thawing out from this winter).

Cold Springs will be open on April 1st, and the water will be turned back on as soon as the weather allows.

We are looking forward to another busy camping season in our parks and look forward to seeing everyone this spring and summer.

Results of 2014 Great Backyard Bird Count

Cass County Birders Are 3rd in the State... Cass County was once again very well represented in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)! We have a new leader: Johnson County 132 checklists and 50 species. Dallas County (Adel) had 2nd place again this year with 102 checklists, with Des Moines at our heels with 87 checklists! Species count Scott county had the most at 55 but only 50 checklists. 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 102 species reported and 1,199 checklists! United States reported 644 species and 118,949 checklists. The GBBC is a global bird count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. 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. Congratulations Cass County on a wonderful response! You can explore the results at <http://ebird.org/ebird/gbbc/eBirdReports?cmd=Start>.

Cass County Results

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Checklists Submitted</u>	<u>38 Species Reported total</u>
Anita	4	
Atlantic	82	
Cumberland	1	
Griswold	1	
Lewis	0	
Marne	7	
Massena	3	
Wiota	0	

More results: Only 7 Ring-necked Pheasants individuals were counted in Cass County, the most at one time was 15 in Black Hawk County. 100 Bald Eagle individuals were counted at one time in Scott County.



Summer Camps



The Cass County Conservation Board has joined with the Cass County ISU Extension Office to sponsor summer camps for the youth of Cass County. These camps were developed to give children a chance to have fun exploring and learning about nature. Registration fee \$10 3-5th grade, and \$10 K-2nd grade, includes a t-shirt. We have added new adventure camps 6-8th grade this year, this years theme is Forestry. If you have questions, please call Lora at 769-2372 or Beth at 243-1132.

Registration Information:

- ◆ The Atlantic school system can register on Summer Registration Night in May at the Washington School Gym.
- ◆ All other county school systems will have forms passed out to school children in May that will explain the registration process.
- ◆ If your children are home schooled, please call 243-1132 for registration information.

6th-8th Grade ~ Outdoor Adventure

For children that have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. This camp highlights a Natural Resource job and an outdoor recreation activity. Activities this year include Forestry activities, Geocaching and Dutch Oven Cooking. Busing is available from Cass Co. Community center. Lunch is provided, camp cost is \$10. July 10th 8 AM– 5 PM @ Cold Springs Park. **Deadline June 27th!**

Atlantic Schools ~Deadline June 6th!



K-2nd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis

For children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade.
Location for both days is at Sunnyside Park
M'azing Metamorphosis I: June 16th-17th (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) OR
M'azing Metamorphosis II: June 16th-17th (1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)



3rd-5th Grade: Fun in Flight

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade.
June 13th at Sunnyside Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
Please bring a sack lunch.

CAM Schools

Deadline May 23rd!

K-2nd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis

for children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade.
May 29th and 30th at Lake Anita (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

3rd-5th Grade: Fun in Flight

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade.
June 5th at Lake Anita (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
Please bring a sack lunch.

Griswold Comm. Schools

Deadline May 23rd!

K-2nd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis

For children that have completed Kdg, 1st, or 2nd grade.
June 2nd and 3rd at Cold Springs Park (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

3rd-5th Grade: Fun in Flight

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade.
June 6th at Cold Springs Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
Please bring a sack lunch.

Cass County Conservation on Facebook!

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

Camping Coupons

We have camping coupons/certificates available here at the office. These are only \$12 each, good for only Cold Springs Campground, electric hookup or Non-electric camping. They make great gifts!

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!

Interesting Trip or Ideas for public programs. We are looking for guest speakers and ideas. We want to showcase our “Local” Talent!

Upcoming Conservation Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event!

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 26th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

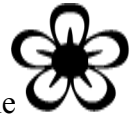
Join our Naturalist for a hike to locate the early spring Wildflowers.

Wildflower Geocaching Walk

Saturday, April 26th– 10AM-Noon (come and go)

Pellett Memorial Woods

Join our Naturalist for a geocaching event to locate the early spring Wildflowers. Find a cache find a wildflower! Time will be spent on “caching” with these units. GPS units will be available for the class or bring your own. **Please pre-register by calling 712-769-2372 and also let us know whether or not you will be providing your own GPS.**



Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival- The 22nd annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. Come visit the famous Hitchcock House (a National Landmark and former stop on the Underground Railroad) just west of Lewis and see tin punching, rope-making, butter making and many other skills that were vital to pioneer survival. This event will be open to the public from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be a \$5 fee for a tour of the Hitchcock House. B.Y.O.M. for some apple cider!

Bike to School Day is May 7th

National Bike Week is May 12th -16th.

Bike to Work Day is May 16th

Save some gas and bike around that day or all week!



Worm Composting

Cold Springs Park Campground Shelter

Saturday, May 31st 1PM

Learn about vermicomposting (composting with worms.) Option to build your own box/tote for composting with worms. Suggested \$8 donation per tote.



Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day

Kids, come to Lake Anita on Saturday, June 7th for a fun morning of fishing (bring your poles) and information! Learn about the fish in Lake Anita, followed by hands on fishing! Prizes will be awarded to participants, no child will leave empty handed! This event is planned in conjunction with Iowa's free fishing weekend so Iowa adults don't have to have a fishing license to join their children! To register meet at the beach parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

Butterfly Garden Building Program

Cold Springs Park– Cass County Conservation Office

Saturday, June 14th 1PM

Come tour our butterfly garden and learn what is required for the Monarch Watch Certification.

Learn about the plants and habitat for butterflies and other pollinators.



Movie in the Park Campground program– TBA

July 5th at 9:30 PM at Cold Springs State Park –Campground shelter B.Y.O.M.

These are open to the public, and you don't have to be camping at the park to attend!

Summer event preview: programs at Hitchcock House are held every third Sunday and MORE!!

**Cass Co. Cons. Bd.
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, Iowa 51544**

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- ◆ **Making Shelter Reservations-** To reserve the shelter at Cold Springs Park contact Ryan Lockwood at 769-2372.

People Making a Difference!

- ◆ Thank you to **Bob Voggesser** for feeding and caring for the Trumpeter Swans this past winter!
- ◆ Thank you to **ISU Extension Cass Co. and 4-H Leadership Council** for helping make our winter camp a success!
- ◆ Thank you to **John and Mayda Hotckiss and Dennis Meyer** for their dedication and time serving on our boards.
- ◆ Thank you to **Dean Downer** for all of his hard work over the past year at the Outdoor Educational Classroom.

★ **Cass County Conservation Board** ★
★
★ Luanne Steffens- Griswold ★
★ Bob Muldoon- Atlantic ★
★ Duane Curtis- Cumberland ★
★ Ken Lawton- Lewis ★
★ John Curry- Massena ★
★
★ **Staff** ★
★ Micah Lee- Director ★
★ Lora Kanning- Naturalist ★
★ Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent ★
★
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