

Twin Rivers Review

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2

JONES COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

FALL/WINTER 2018/2019



ADVICE FROM A TREE:

- *Stand Tall & Proud*
- *Go Out on A Limb*
- *Remember Your Roots*
- *Think Long Term*
- *Drink Plenty of Water*
- *Be Content With Your Natural Beauty*
- *Be Flexible*
- *Feel the Wind & Sun*
- *Embrace With Joy The Changing Seasons*
- *Enjoy the View!*



~Ilan Shamir

Central Park Lake Restoration & Access Improvements Update:

By: Brad Mormann

Central Park Lake is nearly at full pool as late summer rains fall in the watershed. Starting with the outflow valve being closed this spring a variety of wildlife came back to thrive in the rising water.

Frogs and toads were the first to leap in causing a huge number of tadpoles to be observed swimming and resting in the shallows along the shoreline. Lucky for them, no large fish were in the lake yet, allowing their populations to soar.

It wasn't long before not only the water was wriggling with life but also the shoreline and surrounding park, as thousands of the tiny frogs and toads hopped across land to start their next phase of life.



Larger animals like raccoons, mink and green herons have been seen stalking the shoreline. Even lately, migrating waterfowl have been

taking advantage of the maturing smartweed growing along the shoreline as the water rises and provides easy access to their seeds.



This spring three species of fish were stocked to jumpstart the fishery. One-to-two inch bluegill, largemouth bass, and catfish were stocked by the Department of Natural Resources with crappies and red-eared sunfish to come at a later date. (Continued on Page 2)

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You may be asking why crappies, in particular, are stocked later than the other species. It all comes down to competition. According to Fisheries Biologists, it is important to allow the bass to grow in size and numbers before introducing crappie. This way the bass can help keep the crappie population in check. One good crappie spawn without a sizable population of bass available to control them, can increase the potential for stunted crappie. Central Park's fish population is monitored annually and once the conditions are right (6 months to 2 years) crappies will be added.

shelter, grill and kiosk, and bench pads. The whole area is really transforming the shoreline fishing opportunities. Over 850 feet of shoreline will be easily accessible for fishing, taking a leisurely stroll, and watching wildlife.

In addition, this fall and winter work will be done to map water depths and fish habitat features for placement on maps for the website, kiosks, and handouts. These items will be available for everyone to maximize their fishing opportunities within the lake basin.



Access components around the lake are also progressing. Most of the beach sidewalks are installed in addition to the shelter and beach sand.

A few items still in the process are the stairs leading toward the campground, fountain, jug filler, and picnic table pads. The boat ramp and parking area is also well on its way to completion. The new vault toilet has been ordered and will be installed soon. Other items such as the installation of an area light, and final grading and seeding will also be completed before long.

The fishing access pier and a majority of the sidewalk is in place. Several items remain including the new parking lot, patio area with

After several years of planning and development this exciting project is nearing its end. We are planning to have a grand opening of the new and upgraded facilities this coming spring. Keep an eye on our Jones County Conservation Facebook page and website (www.jonescountyiowa.org/conservation) to learn more.



Conservation Events & News

Wapsie Bottoms Chapter Whitetails Unlimited Banquet



Saturday, Sept 8
American Legion
Oxford Junction, IA
4:30 PM: Games/
Raffles & Social Hour
6:30 PM: Dinner
For tickets call:
Derek Feuss at
319-480-3378.

Jones County Ducks Unlimited Golf Tournament



Friday, Sept. 7
Wapsipinicon Golf Club
Anamosa IA
4 Person Best Shot -
9 Holes
Start Time 1 PM
Golfing done by 4:30
Dinner at 5:30
Limited to first 24
paid teams.
Contact Jason
Williams for ticket
information:
319-480-1182.



**Conservation
Events & News**

**Twin Rivers
Pheasants Forever
Banquet**



Saturday, October 13
Berndes Center
Monticello, IA
5 PM: Doors Open
7 PM: Dinner Served
Tickets are \$50 each
and include dinner,
membership, magazine
sub., and a chance at
door prizes.
Spouse: \$20
For tickets call
319-462-5461.

**Iowa Hunter
Education Courses**

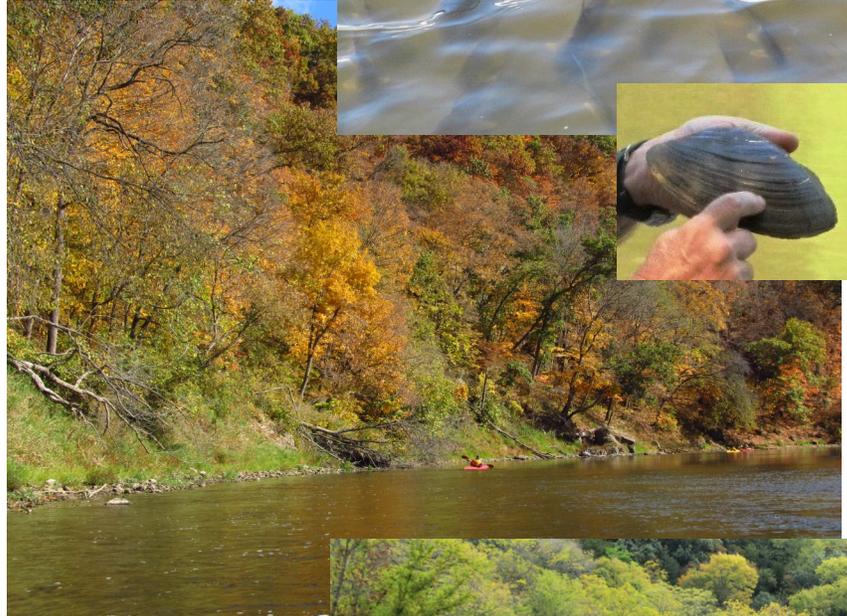


Visit the IDNR
Website at
[http://
www.iowadnr.gov/
Hunting/Hunter-
Education](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Hunter-Education)

**Maquoketa River Restoration
Mon Maq Dam Project Update**

The Maquoketa River Restoration Mon/Maq Dam Project continues to make progress as the Conservation Department reviews project alternatives and coordinates with partners to work through the permitting process.

In the coming months there will be a public meeting to describe the proposed alternatives, acquire input, and go over next steps. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website to learn more.



Central Park Resident Deer Hunt 2018

The Conservation Board has set a special archery hunt for deer this fall at Central Park. This hunt is for antlerless deer only. Hunting at Central Park begins 1/2 hour before sunrise on October 1st, 2018 and ends 1/2 hour after sunset on January 10th, 2019.

There are special regulations and requirements for those hunting at the area, including passing a proficiency test administered by the Anamosa Bowhunters.

Anyone interested in hunting at Central Park must pick up and complete a Special Archery Hunt Application Packet at the Park Office. To obtain an application packet please contact officials at Jones County Conservation at ranger@co.jones.ia.us or call 563-487-3541.



A Special Thanks

The Jones County Conservation Board would like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals, clubs, and businesses for their continued support and donations.

- Fidelity Bank and Trust: Monetary Donation toward Mon Maq Dam Project.
- Black Hills Energy: Pipe for Central Park Lake Project.
- Kirkwood Community College: Monetary Environmental Education Donation.
- Susan O'Rourke: Monetary Environmental Education Donation.
- Winifred Williams: Donation in Memory of Vi Payne.
- Mother Goose Preschool: Ann Eby: Monetary Environmental Education Donation.
- Mike Deutmeyer: Environmental Education Donation in Memory of Olivia.
- Derith Vogt & Friends of Jones County Conservation and Nature Center: Environmental Education Program Donations - Butterfly Tents, Youth Tents, Remote Camera Scope, Educational Books, Environmental Learning Station Table for Lower Level and Microscopes and Equipment.
- Horse event patrons purchasing show photos from Derith Vogt as a donation to the Friends of Jones County Conservation & Nature Center.

- George Wood: Dried Plant for Educational Programs.
- Yutana Hughes: High School Student Intern Volunteer.
- Bill Pazour: Milkweed Plants.
- Monarch Watch Milkweed Restoration Program Grant: Milkweed Plants.
- Iowa Ornithology Union: Grant funding for purchase of additional purple martin gourd unit, gourds, and educational signage for Central Park.
- Molly Crock: Volunteer work on Bluebird Project for Jones County Areas.
- Arnie Hanlon: Deer antler.
- Tanya James: Deer sheds for programs.
- Jones County Youth Conservation Crew Members: Emma Althoff, Alexia Boge, Logan Baugh, Peyton Denmark, Morgan Mortensen, Caroline Olson, Will Pape, Lucas Sullivan, Grayson Weers, Tristan Weers, Summer Winekauf, Easton Wheeler, and Miken Wheeler.
- Anamosa Alternative High School Revive Students and Staff, Anamosa High School Day of Caring Students, Jones County Volunteer Center, Jones County Safe and Healthy Youth Coalition BEAST Members: Volunteer Projects.
- Cascade 6th Grade, St. Patrick's Elementary, and Cascade Elementary 1st Grade: Planting Milkweed.
- Project Aware Volunteers and Staff: Maquoketa River Clean-Up Event.



Program Wish List:



***Historical images from Central Park pre-park pictures as well as 1950's thru 1980's.**

***Jones County clamshell buttons, historic images & information.**

***Knee & thigh waders.** (With no leaks)

***Kids snowshoes.**

***Wood snowshoes -** different tribal & geographical styles.

***Medium plastic animal terrariums.**

***Night crawlers.**

***Turtle food - pellets.**

***Vegetables (fresh & frozen) & fruit for turtles.**



2018 Jones County Nature Photography Contest Results

Winners from the 2018 Jones County Nature Photography Contest are as follows:

“Plants in Nature”:

- 1st Place — Derith Vogt, Center Junction
- 2nd Place — Jonathan Mayberry, Anamosa
- 3rd Place — Brenda Hanken, Monticello

“Animals in Nature”:

- 1st Place — Jonathan Mayberry, Anamosa
- 2nd Place — Derith Vogt, Center Junction
- 3rd Place — Heather Weers, Center Junction

“People in Nature”:

1st Place — Brenda Hanken, Monticello



Congratulations to all of the winners and participants of the 2018 Jones County Nature Photography Contest!

Please Contact Michele at 319-481-7987



Conservation Meetings & Important Numbers:

**JCCB Meetings
6:45 PM**



- September 10
- October 8
- November 12
- December 10
- January 14
- February 11

Call 563-487-3541
for meeting
location & agenda
or visit
www.jonescountyiowa.org/board

Jones County Soil & Water Conservation District

Call 319-462-3196,
Ext. 3

Jones County IDNR Conservation Officers

Luke Dever:
319-480-0397
State Dispatch:
319-277-4761



**TIP - Turn In Poachers
1-800-532-2020**

**“Friends of Jones County Conservation”
What’s new - Fall 2018**



The Friends of Jones County Conservation and Nature Center is a 501(3)c Non-Profit corporation formed to honor the life of Keith C. Dirks. As an avid outdoorsman and Jones County Supervisor, his contributions to Central Park and the Nature Center are many.

Current FOJCC&NC projects:

Keith Dirks Memorial Scholarship: Annual \$500 scholarship available to a graduating senior from Anamosa, Monticello, or Midland High School who has indicated an interest in a degree or certificate in science, technology, math, or engineering. Applications are due March 31 and are available at www.hartvogt.wixsite.com/fojccnc

Memorial Scholarship 2018 winners:
Pierce Fairbanks Aubrey Nemmers

Collecting Central Park Memories:

The friends group is looking for memories of Central Park. Anyone wishing to share their memories of time spent at Central Park can message them at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofJonesCountyConservation/>

Get Involved - Volunteer & Donate:

We realize that some folks are cash rich and time poor, while others have time and limited budgets. If you are ever so fortunate, you have both! What ever your situation, we deeply appreciate what you can give.



To learn more about the “Friends of Jones County Conservation” or become a member - go to <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofJonesCountyConservation/> or email FriendsofJonesCoConservation@gmail.com

Jones County Youth Conservation Crew 2018





"Monarch Tagging & Volunteer Potluck"

Wednesday, September 12
4-6 PM
Central Park Nature Center Lower Level



Join the Jones County Naturalist as we learn about, capture, and tag migrating Monarch butterflies. Become a scientist for a day! Bring your own butterfly net or borrow one of the nature center's. Volunteer potluck supper to follow tagging, 6-6:30 PM. Bring a dish to share.

"Annual Jones County Fall Colors and Archaeology Paddle"

Saturday, October 20
10 AM - 4 PM
9 AM - Shuttling vehicles, boats, and people.
Olin River Access to Jungletown River Access



Join the Jones County Conservation Department Staff as we enjoy the sights, sounds, and colors of fall on the beautiful Wapsipinicon River. We'll put-in near Olin, Iowa and travel downriver 6.1 miles to our take-out at the Jungletown River Access. Explore the heavily wooded and secluded twists and turns of the Wapsipinicon River passing scenic bluffs before stopping on a sandbar to eat a snack/lunch and learn some interesting historical and archaeological gems. Don't miss your chance to catch a glimpse of bald eagles, river otter, wood ducks, great blue heron, and the vibrant colors of autumn on the river! Participants will need to bring a kayak or canoe and paddles, dry bag, extra clothing, safety gear, and food/snacks. Participants will need to pre-register by emailing naturalist@co.jones.ia.us by 4 PM on Thursday, October 18th.

"Let's Take a Closer Look—Nature Up Close Micro-Class"

Wednesday, November 14
6:30—7:30 PM
Central Park Nature Center Lower Level



Let's take a very close look at some of the nature around us using a variety of microscopes and loupes. Learn the basics of using microscopes and loupes to explore the world around you. Take our micro test to see if you can identify 10 mystery items to win a prize. Space is limited—please register by calling 319-481-7987 or email naturalist@co.jones.ia.us.



"Central Park Nature Center Winter Holiday Open House"

Saturday, December 1
10 AM—3 PM
10:30 AM: Live Animal Feeding Time
Soup Luncheon Served: 11 AM - 1 PM



Celebrate the Holidays! Gather your family and come check out the lake project progress, view our winter exhibits, visit our live animals, and then head outside to go for a hike or snowshoeing (If snow allows!) Make a pine cone birdfeeder and try your artistic skills as you make a winter craft to take home. Enter our winter coloring contest and enjoy a delicious soup luncheon fundraiser provided by the Friends of Jones County Conservation & Nature Center (Free will donation accepted.). Everyone attending can sign up to win a free bird house and make a bid on our silent auction fundraiser items.



"Owl Prowl and Moonlit Walk"

Friday, January 18
7 PM
Central Park Nature Center



Learn how to hoot like an owl as you learn more about Iowa's owls. We'll take a short moonlit night hike to listen for owls and do some owl hooting of our own. Then head back to the Nature Center for some hot chocolate and cookies. Registration required: Please call 319-481-7987 or email naturalist@co.jones.ia.us by 4 PM Thursday, Jan 17th.

Great Backyard Bird Count: February 15 - 18th: Visit: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

"Central Park Nature Center Open House & Great Backyard Bird Count Event"

Saturday, February 16
10 AM—3 PM
10:30 Live Animal Feeding
11 AM—1 PM: Soup Luncheon Fundraiser (FJCC&NC)
1:30 PM: Iowa's Winter Birds Program
Central Park Nature Center



Learn how you can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Hone your winter bird identification skills, check out the latest Nature Center exhibits, make a simple bird feeder to take home, and enjoy a bowl of warm soup. If snow allows, try snowshoeing or hunt for deer sheds. Enter our bird art contest and sign up to win a bird feeder.



Family, Youth Group, & Classroom Snowshoeing Programs:

Would your family, youth group, or classroom like to try snowshoeing? The Jones County Conservation Department Environmental Education program has 22 pair of snowshoes for educational programs (Both adult and youth snowshoes are available.).



To schedule a date and time to give snowshoeing a try contact the Jones County Naturalist at [319-481-7987](tel:319-481-7987) or email naturalist@co.jones.ia.us. Please call or e-mail at least one week prior to your preferred date - programs on short notice may not be available.

Programs on "The Basics of Snowshoeing" by the Jones County Naturalist are also available. Participants will need to wear warm outdoor gear (coat, hat, gloves, etc..), warm socks, and warm winter boots. A 6 inch snow base is required.



Nature Center Field Trip Opportunities:



- *Nature Center Tour & Free Time To Explore
- *Guided Nature Hike
- *Specific Themed Nature Program

Check out our new Nature Explorer Backpacks:

- *Backyard Birding
- *Backyard Insects
- *Geology Rocks!
- *Discover Geocaching!



Daycares and youth groups are encouraged to schedule Fall & Winter Nature Center visits with the Jones County Naturalist or check-out our new Nature Explorer Backpacks by calling [319-481-7987](tel:319-481-7987) or emailing naturalist@co.jones.ia.us.



Older Wiser Livelier (O.W.L.) Fall Programs

"Lost Mound Birding Tour"

Saturday, Sept. 15
9 AM - 2:30 PM



Lost Mound Unit Office, Savanna, Illinois

Take a driving journey through portions of the Lost Mound Unit, formerly known as the Savanna Army Depot—the largest remnant sand prairie/sand savanna in Illinois. Space limited.

Registration required. Call 563-652-3783 or email Jen@JacksonCCB.Com.

"Maiden Voyage - Mississippi River Trip"

Monday, October 1
8 AM - 4 PM
Marquette, IA



Join the OWLS group for a historical and natural history tour of the Mississippi River

Backwaters on the Maiden Voyager. Enjoy a meal on the bank of the Mississippi River at the "Barn Restaurant". Space is limited. Registration required. Carpooling from Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones County. Call [563-556-6745](tel:563-556-6745) to register by 4 PM Sept. 25th.

"Haunted History Tour"

Thursday, October 25
9 AM—7 PM
Beginning at Swiss Valley



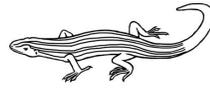
Take a tour of several haunted historical sites including the Insane Asylum/Poor Farm, Decker Hotel, Edinburgh Manor, and the Grand Opera House. End the evening with a presentation from the Odyssey Paranormal Society. Cost: Registration Required. Space is limited. Please call [563-556-6745](tel:563-556-6745) to register by 4 PM, Friday, October 19th.

For carpooling and to register for these events please contact your local County Naturalist at

- Swiss Valley Nature Center: 563-556-6745
- Hurstville Interpretive Center: 563-652-3783
- Central Park Nature Center: 563-487-3541

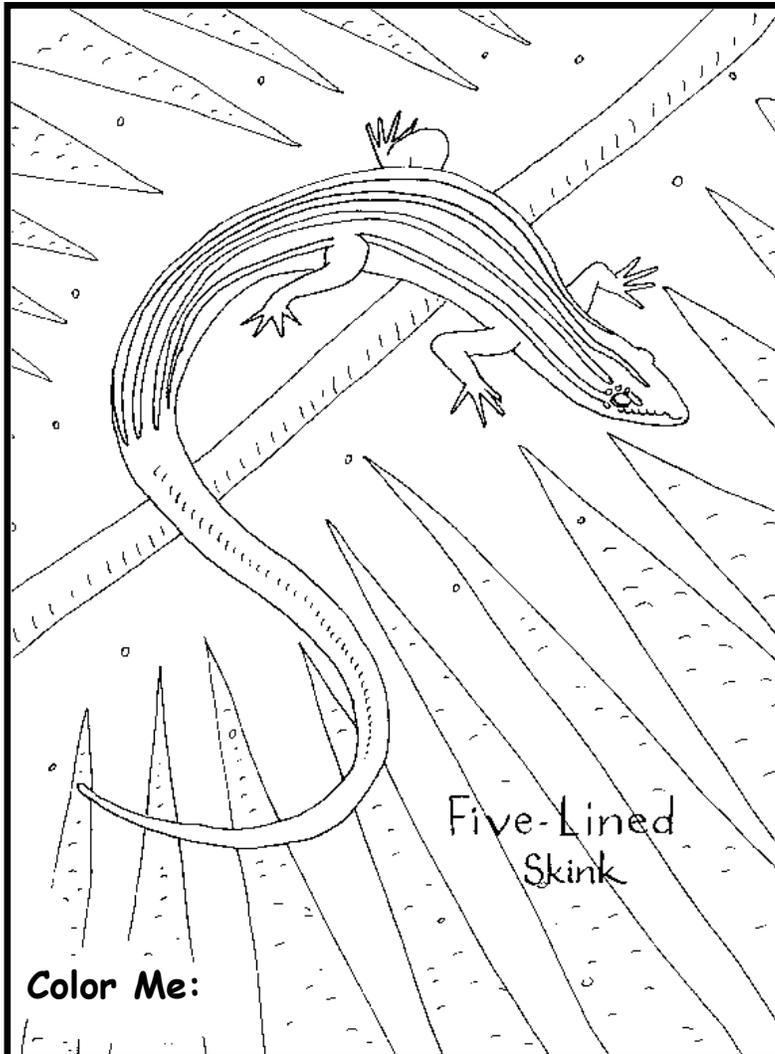


"Five-Lined Skink"



Did you know that Iowa is home to 8 species of lizards? One species found in Jones County is the five-lined skink. Young adult females and juvenile five-lined skinks usually have black bodies with five long yellow stripes running along their back and sides and striking bright blue tails. As female skinks age, their background color fades from black to brown, the stripes fade to tan, and their tail turns a blue-gray color. Adult males are one color, tan or olive with faint stripes that fade with age. During breeding season, males develop distinctive bright orange lips.

Skinks prefer wooded & prairie edge habitat with limestone outcrops where they bask on rocks or logs. This is also where they find a plentiful supply of spiders, crickets, ants, beetles, caterpillars, and snails to dine on.



Test Your Skink Knowledge:

(Read this page to find the answers to the following questions.)

1. What color is the tail of young five-lined skinks?

2. How long do five-lined skinks get?

3. What do skinks do if captured?

4. What do skinks like to eat?

5. How many eggs do female skinks lay?

6. What covers a skinks body?

Did You Know?

- *Most of Iowa's lizards have very limited ranges and are often overlooked.
- *Skinks have shiny smooth scales that cover their body.
- *Five-lined skinks are listed as protected and can not be collected or harmed.
- *When captured five-lined skinks may attempt to bite and can drop off a portion of their tail in an attempt to escape.
- *Skinks can regrow their lost tail segment but the scale pattern will be different.
- *Five lined skinks lay up to 12 eggs in June in small excavations they make under rocks or rotting logs.
- *Female skinks will watch over the nests until the young hatch.
- *Females do not care for the young once they hatch.
- *Five-lined skinks occur in small isolated colonies.
- *Five-lined skinks only reach 5-9 inches long.
- *Five-lined skinks are the most common lizard in North America.
- *Skinks are diurnal - active mainly during the day.



“Jones County Conservation 2018 Seasonal Staff “

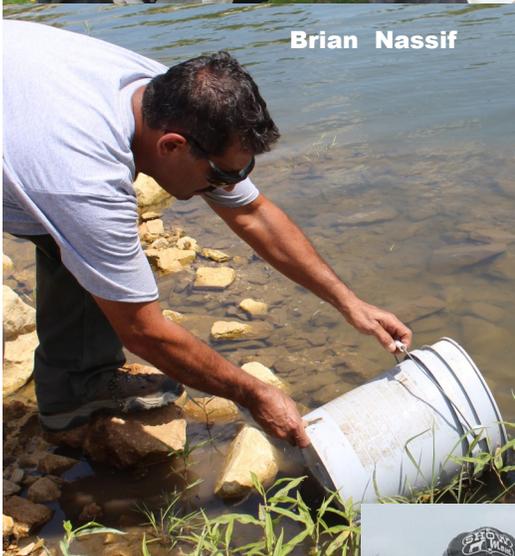
The Jones County Conservation Board would like to acknowledge and thank the following staff for their hard work and dedication during the busy 2018 Summer Season. (Not pictured: Patricia Lathrop: 2018 Campground Host)



Troy Olson



Elli Slouha



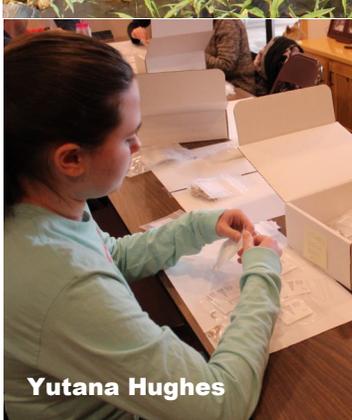
Brian Nassif



Ryan Wageman



Bill Edwards



Yutana Hughes



Molly Crock



Dennis Owen



Weston Hoffmann



Jones County IRVM Roadside Recap 2018

Wes Gibbs Jones County Roadside Manager

- 80 acres of native prairie seed planted into Jones County Roadside Right-of-Way (ROW) projects in 2017 and 2018 construction seasons. Road crews have been doing a lot of ROW maintenance. In turn, we've had a lot of opportunities to get prairie planted in ROW all over the county.



- Living Roadways Trust Fund Grants utilized for the purchase of a new 1100 gallon hydro mulcher, an in-house roadside sprayer build, spray truck, and a root grapple for brush cutting operations. Spraying, seeding, and brush cutting on our own is markedly less expensive than hiring outside forces. With our own equipment on hand, the savings and increased efficiency over time is substantial.
- 2019 Living Roadways Trust Fund application requests include a skid steer-mounted forestry mower head and personal protective equipment for prescribed burning.

- It's getting harder and harder to drive through the county roads system without driving past a few patches of native prairie. We anticipate this trend to continue.



Mark Your Calendars:

The Great Backyard
Bird Count
February 15-18, 2019



GO YOUR OWN WAY

What's Your Natural High?
www.jonescountycoalition.org

ASAC
AREA SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION



16th Annual Iowa Project Aware 2018 - Maquoketa River By The Numbers

Maquoketa River (Delaware, Jones and Jackson Counties)

River Miles: 63; Participants: 397; Sponsors: 102

Total Materials Collected – 41,550 lbs. (20.78 tons)

- Trash – 12,940 lbs. (6.47 tons) (31%)
- Recyclables 28,610 lbs. (14.31 Tons) (69%)
 - *Tires (224) – 3,680 lbs. (1.84 tons)
 - *Scrap Metal – 22,550 lbs. (11.27 tons)
 - *“Dirty” Plastic – 1,940 lbs. (0.97 tons)
 - *Glass – 440 lbs. (0.22 tons)

Iowa Project AWARE aims to:

- Increase awareness about, and community involvement in, water quality issues that impact the health of Iowa's aquatic resources.
- Engage Iowa's citizen volunteers in a project that challenges them to become stewards of the river and produces a tangible, quantitative result.
- Demonstrate the commitment of Iowa's citizens by giving of themselves and their valuable time to make a difference - one stretch of river, one piece of trash at a time.

To learn more about Project Aware and to find out how to participate in 2019 visit <https://www.iowaprojectaware.org/>



Twin Rivers Review

Jones County Conservation Board
 12515 Central Park Rd.
 Center Junction, IA 52212



If you do not receive the Twin Rivers Review, but would like to, please contact the Jones County Conservation Department Office by phone (1-563-487-3541), e-mail (naturalist@co.jones.ia.us), or by mail at Jones County Conservation Department, 12515 Central Park Rd., Center Junction, IA. 52212. Please specify if you would prefer a paper or e-mail copy.

For current information and updates on projects and programs visit the Jones County Conservation Board website at www.jonescountyiowa.org and click on "conservation".

The Jones County Conservation Board intends to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act and all other local, state, and federal laws pertaining to equal treatment. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Jones County Conservation Board or the office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



Jones County Conservation Board

12515 Central Park Rd.
 Center Junction, IA 52212
 563-487-3541: Nature Center/Office
 563-487-5038: Ranger/Shop
www.jonescountyiowa.org/conservation
conservation@co.jones.ia.us

Conservation Board Members:

Dean Zimmerman Chair
 Dave Tabor Vice Chair
 Rob Roman Secretary
 Russ VonBehren Member
 Megan Manternach Member

Conservation Department Staff:

Brad Mormann Director
 Jennifer Koopmann Office Manager
 John Klein Park Ranger
 Michele Olson Naturalist



The Jones County Conservation Board meets the **second Monday of each month**. Meetings start at 6:45 PM at the Central Park Nature Center basement, unless otherwise posted. Please call the administrative office the first of each month to get the location and time. Meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome.