VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

JONES COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

FALL/WINTER 2017



"Nature
is painting
for us,
day by day,
pictures
of infinite
beauty
if only
we have eyes
to see them."

~John Ruskin

2017 Jones County Youth Conservation Crew

This year we started a new youth service learning program — the "Jones County Youth Conservation Crew". It was a huge success!

Twelve youth between the ages of 11 and 19 volunteered one day a week during the month of June to complete several much needed projects at Central

Projects included cleaning up the dried lake bed at

Park.



Central Park, constructing a stone path at the Nature Center, planting native flowers in the butterfly garden, removing shrubs and small trees from the restored native prairie planting, bird nest monitoring, bluebird box construction, removal of trees and shrubs from the entrance road prairie plantings, and monarch and

(Continued on page 2.)

What's Inside? Jones County Conservation Youth Conservation Crew & 1 & 2 Central Park Lake Restoration Project Update 3 Naturalist Notes - Thank You Section, Photo Contest Results, 4 & 5 Friends of Jones County Conservation Update, New Nature Explorer Backpacks Fall & Winter Activities & Programs 6 & 7 Kids Page - "Apples" 8 Naturalist Notes: New Honey Bee Hive at Central Park 9 Conservation News - 2017 Seasonal Staff, Mon Maq Dam Update, & REAP Assembly 10 & 11



Conservation Events & News

Wapsie Bottoms Chapter Whitetails Unlimited Banquet



Saturday, Sept 9
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.

Anamosa Bowhunters Fundraiser Supper



Saturday, Oct. 21 Bowhunters Club 5 PM: Doors Open 7 PM: Dinner Served

Tickets \$40, \$60 w/ Spouse and include Ribeye Steak Dinner Ticket sale limited to 200 For Tickets Contact: anamosabowhuntersinc@gmail.com

Conservation Events & News

Twin Rivers Pheasants Forever Banquet



Saturday, October 14
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/HunterEducation

Central Park Lake Restoration Project Update



Great things have happened in the past several months for the Central Park Lake Restoration Project.

To start things off we have had the firsthand opportunity to see what happens after a 52 year old lake drains. Lots and lots of mud flats and then a tremendous growth of vegetation. Vegetation, that when peered at through a

duck's eyes can look quite appetizing, at least in relation to its seeds and production of invertebrates in the wetter portions of the lake bottom. This observation is a great example of what many of our local wetlands go through during periodic wet-dry cycles.

Beyond observing the ever changing lake

bottom we have also made big strides toward completing the lake restoration project. We now have contracts in hand to complete both the in-lake fish habitat and dredging components and the external boat ramp, fishing, and beach access components. Inlake components are scheduled for completion by this spring and access components early next fall.



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.

- Jim Theisen & The Anamosa
 Theisen's Store: Bird Seed Donation.
- Derith Vogt & Friends of Jones County Conservation and Nature Center: Cookies, bars, and soup and fixings for spring events, grant writing, and new educational tools and books for programming and new nature discovery explorer backpacks.
- Bob George: Seeds for display and wood duck box.
- Jeff Mathewson: CD of wildflower pictures.
- Jennifer Koopmann and Family: Shed antlers and cookies and bars for events.
- Pam and Ernie Carr Family: Artifacts.
- Carly Raye Vannoy: "lowa Honey Queen" program.
- Susan O'Rourke: Monetary donation toward EE program.
- Ann Eby & the Mother Goose
 Preschool: Monetary donation toward
 EE program.
- Volunteer Day of Giving Volunteers: Zayden Farrington, Skylar Hester, Mason Brown, Dawn Shannahan, Meg Wheeler, Kylie Ruess, Kylee Appleby, Tanisha Woodley, Alyssa Jensen, and Megan Sperfslge.

 Artifact Labeling Day Volunteers: Bill & Sandy Edwards, Joy Adams, Alice Shimanek, Dave Bohlken, Tom Bohlsten, Ben Worrell, Assata Caldwell, Dennis Owen, Troy Olson, Andrew Waldo, Jennifer Koopmann, Bryan Kendall, and Bill Moore.

Recent Central Park Lake Restoration Project Donors & Contributors:



- Vic & Mary Jo Hamre
- Bill & Sandy Edwards
- Dean & Lisa Stevens Dean Stevens Construction Ltd.
- Anamosa Rotary Club
- ITC Holdings Corp. (\$15,000)
- Izaak Walton League Anamosa Chapter (\$10,000)

2017 Jones County Nature Photography Contest Winners



Winners from the 2017 Jones County Nature Photography Contest are as follows:

"Plants in Nature":

1st Place — Jeff Mathewson, Anamosa 2nd Place — Sheri Lampe, Monticello 3rd Place — Brenda Hanken, Monticello

"Scenic Jones County":

1st Place — Bill Schoon, Cedar Rapids 2nd Place — Sheri Lampe, Monticello 3rd Place — Marvin Rickels, Monticello

"Animals in Nature":

1st Place — Sheri Lampe, Monticello 2nd Place — Brenda Hanken, Monticello 3rd Place — Jeff Mathewson, Anamosa

"People in Nature":

1st Place — Sheri Lampe, Monticello 2nd Place — Jada Kramer, Monmouth 3rd Place — Brenda Hanken, Monticello

Congratulations to all of the winners and participants of the 2017 Jones County Nature Photography Contest!

Program Wish List:



*Jones County clamshell buttons, historic images & information.

*lowa Fossils.

*Local artifacts.

*Kids nature books.

*Knee & thigh

waders.
(With no leaks)

*Kids snowshoes.

*Wood snowshoes - different tribal & geographical styles.

*Small/medium/large plastic animal terrariums.

*Night crawlers.

*Turtle food - pellets.

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

*Photos we can scan and historical stories from families relating to properties that are now county conservation board areas and parks.



Please Contact Michele at (319) 481-7987

Conservation Meetings & Important Numbers:

JCCB Meetings 6:45 PM



September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11
January 8
February 12
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

Jared Landt: (563) 920-5764



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

"Friends of Jones County Conservation" Fall 2017 Updates

As of June 1st, 2017 the FOJCCNC are fully endowed! Thanks to all individual donors and corporate gift matches for making this happen!!

2017 The Keith Dirks Memorial Scholarship winners selected: Thank you to Joyce Finn-Dirks for making it possible to give the award to several applicants. The winners are: Brooke Kirby, Will Marsh and Alexandra Maruga.

The Friends of Jones County Conservation and Nature Center funded the T-shirts for the new Jones County Youth Conservation Crew. Check out the cool shirts on pages 1 and 2! The kids loved them and they look great!

Through fundraising, and Iowa Ornithological Union Grant, and individual donations the FOJCCNC has been able to purchase four educational "Nature Explorer Back Packs" for the Nature Center. Topics include: Birds,

Geocaching, Backyard Insects, and Geology. Backpacks will be available for families, clubs, and school classes to check out and use as home or in the classroom. Backpacks will be available through the Jones County Naturalist at the Central Park Nature Center.

Please join us - If you would like to become a member, make a donation, or learn more about the "Friends of Jones County Conservation" go to the

Friends of Jones County Conservation and Nature Center Facebook page,

visit their website at

http://hartvogt.wixsite.com/fojccnc or email

FriendsofJonesCoConservation@gmail.com.

"New Nature Explorer Backpacks" Available for Check-Out

Thanks to the Friends of Jones County Conservation and Nature Center the Jones County Conservation Board Environmental Education program now has four Nature Explorer Backpacks available for check out.

These backpacks can be checked out to families or school classes. Check out time allowed varies from a week during the busy summer season to two weeks from Labor day to Memorial Day.





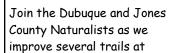
Our "Nature Explorer Backpack Themes" are:

- Birding Basics
- Backyard Bugs
- Geocaching Fun
- Geology Rocks

Contact the Jones County Naturalist at (319) 481-7987 or naturalist@co.jones.ia.us for more information on checking out one of our new explorer packs.

"Whitewater Canyon Volunteer Field Day"

Sunday, September 17 Whitewater Canyon 9 AM—Noon





Whitewater Canyon and catch and tag migrating monarch butterflies. Bring your work gloves, snacks, water bottle, and dress to get dirty and have fun. Please call (319)481-7987 and let us know your coming.

Celebrate Iowa Archaeology Month

Sept. 18- Oct. 21

Visit https://archaeology.uiowa.edu/iowa-archaeology-month

"Annual Jones County Fall Colors and

Archaeology Paddle"

Saturday, October 21 10 AM - 4 PM 9 AM - Shuttling vehicles, boats, and people. Dunlap Access to Mon Maq Access



Join Jones County Conservation Department staff on our annual fall colors outing. This year we will paddle 10 miles

of the Maquoketa River from Dunlap Access in Hopkinton to Mon Maq Access in Monticello. Be spellbound by Iowa's beautiful fall colors as we travel past heavily wooded bluffs, boulders, limestone outcroppings,

soaring cliffs and



picturesque croplands and pastures. Learn about the archaeology of the area through interpretation from Michael and Nurit Finn, Archaeologists with Wapsi Valley Archaeology, as we partake in lunch or a snack on a sandbar.

Participants should bring their own kayak or canoes, paddles, pfd's, dry bags, extra dry clothing, warm aquatic footwear, sunscreen, sunglasses, snacks, and lunch. A limited number of canoes and equipment are available for use by those who do not have their own. This outing is river level and weather dependent. Those planning on attending should pre-register by emailing or calling Michele at (319)481-7987 or naturalist@co.jones.ia.us prior to noon, October 19th.

Fall O.W.L Group Programs:

Older, Wiser, Livelier Adults Dubugue, Jackson, & Jones CCB's

Decorah Seed Savers & Hatchery Outing

Thursday, September 14 8 AM - 5 PM

Join us in a trip to Decorah as we tour the internationally known Seed Savers grounds, eat lunch in downtown Decorah, catch a glimpse of the Decorah Eagle



Cam nest, and tour the IDNR Fish Hatchery. Preregistration is required. Carpooling will be available. Cost \$8 per person payable that day. Lunch cost on own. <u>Please call Michele at (319)481-7987 by Tuesday,</u> September 12th to register.

"Canoeing the Mississippi River

Headwaters"

Wednesday November 15 Noon - Optional Lunch -\$12 1 PM - Program Swiss Valley Nature Center



Enjoy an informative program on the trials and tribulations of canoeing the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

"Central Park Nature Center Winter Holiday

Open House"

Wednesday, December 27 10 AM—3:30 PM

10:30 AM: Live Animal Feeding Time

Chili 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 snowshoeing! Make a pine cone birdfeeder to take home, try your artistic skills as you make a winter craft, and enter our winter coloring contest. Enjoy a delicious chili lunch 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.

"Eby's Mill Artifact Labeling

Volunteer Work Day"

Friday, January 19 9 AM—2 PM Central Park Nature Center

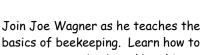
In 2013 the Jones County Conservation Board and the University of Iowa Office of the State Archeologist



with help from a team of AmeriCorps, volunteers, dozens of local students, and an archaeologist conducted a restorative excavation of a cave site at the Eby's Mill Wildlife Area. Join archaeologist, Bryan Kendall, to help label artifacts, including many animal bones, found during the excavation and cave restoration. Volunteer as long as you can. Lunch provided. Please call Michele at (319)481-7987 to let us know you are coming so we can have enough work stations ready.

"Beginning Beekeeping"

Thursday, February 1 6:30 PM Central Park Nature Center



start your own backyard bee hive as Joe walks you through his experience with backyard beekeeping.

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

Friday, February 16 10 AM - 6 PM

10:30 AM: Animal Feeding Time

5 PM: Winter Bird Identification Program 🚒

11 AM- 1 PM: Chicken Soup Luncheon (Free will donation)

Central Park Nature Center

Break the winter doldrums for some active fun! Join the Jones County Naturalist for a lesson on winter birds. Check out the Nature Center exhibits or head outside to try your skills at snowshoeing! Make a pine cone birdfeeder to take home and try your artistic skills by entering the winter coloring contest. Learn how to join birders and families across the globe during the "2018 Great Backyard Bird Count". If you stop at lunch time enjoy a delicious bowl of

chicken soup during the soup luncheon provided by the Friends of Jones County Conservation & Nature Center (free will donation accepted.). Everyone attending can sign up to win a free birdfeeder!

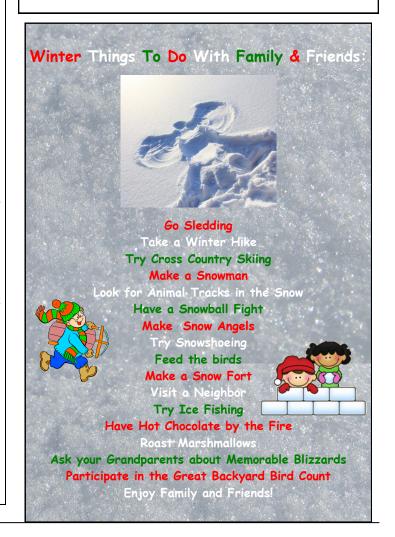
Family and Youth Group Snowshoeing Programs:

Would your family or youth group like to try snowshoeing? The Jones County Conservation Department Environmental Education program has 22 pair of snowshoes for use at

Central Park or any of our other county conservation board areas. (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 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.





"Apples, Apples, Apples"

Did you know that apples are members of the rose family? Apples are one of the most popular foods in the world. There are thousands of apple varieties identified worldwide with over 2,500

varieties grown commercially today in the United States. Native to Central Asia apples were brought to North America by European pilgrims. (Only the crabapple is native to North America.) Iowa is known as the birthplace of the

original "Delicious" apple variety. Apples are very nutritious and are filled with potassium, vitamin C, carbohydrates, fiber, and antioxidants - even the skin. Apples grow on trees and begin to ripen from late summer through mid-autumn depending on the variety.

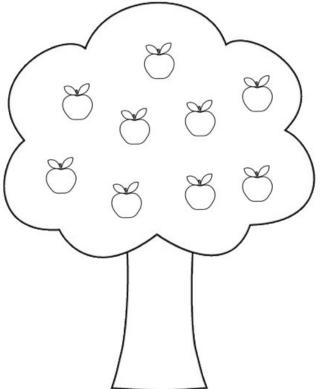




Apples are Amazing! Try These Fun Apple Activities:



- Visit a grocery store or apple orchard and buy one of each kind of apple. Taste each
 one and write down how they are different, how they are alike, and which one you
 like best.
- With your parents or teachers help make some apple crisp to share. (Recipe below.)
- Color in the apple tree below. Design your own apple variety.
 Give your apple variety a name:



Yummy Apple Crisp:

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups rolled oats
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 11/2 cups butter
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 2 quarts peeled, cored, and sliced apples.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine all ingredients except apples in large bowl. Mix. Grease 9 x 13 inch baking pan. Add half of the crumb mixture. Spread apples over crumb mixture. Sprinkle remaining crumb mixture over apples. Bake at 350 F for 45-50 minutes or until apples are tender. (18 servings—319 cal.)

Did You Know?

- *In the late 1800s apple trees were planted on most lowa homesteads. Today they are found on less than 1% of lowa's farmsteads.
- *At one time there were over 15,000 apple varieties grown across North America.
 - *China is the leading producer of apples.
 - *Honey bees are commonly used to pollinate apple trees.
- *Apple trees blossom in the spring.
- *Apple seeds contain a cyanide compound.
 But you would have to eat huge quantities to get sick.
- *An average apple contains 80 130 calories.
- *Apples come in all shades of red, green, and yellow.
- *Most apples are still picked by hand.
- *Americans eat more apples than any other fruit.
- *It takes 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.
- *25% of an apple's volume is air that is why they float.
- *Apples are fat free, sodium free, and cholesterol free.
- *Apples ripen 10x faster unrefrigerated.

New Honey Bee Hives at Central Park

By: Joe Wagner

Have you heard the new buzz at Central Park this summer? It all started this spring when approximately 7,000 honey bees were placed in an empty beehive that was set up at the park by Joe & Dee Wagner, local beekeepers.

The 2-pound package of bees came in an enclosed screened cage with a can of sugar water and one queen bee. The Wagner's transferred the bees into their new hive on April 21, and with the help of John Klein and other park staff the bees were cared for over the next several weeks.



Since a queen is capable of laying up to 1,500 eggs per day, the colony quickly multiplied. On May 7 a deep hive body (a box with 10 frames and honeycomb foundation) was placed on top of the first hive body to give the bees more room to expand, and by the end of June the colony grew to an estimated 40,000 bees. At that point, in order to keep the hive from swarming and to take advantage of the bee's ability to multiply, it was decided to split the colony into two hives.

So on July 6 another empty hive was set up next to the first, and nine frames full of bees, honey, pollen, eggs and larva were moved from the parent hive (where the one and only

queen stayed) to the new hive. The parent hive kept busy bringing in honey and pollen and reproducing as before, with their proven queen. The new hive, which had no queen on the day it was split off from the parent hive, began the fascinating process of making a new queen for themselves.



They can do this as long as they have a few eggs to work with.



After 21 days, the new hive was opened and behold – a new queen! But had she taken her mating flights yet and become a fertile, egg-laying queen? No evidence of egg

laying then, but about a week later, around August 1, indeed she did start laying eggs and the new colony was on its way to becoming a successful fleet of busy pollinators. Both hives are doing well side-byside now and some excess honey was taken off the parent hive to enjoy.



With autumn upon us, it will soon be time to winterize the hives and make sure the bees have enough honey reserves to make it through the winter. Surviving an lowa winter is not easy for honey bees -- about half of all colonies don't survive to see next spring's flowers.

If you would like to learn more about honey bees and beekeeping, contact the nature center and/ or keep your eyes open for upcoming events at Central Park. Enjoy the fall colors and bee happy!





"Jones County Conservation 2017 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 2017 summer season.

















Mon Maq Dam Project Update

Another summer of ever popular paddling, tubing, and fishing has passed on the Maquoketa River. Vehicles with license plates from locations near and far were observed throughout the summer enjoying the river and its many resources. Within the water trail work continues on the modification of the Mon/Maq Dam. Input from a variety of partners and stakeholders continues to shape the project.



2017 Region 10 REAP Assembly

REAP stands for Resource Enhancement and Protection. In its 28 years, REAP has benefited every county in lowa by supporting more than 15,000 projects. Collectively, these projects have improved the quality of life for all



lowans with better soil and water quality; added outdoor recreation opportunities; sustained economic development; enhanced knowledge and understanding of our ecological and environmental assets, and preservation of our cultural and historic treasures.

Anyone interested in having input in and learning more about the REAP program including possible funding for your community should plan on attending.

REAP Assemblies are public meetings at which information is given out and ideas are taken in by the attending state officials. The REAP law requires the following things happen at each assembly:

- The DNR provides those attending with information regarding REAP expenditures. The overall REAP budget is presented and projects in the region are listed that have been funded with REAP dollars.
- People attending the assemblies shall identify opportunities for regional REAP projects. Examples that have frequently come up are trails, river corridor protection,

wetland restoration, soil erosion prevention, conservation education, and resource inventories.

 People attending the assemblies shall also review and recommend changes to REAP policies, programs, and funding. This is the portion of the meeting that people speak out on anything they want regarding the inner workings of REAP.

And last but not least, the people at the assemblies are responsible for electing five individuals to serve on the REAP Congress. (The next REAP Congress will be in 2018.) In addition to the five delegates, 3-5 other people are elected as alternates to the delegates. In the event that one of the delegates cannot attend the Congress, an alternate fills that spot.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the 2017 lowa REAP Assemblies. The Region 10 REAP Assembly (Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington County) will be held in Iowa City at the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area Park Lodge from 6:30 – 8 PM on Thursday, October 12th. Directions can be obtained at https://www.icgov.org/eventfacilities.

For additional region assembly dates, times, and locations visit: http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP-Regional-Assemblies To learn more about REAP in general visit the lowa Department of Natural Resources website — http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP.

Jones County Safe and Healthy Youth Coalition joins National Natural High Campaign.

We are all the key to thriving youth!

Their mission: To inspire and empower youth to find their natural high and develop the skills and courage to live life well.



To learn more visit: https://naturalhigh.org/

http://www.jonescountycoalition.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/conservation. Like us on Facebook.

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:

Larry PisarikChairDean ZimmermanVice ChairDave TaborSecretaryRob RomanMemberRuss VonBehrenMember

Conservation Department Staff:

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.