

# Conservation Connection

## Johnson County Conservation Newsletter

### Type Two Fun

**Caleigh Stanier** – 2019 Idaho Trek Participant

Jostling side to side as the van wound through the mountains, we had no idea what lay ahead. Our eyes searched this new landscape hungrily, sweeping over the blue expanse of mountains far in the distance. Right outside the windows, purple, yellow, and orange wildflowers sprinkled the old fire scars with life. Finally, after two days, 24 hours of driving, and 6 states, we were almost in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Our mix-and-matched group of Iowa teenagers was brimming with excitement at the smell of pine and the slew of tools we had just strapped to our packs. Soon all the preparation had come to an end and it was time to hike. We began our journey jauntily, with fresh spirits as well as shoulders and feet. The first half mile was smooth sailing: slightly downhill on a two-track with a beautiful view. Then, as the incline began, it soon became apparent that this trek was going to be a challenge. *Continued on pg 6*

**Immediate Right:** Caleigh Stanier and another trek participant pose next a sign marking the entrance to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

**Top Right:** A quick safety briefing and overview of the work to be done before we leave sight of our van for the next 5 days.

**Bottom Right:** Making it look easy, the pack mules and horses carry building supplies up Friday Pass and are back down again before we all make it to the top!



## THE PEOPLE OF JCC

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Lisa Green-Douglass** Chair  
**Rod Sullivan** Vice Chair  
**Janelle Rettig**  
**Royceann Porter**  
**Pat Heiden**

### CONSERVATION BOARD

**Alice Atkinson** President  
**Larry Wilson** Vice President  
**Gene Zdrazil** Secretary  
**Connie Mutel**  
**Bill Waldie**

### CONSERVATION STAFF

#### Executive Director

Larry Gullett

#### Office Manager

Dory Kjos

#### Office Assistant

Emily Walker

#### Conservation Program Manager

Brad Freidhof

#### Naturalists

Kristen Morrow

Frances Owen

#### Ranger

Charlie Bray

Aaron Ohlsen

#### Natural Resource Manager

Dave Wehde

#### Natural Resource Mgmt. Specialists

Jeremy Rieck

Michael Alexander

Blake Harris

#### Operations Superintendent

Wade Schultz

#### Utility Person

Dave Gustafson

#### Custodian

Paul Bouska

#### Mechanic

Josh Allen

#### Senior Maintenance Specialist

Gary Pidgeon

#### Field Workers

Terry Kinney

Ben Woltz

Seth Somerville

#### Trails Field Worker

Ed Kringle

## A Note from the Director



### A Grand Opening – Kent Park Lake

I hope you can all come join us to help celebrate the lake restoration project at Kent Park! Officials from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Stanley Consultants will also be on hand to help answer questions and talk about lake restoration strategies. The date is Saturday, September

21st, and activities will be on-going from 1:00 pm until 4:30 pm. The afternoon itinerary is listed on page 5 of this newsletter.

In addition to the opening remarks at the boat ramp parking area, we will be providing hay rack tours of the 9 new ponds or catch basins; Paul Sleeper, IDNR Fisheries Biologist, will have a boat on the lake and show people live fish and talk about fisheries management; Natural Resource staff will provide guided tours of the new bio-cells and water quality monitoring demonstrations, and Naturalists will lead guided walks around the lake trail. If you have any questions about the past, present, or future of Kent Park Lake, you don't want to miss this!

Restoration of the lake took 5 years! This included 2 years of water quality monitoring to identify the issues, one year of planning, and two years of construction. The results are tremendously improved water quality and better opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, swimming, and just hanging out around the lake. We have many things to show you, and several are "leading edge" in terms of improving water quality and providing habitat for aquatic life.

If you can, please let us know if you plan to attend so we can prepare adequately for the afternoon activities. You can call our administrative office at 319-645-2315, or send an email to [ewalker@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:ewalker@co.johnson.ia.us)

**Below:** A new "stepped" edge located at the fishing pier will provide excellent access to the lake.





**Top left and right:** Staff and volunteers hard at work planting 18,000 plants at Kent Park Lake. **Right:** After the lake filled this spring, its water level was lowered to place the new aquatic plants. Pumps and sprinklers are required to keep aquatic plants wet and alive on the exposed reefs while we wait for water levels to rise again.



## JCC Welcomes Paul Bouska as Custodian!

**Paul Bouska** – Custodian

I grew up on a farm in Northeast Iowa, where I learned to appreciate nature and enjoy the outdoors. The University of Iowa lured me to Iowa City, where I met my wife, Amy. Like so many others who found their way to the university, we never left town! We have been blessed with four amazing children, with whom we share our love of the land and outdoor activities. I feel very fortunate to be a part of the Johnson County Conservation Board staff and to have the opportunity to work with the many talented people at Kent Park. I look forward to doing my part to make sure that everyone who visits our county parks has a great experience.





Interior (left) and exterior (right) of new Johnson County Conservation shop near Cedar River Crossing at Sutliff. Construction should be finished by the time this newsletter goes to print.

# Johnson County Conservation Project Updates



Left: Streb Construction company paving the Hoover Trail just south of 140th Street near the Lakeview OHV Park

**Clockwise from far left at Cedar River Crossing:** A previously channelized stream was re-meandered to restore the natural hydrology; Heavy machinery from CJ Moyna restore wetlands; Volunteers help plant aquatic plants; A view of the 12,000 plants in new wetlands at CRC





# KENT PARK LAKE GRAND OPENING

September 21, 2019, 1:00-4:30 p.m.  
Kent Park Lake Boat Ramp, F.W. Kent Park

You are invited! Help us celebrate the  
restoration & reopening of Kent Park Lake!

**Schedule of events:**

1:00-1:30 - Opening Remarks at Boat Ramp

1:30-2:15 - Water Monitoring Demonstration &  
BioCell Tour

2:15-4:30 - Watershed and Wetland Tours

Tour 1 - 2:15, Tour 2 - 3:15

- Fish Identification Trailer

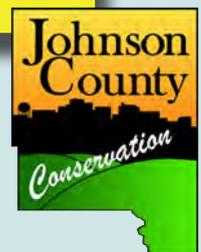
- Kid's Casting Station

- Free Use of Canoes and Kayaks

- Guided Eco-tour of Lake Trail

Tour 1 - 2:15, Tour 2 - 3:15

Questions? Call 319-645-2315



*continued from page 1*

A phrase I learned on this trip was "Type two fun." This means that your experience in the moment is mentally and physically difficult and painful, but afterwards, it is the best thing ever because you overcame the challenge and accomplished something huge. My trek mates and I definitely had some type two fun, along with plenty of type one fun, throughout the trip. This new kind of fun was made even more rewarding because we experienced it together.

Our first encounter with mental and physical challenge came while climbing Friday Pass. The pass was situated about two miles from our campsite: one mile straight up, one mile down. It was early afternoon on our first day of hiking with full packs, and many of us were beginning to feel some aches, pains, and hotspots. The trail, a mix of rough tumbles of boulders along a creek bed and dusty switchbacks, was heavily fringed with mountain heather. About halfway up, glacier lilies poked through the lingering snow, and its meltwater trickled down the trail. I started hiking upwards with a group of four or five other girls, whom I was just beginning to get to know. We were positive, confident, and determined to work hard together.



**Above:** Glacier Lillies litter the mountainside, a sign that snow has only recently disappeared.

"We can make it to the next switchback without a rest!" "Look how far we've gone – we can do this!" "You are strong. Keep going."

As we ascended, the altitude made itself known in our lungs and in our legs. Over time, we began to split up. I found myself hiking upwards, alone.

I can remember distinctly how the pack jammed into my tender hips and made me cry. Yet I also remember stopping and looking at the lake and trees below me with breathtaking wonder. And I clearly remember my trekmates climbing steadily above me and below me, occasionally shouting down encouraging words to those behind them. We made it alright. We made it to the top of Friday Pass and it was the best feeling in the world.



**Above:** Trekkers pose in front of Grave Peak's firewatch tower. Piled in the foreground on the left side are the shingles participants carried to the peak to restore its historic roof.

Later that evening we gathered together to share our feelings from the day: our roses, buds and thorns. As my friends reflected upon those ups and downs, I heard many of them, including me, share the same thought:

"That was the hardest thing I've done in my life."

The pain, the tears, the camaraderie, the mountains, the flowers, the snow, the feeling when you finally take your pack off ... it was fun. It was the kind of fun that gives you strength and confidence, and a deeper connection to your body, the earth, and the people around you. That first time I made it to the top of Friday Pass, I joked that it takes some crying to get up a mountain. After a week in the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness and many more laughs, adventures, and life-changing challenges, I realized that it is also the support from the people you share the pain with, that gets you up that mountain.

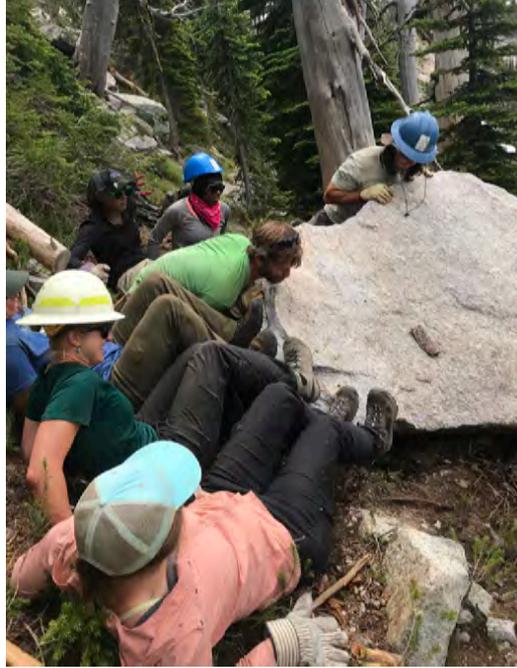
**Top row from left to right:**

Teamwork is required to move a large boulder off of the trail where gravity left it to rest; trekkers work together to move a large tree during trail improvements.

**Middle Row, left:** Enough snow remained on Friday Pass for a little fun!

**Middle Row, right:** Everyone walking single file on the bitter-sweet hike back out of the wilderness.

**Bottom:** Caleigh Stanier takes one final look before descending Friday Pass for the last time.



“That was the hardest thing I’ve done in my life.”



# Volunteer Highlight



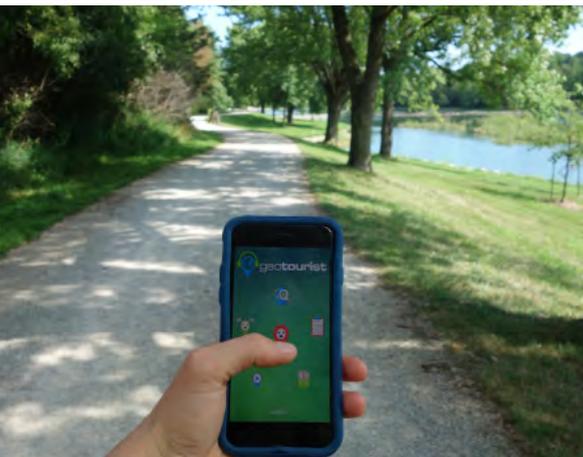
We're lucky to live in a community that is so passionate and engaged in the conservation mission. Each year, volunteers give back in a multitude of ways, from helping with events, to taking care of the education animals while staff is away, to keeping the Conservation Education Center (CEC) open on weekends, and more. Volunteers also help by using their skills to create new resources for JCC. This fall, we have several such projects to recognize.



**Roving Platform, built by Eagle Scout Jason Lang:** For an Eagle Scout project, Jason built a roving collapsible platform for the CEC. The platform will host rotating activities designed especially for our youngest visitors. At times, the platform will host a play-campsite and reading nook, complete children's nature books. Other times, the space will host an observation table with microscopes and nature artifacts to explore. Some weeks will feature animal tracking stamps and scavenger hunts. The JCC education staff have been dreaming of such a space for a couple years, and Jason did a terrific job making a product that worked with a tight space.

**Chair Covers, made by Iowa Master Naturalist (IMN) Chris Olney:**

This spring, IMN graduate Chris Olney went above and beyond to craft beautiful chair covers for the bird blind in Kent Park. Each colorful cover includes two pockets, one for retired JCC bird guides and another for a notebook (some young visitors have already left us drawings of their bird observations!). The cherry on top is the bird decal attached to each cover!



**Smartphone Lake Trail Tour, created by IMN grad Melinda**

**Turnbull:** Visitors to the popular Kent Park Lake Trail can now learn about the park's history, ecology, and management practices while they hike! To check out this self-guided tour, simply download the Geotourist App on a smartphone, and when you arrive at Kent Park, search the tours available "Around me." Start at the beach parking area and complete the 1.4 mile trail to finish the tour.

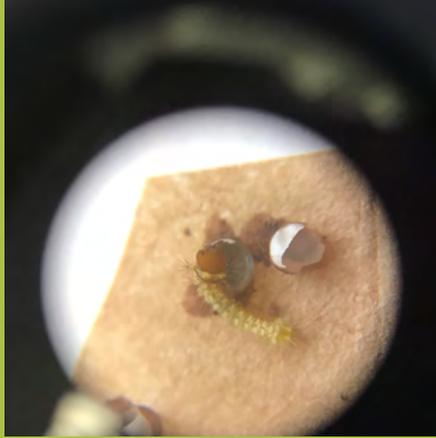


**Turtle Enclosure Stands, built by IMN grad Dan Phillips:** In 2018, the CEC's resident ornate box turtles got a major upgrade to their housing with separate and larger enclosures. By the end of the year, their digs were spruced up even more with these beautiful oak stands built by Dan. Even better, Dan's grandson, a budding young conservationist, got in on the building process with lots of woodshop time with his grandpa.

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who work with us throughout the year! Our work wouldn't go nearly as far, nor look nearly as good without your help.



Polyphemus eggs before hatching.



Polyphemus caterpillar just after hatching, busy munching on its egg.



Polyphemus caterpillar after a few weeks – getting large!



A cocoon showing where the moth made its exit.



Adult female (above) and male (below) Polyphemus moths.

# THE INVASION OF THE CATERPILLARS



From top to bottom: Cecropia Moth eggs; 1st instar caterpillars; 2nd instar caterpillar; 5th instar caterpillar.

If you came out to the Education Center at F.W. Kent Park this summer, you might have noticed some black mesh bags hanging from a few of the surrounding trees. Each of these bags held one or more caterpillars that would transform into a species of silk moth (Polyphemus, Cecropia, or Luna moths). Silk moths get their name from the fine silk they use to weave their cocoons. We use silk from different species of moths to make fine silk threads for fabric and clothing.

Iowa has several species of native silk moths including the Cecropia Moth, the largest insect in North America! Some of these caterpillars will still be growing through September, so if you are interested in seeing them, you should come out to the Conservation Education Center. Look for the mesh bags and educational tags which label them! Watch out for more caterpillars next summer.

For more information on these silk moths and where to find them, call the Education Center at (319)-645-1011.



From top to bottom: Luna Moth eggs; 1st instar caterpillars; 3rd instar caterpillar

# COME JOIN US FOR A PRAIRIE SEED HARVEST!

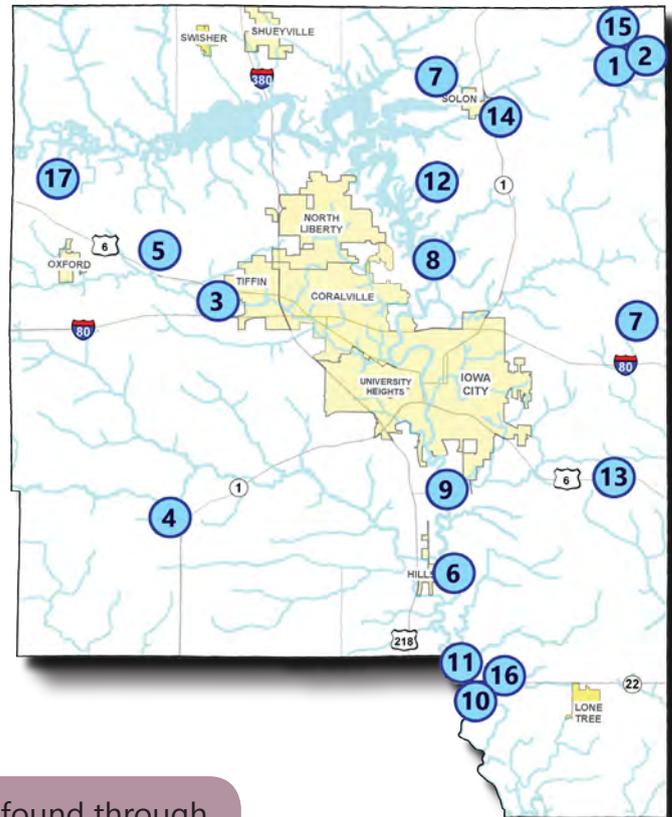
We need volunteers for prairie seed harvest dates in September, October, and November! Come to one or all of our prairie seed harvest events. You will be helping Johnson County Conservation restore valuable prairie habitat.

**Dates:** Sept. 26th, Oct. 3rd, Oct. 10th, Oct. 17th, Nov. 4th

For additional details, see the program calendar and event descriptions on pages 12-15 of this newsletter.

## JCC Public Use Areas

1. Cedar River Crossing	514 acres
2. Ciha Fen	81 acres
3. Clear Creek Area & Trail	87 acres, 1.3 miles
4. Frytown Conservation Area	94 acres
5. F.W. Kent Park	1,052 acres
6. Hills Access	40 acres
7. Hoover Trail	6 miles
8. Iowa River Trail	3.5 miles
9. Iowa River Water Trail	22 miles
10. River Junction Access	12 acres
11. Pechman Creek Delta	380 acres
12. Schwab-Burford Acquisition	132 acres
13. Scott Church Park	5 acres
14. Solon Prairie	3 acres
15. Sutliff Bridge & Access	1/2 acre
16. Walker Park	3 acres
17. Williams Prairie Preserve	21 acres



More information about JCC public use areas can be found through our website: [www.johnson-county.com/conservation](http://www.johnson-county.com/conservation)

# Fall Program Calendar

September	Time	Event	Location
Saturday, 14th	8:00 p.m.	Deer Hunt Orientation	CEC
Saturday, 14th	7:00 a.m.	Iowa River Clean-up	Sturgis Ferry, Iowa City
Sunday, 15th	1:00 p.m.	Monarch Tagging	CEC
Wednesday, 18th	8:00 a.m.	Kent Park Bird Walk	CEC
Saturday, 21st	1:00 p.m.	Kent Park Lake Grand Opening	Kent Park Lake
Wednesday, 25th	10:00 a.m.	Nature Buds: Migration	CEC
Thursday, 26th	10:30 a.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	CEC
Saturday, 28th	9:00 a.m.	Fall Bird Banding	CEC
October	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday, 2nd	8:00 a.m.	Kent Park Bird Walk	CEC
Thursday, 3rd	10:30 a.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	CEC
Sunday, 6th	1:00 a.m.	Mushroom Foray	Schwab-Burford Acquisition
Tuesday, 8th	1:00 p.m.	Say Yes to Foraging in Fall	Frytown Conservation Area
Thursday, 10th	10:30 a.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	CEC
Saturday, 12th	8:00 a.m.	Women's Backpacking 101	Yellow River State Forest
Wednesday, 16th	8:00 a.m.	Kent Park Bird Walk	CEC
Thursday, 17th	10:30 a.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	CEC
Thursday, 24th	6:30 p.m.	Animals of the Night Halloween Hike	Youth Group Camp
Friday, 26th	10:00 a.m.	Hike It Baby	Clear Creek Trail
Saturday, 26th	2:00 p.m.	Fall Colors Paddle	Pechman Creek Delta
Wednesday, 30th	10:00 a.m.	Nature Buds: Seeds	CEC
November	Time	Event	Location
Saturday, 2nd	10:00 a.m.	Woodworking For Wildlife: Bird Feeders	CEC
Sunday, 3rd	9:00 a.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	Evergreen Landing
Sunday, 3rd	1:00 p.m.	Fall Colors Paddle	Kent Park Boat Ramp
Wednesday, 6th	8:00 a.m.	Kent Park Bird Walk	CEC
Wednesday, 20th	8:00 a.m.	Kent Park Bird Walk	CEC
Wednesday, 20th	10:00 a.m.	Nature Buds: Animal Superheros	CEC
Friday, 22nd	10:00 a.m.	Hike it Baby	CEC
December	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday, 4th	5:30 p.m.	Nature Buds: Starry Night	CEC
Thursday, 5th	6:00 p.m.	Basket Making With Natural Materials	CEC
Saturday, 21st	7:00 a.m.	Winter Solstice Hike	Cedar River Crossing

# Fall Program Calendar

## Kent Park Bird Walks

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Join the Iowa City Bird Club for a leisurely bird walk. Participants should meet in front of the CEC in Kent Park. Walks last around 1.5 hours.

## September

### Deer Hunt Orientation

Saturday, September 14, 8:00 a.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

This session is required for all archers wishing to take part in the controlled deer hunt. Hunters must apply in person; applicants will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis and should bring a photo ID. All successful applicants must also take part in a shooting proficiency test to be conducted at Fin & Feather. For more information, contact a ranger at 319-645-2315.

### Iowa River Clean-up

Saturday, September 14, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Sturgis Ferry Park, Iowa City to Hills Access

Over five years, volunteers have removed over 50 tons of trash from our stretch of the Iowa River, but so much still remains! Join us for another year of good, hard, muddy, and satisfying work. Volunteers are needed in canoes and on land. Canoes, paddles, and life jackets are available while spots remain. Registration is required by September 7th. To register and learn more about this free event, visit [www.iarvcp.org](http://www.iarvcp.org)



## Monarch Tagging

Sunday, September 15, 1:00 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Join JCC to learn about Monarch Butterflies and take part in citizen science! An indoor presentation about monarchs will be followed by outdoor exploration to catch, tag, and release the butterflies as they pass through Kent Park. This is a free event. Pre-registration is requested; to register, email [fowen@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:fowen@co.johnson.ia.us)



### Nature Buds: Migration

Wednesday, September 19, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Nature Buds is a free monthly nature program for children ages 3 to 5 years old. This series encourages adult/child interaction through hands-on indoor stations and outdoor activities; one adult to every two children is required. Email [kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us) to register.

### Kent Park Lake Grand Opening

Saturday, September 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

After a long restoration process, JCC and the

Iowa DNR are excited to celebrate the lake's reopening with the community! The event will feature water-monitoring demonstrations, tours of the biocells and catch basins, fish identification educational booths, free check out of JCC's kayaks and canoes, stream table activities led by Iowa City Parks and Recreation, and a self-guided smartphone tour of the Kent Park Lake trail. Light refreshments will be provided. Visitors are welcome to come and go as they please to this free celebration.

### **Prairie Seed Harvest**

Thursday, September 26, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Each year, JCC pushes to restore more areas to our native tallgrass prairie, and volunteers can play a big role in that project! Hand-harvesting prairie seed is fun, easy, and very rewarding! This fall, Volunteer Lois Albrecht will lead a weekly prairie seed harvest event. Volunteers will meet at the Conservation Education Center, but seed collecting will take place at various locations within Kent Park. Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves, and closed-toe shoes, and bring a water bottle. This activity is ideal for active senior citizens or any adults wishing to help. Families are also welcome. To register, please call 319-645-1011 or email [fowen@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:fowen@co.johnson.ia.us)



### **Fall Bird Banding**

Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Fall is a great time to observe birds, especially those migrating through! This fall, join federally certified bird banders for an opportunity to learn about and see song birds up close. The program will demonstrate the safe practices of banding through observation of banding equipment, operations, and viewing banded birds. Participants can come and go as their schedules allow. This is a free program; for more information, call 319-645-1011. In case of bad weather, the program may be canceled with updates posted to Johnson County Conservation's Facebook page.

## October

### **Prairie Seed Harvest**

Thursday, October 3, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park  
See Sept. 26th's event on pg 10 for more details.

### **Mushroom Foray**

Sunday, October 6, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Schwab-Burford Acquisition, 4045 245th ST NE  
Solon, IA 52333

Join us for a mushroom hunt at Johnson County Conservation's newest property. Fall is a great time to find a wide variety of mushrooms – including edible species! The Prairie States Mushroom Club will lead a foray through this high quality oak woodland. Registration is requested; email [fowen@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:fowen@co.johnson.ia.us) to register.

### **Say Yes to Foraging in Fall**

Tuesday, October 8th, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
Frytown Conservation Area, 2198 Angle Road SW,  
Kalona, IA 52247

Take a walk with a JCC naturalist and learn about some of the foods and medicines that can be foraged, in autumn! This program is outside and features a walk over uneven terrain. Some time will be spent on preparing and tasting foraged

items. Registration is required; email [fowen@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:fowen@co.johnson.ia.us) to register.

### **Prairie Seed Harvest**

Thursday, October 10, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park  
See Sept. 26th's event for more details.

### **Women's Backpacking 101 Workshop**

Saturday, October 12, 8:00 a.m. - Monday,  
October 14, 1:00 p.m.  
Yellow River State Forest, Harper's Ferry, IA  
Fee: \$80

Spend a long weekend in one of Iowa's prettiest forests – just in time for fall colors! Along the way, participants will learn many of the skills necessary for a successful backpacking trip. Skills include proper tent set-up, backpacking stove use, how to fit and pack a backpack, map reading and compass use, knot tying, water filtration, and how to complete a bear hang (not that we'll need it!). We'll cover about 8 miles of new trail each day with full packs. All food, transportation, and backpacking gear is included in the fee (participants will need to provide personal gear such as clothing and footwear). For registration materials, contact [kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us).

### **Prairie Seed Harvest**

Thursday, October 17, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park  
See Sept. 26th's event for more details.

### **Animals of the Night: Halloween Night Hike**

Thursday, October 24, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Youth Group Camp, F.W. Kent Park

Escape the ghouls and goblins running around town and head out to Kent Park for a costumed night hike with a twist: costumes should be animal themed! The hike will include interesting information about nocturnal animal adaptations and will end with a campfire and s'mores. Registration is required. Call 319-645-1011 or email [kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us) to register.

### **Hike It Baby**

Friday, October 26, 10:00 a.m.  
Clear Creek Trail, 3196 Half Moon Ave NW  
Tiffin, IA 52340

Hike It Baby is a national group with the goal of raising a generation to love the outdoors. Join in by bringing your little one (all ages invited, not just babies!) on this casual, naturalist-led hike. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Contact 319-645-1011 for updates or questions.



### **Fall Colors Paddle**

Saturday, October 26, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Pechman Creek Delta

Help us hunt for wildlife signs as we paddle along the slough in Pechman Creek Delta – just in time for the turning of the trees! Participants must be at least 12 years old. Registration is required for this free program. To register, email [kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us).

### **Nature Buds: Seeds**

Wednesday, October 30, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park  
See September 25th's program for more details.  
Email [kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us) to register.

## **November**

### **Woodworking for Wildlife: Build a Bird Feeder**

Saturday, November 2, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park  
Fee: \$5

Come learn about and get involved in bird conservation! Participants will learn about feeding birds in their backyard, build a suet feeder, and discover how they can get involved in project

Feeder Watch, a nationwide citizen science program. There is a \$5 fee for materials for this program. Registration is required; to register, call 319-645-1011 or email [fowen@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:fowen@co.johnson.ia.us)

### **Prairie Seed Harvest – The Big Volunteer Push!**

Sunday, November 3, 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Evergreen Landing, F.W. Kent Park

On this last big push, we're hoping to see a mass of volunteers out to contribute to prairie restoration! This project is appropriate for all ages, including families with elementary-aged kids. For more information about seed harvesting and what volunteers should bring, see the first harvest event of the season on September 26. In the case of rainy weather, the event will likely be cancelled and an update will be posted to the Johnson County Conservation Facebook page. To register, please call 319-645-1011 or email [kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us)

### **Fall Colors Paddle**

Sunday, November 3, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
Kent Park Lake Boat Ramp, F.W. Kent Park

Check out the last of the fall colors and enjoy a casual paddle around Kent Park Lake. Participants must be at least 12 years old. Registration is required for this free program. To register, email [kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us)

### **Nature Buds: Animal Superheros**

Wednesday, November 20, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park  
See September 25th's program for more details.  
Email [fowen@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:fowen@co.johnson.ia.us) to register.

### **Hike It Baby**

Friday, November 22, 10:00 a.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Hike It Baby is a national group with the goal of raising a generation to love the outdoors. Join in by bringing your little one (all ages invited, not just babies!) on this casual, naturalist-led hike. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Contact 319-645-1011 for updates or questions.

## December

### **Nature Buds: Starry Night**

Wednesday, December 4, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

This month, we're shaking things up with an evening program to enjoy the stars! See September 25th's program for more details. To register, email [kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us)

### **Basket Making With Natural Materials**

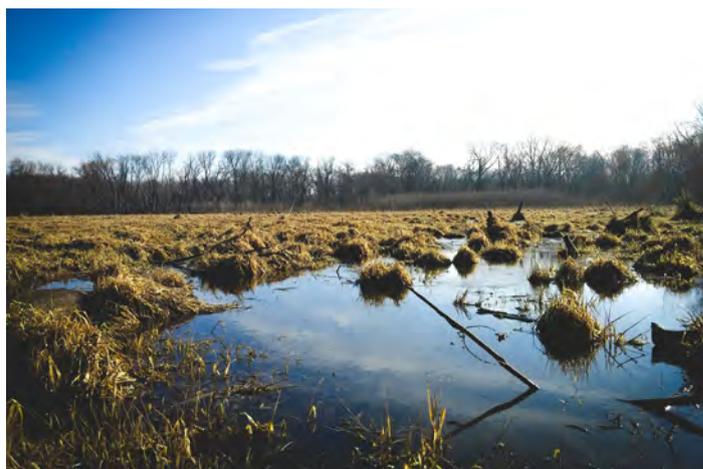
Thursday, December 5, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Learn techniques to make coiled baskets from natural materials and how to preserve them. Each participant will be given all of the supplies required to create a small decorative basket. Registration is requested; email [fowen@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:fowen@co.johnson.ia.us) to register.

### **Winter Solstice Hike**

Saturday, December 21, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Cedar River Crossing, 5473 Sutliff Rd NE, Solon, IA 52333

Cedar River Crossing is a newly restored wetland area and full of amazing flora and fauna diversity. Celebrate the first day of winter and the lengthening of daylight with us as we watch the sunrise over the clock. The winter solstice is often seen as a time for re-birth, renewal, and self reflection. You will be encouraged to take some quiet time apart from everyone else during this program. Registration is requested; email [fowen@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:fowen@co.johnson.ia.us) to register.





Johnson County Conservation  
2048 HWY 6 NW  
Oxford, IA 52332

Sign up to receive our newsletter through email  
by visiting: <http://bit.ly/JCCNewsletter>



PRINTED ON  
RECYCLED PAPER



## Explore:

As the days get shorter, take time to enjoy the splendor of Autumn in its changing leaves, vibrant red berries, and large murmurations of migrating birds.