

Summer 2021

# Conservation Connection

## Johnson County Conservation Newsletter

### Affordable Solar Opportunity for all of Johnson (and Linn) County

**Becky Soglin** - Johnson County Sustainability Coordinator

Thinking about going solar? You may have heard of the "Solarize Johnson County" program that Johnson County Conservation helped with in the past. Well, it's back, and even better, as we have partnered with Linn County and other local groups. Grow Solar Linn + Johnson Counties is a great way to reduce your energy bills, support the local economy, and help create a healthier environment!

If you're a property owner in Linn or Johnson counties, including the City of West Branch, attend a free, virtual Power Hour webinar on Zoom to learn about this program that makes solar more accessible and affordable. Sign up at [www.LinnJohnson.GrowSolar.org](http://www.LinnJohnson.GrowSolar.org) to learn the basics of solar, its financial benefits, and how the solar-group-buy program works. After the session, you can schedule a free, no-obligation site assessment/cost estimate from the locally based installer. Homeowners, businesses, farms – all are welcome to attend a Power Hour.

Questions? Contact Brad Freidhof, JCC Conservation Program Manager at [bfreidhof@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:bfreidhof@johnsoncountyiowa.gov) or Peter Murphy, Solar Program Director at Midwest Renewable Energy Association, at [PeterM@midwestrenew.org](mailto:PeterM@midwestrenew.org).



#### How to Participate:

Start the process by attending a Solar Power Hour (to sign up, visit: [www.LinnJohnson.GrowSolar.org](http://www.LinnJohnson.GrowSolar.org)). After attending a Solar Power Hour, get a free, no obligation site assessment from our competitively-selected installer, Eagle Point Solar. Afterwards, consider getting a FREE energy audit with our partner, Green Iowa AmeriCorps, because the cheapest kilowatt is the one you never use.

#### Solar Power Hours:

##### Thursday, May 6, 3:00-4:00PM

Co-hosts: Johnson County Conservation & City of Solon

##### Wednesday, May 12, 5:00-6:00PM

Co-hosts: City of Cedar Rapids & The Nature Conservancy of Iowa

##### Wednesday, May 26, 6:30-7:30PM

Co-host: City of Coralville

##### Tuesday, June 1, 12:00-1:00PM

Co-host: City of Iowa City

##### Tuesday, June 8, 3:00-4:00PM

Co-host: Johnson Clean Energy District

##### Thursday, June 24, 12:00-1:00PM

Co-host: Linn Clean Energy District

Additional dates will be added for July and August. Early contract signers for this program, will receive any discounts that are available by the end of the program.

## THE PEOPLE OF JCC

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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**Pat Heiden**-Vice Chair  
**Royceann Porter**  
**Lisa Green-Douglass**

### CONSERVATION BOARD

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**Bill Waldie**-Vice President  
**Carolyn Buckingham**-Secretary  
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#### Office Assistant

Emily Walker

#### Conservation Program Manager

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Marci Trana

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Charlie Bray

Aaron Ohlsen

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Dave Wehde

#### Natural Resource Mgmt. Specialists

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Michael Alexander

Blake Harris

Kevin Halemeyer

#### Operations Superintendent

Wade Schultz

#### Utility Person

Dave Gustafson

#### Mechanic

Josh Allen

#### Maintenance Specialist

Paul Bouska

#### Custodian

Alicia Claus-Bartels

#### Field Workers

Terry Kinney

Ben Woltz

Seth Somerville

#### Trails Field Worker

Ed Kringle

# A Note from the Director



As many of you know, it is hard to find areas in Iowa where the water quality is good. The lake restoration at Kent Park has been phenomenal and exceeded our goals in terms of water quality. When we began the project, about 5 years ago, water quality experts said we need to reduce phosphorous inputs into the lake by 50% to achieve acceptable water clarity and prevent algae blooms from turning the water green. Computer modeling for our planned best management practices indicated we may achieve a 49% reduction in phosphorous, not good news since we were doing everything possible to improve the water quality. Since the lake refilled we have been testing water quality on a weekly basis through the growing season. In the last half of 2019 and in all of 2020, we documented an impressive 80% reduction in phosphorous entering the lake. In addition, levels of E. coli bacteria (a type of bacteria found in animal waste) have been significantly reduced. The results thus far is a lake with outstanding water quality compared to many other lakes in Iowa.

This summer, two teachers will be monitoring water quality from 31 different locations in the lake and surrounding watershed. At each location, 11 different parameters are measured, including phosphates, dissolved oxygen, nitrates and water clarity. In addition, water samples are collected from at least six different locations and the State Hygienic Lab tests those samples for E. coli bacteria. It takes two full days for two people to collect this data and the process is repeated after every rainfall event of 1.25" or greater.

Thus far, Johnson County residents and the IDNR, have spent \$3.3 million on a 26-acre lake restoration project with a 650 acre watershed and monitored water quality every summer for 5 years. Imagine what it would take in terms of time and money to implement a program like this statewide! We have proven water quality can be improved, it just takes people willing to support it and a lot of hard work. If you get the chance, visit Kent Park this summer, and head out on the lake for a day of fishing, kayaking or swimming to enjoy the lake and all the park has to offer.



Be sure to enjoy some time at Kent Park Lake this summer! **Left:** JCC Ranger Aaron Ohlsen poses with a young angler's great catch! Fishing is expected to be great this summer, two years after restocking. **Right:** Free Paddle in the Park programs are hosted most Fridays, including programs at Kent Park Lake and other water bodies in the county. See the Program Guide on page 9 for details.

## Help JCC Thrive - Join the Friends of Johnson County Conservation!

**Jenny Hollis Miller** - Friends of Johnson County Conservation Secretary

As an Iowa City native from a nature-oriented family, I have spent many happy hours exploring Johnson County's abundant natural areas. Experiencing the wilder places with my young son JJ is one of my great pleasures, and during this past year in particular we have benefited immensely from the wonderful programming provided by Johnson County Conservation staff. Highlights for us have included frog- and tadpole-catching expeditions, tagging migrating monarch butterflies, Little Tikes adventures, kayaking, and going on guided nature hikes.

If you, like our family, are enthusiastic participants in JCC activities, I invite you to become involved with the Friends of Johnson County Conservation. FJCC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the educational and conservation goals of the Johnson County Conservation Board. I currently serve on the FJCC board of directors and my father, Rick Hollis, is also a longtime board member.

As activities resume over the next year community members may become part of the Friends group in various ways: membership

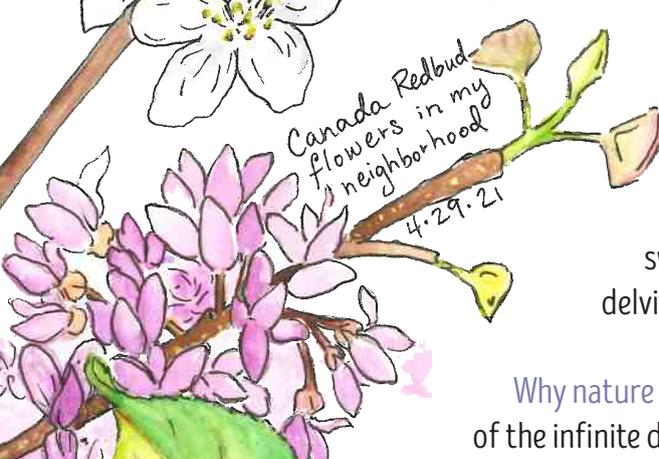
(including members-only tours of county-managed properties), volunteer opportunities, sponsorship (100% of donations go to the JCCB), and service on the board of directors. We would love to increase the diversity of backgrounds and ages in our organization; we invite all interested individuals, especially those with families who take part in JCC programming, to contact us via email ([friends.jccb@gmail.com](mailto:friends.jccb@gmail.com)) or our Facebook page, [@FriendsofJohnsonCountyConservation](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofJohnsonCountyConservation).



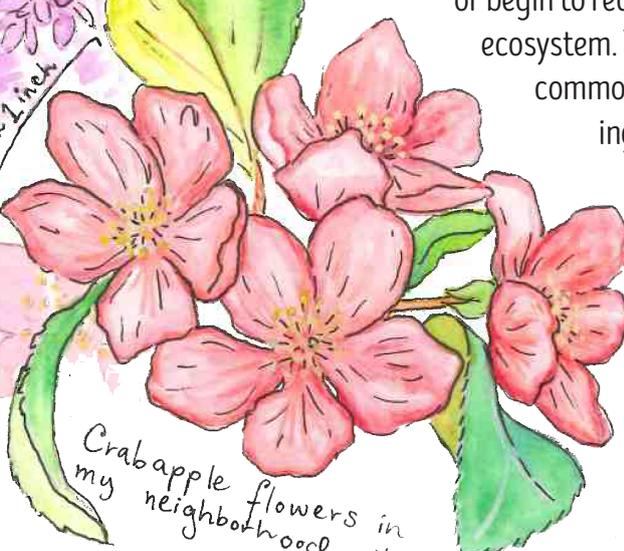
Jenny's son JJ releasing a large fishing spider at one of JCC's educational programs last summer.



4.29.21 Crabapple in my neighborhood



Canada Redbud flowers in my neighborhood 4.29.21



Crabapple flowers in my neighborhood 4.29.21



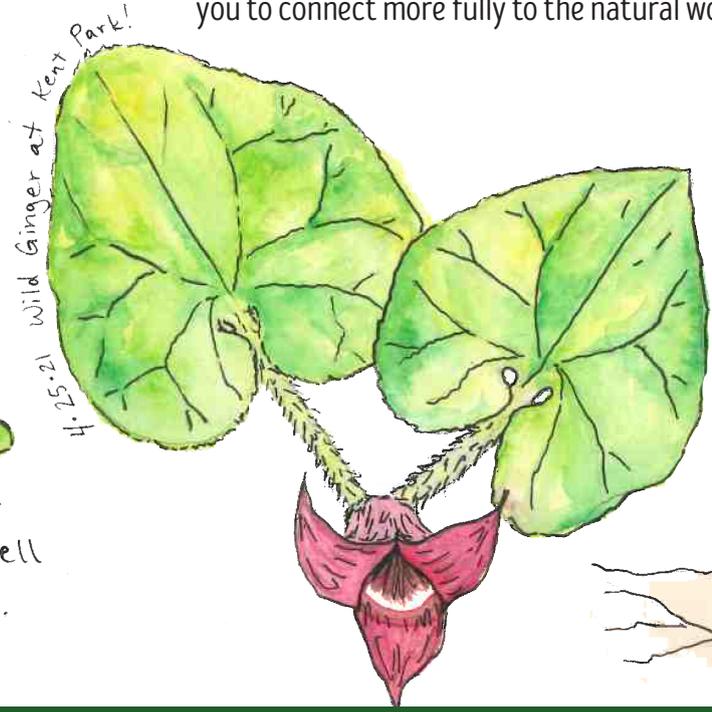
4.27.21 Bumblebee butt in Virginia Bluebell at Walker Park.

# Nature Journaling for Beginners

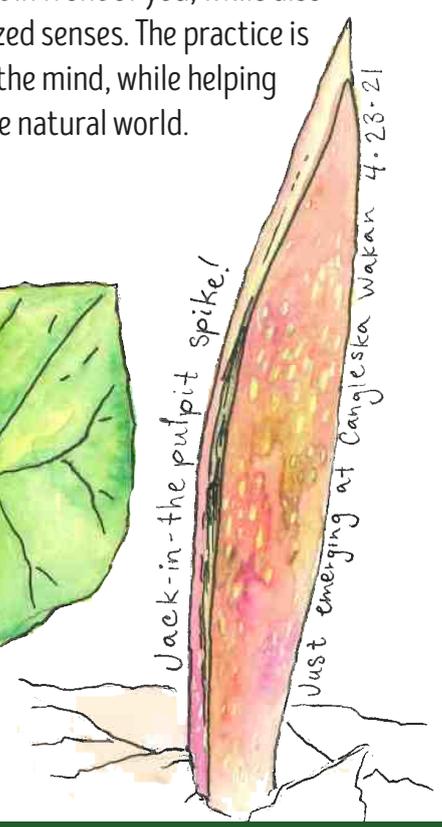
Kristen Morrow - Naturalist

**What is nature journaling:** Nature journaling is the act of recording your observations from the natural world onto paper. This process is an amazing tool in a naturalist's tool belt, as it can help a journaler to become a better observer and question asker. Every nature journal should be a unique reflection of the journalers interests and style. Though each journal should strive to combine illustrations, text, and numbers, the balance sways with the journaler, with some dipping more heavily into art, and others delving more rigorously into prose or measurements.

**Why nature journaling:** Nature journaling provides the space to become more observant of the infinite details in the natural world. Journalers often discover new-to-them species, or begin to recognize formerly unseen patterns and relationships taking place within the ecosystem. This process also trains a journaler to see the small details in all outings - a trait common to a naturalist, but often unpracticed from the average person today. Taking the time for intentional observation also increases curiosity and causes the journaler to make more inquiries about the things they are experiencing, and typically, a journaling session prompts further research and learning. In addition to strengthening naturalist skills, nature journaling is a practice in mindfulness. When nature journaling, you are away from screens. Your brain is instead focused on what is right in front of you, while also being tuned in to our often under-utilized senses. The practice is typically restorative and serves to calm the mind, while helping you to connect more fully to the natural world.



4.25.21 Wild Ginger at Kent Park!



Jack-in-the-pulpit spike!

Just emerging at Cagle'ska Wakan 4.23.21

# Tips to get started:

Put together a Nature Journal Kit. Include a dedicated nature journal (could be a basic notebook, sketchbook, or a special journal), and your preferred art supplies, such as pencil and colored pencils or watercolor. Put everything in an easy to stow bag to make sure your kit is complete for outings.

Set a journaling goal that makes sense for you, whether that is daily, weekly, or once a month. In addition, bring your Nature Journal Kit on your outings, whether that is an afternoon in the backyard, a trip to a local park, or on larger trips and vacations.

Identify your nature journaling objectives. Are you journaling because you want to be a better naturalist? Do you want to build a stronger relationship with the natural world? Are the mental health benefits of mindfulness and time outdoors most important to you? Is scientific inquiry top priority? Reflect, and let your goals guide your style.

Use a combination of words, illustrations, and numbers in every entry. By using a combination, you will make more complete observations. For example, sketching forces your brain to see fine details or colors you may have missed, while putting words to an experience or observation can help you make connections. You need not be a great artist, scientist or wordsmith; focus on the process, not the product.

Start each entry by making basic observations of the date, time, weather, and location. You can add other basic observations such as cloud cover, wind speed, etc. These details help provide context to the observations you are making. They can also help to form correlations among any emerging patterns you are observing.

Engage all of your senses whenever appropriate. We often emphasize visual sensory, and miss out on all of the other ways to experience the world. Make time to focus your attention on the soundscape. Feel the leaves of plants (make sure you are comfortable identifying plants that you shouldn't touch!). Smell the soil or the wetland. By engaging all sensory, we can form stronger memories of place.

Use helpful questions to get the ball rolling, such as:  
"I wonder..."  
"I notice..."  
"It reminds me of..."

And remember to ask yourself, "What if I had never seen this before? What if I never see it again?"

Supplement your journal with other resources. You can take photos of what you are seeing and use the photos to complete your sketch later. If you hear a bird that is new to you, you can look up the song and sketch the bird using a field guide at home. Ask questions about the observations you are making, then look up answers later. You can include your research in the journal entry.

Want to journal with like minded people? JCC is launching an intergenerational Nature Journaling Club this summer! JCC naturalists will host monthly outdoor meet-ups in order to help create community and provide nature journaling guidance. For more details, see page 9.

# Art in Nature camp

*A half-day camp for kids entering 7th - 8th grade*

This isn't your normal art camp. We will forage for our art supplies, connecting to the landscape and learning about Iowa's natural heritage through pottery, basket making, and natural dyes.

## *Location:*

Cangleska Wakan  
4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

## *When:*

Session 1: June 1st-4th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Session 2: June 8th-11th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Cost:*  
\$25



*Basketry*



*Pottery*

*Ecoprinting*

**To sign up,**  
go to <https://tinyurl.com/artinnature21> or scan the QR code below. Additional information about the registration process and our COVID-19 protocols are on the sign-up site.

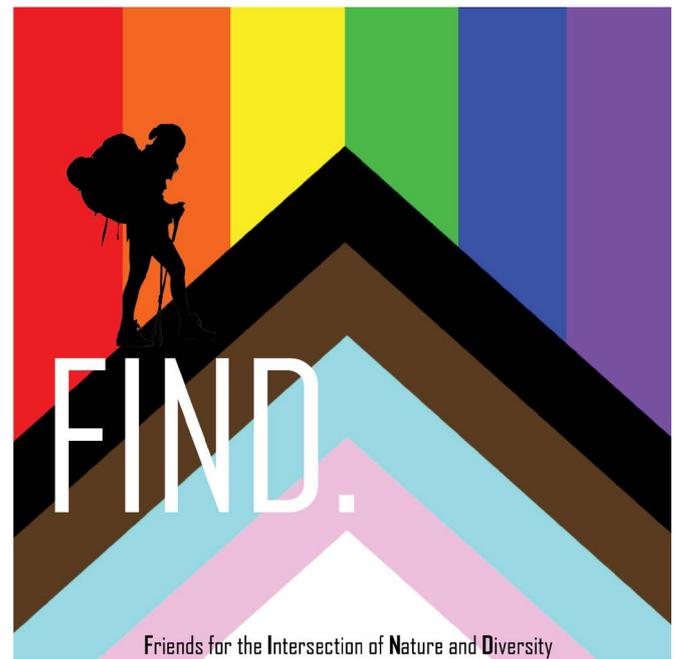


## LGBTQ+ Adventure/Nature Group

JCC and dedicated members from the public are thrilled to be launching an outdoor adventure group dedicated to the LGBTQ+ and allies community. LGBTQ+ members from the public will be heavily involved in organizing the group to keep interested parties in the loop on the dates and times of events.

Event activities and topics will be inspired from within the group in order to capture the interests and skills of the group. Marci Trana will serve as the group's dedicated county naturalist.

If you are interested in joining please see FIND events on page 8. For questions, email Marci at: [mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov).



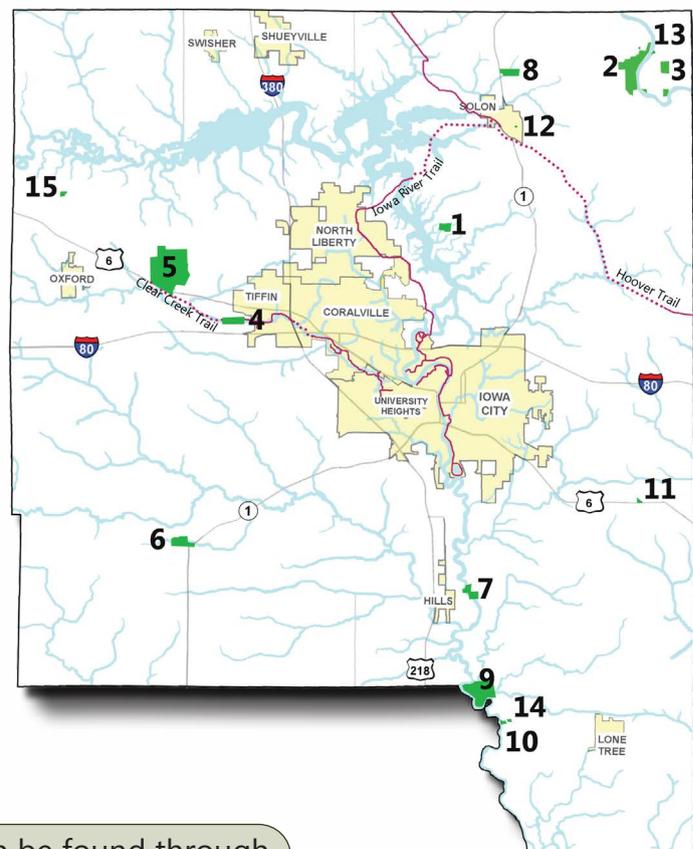
### Quotes from a couple of our Johnson County LGBTQ+ community members:

*"I am so proud to live in a county that is dedicated to cultivating connection to nature for the LGBTQ+ community. We are looking forward to participating in the welcoming and affirming events that 'FIND' will offer!" - Jamie*

*"FIND offers a safe space for LGBTQ+ people like me to explore the outdoors with friends, without judgment" - Amrei*

### JCCB Public Use Areas

- |                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Cangleska Wakan                   | 132 acres   |
| 2. Cedar River Crossing              | 560 acres   |
| 3. Ciha Fen                          | 81 acres    |
| 4. Clear Creek Area                  | 87 acres    |
| 5. F.W. Kent Park                    | 1,062 acres |
| 6. Frytown Conservation Area         | 94 acres    |
| 7. Hills Access                      | 40 acres    |
| 8. Malinda Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie | 100 acres   |
| 9. Pechman Creek Delta               | 380 acres   |
| 10. River Junction Access            | 12 acres    |
| 11. Scott Church Park                | 5 acres     |
| 12. Solon Prairie                    | 3 acres     |
| 13. Sutliff Bridge & Access          | 1/2 acre    |
| 14. Walker Park                      | 3 acres     |
| 15. Williams Prairie Preserve        | 21 acres    |



More information about JCC public use areas can be found through our website: [www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation)

# Summer Program Calendar

Due to Covid-19, JCC will be hosting modified public programs. Programs will have limited slots available to keep groups small. Programs will be outdoors whenever possible; Masks will be required for any indoor portions of programs, or when groups will be in close proximity outdoors. Programs will be designed for ample spacing whenever possible. **Programs may be cancelled based on current public health conditions or weather conditions.**

<b>June</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tuesday, 1-Friday, 4	9:00 a.m.	Art in Nature Camp (Session 1)	Cangleska Wakan
Monday, 7	9:00 a.m.	FIND Group Prairie Hike	CEC
Tuesday, 8-Friday, 11	9:00 a.m.	Art in Nature Camp (Session 2)	Cangleska Wakan
Monday, 14	6:00 p.m.	Nature Journaling Club	CEC
Tuesday, 15	10:00 a.m.	Ecoprinting	Cangleska Wakan
Tuesday, 15	5:30 p.m.	JCC Board Meeting	CEC
Friday, 18	9:30 a.m.	Paddle in the Park	Pechman Creek Delta
Monday, 21	10:00 a.m.	Nature Tales	Whip-poor-will, Kent Park
Tuesday, 22	10:00 a.m.	Naturalist Hike	Cangleska Wakan
Tuesday, 22	8:30 p.m.	Firefly Night Hike	CEC
Friday, 25	1:00 p.m.	Paddle in the Park	Kent Park Lake, Boat Ramp
Tuesday, 29	6:00 p.m.	Froggin' Fun	Cangleska Wakan
Wednesday, 30	9:00 a.m.	O.W.L.S. Prairie Hike	Valley View, F.W. Kent Park
<b>July</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Friday, 2	9:30 a.m.	Paddle in the Park	Pechman Creek Delta
Monday, 5	9:00 a.m.	FIND Group Creekstomp	Cangleska Wakan
Tuesday, 6	9:00 a.m.	Naturalist Hike	Cedar River Crossing, North
Friday, 9	9:30 a.m.	Paddle in the Park	Lake MacBride
Tuesday, 13	10:00 a.m.	Creekstomp	Cangleska Wakan
Friday, 16	5:00 p.m.	Paddle in the Park	Kent Park Lake, Boat Ramp
Monday, 19	10:00 a.m.	Nature Tales	Whip-poor-will, Kent Park
Monday, 19	6:00 p.m.	Nature Journaling Club	CEC
Tuesday, 20	9:00 a.m.	Naturalist Hike	Cedar River Crossing, South
Tuesday, 20	5:30 p.m.	JCC Board Meeting	CEC
Tuesday, 27	10:00 a.m.	Nature Journaling for Kids	CEC
Friday, 30	9:30 a.m.	Paddle in the Park	Lake MacBride
<b>August</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday, 2	9:00 a.m.	FIND Group Wetland Hike	Cedar River Crossing, North
Wednesday, 4	9:00 a.m.	O.W.L.S. Forest Hike	Cangleska Wakan
Wed 11-Friday 13	----	Beginner's Backpacking Workshop	Yellow River State Forest
Monday, 16	10:00 a.m.	Nature Tales	Whip-poor-will, Kent Park
Monday, 16	6:00 p.m.	Nature Journaling Club	CEC
Tuesday, 17	5:30 p.m.	JCC Board Meeting	CEC

# Program Guide

## How to Sign Up:

Programs are free unless a fee is listed. Sign up for all programs is online at the link below, unless stated otherwise. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/JCCsummer2021> or by scanning the QR code to the right. For questions or sign-up help, call **319-645-1011**.



\*Do you require any specific accessibility measures in order to comfortably participate in these programs? Reach out to us at 319-645-1011 to discuss.

## June

### Art in Nature Camp

Session 1: Tuesday, June 1 - Friday, June 4  
Session 2: Tuesday, June 8 - Friday, June 10  
Camp Timeline: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. each day  
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333  
Camp Materials Fee: \$25

This isn't your normal art camp. We will forage for our art supplies, connecting to the landscape and learning about Iowa's natural heritage through pottery, basket making, and natural dyes. This camp is designed for youth going into 7th-8th grades. Covid-19 safety steps will be in place to ensure a safer camp experience. For more details and for registration link, see page 6.

### FIND Group Prairie Hike

Monday, June 7, 9:00 a.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

FIND is an outdoor adventure group dedicated to the LGBTQ+ and allies community. Events are family-friendly and designed to engage both adult and youth participants through discovery-based activities along the way.

### Nature Journaling Club

Monday, June 14, 6:00 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

The Nature Journaling Club is a new JCC project to build community and make space for mindful nature observation. Meet-ups will occur throughout the year. Each will include a chance to socialize before independent journaling time outdoors. Nature journaling guidance will be provided, along with an optional monthly prompt. This club is designed with adults in mind, but is also open to any interested journalers, regardless of age. Participants should bring journal, pencil, and preferred art supplies. Basic art supplies will be provided as well.

### Ecoprinting

Tuesday, June 15  
Session 1: 10:00-11:30 a.m.; Session 2: 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Did you know colors and patterns can be extracted from leaves and flowers? Learn a little about this relaxing process and make your own naturally printed fabric.

### Paddle in the Park

Friday, June 18  
Session 1: 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Session 2: 11:00-12:00 a.m.  
Pechman Creek Delta

Explore the sinuous backwater slough at Pechman Creek Delta. Often-seen wildlife here include beaver, kingfishers, heron, owls, and a host of songbirds and fish. Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs are provided, along with basic instruction. Participants must be at least 10 years old. Participants are asked to limit participation to 2 Paddle in the Park events.

### Nature Tales

Monday, June 21, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Whip-poor-will Shelter, F.W. Kent Park

Hear a nature story read by a naturalist. An activity, craft, or animal meet-n-greet will follow storytime.

### Naturalist Hike

Tuesday, June 22, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Cangleska Wakan/Big Grove Preserve

Get to know one of JCC's newest properties on this 2 to 3-mile naturalist-led hike. This hike is on trail in a forested area with many hills. There will be two creeks to wade through.

### Firefly Night Hike

Tuesday, June 22, 8:30-10:00 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

This family event will start with a chance for families to explore on their own to catch and observe fireflies

(tools provided). The program will finish with an optional mile-long night hike through a dark forest trail to admire the glowing fireflies.

### **Paddle in the Park**

Friday, June 25

Session 1: 1:00-2:00 p.m.; Session 2: 2:30-3:30 p.m.  
F.W. Kent Park Lake

We'll paddle the length of the lake and explore side bays for wildlife along the way. Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs are provided, along with basic instruction. Participants must be at least 10 years old. Participants are asked to limit participation to two events.

### **Froggin' Fun**

Tuesday, June 29, 6:00 p.m.

Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Happy International Mud Day everyone! To celebrate, we'll get muddy in pursuit of frogs! Spend an evening catching and learning about frogs and toads! After a short presentation on frog ID, we'll head out to catch frogs, tadpoles, and other aquatic critters. Tools will be provided. Participants should be prepared to get wet/muddy!

### **O.W.L.S. Prairie Hike**

Wednesday, June 30, 9:00 a.m.

Valley View, F.W. Kent Park

Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors, or O.W.L.S. is a program for folks 65 years or older, who are looking for ways to get outdoors this summer. This hike will be 1.5 miles, at a pace comfortable for all. The trail is grass and over mostly level terrain.

## July

### **Paddle in the Park**

Friday, July 2

Session 1: 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Session 2: 11:00-12:00 a.m.  
Pechman Creek Delta  
See June 18 event for details.

### **FIND Group Creekstomp**

Monday, July 5, 9:00 a.m.

Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333  
See events on June 14 and July 13 for details.

### **Naturalist Hike**

Tuesday, July 6, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cedar River Crossing - North End

This hike will cover a 3.5-mile loop in the vast northern half of Cedar River Crossing. Hikers will pass by 144 acres of newly restored wetlands. The hike will be both on and off trail, and will travel through natural vegetation in some places.

### **Paddle in the Park**

Friday, July 9

Session 1: 9:30-11:00 a.m.; Session 2: 12:00-1:30 p.m.  
Lake MacBride, Sailboat Shelter 1

This week's Paddle in the Park is timed for the start of the American lotus bloom. We'll paddle past large populations of lotus to observe and enjoy this unique plant. This week's event is restricted to adults. Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs are provided.

### **Creekstomp**

Tuesday, July 13

Session 1: 10:00-11:30 a.m.; Session 2: 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Ramble upstream through a shallow clear water creek that runs through Cangleska Wakan. We'll explore for tadpoles, fish, frogs, insects, and more as we go. This program is designed for preK through middle school kids.

### **Paddle in the Park**

Friday, July 16

Session 5:00-6:00 p.m.; Session 2: 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
F.W. Kent Park Lake  
See June 24 event for details.

### **Nature Tales**

Monday, July 19, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Whip-poor-will Shelter, F.W. Kent Park  
See June 21 event for details.

### **Nature Journaling Club**

Monday, July 19, 6:00 p.m.

Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park  
See June 14 event for details.

### **Naturalist Hike**

Tuesday, July 20, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cedar River Crossing - South End

Embrace your wild side for a swamp hike through the saturated southern half of Cedar River Crossing. This 3-mile hike will pass straight through wetlands areas and tall vegetation to reach the featured highlight: a wetland whose banks will be bursting with blooming rose mallow. Hikers can expect to walk through water up to waist deep in some places, and tall natural vegetation along most of the route.

### **Nature Journaling for Kids**

Tuesday, July 27, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Bring a sketchbook, nature journal, or simple notebook, and learn the basics of creating and keeping a nature journal. We'll hike a short 1/2 mile loop, journaling about the flowers in bloom, insects buzzing, caterpillars crawling, birds singing, and any other details we experience along the way.

### **Paddle in the Park**

Friday, July 30  
Session 1: 9:30-11:00 a.m.; Session 2: 12:00-1:30 p.m.  
Lake MacBride Primitive Campground Boat Ramp

On the last flat-water paddle of the season, we'll explore around the southeast wing of Lake MacBride and head upstream on Jordan Creek. Participants must be at least 10 years old. Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs are provided.

## August

### **FIND Group Wetland Hike**

Monday, August 2, 9:00 a.m.  
Cedar River Crossing, North End  
See events on June 14 for details.

### **O.W.L.S. Forest Hike**

Wednesday, August 4, 9:00 a.m.  
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333  
See June 30 event for details.

### **Beginner's Backpacking Workshop**

Wednesday, August 11 - Friday, August 13  
Yellow River State Forest, Harper's Ferry, IA  
Fee: \$50

This workshop is designed for folks dreaming of primitive wilderness trips, but unsure where to start. Participants will learn many of the skills necessary for a successful backpacking trip, including proper tent set-up, stove use, how to fit and pack a backpack, LNT practices, and more. We'll cover about 14 miles throughout the weekend with full packs. All food and backpacking gear is included in the fee. Participants will need to provide private transportation to Yellow River State Forest. JCC will be able to provide limited transportation for those without access. For more information and for registration materials, contact [kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov).

### **Nature Tales**

Monday, August 16, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Whip-poor-will Shelter, F.W. Kent Park  
See June 21 event for details.

### **Nature Journaling Club**

Monday, August 16, 6:00 p.m.  
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park  
See June 14 event for details.

## More Summer Fun!

### **Visit the CEC!**

Visitors of all ages are invited to stop in the Conservation Education Center (CEC) this summer to explore the display room, and say hi to the education animals! To keep visitors and our volunteer hosts safe, masks will be required for anyone two years or older, and guests will be limited to ten people in the building at any time.

**Hours:** June 5 - September 5; Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00-4:00 p.m.



Come meet the five new education animals that live in the CEC! The new animals include two baby painted turtles, two baby ornate box turtles, and a baby milk snake!

### **Hike the Storybook Trail**

The Storybook Trail is designed for little hikers. A new nature storybook is posted bi-weekly in the spring and weekly in the summer, starting mid June. The Trail is located at the CEC in Kent Park, along the 1/2 mile stroller-friendly trail loop.

### **JCC Passports**

Track your visits to the 15 JCC properties! Passports feature property overviews, a place for notes, and a place to stamp. After visiting each property and stamping your passport, you can receive a nature patch from JCC's naturalists. [Download your passport here.](#) For those unable to print a passport, contact [mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov).



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Cangleska Wakan provides a wonderful summer adventure space! Hike the shaded trails through the forest, catch tadpoles in the pond, or enjoy a picnic at the stone amphitheater. Photo Credit: Jerry Denehy