

Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board
Fall 2012



2nd Biennial Lighted Halloween Campground

We are looking for people, groups, or organizations to Sign UP for a site in the campground to decorate (non-Scary) with Halloween decorations. Prizes will be for the top 3 voted sites, and for some special categories. Deadline for decorating a site sign up is **October 19th** and the groups will have Saturday from Noon on to decorate. It is NEVER too late to volunteer! So much goes into this event and we have a great foundation of volunteers that help EVERY year! This event is a great non-scary, Family Friendly, FREE drive into the night! Please help us make it a success!

We are in need of:

- ◆ **Site Sponsors**
- ◆ **Keeper of the Bonfire**
- ◆ **Treat Makers**

Call our office ASAP to get involved! 712-769-2372!



Trumpeter Swan Contest

Trumpeter Swans have visited the Schildberg Quarry for, at least, Fourteen out of the last fifteen winters. Most Trumpeter Swans migrate farther south for the winter in search of open water and food. Because of the depth of Atlantic's Schildberg Quarry, and the large number of wading waterfowl, it remains open year round, making it possible for the swans to stay. Last season we had an average of 27 visit, and the most on one day was 40! Arrival and departure dates of the Trumpeter Swans have been as follows:

1997/1998	December – January	2003/2004	November 26—March 21
1998/1999	Nothing on record	2004/2005	November 25—March 18
1999/2000	December 25 – February 15	2005/2006	November 17—March 5
2000/2001	November 23 – March 6	2006/2007	October 30—March 9
2001/2002	December 25—February 24	2007/2008	November 22— February 14
2002/2003	November 23—March 15	2008/2009	November 18— March 12
2009/2010	November 19– January	2010/2011	November 5th– February 10
2011/2012	November 17—February 21		

The Cass County Conservation Board is asking you...When do you think the first Trumpeter Swan will arrive at the Schildberg Quarry? Please call in your prediction (beginning October 1st) to the Conservation Board at 712-769-2372, leave a message and return phone number if we are not in. Duplicate dates will not be allowed. For example, if a caller predicts November 25th, no one else will be allowed to predict that arrival date. **So, call anytime during the month of October until November 12th to make your prediction!** One prediction per family, please. The sponsors of this contest will determine the official arrival of the swans. The winner will receive a Trumpeter Swan 8x10 Print from the Cass County Conservation Board. This contest is strictly for residents of Cass County.



Fall Happenings

By Micah Lee

Hunting seasons have already begun; dove season is well underway, the CCCB planted two, 1 acre sunflower foodplots this spring for the dove hunters in Cass County. The hunting was good on these plots opening weekend of the dove season. The CCCB plans on expanding the number of sunflower foodplot acres next year to help meet the demand of the public that wants to hunt doves. Squirrel and rabbit seasons are currently open. Archery deer season opens up soon (October 1), as well as fall turkey season (October 15). At the end of October pheasant and quail season opens up as well. The current roadside game counts (pheasant survey) are available for viewing on the Iowa DNR website. Counts for southwest Iowa are actually down some this year, but it is suspected that the reason for this is that poor survey conditions were present during the survey period. It takes heavy dew mornings to get the pheasants to come to the roads to get out of the moisture. We have been so dry this summer the conditions were far from perfect.

It is also just a wonderful time to get out to one of our areas and do some bird watching, fall migrations have begun, and we are seeing more waterfowl at our parks. Wildlife is becoming more visible as well, as the crops start to come out. Another change this year for the CCCB is that Cold Springs Park will now remain open for camping through the month of October, to give users more opportunity to come out and enjoy the park.

So I just encourage everyone to get out and enjoy one of our parks. If you just enjoy a nice quiet walk, camping, hunting/fishing, or watching wildlife, give us a call if you have any questions we'd be happy to give you some ideas for a wonderful day or weekend at one of our parks!

Wanted:



We are looking for a memorial donation, to mount a Snowy Owl in our possession. Anyone interested please call 712-769-2372 and ask for Lora, or email lkanning@casscoia.us for more information!



What Naturalist Lora Loves:

This article will always give you some information on new recreation, going green, nature books, gadgets, camping tips well... anything Lora Loves and wants to share with the quarterly readers! This edition I am including eco friendly workout statistics. Running outside for one hour twice a week instead of the treadmill. Conserves enough energy to do 24 loads of laundry! You can recycle your yoga mat through www.recycleyourmat.com. You do have to pay to ship the mat to them. Buy a better bottle, it takes 1.5 million barrels of oil to produce all of the plastic water bottles Americans use each year. Look for BPA-free bottles, major brands are Nalgene, Kleen Kanteen, Sigg and CamelBak. They even make insulated ones, and bottles that fit in your cup holders!! This HOT summer, I bought an insulated CamelBak bottle, I think it is the best ever! We recycle 31% of the years worth of the plastic water bottles we use in America. Feel free to drop me any Loves of your own! I'd love to hear how Cass County Is Going Green!

Upcoming Events

Cass County Pheasants Forever-Youth Pheasant Hunt

Saturday, October 20th

Guided youth hunt by Cass County Pheasants Forever Members. Contact Matt Dollison at 712-249-4795 for more information.



Lighted Halloween Campground

Saturday, October 27th

Cold Springs Park, Lewis

7:00 PM—9:00 PM

Join us on a non-scary drive into the night! Drive through the campground loop and VOTE on the top 3 sites and after the drive enjoy tasty treats, warm drinks and bonfire!

Intro to Rainscaping Workshop

Saturday November 3rd at 9AM-Noon— FREE

Rainbarrel Workshop 12:30-1:30PM—\$40/barrel fee.

Iowa Western Comm. College, Atlantic

The West Pottawattamie Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) in partnership with Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) has received a DNR-REAP Conservation Education Program Grant to host Rainscaping Loess Soils and Sustainable Living classes. Cass County Conservation is partnered with them to bring the classes to the Atlantic Campus of IWCC. Topics covered at our Atlantic IWCC workshop: Green Roofs, Permeable Paving Systems, Rain Gardens, Worm Composting, and after lunch break Rain Barrel Class. **To register for classes go to http://www.iwcc.edu/continuing_education/ Go to Green Living Classes for the Intro to Rainscaping series for the general public and Environmental Training for the Professional Series Classes.**

Bird Feeder Workshop

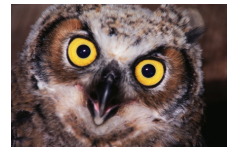
Saturday November 3rd at 4 PM

Orscheln's, Atlantic

Sunday November 11th at 4 PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Learn all about making bird feeders! Make and take a bird feeder home! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. **Please pre-register by November 1st for Atlantic and November 9th for Massena please call 769-2372.**



"Green" Home Products

Saturday, December 1st at 1 PM

Atlantic Public Library Community Room

Make and take some natural home products. Household cleaners this year will be made. **Pre-register by November 28th by calling 769-2372.**

Soiree with the Swans

Saturday, January 5, 2013 at

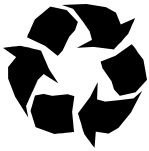
Schildberg Recreation Area 11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in case of no swans or bad weather it will be held at the **Atlantic Public Library Community Room 12:00-1:00 p.m.** Presentations will be every half hour with the last presentation will be at 2 p.m.

All Cass County Programs are FREE unless otherwise stated! Donations for programs are accepted.

Don't forget the Great Backyard Bird Count in February 15-18th, 2013!

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

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E– Newsletter!

Save a tree, email Lora at lkanning@casscoia.us and let her know to add your email to get the email/PDF version of the Conservation Quarterly!

Thank you for your time and donations!

Thank you to **Barb Chase** for your assistance with the *Conservation Quarterly* newsletter mailings!

Thank you to **Cass County Landfill and Hungry Canyons Alliance** for making our Conservation Corner Booth at Cass County Fair a success!!

A continued thanks to **Dean Downer and John Hotchkiss** for being our Caretakers of Outdoor Educational Classroom and Hitchcock House respectively!

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