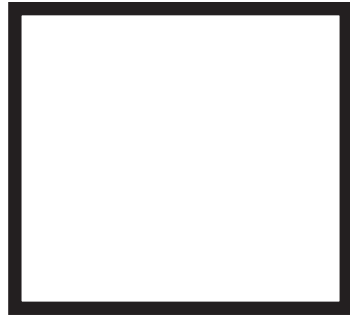



Cass Co. Cons. Bd
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, IA 51544




**Conservation Quarterly
Cass County Conservation
Board
Fall 2020**




Printed on Recycled Paper

People Making a Difference...

Thank you to **Kay Newman of SOAR**, for coming and doing her raptors program for Breakfast with the Birds!


Thank you to **Barb Chase and Amanda Darrow** for your assistance with the Conservation Quarterly newsletter mailings in the past year!

A continued thanks to **Dean Downer and Sue Rodgers/Robin Loring** for being our Caretakers of Outdoor Educational Classroom and Hitchcock House respectively!


E-Newsletter!

Know anyone missing our digital edition, email Lora at lkanning@casscoia.us and let her know to add their email to get the email/PDF version of the Conservation Quarterly!

Mark your Calendars



Soiree with the Swans
Saturday, January 9, 2021 at
Schildberg Recreation Area 11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in case of no swans or bad weather it will be held TBA 12:00-1:00 p.m. Presentations will be every half hour with the last presentation will be at 2 p.m.



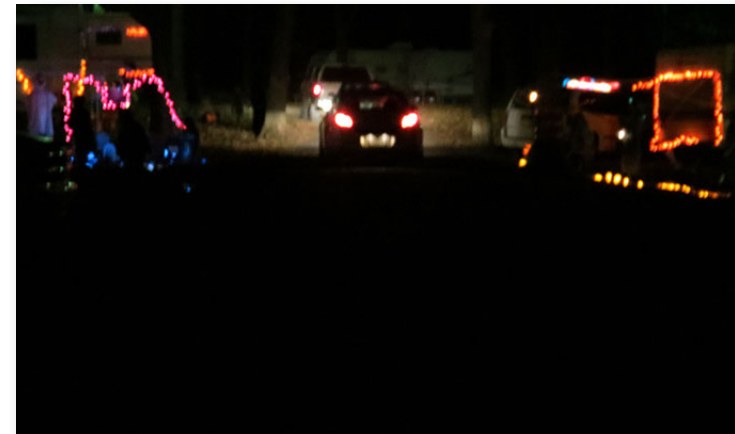
Cabin Fever Escape
Saturday, January 23rd 1-4PM
Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena
Got Cabin Fever? Cure it by spending time outdoors (sledding, and snowshoes) with family friendly activities! If you get cold, warm tasty drinks and movie will be playing inside the shelter!

Cass County Conservation Board Members

Phil Pryzchodzin- Massena
Rich Govig- Lewis
Judy Kennedy- Atlantic
Luanne Steffens- Griswold
Jerry Hudson- Lewis

6th Biennial Lighted Halloween Campground

This event is a great non-scary, Family Friendly, FREE, drive into the night! Prizes will be for the top 3 voted sites, and for some special categories. Saturday October 24th at Cold Springs Park in Lewis. 7-9 PM. Please enter the park through the campground entrance. Prizes are donated by our event sponsor Cappel's Ace Hardware. The event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather.



Trumpeter Swan Contest

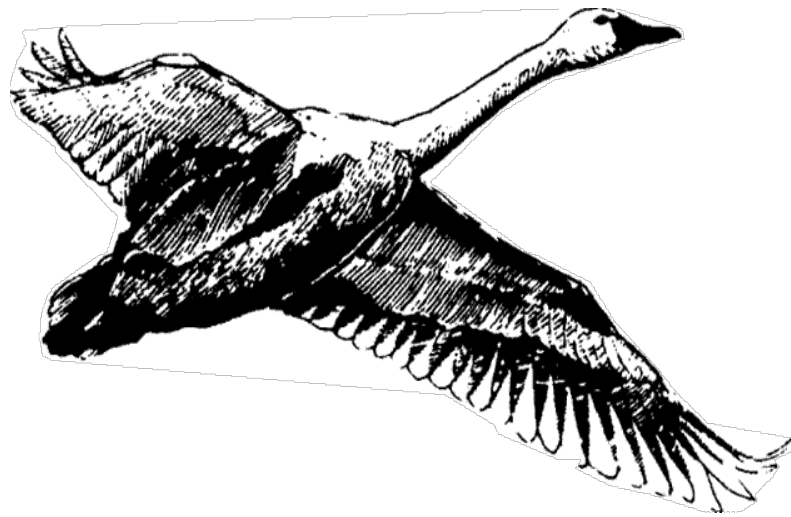
Trumpeter Swans have visited the Schildberg Quarry for, at least, Twenty-one out of the last Twenty-two winters. Most Trumpeter Swans migrate farther south for the winter in search of open water and food. Because of the depth of Atlantic's Schildberg Quarry, and the large number of wading waterfowl, it remains open year round, making it possible for the swans to stay. We had NO deaths last year!!!! Last season we had an average of 66 visit, and the most on one day was 245! 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		
2012/2013	November 24— March 4		
2013/2014	November 12- April 7		
2014/2015	November 11- April 6		
2015/2016	November 22- March 24		

In this Issue:

Upcoming Events

Summer Happenings



Continued from front page...

2016/2017 November 19- March 9
2017/2018 November 9- March 20
2018/2019 November 11- January 23
2019/2020 November 8- March 3

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 11th 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.** Contact Lora for more information. lkanning@casscoia.us or 712-769-2372.

Acorn Explorers Launched this Fall

The "Acorn Explorers" are public programs that are monthly in person and with virtual options available. These programs are targeted for 5th grade and younger doing at-home learning. FREE and all on Thursdays! Please pre-register for the February/ March dates, if filled we will add another time slot. November 19th 2pm- Terrific Turkeys- Hitchcock House Barn- November 12th 2pm- virtual, January 14th 2pm- Trumpeter Swan- Schildberg Rec. Area Lake 4- January 7th 2pm- virtual, *February 11th 2pm- Great Backyard Bird Count- Outdoor Educational Classroom (maybe recorded for virtual) Massena- Follow Hwy 148 South of Massena, turn Left onto Tucson Rd for 1 1/2 mile the park will be on your right. *March 11th 2pm Turtles- Outdoor Educational Classroom (maybe recorded for virtual), April 8th 2pm Signs of Spring- Cold Springs Park (maybe recorded for virtual) Please pre-register if you plan on attending virtually so that the zoom link can be sent to you! Pre-register by emailing lkanning@casscoia.us or calling 712-769-2372.

Trumpeter Swan Recap and Summer happenings

Our unmarked Trumpeter Swans returned to Massena again this year. The pair started out sitting on the nest platform but were unsuccessful in hatching this year. We had another very roller coaster winter at Schildberg Recreation Area in 2019/2020 we had an average of 66 visit. We have a new record of the most swans on one day was 245 on December 30th 2019 beating the 2019 record of 164. Near that same date, the swans stopped being consistently at Lake 4, they were still in the area, at Lansing Rd. They were gone by early March.

As we roll into Fall don't forget hunting and trapping seasons are starting up. Please understand that these types of users will be out in our parks. We take reservations for our Outdoor Educational Classroom Lodge for meetings and events through the winter as we do keep it plowed. Please contact the office if you are interested in reserving. Snow will be coming! Snowshoes are available for checkout here at our offices! Check in and out must be within our office hours! I have 5 pairs of snowshoes that fit children 90 lbs. and below. I have 25 pairs fit children/adults weighing up to 175 lbs. and 3 pairs for adults/children over 175 lbs. Get out and enjoy Fall in Cass County Parks!

Upcoming Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event! All Cass County Programs are FREE unless otherwise stated! Donations for programs are accepted.



6th Biennial Lighted Halloween Campground
Saturday, October 24th 7-9 PM
Cold Springs Campground, Lewis, IA
See front page for more information!



Bat House Building
Outdoor Educational Classroom
Saturday November 14th 9am

Come build a small bat house or purchase a kit. Suggested donation \$10. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. **Call 769-2372 or email to sign up lkanning@casscoia.us Please pre-register by November 10th.**



Pellett Memorial Woods Workday
Saturday November 14th 1-4pm (come and go)

We are looking for those volunteers that wish to be a part of the preservation process may contribute by assisting with the removal of honeysuckle bushes. **If you are wishing to help with this program please dress appropriately (wearing long pants, long sleeves and gloves), and bring loppers if you have them.**

Japanese Forest Bathing
Saturday November 21st 1PM
Location TBA Ages: 12+
\$15/person

Explore the natural healing path of Shinrin Yoku or Japanese Forest bathing with certified forest guides. This mindful walk will invite you to use your senses to enhance your well-being. Forest bathing boosts immunity, lowers blood pressure and stress hormones, prevents and relieves stress and anxiety, and increases cognitive functioning. Guided forest bathing walks are appropriate for all ages and abilities, covering less than 1/2 mile on each walk. Guides use techniques to support participants entering a stage of embodied awareness, moving through a series of "invitation" to support participants in tuning in to each of their senses. Thank you to Cass County Health Systems for reducing the costs for this program! **Call 769-2372 or email to sign up lkanning@casscoia.us Please pre-register by November 16th.**



Christmas Bird Count
Cass County
Date TBA 8am-4:30pm

Those that want to participate in the count will be meeting at Cold Springs State Park in Lewis at 8:00am to divide into groups that will cover different sections of the count circle. Birders are encouraged to dress for the conditions and bring along binoculars and bird books. The count will run until 4:30pm that day as we cover a 15 mile diameter circle as thorough as we can. We will meet for lunch at Noon at the Atlantic Pizza Ranch to compare lists and reboot for counting in the afternoon. You are welcome to join for the whole day or just the morning or afternoon sessions.

Don't forget Great Backyard Bird Count February 12- 15th, 2020