

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

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People Making a Difference...

Thank you to **James Stokely** for his year of work and dedication on our Cass County Conservation Board!

A continued thanks to **Robin Loring** for being our Caretaker of the Hitchcock House!

Thank you to the following support of **Cappel's Ace Hardware, Scheels and Weirich Welding** to our annual Kids Fishing Derby in June.

Thank you to **Nishna Valley Trails members** for their continuing support and partnership at our trail events over this year!

E- Newsletter!


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

Cass County Conservation on Social Media!


Search Cass County Conservation and "like" us on Facebook or follow on Instagram! Easy way to keep up on events and wildlife sightings around Cass County! Get creative with us on Pinterest as @casscountyiakon Or watch us on our YouTube Channel!

Cass County Conservation Board Members

Blaine Behnken- Massena
Rich Govig- Lewis
Judy Kennedy- Atlantic - Anita
Sandra Sothman- Atlantic



Conservation Quarterly Cass County Conservation Board Fall 2023



30th Halloween Hike

We are excited to announce The "Little Red Riding Hood" Halloween Hike! 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 hike into the night! Please help us make it a success!

We are in need of:

- Actors
- Tour Guides
- Face Painters
- Treat Makers

Call our office ASAP to get involved! 712-769-2372, scan QR code or online

<https://form.jotform.com/232684779061163>

to sign up as a volunteer!

Also, Check out the event in the upcoming events section for more information!



Swan Contest

Trumpeter Swans have visited the Schildberg Quarry for, at least, twenty-four out of the last twenty-five 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. Arrival and departure dates of the swans have been as follows:

1997/1998	December 18 – January 2	
1998/1999	Nothing on record	
1999/2000	December 25 – February 15	
2000/2001	November 23 – March 6	2001/2002 December 25 – February 24
2002/2003	November 23 – March 15	2003/2004 November 26 - March 21

In this Issue:

Upcoming Events

Swan Recap

2004/2005 November 25 – March 18	2005/2006 November 17 – March 5
2006/2007 October 30 – March 9	2007/2008 November 22- February 14
2008/2009 November 18- March 12	2009-2010 November 19 - January 5
2010-2011 November 5 – 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
2016/2017 November 19- March 9	2017/2018 November 9- March 20
2018/2019 November 11- January 23	2019/2020 November 8- March 3
2020/2021 November 30- February 13	2021/2022 November 22- February 28
2022/2023 November 22- February 22	

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 (by November 10th) 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 until November 10th 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. Sorry, this contest is only for residents of Cass County.

Trumpeter Swan Recap and Summer/Fall happenings

Our unmarked Trumpeter Swans returned to Massena again this year. The pair started out looking promising but by the end of July they were unsuccessful in hatching a family. We had a very roller coaster winter at Schildberg Recreation Area in 2022/2023 we had an average of 37 visit. We have only had high of 90 at one time. The swans disappeared from the Lake by January 15, with Lake 4 completely icing over on the 29th, and staying iced over into February. Which according to our records (since the swans been coming to lake 4) it has iced over for more than 4 days only one other time. We have a park closure: The Hitchcock House is closed to tours for a reconstruction project until further notice. Hunting area, trails and barn rentals are still available. In October we will also be doing brush removal at Hitchcock Recreation Area. As of this writing we are well into our fall hunting seasons, with dove season having opened on September 1st and remaining open through November 29th, the early Teal Season has come and gone during the first two weeks of September. Rabbit and squirrel seasons opened on September 2nd and will run until January 31, 2024, for squirrel and February 28, 2024, for Rabbit. Youth deer season is currently open and will run until October 1st. Remember those unfilled youth tags are good for the remaining deer seasons as long as the legal weapon for the season is used. The first half archery deer season opens on October 1st and will run until December 1st when the shotgun seasons start up on the 2nd of December. The early muzzle loader deer season will start October 14th and run until October 22nd. As mentioned earlier the shotgun deer seasons start on December 2nd and the two seasons run

until December 17th. The late muzzleloader season kicks off on the 18th of December and will run until January 10th, 2024. During this time the second half of the archery season will open back up during those same dates. Pheasant season kicks off for the youth on October 21-22 with the regular season for pheasant and quail opening on October 28th and running until January 10, 2024, for pheasants and January 31, 2024 for quail. Trapping season will also open on November 4th and run until February 28, 2024, for all game other than beaver which closes on April 15, 2024. Just a reminder that coyote and raccoon are both continuously open season with no harvest limit. So, if you haven't done so get out and get your weapon of choice sighted in and enjoy some of our great hunting here in Cass County. 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! New this year we have cross country skis to check out. You must know your shoe size in European sizing. Cross Country Skis and Snowshoes are available for checkout here at our offices! Check in and out must be within our office hours! Link will be live after thanksgiving to sign up at our website: <https://www.casscountyia.gov/county-departments/conservation-office/> 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



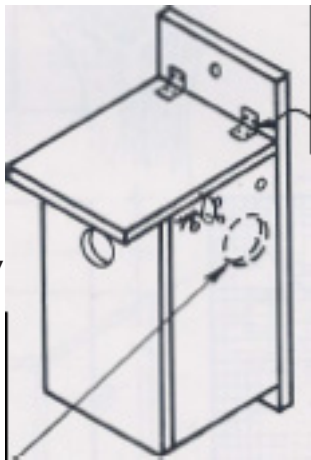
Halloween Hike
Little Red Riding Hood
Saturday, October 28th
Sunnyside Park, Camblin Addition, Atlantic
7:00 PM—Last group departs at 8:20 PM

You will follow a trail where you will hear from Little Red Riding Hood's Forest friends along the way! It is not our intent to scare or frighten anyone, but to educate and entertain people of all ages! After the hike enjoy tasty treats, warm drinks and bonfire! MUST CALL OR [REGISTER ONLINE](#) FOR YOUR FREE RESERVATIONS AT 712-769-2372. Leave your name, # of people in your group, Phone # and time you wish to depart on you hike.



Bird House Workshop
Saturday November 18th at 3 PM
Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Learn all about making bird houses! Make and take a bird house home for a suggested donation! Fun for all ages, children must be accompanied by adult. Suggested donations for House Wren house \$8, Bluebird wooden \$8, Bluebird PVC \$8 and Kestrel/screech owl house \$20. Pre-registration is requested by November 15th call 769-2372!



Upcoming Events Cont.



Christmas Bird Count

Cass County

December 17 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.



Soiree with the Swans

Saturday, January 6, 2024 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.

Mark your Calendars



Intro to Ice Fishing

Saturday, January 6th

TBA

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena



Cabin Fever Escape

Saturday, January 27th 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 a movie will be playing inside the shelter!

Don't forget Great Backyard Bird Count February 15- 19th, 2024

Winter Day Camps

FREE. Forms can be found at the quick links section at www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/. Register early, space is limited. Please contact Cass County Extension at 243-1132 for questions.

Polar Bear Winter Day Camp

For youth in Kdg-2nd grades.

January 2nd 1PM-4PM- Griswold Community Building

January 3rd 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM - Atlantic Community Building

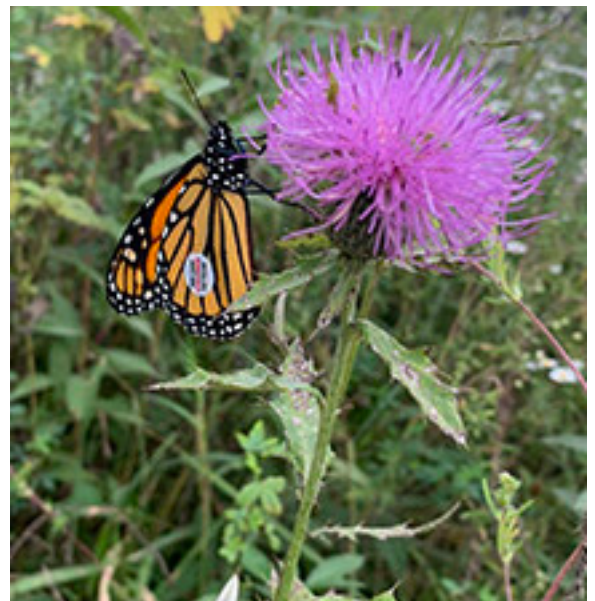
Registration will open November 22 and please register by December 28th. Learn all about the life of a polar bear!

Winter Adventure Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades. Will be held in February 2024

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

We had a great year of monarch tagging!! Hopefully one of ours gets found in Mexico!!





We had a great summer camp season! So much fun in the nature tots program with our terrariums we had a pop-up program with the leftover supplies!

Our annual fishing derby winners were awarded for the most overall weight: 1st Traven Thomas (Left) , 2nd : Dayton Thomas (Middle), 3rd : Brooklyn Thomas (2nd From Left). Awards also given for heaviest single fish and longest single fish: Gavin Dougherty (2nd from Right) , and shortest single fish: Chloe Pendergast (Right).

