

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

Address Service Requested



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## People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Soiree with the Swans!**  
**Thank you to everyone who attended our February/March Programs!** We wished we had snow for our snowshoe programs, maybe next year!  
Thank you to the **ISU Extension Cass County** for helping our winter camps be a success!  
Thank you to **Robin Loring** for all of her hard work over the past year at our Hitchcock Recreational Area.

## Cass County Conservation on Facebook!

Search Cass County Conservation and "like" us on Facebook! Easy way to keep up on events and wildlife sightings around Cass County!

### Cass County Conservation Board Members

Blaine Behnken- Massena                      Rich Govig- Lewis  
Judy Kennedy- Atlantic                      Sandy Sothman- Atlantic                      Mark Smith- Atlantic

### Staff

Conservation Office & Cold Springs 712-769-2372  
Micah Lee— Director [mlee@casscoia.us](mailto:mlee@casscoia.us)  
Lora Kanning- Naturalist [lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us)  
Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent [rlockwood@casscoia.us](mailto:rlockwood@casscoia.us)  
[Hitchcock House](#) 712-769-2323



## Cass County Conservation Quarterly Spring 2025

### Getting Ready for Spring in our parks

Spring has arrived in Cass County, even though the weather can't seem to make up its mind. As of this writing we are getting very close to the annual spring turkey season with the youth season kicking things off on Friday April 11th, with the four other regular seasons following. We are seeing a few folks out fishing on the nicer days here at Cold Springs. The pond at the Outdoor Classroom is in its first spring since being renovated so fishing there won't have much to offer until later this fall. Fishing will only improve as we move through April and May. Another spring ritual that should be happening any time now is Morel mushroom hunting time. We advise if you are looking for mushrooms on land that folks may also be turkey hunting to wear blaze orange to avoid any possible accidents. The campground at Cold Springs is open and ready for you to come stay with us and enjoy the beautiful oak and hickory trees as they start to leaf out for the year. Some exciting news for Cold Springs is that we have begun working on a new restroom facility that will be located at the beach area of the park, it should be open later this year. Our Standup Paddleboard programs will return this year they will be on the last Saturday of every month (exception of July), Ending Labor Day Weekend with that Saturday Aug. 30th. We only have 5 currently, so you must pre-register for your spot! To register, call 769-2372, or email to sign up [lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us). Anyone under 16 must have a parent with them at all times. During the date/times listed for standup paddleboards we will have our new Kayaks available for checkout. You may reserve a spot ahead of time by calling, emailing, or reserving on-line! We are excited to expand our watersport offerings here in Cass County! These 4 sit in kayaks and 4 sit on top kayaks are reservable through our my county parks website, in 1.5 hr time blocks. We have a frequent camper card program- ask our staff! Camping coupon books are now available! \$150 for 11 nights of camping at Cold Springs Park good until Oct 31, 2026. Making Shelter Reservations- To reserve the shelter at Cold Springs Park contact Ryan Lockwood at 769-2372. Don't forget we take reservations for our Outdoor Educational Classroom Lodge for meetings and events. Please contact the office if you are interested in reserving. Inside this newsletter is our Native Plant sale, we've added some different species for your consideration. The Canada geese are beginning to nest on most of the bodies of water and I'm hearing wood ducks every day at Cold Springs and the Outdoor Classroom. The Trumpeter Swans that live near the Outdoor Classroom have returned to nest for another year as well. As nature begins to awaken all around us this spring please get outside and experience it with us at the Cass County Conservation.

### In this Issue:

Upcoming Events

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# Results of 2025 Great Backyard Bird Count

Overall, it was a momentous year for Iowa in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). It was a strong year for species, but the checklists overall were lower in Iowa. Our results showed that, we had the lowest species count we've seen in recent years, but had a strong showing of 57 checklists. That put us at 5th in the STATE!! We held our own with got beat out by the largest counties in the state: Polk, Story, Johnson, and Woodbury with Dubuque at our heels, and Dallas County in 10th place. Our species count was 26, when we do the Christmas Bird Count our average species count is 32. With the new eBird system the record keeping is by county so I cannot really tell you anymore the species reported for each town unless we record them, but Cass County as a whole. Iowa had 103 species reported and 932 checklists! United States reported 671 species and 164,600 checklists.

The GBBC is a global bird count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Collectively, we found 8,078 species of birds—over 2/3'rds of the known 10,960 species we share the planet with. More than 217 countries came together to share bird sightings, making our global submission map light up for four consecutive days. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. Typically, participants submit their checklists on the internet, however, for those that are not comfortable using computers, the Conservation Board collects the data and enters the checklists for them. You can explore the results at <https://ebird.org/gbbc/places> . Cass County Results: 57 Checklists Submitted 26 Species Reported total.

Towns represented Anita, Atlantic, Griswold, Lewis, Massena, and Wiota. More results: A Northern Harrier was seen, but notable usuals missing were Ring-necked Pheasant and wild turkeys in Cass County!

## Summer Camps

The Cass County Conservation Board has joined with the Cass County ISU Extension Office to sponsor summer camps for the youth of Cass County. These camps were developed to give children a chance to have fun exploring and learning about nature. We felt that a refresh was due to our camps. We've changed our grade structure a little bit, and offerings. The kindergarten and 1st grade camps are now FREE and one session. Registration fee is still \$10 per student 2nd grade and up, includes a tote bag or lunch(6-8th gr camp), return with the fee to the Cass County Extension Office by the deadline. If you have questions, please call Lora at 769-2372 or Katie at 243-1132. If your children are home schooled, please call 243-1132 for registration information. \*Please Note— grade listed below refer to grade just completed!

Registration Information: All county school systems will have forms passed out to school children in May like the one in our newsletter. Forms can also be found here: <https://www.casscountya.gov/county-departments/conservation-office/> or accepted online at: <https://go.iastate.edu/7CRTPC>

K-1st Grade: Rocking Reptiles~ Learn about reptiles, make crafts, and play games in the free half day camp. FREE

2nd-3rd Grade: Amazing Pollination ~ Learn about butterflies and other pollinators, make crafts, build friendships and play games! Bring a sack lunch. Fee \$10

4th-5th Grade: Our Earth ~ Explore everything that earth has to offer through crafts, games and fun! Bring a sack lunch. Fee \$10

6th-8th Grade: Fisheries Adventure Camp ~ Learn outdoor skills such as fishing, Kayaking, hiking and dutch oven cooking (lunch) over a campfire! Busing is available from Cass Co. Community center, depart at 8am, and return at 5 pm. Wednesday, July 9, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Cold Springs Park, Lewis. Registration Deadline June 30— Fee \$10



### 2025 Nature Tots Preschool Summer Programs

Get outside with your tots this summer!! This is open to preschoolers only (3, 4, and 5 yr olds who have NOT attended Kdg yet), and they must be accompanied by an adult or caregiver! Choose your date, it is the same program per week. FREE, space is limited, must Pre-register online or see attached registration form! We hope to see you there!



## Upcoming Conservation Events



### Wildflower Walk Saturday, April 26th- 9AM Pellett Memorial Woods

Join our staff for a hike to locate the early spring Wildflowers.



**Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival-** The annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, May 3rd**. Come visit the famous Hitchcock House (a National Landmark and former stop on the Underground Railroad) just west of Lewis and see tin punching, rope-making, butter making and many other skills that were vital to pioneer survival. This event will be open to the public from **1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.** There will be a \$5 fee for a tour of the Hitchcock House. B.Y.O.M. for some apple cider!



### Bike to School Day is May 7th National Bike Week is May 12th-18th. Bike to Work Day is May 16th

Save some gas and bike around that day or all week!



### Movies in the Park Friday May 23rd 9PM- Cold Springs Park Campground Shelter- Dogman

Come out for a movie under the stars! Bring a blanket or chair, Dress for the weather and if it RAINS it will be CANCELLED.



**Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day**  
Kids, come to Lake Anita on **Saturday, June 7th** for a fun morning of fishing (bring your poles) and information! Learn about the fish in Lake Anita, followed by hands on fishing! Prizes will be awarded to participants, no child will leave empty handed! This event is planned in conjunction with Iowa's free fishing weekend so Iowa adults don't have to have a fishing license to join their children! **Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. near at the beach parking lot, fishing starts at 10AM.**



### Wheels Up!! Thursday, June 12th 4:30PM Produce in the Park at Atlantic City Park.

Bikes, strollers, everyone is welcome! Come out and learn more about bike safety and our trails! This event will be held during Produce in the Park in support of Nishna Valley Trails group and other groups. Follow Produce in the Park on facebook for more details as the event approaches.

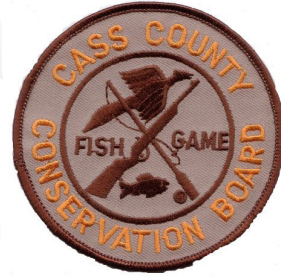


**Cass County Fishing Derby- Cold Springs Park**  
**Saturday, June 14th 9AM- registration, 9:30-11am Fishing.**  
Please pre-register, derby is limited to 50 participants, 15 years old and younger. Pre-register by calling 769-2372.

**Standup Paddleboard Demonstration- see information on front page. Kayaks available for check out.1pm- 4pm Cold Springs Park- Beach**  
**May 24th 1pm- 5 Spots available 2:30PM- 5 Spots available**  
**June 28th 1pm- 5 Spots available 2:30pm- 5 Spots available**

# Cass County Conservation Native Plant Order Form

Order Deadline April 30th, 2025



Mail or deliver to:

57744 Lewis Rd

Lewis, IA 51544

Office: 712-769-2372














Fax: 712-769-2392

Fax orders accepted, payment must be recieved by deadline.

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bloom	Plant Name	Sun	Moisture	Height	Price/plant	# Ordered	Subtotal
	Prairie Drop Seed	Full/Part	Moist	2-3ft	\$2.50		
	Little Bluestem	Full/Part	Avg/Dry	3ft	\$2.50		
	Prairie Smoke	Full/Part	Moist	8-12in	\$4.00		
	Butterfly Milkweed	Full/Part	Average	2-3 ft	\$2.50		
	Swamp Milkweed	Full	Moist	4ft	\$2.50		
	Meadow Blazing Star	Full/Part	Average	5ft	\$4.00		
	Rough Blazing Star	Full/Part	Avg/Dry	3Ft	\$4.00		
	Prairie Coreopsis	Full	Avg/Dry	2ft	\$4.00		
	Pale Purple Coneflower	Full/Part	Avg/Dry	4ft	\$2.50		
	Wild Bergamot	Full/Part	Avg/Dry	4ft	\$2.50		
	Virginia Mountain Mint	Full/Part	Moist/Avg.	3ft	\$4.00		
	New England Aster	Full/Part	Moist/Avg	5ft	\$4.00		
	Culvers Root	Full/Part	Avg/Dry	2ft	\$2.50		

Price per item includes shipping and sales tax.

All orders must be pre-paid by deadline. Unpaid orders will not be placed.

Order deadline Wednesday April 30th by 4pm.

All orders must be picked up during designated times at our offices in Lewis unless prior arrangements made.

Plants not picked up will be donated with NO REFUND.

Designated pick up times will be: Thursday May 22nd 8 AM-6 PM

Friday May 23rd 8AM-7:00PM

Buyer Signature/date: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Cass County Treasurer

Office use:

Paid By: Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Cash

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt# \_\_\_\_\_

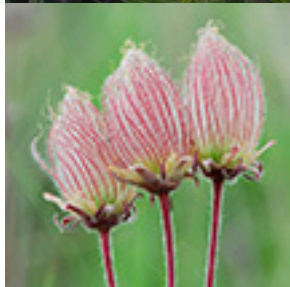
Received By: \_\_\_\_\_



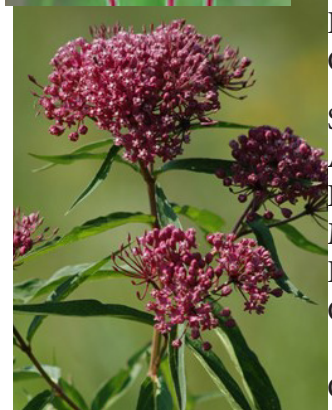
Prairie Dropseed *Sporobolus heterolepis*  
 Light: Full Sun  
 Soil: Sand, Loam  
 Moisture: Dry, Medium  
 Benefits: Birds, Deer Resistant  
 Height: 2'-4'  
 Blooms: Aug, Sep  
 Color: Straw-Gold



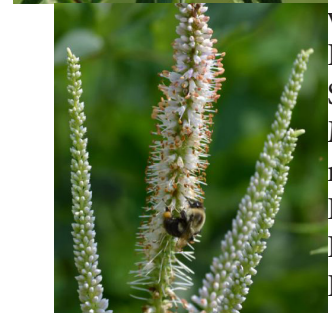
Prairie/Stiff Coreopsis *Coreopsis palmata*  
 Light: Full Sun  
 Soil: Tolerant to poor soils  
 Moisture: Dry to Medium  
 Benefits: Bees, deer resistant, Birds  
 Height: 2'  
 Blooms: Jun, July, Aug  
 Color: Yellow



Prairie Smoke *Geum triflorum*  
 Light: Full Sun  
 Soil: Sand, Loam  
 Moisture: Dry, Medium  
 Benefits: Deer Resistant  
 Blooms: May, Jun  
 Color: Pink

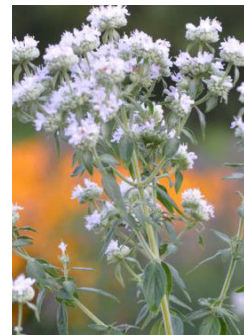


Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*  
 Light: Full sun or part shade  
 Moisture: Wet to Medium  
 Blooms: June—August  
 Color: Pink Height: 4 feet

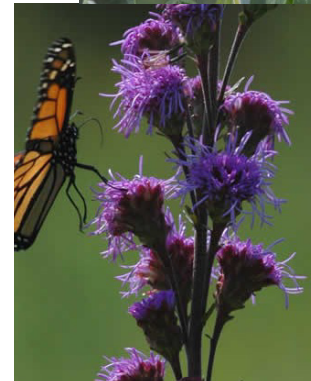


Culver's Root *Veronicastrum virginicum*  
 Light: Full Sun, Partial  
 Soil: Moist, well drained  
 Moisture: Medium-dry to medium-wet  
 Benefits: Butterflies, Pollinators,  
 Height: 5'  
 Blooms: June, Jul, Aug

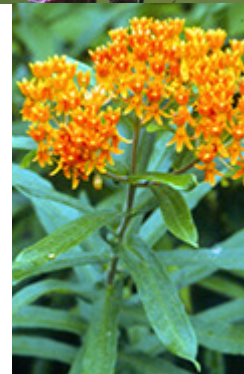
Mountain Mint  
*Pycnanthemum virginianum*  
 Light: Full sun to part shade  
 Moisture: wet-Medium  
 Height: 3 feet  
 Blooms: June- Sept



Meadow Blazing Star  
*Liatris ligulistylis*  
 Light: Full sun to part shade  
 Moisture: Medium  
 Height: 5 feet  
 Bloom Time: Aug—Sept



Butterfly Milkweed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
 Light: Full sun or part shade  
 Soil: Medium to Dry, well- drained  
 Height: 2 feet  
 Blooms: June—August



New England Aster *Aster Novae-angliae*  
 Light: Full Sun- partial  
 Soil: Sand, or Clay  
 Moisture: Medium  
 Benefits: Pollinators, Butterflies, Birds, Deer Resistant  
 Height: 3'-6'  
 Blooms: Aug, Sept, Oct



**Additional Species:**  
**Little Bluestem, Rough Blazing Star, Pale Purple Coneflower, and Wild Bergamot (Bee Balm).**

## Live Plants

- Live plants from nursery will come as small plugs; cells are 5" deep x 2" wide at top or 4.5" deep x 2" Cone.
- Immediate care: remove plants from container as soon as possible and water thoroughly.
- Plant in the ground or a larger pot.
- Keep area around plants weed free, especially during the first growing season.
- Watering is important during the first growing season. Make sure the plants do not go dry for the first 3-6 weeks; water deeply to allow formation of deep drought and frost resistant roots. Once established, native plants can withstand extreme weather.

Cass County Conservation Board and Cass County Extension present

# 2025 Summer Day Camps!

## Rocking Reptiles (K-1<sup>st</sup> Graders) FREE

Learn about reptiles and critters with scales, make crafts and play games in a half day free camp.

**Anita - June 6th from 9am-12pm**

**Lewis - June 10th from 9am-12pm**

**Atlantic - June 13th from 9am-12pm**

**Atlantic - June 13th from 1pm-4pm**

## Amazing Pollination (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Graders)

Learn about what pollinators do and why they are important, make crafts and play games! Please bring a sack lunch!

**Lewis - June 11th from 9am-4pm**

**Anita - June 18th from 9am-4pm**

**Atlantic - June 24th from 9am-4pm**

## Our Earth! (4-5<sup>th</sup> Graders)

Explore everything the Earth has to offer us through crafts and games. Please bring a sack lunch!

**Lewis - June 12th from 9am-4pm**

**Anita - June 19th from 9am-4pm**

**Atlantic - June 20th from 9am-4pm**

## Outdoor Adventure Fisheries (6-8<sup>th</sup> Graders)

Learn outdoor skills related to fishing, kayaking, and hiking. We will make lunch in a Dutch Oven. Students need a signed waiver to kayak ahead of camp. This waiver will be emailed out with camp confirmation. Bussing from Atlantic is provided if needed.

**Lewis - July 9th from 9-4pm**



**IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Extension and Outreach

Cass County



**Limit 20 per camp.**

**K-1<sup>st</sup> grade camp, FREE**

**2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade camps are \$10.00  
per participant.**

Grade is based on the grade  
completed May 2025

Register by May 1<sup>st</sup> for a  
guaranteed spot.

Register online!

<https://go.iastate.edu/7CRTCPC>

or scan the QR Code.



Questions?

712-243-1132

[xcass@iastate.edu](mailto:xcass@iastate.edu)

[lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us)

**Camps are held at:**

Lewis' Cold Springs  
Campground Shelter

Lake Anita's Primitive  
Campground #39 & 40

Camblin Addition in  
Sunnyside Park

Atlantic camp shelters are  
sponsored by the Atlantic Park  
and Recreation Department



**Cass County Conservation Board and Cass County Extension present**

# **2025 Summer Day Camps!**

Registration can be completed online or by completing the following information and returning it to Cass County Extension, 805 W 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Atlantic.

Additional waivers may be needed for specific camps. A camp reminder will be sent out within a week of the camp taking place.

Camper Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ (completed May)

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Enrolled in Cass County 4-H: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Youth not currently enrolled in 4-H will need to complete a medical/information release form in the Extension Office  
(If parent/contact listed above cannot be reached)

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Camp Selection (please circle one):

**Completed K-1st Grade:** June 6 (Anita) AM June 10 (Lewis) AM June 13 (Atlantic) AM June 13 (Atlantic) PM

**Completed 2<sup>nd</sup>-3rd Grade (Don't forget a Sack Lunch):** June 11 (Lewis) June 18 (Anita) June 24 (Atlantic)

**Completed 4th-5th (Don't forget a Sack Lunch):** June 12 (Lewis) June 19 (Anita) June 20 (Atlantic)

**Completed 6th-8th Grade:** July 9 (Lewis) Will your child need busing? – Yes or No

**Register online!**

<https://go.iastate.edu/7CRTPC>

or scan the QR Code.



**Questions?**

712-243-1132

[xcass@iastate.edu](mailto:xcass@iastate.edu)  
[lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us)

The Fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the Cass County Extension 4-H Youth Program. June camps that take place from 9am-4pm will need to bring a sack lunch. Lunch is not provided for K-1<sup>st</sup> grade camps. Snacks and all activity supplies are included. We offer quality, affordable program and don't want cost to be a barrier, please contact us for more information for financial assistance.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/legal](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/legal).

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach



## 2025 Nature Tots Preschool Programs

**Rainforest Rangers Cold Springs Park Campground Shelter** Thursday June 5th 2-4pm OR Saturday June 14th 2-4pm Explore the rainforest and learn about the plants and animals that live there.

**Garden Growers Outdoor Classroom, Massena** Thursday June 26th 2-4pm OR Saturday June 28th 10am-12pm Dig in to the world of gardens and plants with us and learn what it takes to grow your own garden!

**Safari Searchers Sunnyside Park, Camblin Addition Shelter** Thursday July 24th 2-4pm OR Saturday July 26th 10am-12pm Go on a safari through the savanna with us and learn all about the wildlife from the Zebras to Elephants!



This is open to preschoolers only (3, 4, and 5 yr olds who have NOT attended Kdg. yet), and they must be accompanied by an adult or caregiver! Choose your date, it is the same program per week. FREE, space is limited, must Pre-register by scanning the QR code to register on-line or by Filling out the form below and emailing it to Lora at [lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us) ! Questions call Cass County Conservation at (712) 769-2372

Nature Tots Preschool Programs

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanying Adult or Caregiver (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature Tot Program selection (circle one per week):

Rainforest Rangers @ Cold Springs Park Campground Shelter Thursday June 5th 2-4pm  
Saturday June 14th 2-4pm

Garden Growers @ Outdoor Classroom, Massena Thursday June 26th 2-4pm Saturday June 28th 10am-12pm

Safari Searchers @ Sunnyside Park, Camblin Addition Shelter Thursday July 24th 2-4pm  
Saturday July 26th 10am-12pm

Email form to [lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us) Deadline is the Monday before each program!!