

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

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People Making a Difference...

Thank you to the over **15 volunteers** who helped make Hitchcock House Festival be a success!

Thank you to the following businesses, **Atlantic News Telegraph, Fareway, Hy-vee, and Cappel's** for donations to the Hitchcock House Festival.

Thank you to the **Hitchcock House Advisory Board** who helped plan the Festival!

Thank you to **Christina Roleofs of Shelby Co. Conservation**, for coming and doing her raptors program for Conservation Day! Also, to everyone who volunteered at the conservation day!

Thank you to our **ISU Extension Cass County and 4-H Leadership Council** at our summer camps.

Staff

Conservation Office & Cold Springs 712-769-2372

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Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent rlockwood@casscoia.us

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Hitchcock House 712-769-2323



Conservation Quarterly Cass County Conservation Board Summer 2026

A Cass County Tagged Monarch Made It To Mexico!

A 8 year dry streak has come to an end. A Cass County Tagged Monarch Butterfly made it to Mexico! We hope it has already made it back as well! This butterfly was tagged by Denise Harris O'Brien, ALEE 747 was tagged in September 4, 2025 and made it 1,538 miles to El Rosario sanctuary, in Mexico. The tag was recorded February 4th of 2026. To date, this makes 11 Monarchs tagged by the Cass County Conservation Board and/or Cass County citizens have been recovered in Mexico, a journey of over 1,500 miles!

You can tag Monarchs!

The Cass County Conservation Board has ordered "tagging kits" that will each consist of 5 tags, instructions on how to tag the monarchs, a data sheet, monarch information sheets and even a pre-addressed envelope so you can return the tagging information....ALL OF THIS WILL BE FREE!!! Twenty kits have been ordered and will be distributed in September (one per family, please) to those interested and in attendance at the Mysterious Monarch program advertised in the Upcoming Events section of this

In this Issue:

THREE pages of Upcoming Events



newsletter. If more than twenty families are interested the kits will be distributed through a drawing. The kits mentioned above are intended to be learning opportunities with hopes that in following years the recipients will decide to order tags on their own and become an official Monarch Tagger!

Volunteer Opportunities

This spring the Conservation Board was awarded a volunteer day of service grant, to fulfill our grant, partners will be hosting volunteer day of service. Cass County Conservation board is taking part in the September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance, a day established to honor the sacrifices of 9/11 heroes and engage more Americans in serving their communities. We will be hosting a workday inside our Pellett Memorial Woods, removing invasive species, in remembrance of September 11, 2001, in an effort to engage more Cass County residents in working to strengthen their communities throughout the year. Check out the listings below for entities organizing in our parks. We also plan on sending out reminders as these dates get closer via email or our social channels!

Nishna Valley Trails- Stay after the Kids Bike Ride on August 8th at Schildberg Recreation Area for a general cleanup and/or make a bird house for the park!

This group will also be planning a T-Bone Trail Cleanup Day to be announced.

Hitchcock House Workday

Sunday September 20th 12:30 PM- 4PM(come and go, Rain date- Sept 27th)

We'll be tackling outdoor cleanup, light housekeeping, yard and garden work, and other projects to help preserve this important historic site for future generations. Ideal for ages 12 & up, children should have an adult caregiver with them. Tools & cleaning supplies will be provided, please feel free to bring work gloves for outside jobs. Free lunch & drinks will be provided for all volunteers!

Pellett Memorial Woods Workday

Saturday September 26th 1-4pm (come and go)Pellett Memorial Woods Atlantic, IA

We are looking for those volunteers that wish to be a part of the preservation process who 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. Snacks and Drinks provided!**

Park Updates

The Hitchcock House will close for tours at its normal time, September 15th. Check out their upcoming programs listed in our events! Start thinking about fall hunting opportunities in our areas. Dove season opens first with a starting date of September 1st. West Nodaway has 2 acres of sunflower plots for Doves during the season and there is also a sunflower plot at the Hitchcock house area. The next season to open would be, rabbit and squirrel on September 5th. Youth and Disabled deer seasons start on September 19th with the remainder of the fall hunting seasons opening in October and later. The roadside pheasant survey will be taking place in August so be looking for the results of that survey coming out sometime after September. All are encouraged to participate in the Annual Iowa DNR turkey survey through July and August report all turkey sightings to this web link <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8863824/IAWildTurkeySurvey>, this survey helps assist the DNR in determining nesting success and nesting rates from this spring. Fall is also a great time to get out and go fishing, our bodies of water that have recently been restocked(Outdoor Classroom pond, and Cold Springs) are coming along nicely, although large fish might be hard to come by yet, they are still a great place to take a young person and get them enjoying the outdoors. The pond and the Nodaway area still offers the chance of catching bigger fish so that is always a great option as well.

We have had a great summer so far! Our last summer Nature Tots series for 3-5 yr olds is wrapping up in July. We had technical difficulties over Memorial Day when we tried to show Apollo 13, so that will be our Labor Day Weekend Movie. So many exciting upcoming events, we have more than one page worth! We have a great variety of events at different parks! Come join us!

Friendly Reminders!!

As you visit Cass County Parks this Summer, we would like to refresh your memory on some rules:

*We do not take camping reservations.

*The Cold Springs Trailer Dump Station is free Registered Campers only, not registered campers can pay \$5 to use the dump station.

*As a visitor to our wonderful parks, please don't hesitate to talk to our staff! Also, there are comment cards (in the campground ticket holder) at Cold Springs and deposit like you would tickets.

* Please respect park parking areas and park boundaries.

* access our events, is by scanning this QR code that sends you to our events page on our mycountyparks.com page. You must pre-register for our watersport offerings, by calling or through the event on the mycountyparks.com page. Our Shelter in Cold Springs, Barn at Hitchcock House Recreation Area, and Lodge at Outdoor Educational Classroom are Reservable and FREE! Contact our office for more information!

Get social with us!

Our board is always looking for feedback social media is a great way to get ahold of us. We've also created 2 surveys to get some feedback! We have one survey on our camping area for feedback found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8MCHVH>

Another survey for feedback on our naturalist programs found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZCHBJ5L>

If you are a teacher we also have one for field trips to our parks, it should end up in your email this fall. We are on the following social media platforms for you follow us on: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CassCountyIAConservation/> Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/casscountyacon/> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cassccbia/> Please respect we run our social media during staffed work hours. Please understand if it is an emergency weather it's wildlife or human related contacting our law enforcement is faster! Another way to access our events, is by scanning this QR code that sends you to our events page on our mycountyparks.com page. You must pre-register for our watersport offerings, by calling or through the event on the mycountyparks.com page.

Do you know someone needing our newsletter? Send them this link or web address!

<http://eepurl.com/jlDHIw>





Upcoming Events

Denotes an Oak Stroller(family friendly) approved event!
Our programs are FREE unless designated otherwise, free will donations are accepted!

Marching Home book presentation and Signing

Sunday July 12th 2PM Hitchcock House Recreation Area

We're very excited to bring you Iowa's own Jeff Kluever! Join us at 2pm in the Big Red Barn with your favorite lawn chair (or we have wooden chairs). This program is free of charge, though donations are always appreciated!



Guided Blooming Prairie Hike

Saturday July 18th 1PM Outdoor Educational Classroom-Massena

Come join our Naturalist for a hike in the prairie in bloom!



Stand-up Paddleboard Demonstration

Saturday July 25th 9AM- 5 spots 10:30AM- 5 spots

Come learn about the hottest watersport in Iowa. After a quick demonstration try out the boards for yourself! Children must be 16 years or older.

Sit on top Kayak Checkout 9AM- 3 Spots 10:30AM- 3 Spots

Sit in Kayak Checkout 9AM- 4 Spots 10:30AM- 4 Spots

Cold Springs Park- Beach

Anyone under 16 must have a parent with them at all times. If you do not bring a life jacket one will be provided to you. All watersports participants must sign a waiver. You must pre-register for our watersport offerings, by calling or through the event on the mycountyparks.com page.



Kids Bike Ride

Saturday August 8th 10:30 AM

Schildberg Recreation Area Atlantic- West Parking

Lot

Bring the kids and their bikes and go for a ride around the lake! Ride routes are appropriate for age group. Stay after the ride for a general cleanup and/or make a bird house for the park!



Upcoming Events Cont.



Breakfast with the Birds

Saturday August 15th 9AM

Join Kay Newman of SOAR, for a live birds program and a free will donation breakfast!



Music on the Lawn

Saturday August 29th 3:30PM

Hitchcock House Recreation Area

we invite you to wear your favorite Christmas tee or apparel & join us for Music on the Lawn featuring Sweet Harmony! This year they will entertain us with Christmas melodies! How fun is that?! Music on the Lawn starts at 3:30 with refreshments during intermission. Bring your favorite lawn chair & join us on the south lawn. The music program is FREE and will be held Rain or Shine.



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Mysterious Monarch Programs

Saturday August 29th 1PM - Camblins Addition Shelter Sunnyside Park Atlantic

Saturday August 29th 3PM- Outdoor Educational Classroom Massena

Saturday September 5th 1PM- Cold Springs Park Campground Shelter
Learn about Monarch Butterflies, including how to tag them! Registration required if you would like a home tagging kit. Call Lora to get more information and to get on the list!

Upcoming Events Cont.



Movie in the Park- Apollo 13

Friday September 4th 9PM

Cold Springs Park Campground

Apollo 13 movie will be playing out under the stars! Bring a blanket or chair, Dress for the weather and if it RAINS it maybe rescheduled.



Stand-up Paddleboard Demonstration

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Come learn about the hottest watersport in Iowa. After a quick demonstration try out the boards for yourself! Children must be 16 years or older. You must pre-register for our watersport offerings, by calling or through the event

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Woods Atlantic, IA

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Mark your Calendars



New this year a Movie in the Park- The Nightmare Before Christmas

Friday October 23rd 8PM

Cold Springs Park Campground

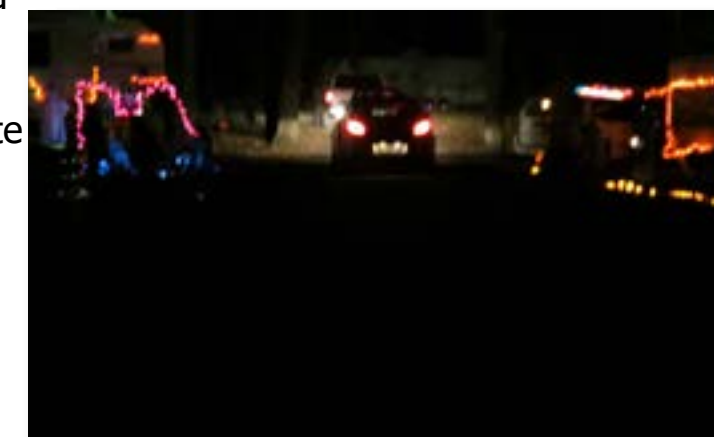
The Nightmare Before Christmas movie will be playing out under the stars! Bring a blanket or chair, Dress for the weather and the event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather.



9th 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. Call to volunteer to help that night, or call to sign up for a site to decorate! If you sign up to decorate a site, Saturday night of camping is on us!!

Saturday October 24th at Cold Springs Park in Lewis 7-9 PM. Please enter the park through the campground entrance. The event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather.



Hunter Education Classes

Cass County Hunter Education and Adair County Hunter Education dates are to be announced.

Both area Hunter Education courses information can be found here and follow the links to register. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Hunter-Education> A person who is 11 years old or older may enroll in a course, but those who are 11 and successfully complete the course shall be issued a certificate which becomes valid on that person's 12th birthday.