

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

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120 hours Outdoor Challenge continued..

Individuals who reach milestones of 30, 60, 90, and/or 120 hours will be entered into drawings for prizes over the course of the year. In order to be entered for prizes, a photo of your tracker is due on the check-in dates of May 1, September 1, and Jan 1, 2022. Photos of progress at these dates should be emailed to lkanning@casscoia.us. All three check-ins must be completed for grand prize!

People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Lighted Halloween Campground!** Especially to our volunteers and donations to the event by **Cappel's Ace Hardware!**
Thank you to everyone who took part in the **Pellett Memorial Woods** workday...
Thank you to everyone who took part in the **Forest Therapy** program...
Especially to **Cass County Health Systems** as a sponsor!!

Cass County Conservation on Facebook!

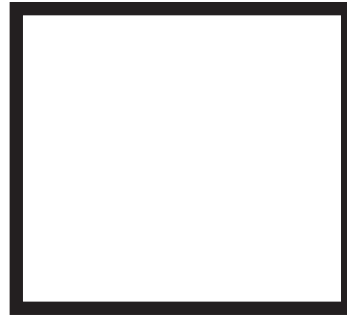
Search Cass County Conservation and "like" us on Facebook!
Easy way to keep up on events and wildlife sightings around Cass County!

Camping Coupons

We have camping coupons/certificates available here at the office. These are only \$15 each, or a whole booklet of 11 nights for \$150, good for only Cold Springs Campground, electric hookup or Non-electric camping. They make great gifts!

Cass County Conservation Board Members

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



Conservation Quarterly Cass County Conservation Board Winter 2020-2021

Great Backyard Bird Count

The National Audubon Society & Cornell Lab of Ornithology needs every bird enthusiast in North America to count birds February 12th-15th. All you need is a basic knowledge of bird identification! This activity is extremely easy...you watch the birds in your yard, local park, or other natural area for 15 minutes or more and use a tally sheet to record the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time. There are two ways to participate in the bird count, 1. Call the Conservation Board at 712-769-2372 and we will send you everything you need or (you may pick it up in our office) 2. You can visit the Great Backyard Bird Count website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> and submit your results from there. This is a great family event and the data collected will be used by scientists to analyze bird populations. If you are new to the count please see the Upcoming Programs on the next page. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. Last year Cass County Birders lagged behind in the State...but all county numbers were low last year. We got beat out by the largest counties in the state: Johnson, Polk, Story, Black Hawk, and Scott counties in that order. We got 6th in checklists but we were tied for 10th in species count! With the new eBird system the record keeping is by county so I can not really tell you anymore the species reported for each town unless we record them, but Cass county as a whole. Iowa as a whole had 103 species reported and 897 checklists which is 100 MORE than 2019! United States reported 666 species and 144,879 checklists.
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Upcoming Events

Bird Count Continued...

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. The Conservation Board also visits the Atlantic High School each year to encourage students to participate in the count. Let's get out there this year get back in the top 5!!

Cass County Results

Town	# of Checklists Submitted	39 Species Reported total
Anita	3	
Atlantic	33	
Cumberland	0	
Griswold	1	
Lewis	0	
Marne	1	
Massena	1	
Wiota	0	

More results: We had over 39 species counted in Cass County. Northern Cardinal was the most popular on our lists and as whole in the count! Most individuals counted was Snow goose edging out the Canada Goose.

Trumpeter Swans in Cass County!

Currently about seventy Trumpeter Swans are over-wintering at Schildberg Recreation Area- Lake 4. We haven't had any collared swans yet this year. We had our highest EVER recorded number of Trumpeter Swans was last year at 245 swans!!! The swans official date of arrival is November 30th. Our swan Contest winner is Kat Devaroux!

Winter Reminders and news!

Cold Springs Park and other South West Iowa ice fishing spots have been variable this early winter. You can sign up for weekly fishing reports or look at certain fisheries report. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Reports> Reminder: hunting and fishing licenses expired on January 10th, get out there and purchase your 2021 license. On our Facebook page this November we did a feature for #givingtuesday. We want to spotlight our Friends of the Outdoor Classroom; whose mission is to teach our youth to be stewards of the land through education and conservation. If you are interested in donating to this 501(c)3 please contact us and we can get you in touch with their board members. Reminder we still have surveys available for your input! We have one for our Cold Springs Campground experience, one for our Naturalist program experience and we will be asking our teachers and other facilities about their Field Trip experiences at our parks. Listed below you will find the campground and naturalist program survey links, feel free to fill the out we are always looking for suggestions! Cold Springs Camping: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8MCHVH> Cass County Conservation Naturalist Programs: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZCHBJ5L> New for 2021 checkout our snowshoes on the weekends with snow! Google form to sign up: <https://forms.gle/aPiptEXYvFmr5dbA> Kick off 2021 with 120 hours outdoor challenge! Explore the natural features Cass county has to offer and more! Outside activities do not have to be done in Cass county, but participants need to be Cass county residents to sign up. We encourage you to explore Nature by hiking, birding, walking, but also through meditation or sitting in spots outside. Everything you do outside counts! Why 120 hours? There are studies that show benefits to spending around 2-3 hours outside per week. These benefits include lowering stress levels, decreasing blood pressure, and boosting mental health.

To register, call 769-2372, email to sign up lkanning@casscoia.us, or visit Cass County Conservation on Facebook to register via [google form](#). Please register each person in your household individually, entering the same email for multiple individuals if needed. After you register, you will be emailed a time tracking sheet for each person you've registered.

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Upcoming Events



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



Great Backyard Bird Count—See Page 1-2 for more details!! **February 12-15th**

Common Feeder Bird Identification Program

Sunday February 7th 2 PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena, IA Get ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count

by learning how to identify common Iowa birds that like to visit your feeders! Join Kelly McKay from 'Building Better Birders' as he shares about Common Feeder Bird Identification.



Owl Prowl Hike

Sunday February 7th 4 PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena, IA

We will hike and try to call in various species of Owls that may be in the park that night!

These programs will be conducted by Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center), with assistance from Mark Roberts (Clinton County Conservation) and Brian Ritter (Nahant Marsh Education Center). Funding for this workshop was provided by the Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP – CEP).

Sweetheart Snowshoe Hike

Friday February 12th 7PM

Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA

We will bring our snowshoes for you to try on! If the sky is clear, the moonlight will light our way! Will be cancelled if not enough snow.



Adventure Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades.

February 15th 1PM-4PM Lake Anita State Park-First picnic area to the south, February 18th

9AM-Noon or 1PM-4PM Atlantic Community Building, February 26th 1PM-4PM Cold Springs

Park- Beach. FREE.

Please register by February 8th or 22nd(for the 26th camp). Students will attend this abbreviated camp that will focus on geocaching, snowshoeing, and learn about survival.

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.

Milan Bottoms Bald Eagle Night Roost Program

Sunday, March 28th, 3PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena, IA

Kelly McKay, will define and describe what a Bald Eagle communal night roost is, as well as discussing Bald

Eagle winter ecology. Additionally, he will summarize the background and preliminary results of this 6 year

project. These programs will be conducted by Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center), with

assistance from Mark Roberts (Clinton County Conservation) and Brian Ritter (Nahant Marsh Education

Center). Funding for this workshop was provided by the Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation

Education Program (REAP – CEP).



Mark your Calendars

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 24th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

Stay tuned for more on the April programs and Summer Camp Listings in the Spring Newsletter.