

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
James Stokely- Anita

Staff

Conservation Office & Cold Springs 712-769-2372
Micah Lee– Director mlee@casscoia.us
Lora Kanning- Naturalist lkanning@casscoia.us
Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent rlockwood@casscoia.us
Hitchcock House 712-769-2323



Cass County Conservation Quarterly Spring 2023

Getting Ready for Spring in our parks

As we slowly move into the spring things are beginning to pick up in the outdoors. April 8 kicks off the Iowa youth turkey season, with the 4 other seasons following, with the end of 4th season the 14th of May. Fishing has already started picking up here at Cold Springs with people venturing out on our nicer days. This fishing will only continue to improve as it starts getting warmer. Also, with warmer temperatures and hopefully some more moisture, morel mushrooms should be showing up again very soon, a word of caution if looking for mushrooms during the turkey season on land that may have turkey hunting going on, please wear blaze orange clothing so you stand out and help avoid any possible accidents. The campground at Cold Springs will be 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. 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. The Trumpeter Swans that live near the Outdoor Classroom have returned to nest for another year as well. 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 Sept. 2nd. We only have 5 currently, so you must pre-register for your spot! Anyone under 16 must have a parent with them at all times. You must also weigh less than 250 lbs. 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, 2024. 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. So get outside and enjoy nature with us this spring.

Results of 2023 Great Backyard Bird Count

Overall it was a great year for Iowa in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). It was a strong year for checklists in other parts of the state. Iowa overall was higher in species and in checklists happening, but we had a great showing of 35 checklists and 37 species. We got beat out by the largest counties in the state: Polk, Story, Johnson, Scott, Woodbury, Black Hawk, Dubuque, and Linn counties in that order. We got 9th in checklists but we were tied for 18th in species count! We beat Dallas county in checklists but not 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 110 species reported and 1079 checklists! United States reported 671 species and 196,679 checklists.

In this Issue:

Upcoming Events

Summer Camps!

The GBBC is a global bird count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Collectively, we found 7,538 species of birds—2/3 of the known 10,960 species we share the planet with. More than 200 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: 35 Checklists Submitted 37 Species Reported total
Towns represented Anita, Atlantic, Griswold, Lewis, Marne, Massena, and Wiota. More results: American Robins, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and wild turkeys made an apperance in Cass County! Only 2 Trumpeter Swans individuals were counted at one time in Cass County, near Anita.

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. Registration fee is \$10 per student 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.
Registration Information: All county school systems will have forms passed out to school children in May that will explain the registration process. Forms can also be found here: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/4h> <https://www.casscountya.gov/county-departments/conservation-office/>
K-2nd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis ~ Learn about frogs & butterflies, make crafts, build friendships and play games!
June 5 & 6 — 1 PM-4 PM @ Sunnyside Park, Atlantic Registration Deadline May 31— Fee \$10
June 8 & 9 — 9 AM-12 PM @ Cold Springs Park, Lewis - Registration Deadline June 5—Fee \$10
June 19 & 20 — 9 AM-12 PM @ Lake Anita (Shelter #5), Anita - Registration Deadline June 14—Fee \$10
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June 23 — 9 AM-4 PM @ Lake Anita (Shelter #5), Anita - Registration Deadline June 20—Fee \$10
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6th-8th Grade: Woodlands Adventure Camp ~ Learn outdoor skills such as forestry, geocaching, wood carving, hiking and dutch oven cooking (lunch) over a campfire! Busing is available from Cass Co. Community center, depart 8am, and return at 5 pm. Thursday, July 6, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Cold Springs Park, Lewis. Registration Deadline June 30— Fee \$10 *Please Note– grade listed above refer to grade just completed!

2023 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 see attached registration form! We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Conservation Events



Wildflower Walk Saturday, April 29th- 9AM Pellett Memorial Woods

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



Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival- The 29th annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, May 6th.** 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 3rd National Bike Week is May 15th-21st. Bike to Work Day is May 19th

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



Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day Kids, come to Lake Anita on **Saturday, June 3rd** 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.**



National Trails Day- Truckin' on the Trails!! Saturday, June 3rd 11AM-2PM Food Trucks at the West Parking lot at Schildberg Rec. Area.

Bike, walk, strollers, everyone is welcome! Come out and celebrate National Trails Day! Start anywhere on the trails and enjoy food trucks at West Parking lot at Schildberg Rec. Area in support of Nishna Valley Trails group and National Trails Day. Follow us on facebook for a list of trucks when the event approaches.



Cass County Fishing Derby- Cold Springs Park Saturday, June 10th 9AM- registration, 9:30-11am Fishing.

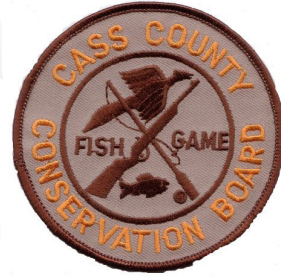
Please pre-register, derby is limited to 50 participants, 15 years old and younger. Pre-register by calling 769-2372.

Standup Paddleboard Demonstration- see information on front page.
Cold Springs Park- Beach
May 27th 1pm- 5 Spots available **2:30PM- 5 Spots available**
June 24th 1pm- 5 Spots available **2:30pm- 5 Spots available**

Movies in the Park at Cold Springs Park will be June 30th and Sept. 1st in 2023.

Cass County Conservation Native Plant Order Form

Order Deadline April 28th, 2023



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	\$3.50		
	Prairie Smoke	Full/Part	Moist	8-12in	\$3.50		
	Butterfly Milkweed	Full/Part	Average	2-3 ft	\$3.50		
	Swamp Milkweed	Full	Moist	4ft	\$3.50		
	Sneezeweed	Full/Part	Wet-Ave.	4ft	\$3.75		
	Meadow Blazing Star	Full	Moist	3-5ft	\$3.50		
	Joe Pye Weed	Full/Part	Avg/Moist	5Ft	\$3.50		
	Prairie Coreopsis	Full	Avg/Dry	2ft	\$3.75		
	Wild Bergamot	Full/Part	Avg/Dry	4ft	\$3.50		
	Hairy Mountain Mint	Full/Part	Average	3ft	\$3.75		
	New England Aster	Full/Part	Moist/Avg	5ft	\$3.75		
	Purple Prairie Clover	Full/Part	Avg/Dry	2ft	\$3.75		

Price per item includes shipping and sales tax.

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

Order deadline Friday April 28th 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 25th 8 AM-6 PM

Friday May 26th 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



Sneezeweed *Helenium autumnale*
 Light: Full Sun, Partial
 Soil: Moist, well drained
 Moisture: Wet to medium-wet
 Benefits: Rain gardens, Pollinators, Birds
 Height: 4'
 Blooms: Aug, Sept, Oct
 Color: Yellow



Purple Prairie Clover *Dalea Purpurea*
 Light: Full Sun
 Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay
 Moisture: Dry, Medium
 Benefits: Pollinators, birds, Host plant
 Height: 1'-2'
 Blooms: Jul, Aug,
 Color: Purple



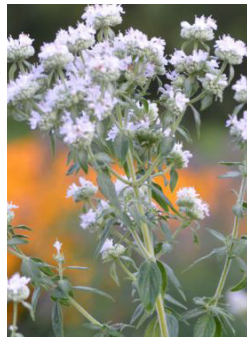
Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata
 Sun Exposure Full sun or part shade
 Soil Moisture Wet to Medium
 Bloom Time June—August
 Color Pink Height 4 feet

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.

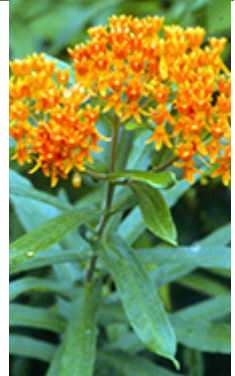
Hairy Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum verticillatum
 var. *pilosum*
 Sun Exposure Full sun to part shade
 Soil Moisture Medium
 Height 3 feet
 Bloom Time July, Aug
 Color White



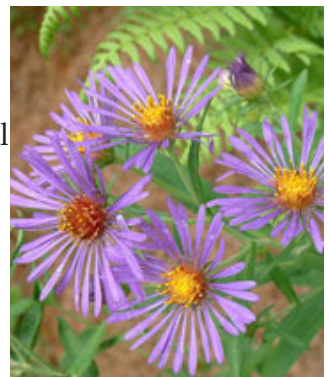
Meadow Blazing Star
Liatris ligulistylis
 Sun Exposure Full sun to part shade
 Soil Moisture Medium
 Height 5 feet
 Bloom Time Aug—Sept
 Color Purple



Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa
 Plant Spacing 1-3'
 Sun Exposure Full sun or part shade
 Soil Moisture Medium to Dry, well- drained
 Height 2 feet
 Bloom Time June—August



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

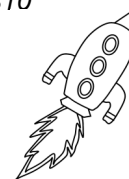


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K-2nd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis ~ Learn about frogs & butterflies, make crafts, build friendships and play games!



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Busing is available from Cass County Community Center, depart 8am, and return at 5 pm.

- Thursday July 6, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Cold Springs Park, Lewis. *Registration Deadline June 30— Fee \$10*

To Register: Detach the form below and return with \$10 per camper to the Cass County Extension Office by the deadline listed above. Questions: Call 243-1132! ****Please Note— grade listed above refer to grade just completed***

Make Checks Payable to: **Cass County Extension**
805 West 10th Street
Atlantic, IA 50022

The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the Cass County Extension 4-H Youth Program.

Participants must:

- Wear comfortable clothes/shoes (no flip flops please), dress for the weather and sunscreen.
- Complete a medical/information release form at the Extension Office, 805 W 10th Street in Atlantic.
- Be ready to have fun!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.

Participant Name: _____ Grade _____

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: _____

Camp Selection (please circle one):

Completed K-2nd Grade: June 5 & 6 (Atlantic) PM June 8 & 9 (Lewis) AM June 19 & 20 (Anita) AM

Completed 3rd-5th Grade (Don't forget a Sack Lunch): June 23 (Anita) June 29 (Lewis) June 30 (Atlantic)

Completed 6th-8th Grade: July 6 (Lewis) Will your child need busing— Yes or No



2023 Nature Tots Preschool Programs

Get outside with your tots this summer!!

Rainforest Rangers Cold Springs Campground Shelter Thursday June 8th 2-4pm Saturday June 10th 2pm-4pm



Explore the rainforest and learn about the plants and animals that live there!



Safari Searchers Sunnyside Park Camblin's Shelter Thursday July 6th 2-4pm Saturday July 8th 2-4pm

Go on a safari through the savanna with us and learn all about the wildlife from zebras to lions to elephants and more!

Garden Growers Outdoor Classroom, Massena Thursday July 20th 2-4pm Saturday July 22nd 2-4pm



Dig into a world of gardens and plants with us and learn what it takes to grow your own garden!

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 Filling out the form below. Or you may call Cass County Conservation at **(712) 769-2372** or emailing Lora at lkanning@casscoia.us this form! We hope to see you there!

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 Campground Shelter Thursday June 8th 2-4pm

Saturday June 10th 2pm-4pm

Safari Searchers @ Sunnyside Park Camblin's Shelter Thursday July 6th 2-4pm

Saturday July 8th 2-4pm

Garden Growers @ Outdoor Classroom, Massena Thursday July 20th 2-4pm

Saturday July 22nd 2-4pm

Email form to lkanning@casscoia.us **Deadline the Monday before each program!!**