



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2025

Park Updates at Krumm Preserve

Plenty of updates have been happening at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve this past spring. Visitors to the area may have noticed the old, brown shop building came down last fall and a new building has replaced it. The previous shed was part of the original donation made by Jacob Krumm in 1976 and had become very unstable over the years.

With the help of Jasper Conservation Connection, a Friends Group for Jasper County Conservation, the purchase of two new fishing docks was made. A smaller dock was placed at the east pond to allow better access to the water, plus it has a bench for fishermen.

A larger dock at Ahrens Access, with funding also provided by a Water Recreation Access Grant and the Jasper County Board of Supervisors, will provide a place to fish farther out from the shoreline, allow for boats to tie off for easy loading and unloading, and also has a kayak launch for our paddlers! This project included a new sidewalk to the dock, as well.



The lake shoreline at Ahrens Access was reshaped and structured with geowebbing and rock to help stabilize it around the boat ramp area by Joseph Sokol for his Eagle Scout Project. Benches from the old fishing pier, complete with containers for recycling old fishing line,

Krumm Preserve, continued on page 5....

Environmental Education Center Donations

The Dana King Ceretti Environmental Education Center wouldn't have been made possible without the support of so many and generous people. To recognize all of our wonderful donors, a custom art piece is being created by local artist Karen King to be displayed in the education center. The donor wall art piece will be started July 1. This means, if you want your name, family's name, memorial, or business to be listed on the donor wall, please be sure to visit with us before July 1. This also means, if you would like for your name to move up a step or two on the donor wall amount, now is the time to do that as well!

There are many additional sponsorship opportunities available, but if you want to see your name listed when you walk into the center doors for the first time, now is the time for action!

Feel free to contact us at 641-792-9780 or kvanzante@jasperia.org.

Donor levels are as follows:

\$1,000+
\$2,500+
\$5,000+
\$10,000+
\$20,000+
\$50,000+
\$100,000+
\$300,000+

Thank you to everyone who has supported this amazing project!!



2 Conservation News

Oldsen Receives State Conservation Award

Jasper County Conservation Naturalist Greg Oldsen received the Iowa Izaak Walton League Honor Roll Award this past spring. Members of the Emerson Hough Chapter of the Izaak Walton League in Newton nominated Oldsen.

This award is designed to recognize non-members (groups or individuals) who have achieved outstanding accomplishments involving conservation, public education, or publicity efforts in keeping with the League's goals.

Oldsen started a Youth Fishing Club in Jasper County last year which has had tremendous success. All the staff at conservation are extremely grateful for everything our awesome local Ikes chapter does to support youth programming, including summer camps, hunter education classes and the annual Halloween Hike!

Right: Greg Oldsen receives the Iowa Izaak Walton League Honor Roll Award.



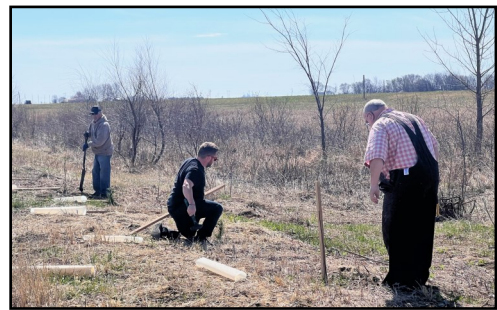
Above: members of the Jasper County Youth Fishing Club caught a lot of nice fish at Cindy Pollard and Gayla Snook's pond one evening this spring.

Trees Planted Along Bike Trail

Earlier this past spring, the Friends of the Red Rock Prairie Trail continued planting trees along the Prairie City side of the trail. They were able to plant another 130 trees, which brings their total to around 950 trees planted so far! They were also able to straighten all of the trees that had been blown over in the crazy amount of wind we have had lately.

Thank you to Karl Peters, James Breckenridge, and Al Breckenridge for giving up several hours of their time over a several Sunday mornings to get this accomplished.

The group plans on planting around 1,000 more trees this fall. They will also be installing new wayfinding signs along the trail, funded completely by donations! If you would like to donate to help continue to make the Red Rock Prairie Trail better, go to <https://www.zeffy.com/.../donate-to-keep-improving-the-trail>. You can follow this group @Friends of the Red Rock Prairie Trail on Facebook.



Above: Volunteers planted 130 additional trees along the Red Rock Prairie Recreational Trail. New wayfinding signs will be going up along the trail this summer.



Ashton Goat Update

The goats have been busy at Ashton Wildwood Park this past spring, eating up invasive brush such as Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose and Autumn Olive. The results are drastic, as seen in the photos below, showing the fence line where the goats have and haven't been. Jasper County Conservation plans to continue moving the small herd throughout the park this summer.



Meet Our Summer Intern, Christian

Christian Buchli is working as a Seasonal Park Technician at Jasper County Conservation, which entails maintaining and improving the parks. He is a 2025 graduate from Newton High School, where he has participated in many activities, such as cross country, soccer, band, FCA, and more.

Next fall, Christian plans to attend Central College in Pella. There, he will major in Biology to prepare him for a career in Optometry.

He also plans to continue soccer and band at Central, and join the Campus Ministries. Additionally, Christian loves to travel and eat pasta.



Volunteer Work This Spring

Employees from Chevron Renewable Energy Group volunteered two full days with Jasper County Conservation this spring! The staff spent a day at Ashton Wildwood Park and a day at Mariposa Park, clearing invasive brush. Thank you so much to Chevron for your dedication to our community and the environment!



Above: Staff from Chevron Renewable Energy volunteering at Ashton Park.

Youth Fishing Club

Mon., July 7, 5:30 PM: "Topwater Lures"

Sat., July 19: Quarry Springs Tournament

Mon., August 11, 5:30 PM: "Catfishing"

Sat., August 16: Red Rock Catfish Outing

Sat., August 23: Tournament TBA

Monday programs held at the Newton Izaak Walton League

889 Hwy. F-36 W, Newton

This group is for Jasper County youth in grades 3-12. Please contact Greg Oldsen for more information at goldsen@jasperia.org. You can also follow the group's Facebook page @JasperCountyYouthFishingClub.



Above: Jasper County's Youth Fishing Club after a tournament at Mariposa Recreation Area this past spring.

4 Upcoming Events/Programs

Hammock Reading

for teens in grades 5-12 (grade just completed)

Wednesday, July 2, 9:00-11:00 AM

Mariposa Recreation Area

Relaxing in a hammock is an effective way to quiet your mind, fight boredom, boost creativity and build a connection with nature. We'll spend the morning hanging out in the park while reading. Participants can bring their own books and we'll have a small selection of books available.

This program is in partnership with the Newton Public Library.



Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

10:00-11:00 AM

Jasper County Armory/Annex Building

1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton

Come for coffee and a short presentation. All programs are from 10:00-11:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

July 9—Goats on the Go

Kate Allen, member of Goats on the Go, rents goats out in western Jasper County and eastern Polk County for invasive species control. Learn about how this program works and all the great goat work happening in our area!



August 13—TBA

Shelter House Reservations

Did you know that shelter houses located in Jasper County parks can be reserved for \$25 per day? Shelters are located at Ashton Wildwood Park, Mariposa Recreation Area, Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve, Uhlenhopp Arboretum, Reimer Refuge, Wagaman Mill and the Chichaqua Valley Recreation Trail. Go to mycountyparks.com to make your reservation.

UTV Tours

Jasper County Conservation is providing UTV tours at Uhlenhopp Arboretum and Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve for individuals who aren't able to hike and view the beauty of our natural areas.

Tours are 1 hour long and can accommodate up to 5 people. They will be Wednesday mornings. Please call (641) 792-9780 for specific time listings and to reserve a spot!

July and September tours will be at Uhlenhopp Arboretum which is located at 2706 E 146th St. N, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

August and October tours will be at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve which is located at 15148 Jacob Ave., Grinnell, IA 50112.

Hunter Education Course

Wednesday, August 6, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Thursday, August 7, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

(students must attend both sessions)

Izaak Walton League Clubhouse, Newton

This course will be offered by the Jasper County Conservation Board and the Emerson Hough Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Students must attend both sessions to receive certification. Students need to pre-register for this course online at www.gooutdoorsiowa.com and pick up their workbooks at the JCCB office prior to the class.

The hunter education course is free and all materials will be provided. Persons must be at least 12 years old to take the course. Students should bring a sack lunch both days.



Off the Beaten Path Trail Race

Saturday, September 20, 9:00 AM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Check-in and day-of registration for the 20th annual trail race will begin at 8:00AM at Ahrens Access of the preserve. The 6K trail race will kick off at 9:00AM and the 3K fun run will begin at 9:15AM.

Further information, including pre-registration forms and directions to Jacob Krumm Preserve, will be at www.jaspercountyconservation.com and on Jasper County Conservation's Facebook page. Proceeds from the trail race will benefit Jasper Conservation Connection.

Krumm Preserve, continued from page 1....

were repurposed and placed on pads along the lake dam to create better fishing access! Thank you, Joseph, and Troop 313 for all of your hard work!

Lastly, picnic tables got a fresh coat of paint, thanks to youth volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints led by Micaela Scott. They look fantastic and are ready for use this summer!



Left: Volunteers gave picnic tables a fresh coat of paint at Jacob Krumm Preserve.

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve is a 450-acre wildlife preserve, located in the eastern part of Jasper County, at 15148 Jacob Ave., Grinnell. The park has 7 miles of hiking trails to explore through restored tallgrass prairie and oak/hickory timber. The preserve is known for its many unique bridges built by JCCB staff over the years. On both the west and east trail loops there are observation towers to get up higher for a better view.

At Ahrens Access there is a 25-acre lake and several small ponds are found throughout the preserve stocked with bluegill, largemouth bass, crappie and channel catfish. Boaters are not allowed to use gas-powered motors on the lake, except for loading onto and off of a trailer. There is no camping at Krumm Preserve, but there are two picnic shelters that can be reserved, and each has a modern restroom.

Right: Joseph Sokol made pads to place benches on and set up fishing line recycle containers for his Eagle Scout Project.



Above: The new shop building is getting some finishing touches before completion at Krumm Preserve.

Located on the east side of the preserve is the Sugar Shack, where maple tree sap is boiled into syrup in late winter. You can also stop at the Waldo Walker Bird Blind, built in memory of an avid hiker and bird watcher from the area!

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve has been featured in several Iowa hiking and park guides, and we are very proud of all the recent improvements. Get out and enjoy your county parks this summer!



Left: The Waldo Walker bird blind is a great spot to watch birds at the feeders.



Above, Right: Pale Purple Coneflowers and orange Butterfly Milkweed in bloom in the prairie.

Above, Left: A female Dickcissel brings back a juicy bug to feed her nestlings in the prairie.

Jasper County Conservation Board
1030 W. 2nd St. S.
Newton, IA 50208

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**JASPER COUNTY
CONSERVATION**

Jasper County Conservation Board

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website: www.jaspercountyconservation.com

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Jacob Arrowood.....Maintenance Technician

A Big Thank You To....

Ina Heidemann for her donations to the educational program, Bill Yeager for mowing at Uhlenhopp Arboretum, Willie Yeager for helping with the Youth Fishing Club, Cindy Pollard and Gayla Snook for allowing the Youth Fishing Club to fish their pond, Brad Van Zante for providing UTV tours, Heidi Holley, Jill Bartello, Mark Polastrini, Pam and Andy Stone, Ina Heidemann and the Lynnville Historical Society for volunteering their time to help with school field trips. Thank you!!



Jasper County Conservation Board's programs are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, age and handicap. If anyone believes they have been subjected to discrimination, they may file a complaint with the Jasper County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 29240