

# Johnson County Conservation VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

April 2022

**We need your help for the following volunteer positions and events!**

## **Conservation Education Center Host**

Volunteer Hosts are vital in keeping the CEC in Kent Park open to visitors on summer weekends. Hosts serve as friendly ambassadors greeting visitors, answering nature- and JCC-related questions when able. We are seeking volunteers for Saturdays and Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hosts unlock the CEC at 10:00 a.m. and lock up at 2:00 p.m. Hosts can serve one day or many, every bit helps! Contact: [kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

## **Raptor Meet-n-Greet Hosts**

This summer, our friends with Raptology will be providing four free raptor presentations at Kent Park. We are seeking two volunteers: one to help with guest flow and watch for dog-walkers, and one to staff a raptor artifacts table for guests to interact with. Volunteers do not need to know each other. Ideally, we are seeking just two volunteers who can attend each event (dates: June 11 & 25, July 9, Aug 6, 10:30-11:30 @ Whip-poor-will Shelter in Kent Park) Contact: [kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

## **Bird Feeder Weekend Filler**

Volunteers help keep the feeders at Kent Park's Bird Blind full on the weekends, with different volunteers filling different weekend 'slots'. We have an opening for the "2nd weekend of each month" slot. This task takes around 30 minutes per month, and is great motivation to get you out to the park! Contact: [kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

## **Great Iowa River Race (GIRR) Event Help**

GIRR is a 9-mile paddle race on the Iowa River. Proceeds go to JCC's environmental education program, through the Friends of Johnson County Conservation. We are seeking volunteers to help with race check-in, timing, waste station monitor, and more. The race is June 11. Time commitment of positions varies from 1-3 hours. Contact: [kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

## **Tree Foster**

We are experimenting with a tree-growing project! Successful oak and hickory seedlings will likely be distributed within the community this fall. We are seeking fosters to take and care for a box of 25 seedlings. Care is simple: water a few times a week or as-needed and provide a sunny place to grow.

Contact: [kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

## **Fishing Program Aid and/or Pole Repair Help**

We serve hundreds of youth (and adults!) attend our fishing programs each summer and fall. At these events, we would love help from folks with experience fishing to aid in baiting hooks, untangling line, unhooking fish, etc. We also spend a lot of time after events fixing and cleaning poles and would love volunteer aid here too! Volunteers would be contacted and notified in advance of programs or fishing pole repair days and could attend as schedules allow.

Contact: [mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

**Flip for more volunteer needs on the backside.**

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation>





### **Bird Banding at Kent Park**

Johnson County Conservation partners with federally permitted banders to capture and band small birds at Kent Park. We support this effort because it's an amazing tool for data on bird populations using Kent Park. Data contributes to an international database that makes it possible to track bird populations across north America and beyond. If you love birds and you'd like to contribute in a meaningful way to their conservation this is the work for you! We band twice weekly in spring and fall and periodically throughout the summer and winter as weather allows. This work is heavily dependent on dedicated volunteers. If not for volunteers it would not be possible.  
Contact: [mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

### **Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP)**

This will be the third year JCC has been involved with this national citizen science program. Volunteers visit the study site (located at Cedar River Crossing) throughout the summer to complete various activities required by this program to monitor monarch butterflies. Activities include identifying blooming plants and milkweed, searching for monarch eggs and caterpillars, looking for adult butterflies, and even raising one or two caterpillars at home. We go to the site on Wednesday mornings for 2-4 hours, but volunteers do not need to come every time, or participate in every activity.  
Contact: [fowen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:fowen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

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Banner photo: Two Horse Farm, credit: Erin Melloy

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