



SAVE THE DATES:

The ICCS Calendar is also available online via

mycountyparks.org

- * Feb. 28 – Dist. 2 Meeting – Hancock CCB
- * Mar. 2-4 – Iowa Tourism Conference – Des Moines
- * Mar. 4 – CCPOA Spring Workshop – Mahaska Co.
- * Mar. 10 – CCPOA Spring Workshop – Linn CCB*
- * Mar. 11 – AFIRM Mtg.-Ames
- * Mar. 12-13 – Spring ISAC Conference – D.M.
- * Mar. 15 – DEADLINE for LWCF Grants to DNR
- * Mar. 17
- * Mar. 18-20 – Spring IAN, Ringgold CCB*
- * May 28 – Dist. 4 Meeting – Harrison CCB

(*Online Registration currently available)



2020 ICCS

65th Anniversary

Fall Conference

September 16-18, 2020

Ames, IA



#REAPworks



Newsletter

Volume 61

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February 27, 2020

THE GOVERNOR'S TOWN HALL STATE TOUR

Today the Governor is in Grundy Center and Waverly, tomorrow she will be in Cedar Rapids, Monticello, Dubuque and Clinton! As soon as we receive notice of future locations, we will be alerting regionally located CCB leadership as to the date, time and locations. *Round up your local elected officials, community leaders and other stakeholders to join you!* These are **YOUR opportunities** to thank the Governor for her leadership in proposing the **INVEST IN IOWA ACT**, and to show our support for this important initiative. This may be the "once in your career" chance to make a significant difference for the future of Iowa's natural resources – make the choice, take the time and demonstrate our dedication to **Fund the Trust!** Our collective voices need to be expressed locally – and she is coming to you to hear them! *Thank-you in advance for your participation!* ☺

2020 ICCS STRATEGIC TRANSITION COMMITTEE CONVENES ON TASK

Assembled from all six IACCB Districts, large county and small, across all ICCS Divisions, employee classifications and Board Members – their initial meeting was February 25th. They all chose to serve when asked, and their service is much appreciated. Over the next 10 months the Committee has been tasked with creating a couple of pieces of significant work - **#1.** Develop an electronic survey to deploy to ALL CCBs to ascertain priorities for statewide services (& products) from ICCS – providing direction for the short-term future; and, **#2.** Assist the **ICCS Board of Directors** with a review of the job description for the Chief Executive Officer for the system, and make substantive recommendations for improvements to the document for recruitment efforts in 2021.

Look forward to seeing results of this committee's work later this spring in the form of a system-wide survey that should arrive to your CCB's inbox by June. Results from your participation in this survey will help prioritize some visioning decisions, as well as support the updating of the now decade-old CEO Job Description. The Committee should have their tasks wrapped up by the end of calendar year 2020.

The **ICCS Board of Directors** is on schedule with their current timeline for recruiting a new CEO in 2021 - starting with a position posting in April, followed by interviews in early summer, and a new CEO onboard around August 1st. A transition period of 5 to 6 weeks with the outgoing CEO is anticipated for this important change in leadership. Please let us know throughout the process should you have any questions – your participation will be key! ☺



LtoR, Top-to-Bottom: Zach Hall (Ida), Tom Hazelton (ICCS), Ty Hamiel (Cerro Gordo), Steve Dixon (Mahaska), Chris Lee (Des Moines), Mark Shoemaker (Pottawattamie), Matt Cosgrove (Webster), Bruce Kempkes (Madison), Mark Vavroch (Poweshiek), Dan Heissel (Woodbury), Lori Westrum (Hamilton), Dick Harms (Bremer), Jenny Corbett (Linn), and Mike Weis (Harrison).

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A NOTE FROM THE STATE FOREST NURSERY - AMES, IA

The **Iowa State Forest Nursery** is a 98-acre tree farm located in Ames, Iowa and has been growing and supplying landowners with native Iowa tree seedlings since the 1930's. The nursery was originally established by the Civilian Conservation Corps and then later taken over by the Department of Natural Resources. This facility has remained in continuous operation. We distribute around 750,000 tree seedlings annually to landowners across Iowa.

Currently at the State Forest Nursery we grow approximately 40 different species of trees and shrubs. All of the plant material grown here is native or well adapted to Iowa and is grown from a locally sourced seed. By growing trees from native seed we can help promote healthier forests. Native plant material can thrive in its native environment because it is acclimated to the soil and climate conditions. Native plant material can also limit the spread of disease and invasive insects as we are limiting the amount of plant material being brought into our state. Planting a tree farther from its seed source makes the tree more susceptible to disease; even if the planting site falls within the native range of that tree. Trees from the State Nursery can help to add value to many county conservation tree planting programs. Planting trees provide many benefits including wildlife habitat, erosion control, and improving water and air quality to name a few. Our trees can also be used for many other reasons including timber production, reforestation of woodland areas, establishing windbreaks or buffer zones, aesthetic purposes, or for commercial tree farm operations.

In 2017, the Iowa Code was changed that governed the regulations placed on the Iowa State Forest Nursery. We are now able to sell our trees in quantities as low as 25 and our trees can be resold with roots attached. Prior to this change minimum seedling orders were 500 and trees from the State Forest Nursery could not be resold with their roots still attached. This change in policy has allowed us to reach more potential customers and gives us the ability to provide many more native seedlings to landowners across this state. This also allows other organizations to purchase our trees and distribute them for a fee to help promote programs to enhance Iowa's natural resources.

On our website (<http://nursery.iowadnr.gov/>) you will be able to locate details about the characteristics and uses of each plant. You will also be able to find our up-to-date availability and instructions to place your seedlings orders. Orders can be placed online anytime between August 1st and May 15th, as we offer a fall shipping season during the month of November and a spring shipping season beginning April 1st through the end of May. Please contact us today to purchase your tree and shrub seedlings from the Iowa DNR State Forest Nursery! For additional Information, contact **DNR Nursery Manager Patrick Griffin at (515) 233-1161**; patrick.griffin@dnr.iowa.gov



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REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CCPOA REGIONAL SPRING WORKSHOPS

Just a few days remain to register for these two CCPOA Workshops

CENTRAL REGIONAL - Wednesday, March 4 – Mahaska County

EASTERN REGIONAL – Tuesday, March 10 – Linn County

Visit the CCPOA website for workshop agendas here: <https://iowaccpoa.weebly.com/>

Generally, these workshops provide 2.5 – 4 hours of required in-service training credit for peace officers. Online registration and additional information available via the following link:

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Org-Event/Default.aspx>

A.F.I.R.M. – WINTER MEETING

March 11 – Gateway Center in Ames

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM – Sessions included: LRTF Updates, IRVM Updates, Best Management Practices for Endangered Species in ROWs, Iowa DOT Weed Control Update, Native Seed Sourcing Discussions. For more information:

kristine.nemec@uni.edu / 319-273-2813



SPRING IAN – RINGGOLD COUNTY

March 18-20, Dragoon Trace Nature Center

Workshop sessions include: Greater Prairie Chicken viewing, Fishing has No Boundaries, Virtual Reality Googles, Yoga Hike, Butterfly Earring Make and Take, and over a dozen additional diverse programs. ☺

INFO & TO REGISTER: <https://www.mycountyparks.com/Org-Event/Default.aspx>

GOOD NEIGHBOR IOWA

Good Neighbor Iowa is a statewide campaign to reduce unnecessary, urban application of pesticides. This **University of Northern Iowa** program initiative urges school districts, park managers, and childcare centers to manage their grounds naturally, to protect child health, wildlife, and water quality. Public health officials, pediatricians, conservationists, and pollinator experts agree: environmental pesticide exposure should be limited as much as possible. Check out our map of who's already leading way!



So what does this have to do with County Conservation Boards?

We're continuing our effort to reach out to County Conservation Boards to highlight what we know most of you are already doing - managing large turf areas without the use of cosmetic herbicides. In partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health's Healthy Iowans: Health Improvement Plan, Good Neighbor Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa are tracking acres of pesticide-free turf. Campgrounds, parks, Nature Centers - anywhere you mow in your county, but don't broadcast herbicide is what we need to track! Some acres from Franklin, Black Hawk, Polk, Johnson, Jackson, and Muscatine counties are already in our program.

Good Neighbor Iowa is not recommending a complete cessation of pesticide application; our County Conservation Boards know better than anyone that invasive species management sometimes necessitates pesticide use. Good Neighbor's focus is on a reduction of broadcasted chemicals for cosmetic purposes.



How can you help?

Join our network! Contact **Audrey Tran Lam**, Program Manager, at **(319) 273-7150** to contribute your unsprayed, mowed turf towards our state goals, and to be highlighted on our statewide map. It's important to share the work our County Conservation Boards are doing, and to celebrate the efforts you make to manage turf that considers pollinators, water quality, and child health. Learn more at: www.GoodNeighborIowa.org, and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/goodneighborIowa/>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JOBS

<http://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx>

1. FLOYD Co. – Office Assistant (PPT)
2. CRAWFORD Co. – Nature Ctr. Asst. (PPT)
3. SAC Co. – Naturalist
4. CARROLL Co. – Park Technician 02/27/2020
5. BLACK HAWK Co. – Park Ranger II
6. STORY Co. – Trails/Nat. Resource Tech.
7. DES MOINES Co. – Naturalist
8. HOWARD Co. – Park Ranger
9. WEBSTER Co. – Park Ranger
10. WOODBURY Co. – Office Clerk (PPT)
11. SEASONAL POSITIONS – 80++ opportunities listed on website

■ Full Time

■ Seasonal/Part-Time



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