

The ICCS Calendar is also available online via

mycountyparks (

- * <u>Oct. 8-10</u> CCPOA Fall Workshop – Camp Dodge
- * <u>Oct. 17</u> District 3 Mtg.
- Plymouth CCB
- * <u>Nov. 7-9</u> IAN Fall Mtg.
- Black Hawk CCB
- * <u>Nov. 13</u> E-Commerce
- Summit Story CCB
- * <u>Nov. 15</u> 2018 New Employee School – D.M.
- * Nov. 15 District 4 Mtg.
- Audubon CCB
- * <u>Nov. 19</u> ICCS Board of Directors Mtg. – D.M.
- * <u>Dec. 5</u> District 5 Mtg. –
- Davis CCB
- * <u>Dec. 12</u> Dist. 3 Mtg. Osceola CCB
- * <u>Dec. 19</u> Dist. 6 Mtg. Buchanan CCB
- * <u>Feb. 5-7</u> Winterfest '19

– Coralville Marriott

2019 IACCB Annual Fall Conference September 17-19, 2019 Muscatine, IA



HISTORIC VOTE LAUNCHES I.C.C.S.!

The discussions started just shy of our 50th year in 2004 – those about what lowa's future County Conservation System might look like? Then arrives an infusion of technologies and the emergence of MyCountyParks.com in 2009 – setting the stage for a re-energized discussion in 2010, fueling the 86% favorable ballot for our financial restructuring. It would be eight more years of dutiful visioning, strategizing with our stakeholders and a confident Board of Directors to recommend sweeping changes in 2018.

An amazing 98% of ballots cast said YES to the recommended changes to our Association Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation! The Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (IACCB) will not disappear, but will immediately start doing business as (dba) as Iowa's County Conservation System (ICCS). In tandem with a new logo, we will renew our presence and identity across the state – buoyed by the energy & confidence you have provided via your strong support!

Most of the descriptive information about the new ICCS was presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting this past week in Des Moines. You can view the Powerpoint of this presentation located under the "CONFERENCES" tab on our administrative website, MyCountyParks.org. Here too you can find the FY2018 Annual Report, a synopsis of recently approved ballot and additional annual meeting info. If you have additional questions, please be in touch! ③



Several articles follow within this ICCS Newsletter that will provide supplemental information about many of our "new" Association features, structure, etc. Copies of the freshly approved Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation will also be posted to the website soon. Once again, we very much appreciate your continued support and patience over the past year as our industry has navigated through much change. BUT – what a great time to be a part of the finest county conservation system in the country! We are glad you are on this great ride with us!

EMAIL HARVEST OF PORTAL CONTACTS - NOV. 1st!

Here's your "Heads-Up" that we will be purging our current email communications listing on or around November 1st! As you know, we will then harvest a completely new listing from the "CONTACTS" section of our Portal. We need to have YOU ALL visit your county's section of the Contacts and update any of your Board Member or Employee listings as needed. Please remove any of the profiles that are no longer with your CCB, as well as upload the required data for any new folks that may have come on board since your last updating! We thank you in advance for getting after this important periodic updating procedure!





COUPLE OF GREAT PROMOTIONAL INITIATIVES FOR CCBs!!

Partnering with the Iowa Tourism Office

GET ON BOARD with TWO GREAT OPPORTUNITIES! WE shared with you last month about the opportunity to upload your facilities and major events to the www.traveliowa.com lowa Tourism Website by mid-October. They will be scooping all of the entered data for inclusion in the **2019 lowa Travel Guide** – and it's all FREE! Get online and submit your listings – cabins, campsites, significant regional events, etc.do it TODAY!

OPPORTUNITY #2 – Just announced at the ICCS Annual Meeting this past Friday! The lowa Tourism Office had such a great success with their "99 Counties, 99 Restaurants" promotion this past year....that they wish to partner with us to do a "99 counties, 99 County Parks" promotion in 2019! (To get a jump on that 2020 promo for the lowa State Parks Centennial Celebration!? – Ha!) They have already researched our 1,850+ parks, and targeted their preliminary 99 County Parks (one in each county) – and, done a pretty good job of selection I might add! We will be releasing this listing to you soon for your input (corrections, supplemental information, etc.) – within the parameters allowed by the lowa Tourism Staff. One thing I do know for sure is that any/all of the 99 parks in this promotion will need to have a robust online presence on MyCountyParks.com – as they will be linking to the website in many ways to make this happen in 2019! More information coming soon.....stay tuned! © ©



L to R – Marj & Marion Striegel (IWLA), Alice Atkinson (Johnson), Daniel Gibbins (Linn), Jobe Goodale (Mitchell), Brian Lammers (Hamilton) and Brian Moore (Chickasaw)

9/7/1974 – "Wildlife cover is at a premium and anything that we can do to help during the coming years when intensive farming will be the order of the day will not only help wildlife, it will help save a little more soil". (Iowa IWLA)

UNDER 20,000 POPULATION

1st Place – Mitchell CCB 2nd Place – Hamilton CCB 3rd Place – Chickasaw CCB

OVER 20,000 POPULATION

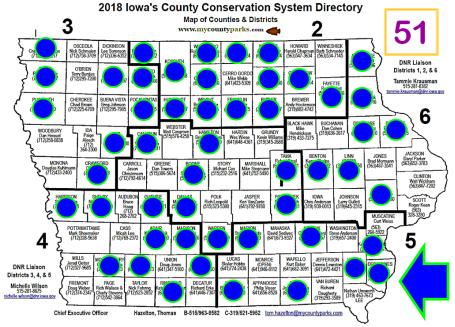
1st Place – Buchanan CCB 2nd Place – Johnson CCB 3rd Place – Linn CCB

FY2018 WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTED BY IOWA CHAPTER OF IWLA

Representatives Marion & Marj Striegel of the Iowa Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America were on hand at the ICCS Conference this past week for this 44th year of these presentations! We are very much appreciate their long term partnership with Iowa's CCB System! ©



L to R: Loren Hamilton, Karen Stephenson, Dan Cohen and Ron Wolfe (all of Buchanan CCB)



FY19 SALARY SURVEYS DUE SEPTEMBER 30TH!

Great Job by the first 51 CCBs that have returned their FY2019 Salary Surveys in a lightning quick manner! We know that some of you are already in preparation for your FY2020 discussions with your Boards of Supervisors, and are anxious to have this completed survey in your hands. For the past several years we have benefitted from having ALL 99 CCBs return their surveys - which makes for an extremely accurate reflection of our statewide salary statistics. WE CANNOT CRUNCH THE NUMBERS UNTIL WE HAVE ALL THE SURVEYS RETURNED!!! Please take the time to do this today! Fall is a busy time, and we appreciate your timely attention to getting your piece of the puzzle finished & submitted: INFO@mycountyparks.org

LAND USE, QUALITY OF LIFE & ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY

DUE: NOVEMBER 1ST

This important statistical survey was sent to ALL CCB Directors on September 14th ... "We now have a critical need to update certain statewide data related to quality of life, economic impact and county conservation lands. The data collected by this survey will have a significant impact on how we can respond to legislative level inquiries as well as diffuse any focus that may turn towards lands owned and/or managed by county conservation boards across lowa." It is essential that we have 100% participation with this survey, and are most appreciative of those completed this far! ©

SURVEY LINK:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCBLANDINFO

FORESTRY MOWER DEMO FIELD

<u>DAY – OCTOBER 26, 9 AM – 3 PM</u>

Foster Center @ Diamond Lake Park near Montezuma. Hosted by the Poweshiek CCB and Hawkeye CWMA



2ND ANNUAL FIELD DAY! Come check out and **operate** various excavator and skid steer forestry mowers from multiple manufacturers; Demonstrations of native grass drills for revegetation; Seminars on choosing herbicides; Prescribed fire for native plant reestablishment, and more. Lunch is provided with the **FREE** registration! © Contact **Chris Henze**, **Johnson County Secondary Roads** – (319) 356-6046 – or via email to: chenze@co.johnson.ia.us *Come learn about a better way to manage your brush and invasive species!*

TRAILS SUMMIT - OCT. 12 - PANORA, IA

Regional trail experts will dig into topics such as corridor acquisition and easements, engineering and construction, maintenance, grants and funding, marketing and promotion, trail amenities and volunteer retention. Something for trails in all phases of development – for more information:

WEBSITE: https://www.iowatrailssummit.com/





\$875,525,558 - 38 years @ \$23M

Iowa's County Conservation System

NATURAL RESOURCE & OUTDOOR RECREATION TRUST FUND

THE UNMET NEEDS OF COUNTY

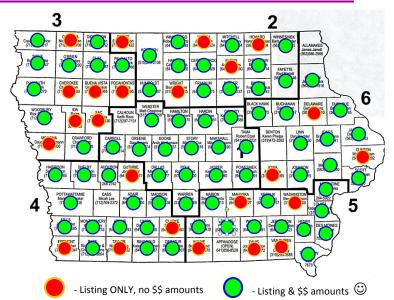
94 CCBs in Listing

CONSERVATION 69 CCBs w/\$ Reported

TUNING-UP OUR UN-MET NEEDS LIST OF COUNTY CONSERVATION

That means 38 years to just catch-up with the current un-met needs - not even counting what may be added each year into the future! We have made significant progress in the past month with the updates you have all been sending in, and "The List" has been used on a couple of occasions across the state for educating elected officials - keep sending in your updates!

Would still be great to at least have ALL 99 CCBs represented! Just need some lists from Allamakee, Appanoose, Benton, Calhoun & Cass CCBs?! © We are creeping up on that \$1 BILLION amount.....a few more CCBs sending in their \$\$ estimates can most likely get us over that hill! Our keynote speaker at the Annual Conference last week stressed the importance of being able to "....tell your own story!" This documentation enables us to link our local stories with the broader picture of our statewide system – thanks for your assistance! ©



ART HAMPE PASSES

We share with much sadness the passing of Art Hampe, 51 on September 20th of a sudden heart attack. Art is the former Director and Park Ranger of the Palo Alto Conservation Board. He also served as firearms Instructor for the CCPOA. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Kari and daughter, Olivia and his extended family and friends. Additional information is available via the funeral home website as follows: Funeral Home: http://www.harrisfuneralservices.com/obituary/arthur-hampe-ir



SOOO......WHERE DID THAT NEW LOGO COME FROM?

have become in these first 63 years ... Onward CCBs!



mycountyparks

A new logo/brand-identity discussion is not new by any means, and the idea has been bantered about for nearly a decade. With all the changes to our industry structure, embracing our divisions and needs for more promotional efforts, the time seemed just right. Last winter we engaged an award winning ISU grad artist to provide some conceptual drawings that would eventually lead us to our new intriguing logo: a winding infinity trail with colors that could be land or water; a sunrise/or sunset beyond hills that could be the Loess of Western Iowa or Algific talus slopes of NE lowa; reflection of water (rivers or lakes); a touch of prairie and oak savanna and the wonderful blue skies over our great state.....all coming together in a very cool vision. It will generally appear in tandem with our established MyCountyParks.com logo identity – as much a part of who we are & what we have become in 2018. Our collective thanks to Holly Hazelton (Yes, a daughter (a) for sharing her wonderful artistic talents with us at this unique juncture of









CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS - EVERYWHERE!

They were everywhere! 33 Exhibitors - lining the boulevards and parking areas at the Jester Park Education Center and packed into every corner of the Ramada Tropics Conference Center. Amongst the 33 – sixteen of our ICCS Preferred Vendor Members! Special recognition to both Shive-Hattery AND Snyder & Associates for being major sponsors for the conference, and to these other Preferred Vendors for further partnering with us for this annual ICCS event: ABCreative, Amperage Marketing & Fundraising, Boland Recreation, Central lowa Distributing, EZ Dock of the Midwest, Harnack Co. – Grasshopper, Huffcutt Concrete, Iowa Agriculture Mitigation, Iowa Native Trees & Shrubs, JEO Consulting Group, Martin Gardner Architecture, Natural Soy Products, Premier Polysteel, Trees Forever, Truax Company, and WHKS& Co. We always encourage you to consider the products and services of our Preferred Vendors FIRST, prior to shopping other options. A full listing of all ICCS Preferred Vendors is available on our website at the link that follows: LINK - https://www.mycountyparks.org/preferred-vendors.html











98% FAVORABLE VOTE APPROVES NEW ICCS STRUCTURE

As announced at the **59**th **Annual Meeting** this past week in Des Moines, **98% of ballots cast said YES** to sweeping changes to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for the Iowa Association of
County Conservation Boards. **IACCB will now be doing business as (DBA) Iowa's County Conservation System (ICCS).** Also voted in was a new structure to the ICCS Board of Directors.
Your new 2019 structure and current Officers* and Representatives are as follows:

NAME /OFFICE / CCB

Chris Ruhaak, President – Board Member, Pottawattamie CCB Larry Wilson, Vice President – Board Member, Johnson CCB Bridget Chatfield, Secretary – Board Member, Mitchell CCB Mark Vavroch, Treasurer- Director, Poweshiek CCB Steve Anderson, Member – Board Member, Dickinson CCB Steve Dixon, Member – Board Member, Mahaska CCB Jessica Lara, Member – Board Member, Hardin CCB Mike Miner, Member – Director, Butler CCB Mark Shoemaker, Member – Director Pottawattamie CCB Nick Beeck, Member – Director, Plymouth CCB Denise Straw, Member – Park Ranger, Chickasaw CCB (TBA)

* Officer Elections will be held at the November 2018 Board of Directors Meeting.

As outlined in the new Bylaws, commencing with the 2019 elections, Board Members will be elected from new ICCS Regions – created by combining the two adjacent IACCB Districts. This new Region will follow the current election rotation cycle of the adjacent Districts – electing ONE representative from the entire region in lieu of the previous TWO representatives, one from each District. The lowa TLC (Trust) and MCP.com Advisory Board will also each provide a new representative to the ICCS Board of Directors as they complete their structuring in 2019. The Board is committed to holding 25-50% of meetings via Zoom online! ©

REPRESENTATIVE OF / TERM

IACCB District 4 – Expires 2019
IACCB District 6 – Expires 2020
IACCB District 2 – Expires 2021
IACCBE Division – Expires 2020
IACCB District 3 – Expires 2019
IACCB District 5 – Expires 2020
IACCB District 1 – Expires 2021
IACCB District 1 – Expires 2021
IACCB Division – Expires 2019
IACCBE Division – Expires 2020
IACCBE Division (as appointed)
IAFIRM Division (as appointed)
IAN Division (as appointed)



\$3,788.00

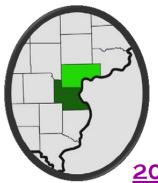
THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU!!

Your diligent bidding and raffle-ticket purchases raised nearly \$4,000 for ICCS during the 2018 Annual Conference! All proceeds from these efforts go to support educational efforts by the ICCS and to help keep conference registration fees at reasonable rates! © Our THANKS to the following CCBs and businesses that donated items to these fun activities in 2018: Van Wall Equipment (smoker for raffle); Pilot Rock, Larry Stone, Steve Haefner, ICCS, CCPOA, IACCBE, CCBs - Linn, Dickinson, Hamilton, Webster, Boone, Johnson, Woodbury, Buchanan, Hardin, Poweshiek, Des Moines, Harrison, O.Brien, Scott, Kossuth, Polk & Story! The ICCS Raffle yielded \$1,183 and the Silent Auction a healthy\$2,605. MANY THANKS to all participants!















2019 ICCS FALL CONFERENCE MIGRATES TO THE MISSISSIPPI

Katie Hammond (Louisa) and Curt Weiss (Muscatine) invited delegates of the 2018 fall conference and ALL CCB Staff, Board Members and Spouses to join them September 17-19, 2019 for the 2019 ICCS Fall Conference in Muscatine to celebrate "Life Along the Mississippi River" Highlights include a day cruise on the Mississippi on the Celebration Belle from Moline, IL to the Port of Muscatine – trip will include educational sessions about the Mississippi River and the diversity of species who call it home, passing through two locks & dams and finish at Pearl City Station just across from the shiny new Merrill Hotel - our main lodging location; a Fish Fry at the Riverview Center; Tour of the Big Sand Mound; Bus tours of either Louisa or Muscatine County; Pre-conference options of paddling the Odessa Water Trail, Golf or Biking the Muscatine Riverfront Trail; and much more! Budget your time and dollars – you don't want to miss this one! Stay tuned for additional information coming soon – including lodging room blocks for securing your hotel space for the conference! Thanks for the invite, Katie & Curtsee you there!!



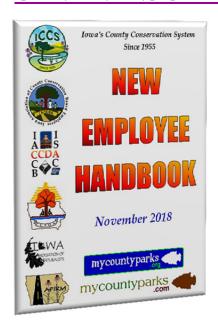
Al Weber (retired) of the Black Hawk CCB and Blazek (R) at CCPOA 2010 Spring Training

BON VOYAGE TO KEVIN BLAZEK!

Kevin is in some pretty rarified air in the longevity arena having hitched up with the CCB system in 1976. Near as anyone can tell, he has been the Director of the **Adair CCB** since the dawn of dirt! © A strong advocate of attention to detail and professionalism, Kevin has been a leader in the CCB law enforcement community since his ILEA certification in the '70s. He served as the Lead Firearms Instructor for the CCPOA for nearly 15 years, and brought his dedication to quality to inspire many younger officers. I had a chance to visit with Kevin at the recent District 4 meeting when he commented that he recently realized that he had been working somewhere doing something for well over FIVE decades – you deserve a break, Man! Congrats on your well-deserved retirement this fall – thanks for your service!



ONLINE REGISTRATIONS FOR NOVEMBER WORKSHOPS COMING SOON!



2018 NEW EMPLOYEE SCHOOL

ALL NEW CCB EMPLOYEES should plan to join us on Thursday, November 15th in Des Moines for this excellent orientation & educational event. This is provided at no cost to participants, with each receiving the all-new 2018 ICCS New Employee Handbook!hoping to see you there!

The Tentative Presenter Line-Up

- DNR Programs & Services Tammie Krausman, REAP Coordinator, Iowa DNR
- Iowa Tourism Partnerships & Services Shawna Lode, Director, Iowa Tourism Office
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Anita O'Gara, V.P. & Development Director
- The Front End of IPERS Diane Dannen, Senior Retirement Benefits Officer, IPERS
- "COUNTY CONSERVATION 101......1955 to 2018" Tom Hazelton, CEO, ICCS
 - ➤ The Journey of County Conservation from 1955
 - ► ICCS & YOU! Plus the Affiliate Acronym Conundrum
 - Award-Winning MyCountyParks.com, MyCountyParks.org & the IACCB Portal
 - Partnering with IWILL, REAP & Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
 - > The "County Conservation New Employee Handbook", Networking & More!

2018 E- COMMERCE SUMMIT

The annual gathering of CCBs providing online reservations has been scheduled for **Tuesday**, **November 13**th **at the Story County Conservation Education Center** in McFarland Park near Ames. With 26 counties now providing these online services, and a couple more coming online in FY2019 – this has become an important yearly gathering for these managers to network! Mark your calendars to attend, and look forward to additional email and newsletter communications! ©



#THISISIOWA

OPEN

2018 IACCB FALL CONFERENCE



There's quite a few of them out there – thought we should put them in a convenient checklist for you all!

DEADLINES FOR ACTIVE ICCS REQUESTS / SURVEYS!

DEADLINE

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Sept. 30th STATEWIDE Salary Survey (Sent via email) Oct. 15th Iowa Tourism Website - Upload Campsites, Cabins, etc.(www.traveliowa.com) Iowa Tourism 2019 "99 Counties, 99 County Parks" Database Review (Coming out soon!) Oct. 30th Nov. 1st STATEWIDE Land Use / Facility / Economic Impact Survey Monkey Link Nov. 1st 2018 IACCB Annual Fall Conference Evaluation Survey Monkey Link Nov. 7th Registration for 2018 New County Conservation Employee School (active online soon) Nov. 7th Registration for 2018 E-Commerce Summit (active online soon) **ASAP** UPDATE "Un-Met Needs of County Conservation" Document – Listings & Cost Estimates



WHY THE SWITCH TO ICCS FROM IACCB?

Some of you have asked – happy to provide the thoughts behind the change. © The Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (IACCB) was formed in 1959 by a handful of visionary Board Members to assist the fledgling CCB system with common goals and missions. The original Bylaws provided for regular membership by Board Members only – any Administrative Personnel could join as an Associate member with the right to speak and be heard, but ineligible to hold any office. Over the decades we have added hundreds of professional staff, affiliate organizations (divisions) emerged to serve specialized needs and

our statewide system has matured magnificently! The IACCB Board of Directors has steadily recommended changes for the Bylaws to accommodate the exponential growth – as they have boldly done once again in 2018. Cognizant of our history, the Board of Directors also was tuning in to both current needs and future visions for our statewide organizational network. So, the 2018 recommendations included those sweeping changes to our structure, the way we go about voting & communications, AND enhancing our presence with a new "brand identity" that will take us collectively into new marketing arenas and tourism opportunities. The associated new logo is a bit more vibrant and self-explanatory – especially when coupled with our award-winning MyCountyParks.com identity. (see article herein) Bottom line is that we are now powering forward with a "rebuild" and refreshed persona for lowa's County Conservation System – the one and ONLY such all-encompassing county park system in the country.....historic changes for a history-making entity. *Thanks for being a part of this great journey!* ©



DIGITAL MEETING ETIQUETTE

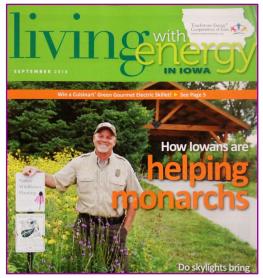
Whether it is **Zoom**, **Skype**, **Facetime**, **Google Hang Outs**, or others – we are migrating toward better efficiencies with online meetings! Not surprising that there a few good pointers out there for all of us to observe as we are either hosting or participating in these "new-to-us" adventures!



Soooo....here we go with the shorter list ©

- 1. Sit close to the screen/camera your face should fill most of it.
- 2. Use an external microphone or headset for best audio quality (hearing and speaking)
- 3. When you're not talking, mute yourself. (But the tornado sirens in Cedar Rapids yesterday were an awesome back-drop!)
- 4. Do not eat during the meeting especially un-muted crunching of chips!
- 5. When you are on mute during an audio-only meeting, you can do whatever you want. But when you're on mute during a video call, you need to act like you're truly engaged. Nod your head. Focus on the screen. Don't get up to feed your dog. Do not fall asleep (snore, etc.)
- 6. Don't sit with the window behind you. A little effort on lighting goes a long way.
- 7. When you are talking, spend some time looking at the camera, not the screen. Know where your camera is at! You will appear more earnest and honest this way.
- 8. When you are talking, go slow. No one is going to steal your slot.
- 9. A steady high-speed internet connection is essential for good, extended meeting time.
- 10 These are obvious. They are generous. They're effective. AND, almost no one puts in the effort to consistently deliver on them it is worth it!

(Thanks to Mandy Bieber, Linn CCB for passing along the bulk of these to share!) ©



^③ WELL.... LOOKY HERE! ^③

On the front cover of the September issue of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa magazine, we find our monarch habitat poster-child **Scott Nelson**, **Director for the Harrison County Conservation Board!** Articles in the magazine compliment the efforts of the HCCB in restoring and enhancing pollinator and other wildlife habitat around the county. **CONGRATS** to Scott & all the Harrison CCB staff for this recognition!

On a side note – you must know that the **Monarch Consortium** (to which several CCBs and ICCS belong) recognizes the significant and somewhat historic contributions that county conservation boards have and will be making for pollinator habitat across lowa. Work is currently underway to create a user-friendly database to better track these efforts in progress. We will pass additional information along on this as available! More ©

A NOTE ABOUT YOUR SEASONAL POSTINGS IN THE PORTAL

This past weekend, we turned "off" approximately 12 seasonal job postings – some dating back to 2017! All of these were listed with that "Open Until Filled" application deadline. We prefer that these job postings not "linger" on the listings longer than 3-4 months, and will endeavor to refresh the listing more frequently as we move ahead. Please monitor your postings, remove them if they are no longer needed, or refresh the end date as needed – Thanks!





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

- 1. Adair Co. Director
- 2. Woodbury Co. Part-time Clerk
- 3. SEASONAL POSITIONS 1 opportunity listed on website







Field Trip to Easter Lake Park – Polk CCB 9/21/18