

IOWA'S COUNTY  
CONSERVATION SYSTEM

# FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 64. ISSUE 8.

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THE VOICE OF  
CONSERVATION

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## D A T E S

March 8th-10th  
Spring IAN Meeting  
Sioux CCB

March 9th-10th  
Spring ISAC Des  
Moines

CCPOA Spring  
Workshops

- Central March 9th  
Story County
- Eastern March 15th  
Scott County
- Western March 21st  
Woodbury County

September 19th-21st  
2023 ICCS Fall  
Conference Hosted by  
Pottawattamie &  
Harrison CCBS  
Council Bluffs, IA

We often miss the chance to speak for the resources we work so hard to protect and enhance for future generations. Most of us would rather just work than reach out and speak to someone we don't know, about what we do and why; let alone brag about it.

With 53 new faces in the Iowa legislature, it is as important as ever to find opportunities to educate our leaders. Most of them do not realize that what we do connects to so many aspects of Iowa's future. From healthy ecosystems to healthy people, to strong economies, and communities, conservation provides the frame work. The parks, trails, nature centers, wildlife areas, and partnerships we provide are critical to the future of Iowa.

Iowa is the only State that has not doubled it's population in the last 100 years. According to the Iowa Economic Development Authority, "Access to natural landscapes and recreational opportunities are among the top factors that influence an individual's decision of where to live. Iowa's parks, trails, and wildlife areas play an important role in bolstering quality of life and workforce development"

We have to understand that what we do is all about people, by definition we serve people. Most of them have no clue about our most important conservation programs like the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund and REAP. They don't know that without these programs and others that Iowa will struggle to find a sustainable future. Be sure to let your legislators and local populus know about the great things your CCB is doing to make Iowa a better place for everyone, it's your job, YOU are the voice.

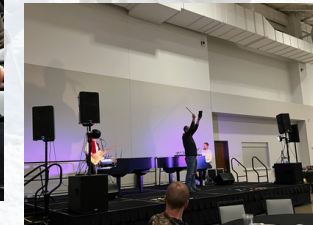
Legislative forum schedule :<http://www.iowaddcouncil.org/calendar>





# WINTERFEST 2023

The largest Winterfest training event ever is in the books! More of us are taking the opportunity to train, develop, and diversify our skill sets than ever before. More vendors and sponsors are interested in supporting us and continue to generously provide opportunities for us to connect and network. This year's event featured two outstanding keynote addresses and 30 educational seminars, along with great pre-conference activities. The evening entertainment was hilarious this year and many enjoyed a Free night of food and drinks at Back pocket Brewing Thanks to JEO Engineering!



## WINTERFEST 2023

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Thanks to those of you who took time to fill out the Winterfest Survey. The planning committee will start meeting again in just a few weeks and your answers help to ensure another successful event next year. It takes lots of ideas, planning, and volunteers to pull this thing off so be sure to thank your committee members.

522 TOTAL ATTENDEES  
29 VENDORS (MOST EVER)  
362 CONSERVATION EMPLOYEES  
76 COUNTIES  
86 COLLEGE STUDENTS





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## CCB MARKETPLACE ON MCP.COM?

MUCH APPRECIATION to the 35+ CCBs that have responded to our Feb. 13th survey about potentially integrating a “Marketplace” into the features of our next version of MyCountyParks.com. 89% of respondents (32% Yes & 57% likely in the future) indicated an interest, and 11% indicated no interest at this time. Participants also indicated that they would likely utilize the feature for: Merchandise (83%); Equipment Rentals (79%); Services (26%); Other (25%). Other included: tree seedlings, trail passes, food/beverage concessions, etc. We also appreciate the comments provided to assist us in evaluating & prioritizing this aspect of the broader redevelopment of the website! 😊

### Q.R. CODES – DYNAMIC vs. DESTINATION CODES

It is exciting that many CCBs are taking advantage of the QR code generation that is available through MyCountyParks.com for both facilities and events! As a reminder – the codes generated by MCP.com are “Destination” codes....meaning that the code contains a static URL to send the scanner to a specific internet destination. Once generated, that code is only good as long as there are no changes to the URL. In the example below – any change to the name of the county, park or name of the facility will render the QR Code to be inoperable. Another example is the QR Code that was available for agenda and meeting information at Winterfest 2023.....while we changed the information available by scanning the code numerous times in the background – the URL (specifically the Title of the event) remained operable as there were no changes made to the navigational map to the Destination. We hope this logic assists you with understanding the functionality of these Q.R. Codes.



<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clay/Park/Scharnberg-Park/Facility/Campsite-04.aspx>

# BYTES

mycountyparks.com

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ISSUE I

BYTES RETURNS! Some of you may remember the periodic editions of the BYTES Newsletter from IACCB in the late 2000's? At the time, there were but eight CCBs engaged with the new website – and the newsletter was primarily issued to connect those pioneering counties with shared best practices and emerging information about the new V.2 version of the website. Uniquely, we find ourselves at a similar juncture in 2023 – but with 53+ CCBs actively utilizing the vast features of MCP.com as we eagerly await the development, testing and launch of V.9 of our award-winning website! 😊 Look forward to the return of this statewide communication in the weeks ahead!



## SPRING IAN WORKSHOP

"Seeing the Unseen"  
March 8-10th, 2023



The 2023 Spring IAN workshop will be held at Sioux County Conservation's Prairie Woods Nature Center. Activities include exploring Alternative Agriculture, Native American/Dutch Heritage Museum, tour of Orange City, or Oak Grove Park Mountain Bike Trail with a group ride option.

Main educational sessions will be held Thursday and Friday with 15 concurrent sessions and 3 general sessions covering a wide range of topics, including hands on and active sessions. To understand and appreciate the natural world, sometimes you have to change your perspective. Nature is what we can see, and what we cannot see.



### CCPOA UPDATE

- If you are interested in getting involved with CCPOA there are leadership opportunities for firearms instructors and executive committee members. To be considered, please fill out the online applications found here: <https://www.mycountyparks.org/ccpoa-of-iowa.html> and send them to the email address below.
- Members can now upload important law enforcement documents for officers only to the CCPOA website. If you have something you think should be added please send it to Mike Weis [mweis@harrisoncountyparks.org](mailto:mweis@harrisoncountyparks.org).
- The executive committee is beginning discussions on a logo refresh & update. The current one has served us well over the years but we are excited to modernize it and try to better capture who we are as a group. More to come on that in the near future.



### Registrations for the Spring Workshops are open.

- **Western** will be at the Woodbury County Sheriff's Office
- **Central** will be in Story County at McFarland Park
- **Eastern** will be in Scott County at the Wasps River Center

March 21st, RSVP by March 14th.  
March 9th, RSVP by March 3rd.  
March 15th RSVP by March 5th.



## ROSS GEERDES TO STEP IN AS DIRECTOR IN ALLAMAKEE

I grew up in West Union and can remember hunting, fishing, and exploring on County Conservation Board properties all across Northeast Iowa from an early age.

After graduating from Western Illinois University I worked seasonally for the Linn County Conservation Board before I was hired on as the Assistant Naturalist at the Lee County Conservation Board. I began working in Allamakee as the first fulltime Naturalist in 2013 and have developed in school environmental education programming as well as leading school field trips and adult education programs at the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center. I am married and have 2 children ages 7 and 4. In our spare time we enjoy boating, hiking, hunting, and fishing in the Driftless Area of Northeast Iowa



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# DISTRICT II MEETING

Wright County CCB shared their successful approach to cooperative conservation at a very cold District II meeting. Fisheries Biologist Scott Grummer illustrated how including the public in efforts to restore the Lake Cornelia fishery with a yellow bass tournament helped control the population while gaining local support for the project.

After some awesome street tacos, Director Eric Rector explained how their latest acquisition will serve as a model for blending conservation and agriculture. This parcel has a mix of wetland, prairie, and crop ground that has a low CSR. Wright county will lease 100 acres to a young farmer for \$ 200/acre and require several conservation practices to be implemented. The idea is to ensure that the land, the operator, and the public all come out ahead!



## GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union is once again requesting applications for their Special Projects Grants for 2023. They have funds available for disbursement to projects that increase the conservation and education of Iowa's birds. Projects may include providing match money for habitat acquisition, projects to improve important bird habitats, publishing related to birding research projects, or anything else that meets the mission.

The deadline for applications is **March 31, 2023**. Details about the grants and the grant application process can be found here: <https://iowabirds.org/iou/GrantApplication.aspx> If you have questions about the grants, please feel free to contact (Joel.Haack@uni.edu).



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 11. Full Time Positions

- |                                             |                                                |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Woodbury County- Naturalist 2            | 6. Alamakee County- Operations Supervisor      |
| 2. Story County- Naturalist                 | 7. Alamakee County-Naturalist                  |
| 3. Manona County- Park Ranger               | 8. Wapello County-Roadside Manager             |
| 4. O'Brien County- Conservation Tech/Ranger | 9. Hamilton County- Cabin technician/-Multiple |
| 5. Tama County- Naturalist                  | 10. Polk County- Conservation Laborer          |
|                                             | 11. Polk County-Facility Attendant             |

80 PLUS SEASONAL POSITIONS ON WEBSITE!!

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