



SAVE THE DATES:

The ICCS Calendar &
Zoom Meeting Room
Bookings
are available online via



* Dec. 21 – District 6 Mtg.
– Johnson CCB

* Dec. 23-26 – ICCS Offices
Closed for Christmas

* Dec. 31 – Jan. 2 – ICCS
Closed for New Years

* Jan. 24-26 – Winterfest
2023 – Coralville Hyatt

* Mar. 8-10 – Spring IAN
Mtg. – Sioux CCB

* Mar. 9-10 – Spring ISAC
Mtg. – Des Moines

Indicates Online
Registration Available

2023 ICCS

Fall Conference

September 19-21, 2023
Hosted by Pottawattamie
& Harrison CCBS
Council Bluffs, IA



December 18, 2022

Volume 64 - Issue No. 6

From Team ICCS

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED:

PHONE NUMBERS:

(319) 939-1401 (mobile) – Adam Shirley, Chief Executive Officer (voice & text)
(319) 521-5952 (mobile) – Tom Hazelton, Internet Systems Admin. (voice & text)
(515) 963-9582 – ICCS Office Phone (Voice only – rings thru to Shirley – no text)

USPS SNAIL MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 330, Osage, IA 50461

EMAIL ADDRESSES:

IACCB@mycountyparks.org – Adam Shirley, CEO
MCPAdmin@mycountyparks.org – Tom Hazelton, ISA

Feel free to contact either Adam or Tom in the weeks/months ahead with your inquiries, comments, insights, etc. – they look forward to working with all of you from their respective positions! 😊

SF2323 – DNR & CCB Land Inventory – Homework Assignment in January

If you have attended any of the recent District Meetings, you have heard Adam and Tom talking about the upcoming REQUIRED inventory of CCB public lands, which the Iowa Legislature structured to include all public lands owned or managed by County Conservation Boards. In the weeks ahead, ICCS will be sending out an email communication from the Iowa DNR with a link to the site that has been prepared for you to enter/update your information. **PLEASE NOTE: Sec. 2. Applicability** – The requirement for the inventory maintained pursuant to this 2022 Iowa Act to include the price paid or the seller of land owned or managed by a county conservation board shall not apply to land acquired by a county conservation board prior to the effective date of this 2022 Iowa Act. Look for additional information be forthcoming! 😊

SF2323: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=SF2323>



Boldly Moving Forward!

The Award-Winning Website of ICCS – Since 2009

Not since the last major renovations in 2015-16 has there been such excitement concerning what's about to unfold with the upcoming development initiatives over the next 18 months! Early planning and design meetings are already being held – and we plan to keep you all in the loop as the projects progress in the months ahead. Beginning with a move to our own MCP.com dedicated servers within an enhanced secure environment – we then take on the total renovation and upgrade of our structure, look and feel, speed of processing and QR Code enhances. We will have more options for payment, enhanced options for advertising and the ability for individual CCBS to provide a larger variety of discounts, promotions and sales of products & services. We will engineer the new environments around broader abilities to expand the use of videos, graphics and pictures – all of which will propel stronger marketing & promotional campaigns into 2024-25! 😊 It is likely that there will be new communications emerging from our MCP.com Division to include an inventory of training videos, as well as live tutorial webinars via Zoom as specific new features and functionalities are released. Strap yourselves in....we're going places we never thought would be possible!

IACCB@mycountyparks.org

(515) 963-9582





January 24-26, 2023 HYATT REGENCY CORALVILLE WINTERFEST 2023

REGISTRATION DISCOUNT
AVAILABLE THRU Jan. 3rd

51st ANNUAL IACCBE WINTERFEST CONFERENCE!

As of Dec. 16 - we have 281 CCB employees from 68 counties, 19 representatives from 14 vendors, and 25 collegiates from 3 camps - for a total of 325 participants to-date. 😊 A great start on registrations for our 2023 Winterfest! The all-time record attendance in 2022 sported 484 on-site - still room for your CCB employees & collegiates! 😊

LODGING RESERVATIONS at the Hyatt Coralville are available via the "HYATT ROOM BLOCK" link on the Winterfest 2023 page at MyCountyParks.org (link below). **Cut-off for the room block is 1/3/2023. Registration Deadline for all participants is also January 3rd - a \$20 late fee will be applied to all registrations received after midnight on that date (ie: Starting Jan 4th). Registrations will NOT BE ACCEPTED after January 11th (Additional \$25 late fee assessed)** Save yourselves all the frustrations that many of you had by waiting until the last minute this past year - just get it done before the holidays! We were very close to our dining capacities for 2022 - your advance planning and registrations are much appreciated to assist with all the final minutia in the days running up to this great event!

Winterfest 2023 ONLINE registration has been available since October 15th. Get your calendars marked - observe the late registration penalties noted above and **GET REGISTERED!** - we look forward to seeing you in Coralville!

LINK: <https://www.mycountyparks.org/winterfest.html>



WINTERFEST 2023 - EMPLOYEE REGISTRATION

Event: 01/24/2023 - 01/26/2023
Registration From: 10/03/2022 - 01/11/2023

The absolute best annual networking and educational event created by County Conservation Employees FOR County Conservation Employees! Join us in January for WINTERFEST 2023 in Coralville - looking forward to seeing you all there!



WINTERFEST 2023 - COLLEGIATE REGISTRATION

Event: 01/25/2023 - 01/26/2023
Registration From: 10/03/2022 - 01/11/2023

(For College Students & Accompanying Faculty ONLY) WINTERFEST 2023 - your BEST opportunity for an introduction to a career in County Conservation - hands down! Join us in January 2023!



WINTERFEST 2023 - VENDOR REGISTRATION

Event: 01/24/2023 - 01/26/2023
Registration From: 10/03/2022 - 01/11/2023

WINTERFEST 2023 EXHIBITOR & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - connecting businesses and service providers with the leaders of Iowa's County Conservation System! Join us in Coralville for one of our best networking opportunities of the year!

HYATT ROOM BLOCK

WINTERFEST REGISTRATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

IACCBE ELECTIONS - VOTE HERE

WINTERFEST 2023

January 24-26, 2023 / Hyatt-Regency Coralville

EMPLOYEE REGISTRATION INFORMATION
(Registration Packet & Information Coming Soon!)

COLLEGIATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION (Coming!)

COLLEGIATE PROMO FLYER - OCT. 2022
Download File

EXHIBITOR / SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION
Download File

SPONSORSHIP FORM - WINTERFEST 2023
Download File

mycountyparks.org

PREFERRED VENDOR MEMBER - REQUEST TO JOIN
Download File



Q.R. CODED



DOCUMENTS AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

WINTERFEST 2023 - CORALVILLE HYATT REGENCY

Tues. January 24 - Thurs. January 26, 2023

(CLICK ON DOCUMENTS BELOW TO VIEW)

- AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE
- FULL CONFERENCE PACKET
- IACCBE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
- 2022 IACCBE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

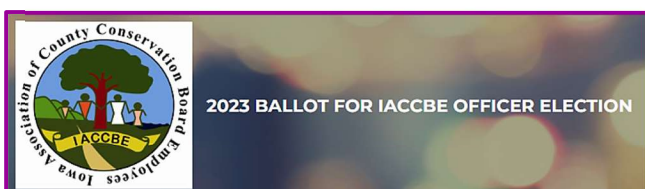
(NOTE: Due to size, it may take a moment for some documents to download)

Email Print Remind Me Add To Outlook

Where
CORALVILLE HYATT REGENCY
CONFERENCE CENTER
300 East 9th Street
Coralville, IA 52241

(This Code will be available throughout the conference site for access as needed)

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! IACCBE 2023 ELECTIONS



mycountyparks.org

WE WANT YOU!

HYATT ROOM BLOCK

WINTERFEST REGISTRATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

IACCBE ELECTIONS - VOTE HERE

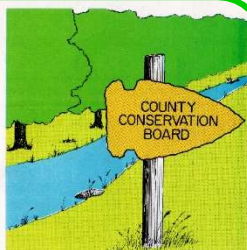
VOTE HERE: <https://www.mycountyparks.org/winterfest.html>

The Most Successful County Conservation Program in the United States

By Robert D. Walker

The state of Iowa is blessed with many natural wonders that we sometimes overlook. The most obvious is our black soil which allows us to be one of the primary row crop states in the country. We also have two primary tributaries which form our eastern and western boundaries that have been the object of many novels and classics which are known by people all over the world — the Mississippi and the Mis-

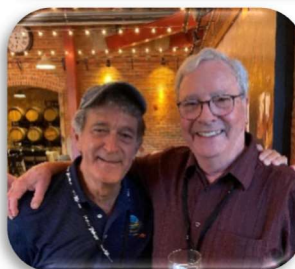
souri Rivers. Approximately four percent of Iowa's surface is covered by timberland with the heaviest concentrations in the eastern counties of the state and approximately 3,000 acres of native prairie which has never been touched by the plow. Because of our emphasis on crop and livestock production and the large amount of valuable crop land, we must work especially hard to preserve our natural wonders and provide outdoor areas for Iowans to enjoy in their leisure time.



Some people are surprised when they learn that Iowa is also a leader in the conservation movement in the United States. In 1934, a 25-year plan for conservation was prepared by renowned conservationists such as Ding Darling and Aldo Leopold. This plan formed the basis for some very unique programs that originated in Iowa. One of the suggestions of this plan was to find a way to provide additional conservation and outdoor recreation programs at the local level. From this has developed

Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

JUNE 1984
A Special County Conservation Board Issue



Hazelton / Bob Walker - 2022



R. Kean / D. Heissel / Hazelton - 2021

As the final weeks of 2022 tick away, so do the days of my wearing the first CEO hat for this AWESOME County Conservation System. Together we have blazed new trails on many fronts, spent endless days educating & orienting new legislators, community leaders and each other – and along the way..... forged lifelong friendships, partnerships & forever memories. I have been blessed to be at timely crossroads in life to re-engineer my career path several times taking on challenging new directions that this industry has made available to me – and it is calling me to re-tool for one more episode - as there is still much to do! 😊 The memories and stories of these past five decades are as crisp and clear as when they occurred – so too are the faces and names of the mentors, co-workers and fellow dreamers that would join me in conjuring-up the potentials of what might be – “*IF only we could.....*”.

Many of the CCB alumni and others that shared their talents and insights helped to shape the person I have become....you know who you are, and I thank each and every one of you. I have tried always to look for the best that could be drawn out from others, and steadfastly – put forth the best that I could provide. While organizing some archives in preparation for our current ICCS transition, I came across the June 1984 edition of the *Iowa Conservationist* – it was a good read then, and an even better read 4 decades down the road. Piloting the finest, and “*Most Successful County Program in the United States*” has truly been an honor and the most rewarding years of my professional career. It would not have been so without the support and trust that all of you have invested with me – *time and time again*.



Nearly 12 years ago, I interviewed for this position with the IACCB Board of Directors. Despite the 35 years of CCB experience already under my belt, my gut was in a knot and I was as nervous as one could be. The Board had just completed a strategic planning process and was poised and eager to take our industry to new places with an emboldened presence and enhanced sense of place – building upon the solid foundations established in our first 55 years. To help with the visioning aspect – I relied on the concepts of the Dr. Seuss book...“*Oh, the Places You'll Go!*” – and presented the Board with a binder of what the future might hold. Those of you that know me will not be surprised that I still have that category-tabbed binder – serving both as a reminder to me, as well as a measure for those promises made. We have done well, and it is time to turn another page. Your **New CEO, Adam Shirley** has already demonstrated excitement and energy for his new career at the ICCS tiller, and I encourage you all to collectively provide him the same trust and support you graciously extended to me these past many years. Allow us some patience as we transition through the upcoming months - and settle into a new era.....I just have this renewed feeling of “Oh, the Places You'll Go!” *Thank-you!.....My best to you all for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a 2023 that is off the charts!*

TOM



Iowa's County Conservation System Fall Conference

September 20 - 21, 2023, at the Mid-America Center

The **2023 ICCS Fall Conference** Lodging webpage is now LIVE and available for lodging reservations via the link below. The Conference will be in Council Bluffs on Iowa's West Coast – hosted by the Pottawattamie and Harrison CCBs. The anchor hotel is the **Country Inn & Suites**, and over flow hotel is the Springhill Suites. Room costs are \$99 and \$96/night respectively. Please remember that the conference will include a day of pre-conference events, followed by two days of bus tours in the region, and you are invited to attend the optional Pottawattamie CCB's premier fund-raising event – **Go Wild for Conservation**, hosted by the Pottawattamie County Conservation Foundation on night #3 (9/21/23).

2023 fall Conference Lodging: <https://www.unleashcb.com/sites/iccs/>





District 6 – Johnson County, December 1976

One More District Meeting in 2022.....

I guess it could be considered ironic, that my last official District Meeting will be hosted by the CCB where I attended my first District Meeting?! Adam and I will join the **District 6** faithful on Dec. 21st in **Johnson County**. This will be our third and last joint appearance in two weeks – going forward, please keep engaged with Adam as far in advance as possible in order to enhance the possibility that he can join you! We enjoyed our visits this past week to **Plymouth CCB** (District 3) and **Marion CCB** (District 5) – both located on western borders of their Districts, yet commanded robust and AWESOME attendance! Kudos to the host CCBs and planners for the meetings as noted below. 😊

District 3 – Hillview Rec. Area – Plymouth CCB

12/14/2022 - If not a record – then it was close with 60-some District 3 CCB representatives, a Plymouth County Conservation Board Member and several regional DNR folks in attendance. In addition to the District 3 Business Meeting – the county-by-county updates were very interesting.... ranging from Comp. Board reports and salaries, to rural water concerns, and other project updates. An awesome catered meal was provided – followed by the Fish Habitat Grant Review Session; or as an alternate option – Disc Golf, snow shoeing or a pond dredging project tour. Thanks to **Nick Beeck, Director, the PCCB Staff and CCB** for hosting this December meeting – **Jolly Well Done!**



District 5 – Shirley updates group on public land inventories

District 5 – Public Health Dept. – Marion CCB

12/15/2022 – We had the opportunity to bid adieu and extend our appreciation to **Dave Sedivec** – retiring Director of the Mahaska CCB, as well as welcome incoming MCCB Director, **Chris Clingan** – WELCOME! In addition to the regular District 5 Business Meeting, there was a healthy roundtable discussion of common issues as each CCB provided updates of goings-on in their county's operations. 😊 Following a great comfort-food meal of assorted Casey's Pizza, the Marion CCB had orchestrated tours of the hydro-electric dam facilities at the Lake Red Rock Dam, as well as the hydro-electric power plant on the Des Moines River at Lake Red Rock. Thanks to **42+ year veteran Marion CCB Director, Steve Edwards and the Marion CCB Staff** for their stellar meeting planning and hosting!

Some Final Thoughts on YOUR District Meetings ...

Over the decades, I have attended HUNDREDS of these meetings – sometimes 25-30 per year, and there's not a one that I regret investing the time and energy to be present. They were established in 1958 to assist the fledgling CCB system with a method of networking regional CCB representatives (mostly just Board Members in the early years) to share best practices and to learn from the successes and failures of your fellow CCB brethren. Never forget to **HOST WELL**, and **ATTEND WELL** no matter where or when your District gathers...miss a meeting, and YOU MISS A LOT!! 😊



District 5 – Hazelton provides his final report to District 5

THEY Found US on a GOOGLE Search!

The Marketing and Outreach Coordinator for the **Ohio Department of Natural Resources** simply searched on Google for “Selfie Stations in Parks”, and discovered Iowa's County Conservation System one day. Amazed by what they found..... a couple of phone conversations ensued, and we are now assisting them with expanding their marketing outreach with selfie station deployment throughout their extensive State Park system! We have shared pictures, drawings, news releases and the success stories that you have provided us about this 2019 CCB tourism mission that continues to “keep on giving”! 😊



#THISIOWA

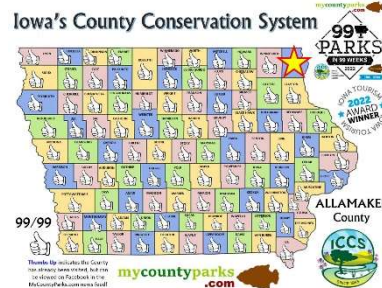


Collegiate Day @ Winterfest – Resume Reviewers Needed!

Our college students are lining up for the ever-expanding Collegiate Day & Resume Review Session at Winterfest 2023! In 2022 we had 82 students from 9 campuses! You will be needed for approx. ½ hour starting around 11:40 AM on Wednesday, January 25th – just prior to the luncheon. The students just can't pass up this great opportunity to have what is perhaps their very first resume critiqued by an actual industry professional! If you have had some experience in this arena – please step up! **Contact Adam Shirley** at IACCB@mycountyparks.org – more information & pointers will be forthcoming!

New Board Member(s) in January? - Don't Forget the Portal!

Just a quick reminder that the **"BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION"** file in the **IACCB PORTAL "FILES" TAB** has a lot of support information for you and your new **Conservation Board Members** that may be starting their terms in 2023. By January 1st you will find everything refreshed with either 2022 or 2023 information – including the updated 2023 New Board Member Orientation Presentation by ICCS (PDF, PowerPoint & Video Versions). As always, we encourage CCB Directors to utilize these materials in conjunction with their local Board Member Training/Orientation programs – AND to "walk-thru" these items with new board members to clarify, emphasize and to answer questions.



And the 99-County Countdown Map Read **99 of 99 Visited...** ☺



99 CCBs IN 99 WEEKS – IT WAS A WRAP ON DECEMBER 4!! ☺

2,222 PHOTOS & 630,000+ REACHED

And so.....after 99 straight weeks, on December 4th - we were able to give the writing pens and Photoshop buttons a well-deserved rest. You should all be proud that we were able to showcase the absolute BEST of the finest County Conservation System in the nation – the results of YOUR collective talents and dedication. In April 2022, just a bit beyond the halfway mark in our trek – the **Iowa Tourism Office** recognized this effort with the **Outstanding Niche Marketing Initiative Award** for 2022! One "deep dive" each week – all about "US" and those awesome quality of life opportunities that we provide for lowans and our visitors w/o even thinking twice about it each and every day.... simply doing what we do best 24/7, 365, year after year. **KUDOS and CONGRATS** to each of you for all that you have done for ICCS since 1955!



"You don't need to practice social distancing from Mother Nature: Enjoy Iowa's County Parks!"

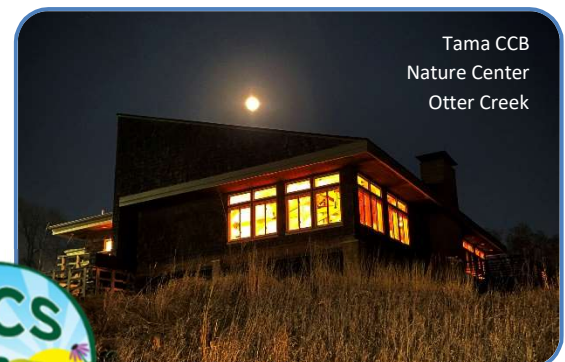


■ Full Time
■ Seasonal/Part-Time

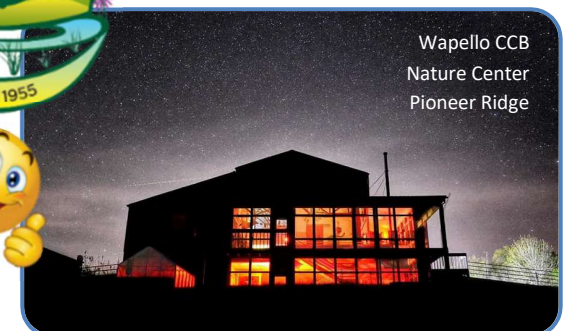
<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx>

1. ALLAMAKEE Co. – Executive Director
2. O'BRIEN Co. – Environmental Educator/Naturalist
3. MUSCATINE Co. – Asst. Park Officer/Maint. Tech.
4. HAMILTON Co. – Golf Course Clubhouse Mgr. / Pro
5. POLK Co. – Conservation Laborer – Construction
6. POLK Co. – Facility Attendant
7. SEASONAL POSITIONS – 16+ opportunities listed on website

12/18/2022



Tama CCB
Nature Center
Otter Creek



Wapello CCB
Nature Center
Pioneer Ridge