



# Newsletter

Volume 62  
Issue No. 8

February 25, 2021

## SAVE THE DATES:

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



- \* Mar. 3 – AFIRM Mtg.
- \* Mar. 4 – “MCP 101”  
Training – ICCS Zoom
- \* Mar. 4 – District 5 Mtg.  
– ICCS Zoom Room
- \* Mar. 11 – CCDA / ISAC  
Spring Conf. - Virtual
- \* Mar. 17-19 – IAN Spring  
Workshop - Virtual
- \* Mar. 31 – Deadline for  
CCPOA Training 2B Done
- \* April 27-28 – Iowa  
Tourism Conference
- \* Aug. 25-27 – ISAC  
Annual Conference – TBA
- \* Oct. 4-6 – CCPOA 35<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Wksp. & Anniv.
- \* Jan. 25-27, 2022 – The  
WINTERFEST 2022!!

Indicates Online  
Registration Available

**2021 ICCS**  
**65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary +1**  
**Fall Conference**  
**September 15-17, 2021**  
**Ames, IA**



## 2021 ICCS Fall Conference UPDATE!

The **2021 ICCS Fall Conference Planning Committee** is back on track towards a “normal” event this September in Story County! We are currently planning to host this **65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary +1 Event** within any existing COVID-19 restrictions, but remain optimistic at this juncture that we may be free of most restrictions by our mid-Sept. date.

We are targeting an April 1<sup>st</sup> release of the updated program and agenda with most of the 2020 edition intact along with most of the pricing! This release will coincide with going live with our online registration for the conference – the registration deadline will be in early August. An **ALERT TO CCB ALUMNI!** – the first formally organized event for the new **ICCS Alumni Division** will be held on Wednesday evening, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Prairie Moon Winery in Ames – we look forward to celebrating our **65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (+1)** with you – mark your calendars! (*Learn more about this Division at a special CCB Alumni Zoom event in April!*)

As you may recollect from 2020, the Story CCB has put together an awesome agenda of pre-conference events, a full day of educational sessions, and a great day of touring Story CCB areas. Additionally – there are a couple of excellent raffle drawing prizes and the ever-wonderful ICCS Silent Auction – not to mention the most important aspect of such gatherings – networking with your county conservation peers from across Iowa. So, commence with the chatter about the conference now, and we look forward to your registrations this Spring! 😊



**September 15 – 17, 2021**

Quality Inn & Suites - Ames, IA

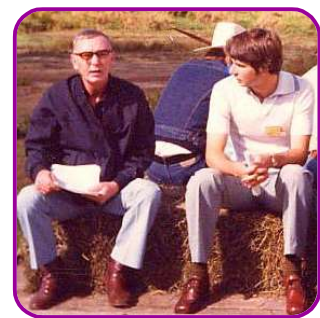
Hosted by the Story County

Conservation Board



## Ben Van Gundy Passes at Age 68

We are saddened to share with you the passing of Ben Van Gundy on February 11<sup>th</sup> at his home in Apple Valley, MN. Following his graduation from ISU, Ben pursued his lifelong dedicated career path in conservation – beginning with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, followed by CCB



Van Gundy (R) visits with George Hamilton (Linn) during a field trip at the 1984 IACCB Fall Conference.

Directorships with the Audubon, Cerro Gordo and Polk County Conservation Boards. He left Iowa's CCB system in 2003 and served as the Executive Director at the Dodge Nature Center in St. Paul, MN. Prior to his retirement a few years ago, he served as the Executive Director of the River Bend Nature Center in Fairbault, MN. Additional information about Ben's family and arrangements can be found via the link that follows. We will remember Ben for his insightful innovations in conservation, his wit and humor, and his dedication to Iowa's County Conservation System. Rest in peace



(L) Ben at the 1985 Fall Conf. in Cerro Gordo County

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/twincities/name/ben-van-gundy-obituary?n=ben-van-gundy&pid=197814507>

[IACCB@mycountyparks.org](mailto:IACCB@mycountyparks.org)

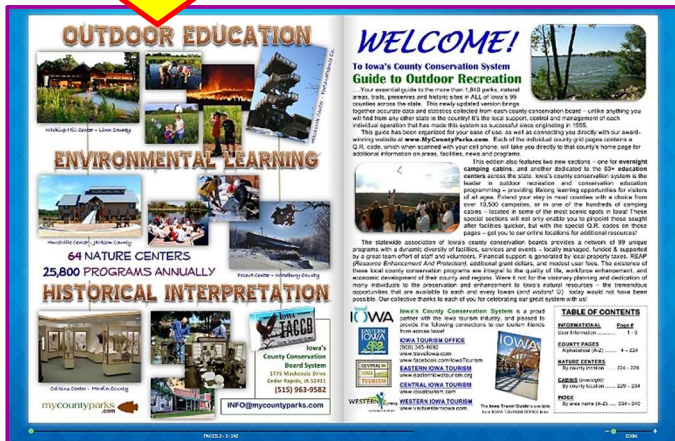
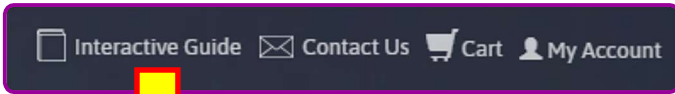
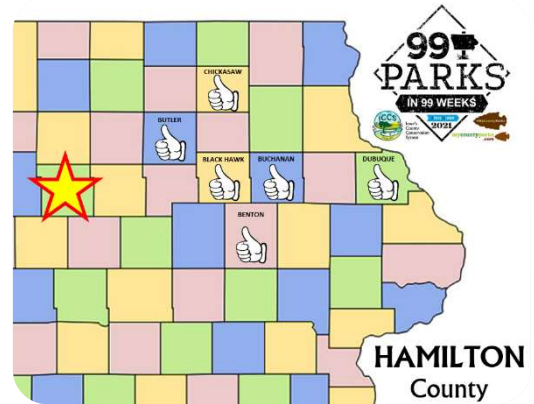
(515) 963-9582

**mycountyparks.com**



## 99 Counties / 99 Weeks Surges Towards Week #7

The “**Reach**” is all about the “**Shares**”!! As the featured CCB of week #6, Dubuque County, surpassed 10K “reached” this week....we continue to learn a bunch since our Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> launch of this Facebook marketing campaign. 😊 Throughout the course of the first 6 weeks, we have reached 82,665 people – with the weeks having the most contacts also showing the most shares. Not surprising then that the more we collectively share these posts, the better the outreach will be! So, plan ahead for every Monday-ish to check out the [MyCountyParks.com](https://www.MyCountyParks.com) Facebook page for the new weekly post and commence with the sharing! 2020 was filled with folks discovering their local County Parks – 2021 can be filled with amazement of what is statewide!



For those of you that have yet to see one of these posts, we share with you the above map snippet that is used each week to be an instant indicator as to the location of the featured CCB that week. The “thumbs-up” icon demonstrates counties already visited that can also be found in the “news stream” portion of the page. We have also been posting the featured CCB’s pages from the Guide to Outdoor Adventure that is available on MCP.com (and now on MCP.org too!) Just this past week we invested in new software to host and page-turn this 242-page book that has become more popular because of this marketing effort. In 2020, we experienced a 100%+ increase in online requests to purchase a copy of this guidebook. Don’t forget to be aware of your “week of fame”, and to provide any additional or updated pictures, as well as text for us to utilize in your posts! Otherwise – it-is-what-it-is with whatever gets dreamed up by the author of the week! Thanks, as always for your support of our marketing efforts! 😊



, - MyCountyParks.com



- Iowa's CountyConservationSystem

## CCPOA 2020 ONLINE TRAINING UPDATE

It has been great to see 136 CCB Peace Officers step-up to-date to meet the online registration request for documentation and participation for their **2020 Mandated Law Enforcement In-service Training Requirements**! As a reminder, ALL 163 CCPOA MEMBERS have been asked to individually register (via the following link) to provide attestation to the CCPOA that they have acquired all their mandated training for 2020. **There are some 26 of you that have yet to do so.** It is the intent of the CCPOA to get all officers back into the coordinated training schedules that have served the organization well for the 35 years prior to COVID-19. Members (and CCPOA Alumni) should look forward to the **35+1 Anniversary Workshop and Banquet** information in the weeks ahead – scheduled for **October 4-6 at the Ramada Tropics Hotel** in Des Moines.



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



## SEEKING TRAIL CAMERA ADVICE

(From Kate Zimmerman, Ringgold CCB)

Deb with the **Wallace Centers of Iowa** is interested in how you handle your trail counters. Her message follows, and you may contact her directly: *“We have secured grant funds to buy a TRAFx trail counter this year (yay!), but one of my team members is super worried about accuracy because we have a lot of deer during certain times of year that go through our prairie. They probably don’t always follow the trail/start at the entrance, but they might sometimes. Would you be able to throw out the question to your conservation network about how folks handle that with their trail counters? Any advice or information? I’m totally fine if you give out my contact info.....Many Thanks!”*

Debra Houghtaling, President/CEO - The Wallace Centers of Iowa [www.wallace.org](http://www.wallace.org)  
(641) 745-7774 [DebraHoughtaling@wallace.org](mailto:DebraHoughtaling@wallace.org)







Sponsored by.....

## WINTERFEST 2022 PLANNING BACK ON TRACK!!



Twenty-Two Members of the **IACCBE Winterfest Planning Committee** gathered in the ICCS Zoom room on 2/23 to catch-up on IACCBE happenings, and gather thoughts toward planning what will be a much-awaited **WINTERFEST 2022!** It will have been two full years since we have gathered as one back in 2020. The 2022 event is **scheduled for January 25-27** at the **Coralville Marriott & Convention Center** – and at this time, planning will be for a relatively normal format with accommodations for any necessary remaining COVID protocols – if any. The Committee has targeted October 1<sup>st</sup> to have online registration up and running, with deadlines for registration and lodging reservations in early January 2022. In tandem with registration availability – online reservations for the Marriott will also be available. IACCBE will be looking for candidates to fill two positions at W'Fest 2022 as follows: Vice President of IACCBE (3-year term as V.P. President and Past President); and, and IACCBE Employee Representative to the ICCS State Board of Directors (3-year term). Interested candidates can get "Job Descriptions" for these positions from any member of the Planning Committee. The next meeting of Committee is Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - if you have some most excellent ideas for potential presenters that you have seen and would like to share with everyone at Winterfest – Let Us Know!



## MCP.com "101" TRAINING ONLINE – March 4<sup>th</sup>!

Normally an annual stalwart session at every WINTERFEST since 2010, join MCP System Administrator and ICCS CEO Tom Hazelton in the ICCS Zoom Room on **Thursday morning, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM** for an engaging session on "Just the Basics" about our award-winning website – as well as a tour of **The Portal**, and "What is that MyCountyParks.org?". These three online entities form the basis of our cyber presence and are key foundations of our future – shouldn't you ALL know more about them? You can register online as follows:

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

## 2021 IACCBE BALLOTING FOR OFFICERS DEADLINE IS MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> !!

IACCBE is currently accepting electronic ballots via Survey Monkey for the Officer Positions of IACCBE Vice President, and IACCBE Representative to the ICCS Board of Directors. For candidate information and the link to cast your ballot – visit the IACCBE webpage here:

**TO VOTE:** <https://www.mycountyparks.org/iaccbe-2021.html>





## CCDA 2021 SPRING WORKSHOP

March 11<sup>th</sup> – ICCS ZOOM ROOM

Event: 03/11/2021 - 03/11/2021

Registration From: 02/23/2021 - 03/09/2021

## WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX?



## ONLINE Registration NOW Available!

For the **2021 SPRING CCDA WORKSHOP – VIRTUALLY!**

Sessions for the day include: Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant Program, Strategic Planning, Rusty Patched Bumblebee Conservation, and ICCS & Legislative Updates. (See full agenda associated with registration, or via link below) Directors are invited to spend the day or just join in on the topics they are interested in – shouldn't that be all of them? Looking forward to seeing you all on the 11<sup>th</sup>!

**Register online at the following link:**

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

(Registrants will receive the Zoom Link prior to the workshops)

**AGENDA:** <https://www.mycountyparks.org/ccda.html>

## HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE BOTTOM?

....of the **ICCS Legislative Newsletter** that is! Some weeks it is a bit of a scroll down – but eventually, you will get there! Over 1,700 bills have been introduced this session – so keeping tabs on those, various committee meetings, etc. can certainly be a challenge. Our lobbying team does an excellent job of producing these bi-weekly newsletters with information on the legislation that we are following or concerned with.

Additionally – following said scroll – you can find links to various resources to further engage yourself with the legislative processes and connect you directly with legislators and their local events. **Here you will find:** Links to watch or listen to debates; check debate schedules; find your legislators contact information; Legislative Committee listings; the “Bill Tracker” for following your various bills of interest; AND, listings of dates/times of legislator’s Town Halls and Legislative Forums. Be sure to “take the scroll” with the next edition of the Legislative Newsletter, or back-track to a previous edition! *Thanks for your interest in our legislative efforts!*



### Your Bill Tracker

Click above to see status of important bills, or create your own report with our custom download.



### Town Halls & Public Forums

Find a local event with your state or federal elected officials here. Three weeks are shown at a time on this website.



### Your Legislative Team:

Craig Patterson | [craig@ialobby.com](mailto:craig@ialobby.com) | 515.554.5838

Amy Campbell | [amy@ialobby.com](mailto:amy@ialobby.com) | 515.554.5838

### Your Advocacy Toolkit:

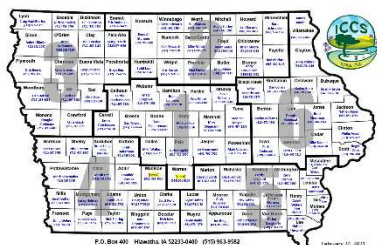
[Watch or Listen to Debate \(recorded or live\)](#)

[Check Schedules](#)

[Legislative Committee Listings](#)

[Find & Contact Your Legislator](#)

[Click here to view this update as a webpage.](#)



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE CCB HOODS....

**CLAYTON CCB** – Will celebrate the **GRAND OPENING of the Motor Mill Trail** on **Saturday, March 20, 2021** – starting at **9:00 AM** in the Motor Mill Campground. This celebration will also serve as the official start of the **Annual Motor Motor 5K**. For more information visit Clayton CCB at: [www.claytoncountyconservation.org](http://www.claytoncountyconservation.org)

**WINNEBAGO CCB** – The **Winter quarterly newsletter** from the WCCB takes note of some of the unique challenges they faced from the pandemic, as well as some significant major increases in camping! “Campers spent 355 nights at the Thorpe Park Campground in 2020, compared to 195 in 2019 – an **increase of 82%**; At Dahle Park, site occupancy increased from 77 camping nights in 2019 to 279 nights in 2020 – a **whopping 262% increase** year to year!” (Thanks for sharing your statistics...awesome numbers!)

**DISTRICT 3 MEETING HELD IN PERSON** – For the first time in nearly a year, an IACCB District Meeting was held with proper social distancing... **IN PERSON!** The meeting was held at the Lookout Shelter in Yellow Smoke Park in Crawford County – 23 attended.

## “R.V. WORKING GROUP” MEETS via ZOOM

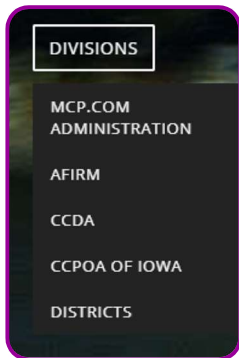
Representatives from ICCS, Iowa DNR, Winnebago Industries, Hy-Vee, Golden Hills RCD, KOA, RV Dealers and Iowa Tourism Office gathered on 2/23 to assess what we have all experienced in the past 11 months – AND, to compare notes of what the future may hold. Interesting discussions about technology demands, demographics of all the new-to-the-industry RV purchasers, how do campground providers plan for future needs, etc. CCBs received many accolades for your 2020 performances – **you did us proud!**





## A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL – AT THE SUMMIT!

Just shy of 70 CCB folk gathered on February 18<sup>th</sup> for the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual E-Commerce Summit** – first time virtually, like so much of life – eh? Many thanks to our four guest presenters – **Mike Kalkwarf** (Marion CCB) **Katie Klus** & **Nikki Koelling** (Black Hawk CCB) and **Ginny Malcomson** (Polk CCB) for sharing of their time and talents for the various aspects of website administration that they have become so very proficient at! AND, because we were on Zoom – we were able to record some of our very first training videos that have been posted to our NEW page on [MyCountyParks.org](https://www.mycountyparks.org) – specifically for MCP Administrators! Along with the videos, we have also posted the Powerpoint presentations from the Summit as well as some of the other training aides that we had on file. 😊



### TRAINING MODULES: (PDF documents)

- MCP.com 2021 UPDATE by Hazelton  
[Download File](#)
- ACTIVITIES & AMENITIES - 2021  
[Download File](#)
- CONTENT DEVELOPMENT MANUAL - 2020  
[Download File](#)
- CARINS - CREATING A CARIN ACTIVITY  
[Download File](#)
- E-COMMERCE START-UP CHECKLIST  
[Download File](#)
- LATITUDE/LONGITUDE INSTALLATION w/GOOGLE EARTH - 2015  
[Download File](#)
- PROMOS, DONATIONS & SPECIAL FEATURES - 2021  
[Download File](#)

These can be located by going to our ICCS administrative website, [MyCountyParks.org](https://www.mycountyparks.org), and to the drop-down tab for “DIVISIONS”, then select “MCP.COM ADMINISTRATION”. This location makes them publicly available to you all without having to jump through the sign-in aspects of The Portal. The current list of PDF learning documents are on the left here, and a sampling of the videos to the right. We also plan to record the “MCP.com 101” training program next week and post it to this same location.

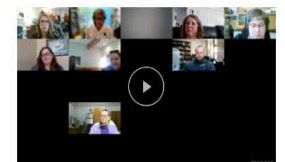
Eventually, these sort of items will be housed in the actual ADMIN portions of the MyCountyParks.com website so that they can be easily accessed when you are logged in as an administrator and working within the website – but for now, a good step in that direction!

Within the next couple of months, we will surpass the mark of 50% of all CCBs having migrated to providing online reservations/registrations for facilities and/or events – be sure to let me know if you would like to have a conversation about maximizing these opportunities for your CCB. We know that there are 26,000+ events provided across our system each year, but only 1,900-ish of them appear on MCP.com for registration – lots of room for improvement here! 😊

PROMOTIONS & DONATIONS (18 min) by Ginny Mc



ACTIVITIES & AMENITIES (20 min) by Tom Hazelton



CONSTRUCTING AN EVENT (53 min) by Katie Klus



## NEW MCP SECURITY PROFILES

As long as we have your attention in this discussion about MCP & ICCS technology – we want to let you know that we have finished the “2021 Tweak” of the **Security Profiles** available for County & System Admins to assign to personnel within our CCB System. This involved some updates and additions due to requests for other opportunities over the past couple of years. While probably not our last visit to modification of these administrative accesses – this is where we are!

## SECURITY LEVEL PROFILES 2021

— Select Security Level —  
County Administrator  
Park Administrator  
Ranger (Upgraded in 2020)  
Registered User  
Portal View Administrator (New in 2020)  
Portal Administrator\*  
Portal User\*  
System Administrator\*

(\* Creation by SYSADMIN Only)

— Select Security Level —  
County Administrator  
Park Administrator  
Ranger  
Registered User  
Portal View Administrator

OPTIONS YOU SEE AS A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

— Select Security Level —  
County Administrator  
Park Administrator  
Portal Administrator  
Portal Users  
Portal View Administrator  
Ranger  
Registered User  
System Administrator

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO SYSADMIN (Tom)

<https://www.mycountyparks.org/mcpcom-administration.html>

This link (above) will get you to the new **MCP.com Division Page** on our administrative website - [MyCountyParks.org](https://www.mycountyparks.org). As with all the goodies referenced above, a fresh PDF document at the top of the web page will walk you through the eight distinct security profile levels that are available to access **MCP.com** and **The Portal**. Each County has staff that may require various levels of access to either or both of the MyCountyParks.com website and The IACCB Portal. We have completed these recent modifications to at least accommodate some of the requests we have received for access over the past couple of years. You will note that the website **County Administrator(s)** you have for your CCB may be able to create/modify profiles for most needs of employees. Beyond what now currently exists as profile options – we will be collecting additional input and requests that you may have for future adjustments, but those may likely be a year+ away. Feel free to be in touch with your questions or if you are in need of assistance with any of this as I know at times that it can be confusing – [IACCB@mycountyparks.org](mailto:IACCB@mycountyparks.org). We look forward to working with you to meet the interest levels of your staff to access parts of our online footprint to meet the demands of their positions!







## COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING COMING TO TRAILS THROUGH D.O.T?

**SOME FACTS:** The December 2020 signing of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 is providing \$121.9M of federal highway COVID-19 relief to Iowa. In developing funding allocation recommendations – one goal was to allocate a portion to address lost state revenue for trail development. The allocation of relief funding for trails is intended to reflect the COVID-19 impact on current and future state appropriations for trails. As you may know, the State Recreational Trail program received a lower-than-normal appropriation in Fiscal Year 2021 due to COVID-19 impacts on Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund revenue which comes primarily from gaming taxes. An estimate of shovel-ready needs for trails in Iowa is near \$400M for new trails, and \$152M for major trail maintenance. Input from INHF and other organizations suggested minimum funding in the \$5M - \$10M range; prioritize shovel-ready projects; prioritize projects connecting destinations; minimizing match requirements; minimize federal regulations through smart administration, etc. We are optimistic that we will hear more soon about these exciting opportunities, but also remaining cognizant that no one is sure what this will eventually look like, and many things could change rapidly! We will keep monitoring these developments as best we can, and keep you up-to-date as possible!

## ONLINE REGISTRATIONS

Available today on MyCountyParks.com



## STEM TEACHER EXTERNSHIPS REMINDER!

CCB Directors in counties with Nature Centers received an email from ICCS on February 19<sup>th</sup> about partnership potentials with the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. The contact person with the program is Jason Lang, and more information is available on their website at the following location: <https://iowastem.org/externships> or, feel free to contact Jason directly at [jlang@iowastem.org](mailto:jlang@iowastem.org) Thanks for interest in this great program! 😊

**A NOTE FROM TOM** - I wanted take a moment to personally extend my gratitude to each of you for your kind expressions of support and sympathy over the past couple of weeks – quite overwhelming at times. They were a tribute to many long-term friendships and the camaraderie that we all share in this cohesive statewide community of county conservation – truly humbling. Not only a great educator and family matriarch, my Mom exemplified a love of family that endeared her to everyone she met. At 95 years old, she had outlived nearly all her childhood and college friends and acquaintances, but even made new friends of the hospice folks in her last days. I learned much from this awesome Grandmother to my kids, and it was her and Dad that instilled in me to be the best version of myself I can be – because just like them, that's how I wish to be remembered. Thanks again everyone – you're the best.....Tom

### ORGANIZATION EVENTS

Home > Organization Event

- ICCSA 2021 ANNUAL DUES**  
Event: 07/01/2021 - 12/31/2021  
Registration From: 12/03/2020 - 06/30/2021  
It's that time of year again - ICCSA Annual Membership Dues! The funds collected help to fund our programs. 2020 has been challenging, but the ICCSA Executive Committee is looking for virtual meeting options when necessary.
- CCPOA IN-SERVICE TRAINING - SPRING 2021**  
Event: 03/17/2021 - 03/19/2021  
Registration From: 01/20/2021 - 03/01/2021  
ALL CCB Peace Officers MUST Register INDIVIDUALLY for this MANDATED TRAINING! REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2021. Most training must be completed by 3/17/21.
- MyCountyParks.com 101 Orientation**  
Event: 03/04/2021 - 03/04/2021  
Registration From: 01/20/2021 - 03/03/2021  
Missed this due to the cancellation of Winterfest 2021? Join us online for the same show, CCB 101.
- IAN Spring 2021-Field trips & Virtual Workshop**  
Event: 03/17/2021 - 03/19/2021  
Registration From: 02/23/2021 - 03/03/2021  
In today's challenging climate, the focus of our Virtual 2021 Conference will be positive change. We are trying to accommodate everyone's need in having field trip options along with the offerings!
- CCDA 2021 SPRING WORKSHOP**  
Event: 03/11/2021 - 03/11/2021  
Registration From: 02/23/2021 - 03/09/2021  
JOIN US! for the 2021 Spring CCDA Virtual meeting. A great networking opportunity with our Habitat Stamp Grant Program, Strategic Planning, Rusty Patched Bumblebee Conservation session and directors may attend for all or part of the day's events Registration is required 11h!

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



■ Full Time  
■ Seasonal/Part-Time



2021...Bring it On!

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

1. LINN Co. – Conservation Project Planner
2. POLK Co. – Youth Corps Coordinator
3. POTTAWATTAMIE Co. – Nat. Resource Tech.
4. POLK Co. – Conservation Laborer – Nat. Resources
5. SAC Co. Conservation Technician
6. WRIGHT Co. – Naturalist/Tech
7. DES MOINES Co. – PPT Technician
8. MADISON Co. – Nat. Res./Park Specialist
9. CLAY Co. – Park Ranger
10. RINGGOLD Co. – Nat. Resource Technician
11. CRAWFORD Co. – Park Technician
12. SEASONAL POSITIONS – 90+ opportunities listed on website



2/25/2021



Where's your  
99 PARKS  
backpack  
taking you  
this year??

