



# WINTERFEST 2022

January 25-27 - Coralville



mycountyparks.com



# Newsletter

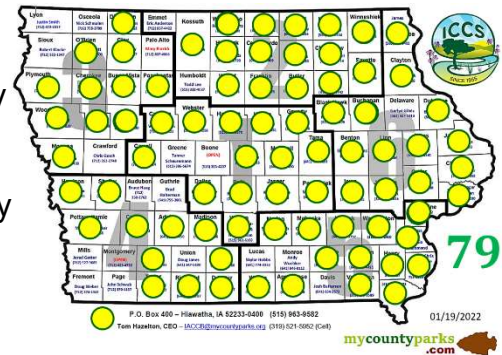
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## WINTERFEST 2022 AT THE GATE!

**470 Attendees!** 362 CCB Employees from 79 CCBs, 82+ college Students from 11 campuses, and 26 representatives from 15 Vendors – simply amazing on soooo many fronts. This will be the single largest gathering in the 67 years of Iowa's County Conservation System – glad that so many of you have chosen to be a part of this historic event! As you would imagine – it will take just a bit of coordination & cooperation to orchestrate these days – following are a few important updates:



### SAVE THE DATES:

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



- \* Jan. 25-27, 2022 – 2022 WINTERFEST – Coralville
- \* Feb. 15 - ICCS Board of Directors Mtg. – Zoom
- \* Mar. 1 – CCPOA Spring Workshop – Polk CCB
- \* Mar. 2 – AFIRM Mtg. – Ames
- \* Mar. 9 – CCPOA Spring Workshop – Benton CCB
- \* Mar. 9 – County Day at the Capitol
- \* Mar. 10-11 – Spring ISAC & CCDA Meeting – D. M.
- \* Mar. 9-11 – Spring IAN – Jackson CCB

Indicates Online Registration Available



2022 ICCS

Fall Conference

September 13-15, 2022

Doorway to the Driftless

Dubuque, IA

## MASKING POLICY FOR WINTERFEST 2022\*

**By sharing our abundance of concern for all participants - if you are sick or exhibiting any symptoms of illness, please do not attend this conference.**

For the duration of the event, we will observe the following ..... Participants are welcome to wear a mask at their discretion, masks are encouraged when social distancing is not possible. Currently, Johnson County is rated HIGH for community transmission and CDC recommends wearing a mask in public, indoor settings. The Hyatt Regency Coralville does not mandate this. Based on current registration numbers, there is no ability to allow for social distancing in any of our meeting spaces. Masks will be available at registration, but we also realize people may prefer to bring their own. **(FROM THE HYATT WEBSITE: At all Hyatt hotels in the U.S., guests who are unvaccinated are required to wear face masks or coverings in hotel indoor public areas, as well as outdoors where social distancing is not feasible (with some limited exceptions). Hotel colleagues who are not vaccinated are still required to wear face masks indoors and outdoors)**

**For the most current guidance, please visit the Iowa Department of Public Health's website or the Centers for Disease Control and Protection for both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals.**

(\*As established by the IACCBE Executive Committee in consultation with ICCS - 01/07/2022)

**AGENDA UPDATE:** The following replaces Linda McCann: History of the CCC on Wednesday, 2:45 – 3:45  
**DIRT CHEAP:** "The Value of Singletrack Trails to Conservation" - Kenny Slocum, Clayton CCB  
Singletrack trails represent an oft-overlooked opportunity for public land managers to better connect people with the outdoors. They offer a fundamentally different experience, a more intimate immersion into the natural world, than bike paths or gator lanes, at a fraction of the cost. In this program, singletrack evangelist Kenny Slocum from Clayton County Conservation will delve into the design and construction process of singletrack trails, and make the case for Iowa to rethink what it means to create recreational access.

**AGENDA UPDATE:** MyCountyarks.com 101 (Monday) has moved to Salon 3

IACCB@mycountyparks.org

(515) 963-9582

mycountyparks.com



QR Code above is  
for the existing  
agenda versions

## ONLY DIGITAL AGENDAS AVAILABLE!

The **Winterfest Planning Committee** wants you to know that the only printed agendas available at **Winterfest 2022** will be the ones that YOU might bring. Otherwise – there will be **QR Codes available** around the venue that you can scan and pull up agendas on your mobile devices (if you don't already have it saved to them!) The landing page (right) will provide you the choice of either the one page "Agenda-At-A-Glance", or the full 19-page conference packet with all the session descriptions.

Electronic marquees at each meeting space location will note which session will be occurring next, and any additional changes to the agenda will announced as soon as we are aware of them – thanks! 😊



## CHECK YOUR CLOSETS/CABINETS!

One other piece of the puzzle that helps make Winterfest "work" is the annual **IACCB RAFFLE** – made possible, in part by the raffle items that are donated by Winterfest attendees, vendors and sponsors. **This year**, IACCB has engaged our six Districts to each craft a set of bags boards – which will yield six quality bags game sets (with bags!) that will also be included in the raffle prizes – Awesome!! So, if you have promotional items, crafted projects, or other items that would make good prizes for the raffle – please consider bringing them with you next week. All monies raised from this effort are used to support various aspects of the Winterfest experience to benefit all participants. Bring along a couple extra \$\$ to invest in the fun!

## VENDORS/SPONSORS 2022

We are extremely pleased to have **15 Vendors** for Winterfest 2022 and five great sponsors! **PLATINUM LEVEL:** Shive Hattery; **GOLD LEVEL:** MyCountyParks.com; **BRONZE LEVEL:** Bolton & Menk and ISG; **BREAK SPONSOR:** FYRA. We also have the following additional vendors: Iowa Mitigation, ABCreative, Diamond Mowers, Schwig Outdoors, LT Leon, Echovision, Zanafel, Conservation Corps of Iowa, and SOAR +. These sponsors and vendors all support Iowa's conservation system with their knowledge, products, service and talents – please take some time and visit with them in the exhibit areas during the conference. **ICCS Preferred Vendors** have been a critical aspect of CCB conferences since 1960 – they are just the best!



## WELCOME! MORE NEW DIRECTORS

This month, we are pleased to welcome two additional new County Conservation Directors to the system! **Heather Huebner** has been named as the new Director of the **Lee CCB**, and **Rob Allen** was promoted to the Directorship with the **Palo Alto CCB**. Rob previously served as the Operations Supervisor with the PACCB, and Heather comes to us from the BSA. Heather will be attending her very first Winterfest next week – be sure to give her a friendly CCB Hello, and to welcome her to our system! 😊

(NOTE: In December, we accidentally introduced new Montgomery CCB Director, **Jerad Spunaugle** as "Justin" – our apologies for the error – Welcome Jerad!!)



Heather Huebner,  
Lee CCB Director



## WESTERN IOWA CCBs – HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINED?

We understand that several CCBs have been working with **JayJay Goodvin** (of Iowa City) about his planning efforts for the **"T-Bone Trail" Tour 2022** – this is AWESOME! A small point in clarification is to remind you that inasmuch as JayJay is a contractor for the **State of Iowa** Tourism Office, he will be reimbursed with state funds. YOUR COUNTY PARK will need to be listed on the Human Trafficking website as a **Certified Lodging Location**: <https://stopthiowa.org/certified-locations> Please ensure that you have conducted the proper staff training and have your location(s) on the certified list!





## ARPA FUNDING – DATABASE OF SUCCESSSES!?

We are on the cusp (*we hope!*) of hearing many additional stories about successes that various County Conservation Boards are experiencing in gaining access to the ARPA dollars across the state. In order to build a database that we can share across our system, we are asking those of you that have successfully “tapped into” ARPA resources in your county to share your information with us. The type of “project or activity” that has been funded, the amount you are receiving, and any special process or anecdotal advice you are able & willing to share so that others may benefit from your story would be the basics for this database. All will be **available in the Portal** as a reference for everyone. Sooo....if you have a success story to share, ICCS looks forward to hearing it: [IACCB@mycountyparks.org](mailto:IACCB@mycountyparks.org)

## COUNTY AND REAP DAYS AT THE CAPITOL IN 2022!

Preparation is ongoing – but, ICCS is planning to have a presence at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> for “**County Day at the Capitol**”, on the front end of Spring ISAC. Information has already gone out from the CCDA for this event – and look to hear more soon! Initial plans for a REAP Day are looking to be in the “virtual” arena in February with a specific date targeted for a social media and email engagement with individual legislators. Stay tuned for additional information from the **REAP Alliance** and **ICCS** on this effort. Advocacy/education about REAP & IWILL will be encouraged for both of these annual missions! ☺



## 2022 LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

As with previous years, we continue to add current resources & information to a FILE in the IACCB Portal – “**IWILL 2022**”. Also – if there was something in particular that you like from previous years – they all remain out there in FILES “IWILL 2021, 2020, 2019”. We encourage you to use these resources for internal refreshing & education of staff and Board Members – as well as your engagements with local business leaders, elected officials, stakeholders, etc. Samples of communications, documents or other tools that you have utilized locally are also welcomed to be added to this file for others to use. The first edition of the **ICCS Legislative Newsletter**

was distributed via email on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and you will be receiving a fresh edition approximately every two weeks through the end of the 2022 Iowa Legislative Session. These newsletters contain updated information on bills of interest to county conservation, as



**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.

well as important links to additional services from our lobby team at the Capitol. Of special note at the end of their newsletter is the link to “**Town Halls & Public Forums**” where you can check in to see when/where your legislators will be hosting public or online conversations about current legislative issues. We encourage you to establish relationships with your Senators and Representatives and be prepared to engage with them as the session progresses this winter & spring. Thank-you in advance for building your personal self-awareness about Iowa’s legislative processes and the issues that are important to your professional career pathway! ☺

## NATURAL RESOURCES & OUTDOOR RECREATION TRUST FUND

*“The priority of this caucus, and this chamber, and this building this year is going to be comprehensive tax reform. That is going to be THE priority!”*  
*“The Senate Republican bill, however we get to the final details here.....will constitutionally enact IWILL!”*

Senator Dan Dawson, (R) Pottawattamie – Chair, Senate Ways & Means Committee – 1/12/2022



It is clear that tax reform is going to be a major part of the 2022 Iowa Legislative Session – both in the House and Senate. While the January 11<sup>th</sup> “Condition of the State” address by the Governor did not contain a reference to the Trust Fund, the next day it was called out in public comments by Senate leadership. Being a part of the conversation is a critical aspect of any legislative issue – so be alert for opportunities where you can join in that conversation with your questions, communications and education....putting yourselves in a position as a local professional resource! Look forward to, and be prepared for “Calls to Action” in the weeks ahead as legislation becomes more focused – thanks!





## JAN. 8 – THE 16<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL REAP CONGRESS

80+ **REAP Congress Delegates** elected from the 18 Regional REAP Assemblies across the state last fall, gathered at the State Capitol on January 7-8 for the main public-participation event for the REAP Program. **Rod Marlatt** (Fayette CCB) was elected as the Chair for the Congress, and did a masterful job – CONGRATS! Over 20 of the total delegates were from County Conservation – it's always impressive to see this significant & historic engagement at EVERY Congress by professionals from Iowa's County Conservation System. It is important to note a couple of significant **Resolutions** that were taken up by the 2020 REAP Congress:

- #1. The 2022 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at \$20 million.
- #2. The 2022 REAP Congress recommends to retain the current REAP formula.
- #3. The 2022 REAP Congress recommends increasing the sales tax 3/8 of one cent to fund the Iowa Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.
- #4. The 2022 REAP Congress recommends the elimination of the sunset date for the REAP Program
- #5. The 2022 REAP Congress recommends retaining the current formula for the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. (*Motion Failed*)
- #6. The 2022 REAP Congress encourages the legislature to work with current professional resources using the best available data and science to adjust the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund formula.



Rod Marlatt – REAP Congress Chairperson



1/24/2022	Jones
1/31/2022	Keokuk
2/7/2022	Monona
2/14/2022	Monroe
2/21/2022	Palo Alto
2/28/2022	Pottawattamie

## WEEK NUMBER 54 UPDATE!



- MyCountyParks.com

Working our way alphabetically through the “**Class of 1960**” – CCBs formed in that year! Looking forward to receiving your pictures and essential commentary in advance of your “week of fame” throughout 2022! Thanks for the assists!

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



mycountyparks.com

- Full Time
- Seasonal/Part-Time

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

1. **BLACK HAWK Co. – Conservation Maintenance II**
2. **GRUNDY Co. – Conservation Tech./Naturalist**
3. **POLK Co. – Youth Corps Program Assistant**
4. **CLINTON Co. – Office Manager**
5. **POLK Co. – Assistant Naturalist**
6. **BENTON Co. – South Unit Park Ranger**
7. **STORY Co. – Conservation Technician**
8. **POLK Co. – Conservation Laborer – Parks**
9. **DICKINSON Co. Community Relations Coordinator**
10. **STORY Co. – Park Ranger**
11. **ADAMS Co. – Park Officer/Conservation Specialist**
12. **POLK Co. – Conservation Laborer - Construction**
13. **SEASONAL POSITIONS – 90+ opportunities listed on website**



And what adventure is your **99 PARKS** backpack taking you on this year of 2022??

1/20/2022