

IOWA'S COUNTY CONSERVATION SYSTEM

JUNE NEWSLETTER 2023

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DATES

July 11th- District I
Jasper County

August 1st ICCS
FY2024 Memberships
Due

August 4th Habitat
Improvement Surveys
Due

August 16th-District III
Buena Vista County

August 17th- District IV
Adair County

August 23rd-25th
ISAC Annual
Conference Des Moines

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

October 10th-12th
CCPOA Fall Training
Camp Dodge, IA

October 17th & 18th
ICCS New Employees
School & MCP Triun.
Brigs Woods, Hamilton
County

REAP ASSEMBLIES

REAP Assemblies will be revamped this fall to enhance community engagement and local input. Following a productive meeting with State and local agencies, partner organizations, and stakeholders, several innovative ideas and changes are being implemented.

One significant change is the opportunity for regions to host assemblies during the day, offering more convenient options for community members and enabling broader participation. This scheduling adjustment aims to overcome barriers such as long-distance travel at night.

A compelling theme, "REAP Helps Build Communities, How Do You Want to Build Yours?" has been suggested for the assemblies. This theme encourages community visioning and empowers counties and regions to shape their local outcomes according to their own unique aspirations.

To effectively implement these changes, the Iowa DNR plans to form a REAP Assembly Planning Team consisting of volunteers from County Conservation Boards (CCBs) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in each region. This team will contribute their local knowledge and expertise to develop strategies for disseminating information and generating enthusiasm.

The assemblies will continue to include a presentation about REAP, but with a twist. Instead of a traditional lecture, the group proposes a short video featuring local stand-up testimonials to showcase the impact of REAP on communities.

This team of volunteers, **hopefully you...** will be dedicated to engaging communities and promoting sustainable development across the state. The first virtual team discussion is scheduled to take place after the 4th of July holiday and aims to strengthen the REAP Community and ensure a successful transition to the revamped assemblies. For further information or to express interest in joining the REAP Assembly Planning Team, please contact ICCS. IACCB@mycountyparks.org



Fall Conference 2023

Don't miss the 2023 ICCS Fall Conference in Council Bluffs. The Living with Loess theme will take us on exciting firsthand tours of conservation areas in Pottawattamie and Harrison Counties where we can experience what Iowa's west coast has to offer. Parks, wildlife, and a brand-new fantastic Nature Center. Discover how these projects came to life and enjoy a keynote address from world-renowned photographer Joel Sartore.



JOEL SARTORE

In 2006, photographer Joel Sartore started the National Geographic Photo Ark to document every species living in human care, inspire action through education, and help save wildlife by supporting on-the-ground conservation efforts.

In addition to the work he has done for National Geographic, Sartore has contributed to Audubon magazine, Life, The New York Times, Sports Illustrated and numerous book projects. Sartore and his work have been the subjects of several national broadcasts, including National Geographic's Explorer, NBC Nightly News, NPR's Weekend Edition, Fresh Air with Terry Gross and the PBS documentary series, Rare: Portraits of the Photo Ark. He is also a regular contributor on the CBS Sunday Morning Show. Sartore's hallmarks are a sense of humor and a midwestern work ethic. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in journalism. He currently lives in Lincoln, Nebraska with his wife and children.



Photos by Joel Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark.

Don't miss this awesome opportunity to experience, network, and learn what conservation means in this part of the state. This is a premier opportunity for board members to interact with our statewide network, build connections, gather ideas, and take-home new information. See the full conference packet and get registered here:

<https://www.mycountyparks.org/conferences.html>



IWLA Isaac Walton League of America Habitat improvement Survey now available. In an effort to recolonize counties for the terrific Habitat improvement going on across the state IWLA presents awards to the top performing counties each year. There are first, second, and third place awards for both large counties with over 20,000 population and smaller counties under 20,000. It is truly amazing to see the amount of work done on existing CCB properties to improve habitat.



ICCS is trying to increase the number of applications (counties who fill out the 2-page survey) for a few reasons. One is that the information quantified in each survey can be used by each individual county to promote what they do locally whether they win an award or not, it is always good to let the public know what has been accomplished in your area.

Second, ICCS can use this information to quantify the management activities that are going on across the state. There is no question that our CCB community knows how to stretch all our resources as far as possible for the good of all and that is worth promoting. The more counties that fill out the survey, the better the data is that can be shared and promoted.



Lastly, the effects of Habitat improvement practices like planting prairie, native trees, or creating wetlands go far beyond protecting wildlife, the result is cleaner water, stable soils, and enhanced recreational opportunities to name just a few. The promotional possibilities are nearly endless and speak to the essence of our system. Get your application in by August 4th to make sure your County is participating in this important endeavor.

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ICCS FY2024 MEMBERSHIP INVOICES

Just a Quick reminder to get you ICCS memberships into your July claims schedule if you have not already paid. Dues are **Due August 1st**, please contact ICCS if you have any questions, Thanks!



DISTRICT MEETINGS

Van Buren County Hosted **District V** at Lake Sugema on June 15th. After a productive business meeting each County in attendance gave an update of what is going on in their world including both project successes along with current and upcoming challenges. Knowledge and information was further exchanged over a tasty meal provided by the VCCB Staff, thanks for hosting and thanks to all in attendance!

District VI held their Bi-annual meeting in Jones County on June 21 at the Central Park Nature Center. Ben Westfall Conservation Coordinator for the National Deer Association gave a very informative talk about what white tailed deer see and don't see. Then Jason Euchner, Iowa DNR Aquatic Vegetation Management Biologist spoke followed by a walking tour of the Central Park Lake Restoration Project lead by Director Brad Mormann. Thanks to Jones County for Hosting!



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Monona County Conservation Director Doug Kuhlmann has announced his retirement from Monona County Conservation Board after 35 Years of Service. His last day will be June 30th. His retirement party will be July 8th from 1-4 at the Onawa Country Club. Everyone is welcome to attend!



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. Poweshiek County - Executive Director
2. Dickinson County - Community Relations Coordinator
3. Floyd County - Ranger/Resource Manager
4. Johnson County - Nat Resource Technician
5. Plymouth County - Office Assistant
6. Marshall County- Technician/ Ranger
7. Polk County- Maintenance Technician
8. Polk County- Conservation Laborer Multiple

30 PLUS SEASONAL POSITIONS ON WEBSITE!!

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