

WINTERFEST 2023

January 24-26, 2023

Iowa Association of
County Conservation
Board Employees



THOMAS GABLE

Voyageurs Wolf Project



MATT STUTZMANN

Armless Archer



**CONCURRENT
SESSIONS AND
NETWORKING**

mycountyparks
.com

SHIVEHATTERY
ARCHITECTURE+ENGINEERING

Foth



**HYATT REGENCY CORALVILLE
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER**

300 EAST 9TH STREET, CORALVILLE, IA 52241

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



October 2022

Happy 51st Fellow IACCBE Members:

On behalf of the IACCBE Winterfest Planning Committee I am pleased to invite you to WINTERFEST LI (51st). We are holding this year's event at the Hyatt Regency Coralville Hotel & Conference Center on January 24-26, 2023. Our planning committee has worked extra hard to ensure that this year's presenters are top notch. We strive to utilize this event as the premier annual training opportunity for County Conservation Staff.

At Winterfest 2023, we will offer two excellent keynote presentations – Thomas Gable with the Voyageurs Wolf Project, and Matt Stutzman, the Armless Archer. With the ever-increasing costs to host a premier learning event with two top quality presenters, your Winterfest Committee has locked in some of the best.

Our committee has also arranged over 30 educational sessions to choose from during this three-day event. In addition, we will be hosting our 17th annual Collegiate Day on Wednesday, with a break-out session dedicated to introducing our college attendees to the world of county conservation in Iowa. We will once again have a space for you to display job openings and brochures for potential recruits to see what your CCB has to offer.

The conference and lodging will be at the Coralville Hyatt Regency Hotel & Conference Center. OUR THANKS to the Iowa City/Coralville Area Convention & Visitor Bureau for providing a grant in support of our Winterfest Conference. Their support allows us to provide this first-class event for a very reasonable cost. A block of rooms has been reserved under "IACCBE Winterfest" with room rates of \$96/night, plus tax. Rooms may be reserved by calling Hyatt Regency at (319) 688-4000 or via the link at mycountyparks.com. The cut-off deadline for room reservations is January 4, 2023 – please book your rooms early to ensure availability.

Please mark your calendars for January 24-26, 2023 and join your fellow friends in conservation for another Winterfest Conference that will exceed your expectations! Please register online at mycountyparks.com as soon as possible, a late fee of \$20 per registrant will be applied starting on January 4, **with a registration deadline of January 11, 2023**. I look forward to seeing everyone in Coralville for another great week of training, networking, and fun!

Sincerely,

Brett Backhaus, President
IACCBE Division of Iowa's County Conservation System
Iowa Association of County Conservation Board Employees
Operations Manager/Maintenance Supervisor, Worth County Conservation Board

**Register by January 3rd to take
advantage of the early bird price
of \$130!!**

WORKSHOP 101

Lodging

A large block of rooms has been reserved at the Coralville Hyatt with room rates at \$96/night, plus tax. Rooms may be reserved by calling the hotel at (319) 688-4000 or via the Hotel Reservations link on mycountyparks.com. *The cut-off deadline for room reservations is January 4, 2023* - so please book your rooms early to ensure availability.

HYATT®



The Committee

Committee members will be on hand to answer questions about the conference, the hotel, or the meeting facilities. Look for the folks in the BLUE IACCBE SHIRTS if you need anything.

Upon Arrival

Please check in at the registration table where nametags and other workshop information will be distributed. We request that nametags be worn at all times for admittance to meals and to improve workshop networking opportunities.

What To Wear

Winterfest is a casual atmosphere so your informal uniform or regular winter casual wear is just fine. You may wish to dress in layers as some rooms are warmer or cooler than others.

Exhibitors

We will have numerous exhibitors on site to share their products and expertise with us. Their contributions help to keep the cost of certain portions of the workshop lower, so please take some time to visit with them, and thank them for participating in our event.

WORKSHOP 101

Brochures, Job Postings, Etc

We will have a table set up for you to put out information about your CCB seasonal and/or full-time job postings and other recruitment information. No need to make advance arrangements, just bring your “stuff” and put it out for display.

Collegiate Day

We will once again see an influx of attendees on Wednesday when college students from as many as 8 college campuses will join us for Winterfest Collegiate Day. Very popular with the undergraduates, this day provides a special break-out session to introduce the collegiates to Iowa’s County Conservation System, a resume review session, opportunities to network with full-time CCB employees from across the state, and the chance to attend numerous concurrent sessions. Please take some time to interact with the students and make them feel welcome! If you are interested in assisting with any portions of collegiate day, please contact Tom Hazelton at IACCB@mycountyparks.org.



IACCB Raffle

Bring some items to donate and stash away some cash for the always enticing IACCB Winterfest Raffle. Funds raised are used to support aspects of the workshop that are not funded through your conference registration fees. Unique artwork and crafts, CCB facility use packages, and assorted merchandise & apparel make for great workshop souvenirs. Stay tuned for what big ticket item the Winterfest Committee has in store for 2023... You won't want to miss out on this raffle!

Social/Entertainment

Networking is an important component of any workshop, and Winterfest provides TWO evenings to relax, try some of Iowa City's fine dining, and enjoy the company of hundreds of fellow CCB employees. Tuesday evening, you are on your own, so gather up some of your colleagues/friends and check out everything the Iowa City/Coralville area has to offer. On Wednesday, the evening social activities are funded by the IACCB Winterfest raffle. This year, we are bringing back the musical entertainment stylings of The Dueling Pianos of Andy Anderson & Mike Leeds. Be sure to join in on the festivities!



WINTERFEST AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

- 8:00 AM REGISTRATION
- 9:00 AM - PRE-WORKSHOP SESSIONS
- 11:30 AM
1. Flint Knapping
 2. Waterfowl Taxidermy
 3. Kinnick Stadium Tour
- 11:30 AM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
- 12:50 PM WELCOME - [Brett Backhaus, President](#)
- 1:00 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS - [Thomas Gable](#)
- 2:30 PM BREAK
- 3:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. I've got an idea! - Brent's Trail
 2. Working Near Energized Lines
 3. Sandhill Cranes
 4. Art in Parks
- 4:15 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. Iowa's Ice Age Mammals
 2. Waterfowl Migration
 3. Sustainability
 4. Wander Women

DINNER & EVENING - On Your Own

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

- 7:30 AM REGISTRATION
- 9:00 AM - KEYNOTE ADDRESS - [Matt Stutzman](#)
- 10:30 AM BREAK
- 11:00 AM COLLEGIATE SEMINAR - Salon E**
- 11:00 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. Parks, Partnerships & Policy
 2. Madison County EF4 Tornado
 3. Climate for Change
 4. Iowa's Largest OHV Park
- 12:15 PM LUNCH

WEDNESDAY CONT.

- 1:30 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. Science & Stories of Sasquatch
 2. Legislative Update
 3. Reuse & Upcycling Opportunities
 4. Pre-1850s Fur Trading Posts
- 2:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. Armadillos In Iowa
 2. Fish Habitat Grants
 3. Dragoon Trail
 4. Successful Prairie Reconstruction
- 3:45 PM BREAK
- 4:15 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. 35 Years of Ecological Research in Iowa
 2. History of Iowa CCC
 3. Hiring a CCB Law Enforcement Officer
 4. Volunteerism & Stewardship
- 5:20 PM IACCBE BUSINESS MTG
DINNER & SOCIAL TO FOLLOW

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

- 8:30 AM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. Pedicularis lanceolata
 2. Leveraging Habitat Funding Sources
 3. Iowa's Wetland Monitoring
 4. RT-130 (Part 1)
- 9:30 AM BREAK
- 10:00 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. Statewide School of the Wild
 2. Benefits Through Restored Oxbows
 3. IDNR Forest Health Update
 4. RT-130 (Part 2)
- 11:15 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. ICON Water Trails
 2. Collaboration - IDNR & You
 3. 99 Counties/99 Parks
 4. RT-130 (Part 3)

MAP OF CONFERENCE CENTER

KEYNOTES & LUNCH - CORAL BALLROOM - SALONS A, B, & C

EVENING DINNER & SOCIAL - CORALVILLE CONFERENCE CENTER

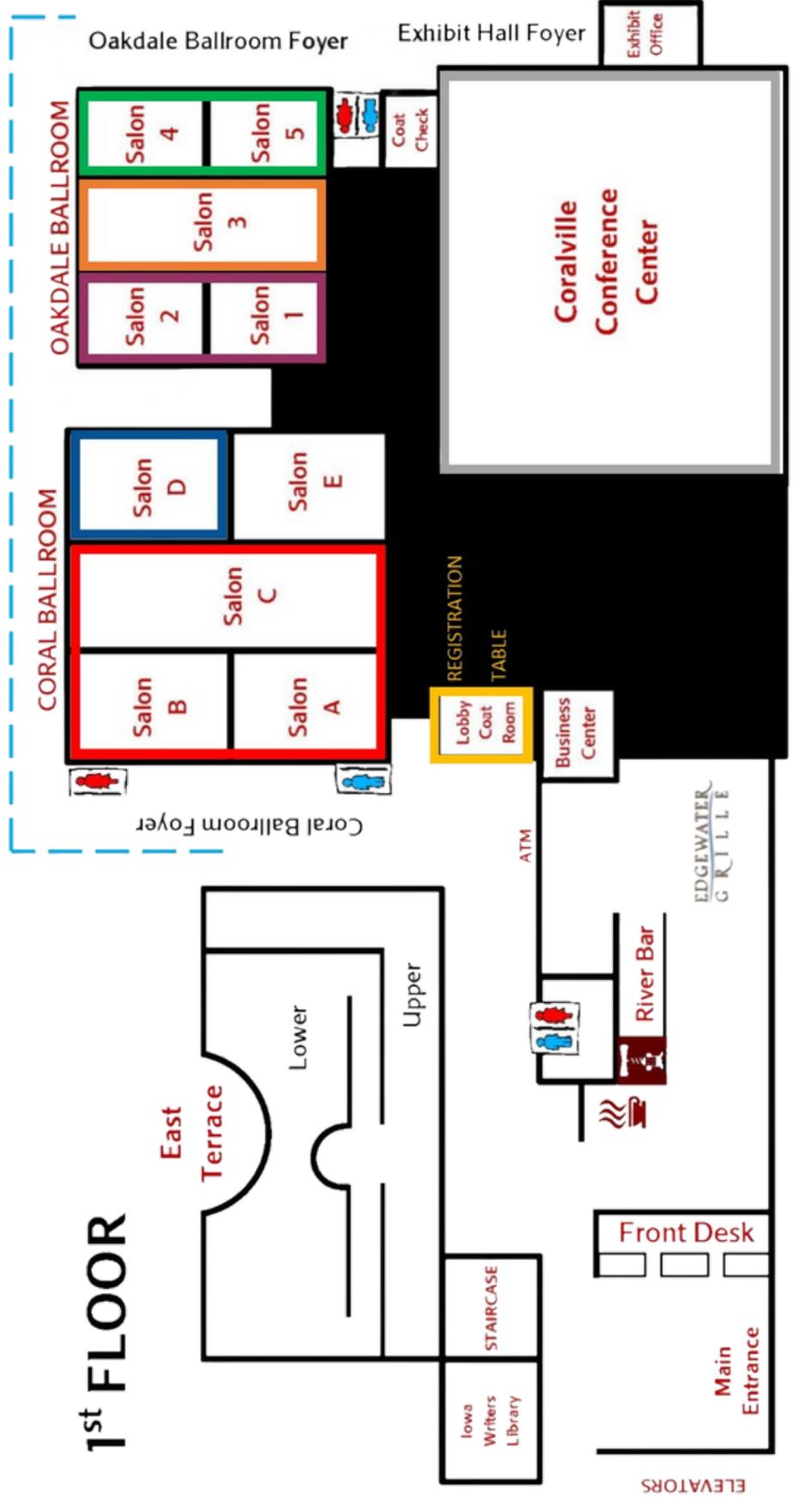
VENDORS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #1 - OAKDALE BALLROOM - SALONS 4 & 5

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #2 - OAKDALE BALLROOM - SALON 3

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #3 - OAKDALE BALLROOM - SALONS 1 & 2

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #4 - CORAL BALLROOM - SALON D



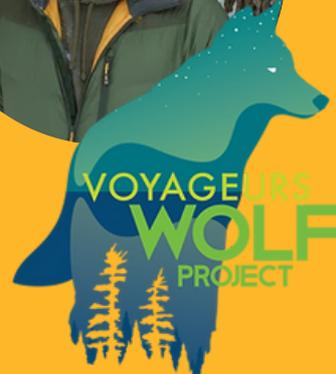
VOYAGEURS WOLF PROJECT

Thomas Gable

Tom is the project lead for the Voyageurs Wolf Project – a project focused on understanding the summer ecology of wolves in the Greater Voyageurs Ecosystem of Minnesota. The projects over-arching goal is to couple cutting-edge, rigorous wolf research with highly-effective, entertaining, and engaging research and education.

Gable has recently completed his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. He has been studying wolves in the Greater Voyageurs Ecosystem since 2014, when he started his Master's at Northern Michigan University. Particularly fascinated by wolf-beaver interactions, his graduate work was focused on trying to understand this predator-prey dynamic.

Much of Gable's early interest in wolves stemmed from encountering wolf tracks, kills, and the occasional wolf while exploring the wild places around his family's cabin just outside of Killarney Provincial Park, Ontario during the winter.



ARMLESS ARCHER

Matt Stutzman

Inexplicably born without arms, Matt was raised by adoptive parents, Leon and Jean Stutzman. A remarkably patient, compassionate and strong-willed couple, the Stutzman's guided Matt through a youth of seemingly insurmountable obstacles of everyday living largely taken for granted in an able-bodied world. Their philosophy was simple; Matt was permitted to try almost anything... if he could do it on his own. Years later, the result is an extraordinary young man, a family man, who can do virtually anything with his feet.

Matt's original interest in marksmanship began when he learned to shoot a gun, and then taught himself to shoot a penny at 50 yards away. He eventually graduated to a bow and arrow so as to join his father while hunting. Eventually it became his passion and evolved into his dream to become the world's best archer.

As a member of the 2012 US Paralympic Archery Team, Matt competed at the 2012 London Games that culminated with a silver medal in the individual compound open event. He also currently holds the world's record for longest accurate archery shot in the sport.

Dubbed the Armless Archer, Matt's remarkable story has captured the attention of the media around the world. A natural public speaker, he regularly uses humor (at his own expense) and remarkable demonstrations of his foot skills, to engage audiences of all kinds who are left entertained, inspired and believing anything is possible.



FLINT KNAPPING

WITH MATT GRAESCH



This pre-conference seminar will be an introduction to the art and science of flintknapping. Flintknapping is the process by which indigenous people made projectile points, knives, scrapers and other common tools using stone such as cert/flint/quartzite. These items are commonly found by the public and few people have insight into how they were actually manufactured. We will be showing the processes, learning some techniques and dispelling common myths. It is hoped that each attendee will leave with the knowledge to assist the public in better understanding the artifacts that are on display or found in Iowa.

Cost \$35 per participant. 18 participant max.

WATERFOWL TAXIDERMISTRY

MIKE STEGMANN - RETIRED DIRECTOR, MARSHALL CCB

A general overview of what taxidermy is and the various methods of preservation will be presented. How to care for specimens before, during, and after taxidermy will be discussed. Information of who and how to contact taxidermists and suppliers will be available. A demonstration of mounting a bird will be given. No cost.



XTREAM ARENA & GREEN STATE FIELD HOUSE TOUR

Located just up the road from the Hyatt Hotel and Conference Center, take a tour of the Xstream Arena and Green State Field House. Arena and Green State Field House right up the road from the hotel! Xstream Arena is a 5,100 fixed seat arena that serves as the home to the University of Iowa Volleyball and Iowa Heartlanders ECHL Hockey teams. With direct connectivity to the 30,000 square foot, 5-court field house, the facility immediately enables the area to become a signature attractor of both amateur and professional sporting events.

Meet at the Hyatt Hotel Lobby at 9 am and walk up the street to the Xstream Arena (200 East 9th Street, Coralville). Jason Anderson, Xstream Arena General Manager, and Michael Rooney, Green State Family Fieldhouse director, will be leading the tour.

PRE-CONFERENCE

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

"I'VE GOT AN IDEA!" - BRENT'S TRAIL

JEFF SEAGO - AREA FORESTER, IDNR
SCOTT NELSON - DIRECTOR, HARRISON CCB

How does a collaboration of CCB and IDNR employees figure out how to build an Overland Trail within the front-face of the Loess Hills? Not a problem! Starting with a dream of the late Brent Olson, members of the Loess Hills State Forest and the HCCB facilitated and created the original 8-mile, lineal trail from scratch, with a later addition of a 5-mile stretch. Featured in numerous media outlets, including Backpacker Magazine, this trail has become a destination of its own. Learn the backstory and be entertained along the way!

WORKING NEAR ENERGIZED LINES (OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND)

DAVE SWANSON - ELECTRICAL TRAINING SPECIALIST

This training will explain the hazards of working near energized high voltage lines (both overhead and underground); OSHA 1910 and ANSI Z133 requirements and the steps and safety precautions that need to be taken to avoid accidents and injuries.

SANDHILL CRANES

TAYLOR SHIRLEY, ORRIN JONES & BOB KLAVER

Sandhill Cranes were once extirpated from Iowa but have been recolonizing in the state since 1992. They have expanded considerably east to west across the state over the last 30 years. In 2020, the Iowa DNR and ISU initiated research to begin learning more about Sandhill Cranes in Iowa. We will share our current progress on the research and future research goals.



ART IN PARKS

LEW MAJOR - NATURALIST, POLK CCB
MISSY SMITH - NATURE CENTER COORDINATOR, POLK CCB



Public parks and nature centers offer great opportunities for public art. But, with tight budgets and never ending "to-do" lists, how can art be justified as an option? This session will demonstrate how to incorporate art into your parks affordably and show the value it holds.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

IOWA'S ICE AGE MAMMALS

MATT HILL

This session will review about 15 years of research on Iowa's extinct Ice Age mammals, for example, musk ox, moose, caribou, and short-faced bear, among other animals. Where did they live? When did they go extinct? What caused their extinction? What did they eat?

WATERFOWL MIGRATION

ORRIN JONES, TAYLOR SHIRLEY & BOB KLAVER

Canada geese have learned to exploit urban and suburban development. Consequently, nuisance complaints regarding Canada geese have shifted from rural to urban. In 2018 the Iowa DNR and ISU initiated research to address critical uncertainties and inform future management of Canada geese in Iowa. We will share the results of the research and resulting management implications.



SUSTAINABILITY

GINNY MALCOMSON - WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR, POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION

Those working in conservation are committed to the protection of our natural heritage for future generations through sustainable practices, sound conservation and ethical stewardship. Discover unique funding sources available to government entities that allow the smooth transition to green renewable energy with the installation of solar arrays without breaking the bank. EV charges, all electric enforcement vehicles, rainwater capture, stormwater management, wetland bank mitigation and creating a sustainability plan will be highlighted. Everyone will leave with worthwhile everyday practices that all employees can use.

WANDER WOMEN

JENN RIGGS - CO-OWNER & FOUNDER OF WANDER WOMEN IOWA

A gender gap clearly exists within the outdoor world. When Jenn founded Wander Women Iowa her goal was to make the outdoors more accessible for more women, helping to close the gender gap. Wander Women has served hundreds of women throughout Iowa (and beyond) in the outdoors through all-inclusive camping, backpacking, and paddling adventures. Jenn will share stories of these adventures and provide you with ways to get more women involved in your work and programming.

**Wander
WOMEN**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PARKS, PARTNERSHIPS & POLICY

HEATHER JOBST, ABBY HADE TERPSTRA, ANNA GRAY - IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Parks, Partnerships & Policy session will discuss the role that partnerships and public policy play in creating Iowa's parks, trails and wildlife areas. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will share examples and opportunities of public-private partnerships that help improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and provide space for outdoor recreation. Finally, the session will discuss the role of public policy in conservation and share tools for strengthening support for county conservation by engaging elected officials and local leaders.



**Iowa
Natural Heritage
Foundation**

MADISON COUNTY EF4 TORNADO

DIOGENES AYALA - DIRECTOR OF MADISON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

The presentation will go over EF4 Tornado that affected Madison County. The primary focus will be the preparation, response, and recovery of the community.

CLIMATE FOR CHANGE

TY SMEEDES

As we experience an exploding human population and rapidly increasing pressure upon remaining habitat, the plant and animal communities that make up our planet's diverse ecosystems are under siege. Along with covering Iowa's natural history, Ty Smedes, an Iowa outdoor writer and nature photographer, has ventured to the jungles of South America, the savannas of Africa, the icy shores of Antarctica, the dunes of the Gobi Desert, and the high mountain stronghold of New Guinea's fabled Birds of Paradise. Join Ty for a slide presentation and lecture, as we discover many spectacular species of wildlife, and explore some of our planet's most wild places. We will discuss the challenges faced by many of these creatures, as we highlight several local and global success stories and consider innovative ideas for securing environmental sustainability during this 21st century.

IOWA'S LARGEST OHV PARK & UPDATES TO OHV RULES ACROSS THE STATE

**TASHA NIELSEN - TRAIL TECHNICIAN, WEBSTER CCB
MATT COSGROVE - DIRECTOR, WEBSTER CCB
CJ HUGHES - PARK RANGER, IOWA DNR**

Learn how Gypsum City OHV Park came to be and how Webster County Conservation got involved. Tasha and Matt will share the beginning stages of the park, what the park has to offer now and what to look for in the future. Gypsum City is the largest OHV Park in Iowa and has visitors from all over the Midwest and beyond. With the OHV world growing it has also changed many rules and regulations throughout the state. CJ will bring everyone up to speed on the newest OHV rules and answer any questions.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

THE SCIENCE & STORIES OF SASQUATCH

MIKE HAVLIK - NATURALIST, DALLAS CCB

If Sasquatch doesn't exist, then why doesn't it simply go away? People are seeing, hearing and smelling a large unidentified bipedal animal with consistent physical features, including here in Iowa. As scientist from multiple disciplines attempt to explain away this myth, the evidence builds to support a living dynamic population of primates. We will explore several stories and the science of this fascinating animal. Speaker Mike Havlik is a passionate naturalist, gonzo birder and amateur musician.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**ADAM SHIRLEY - CEO ICCS
ISAC LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES**

Recent legislative sessions have demonstrated that collective ACTION from conservation and natural resource stakeholders indeed makes a difference! YOUR voice, combined with your ability to educate and inform at the local level are critical catalysts to the future of natural resources in Iowa. It is essential that each of you become the local "go-to" professionals and advocates for outdoor recreation and quality of life issues where you live and work. Learn what is resonating and could make the difference in 2023 - why your career paths simply must include engaging community, business leaders, and locally elected officials!

REUSE & UPCYCLING OPPORTUNITIES WITH IOWA WASTE EXCHANGE

TAMMY TURNER & ALICIA PRESTO - IOWA WASTE EXCHANGE

Since inception in 1990, the Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) has diverted 4.3 million tons of material from Iowa landfills, saving businesses, government agencies, schools and non-profits \$129 million in disposal costs and avoided purchases. IWE has collaborated with county conservation boards and other conservation groups across the state from the beginning matching materials destined for the landfill, while saving funds for already tight government budgets. Whether it be locating 55 gallon plastic drums for rain barrel workshops, props for nature playscapes, furniture/display cases for nature centers, or upcycling materials to restore fish habitat structures...the IWE can use its spiderweb of connections and statewide database to look for materials county parks departments could utilize. During this session come & learn about this free, confidential, non-regulatory program of the Iowa DNR that aims to keep usable & recyclable materials from finding their way to the dumpster. Hear how IWE has collaborated with CCB's, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, arboretums, & zoos on a variety of projects over the last 3 decades. Learn how IWE specialists in your area can assist county parks staff to conduct park/campground waste audits, locate makerspace/arts & crafts supplies, collaborate with local schools interested in cafeteria waste sorts, pilot food waste reduction projects at nature centers, as well as connect your department with surplus that your parks could use or help with re-homing items in your storage areas.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ARCHAEOLOGY AT EASTERN IOWA'S PRE-1850S FUR TRADING POST

CINDY PETERSON - OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Archaeological investigations have occurred at several eastern Iowa fur trading posts. These sites include 1830s-1840s trading posts related to the Meskwaki in Iowa and Johnson Counties, to the Sauk in Wapello County, and to the Ho-Chunk/Winnebago in Fayette and Winneshiek Counties. Many more posts remain to be archaeologically verified, such as Julien Dubuque's at Mines of Spain; temporary trading posts constructed during annual tribal annuity payment times; or illegal trading posts. This session will discuss how fur trading with Native American groups evolved in Iowa, what has been found at trading post sites, and what we would still like to learn through archaeology. Discussion will touch on working with archaeologists and community or Americorps volunteers to better understand fur trading post sites. Artifacts from fur trading sites will be exhibited.

ARMADILLOS IN IOWA

JIM COFFEY - WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, IOWA DNR

They're here! We will talk general biology, tracking, and what the future holds for armadillos in the Midwest.



FISH HABITAT GRANTS - LARGE AND SMALL

PAT SHEHAN - SPECIAL PROJECTS RANGER, STORY CCB

KARI VAN ZANTE - DIRECTOR, JASPER CCB

The Fish Habitat Program provides funding assistance to CCBs for land acquisitions and fish habitat development through a competitive grant process. This presentation will feature recently funded and completed fish habitat projects in Story and Jasper Counties as well as future grant projects. Learn about projects ranging from shoreline stabilization to complete lake renovations.

DRAGOON TRAIL

KEVIN MASON



No other place on Earth changed as much as Iowa over the past 200 years. Come explore the incredible change with Kevin Mason, PhD (History, Iowa State) and the 1st United States Dragoons. Drawing inspiration from the first major exploratory military expedition of the United States up the Des Moines River, Mason walked 370 miles from First Fort Des Moines (Montrose) to Big Spirit Lake during the summer of 2021. Culminating in the "Notes on Iowa" project and a forthcoming book titled "Across Iowa: An Environmental Journey Through Time, 1835-2021", the presentation will feature comparisons and explanations exploring how Iowa changed over the past 200 years.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR A SUCESSFUL PRAIRIE RECONSTRUCTION

CARL KURTZ

This is designed to consider the possibilities of what can happen and learn to appreciate success and failures. A really good prairie is a long-term process.

REFLECTIONS ON LESSONS LEARNED IN 35 YEARS OF ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN IOWA

DR. THOMAS ROSBURG - PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, DRAKE UNIVERSITY

Since the mid-1980s, Dr. Rosburg has completed over 100 research projects that as a whole have taken thousands of hours of time and taken him to thousands of acres of landscape. In this presentation Dr. Rosburg reviews 35 years of ecological research by addressing the goals and results of 10 different projects. The outcomes of this body of work and its application to vegetation management will be discussed and illustrated.

HISTORY OF IOWA CCC

LINDA MCCANN - CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS IN IOWA

The CCC was a federal program during the Depression Years. Many lowans know about the work done in state parks, but there was more... Linda will share info from talking with men or their families who were in the CCC.



HIRING, TRAINING & EQUIPPING A COUNTY CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

CCPOA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - RYAN WIELMOLD, NICK BEECK, JUSTIN SMITH, SHELBY WILLIAMS, CHARLIE FINCH

Members from the panel will discuss the process the process of hiring a law enforcement officer. They will share what is required by the state and how the represented County Conservation departments handle onboarding, training and equipping their officers with the tools needed to perform the job at a high level. There will be a large portion of time set aside for question and answer from those in attendance. We encourage Directors, certified and non-certified to attend!

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM & STEWARDSHIP

JULIE PERREAULT & MELISSA DEMPSEY - VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS, POLK CCB

Within each community exists individuals passionate about their local parks, trails, and environment. These individuals when empowered with the right information and training can greatly expand a CCB's ability to tackle natural resource issues and other projects while providing hands-on education for your local community. During this presentation we will talk about tools & methods staff can use to recruit, mobilize, and train volunteers using examples and experiences in Polk County applicable to other counties and smaller staffs. This presentation will talk about growing a volunteer program from the ground up, include key success stories, tips for volunteer retention, and other similar topics.

PEDICULARIS LANCEOLATA & ITS POTENTIAL TO BE A KEYSTONE SPECIES

DR. THOMAS ROSBURG - PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, DRAKE UNIVERSITY



The importance of keystone species in ecosystems is well-known. Since Robert Paine's monumental work in the 1960s with starfish and mussels inhabiting tidal pools of the Pacific Northwest, ecologists have identified many other examples of keystone species. Parasitic plant species may play a keystone role by exerting stress on plants that are highly competitive. In this study, conducted in a reconstructed wet prairie, evidence of a keystone role in swamp lousewort will be presented.

LEVERAGING HABITAT CONSERVATION FUNDING SOURCES ON CCB LANDS

DARRICK WEISSENFUE - FISH & WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

There are multiple funding sources available to implement habitat conservation activities on CCB lands through programs such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as fish and wildlife Habitat Grants through Iowa DNR. These funding sources, and others, can often be stacked and leveraged to implement important habitat conservation activities such as wetland and prairie restoration. This presentation will highlight examples of projects completed on CCB lands by leveraging multiple funding sources, as well as future opportunities.

IOWA'S WETLAND MONITORING PROGRAM

JACKIE GAUTSCH - IDNR NATURAL RESOURCE BIOLOGIST

Come learn more about Iowa's Wetland Habitats! This presentation will cover what makes a wetland a wetland (hint: not all wetlands have water all the time!), wetland types in Iowa and information on Iowa's Wetland Monitoring Program.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

RT-130

CHAD GRAEVE, ARIC PING, JEREMY YOST - POTTAWATTAMIE CCB

Sessions 1, 2, & 3 will be required for anyone needing to meet the requirements (RT-130) for a national refresher in order to get their red card. You only need to attend all three sessions if you need a red card. Session 3 will be tailored specifically to the prescribed fire audience in Iowa.



STATEWIDE SCHOOL OF THE WILD: STATUS, UPDATES & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

JAY GORSH - DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL OF THE WILD

We will be discussing the status of the statewide effort to give all kids in Iowa an immersive 4–5-day conservation education experience (School of the Wild). You'll hear from members of the team leading this effort as well as our many partners across the state. We will be discussing what has been learned so far and what is being planned to help enhance this effort.



MULTIPLE BENEFITS THROUGH RESTORED OXBOWS

KAREN WILKE - IOWA FRESHWATER SPECIALIST, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Come learn about the importance of oxbow wetland restorations, the abundant opportunities available for restorations across the state, and get the tools and expertise needed to complete your very own restorations on your county land.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

IOWA DNR FOREST HEALTH UPDATE

MARK VITOSH, IDNR DISTRICT FORESTER



District Forester Mark Vitosh will provide information on new concerns that could impact Iowa's forestry health and updates on existing forest health issues impacting Iowa.

IOWA CONFLUENCE (ICON) WATER TRAILS

RICH LEOPOLD - DIRECTOR, POLK CCB
MAGGIE MCCLELLAND - ICON WATER TRAILS



Iowa Confluence Water Trails - ICON, for short - will connect 80+ improvements across 150 miles of rivers and creeks in Central Iowa. Initiated by the Central Iowa Water Trails Consortium, including Capital Crossroads, Catch Des Moines, the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, Des Moines Area MPO, Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Great Outdoors Foundation, ICON represents a new commitment to water safety and conservation as well as a concerted effort to drive economic development, visitor attraction and workforce retention. Maggie McClelland, Director of ICON Water Trails, and Rich Leopold, Director of Polk County Conservation, will share how the project got started, how it evolved into the public/private partnership it is today, and how it has grown to become one of the most transformational quality of life projects ever seen in Central Iowa.

COLLABORATION - IOWA DNR & YOU

MEGAN WISECUP - EDUCATION, OUTREACH & MARKETING SECTION
SUPERVISOR, IOWA DNR

The Iowa DNR recently went through a restructure and created a Communication, Outreach and Education Section. All education programs are now housed in one area – aquatic education, hunter education, boating education, paddling, interpretation and general outdoor skills, shooting sports and ranges. We all know internal and external partnerships are important to all. Partnerships allow us to improve education, outreach, public relations, communication, project support, funding, expertise, and so on. Some partnerships are new. Some are time-tested and solid. We'll give a short update on the new structure and then ask participants to join an open dialogue as we answer the question, "How can the new Communication, Outreach and Education Section collaborate and partner with you?"

99 COUNTIES/99 PARKS

SHERRY JOHNSON - MASTER CONSERVATIONIST

In 2018, Sherry embarked on an adventure to explore more of Iowa and visit a county park in all of Iowa's 99 counties. Join her as she takes a look back on how it all started and hear about her travels along the way. Did she have a favorite park? How long did it take? How many miles did she travel? Did she get lost? Join Sherry to find out!

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