



Annual Fall Conference

September 17-19 2024

IOWA'S COUNTY
CONSERVATION
SYSTEM

**Hosted by
District II**

Bremer, Butler, Cerro Gordo,
Chickasaw, Emmet, Fayette, Floyd,
Franklin, Hancock, Howard, Humboldt,
Kossuth, Mitchell, Winneshiek, Worth, Wright



Iowa's County Conservation System



Dear Conference Attendees

Welcome and thank you for joining us as we **Get Wild in the Driftless** at PIVO Brewery & Event Center for the 64th annual Iowa County Conservation System's Fall Conference hosted by District II. Your host counties include Bremer, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Emmet, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Howard, Humboldt, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winneshiek, Worth, and Wright.

We are proud to share our corner of the Driftless with you, showcase what makes this area unique, and feature a few of the projects we have been working on.

Wednesday offers your choice from three all-day tours featuring projects in either **Fayette County** or **Winneshiek County** or a chance to **Explore the Driftless**.

Thursday morning includes a lineup of local professionals sharing their expertise about the Driftless Region of northeast Iowa and the partnerships that make them essential to county conservation.

Throughout the conference, please also be sure to visit with our exhibitors and sponsors and give them a big thank you for providing support for this event, as they are the keystone to a successful conference.

Thank you again for joining us as we enjoy this wonderful event. We hope you will find it engaging, thought-provoking, and informative, as well as fun and intriguing. We encourage you to learn something new, meet someone new, and make lasting connections that will help us all grow together.

Be sure to let us know how we can make your stay "Wild" in this Driftless adventure!

Sincerely,

District II

Schedule



Tuesday, September 17

- 12:00 - 4:30** **Preconference Activities**
- 4:30 - 7:30** Conference Registration
- 5:00** Shuttle from Decorah Hotels
- 5:30 - 7:30** BBQ Dinner at PIVO Brewery
- 7:30 - 8:00** Return Shuttles
Social time in Decorah

Pre-Conference Activities

- **Fishing**
- **Golfing**
- **Kayaking**
- **Trap Shooting**
- **Biking**

Wednesday, September 18

- 7:00 - 7:30** Morning Shuttles
- 7:30 - 8:30** Conference Registration
- 7:00 - 8:30** Breakfast
- 8:15 - 8:30** Welcome
- 8:30 - 4:00** **All Day Tours**
- 4:00-5:30** Vendor Social & Shuttles
- 5:30 - 6:30** Banquet at PIVO Brewery
- 6:30 - 7:30** 2025 Conference Invite
Recycling Cartoons
- 7:30 - 8:30** Announce Raffle Winners
Evening Shuttles

Tour Options

- **Fayette County**
- **Winneshiek County**
- **Exploring the Driftless**

Thursday, September 19

- 7:00 - 8:30** Breakfast
Annual ICCS Meeting
- 8:30 - 11:00** **Speakers**
- 11:00 - 11:30** Closing Remarks
Sack Lunch and Door Prizes

Presenters

- Larry Reis, WCCB**
Mike Siepker, IDNR
Brian Fankhauser, INHF
Gregg Pattison, USFW
**Mystery Speaker -
Sasquatch or Legislator**

Preconference Activities



Kayak the Upper Iowa River

Paddle along a scenic stretch of the river north of Decorah. This trip will pass by the iconic Chimney Rocks formation and the Bluffton Fir Stand State Preserve. Kayaks and shuttle service will be provided. \$10 fee.



Trout Fishing

Fish in some of the best trout streams in the Driftless. Your choice of fly fishing or spin fishing with a local guide. Bring your own fly rod or spinning tackle. Trout fishing lessons are not included. \$10 fee.



Bike the Trout Run Trail

Take a ride at one of Northeast Iowa's most popular trails. The group will bike a 5-mile stretch of level terrain with great views of the Upper Iowa and a trout stream. Bring your own bike. \$10 fee.

Preconference Activities Continued

Golf Outing

Enjoy an afternoon at South Winn Golf & Country Club with the beautiful landscape and good company. Meet at the golf course at 12:00 pm. Fee of \$45 per person.



Trap Shooting

Meet at Kornhill Shooting Range for some classic trap shooting. Fee of \$7.50 per round. Bring your own ammo or purchase it at the range for \$10/box. Shooting starts at 4:00 pm.



Explore on Your Own!

Discover more of the wonderful things that Northeast Iowa has to offer. Find out about things to do at these sites:

winneshiekwild.com

visitdecorah.com

visitfayettecountyiowa.com

visitnortheastiowa.com



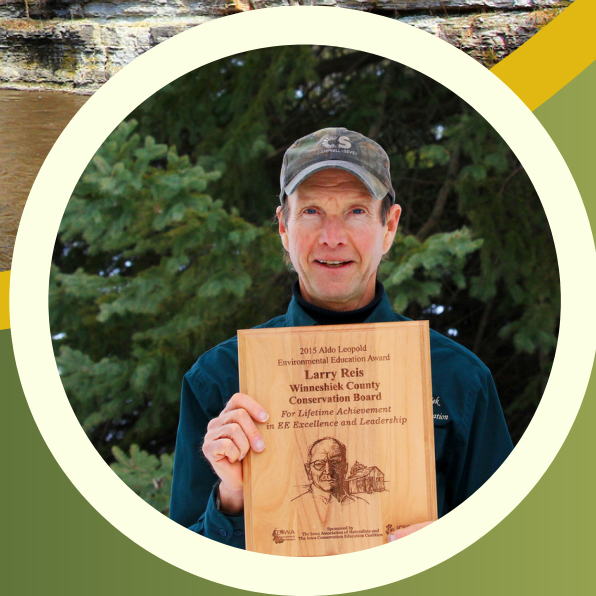
Speakers

Thursday, Sep. 17



LARRY REIS

ECOLOGY OF THE DRIFTLESS



Larry Reis is a venerable naturalist and natural resource manager for Winneshiek County Conservation. Over the past forty years, Larry has been the pre-eminent natural historian in our region. He has put his extensive knowledge to good use through careful stewardship of our parklands and teaching over a hundred programs each year.

He is the author of *Noting Nature*, a memoir based on his phenological records, and *Once a Trapper*, a biography of his father focused on his outdoor pursuits. Larry's dedication and love for the natural world is evident in both his writing & his daily life.

For the past 13 years Larry has maintained an extensive Flickr photography account documenting wildlife, seasonal changes, and natural resources in Winneshiek County, northeast Iowa, and across the nation. He now has more than 17,000 professional-quality photos, which he makes available for public download at no charge. Enjoy the presentation and Larry's photos of the Driftless Region of Northeast Iowa.

GREGG PATTISON

BLUFFS, BATS, AND BUMBLEBEES

Gregg Pattison is a private lands biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working for the Iowa Private Lands Office. Gregg focuses his efforts working with landowners and partner organizations to restore, create and manage high quality wildlife habitat to meet the individual goals of the landowner.

His work emphasizes pollinator habitat in the Driftless Area with a specific focus on creating high quality habitat for rusty patched bumble bees and monarch butterflies. Gregg has been with the USFWS for over 30 years working mainly with prairie and oak savanna restoration.



BRIAN FANKHAUSER

BLUFFLAND PROTECTION

Brian Fankhauser is the Senior Land Stewardship and Blufflands Director with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). Working closely with a dedicated staff, he oversees the land stewardship efforts on INHF-protected lands across the state. In addition to his land stewardship duties, Brian works with private landowners, public agencies and partners to protect important natural areas in Northeast Iowa.

Prior to starting at INHF in 2005, he worked at Hamilton County Conservation Board for 9 years where he helped develop and care for their natural areas including prairies and wetlands. Brian graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Animal Ecology.



MYSTERY SPEAKER

SASQUATCH OR LEGISLATOR

We anticipate that regardless of the final decision, this Mystery Speaker will be a fun surprise for all involved. Will it be a presentation on the elusiveness of Sasquatch? Will it be a former Legislator? Only time will tell.



MIKE SIEPKER

TROUT RESTORATION IN THE IOWA DRIFTLESS

Mike Siepker is the supervisor of Northeast Iowa fisheries management and coldwater hatchery operations for the Iowa DNR, overseeing three coldwater hatcheries, two fish management teams that manage public fisheries across 15 counties, and one watershed coordinator.

Previously, Mike served ten years as the Decorah District Fisheries Biologist for the Iowa DNR and was responsible for managing the fisheries resources within an eight-county district in Northeast Iowa. During that time, Siepker oversaw the district's coldwater stream monitoring and research, stream habitat improvements, and trout restoration efforts. Prior to moving back to Iowa, Siepker spent ten years as a Sportfish Population Ecologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, overseeing statewide sportfish research and management evaluations.

Fayette County Tour

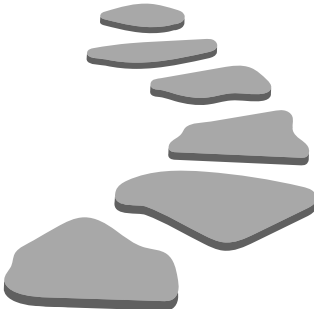
This tour will focus on a variety of traditional and non-traditional conservation, tourism, and marketing programs.



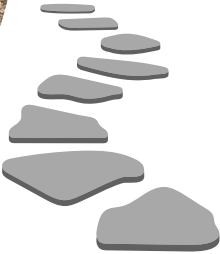
The tour will showcase the Scenic Byways program along with a stop at Goeken Park to experience the amazing overlook and incorporated public art.



We will then transition to Watershed Management Authority programs and our Otter Creek projects including on-road structures, private practices, and modeling.



The tour will wind its way into the Driftless land at the Gilbertson Conservation Education Area for lunch and live experiences. This flagship park includes the Nature Center, Playscape, historical museums, and Avenue of Flags.



We will depart from Gilbertson and travel to the Kauten Fen to experience the history and botanical uniqueness of one of the state's best fens.



Winneshiek County Tour



Lake Meyer: Off the Impaired Waters List

Lake Meyer is Winneshiek County's only lake, and it was recently taken off the EPA's Impaired Waters List. Partnerships and coordination between farmers, the DNR, Soil & Water District and other conservation efforts are showcased at this beautiful spot. Other tour features included several styles of docks, a timber frame picnic shelter and habitat restoration work.

Walden Pond: A One in a Million Donation

This 133-acre park was recently donated with several buildings including rental homes, enclosed shelter, and a small bathhouse. The landscape includes a 5-acre pond, a productive sugar maple forest, prairie plantings, and a stretch of the Yellow River.



Freeport Park: A Pocket Pollinator Park

A 2.5-acre property in the heart of a developing area was turned into a pollinator park with funding from a local company and a group of dedicated trail volunteers. The site features a recreational trail, timber frame picnic shelter, playground, prairie and diverse tree plantings - all in one small space.

Dry Run Greenbelt: Packaging Projects and Building Partnerships

Home of the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee and savanna oak forest, the Dry Run Greenbelt bundles multiple land uses. Development of the Dry Run Trail will provide a link between the Trout Run Trail and the Prairie Farmer Recreational Trail while also preserving the area along Dry Run Creek, which flows into Decorah.

This in-progress project will not only connect the trails and convert old pasture to prairie but also incorporate flood mitigation structures and a new wetland development to protect the City of Decorah.



Exploring the Driftless Tour

This tour will provide an opportunity to learn from organizations beyond the world of county conservation as well as the chance to see some of the most scenic spots in the Decorah area.

The trip will begin by driving along the Driftless Area Scenic Byway with two visits to local seed companies. Shooting Star Native Seeds in Spring Grove, MN offers a wide range of native prairie seeds for habitat restoration. Seed Savers Exchange specializes in preserving heirloom garden seeds and apple varieties on a beautiful 900-acre farm.



The group will visit the redesigned outdoor display area at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum and several highlights of the Decorah area parks system, including an algal talus slope, spring-fed waterfalls, the state-owned Decorah Fish Hatchery and famous Decorah Eagle Nest.



Wednesday Night Recycling Cartoons provided by Fayette County Conservation!



Meet Mike, Nellie, Wally, and Bob in this "kid" friendly series, designed to promote recycling, watersheds, and scenic byways. In a series of fun and short animated videos, Mike the Milk Jug, Nellie the Newspaper, Wally the Watershed Master, and Bob the Byway Bus all share their life stories, written by and using the comedic and musically talented voices of Rod Marlatt, Director of Fayette County Conservation, and Mallory Hanson of Fayette County, Economic Development and Tourism. This ongoing project helps show the benefits of recycling, watersheds, and byways to "kids" in a fun, creative way that they will remember forever.

General Information



Conference Pricing

FULL REGISTRATION	\$210.00	TUESDAY BBQ ONLY	\$40.00
WEDNESDAY ONLY	\$175.00	WEDNESDAY BANQUET ONLY	\$35.00
THURSDAY ONLY	\$100.00	BBQ & BANQUET COMBO	\$60.00
FULL STUDENT REGISTRATION \$100.00			

How to Register

Online Registration REQUIRED at MyCountyParks.org/conferences.html.

Pay online or select the 'pay by mail' option. Mailed reservations must be received by the August 15 deadline. Any registration after August 15 will be assessed a \$25 late fee.

Pre-Conference Activities

\$10 - **Kayaking** - Paddle along a scenic stretch of the river north of Decorah. Kayaks provided.

\$10 - **Trout Fishing** - Fish in some of the best trout streams in the Driftless. Bring your own pole.

\$10 - **Bike Ride** - Take a ride at one of Northeast Iowa's most popular trails. Bring your own bike.

\$45 - **Golf Outing** - Enjoy an afternoon at South Winn Country Club.

\$7.50/round - **Trap Shooting** - Meet at Kornhill Shooting Range for some classic trap shooting.

Field Trip Tours

Attendees may choose 1 of 3 tour options:

- **Fayette County tour** focuses on traditional and non-traditional conservation practices.
- **Winneshiek County tour** highlights county park and trail projects with unique partnerships.
- **Exploring the Driftless tour** offers a variety of public and private parks and businesses.



**IOWA COUNTY CONSERVATION
SYSTEM FALL CONFERENCE**

Hotel Booking Information

The 2024 ICCS conference will be hosted at PIVO Brewery in Calmar, IA by District II

Our Wild Lodging Options:

Country Inn and Suites

2042 IA-9, Decorah, IA 52101
Call 563-387-9011 to book
using group name ICCS2024
\$120/night, King and Dbl Queen

Quality Inn and Suites

705 Commerce Dr, Decorah, IA 52101
Call 563-382-2269 to book
using group name ICCS2024
\$99 King and Dbl Queen

Fairfield Inn

2041 IA-9, Decorah, IA 52101
Call 563-382-8800 to book
using group name ICCS2024
OR use booking link
<https://tinyurl.com/yr36njzs>
\$129 King, \$139 Dbl Queen

Hotel Winneshiek

104 E Water St, Decorah, IA 52101
Call 563-382-4164 to book
using group name ICCS2024
\$149 King and Dbl Queen

Super8 By Wyndham

810 IA-9 East, Decorah, IA 52101
Call 563-382-8771 to book
in the Winneshiek County Conservation
block of rooms
Variety of rooms from \$79.99



Scan to book the Fairfield



**check out VisitDecorah.com for more
lodging options!**



General Information



Registration Times - PIVO Brewery and Event Center

Tues, September 17 from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Weds, September 18 from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Thurs, September 19 from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Exhibitors/Vendors

Set Up- 3:00 pm Tuesday or 6:30 am Wednesday -Parking available at PIVO

Tuesday evening BBQ - 4:30 pm- 7:30 pm provides a great causal atmosphere for interaction.

Wednesday Morning- Guests will be at PIVO from 7:30 am - 8:30 am

Wednesday evening. Peak traffic hours will be from 4:30 pm -8:30 pm on

Thursday- Attendees will be at PIVO from 8:00 am- 11:30 am on

More Information- on Sponsorships and Registration available [HERE](#) :

Raffle

There will be a raffle held on Wednesday evening with the final drawing at the end of the night. Items will include a variety of exciting local contributions.

Shuttles

TUESDAY, SEP 17

5:00 pm From Hotels to PIVO

7:30 pm From PIVO to Hotels

WEDNESDAY, SEP 18

7:00 am From Hotels to PIVO

7:30 am From Hotels to PIVO

4:00 pm From PIVO to Hotels

5:00 pm From Hotels to PIVO

7:45 pm From PIVO to Hotels

8:00 pm From PIVO to Hotels

8:30 pm From PIVO to Hotels

Contact Information

Iowa's County Conservation System

Adam J. Shirley, CEO

P.O. Box 330

Osage, IA 50461-0330

IACCB@mycountyparks.org

Office - (515) 963-9582

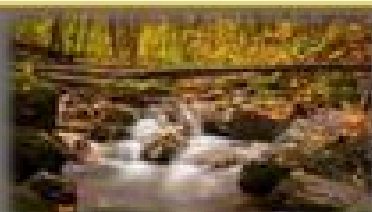
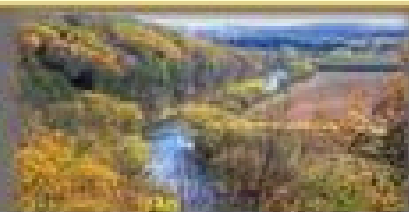
Cell - (319) 939-1401

Admin. Website: www.mycountyparks.org

Public Online Presence: www.MyCountyParks.com

Iowa's County Conservation System





September 17 - 19 / PIVO Brewery - Calmar, IA / Hosted by IACCB District II Counties

SPONSORSHIPS

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