



WINTER 2018

The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists



Snowy Owl Irruption

by Matt Wetrich, Naturalist, Carroll County Conservation Board

Have you ever found yourself jaw-dropped and emotionally stirred at the mere sight of a creature you may have only seen in a movie? Being in the presence of a snowy owl in real life tends to move the emotions in a cinematically unique way. Even if they aren't delivering your mail (yes, a Harry Potter reference, because I clue readers into my movie references, unlike certain editors, HA!), they can deliver a moment you'll never forget for the rest of your life. If owls are your thing, and if you don't mind having the golden yellow lasers of their fierce stare pierce right through your soul, you are in luck. Right now, Iowa is experiencing what is known as an "irruption" of these feathered ghosts of the tundra.

Irruption refers to an increase in a population of an animal outside its normal range. It is believed that the driving force behind this current irruption event is an increase in the owls' food: lemmings—a small arctic rodent similar to a vole. Every five years or so the lemming population goes through a boom cycle. This abundance of food triggers the owls to have more babies.

Once grown, there is an overabundance of new Snowy Owls—more than the winter hunting grounds can sustain. The young owls, not having ownership of any

local hunting grounds, head south in search of enough sustenance to get them through the winter.

The majority of owls we are currently seeing were born this year, indicated by the abundance of streaking on their otherwise snow-white feathers. Adult males are nearly entirely white, with adult females having some streaking in order to help hide them while at the nest, which is on the ground in the Arctic.

A common misbelief is that the owls are starving and head south in search of food. Banding studies show that most of the owls moving south are in reasonably good health. However, upon arrival in Iowa, it seems that life is not quite as peachy as the owls might have hoped. Chisel-plowed fields and concrete don't offer up much of a buffet. Roadside

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ditches do, however host rodents, and the owls—amongst other species of raptors—end up figuring this out. Unfortunately, this means navigating among moving automobiles to catch a meal and growing up in the Arctic does not teach owls how to navigate automobiles. This fall we know of at least 15 dead snowy owls and 7 more in the care of wildlife rehabilitators in the state, most of which came via car strike or starvation. This underscores the need for quality habitat in our state, particularly prairie/CRP.

The average winter season (late October through early March) yields only a small handful of snowy owl reports in Iowa, typically less than 10. Current estimates this year from late October through this week are between 50 and 70. It's difficult to track reports and know if they are different birds (See below for info on a map of records).

Where to look for a snowy...

Perched just about anywhere BUT a tree. Not to say they NEVER sit in trees, but it is very rare. (They don't see trees in the arctic!) They can be seen sitting on road signs, fence posts, top of utility poles, rock piles, on top of farm-associated buildings, and commonly straight on the ground.

If you see a snowy owl...

Give it plenty of space. Do not approach the owl and cause it to fly. Causing unwarranted flying costs the owl valuable calories it may not have otherwise spent.

Report it to me, Carroll County Naturalist, Matt Wetrich via email at matt@carrollcountyiowa.org or at my office at Swan Lake State Park at (712) 792-4614. I am keeping a state-wide map of sightings to help birders and scientist have a visual of how widespread this irruption actually is. It can be seen at www.iowabirds.org.

Speaking of taking a look at a map...take a look at a map of North America to see just how far away the Arctic Circle really is. Understanding how far snowy owls have journeyed to find themselves in Iowa just might be their ultimate delivery: the realization that here in Iowa, we play a major ecological role in the success of creatures far and wide, including those whose parents are currently hunting under the glow of the Northern Lights.

Naturalist Spotlight: Three Years as Iowa's First Naturalist

Mike Krebill, retired naturalist, nature centers director, middle school science teacher, and wild food educator

In the spring of 1967, I was finishing up an M.S. degree in Nature Study, Science Education, and Conservation Education at Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York, when my faculty advisor told me about a position opening up in Iowa, my home state. He thought it very much in line with my career interest. I agreed. I sent a resume.

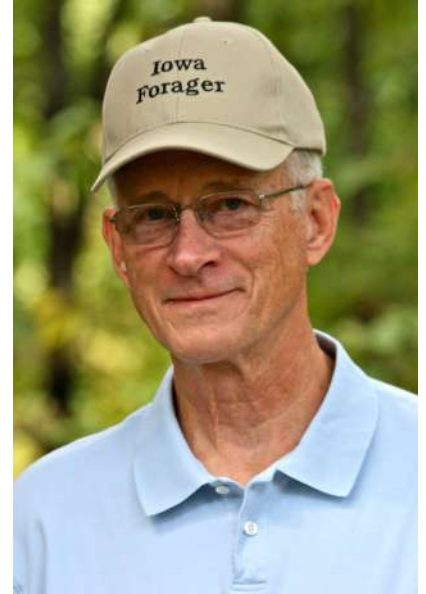
A week later, Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BCCB) Director Melvin "Monte" Johnston picked me up at the Waterloo Regional Airport and took me on a whirlwind tour, impressing me with the waterfowl within several of the 19 areas the BCCB owned. The spring migration was in full swing and oxbows, sloughs, flood plain lakes, and ponds along the Cedar River were alive with color and sound. It was mind-bogglingly beautiful. The water of course, was muddy brown, still one of Iowa's challenging conservation problems. We drove through Black Hawk Park. Dozens of enormous elm trees had succumbed to Dutch elm disease, a disease that was gaining momentum in Iowa. We considered possibilities for interpretation and conservation education. We stopped at the headquarters and I visited the staff.

Here's an extract from a news article that appeared in Keokuk's The Gate City, July 16, 1967:

Michael Krebill becomes first county Naturalist in Iowa. He was hired by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board and the Cedar Falls Board of Park Commissioners in response to the increasing demand for a knowledgeable person to help interpret the wildlife and natural features in our city and county parks. As Park Naturalist, Krebill will have many responsibilities. He will conduct

Naturalist Spotlight continued...

natural history programs and lead groups on walks discussing trees, shrubs, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and edible wild plants. During the school, year Krebill will be available to aid teachers in using parks, working in classrooms and leading field trips. He is expected to plan and direct construction of hiking, conservation and nature trails in several city and county parks. Much of his work will be in public relations. He will serve as a speaker and consultant to community organizations. He will author interpretive bulletins, and will prepare news releases for newspapers and radio and television stations.



I loved the job, and threw myself into it heart and soul. I did all of the above and more. The response from the public, from groups, and from schools was overwhelming and gratifying. Thanks to a supportive Conservation Board and Director, we were able to hire an assistant naturalist in my second year, and seasonal naturalists. Ben Clausen, Assistant Professor at the University of Northern Iowa, sent me members of UNI's Conservation Club to train as field trip leaders.

I keynoted at the IACCB conference. Directors from around the state had been watching what happened with the first county naturalist in Black Hawk County and were eager to know more. They had questions, but suffice it to say that the idea caught fire.

The schools took full advantage of my services back then, much as is the case for Iowa's naturalists today. I chuckle at the memory of the very first classroom presentation I was to do for middle elementary students. The principal stopped me when I checked in at the office to ask for directions to the teacher's classroom. "All of our students want to hear you speak," she said. "Would you be willing to do an assembly instead of a classroom presentation?" I did an assembly, my first ever. The students were well behaved and asked a lot of interesting questions when given a chance. Later that week I got hundreds of thank-you letters. In one of them, a boy concluded, "When I go home this afternoon, my friends and I are going to play Black Hawk County Conservation." The Conservation Board got a big kick out of that.

Besides field trips in the spring and fall and classroom visits in the winter, I met with curriculum officials in both the Cedar Falls and Waterloo schools to set up field trips and outdoor teacher training. Back then, there were also conservation workbooks that the Soil Conservation Districts had developed for use in Iowa Schools. I helped revise them, and illustrated them with black and white photos showing soil erosion and conservation practices that could stop the erosion. They were used statewide. The National Wildlife Federation had student conservation packets, and there were National Forest Packets available upon teacher request. My assistant naturalist helped me deliver them to schools and teachers wanting them.

At the request of the Cedar Falls Park Board, I worked to lay out nature trails from Lookout Park through Hartman Reserve, a small 56-acre camp which the YMCA had owned, and I made preliminary recommendations for a nature center. I involved neighborhood kids, who had forts and tree houses and bike trails in the area, as I wanted them to continue to feel a sense of ownership, and a willingness to protect the area and reduce potential vandalism. One of my recommendations was to acquire more land and add diversity to the property. This happened in 1976 when Black Hawk County stepped up to purchase the area and Hartman Reserve Nature Center was built. More land was acquired in 1976, 1990, and 1994, growing the acreage to 287 acres and connecting it with other county trails and recreation areas. Hartman Reserve Nature Center has been renovated and expanded and is now known as Hartman Interpretive Center.

Naturalist Spotlight continued...

I also worked on loan to the Waterloo Parks Department. They were considering a bird sanctuary on floodplain land. I laid out a suggested trail, identified species present as it wound through different habitats, took photos, and produced a report. My recommendations were followed, and it became Robertson's Woods, which still exists.

With the Board's blessing and sponsorship, I served as the Advisor to a conservation specialty, high-school age Explorer Post. It grew to 35 boys. While we worked to help control Dutch Elm disease without using the chemical DDT, built wood duck houses, etc., by far the most memorable activity was participating for two years in a mid-wintering census of bald eagles along the Mississippi River. In this effort, we teamed up with other field researchers to assess the declining numbers of bald eagles, particularly the ratio of adults to immature eagles. The data eventually played a critical role in influencing legislators to halt the use of DDT in the U.S. Today bald eagles are no longer an endangered species.

Alas, all good things eventually end, and an opportunity came along in my third year that I couldn't pass up. In these words, I wrote about it to my mother, who saved the 1970 letter:

"Iowa's first county naturalist moved to New York in July, accepting the directorship of Onondaga Nature Centers, Inc. This private corporation, based in Baldwinsville, will provide environmental education services for the metropolitan Syracuse area. Involved will be such things as teacher education, curriculum development, school field trips, classroom talks, and coordination-dissemination services. Target audience: over 100,000 school children! Mike also has charge of developing public and school programs and an interpretive trail system at Beaver Lake Nature Center. The Center, owned by Onondaga County's Division of Parks and Conservation, and managed by Mike's agency, contains a 200-acre lake and 300 acres of forest, field, and swamp."

Name that Nature Center



Submit guesses to Michelle Berns at mberns@co.muscatine.ia.us.

Please use "Name that Nature Center" as the subject line. The sender of the first correct answer will win bragging rights in the next issue of The Web!

Nature Craft: Twist Tie Butterflies

By Sarah Subbert, Cedar County Naturalist

Tastiest and easiest craft EVER!!!

Take a Frootie (flavored tootsie roll) and EAT IT! Best part of this craft!! While chomping on your delicious treat, lay the candy wrapper flat so you can read it. Then squish the wrapper in the center to make a bow tie shape. Next, take your handy-dandy bread tie, make it flat, and fold it in half length-wise. Now, twist the bread tie about a fourth of the way up to make a “Y” shape. Place your bow tie shaped Frootie wrapper inside the “Y” and twist the bread tie to hold the wrapper in place. BOOM!! You are DONE!!! You now have a beautiful butterfly, less trash, and a mouth full of candy. Enjoy!



Grapevine News

- Dave Murcia reports that, “Wapsi River Environmental Education Center of Scott County Conservation Board won the Carpool Award for 2017 Fall IAN Workshop in Warren County.” They had four staff and drove 368 miles!
- Sondra Cabell reports that, “Angie Auel took a position locally with the Watershed authority to work on their grant implementation. Michael Maas joined us as a naturalist in Buchanan County in August. He changed positions on our team from park tech to animal care specialist.”
- Darrin Siefken and CrawDaddy Outdoors will be highlighted on this season’s showing of Iowa Entrepreneur on IPTV: <http://www.iptv.org/series/25154/iowa-entrepreneur/303>.



T-shirts, Get Your T-shirts!

We still have some of the new IAN t-shirts left, and they will be at the workshop available for purchase! We have a few mediums, and several large, XL, and 2XL available for purchase. If you pre-ordered a t-shirt and were not able to pick it up at the spring workshop, they are still on hold for you. Contact Mary Bulger at mbulger@co.iowa.ia.us with any questions about t-shirts.



Upcoming Workshops

Winterfest – January 23-25, 2018 Sullivan Center Waterloo
ICEC Winter Workshop – February 2, 2018 Jester Park
Spring IAN – March 14-16, 2018 Clinton County
NAI Heartland Region – April 4-7, 2018 Austin, Minnesota
Summer IAN – August 1-3, 2018 Yellow River State Forest
Fall IAN – November 7-9, 2018 Blackhawk County

Call for Presenters

Do you have a project or skill you want to share?! Or do you know someone who would be a great presenter? The workshop committee is compiling a list of folks who are interested in presenting at future workshops. Contact Emily Herring at eherring@marshallcountytia.gov

JOIN A COMMITTEE!!

Interested in getting more involved in IAN? Consider joining one of our many committees!

Committee	Committee Chair	Email
Wilderness Trips	Aaron Askelson	aaskelson@bentoncountyparks.com
Website	Cari Nicely	cnicely@henrycountyconservation.com
Workshops	Emily Herring	eherring@marshallcountytia.gov
Mentoring	Heather Hucka	HHucka@storycountyiowa.gov
Social Media		Interested in serving as chair? Let ExCom know!
Traveling Exhibits	Jennifer Meyer	jen@jacksonccb.com
IAN Scholarship	Jessica Steines	jsteines@clintoncounty-ia.gov
Joe Halber Scholarship	Laura Kanning	lkanning@casscoia.us
Memberships	Victoria DeVos	vdevos@co.plymouth.ia.us
Fundraising	Mary Bulger	mbulger@co.iowa.ia.us
Junior Naturalists	Michelle Olson	Jonescountynaturalist@yahoo.com
Professional Development	Charlene Elyea	occb@iowatelecom.net
IAN/ICEC Awards	Sarah Subbert	cedarccb@cedarcountry.org



IAN Spring Workshop 2018

March 14-16

Hosted by Clinton County Conservation
Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center



Rock Creek Marina & Campground, 3942-291st Street, Camanche, IA 52730

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 - Pre-Workshop Hoopla (2 options)

Field Trip! Exploring Western Clinton County Parks and Wildlife Areas (Category 1 or 2)

Cost: Free (\$5 for supper) **Time:** 12:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Location: Meet at the Eden Valley Nature Center to caravan, 1415 50th Ave., Baldwin, IA 52207.

Call 563-349-0956 to meet up with the caravan at any point in the day.

Join Clinton County naturalists on a field trip to explore the western portion of the county. Starting with Eden Valley Refuge, which provides the opportunity to visit the nature center, traverse the swinging bridge, take in the views from the observation tower, rock climb, check out the Fossil Bunker, freestyle disc golf, and birding. Other park stops include Mockridge Preserve and Ringneck Marsh Wildlife Area for exploring and birding. End the evening with an optional Soup Supper at Sherman Park and Sunset Hike.

Shooting Range (Category 1 or 2)

Cost: Depends on experience and supplies (See below.) **Time:** 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Location: Meet at AmericInn, DeWitt to carpool to Davenport Guns and Shooting Club.

Registration is limited to 12 participants, must be 18 and have ID to rent a firearm.

If you are like me, Jess Steines, I have experience with long guns but not handguns. I wanted to have more experience to add to my "arsenal" aka learning new skills. So I went to Davenport Guns where they were more than happy to guide me in my relatively first handgun experience. They also pride themselves in keeping costs at a respectable level so customers continue to come back. During our time at the state-of-the-art facility we will have two instructors guide us through the safety, loading, holding, aiming, firing and reloading of handguns. The curriculum is tailored to fit your needs, and the majority of the time will be spent in the range refining your shooting skills. Bring safety glasses and hearing protection. Any questions please email jsteines@clintoncounty-ia.gov or call/txt 563-212-0955. Dinner can either be on your own or with the group in Davenport following the field trip

For beginners: Instructor/range fee/target - \$30	_____
For advanced: Range fee/target - \$12	_____
Bring your own firearm (restrictions apply, look on www.davenportguns.com) - \$0	_____
Rent handgun or rifle - \$10	_____
Bring your own ammunition (restrictions apply, look on www.davenportguns.com) - \$0	_____
Buy 50 rounds of 9 mm - \$14	_____
Total	_____

Optional Evening Activity

Cost: Free **Time:** 7:30 PM

Location: Sherman Park

All naturalists are invited to Sherman Park to check out the Quad Cities Astronomical Society Observatory Open House, campfire, s'mores, music.

Camping available Wednesday night at Sherman Park. See page 13 for more information.

Thursday, March 15, 2018

(All sessions at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, Rock Creek)

Breakfast at the hotel or the Rock Creek Camp Store (opens at 7:00 AM)

7:00 AM Early Bird Session

Building Better Birders class on the Blue Heron pontoon or hike (Category 1 or 2)

Kelly J. McKay, BioEco Research and Monitoring Center

We will re-create our popular early morning birding cruise and class. Limit 22 passengers. Choose Thursday or Friday slot on registration page.

8:30-9:00 - Registration in the Community Room

9:00-9:30 - Welcome, Announcements, Introductions in the Community Room

9:30 - 10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

Take Flight! Building a live birds of prey program from the bottom up! (Category 1 or 2)

Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist, Clinton County Conservation

Live animals connect people to nature in a way pictures and artifacts cannot. Learn how to build a Live Birds of Prey program from designing the enclosure, to training the bird, to the amazing feeling of sharing these feathery predators with people of all ages. Naturalist Jill Schmidt will walk you through what it takes to "take flight" with live birds!

Discovering Stories with Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area (Category 1 or 2)

Laura Elfers, Educational Engagement Director, Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area

Heidi Reams, Naturalist, Floyd County Conservation

Unique and overlooked stories of American Agriculture lie in northeast Iowa. Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) is the connecting thread sewing together 117 Partner Sites that tell the story of American Agriculture through natural, historical, and cultural resources. As one of the original partners sites, discover how the Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve connects with Iowa's agricultural history. Hear how other Conservation Areas connect with agriculture and uncover the benefits to ALL through these connections.

10:30 - 11:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

Conservation and Management of the Imperiled Ornate Box Turtle: Linking Ecology to Conservation (Category 1 or 2)

Jeremy T. Strickland, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge

A long-term research study of ornate box turtles (OBT) that inhabit the sand prairies of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge in northwest Illinois began in 2008. The primary goals were to identify the population status of OBT within the refuge and to implement best management practices to protect this imperiled species. A secondary goal was to re-establish a viable population of OBT at the refuge's Lost Mound Sand Prairie, which historically supported a robust box turtle population. It contains ideal habitat and is the largest remnant sand prairie in Illinois. Environmental education and outreach programs have provided public awareness on the plight of this troubled species.



The Voyageur Canoe (Category 2)

Chuck Jacobsen, Naturalist, Clinton County Conservation

Chuck Jacobsen (alias Coeur de Lion) leads participants through the history of bark canoes, including their making and uses by explorers and the fur trade through a Power Point presentation, period clothing, food stuff, artifacts, and music.

11:30-12:30 - Lunch in Community Room

12:30 - 1:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

Creating “Natural” Habitats for Reptiles (Category 3)

Susan Holgersson, Artist, Scenic Design by Holgersson

Susan will be demonstrating how you can create “natural” habitats for reptiles in your conservation center. From shaping foam; creating caves, ledges, ‘ponds’; and bed areas. There will be three similar sizes with different interiors at different stages and a demonstration on how you can create each phase.

Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC), The Best Program You've Never Heard Of (Category 1 or 2)

Loren Zaruba, Clinton County Chief Hunter Education Instructor & Terry Nims, DNR Recreational Safety Officer, SE District

YHEC is an event for kids 11-18 that takes place for the first time on June 9th in Clinton County at Rock Creek! Youth compete in eight events (shotgun, rifle, muzzleloader, archery, orienteering, wildlife ID, safety trail, and a written exam). Learn about the outdoors and have fun with other young people that have similar interests. Learn about Clinton County successes and why the program is shifting away from the DNR. Start a team, get sponsors, get wildlife clubs involved!

1:30 - 2:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

Milan Bottoms Bald Eagle Night Roost Survey Project (Category 1)

Kelly J. McKay, BioEco Research and Monitoring Center

The Upper Mississippi River represents one of the largest wintering concentrations of bald eagles in North America. However, human development activities continue to increase and encroach on the floodplain habitats of the Upper Mississippi River. Economic development (i.e., casino) has occurred immediately adjacent to the Milan Bottoms Complex in Rock Island County, Illinois. This area functions as a major night roost location for wintering bald eagles. This project documented this site as one of the largest wintering bald eagle night roosts along the Mississippi River.



Guitar for Dummies (Category 2)

Mark Roberts, Guitar Dummy, Clinton County Conservation

NEWBIES ONLY. Are you tired of everyone else having all the guitar playing fun? Learn to play (cheats and tricks) a simple, three-string, homemade, slide guitar. It works with six strings as well if you want to bring your own. Play “Bats Eat Bugs” for classes, “Old McDonald” for pre-schoolers, “Amazing Grace” for your mom or “Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door” (cause its cool!) for yourself. I will have a bunch of guitars to work with and I guarantee you will be able to play at least one song by the end. Boom!!!

2:30-2:45 - Break

Thursday continued...

2:45-3:45 PM Concurrent Sessions

Trapping: A Wildlife Management Tool (Category 1 or 2)

Greg Oldsen, Naturalist, Jasper County Conservation

Fur trapping has been a long-standing tradition in North America, serving as catalyst for exploration among many of the early settlers. Although negatively viewed by some, trapping has an important role in wildlife management, including things like restoring furbearer populations, disease control, and the reduction of predators for threatened and endangered species.

30 Years of Turtle Camp - The Painted Turtles Canvas (Category 1 or 2)

David Delaney, 3rd year Ph.D. EEOB student at ISU

Climate change is all around us and so are painted turtles, as the most commonly seen turtle around area waterways. With painted turtles demonstrating temperature sex determination, learn what they are indicating about climate change here in the Midwest over the last 30 years. Also, as an evolutionary ecologist, David will touch on anti-predation mechanisms and a recently co-authored an article in the Canadian Journal of Zoology, "Nesting Stage and Distance to Refuge Influence on Terrestrial Nesting Behavior in an Aquatic Turtle".

3:45-4:45 PM Concurrent Sessions

Technical Writing for Naturalists (Category 4)

Lilly Jensen, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Winneshiek County Conservation

Many naturalists are comfortable writing program outlines and Halloween Hike scripts, but interpretive writing is not the only writing we're responsible for. Technical writing (grant proposals, project reports, and news articles) generally has more "rules," can be more challenging, and requires a different approach. Come learn some tips and practice making your writing more professional, polished, and effective.

The Cargo Canoe Experience (Category 2)

Chuck Jacobsen, Naturalist, Clinton County Conservation

Chuck Jacobsen (and others) lend their experience to expose you to the art of moving a 29-foot canoe, carrying approximately 2000 lb of paddling power, through the quiet backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Shut up and paddle!

4:45-5:00 - Break

5:00 - Business Meeting

6:00 (or after meeting) - Dinner and IAN/ICEC Awards

7:00 Fresh Paint and/or Social at AmericInn (Category 2)

Optional Evening Activity

Painting Class with "Fresh Paint" (Category 2)

Christine Boeve, Artist, Fresh Paint by Christine Boeve, Tipton, Iowa

Clinton County Conservation hosts these three times per year at our nature center. It has brought in a group of people that normally would not go to the center and raises a bit of money as well. It is a "Paint and Sip" class (BYOB), lasting 2 hours with step-by-step painting instructions, on a 11x14 canvas. The "First Signs of Spring" is the theme. All materials supplied! Optional Thursday Evening, 7-9 PM. Check on registration page, pay that night, cash or check. Cost: \$25 Minimum 10 people.



Friday, March 16, 2018

Breakfast at the hotel or the Rock Creek Camp Store (opens at 7:00 AM)

7:00 AM Early Bird Session

Building Better Birders class on the Blue Heron pontoon or hike (Category 1 or 2)

Kelly J. McKay, BioEco Research and Monitoring Center

We will re-create our popular early morning birding cruise and class. Limit 22 passengers. Choose Thursday or Friday slot on registration page.



8:30 - 9:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

Next Generation Science Standards Workshop (Category 2, 3 or 4)

Kristen Bieret and Rene Stroud, Naturalists, Pottawattamie County Conservation

Join us as we dive into the world of the Next Generation Science Standards. Learn what these new standards entail in their three pronged approach to hands-on learning. Bring along examples of your current curriculum and we will work together to shape them into opportunities for students to learn firsthand how science works. It's all about figuring out the world around us in this next chapter of science education.

Terrific Terrariums (Category 3)

Greg Wolf, Education Director, Quad City Botanical Center

A terrarium can be a great tool in teaching some basic nature themes. Explore a terrarium's purpose and the ecological connection to our earth. The Quad City Botanical Center Education Director will guide you through this journey of creating and teaching about terrariums.

9:30 - 10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

Partnering for Urban Conservation: Nahant Marsh (Category 2, 3, or 4)

Brian Ritter, Nahant Marsh Executive Director & Eastern Iowa

Community College Program Coordinator for Conservation Technology

Davenport's Nahant Marsh is the largest urban wetland on the Upper Mississippi. The area was the former site of two early towns, a gun club, an EPA Superfund site, and is now an active education center and 305-acre nature preserve. Nahant Marsh Education Center has been made possible by unique community partners. We will discuss the history of the preserve and how partnering with area government, colleges, universities, businesses, volunteers, and non-profits can allow us to leverage resources for our programs and natural areas.



Ashes to Art (Category 2)

Aaron Askelson, Naturalist, Benton County Conservation

One of the first kinds of artwork is believed to have been charcoal art drawn on cave walls. You can share this art form with your students by making grapevine charcoal the easy way. We will make some charcoal that can be used for fine art and sidewalk drawing. Participants will get to make charcoal and have the opportunity to use it during the program. There will also be some charcoal to take home with you and the knowledge to pass on this easy but rewarding skill. We will be outside for a portion of the program and your hands will get dirty; dress appropriately.

Friday, continued...

10:30 - 11:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

Wasp Watchers – Tracking the Spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (Category 1, 2, or 3)

Amy Yoakum, Natural Resource Specialist, Story County Conservation

Wasp Watchers is a program used to monitor the movement of the emerald ash borer (EAB). The program started on the East Coast and has moved west, following the expansion of EAB infestations. Wasp Watchers utilizes biosurveillance protocol and volunteers to monitor wasps, which will capture EAB adults to use as food for their larvae. Story County Conservation is piloting the program for the first time in the state of Iowa. After three field seasons, we are ready to share what we have learned from using this citizen science-based program and give you tips to try it in your county.

Primitive Hunting Tools (Category 2)

Mark Roberts, Master of Nothing Expert, Clinton County Conservation

A logical next step after archery is working with other primitive hunting tools. Get some practical experience with atlatls, tomahawks, sling shots and flu flus. Learn how to use them; learn how to teach with them. Outdoors and hands-on!

11:30 Lunch and Depart

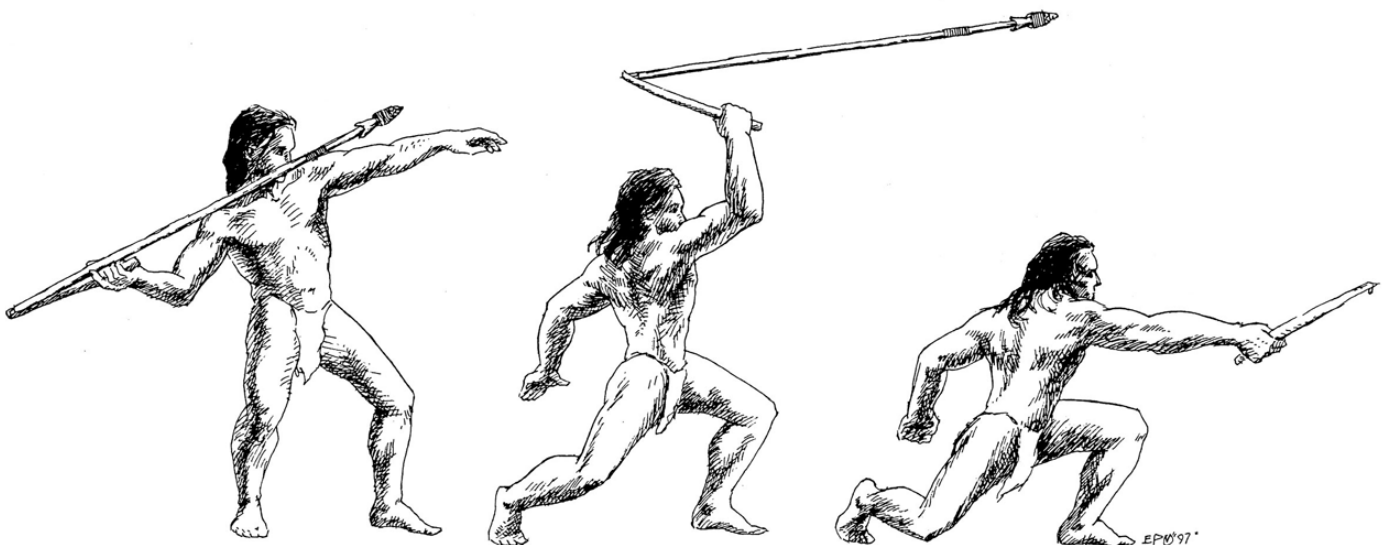
Professional Development Categories Correlated to Sessions

Category 1. Knowledge of natural and cultural history and recreation.

Category 2. Program development & educational skills.

Category 3. Communication skills.

Category 4. Administrative skills.



Additional Workshop Info

Skip a Session Options.

Hey, we know how it is. Sometimes you need a break or there just isn't a session that appeals to you at a certain time slot. Here are a few options you can take advantage of:

- **Paddling the Backwaters:** All our standard canoes & kayaks will be available to you to take out if the weather warrants it.
- **Cross Country Skis and Snowshoes:** If the weather permits it.
- **Hike the Park:** We have a couple of trails and lots of water's edge for walking and birding. We will have loaner binoculars.
- **Disc Golf at Folletts Park:** We will have loaner discs; 1/2 mile west of Rock Creek on US 67.
- **Free WiFi Available:** Take a break in the Eco Center Camp Store if you just need to get caught up on things.

Hotel Accommodations: AmericInn Hotel & Suites 2520-12th Street Court, DeWitt, IA 52742

Contact 563.659.5500 or www.americinn.com/hotels/ia/dewitt

Amenities include: Free, hot breakfast, 24-hour coffee bar, high-speed internet, indoor heated pool & hot tub, kids stay free, beer & wine bar, fitness center, pet friendly rooms available.

AmericInn & Suites is holding 25 rooms for Iowa Association of Naturalists until **March 6th, 2018**. After this date, they will not guarantee room availability. The rate is \$95. Plan on booking your reservation early.

Other Accommodations: Camping and cabins option at Rock Creek. Check it out at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton.aspx

Wednesday night only, camping in Chuck Jacobsen's yard in Sherman Park. Chuck's Address is 2740-160th Ave, Calamus, Iowa 52729.

Spring IAN Workshop - March 14-16, 2018 - Clinton County Conservation

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Alternate phone # _____

Email _____ Do you need to be added to the listserv? Yes or No

Please register me for the following pre-workshop session:

___ Field Trip! Exploring Western Clinton County Parks and Wildlife Areas, 12:30-6PM, FREE

___ Shooting Range, 2-5PM (check all that apply)

Cost: ___ Beginner \$30.00 ___ Advanced \$12.00 ___ Gun Rental \$10 ___ Ammunition \$14

Meals (please check all that apply)

Thursday Lunch: \$10

All served with cheesy potatoes, coleslaw, brownie or lemon bar, lemonade, coffee or H²O.

___ Fishy - Local, wild-caught fish fry (catfish & drum)

___ Beefy - Grilled hamburger

___ Veggie - Grilled Boca Veggie Burger

Thursday Dinner: \$10

Both served with "Olive Garden" salad, garlic bread sticks, bread pudding with caramel sauce, lemonade, coffee or H²O

___ Carna-saurus - Italian Sausage Lasagna

___ Veggie-saurus - Vegetarian Lasagna

Friday Lunch: \$10

Super-sized boxed lunch. Each boxed lunch comes with a wrap, pickle, macaroni salad, chips, pudding cup, M&Ms, chocolate covered strawberry, chocolate chip cookie and plastic-wrapped H²O.

Circle one wrap: turkey, veggie, chicken salad or egg salad

List any dietary restrictions: _____

Check each session you think you will attend. We won't hold you to it, its just for planning purposes.

___ Painting Class (\$25, pay that night)

___ Displays on a Dime

___ Terrific Terrariums

___ Guitar for Dummies

___ Cargo Canoe Experience

Building Better Birders Class, Circle one or none,
Thursday 7 AM or Friday 7 AM

Expenses:

Member Workshop Fee (\$25)	_____
Non -Member Workshop Fee (\$45)	_____
Late registration fee after March 1st (\$25)	_____
Pre-Workshop Total	_____
Field Trip Soup Supper (\$5)	_____
Meal Total (all three meals total \$30)	_____
Joe Halbur Scholarship Fund (optional)	_____
Total	_____

Please make checks payable to: IAN Treasurer

Mail payment and form to: Victoria Devos, IAN Workshop Coordinator, P.O. Box 1033, Hinton, IA 51024

Please contact the Victoria DeVos at VDeVos@co.plymouth.ia.us or 712-947-4270 with any additional questions. If your payment will not arrive by the registration deadline, please let Victoria know. If your registration form is not received by the deadline, you will be charged the \$25 late fee. No exceptions. If you cancel after the deadline, some or all of the fee will be kept.

Congratulations to the 2017 IAN/ICEC Awards Recipients!

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award

For outstanding efforts to educate about preservation, land management, or natural resource conservation

Kent Park Bird Banders

Both birds and people have been flocking to F.W. Kent Park! Johnson County Conservation naturalist, Sydney Algreen-Hunter, has teamed up with bird banders, Robert Bradley and Mark Bowman, to have a phenomenal program. They have been banding passerines at F.W. Kent Park since 2014 and have identified over 70 bird species. Facilitating almost weekly banding events from January through October 2016, volunteers spent 585.5 hours banding birds, training and educating new volunteers, and presenting educational programs. During this same time, 21 individuals volunteered to aid in bird banding efforts and education. All of these volunteers helped to reach a total of 940 students, parents, and members of the public during different banding events. Now that is something to tweet about!



Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award

For lifetime achievement in environmental education excellence and leadership

Darrell Batterson – Retired Iowa DNR Conservation Officer and volunteer for Jasper County Conservation



Darrell Batterson is no stranger in Jasper County. He has been a regular volunteer for Jasper County Conservation for over twelve years and was a conservation officer for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Jasper, Marshall, and Grundy Counties for 30 years. In 2017 alone, he volunteered for over a dozen Jasper County Conservation programs. Darrell assists with programs such as their huge 240-kid field trips, fishing derbies, hunter safety education, youth mentored hunts, Halloween hikes, and their three-kilometer trail race, often running and winning it and jumping in to help calculate the race results. He has been a presenter for the Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors program, and he even helped install two playground sets at Jasper County Conservation Parks. Thank you, Darrell, for all your years of hard work protecting the land and wildlife and educating so many people.

IAN/ICEC Awards continued...

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award *For outstanding efforts by an environmental educator* Jenny Koska – Metro Waste Authority, Des Moines

For two years Jenny Koska has been talking trash. And lots of it too! Well, that is to be expected when you are the Education and Outreach Coordinator for a landfill. Jenny has expanded the Metro Waste Authority's (MWA) programs and they now have programs targeted at high schoolers, something new for MWA. She has also increased the rate of landfill tours by 163 percent! Jenny incorporates Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Iowa Core English Language Arts (ICELA), and the Iowa Core Social Studies Essential Concepts into her programs. If a teacher wants a program that is not currently offered, Jenny even custom designs programs for teachers! Speaking of teachers, Jenny has also expanded their professional development course to reach new school districts and has even added another professional development course. Thanks Jenny for expanding the reach of MWA to better educate Iowans.



“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award *For outstanding environmental education program or event which informs and educates the general public*

Bob and Connie Van Ersvelde - Tallgrass Prairie Chapter of the Audubon Society



Bob and Connie Van Ersvelde are a beak above the rest in Jasper County. They purchased some degraded farm ground south of Grinnell and have been working to restore the prairie, oak savanna, and woodland areas. Turning it into their own small nature sanctuary over the years. Since Bob is a licensed bird bander, Bob and Connie host bird banding programs on their property throughout the spring and fall migrations and even all summer long to monitor nesting species. They band hundreds of birds every year with the help of preschool students all the way up to college students and adults. Just in 2017, they had about 125 participants assisting with bird banding. Bob has worked a great deal with Grinnell College and is getting started with a banding program at Lake Red Rock. Jasper County

Conservation even takes their camp kids to Bob and Connie's property to band birds and learn about their restoration efforts. Bird banding is a camp favorite! Bob and Connie even help Jasper County Conservation with an after-school program for fifth-grade students to formax birds. That program has 20 -30 participants each year and has been going on for ten years. Bob and Connie also help Jasper County with formaxing public programs and they have even presented on formaxing birds at the annual IACCBE Winterfest Workshop. Thanks, Bob and Connie for sharing your knowledge and expertise.

IAN/ICEC Awards continued....

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award

For an outstanding environmental education program for youth or conducted by youth (PreK- 12)
Jones County Conservation – Youth Conservation Crew

Twelve kids ages 12 to 19 were crew members of the Youth Conservation Crew for Jones County Conservation. They met every Thursday in June from 8:00 am until noon. Youth participated in a variety of activities from looking for monarch butterflies to clearing shrubs and trees in a prairie. Central Park's dry lakebed even received some help as the kids scavenged the area for trash. Kids found things like shoes, antique bottles, and even a tackle box! Great way to help out with the lake's restoration project. Michele Olson led the crew and said, "It's about teaching the kid's leadership skills, working with their peers, experience in the field, and cooperation." Thanks Michele for getting the Jones County youth outdoors and actively involved in projects.



Frederic Leopold Environmental Education Award

For outstanding environmental education efforts by business, industry, or labor
Adopt a Stream Program – Metro Waste Authority, Des Moines



Since 2013, the Metro Waste Authority (MWA) has been lending a helping hand to local streams in central Iowa through their Adopt a Stream Program. People in the metro area form teams and choose a section of a stream they want to adopt. There are currently 26 teams, which range from families to Boy Scout Troops, to teams of distillery employees. Volunteer teams choose a section of a stream from the MWA's updated, interactive map that shows stretches of streams around the metro area that are in need of help. That map makes it easy for groups to choose a location that is both convenient for them and also impactful in the community. The MWA also has a 21 page Stream

Cleanup Guide, which helps with the logistics of a stream cleanup from notifying the media to liability waivers. Besides the Stream Cleanup Guide, MWA also provides all the necessary supplies to complete a stream cleanup, from trash grabbers to trash bags. They even help connect the volunteer group with the local city staff, so the garbage can be disposed of properly. Through this program, MWA gives all residents the opportunity to interact with a local government agency and gives them the tools and motivation to take their passion for water quality a step further.

IAN/ICEC Awards continued....

Outstanding Environmental Education Program (two or less full-time equivalent naturalists)

For excellence in environmental education programming by an agency or institution

Heidi Reams – Floyd County Conservation

One might say Heidi Reams is a “jack of all trades” in her role as a naturalist for Floyd County Conservation. She does her normal programs but also assists with seasonal prairie burns, cabin and lodge usage at the Tosanak Recreation Area, and grant writing. In 2017, she also became a certified drone pilot! She can now take videos of the conservation areas from a unique view to highlight features and entice new visitors. Heidi is also responsible for the Floyd County Conservation website, social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), and the Fossil & Prairie Center website. During the 2016-17 school year, 122 programs were presented to classes in preschool and transitional kindergarten through fifth grade at the three public schools in Floyd County. Class sizes range from 16-25 students per class with some grade levels having up to five sections. As of December 1, for the 2017-18 school year, Heidi has presented 104 programs with contacts of 2,995 individuals. Outside of the schools, Heidi presents public programs, workshops, monthly nursing home programs, monthly newspaper articles, biannual newsletter, and day camps. Thank you, Heidi, for your hard work and dedication.



Outstanding Environmental Education Program (three or more full-time equivalent naturalists)

For excellence in environmental education programming by an agency or institution

Story County Conservation



With a six member crew, Story County Conservation boasts over 75 years worth of experience! Their expertise attracted 34,398 people last year in the 1,116 programs they offered. They visit eight preschools, all 15 elementary schools in the county, four middle schools, and two high schools. Story County Conservation offers 31 different classroom programs and 18 outdoor experiences (field trips). They do the normal stuff, but they also do unique programs like electricity, inventions, digestion, survival, and circulation. Not only that, but they have overnight camping river trips and a yearly backpacking trip! Recently, one of their team members, Heather Hucka, was named as the National Association for Interpretation 2017

Master Front-Line Interpreter! Congratulations and thank you Story County Conservation, for your dedication to interpretation and providing unique opportunities and programs to so many people.

IAN/ICEC Awards continued....

Outstanding Volunteer

Dave Stedwell – volunteer for Clinton County Conservation

Dave Stedwell has been a common name for Clinton County Conservation over the past five years. He is currently the President of the Clinton County Conservation Foundation and an officer for the Friends of Rock Creek. What makes Dave special, you ask? His willingness to jump into a naturalist position and lead sessions all day. Clinton County Conservation had one of their naturalists sustain an injury and they had a busy fall schedule approaching. Not wanting to turn groups away, Dave jumped right in and volunteered to teach things from pond studies to how to paddle a 29-foot long, 14-passenger voyager canoe! He arrived early every day to set up and stayed until every last piece of equipment was put away, and he even took out the garbage! Over a critical six-week stretch in September and early October, Dave worked 13 field trips for 745 students and their teachers! Thank you, Dave, for your dedication to environmental education.



Outstanding Interpretative Print Media

Water Quality Trading Cards – Des Moines County Conservation



Similar to Pokémon or baseball trading cards, Des Moines County Conservation created water quality trading cards featuring 22 benthic macro-invertebrates they commonly use for evaluating water quality. Every year at the Starr's Cave Nature Center Park and Preserve, they hold a public event called Critter Catch. It is essentially a bio-blitz where families come to find and catch any organisms they see in the creek. A large part of this program is educating the public about the types of life found in their local water as well as teaching them about water quality. The water quality trading cards engage children and adults, getting them excited about organisms which otherwise might not be exciting to them, and connects the dots between diversity and water quality.

The cards were a smash at their annual Critter Catch public program, which had more than 200 individuals in attendance. Quite a few families went home with entire decks, they loved the cards so much! After receiving a grant from the Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP), the Starr's Cave Nature Center Staff is developing innovative programs and educational totes teachers can use in their classrooms. These cards will be included in these educational totes available for free check-out for all the schools in Des Moines County, which serves nine elementary schools. Thanks, Des Moines County Conservation for creating these nifty cards to educate the public.



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Naturalists

Planting the seed of environmental stewardship by communicating the meanings and relationships in natural, cultural, and historical resources.