

# Spring IAN Workshop 2020

## Booming on the Prairie



Ringgold County Conservation  
Wednesday - Friday, March 18 -20, 2020  
Dragoon Trace Nature Center  
2434 State Hwy 2, Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854



### Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – Offsite and Extended Learning Sessions

#### Option 1: DTNC/RCCB Tour – How we do it all with only 1 employee!

**Presenter:** Kate Zimmerman, Ringgold CCB Executive Director

**Cost:** FREE     **Time:** 1:30 - 4:30 pm     **Category:** II, III, & IV

Meet at the Dragoon Trace Nature Center for a detailed presentation on the how one of the smallest counties in Iowa built their own nature center without any county funding and only 1 full-time employee. Participants will get a behind the scenes look at the nature center and discussion on the displays that were designed and built by Zimmerman and her taxidermist. This session will also include a tour of several RCCB areas and projects that have been recently completed as well as upcoming projects. Take a deep dive into the Ringgold CCB world and learn how they manage 9 areas, over 1,000 acres, a nature center and environmental education program with just one employee!!



#### Option 2: Make Your Own Spring Wreath

**Presenter:** Jenifer Breneman, owner of Walnut Creek Farms and Greenhouse **Location:** 1978 228th St, Mount Ayr

**Cost:** \$45/person     **Time:** 1:30 - 4:00 pm     **Category:** II **Limited to 15 Participants**

Join us at the Walnut Creek Farms and Greenhouse to create your own spring wreath! All supplies will be provided! Come enjoy a fun afternoon of creativity.

**Directions:** Head west on State Hwy 2 out of Mount Ayr, Iowa. Turn north on 228th St. Walnut Creek Greenhouse will be on the North side of the road.

Participants can register online at <https://www.mycountyparks.com/Org-Event/24/Spring-2020-IAN-Ringgold-CCB.aspx>

Many sessions will be held outside.  
Make sure to dress to enjoy nature!

### **Option 3: Bucks, Birds, or Board Feet?**

**Presenter:** Joe Herring, Iowa DNR Forester, Ken Herring, Iowa DNR Retired Wildlife Biologist & Emily Herring, Marshall CCB Naturalist

**Location:** Herring Cabin north of Grand River

**Cost:** Free      **Time:** 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. **Category:** I & II

A Forester, a Naturalist, and a Wildlife Biologist walk into the woods - whose philosophy will prevail when it comes to managing the family woodlot? The Herring family purchased this 110-acre oak/hickory forest in 1993 with a vision of family recreation, hunting opportunities, and timber for college funds. Twenty-seven years later, they've got some lessons to share and examples of how Iowa's woodlands can be managed for both game and non-game wildlife habitat, sustainable timber, and a multitude of other societal benefits. The remote property is part of the Sand Creek Bird Conservation Area (BCA) and is home to bobcats, flying squirrels, pileated woodpeckers, and many migratory songbirds. 30-minute drive from Mount Ayr. Program will include hands-on forestry education and management techniques.



## **Wednesday Night Activity**

The party room at Still Smokin' BBQ (104 W. Madison Street, Mount Ayr) is reserved for our group for supper at 5:30 p.m. Meal options include: Brisket, Baby Back Ribs, Grown Up Grilled Cheese and sides of Baked Beans, Baked Potato and Roll for \$15/Plate. A cash bar will be available for pop or other beverages.

Following supper at 7:00 p.m. IAN will have the historic Princess Theater (101 W Monroe St, Mt Ayr,) reserved for a private showing of a movie TBA.



## **Lodging in Mount Ayr**

The Mount Ayr Inn  
1304 East South Street  
Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854

Room Rate: 1 King Bed or 2 Queen Beds \$90/per night  
Continental Breakfast Included  
Call (641) 464-3500 to reserve a room booked under

**Mount Ayr Inn will be giving away one (1) free night stay to a participant attending IAN. Winner will be drawn/announced the Monday before the workshop!**

## Thursday, March 19, 2020 - Sessions at the Dragoon Trace Nature Center

**6:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast - Hotel or on own**

**8:00 - 8:30 am Registration**

**8:30 - 9:00 am Welcome, Announcements & Introductions - 2nd Floor Classroom**

### **9:00 - 10:15 am Concurrent Sessions**

#### **1. Refuge Scenarios and When Conservation Successes Turn Nuisance**

**Presenter:** Andy Kellner, Iowa DNR Natural Resource Biologist – Depredation Program

**Category:** I                      **Room:** 2nd Floor Classroom

Conservation agencies hang their hats on success stories. But, how do we handle the narrative when complaints about these same species occur? Are there areas that are too protected? There are many things to consider, such as: what the source of conflict is, what is attracting the wildlife, being a good neighbor, and what the social carrying capacity for these animals is. This discussion will provide techniques and ideas for abating some of the more common nuisance wildlife situations in Iowa including Canada geese and white-tailed deer.

#### **2. Make and Take (Later) Butterfly Earrings**

**Presenter:** Jacklyn Gautsch, Naturalist

**Category:** II                      **Room:** Main Floor

Casting butterfly wings in resin is an easy way to make beautiful jewelry. Butterfly wings are fragile and need to be protected in some way for your jewelry to last. Come learn how to prep the wings and then cast them in resin for unique nature inspired pair of earrings. Due to the nature of the resin you will make one pair of earrings during multiple short sessions that you will be able to take home at the end of the workshop. Ringgold CCB will be paying for the cost of this session that has a maximum participation of 20 people.



#### **3. Yoga Hike: Take Your Yoga Outside**

**Presenter:** Michelle Wilson, Certified Yoga + Mindfulness Instructor

**Category:** II                      **Room:** Dragoon Trace Nature Center Back Porch - Hike through Poe Hollow Park

Nature trails provide the perfect backdrop for mindful movement. Join certified yoga and mindfulness instructor Michelle Wilson for a signature yoga hike outdoors. You'll be guided in experiencing nature-based mindfulness along the trail, which will include guided breathing, movement, and mindfulness practices tailored to the setting and season. No yoga experience is necessary, and all fitness and ability levels are welcome. Wilson is an outdoor enthusiast and has been leading guided yoga hikes for more than 10 years. She through-hiked over 240 miles on the John Muir Trail in the Sierra Nevada in 2019, utilizing many of these very practices along the trail.



**10:15 – 10:30 am Break - Snack Table located in the Main Level Conference Room**

### **10:30 – 11:30 am Concurrent Sessions**

#### **1. Virtual Reality Goggles Demo**

**Presenter:** Becky Simpson, 4-H Youth Development Specialist and Bart Skroh, 4-H Youth Program Associate  
University of Missouri Extension

**Category:** II                      **Room:** 2nd Floor Classroom

Google Expeditions is an immersive education app that allows teachers and students to explore the world through over 1000 virtual-reality (VR) and 100 augmented-reality (AR) tours. You can swim with sharks, visit outer space, and more without leaving the classroom. You can bring conservation topics into the classroom by using mobile devices and VR viewers to virtually explore.

## **10:30 – 11:30 am Concurrent Sessions - Continued**

### **2. Outdoor Women Events Panel**

**Presenters:** Christina Roelofs, Naturalist for Shelby CCB/Iowa DNR, Anne Riordan, Iowa DNR, and Patti Petersen-Keys, Polk CCB

**Category:** II    **Room:** Main Floor

Programs and events that are geared towards women only can help encourage women to participate because they feel more comfortable around other women. Christina Roelofs (Shelby CCB/DNR) will present on her Beyond BOW Women, Water, and Wine. Anne Riordan (Iowa DNR) will present on her Beyond BOW Winter Gathering. Patrice Petersen-Keys (Polk CCB) will present on her Wild Women in the Woods with Wine series. We hope to give participants ideas that they can take home as well as hearing some success stories and challenges.

### **3. Podium Ink Tour**

**Presenter:** Brad Elliot, Owner

**Category:** III                    **Room:** Offsite at Podium Ink, 105 E Adams St, Mt Ayr, IA 50854 ( 5 minute drive)

Tour of our facility explaining production of signs and apparel with discussion about commonly used materials and practices. Ringgold CCB has utilized Podium Ink for park and nature center signage as well as logo development and more!



**11:30 – 1:00 pm Lunch - Carpool to the American Legion Building (1302 S Cleveland St, Mount Ayr) Jamie's Coffee Mill and Deli - Choice of Club Wrap, BLT Wrap, Chicken Fiesta Wrap, Chicken Bacon Wrap, Veggie Wrap or King Club Sandwich, Gluten Free - Grilled Chicken Salad, choice of Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Chips, Cheesecake Bites and a variety of Soda, Lemonade, Water - \$12/Plate**

**Please take time after lunch to visit our historic downtown square!**

## **1:00 – 2:15 pm Concurrent Session**

### **1. Wallace Country Life Center**

**Presenter:** Deb Houghtaling, President/CEO of The Wallace Centers of Iowa

**Category:** I & II                    **Room:** 2nd Floor Classroom

The Wallace Centers of Iowa is comprised of two historic sites (Wallace House in Des Moines, Country Life Center in rural Orient) related to the Wallace Family who were prominent in agriculture, journalism and public service. The Country Life Center is the birthplace of Henry A. Wallace, Vice President to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Secretary of Agriculture, and founder of Hi-Bred Corn Company (Pioneer). The Country Life Center location includes an orchard, a 9-acre restored prairie and 12 tillable acres for sustainably-grown produce. Farm-to-table food events and educational programs related to food, prairies, history and dialogue take place at both locations.



## **1:00 – 2:15 pm Concurrent Session - Continued**

### **2. Programming for the Elderly**

**Presenter:** Debra Robertson, RN, CCM - Program Director for Senior Life Solutions

**Category:** II & III                      **Room:** Main Floor

Becoming an active part of our Community is one of the 3 Cs at Senior Life Solutions that we embrace. The other two are: Care- providing the best possible Care; Compliance- upholding the highest standards within our programs. For the elderly population we focus on ways to improve their mental health, engage them in community activities and help them find purpose in their later years of life. Some of the ways we have impacted their lives is partnering with the Dragoon Trace Nature Center by holding informative programs centered on mental health diagnoses and engaging them in activities. Other ways we look at improving mental health in the elderly population at Senior Life Solutions Intensive Outpatient Program is by addressing not only medications and treatment options but also discussing lifestyle changes.

### **3. Delivering Community Fishing Programs and Fish Cleaning Demonstration**

**Presenter:** Andy Jansen, IDNR Natural Resources Biologist

**Category:** II                      **Room:** Offsite Fife's Grove County Park 2120 220th Ave, Mount Ayr  
(Leave from American Legion/downtown after lunch)

This program will highlight the most important things to consider when selecting a location for delivering a community fishing education program based on the results of the DNR's recently completed Community Fishing Survey. The survey indicated that one of the broadest appeals for fishing education and outreach is fish cleaning and cooking. Therefore, we will conduct a demonstration of fish cleaning so that participants gain knowledge of fish cleaning skills for future fishing education events.

## **2:15 – 2:30 pm Break & IAN Group Picture - Snack Table in Main Level Conference Room**

## **2:30 – 3:30 pm Concurrent Session**

### **1. Grand River Grassland**

**Presenter:** Chad Paup, IDNR Wildlife Biologist

**Category:** I                      **Room:** 2nd Floor Classroom

The Grand River Grassland (GRG) is comprised of an area of over 70,000 acres. It was first recognized and named by The Nature Conservancy of Iowa and Missouri. Rather than managing scattered islands of public land, the GRG represents a new

perspective of doing conservation on a scale that can significantly improve the natural health of a whole ecosystem. Approximately 60 private land owners have participated in this project area, in addition to the partnership of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Come get an overview of how the project came together, how it is currently managed, and share ideas of how you can perhaps start something similar in your area.



### **2. Creating Financial Stability**

**Presenter:** Christine J. Reiersen, AIF®, Registered Investment Adviser & Owner of Allen Knox Associates

**Category:** IV                      **Room:** Main Floor

We've all been at the same spot in our lives...trying to eliminate debt, build an emergency fund, save for retirement, home-ownership, reducing college debt, and protecting our loved ones financially. This can be overwhelming. Learn the steps you can take at any age to juggle your finances and come out on top.



## **2:30 – 3:30 pm Concurrent Session - Continued**

### **3. Nature Hike Round Table**

**Presenter:** Victoria DeVos, Plymouth CCB Naturalist

**Category:** I & II      **Room:** Outdoors in Poe Hollow County Park

All the information of a round table, but without having to sit at the table! Join fellow naturalist for a hike through Poe Hollow County area. Learn trailside tricks and activities from other hike attendees and be open to sharing your some of your own ideas with the group.

## **3:30 – 4:30 pm General Session**

### **The Greater Prairie Chicken**

**Presenter:** Josh Rusk, IDNR Natural Resource Technician 2

**Category:** I      **Room:** 2nd Floor Classroom

This presentation will discuss restoration of the Greater Prairie Chicken to the Grand River Grasslands area in southern Iowa. Prairie chickens were released 3 different times to the area to establish and maintain a population. The core Iowa population of prairie chickens resides on and around the Kellerton Wildlife Management Area. The core Missouri population resides on and around the Dunn Ranch which is managed by The Nature Conservancy. Learn about the history of the Greater Prairie Chicken in Iowa, their mating rituals (booming) and more before viewing them on the lek at the Kellerton Grasslands Bird Conservation Area on Friday morning.



**After the IAN Business Meeting, carpool to the American Legion Building for Awards, Dinner and Great Fun!**

**4:30 - 5:30 pm IAN Business Meeting - 2nd Floor Classroom**

**5:45 - 6:15 pm IAN and ICEC Awards Ceremony - American Legion Building**

**6:15 pm Dinner - American Legion Building Fat Daug BBQ, Momma C's, Jan Ford Treats & Sweets - options include Pork Loin or Vegetarian Lasagna, sides of Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Bacon Ranch Pasta Salad, Side Salad, Fruit Salad, Sugar Cookies and a Variety of Soda, Lemonade, Water - \$12/Plate**

**6:30 pm Great Nature Escape, Games and Drinks - American Legion**

Enjoy an evening of fun with your fellow naturalists. Activities planned include a nature themed escape room, games, and the legion will have a cash bar. There will be a sign up sheet at the registration table for teams of 4-6 who would like to take a crack at the Great Nature Escape.

## **Special Thanks to Our Sponsors**

### **Gold Sponsor - \$250**

**Mount Ayr Hy-Vee      Ringgold Outdoor Alliance**

### **Silver Sponsor - \$100**

**Allen Knox Associates      Mount Ayr Inn & Suites      PCSB Bank  
Napa Auto Parts      Jamie's Coffee Mill & Deli      US Bank  
Princess Theater      Ringgold County Development      Ken Herring**

### **Bronze Sponsor - \$50**

**Aunt Jennie's Attic      Uniquely Radiant Boutique - Jennifer Kellner  
Mount Ayr Chamber of Commerce      Kim Scharfenkamp  
Jay & Donna Watson      Mike & Kate Zimmerman      Cannon Port-A-John**

## Friday, March 20, 2020 - Sessions held at Kellerton Grasslands & Dragoon Trace Nature Center

**6:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast - hotel or breakfast snacks and coffee at the Nature Center**

### 6:15 – 8:30 am General Session

**Greater Prairie Chicken Viewing at Kellerton Grasslands**

**Category:** I & II

**Room:** Offsite at Kellerton Grassland

**Location:** Meet at the nature center at 6:15 am to carpool to viewing site

Join us for a unique viewing experience in Iowa! The Kellerton Grasslands Bird Conservation Area (BCA) was created in 1999 in a joint effort by the Iowa DNR, Pheasants Forever and Partners in Flight. This first in the nation grassland bird conservation area not only boasts the largest prairie chicken booming ground in Iowa but is home for many other grassland bird species as well. Some species of note observed here are the Northern Harrier, Henslow's Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper and Short-Eared Owl. The goal of this project is to provide a publicly owned, high quality core grassland area which is surrounded by privately owned and managed grasslands. As of 2014, about 4,300 acres of public land exist in this BCA, and most of this is being restored to tallgrass prairie. The area also has a handicapped accessible viewing platform from which to observe prairie chickens. It is possible to see chickens on a nice morning from October through May. The best time to view them, however, is within an hour of sunrise or sunset during their mating season from late March to early May. Spotting scopes will be available at the viewing platform for the IAN Conference to allow a closer look without disturbing the birds.



The public viewing platform is located two miles west of Kellerton on Hwy 2 and one mile south on 300th Ave.

**8:30 - 9:00 am Break**

### 9:00 - 10:00 am Concurrent Session

**1. The Power of Play: Early Childhood Development**

**Presenter:** Jane Chaillie, Graceland University School of Education

**Category:** II & III      **Room:** 2nd Floor Classroom

Let's play! Our youngest learners make sense of the world through play. This session will keep you playing as you explore early childhood development. Leave with ideas on how development can help guide you as you plan experiences for our youngest learners.



**Remember to bring tableware and snacks to share.**

## **9:00 - 10:00 am Concurrent Session - Continued**

### **2. Fishing Has No Boundaries**

**Presenter:** Jill Schmidt, Naturalist for Clinton CCB & Adam Ohsann, Park Technician Scott CCB

**Category:** II **Room:** Main Floor

Fishing Has No Boundaries®, Inc. (FHNB) is a non-profit 501-C3 organization whose goal is to open up the great outdoors for people with disabilities through the world of fishing. FHNB has grown into a National Organization with 27 chapters in 13 states, enabling thousands of individuals with disabilities to participate fully in this spirit-lifting, morale-boosting, trouble-free recreational activity. The Eastern Iowa Chapter is the only chapter located in Iowa; we are hoping to expand this amazing opportunity to other parts of the state! We will take a closer look at how to get started, how this event can evolve and be an amazing addition to your education program.



**10:00 - Brunch Casey's General Store Sausage Breakfast Pizza or Veggie Breakfast Pizza, a Variety of Fruit, Donuts and Pastries, Coffee, Water, Orange Juice - No Charge**

**Depart - Safe Travels and See you at Summer IAN in Lee County August 5th – 7th**

## **Professional Development Category**

**Category I -Knowledge of Natural Resources**

**Category II -Program Development and Educational Skills**

**Category III -Communication Skills**

**Category IV -Administrative Skills**

**Category V -Other Certification/Training**

The Professional Development Program is designed to recognize IAN Naturalists that attend workshops and educational opportunities on a regular basis to make themselves better at their profession. Certificates are awarded annually to naturalists completing the required continuing education. The first five categories are based on the major areas of the Professional Standards for Interpretive Naturalist as defined by the Iowa Association of Naturalists. Professional Service is the sixth category. The applicant must earn 20 contact hours per year. Ways to earn these hours include attending seminars, correspondence courses, workshops, regular college courses and independent study. Independent study must be documented with a brief written explanation.

## **Questions????**

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