



Fall IAN Workshop 2025

"Tilden on Maslow: Back to the Basics"

November 5th-7th



**Wapsi River Environmental
Education Center**
31555 52nd Ave,
Dixon, IA 52745

*Wednesday, November 5th - Offsite and
Extended Learning Sessions*

Option 1: Forest Bathing

Cost: \$25 **Time:** 1:00 - 4:00PM **Category:** I

Presenter: Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, *Certified Forest
Therapy Guide, Forest Spirit LLC*

Meet at Wapsi River Environmental Education Center.

This immersive session invites educators to slow down, breathe deeply, reset, and reconnect with nature and self. Through mindful invitations, participants will explore the calming, restorative benefits of being present in the forest—supporting reduced stress, enhanced mental clarity, and a deeper connection to the natural world. Rediscover calm and return to your work refreshed, inspired, and renewed. Limit 15 people.

Option 2: Nahant Marsh Tour & Birding Experience

Cost: Free **Time:** 1:00-4:00PM **Category:** I

Presenters: Nahant Marsh staff

**Meet at Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave.,
Davenport, IA. Meet at Bldg. A**

***To avoid getting stuck by the train and road closures on S.
Concord, enter Wapello Ave. from Rockingham Rd/Hwy 22.**

Discover the rich history and restoration efforts of our Nahant Marsh! This session will begin with a presentation highlighting the preserve's unique history from sportsmen's club to EPA Superfund site to the protected preserve it is today. We will also highlight the ongoing restoration projects that help keep the marsh thriving. Then, we'll explore the trails, visit different habitats, and watch for migrating waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway—home to over 200 bird species. The tour will conclude with a tour of our Education Center and Operations Building.

- Binoculars provided (or bring your own)
- Dress for the weather & wear sturdy shoes
- Rain or shine (indoor activities if needed)

Limit 24 people.





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Option 3: Natural Pottery

Cost: Free **Time:** 1:00-4:00PM **Category:** I & II
Presenter: Mike Granger, *Scott County Conservation*

Meet at Wapsi River Environmental Education Center, Eagle View Eco Center. Join Naturalist Mike Granger for a lesson on Natural Pottery. Learn how to locate and harvest natural clay, the history of pottery, and primitive pottery techniques. Then using your new knowledge create a pinch pot, and an animal or gnome to take home. Finally, learn how to fire your creation on your own. All materials will be provided. Class is limited to 15 participants.



Option 4: Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village Walking Tour

Cost: Free **Time:** 1:00-4:00PM **Category:** I
Presenter: Susan Laures, *Pioneer Village*

Meet at Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village - 18817 290th Street, Long Grove, IA (North edge of Scott County Park). Pioneer Village Coordinator Susan Laures will give a tour of the historic Pioneer Village with time to explore on your own. Walnut Grove was a Scott County cross-roads settlement and stage coach stop of the 1860s. The Village includes 22 historic buildings, some relocated from rural Scott County. Pioneer Village has accessible and modern restroom facilities. Class is limited to 12 participants.



After: Dinner on own Here are a few recommendations from Scott County Conservation staff: DeWitt:

MezCal (delicious Mexican food and margaritas), Golden Wok (Chinese food), Hall of Fame Pizza and Wings, the Old Library (burgers, limited menu), Twisted Paddle Brewery (craft beer and giant pretzels), Van's (bar food); Coffee stops: the Summit Café, Blondie's Coffee Out Back, Brent's Firehouse Coffee (near the hotel!)

Eldridge:

Maloney's Pub (American food), Miquel's Street Tacos, Cabos Cantina and Grill (Mexican), Hungry Hobo (sub sandwiches), Domino's pizza, New Hong Kong Chinese; Coffee stops: Sips Coffee (drive through only), Cody Road Coffee

Donahue:

Brad's Pizza, Ray's Pub

Dixon:

the Legion (pub food)

We are also near the World's Largest Truck Stop! The Iowa 80 Truck Stop (near Dixon): Taco Bell, Wendy's, Dairy Queen, Caribou Coffee and other fast food options

And Slaby's pub

Thursday, November 6th - Sessions at the Environmental Education Center

6:00- 8:00 AM Breakfast - Continental breakfast at hotel

8:30 - 9:30 AM - Registration

9:30 AM - Welcome, Announcements & Introductions

9:45- 10:45 AM - General Session

Leave No Trace- Then and Now

Presenter: Dave Murcia, *Scott County Conservation* **Category:** I & II
Building: Wapsi River Learning Center

Join Director Dave Murcia for an update on Leave No Trace, principles, ethics, and research behind the international organization. Leave No Trace is grounded in science and research and has been since its origins in the field of recreation ecology. This has evolved over the years as recreation-related impacts and associated monitoring has incorporated human dimensions of natural resources, striving to understand how and why humans cause impacts and, ultimately, how to influence behaviors to decrease recreational-related impacts.



10:45 - 11:15 AM - Break

11:15 - 12:15 PM - Concurrent Sessions

A Year with the Sauk and Meskwaki

Presenter: Julie Nelson, *Hauberg Museum* **Category:** I
Building: Wapsi River Learning Center

The Sauk and Meskwaki were the last indigenous tribes to occupy the 400 miles of Mississippi River valley from the Wisconsin River to the Missouri River. From 1735 until 1831, they made their home in the region surrounding present day Quad Cities. Join Hauberg Museum Director Julie Nelson to learn how the Sauk and Meskwaki people ordered their lives by the cycle of the seasons and utilized the area's abundant natural resources for nearly a century.



Welcome to IAN

Presenters: Bri Blom, *IAN Welcoming Committee* **Category:** II
Building: Eagle View Eco Center

New to the crew? This session will go through all the nitty gritty details about the organization and what it has to offer YOU! New to the job? Want to get more involved? Want more money for your organization? Do you want tips and tricks to survive the first five years of your new gig? This session is all about how IAN can support YOU!



12:15 - 1:45 PM - Lunch & Business Meeting

Cabos Cantina & Grill

- 2 each/person: Beef or cheese enchiladas (corn tortillas, GF)
- Rice, Beans, Chips/salsa
- Cost: \$15



Naturalists...

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

Visit us at www.iowanaturalists.org

Thursday, November 6th - Sessions at the Environmental Education Center

12:15 - 1:45 PM - Lunch & Business Meeting



1:45 - 2:45 PM - Concurrent Sessions

School of the Wild

Presenter: Jay Gorsh, *University of Iowa School of the Wild* **Category:** II, III, IV
Building: Wapsi River Learning Center

From Davenport to Council Bluffs, Decorah to Central Decatur...What we've learned from 5 years of the Statewide School of the Wild effort. In an interactive forum, we'll discuss pros, cons, and future directions. If you've participated already, please come share your experiences. If you've yet to participate, come ready to learn, pose questions, and/or get involved.

Water and Citizen Science

Presenter: Liv Humphrey, *Partners of Scott County Watersheds* **Category:** II
Building: Eagle View Eco Center

Join Liv Humphrey with Partners of Scott County Watersheds (PSCW) as she goes over the mission of PSCW, history, projects, and the importance of their long-standing citizen science work, best known as the Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer Event. Snapshot occurs 2-3 times a year for the past 20+ years, collecting usable water quality data all around Scott County and implementing it to enhance, protect, and restore our watersheds.



Partners of Scott County Watersheds



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Thursday, November 6th - Sessions at the Environmental Education Center

2:45 - 3:45 PM - Concurrent Sessions

Friends' Groups—the Nitty Gritty

Presenters: Lucia Dryanski and Carol Rogers, *Friends of the Wapsi Center* **Category:** IV
Building: Wapsi River Learning Center

How do you start a Friends' Group? What do they do? How do you sustain the group over time? Join Friends of the Wapsi founding member Carol Rogers, and current co-president Lucia Dryanski as they share stories and lessons from the organization's 32 years. Learn the origins and evolving history of the group, discuss best practices, and learn from our experience, both challenges and successes.



Connecting to Classroom Standards: Highlighting new and creative ways to connect environmental phenomena to classroom learning standards.

Presenter: Gus Elliot, *IADNR Conservation Education Specialist* **Category:** II, III
Building: Eagle View Eco Center

We will highlight and demonstrate some great ideas from all over the state where naturalists and teachers work together to give students great natural experiences. Oftentimes teachers need some help seeing the connection to their core standards. We will share some ideas to help facilitate that understanding and match the needs of schools. As a part of this session we plan to model a few examples of integrating local natural experiences into science classrooms. Come ready to learn, discuss, and get your hands dirty.



3:45 - 4 PM - Group Picture & Break

4:15 - 5:15 PM - Concurrent Sessions

Wonders of Bats

Presenters: Becky Baugh and Paige Owings, *Scott County Conservation* **Category:** I, II
Building: Wapsi River Learning Center

Bats are an incredibly important part of our ecosystem and they provide so much (possibly unknown to you) value. Join Becky and Paige as we share some of the wonders of bats! In this session we will walk you through the development of our bat program and how we got it going and then we will go through the program as we would with a group of students. You get to be bat scientists! Don't worry, you don't need PPE or anything—we've got you covered with model bats.



Ins and Outs of NAI: Why be a Member?

Presenters: Billie Wille, *NAI Heartland Region Treasurer* & Bri Blom, *NAI Heartland Region Deputy Director* **Category:** II, IV
Building: Eagle View Eco Center

Becoming a member of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) means joining a nationwide community of professionals dedicated to connecting people with the natural and cultural resources that define our shared heritage. NAI membership is more than just belonging to an organization—it's an investment in your personal and professional growth. It provides opportunities to expand your knowledge, strengthen your skills, and connect with others who are passionate about inspiring understanding and appreciation of our world. We'll explore why NAI membership is a vital step for both you and your organization, and how it can help you tell everyone's story with authenticity and impact.



Questions???? Raina Genaw- rainagenaw@gmail.com

Thursday, November 6th - Sessions at the Environmental Education Center

5:15 - 6:15 PM - General Session

Training to Train the Trust

Presenter: Adam Shirley, ICCS & Dan Cohen, retired Buchanan CCB director

Category: I, II

Building: Wapsi River Learning Center

Learn about the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund and materials aimed at empowering and encouraging educators to inform all Iowans about it.



6:15 PM - Dinner

Matthiesen's

- Baked chicken or BBQ Beef
- Vegetarian lasagna (GF)
- Sides: Cheesy potatoes and Tossed salad/dressing
- Dessert: Pumpkin bars
- Cost: \$16



Fundraising Trivia Night!

- Thursday after the conference (7pm-9pm)
- \$5/person (cash) to play
- Teams randomly assigned-go make a friend!
- Fun themes including nature AND more - see how smart naturalists are



Participants can register online at:
<https://portal.mycountyparks.com/Org-Event/Default.aspx>

Friday, November 7th - Sessions at the Environmental Education Center

6:00- 8:00 AM Breakfast - Continental breakfast at hotel

8:15 AM - Announcements

8:30 - 9:30 AM - General Session

Principles First Farming: Soil, Plant, Animal, Human, and Planet Health

Presenters: Monte Bottens **Category:** I

Building: Wapsi River Learning Center

Monte Bottens will show how he makes his farming decisions utilizing the 5 Soil Health Principles. He will walk you through his family farm's journey, leadership his teams are providing other farmers, and the future of what is possible for his and his fellow farmers.

9:30 - 10 AM - Break

10 - 11 AM - Concurrent Sessions

Foraging 101: Building a Foraging Program One Bite at a Time

Presenter: Becky Baugh, *Scott County Conservation* **Category:** I, II

Building: Wapsi River Learning Center

Interested in teaching about Foraging, but have no idea where to start? That was me about 8 years ago. Learn how to make a foraging program from scratch and incorporate it into all seasons. Along the way, I have added different flavors into the foraging program including invasive plants, mushrooms, non-edibles, and even ART! Try a sample of what I offer during my foraging programs and try your hand at a little nature art!



Sandhill Preservation Center

Presenter: Glenn Drowns, *Sandhill Preservation Center* **Category:** I

Building: Eagle View Eco Center

Sandhill Preservation Center is a private gene bank and promotor of sustainable agriculture. We strive to create environments for pollinators, native plants and animals and incorporate sustainable methods into our farm practices all focusing on the preservation of over 2900 varieties of vegetable crops and 230 breeds of heritage poultry. Sustainable methods will be discussed as well as ways to grow crops without the use of any pesticides.



11- 12 PM - Concurrent Sessions

Growth and Grief - A glimpse into the past, present, and future connections between plants and the care of our lost loved ones

Presenter: Andra Olney-Larson, *Casper Creek Natural Cemetery* **Category:** I **Building:** Wapsi River Learning Center

Join Andra Olney-Larson for an interactive, historical, and healing journey through the uses and significance of specific plant species and their connections to honoring the dead across time, across the globe, and in one's own backyard. This one-hour presentation will include the use of herbs in ancient Greece and Egypt, Victorian flower language, global floral elements, and bringing focus to the restored prairies of Iowa and the Driftless region to learn more of the elements of native plants and their prevalence in tradition. Participants are encouraged to create and acknowledge their own special connections to people and plants in harmony.



Friday, November 7th - Sessions at the Environmental Education Center

Lawn & Order: Cultivating a Sustainable Lawn Revolution

Presenter: Christian LaCarte **Category:** I

Building: Eagle View Eco Center

Founded in 2019- Sustainable Stewards was created solely based on one statistic. The EPA estimated that 5% of all air pollution in the United States was due to lawn equipment. This is a huge chunk of the pie that wasn't being addressed by anyone. This is where the idea was born- create an electric lawn care company that can charge while on the go during route, using alternative energy methods such as solar. This closes the energy loop and we can sustain a full day's work just by using the sun! The rest is history. Since birth, we have expanded to all of Scott County, parts of Cedar and Clinton County, and most of Johnson County. We will cover soil health, weed control, new growth, alternative energy methods, and why our approach to these topics matter greatly.



12:00 PM - Lunch/Depart- Don't forget to return your name tag!

Boxed sandwich lunches from local specialty shops! Meals come with chips and a cookie.

Carnivore: ham-turkey-provolone, herbivore: veggies, and gluten-free

\$15

Thank you to Dave Murcia and Scott County Conservation for hosting!



Lodging

AmericInn by Wyndham, DeWitt, Iowa

2520 12th St Ct
DeWitt, IA 52742
(563) 659-5500

To book a room call and mention that you want a room that is blocked for "IAN"
40 rooms are available for the Fall IAN Workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 5th, and Thursday, Nov. 6th, 2025.

Free on-site camping available at the Wapsi Center. Call (563)328-3286 in advance.

Free firewood
Restrooms
Cooking kitchen

Alternate Lodging (No block of rooms has been reserved for these locations)

Comfort Inn & Suites by Choice Hotels
8300 Northwest Blvd, Davenport, IA 52806
(563) 324-8300