

# IOWA'S COUNTY CONSERVATION SYSTEM

## APRIL

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### FOREST RESERVE

In 1906, the Iowa Legislature laid the groundwork for preserving the state's forest resources with the Forest and Fruit Tree Reservation Act, also known as the Forest Reserve Program. Over its 118-year history, this program has evolved, adapting to the changing landscape of conservation in Iowa.

Today, discussions surrounding the Forest Reserve Program revolve around finding a balance between conservation goals and fiscal responsibility. While the program aims to incentivize landowners to maintain forested lands for conservation purposes through property tax incentives, concerns have emerged regarding potential property tax revenue loss for counties, tax breaks for absentee landowners, and abuse of program requirements. Recent legislative proposals have sought to address these concerns. One suggested granting County Boards of Supervisors the authority to deny the forest reserve tax exemption and to increase the minimum acreage requirement to 5 acres for enrollment. However, consensus on these changes has been elusive, with differing opinions across the state. The distribution of forest reserve acres varies widely among counties, from just a few acres to tens of thousands. For some counties, the potential revenue loss from property tax exemptions is minimal, while others stand to lose significant sums annually. This discrepancy underscores the complexity of finding equitable solutions that balance conservation goals with fiscal considerations.

Iowa's County Conservation System (ICCS) has been a forum for voicing diverse perspectives on proposed changes to the Forest Reserve Program. While no changes were enacted during the recent legislative session, the issue remains on the legislative agenda for future deliberations. As discussions continue, it will be crucial for County Conservation Boards to engage with local citizens and the Board of Supervisors to educate them about the program's impact on their local ecosystem and economy. Each county must advocate for changes that align with their unique circumstances while keeping the broader conservation goals in mind.

While the future of Iowa's Forest Reserve Program may be uncertain, one thing is clear: the program's legacy of preserving and enhancing Iowa's natural landscapes should continue to guide discussions and decisions for the benefit of our future generations. For more information about the Forest Reserve Program, visit here.

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Forestry-Landowner-Assistance>

### DATES

May 9th ICCS Board of Directors Meeting  
Des Moines

June 19th District VI  
Scott County

ISAC August 21st-23rd  
Des Moines

September 17th-19th  
ICCS Fall Conference  
Pivo Brewery, Calmar

October 1st & 2nd  
ICCS New Employee  
School & MCP  
E-commerce Summit

CCPOA Fall Training  
October 7th- 9th

October 16th & 17th  
New Director Training





# POWESHIEK HOSTS DISTRICT I MEETING



The District I spring meeting was held in Poweshiek County on April 19th. The day began with a songbird banding program led by Bob VanErsvelde. The program lasted a few hours and led to some hands-on trapping and banding of Iowa Songbird Species. Of course, there was lunch, a successful business meeting, and important updates from Poweshiek CCB and its relatively young and new staff, as well as ICCS. Poweshiek CCB is working through what will be a complex lake restoration project at Diamond Lake. The lake is in desperate need of dredging but is currently the water supply for the city of Montezuma. This means that the town will have to drill a new temporary well while the lake is drained and dredged. None of this would be effective without restoring the wetlands, which catch silt and filter water upstream from the lake. This will be a multi-year project, but it will greatly benefit the fishery and those who enjoy the park.

## NEW EMPLOYEE SCHOOL & E-ECOMMERCE DATES SET

Mark your calendars for the ICCS new Employee School on October 1st and the E-commerce Summit on October 2nd. These one-day events will be held at Briggs Woods Event Center in Hamilton County. The New Employee School is recommended for all new employees to orient them on various important aspects of their future careers, from local government dynamics to interagency partnerships, IPERS benefits, along with broader exposure to Iowa's County Conservation System and our affiliates. This one-day crash course will connect employees to the Statewide system and send them home with a better foundation for a successful career in County Conservation.

## FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN SOON

The District II fall conference committee continues to meet on a monthly basis to nail down details for this year's event in Fayette and Wineishiek Counties in the beautiful Driftless region of Northeast Iowa. The conference will be held September 17th-19th. Look for online registration to go live in mid-May. Thanks to the host counties and District II for all your efforts so far.



# NEW DIRECTOR FOR DELAWARE CCB



Kyle Soderblom, who recently moved to Delaware County from the Newton area, has been appointed the new Executive Director for Delaware County Conservation Department.

Soderblom has worked in a conservation position for Mahaska County Conservation as a seasonal park ranger. He has a passion for the outdoors which led him to pursue a degree in Biology with an emphasis on environmental studies from William Penn University. He enjoys spending time with family, wife Jen and new son Boe. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and many recreational and outdoor activities.

Soderblom is excited to serve Delaware County and continue to provide a wide variety of land management, ecological, educational, and recreational opportunities. He aims to ensure public areas are maintained and continually improved for years to come.

Tom Allyn, Chairman of the Delaware County Conservation Board, commented that the Board is excited to have Kyle begin his career as Executive Director and that he is committed to leadership for the Delaware County Conservation Department. The Board would also like to thank Garlyn Glanz, who is retiring soon after serving as Executive Director for 45 years.



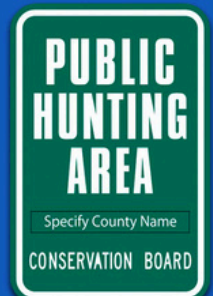
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# GARLAND GLANZ TO RETIRE FROM DELAWARE CCB

For Garlyn Glanz, a passion for conservation was sparked early on during his college studies with an environmental emphasis. This initial interest led him to embark on a career dedicated to preserving and enhancing natural landscapes, a journey that began with a seasonal position in park maintenance in Delaware County. This opportunity led to a remarkable 45-year career in the field of conservation.

Garlyn became the Executive Director In May 1979, along the way he experienced many significant milestones like overseeing the construction of a new Conservation Center building , followed by the addition of two large equipment and material storage buildings, and the expansion and development of four campgrounds with upgraded amenities. Garlyn's contributions extend beyond infrastructure improvements. His efforts include the establishment of numerous acres of native grass and seedling trees plantings aimed at providing vital wildlife habitat. Additionally, Garlyn played a pivotal role in trout stream habitat improvements, facilitating increased public access and fostering a deeper connection between people and nature.

Garlyn was involved in securing grants for the reconstruction of the Delhi Dam on Lake Delhi (Maquoketa River), working closely with local citizen groups, supervisors, conservation boards, state legislators, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Garlyn cherishes the memories of working alongside a supportive Conservation Board and the camaraderie shared with colleagues and employees. The addition of 1,050 acres of land for park expansion and wildlife habitat preservation was another top highlight of his career.

Garlyn emphasizes the importance of perseverance in the face of challenges and highlights the many rewarding moments that await those committed to making a difference in the conservation field. He plans to spend more time with his family, particularly his grandchildren, and immerse himself in family farm activities, including managing CRP plantings and developing wildlife habitats. He also hopes to explore trout stream locations beyond Delaware County. We would like to extend our gratitude to Garlyn for 45 years of service to Iowa's County Conservation System!



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# BUTLER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD



## FILL THE CENTER



# OUTDOOR FUND DAY

Help the Butler CCB fill the Allan and Fayette Meyer Nature Center with educational, interactive displays.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024**

**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**ALLAN AND FAYETTE MEYER NATURE CENTER**

**27887 195TH STREET**

**CLARKSVILLE, IA 50619**

Entry to the event and most activities is free. Free will offering for walking taco lunch. Silent Auction, Raffle Drawing, Story Tellers, Live Owls, Shooting Sports, and SO MUCH MORE!!

All are welcome.

See [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com) for full details and schedule.

**Raffle Tickets \$20 a piece or 6 for \$100**



**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



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check out [VisitDecorah.com](http://VisitDecorah.com) for more lodging options!



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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. Cerro Gordo County - Naturalist
2. Greene County - Naturalist
3. Des Moines Co. - Watershed Coordinator
4. Marion County - Executive Director
5. Marion County - Maintenance Technician
6. Franklin County - Naturalist
7. Hamilton County - Park Ranger
8. Ida County - Executive Director
9. Black Hawk County - Conservation Ranger II
10. Crawford County - Park Ranger
11. Pottawattamie County - Executive Director
12. Butler County - Part-Time Office Assistant
13. Wapello County - Conservation Technician
14. Harrison County - Resource Technician
15. Winnebago County - Executive Director
16. Polk County - Recreational Attendant

45 + SEASONAL POSITIONS ON WEBSITE!!

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx>