

KEYNOTE – WEDNESDAY

OVER THE HORIZON: Exploring the Edges of a Changing Planet

David Thoreson
Photographer, Sailor

With his many extreme adventures exploring the physical boundaries of the planet, photographer and sailor David Thoreson has a unique and entertaining story. David grew up in Algona, Iowa, and learned to sail and love the waters of Lake Okoboji as a boy. Thoreson developed a career based on documentary photography, water quality advocacy and conservation issues. Thoreson then took these experiences with him to lead a life of exploration and discovery at the far reaches of the globe sailing over 65,000 nautical miles.

David's presentation demonstrates the interconnectivity of people, land and water, both at the local and global levels. It combines stunning visuals and storytelling about sailing in the ice, lives of native hunters, scientists in the Arctic and ultimately discovering and meeting the issue of climate change face-to-face. Thoreson is an Explorers Club Fellow and the only American explorer in history to sail the Arctic's Northwest Passage in both directions. For more information on Thoreson, including information on his book "Over the Horizon," please visit

www.davidthoreson.com .



A FRIENDLY REMINDER!

Be sure to dress in layers as it is impossible to have the perfect temperature in each session room.

"Some like it hot and some like it cold. Some like it in the pot nine days old!"



Concurrent Session Descriptions Wednesday, January 25th, 2017

Conveying a conservation ethic to under-engaged audiences in your landscape Ryan Harr, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

We as natural resource professionals are in our roles because we get to do what we love - be outdoors, restore and manage habitats, provide and participate in outdoor recreation. Most would say we possess a passion about what we do; perhaps in a deeper sense one would describe it as a conservation ethic. But conveying and communicating that ethic to our neighbors, local landowners, and audiences is an often difficult task, yet it may be the among the most critical things we do. Nearly all research show vast majorities of people indicate support for natural resources and conservation, still in many instances those audiences remain under-engaged. With a focus on conservation in our local landscapes, we'll discuss barriers, misconceptions, and strategies for conveying your conservation ethic to landowners, neighbors, and communities. Understanding the who, the why, the definition, the process and the timeframe all become critical components as we seek in increase conservation of habitats and practices across the landscape.

NWTF Iowa Introducing the Outdoor Lifestyle to New Audiences Stacey Stipe Smith, NWTF Iowa Save the Hunt Coordinator



The Iowa State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation recently created and implemented a program called Connecting Individuals to the Outdoors AND restructured existing outreach programs like Women in the Outdoors to reverse the decline in hunting participation across the state.

The programs are designed to create a community and support group where individuals, ages 18-45, can engage with and learn from experienced mentors in a low-stress environment. We teach safe handling of firearms, introduction to wildlife and habitats, scouting tips, what to do when a participant harvests an animal and wild-game cooking. We are trying to provide participants the skills they have been asking for. The programs also provide an insight into the essential hunting gear and clothing items participants need on introductory hunts.

Live and Let Die- The Ongoing Fight Against Invasives Joe Kooiker, Vegetation Management Biologist, Story County Conservation

Iowa is one of the most altered landscapes in the nation; and currently has a reputation of coming in first place when it comes to Invasive Plants per square mile. Obviously trying to manage these noxious, "obnoxious", and invasive intruders within our natural areas, roadsides and beyond is a challenge. Fighting invasive plants takes dedicated time, staff and funding. In order to make progress it is important to keep track of what has been done whether good, bad or ugly.

The Story County Vegetation Management team will go over things learned from 30 years of experience attempting to control invasive plant species. This session will cover the latest trends in vegetation management techniques. This will include species identification, current herbicides, rates, and application methods.



Bound for the Barrens

Vern Fish, Executive Director, Black Hawk County Conservation



Ernest Carl Oberholtzer (Ober) is a native Iowan who was born and buried in Davenport, Iowa. Ober played a key role in creating the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Quetico Provincial Park. He joined Aldo Leopold as one of the founding members of the Wilderness Society. For fifty years he was the voice of wilderness in Northern Minnesota. Oberholtzer has been described as one of America's most important environmental leaders. Yet, he is all but unknown in his native Iowa.

In 1912 Ernest Oberholtzer and Billy Magee embarked on an epic 2000 mile canoe trip across northern Manitoba to Hudson Bay and back to Lake Winnipeg.

This presentation will retrace 130 miles of Ober's 1912 adventure and visit his home on Mallard Island on Rainy Lake in Northern Minnesota.

Wetland restoration: stepping back-to-basics in Iowa's novel ecosystems

Ryan Harr, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Wetlands were once one of the most prominent features of Iowa's landscape; their loss is an oft-cited cause of water quality issues, declining wildlife populations, and increased flooding. But when given a chance to restore wetland systems, do we do so appropriately? As is the case with many things in the conservation world, wetland restoration is as much art as it is science. However, restoration programs and practices frequently give in to over-engineering, under-restoring, or restoring out-of-context. Landscape memory and landscape capability are all too often overlooked in wetland restoration planning, and typically ecologic processes are overlooked in favor over restoration practices. Iowa's novel ecosystems present new challenges and are rife with constraints. Given the limited opportunities to restore wetland systems, it's good for us all - seasoned practitioners as well as new professionals - to take a step back to the basic considerations when planning restorations. We'll take a look at those considerations, as well as resources, programs, and other factors in this discussion.



Iowa Rivers Revival

Molly Hanson, Executive Director, Iowa Rivers Revival

Iowa is the land between America's two greatest rivers and has over 70,000 miles of interior rivers and streams. Rivers provide water for drinking, recreation, economic development, wildlife habitat and quality of life. Rivers face many threats, included flooding, pollution, erosion and apathy for conservation priorities. IRR is working to ensure our rivers are safe, clean, and enjoyable for future generations.



No time to SWOT

Alan Feirer – President, Group Dynamic

We can all think of situations when we spent too much time for too few results on strategic analysis, goal-setting, and action-planning. What if we could spend a fraction of that time on processes that generate measurable short-term results? We can. This program provides proven, quick, and sticky ideas to balance the needs of strategic analysis and planning with the limited number of hours in the day. Learn how to use simple tools that keep people engaged. Tools that everyone can adopt, and find ways to implement. In the process, we can see change sooner, experience the satisfaction that our time was well-spent, and know we're on the right track.



Why the .223/5.56?

John Metzger – Instructor – Iowa Law Enforcement Academy



Why the 223? Dispelling the myths behind the 223 and why it is ideally suited for today's Iowa Law Enforcement.

Turtle Legislative Update

Chad Dolan, Fisheries Biologist, Iowa DNR



The session will include updates on recent governmental action in regards to regulating turtle harvest in Iowa. The presentation will also summarize the Iowa DNR's efforts aimed at monitoring turtles, both now, and over the next 5 years. Preliminary results of recent turtle research efforts will be included where pertinent.

Hook and Hunt University

Chris Lee, Executive Director, Des Moines County Conservation

Hook & Hunt University (HHU) is a new program designed to recruit a new generation of hunters and anglers by pairing the time and talents of local sportsmen with novice outdoorsmen and women in the community in ways that are "Fun. Social. Outdoors." CCB Director and HHU program co-founder Chris Lee will describe the successes and hurdles encountered in launching the world's first HHU program in Des Moines County, Iowa.



Hazard Tree Removal

Chris Henze, Roadside Manager, Johnson County Secondary Roads



Removing a hazard tree can be a dangerous, challenging endeavor- in this presentation, learn some of the tools and techniques utilized to safely bring down a tree. Whether it's overhead utilities, traffic control problems, trees over homes/fences, etc. you need a plan that keeps you, your workers, and the public safe.

When Sparks Fly- Conflict In the Workplace

Terry Whitson, TW Training

Do you ever have conflict at work and you're not sure how to handle it? Some degree of conflict is to be expected when two or more people work together. We will discuss what triggers conflict in our work place, assess how you deal with conflict one-on-one, the challenges of dealing with conflict in a group setting, and the basic principles of managing conflict in your workplace. We'll get you to think outside your comfort zone by exploring various approaches to making decisions and solving problems when facing difficult situations.



Tale of 400 Muskies

Pete Hildreth, Muskie Fishing Addict

For Pete Hildreth July 3, 1996, started an addiction and love for North America's top freshwater fish the Muskie. The biologist in Pete has meant extensive record keeping documenting his 400 plus Muskie catches throughout the last 20 years. Come hear Pete share tales of his experience catching 400 plus muskies including an in-depth look at IA's great Muskie fishing opportunities. Caution listening to this presentation may result in catching Muskie Fever!

Generations/Smenerations: A Fresh Perspective to Change the Discussion About the Generations in the Workplace
Cassandra Halls, President, 2 The Top

Are you tired of hearing about all the generational issues in the workplace? Boomers, Xers, Millennials. WHEW! Trying to understand all of these perspectives is exhausting! Join us for an interactive discussion on new ideas, approaches and strategies that will work to recruit, motivate and retain ALL people who are an integral part of your workforce.



Objectives:

1. Learn about a new perspective to better align ALL of the different segments of your workforce.
2. Understand key strategies that will improve your work culture, prepare your organization for long-term success and a new way to invest in recruitment, retention and motivation efforts to reduce budget costs.
3. Identify the key things you need to be focused on to implement new ideas.

Roadside Seeding

Chris Henze, Roadside Manager, Johnson County Secondary Roads



Seeding, erosion and sediment control, and planting work in the Right of Way presents some unique challenges. Whether you're seeding native vegetation, lawns, or a butterfly garden, this presentation will focus on what species to plant, where, and how to do it, along with discussing the various erosion control techniques such as BFM's, RECP's, sediment logs, etc. that are regularly used by IRVM Programs.

REAP, I WiLL, and more - Together we can make it happen!

Matt Cosgrove, Dan Cohen, Tom Hazelton – Directors Webster & Buchanan County Conservation, ISAC Legislative Liaisons & CEO IACCB

Regardless of your position in the County Conservation Board system, you can play a role in determining the future of conservation efforts in Iowa by lending a hand to the most sweeping and beneficial funding legislation ever proposed in the state of Iowa. Learn details of proposed legislation, current Iowa law, Iowa constitution, and strategic efforts that can significantly impact natural resources and outdoor recreation in Iowa - for generations to come.

