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Dan Kane



February 17 & 18, 2022

Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center
Oglesby, IL

www.iacd.online / info@iacd.online
603 N. Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

Thursday, February 17, 2022

- 9am - 12pm** **Pre-Conference Workshops** (Pre-registration required)
Five-Step Chainsaw Felling Plan - LaSalle Room
Increase Student Skill in Environmental Action Civics - Utica Room
- 12pm - 12:30pm** **Boxed Lunches** (workshops & pre-order only) - Great Hall
- 12:30pm - 1pm** **Conference Check-In** - Great Hall
- 1pm - 1:15pm** **Welcome** - Starved Rock Room (SRR)
- 1:15pm - 2pm** **Keynote Speaker** - Starved Rock Room
Pete Jackson, Kaina Gonzalez, Brenna Ness
Conservation For All: What Does It Means and How

Pete Jackson has a B.S. in biology from Western Illinois University, a Masters degree in biology from Northeastern Illinois University, and a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He is currently on the board of The Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, for which he coordinates conservation workdays. He is a cofounder of Conversación de Conservación, or C de C (pronounced “say day say”) a Latino outreach collaborative effort in McHenry County. He is currently retired and works almost full time as a conservation volunteer.

Kaina Gonzalez will be graduating with a B.S. in Biology from the University of Illinois at Chicago this Spring. She is a recent alumni of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program and a current intern with the National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes Regional Center. She is particularly interested in working in aquatic environments and looks forward to making the outdoors a more inclusive space for the Latinx community.

Brenna Ness has a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Iowa State University and a B.S. in Zoology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She joined the staff at McHenry County Conservation District in 2021, where she manages 6,000 acres within the District’s Farm Program. She is excited about her return to Illinois after spending the last 6 years working for Delaware Wild Lands, a non-profit conservation organization in Delaware.

Breakout I

2:15pm - 3:15pm

Determining Natural Quality of Natural Communities or Why a Species List Isn’t Enough

Randy Nybor (Starved Rock Room)

Evaluating the quality of natural communities in natural areas during the INAI was important in determining whether a site was of statewide significance. We will look at what it takes to interpret the natural quality of a prairie and a forest in this session.

The Watershed Approach: Utilizing Public and Private Partnerships to Improve Water Quality in Copperas Creek Watershed

Dawn Temple and Rich Stewart (LaSalle Room)

In 2003, a group of watershed residents concerned about streambank erosion began work with Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District (RISWCD) and NRCS staff to complete a locally led planning effort designed to help land users identify necessary conservation practices and develop a Resource Plan for the watershed. Projects within the current grant have been mostly streambank stabilization projects as well as several WASCObS, grassed waterways, and one structure.

District Archives

Bailey Rewoldt (Utica Room)

Many people tend to think of historical truths as discoveries waiting to be used in our programs and interpretive signs. However, historical knowledge fades away with the passing of time. Our knowledge of history is made richer by our efforts to preserve these irreplaceable items. This presentation will cover different ways of gathering and caring for these items.



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Breakout II

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Making Connections: Supporting Conservation Career Opportunities

Dr. Tasha Davis and Mark Freedland (Utica)

Establishing a new partnership between organizations can be tricky. This session will cover the steps our organizations are taking to showcase local conservation career opportunities for college students.

Tools of the Trade

Josh Clark and Cinde Rendle (SSR)

The presentation will discuss the process of data collection utilized for land management tracking and decision making. Highlights include the capabilities that current software provides in displaying and showcasing data through dashboards and mapping capabilities. Also, a video tour of the Afton Forest Preserve seed and plant propagation area.

History of Nature Study

Jessica Prince (LaSalle)

To know where you are, learn what came before. Learn the events and icons that laid the foundation for Environmental Education and Interpretation we champion today. This interactive session takes you on a journey from the early days of Nature Study to speculating on the future of our field.



4:30pm - 6pm

Hotel Check-In - Cash bar opens, with Starved Rock Ale compliments of Bernardi Securities

6pm - 6:45pm

Dinner - Great Hall

6:45pm - 7pm

Burton Atwood Award

2022 Recipient: Bill and Susan Kleiman

Roger Gustafson Interpretive Naturalist Award

2022 Recipient: Peggy Doty

7pm - 8pm

Dinner Speaker - SRR

Dr. Trent Ford, ***Climate Change and Conservation***

Dr. Trent Ford has been the Illinois State Climatologist since 2019.

He and his team provide information online, through traditional and social media, and by speaking to interested groups across the state. In addition to his role in education and climate outreach, Ford also conducts research on the climate system and extreme climate events, like drought and heat waves; monitors current conditions; and studies climate change.

Climate change is a serious threat to natural ecosystems. More frequent and intense weather extremes, combined with increased stress from insect pests and non-native invasives, present significant challenges to conservation practices and natural resource management. However, conservation and ecosystem health are also important means of climate change mitigation and adaptation. We'll review our changing climate here in the Midwest and the current and projected impacts to conservation. We'll also discuss conservation as a climate change mitigation measure and the important role of conservation districts now and into the future.



8pm - 11pm

Networking Social - Great Hall - Sponsored by

BERNARDISECURITIES

MUNICIPAL BOND SPECIALISTS

Friday, February 18, 2022

7:45am - 8:15am

Hotel Check-out

8:15am - 9:15am

Breakfast Buffet - Great Hall

Breakout III

9:30am - 10:30am

Nachusa Grassland Bison Program

Cody Considine (LaSalle)

In 2014, The Nature Conservancy reintroduced bison to Nachusa Grasslands. Cody Considine, Nachusa's deputy director, will discuss the years of planning that went into this effort, how the herd is managed, lessons learned, how the flora and fauna are responding and share their recently developing partnerships with Indigenous communities.

Illinois Natural Areas Identified and Projected

John Nelson and Jenny Skuca (SRR)

The last remaining high-quality natural communities in Illinois are held by public agencies, private organizations, and individuals. These special places have been identified and evaluated as part of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) that began in 1977. This session will consider the challenges and rewards of the comprehensive tracking of Illinois' natural areas to ensure the highest degree of protection along with accountability for their continued stewardship.

Nature for All: Leveraging Federal Initiatives for Local Impact

Gerald Adlemann (Utica)

Gerald Adleman will discuss opportunities for increased conservation in Illinois related to the Biden Administration's America the Beautiful initiative that tackles the climate crisis through a focus on nature-based solutions. A centerpiece of the effort is 30x30—protecting 30% of our lands and waters by 2030. Openlands is a regional conservation not-for-profit formed in 1963, one of the first in the nation in a large metropolitan region.



Breakout IV

10:45am - 11:45am

Working with Your Local Fire Agencies for Prescribed and Not-so-Prescribed Fires

Ethan Snively, Mitch Ward, and Shane Ravellette, Macon County Conservation District (SRR)

When the Macon County Conservation District was faced with an accidental wildfire in one of its prairies (a cigarette thrown from a car on a windy day), they discovered problems and opportunities in the understanding, communication, and incident command with their local fire agencies.

Illinois Floodplains Work Program

Olivia Dorothy, American Rivers (LaSalle)

Multi-benefit floodplain development focuses on restoring natural ecosystem functionality through a process-based approach usually results in cleaner water, better habitat, and overall healthier river systems. Despite the ecosystem services provided by healthy rivers, communities resist this approach due to perceived economic losses caused by commercial and residential development limitations.

Illinois Forest Preserve and Conservation District Professionals: New Professional Development Opportunities Designed for You!

Monica Meyers, Executive Director for the Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Lynn Rotunno, Membership Manager IPRA; Duane Smith, Education Director, IPRA

Learn about new professional development and networking opportunities designed specifically for Illinois forest preserve and conservation district professionals available through the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA).

11:50am - 12pm

Wrap-Up, Evaluations, Door Prizes, Depart - SRR

12:15pm - 1:45pm

IACD Annual Meeting - Utica Room
(boxed lunches for those who pre-ordered)