



February 9 & 10, 2023

Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center

www.iacd.online / info@iacd.online

603 N. Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

Thursday, February 9, 2023

- 8:30am - 11:30am** **Pre-Conference Workshop** (Pre-registration required)
Chainsaw Maintenance and Repair– Starved Rock Maintenance Shop **(Canceled)**
- 8:45am - 11:30am** **Optional Hike** of Council Overlook, Kaskaskia and Ottawa Canyons and possibly Illinois Canyon - Meet at Starved Rock Lodge Parking Lot
- 9am - 12pm** **Pre-Conference Workshop** (Pre-registration required)
Building Environmental Literacy in IL Using EL4IL- LaSalle Room
- 12:30pm - 1pm** **Conference Check-In** - Great Hall
- 1pm - 1:15pm** **Welcome** - Starved Rock Room (SRR)



Keynote Speaker: Consilience

1:15pm - 2:15pm

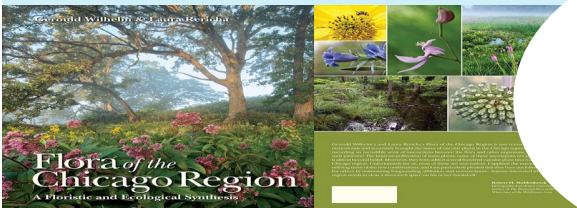
Dr. Gerould Wilhelm

received his Ph.D. in

botany in 1984 at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. He co-authored, through years of collaboration with Floyd Swink and Ray Schulenberg, the flora "Plants of the Chicago Region." He recently completed the "Flora of the Chicago Region, a Floristic and Ecological Synthesis" with Co-author Laura Rericha. Currently, he is Director of Research for the Conservation Research Institute. His current research is on the lichens of the 53-county Southern Lake Michigan Region.



Consilience means "jumping together" in Latin and is typified when all the elements of an ecosystem are working in harmony. The health of an ecosystem is directly related to consilience. If one acknowledges that plants and animals grow in habitats to which they are adapted, then one must accept the corollary: Change the habitat and the inhabitants change. All elements in an ecosystem must be present and jumping together if the system is to remain stable enough to endure changes at the scale of time that earth's geology and other abiotic attributes change. As an ecosystem's elements drop out at the scale with which we are eliminating them, the ability for all other elements to jump together is accordingly and progressively diminished. If, for example, the letter K is removed from the keyboard, all future communication is crippled accordingly; then the loss of the Y, . . . Elements of living landscapes include, crucially, the Holocene-aged relationship that the system has had with any sustainable human cultures that depended on the system for critical, life-sustaining resources. Most of the world's ecosystems have had such a relationship with human cultures. The implications for ecosystem collapse when this relationship is abridged are evident everywhere around us, like the loss of a typist who would steward and use a typewriter. The challenge for contemporary restoration ecologists is to discover the aboriginal relationships between peoples, places,



Keynote Speaker II: The Bees of the Southern Lake

Michigan Region and Their Ecology

2:15pm - 3:15pm

Laura Rericha-Anchor

Coauthor of the

"Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis", Laura Rericha-Anchor is a wildlife biologist and botanist with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and a research associate with the Conservation Research Institute. She is currently working on 2 faunistic monographs, 1 on the more than 500 bee species of the Southern Lake Michigan Region and the other on the ants of the same area. She continues to study plants and their native systems and will be presenting a book on floral ecology.



For the Southern Lake Michigan Region, which consists of 53 counties in 4 states, 533 bee species are known. Of this number, numerous species are rare and conservative to high-quality remnant habitats. Discussed will be the ecology of bee communities within remnant systems. Some topics examined will be microclimatic diversity, fire dependence, and the phenological prolongation of flowering plants.



Breakout I

3:30pm- 4:20pm

Lichens of Illinois

Dr. Gerould Wilhelm, Conservation Research Institute (SRR)

In an effort to understand our culture's relationship with the ambient environment, I have undertaken a study of the lichenized fungi, their distribution, taxonomy, and ecology in the 53 counties surrounding the southern half of Lake Michigan. Other than a study W. W. Calkins published in 1896 and very few others, until recently few lichens have been collected in this region, so very little is known about them or their local habitats. Generally, there were very few lichens on trees in the region as recently as 30 years ago, but since that time lichens have become substantially more diverse and frequently encountered. I will present some observations on changes in air quality as well as on the impact of landscape management on lichen diversity and population strength.

Tools of The Trade: Native Plant Propagation and Habitat Restoration

Josh Clark, DeKalb County Forest Preserve; Ryan Solomon, St. Charles Park District; Luke Dahlberg, Citizens for Conservation and Lake County Forest Preserve District (LaSalle)

Ryan will discuss how they began ramping up native plant propagation efforts in congruence with restoration work at a Nature Preserve, due to Nature Preserve guidelines of preserving genotypes of these areas.

Luke will discuss the increasing interest in restoring native hemi-parasitic plants into restorations to help balance out aggressive native warm-season grasses and forbs. He will also cover successes and lessons learned from the propagation of several species of native hemi-parasitic plants.

Josh Clark will discuss how propagating native species in-house allows for increased diversity of our plantings, cutting costs from nursery purchases, growing plants that may not be available to purchase from nurseries, developing seed sources, and the potential to allow volunteer opportunities.

Wetland Creation and Management

J. Brian Towey, Richardson Wildlife Project (Utica)

An overview and discussion on when a wetland restoration may be appropriate, methods of construction and water control, considerations on desired vs potential area, depths, target animal species, restoration of diverse native vegetation, and future maintenance requirements. Speaker's experience has largely revolved around restoration of ephemeral and semi-ephemeral prairie pothole wetlands in north central Illinois.

4:30pm - 5:15pm **Natural Areas Management Roundtable**

5:15pm - 6pm **Hotel Check-In:** Cash bar opens, with Starved Rock Ale compliments of

6pm - 7pm **Dinner:** Great Hall

Evening Program: Climate Change and Conservation

7pm - 8pm

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 will review our changing climate here in the Midwest and the current and projected impacts to conservation. We will also discuss conservation as a climate change mitigation measure and the important role of conservation districts now and into the future.

8pm - 10pm **Networking Social:** Great Hall



Friday, February 10, 2023

8:15am - 9:15am Breakfast: Great Hall

9:15am - 9:30am Hotel Check-Out

Breakout II

9:30am– 10:30am

Amphibian and Reptile Management in Illinois (Canceled)

Chris Phillips, INHS (SRR)

I will give a brief overview of Illinois amphibian and reptile diversity and distribution (with a shameless plug for the new field guide) and then several case studies of amphibian and reptile conservation/management from the past two decades. I will conclude with a look forward to future goals and needs.

Cultivating Community at Nature Preserves

Amy Doll, Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves (LaSalle)

An introduction to Friends of the Illinois Nature Preserves and a discussion of how the work, learn, lead model empowers volunteers and ensures long term care of our natural communities.

Managing Archaeological Resources

Dr. Thomas Loebel, ISAS (Utica)

The basic laws and principles of identification, preservation, and public education/outreach surrounding archaeological resources on public lands will be discussed. Case studies from a 10+ year partnership with the Cook County Forest Preserve District will highlight the potential for positive land management strategies surrounding pre-contact and historic period archaeological resources.



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Breakout III

10:45am– 11:45am

27 Years of Blanding's Turtle Recovery Efforts in DuPage County

Dan Thompson, DCFPD (SRR)

The Blanding's turtle became a state Threatened species in Illinois in 1999 and downgraded to an Endangered species in 2009. The Blanding's turtle is struggling throughout much of its range in North America. In DuPage County, remaining populations of Blanding's turtles were critically low and consisted solely of older turtles. There were no sub-adults or juveniles indicating recruitment to the population was failing. When the few remaining adults die the population would go extinct. In response, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County started a Blanding's turtle recovery program in 1996. Recovering a species at the brink of extinction is a daunting task. The District has joined forces with many partners including Brookfield Zoo to save this imperiled turtle. Like the turtle, this recovery work has been slow and steady. Come see what 27 years of effort has done to save this Endangered species.

A Relationship with Water: Connecting with Freshwater Mussels

Jessi DeMartini, Urban Stream Research Center (LaSalle)

Focus on brief history of freshwater mussels, biology, reproduction, status, what they do and why should I care? Propagation and conservation of freshwater mussels. Contacts and informational emails and numbers will be available via handout.

Assessing Illinois Rare Plant Species and Updating S-Ranks

Paul Marcum, INHS Botanist (Utica)

The Illinois Natural History Survey in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources are undertaking a project to update S-ranks for all Illinois listed plant species. S-ranks, or state conservation ranks, are sub-national ranks assigned to species in every state. These ranks range from S5 (Secure) to S1 (Critically Imperiled) and are essential for prioritizing protection of species in Illinois, and unlike state listing status, also offer a standardized status benchmark for states across the country. The calculator developed by NatureServe uses data on species rarity, threats, and population trends to determine a rank that is comparable with neighboring states. Illinois S-ranks have not been updated for many years.

11:45am - 12pm **Wrap-Up, Evaluations, Door Prizes, Depart** - SRR

12:15pm - 1:30pm **IACD Annual Meeting** - Utica Room
(boxed lunches for those who pre-ordered)

Notes

Notes



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