

# WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



## John C. Meyers Indian Creek Nature Center

John Meyers has been Executive Director of Indian Creek Nature Center (ICNC) since May 2013. Working with the organization's board of directors, he leads the strategic planning and growth of the organization, ensuring that its vision to create champions of nature is achieved. John is a member of the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) and serves on their development committee. He was selected to receive the 2016 ANCA Outstanding New Leader Award recognizing his leadership, as well as the innovative and progressive management at ICNC.

## Mike Kintner Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Mike Kintner is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Gypsy Moth Outreach and Regulatory Coordinator with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). Mike has worked with IDALS as an entomologist for the last nine years. As EAB became an increasing problem in Iowa, he took on the role of coordinator with the department at the end of 2013. Aside from EAB and Gypsy Moth activities and being a member of the Iowa EAB Team, he is also involved with other pests and regulatory issues.

## Kaitlyn O'Connor Prairie Moon Nursery

Kaitlyn O'Connor is the Education and Outreach Specialist at Prairie Moon Nursery. Kaitlyn was born and raised in the southeast Minnesota Driftless Area, a place she continues to call home to this day. She is a homesteader, forager, and gardener passionate about ecological restoration. Along with working at Prairie Moon Nursery, she also offers educational and consulting services at Winona State University's Arboretum. Her favorite pollinator is the White-Lined Sphinx Moth. Prairie Moon Nursery offers over 700 species of native plants for the woodland, wetland, and prairie.

## Dr. Marty St. Clair Coe College Chemistry and Environmental Studies

Marty St. Clair is a professor of chemistry, coordinator of the environmental studies program, and associate dean of faculty at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. Marty was born and raised on a farm in northern Indiana. After receiving a B.S. in chemistry and environmental studies from Butler University (1983), he studied chemistry at the California Institute of Technology (Ph.D. in 1989). Marty was a senior research assistant in environmental engineering at the University of Iowa before beginning his teaching career at Coe in 1993. His research interests are in eastern Iowa water quality. His water quality work has been supported by the City of Cedar Rapids Utilities Department, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority, and other agencies. (For more information, see [cwql.weebly.com](http://cwql.weebly.com).)

## Dr. Justin Meissen Tallgrass Prairie Center Research and Restoration

Justin Meissen joined the Tallgrass Prairie Center staff in July 2016 to lead the Research and Restoration Program. He has a PhD in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota and a BS in Integrative Biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Justin has worked professionally in restoration ecology and botany from North Carolina to California with The Nature Conservancy, The Audubon Society, as well as with other non-profits and environmental contractors. He has served as a botanical consultant and plant ID workshop instructor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and was a teaching assistant at the University of Minnesota.

## Nick Longbucco The Nature Conservancy

Nick Longbucco is the Cedar Basin Freshwater Manager for The Nature Conservancy in Iowa. His work experience ranges from state-wide water resource consulting to farm level conservation planning at his home county's local soil and water conservation district. Building on this knowledge base, Nick is collaborating with local partners to develop scalable strategies and solutions to address water resource challenges while maintaining a productive landscape in the Cedar River Basin.

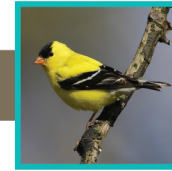
## Clark McLeod Monarch Research Project

Clark McLeod is the Co-Founder and President of the Monarch Research Project (MRP). Clark and Cam Watts began the project in the Fall of 2014. The project's five-year goals are to dramatically impact the population of Monarch butterflies while simultaneously catalyzing the restoration of thousands of acres of pollinator habitat throughout Linn County. Clark is a lifetime resident of Cedar Rapids, former teacher, entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropist. His commitment to Cedar Rapids and Linn County, as well as his community entrepreneurial activities, have spanned four decades. (For more information on MRP, see [www.monarchzones.com](http://www.monarchzones.com).)

# IOWA'S LIVING LANDSCAPES

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: THE FUTURE IS NOW

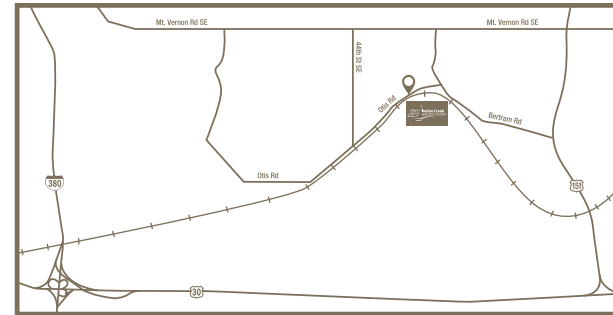
## RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND BEYOND THE 2017 LINN COUNTY WORKSHOP



## TUESDAY MAY 2, 2017

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER  
5300 OTIS ROAD SE - CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

Thanks to our program Sponsors:



# WELCOME!

Great things are happening here locally. This year marks our eighth workshop in the last eight years, and we are expanding our reach beyond the transportation and utility corridors.

This year's program comes on the heels of the first Linn Landowner Forum – a new Linn County movement that is just beginning, with the idea to help landowners incorporate more nature into their land. Last year, Cedar Rapids Parks collaborating with the Monarch Research Project (MRP), began a pollinator habitat initiative for Cedar Rapids and Linn County with the goal of establishing 1,000 new acres of native prairie within five years. This year, Cedar Rapids, Linn County Conservation and Marion Parks are preparing close to 340 acres of land for conversion. MRP is also collaborating with corporate and private land partners to grow the overall initiative with a target of 10,000 private acres within Linn County through various outreach efforts.

Last year, the Linn County Conservation Board asked the Linn County Board of Supervisors to put on the November ballot a measure to address water quality, natural resource protection, as well as park and trail improvements. The Linn County Water and Land Legacy passed with 74% approval, allowing for the issuance of \$40 million in bonds over a 20-year period. The Conservation Board is currently working with potential project partners to maximize the return on investment in leveraging these future bonds. The goal is to request issuance of the first bond funds in 2018.

This year's program would not be possible without the generous support and commitment from our sponsors:

**ITC** owns and operates high voltage electric transmission lines, transmitting power to utilities across Iowa and southern Minnesota. As part of the company's commitment to the environment, they have worked with agencies and individuals who share that commitment by promoting and protecting natural areas. Trails, roadways and transmission line corridors have the potential to be great shared uses. Opportunities have become realities locally here in the last two years with this company's efforts in both Linn and Benton Counties, with ITC planting approximately 90 acres of public-owned property near its facilities with prairie grasses, milkweed, and other pollinator-friendly species.

**The Linn County Iowa Chapter of Pheasants Forever** was organized in 1983. They are a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of wildlife and habitat in Linn and surrounding counties. Their goals are to create, preserve and improve upland bird habitat for the benefit of all species, including pollinators. They foster youth outdoor activities and promote conservation education to protect and preserve our land and water.

The goals of the **Linn Soil and Water Conservation District** are to promote environmental stewardship, good land and water management, and conservation practices on both rural and urban landscapes. The District works with farmland owners, farmer tenants, homeowners, communities, and land managers on all kinds of land stewardship projects. The five commissioners elected at large from Linn County work closely with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship-Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality.

**Amazing Space** is **Indian Creek Nature Center's** new 12,000 sq. foot environmental education facility located on the outskirts of Cedar Rapids. Amazing Space is a Net-Zero energy and water facility that is undertaking the International Living Future Institute's Living Building Challenge – one of the most stringent sustainable construction programs throughout the world. It is designed to focus on true environmental responsibility by capturing and using all rainwater that falls on site, using only native plants, grasses and trees, and harvesting all energy from sustainable sources. The nature center provides a hub for thousands of hikers, school kids, families, and others on an annual basis.

We hope you take some time again this year to visit with our exhibitors. We think you'll find their messages useful and worthy of sharing with others. We'll end the day with an hour or so outdoors, expanding on several of the earlier indoor presentations.

There is no charge for this year's program thanks to our sponsors. **To register, please call 319-362-0664 or sign up via the event calendar at [indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://indiancreeknaturecenter.org). Registration is required by April 24.** Lunch will not be guaranteed for late registrants.



# IOWA'S LIVING LANDSCAPES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND BEYOND

**TUESDAY MAY 2, 2017 - INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER**

**5300 OTIS ROAD SE - CEDAR RAPIDS, IA**

8:30 – 9:00am **REFRESHMENTS AND VIEW EXHIBITS**  
Amazing Space Auditorium

9:00 – 9:15am **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**  
**John Myers** - Indian Creek Nature Center Executive Director

9:15 – 10:00am  
**EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL EFFORTS IN IOWA**  
**Mike Kintner** - Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

10:00 – 10:15am **BREAK, REFRESHMENTS, VIEW EXHIBITS**

10:15 – 11:00am  
**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE MIDWEST'S MOST DIVERSE NATIVE SEED PRODUCER**  
**Kaitlyn O'Connor** - Prairie Moon Nursery

11:00 – 11:45am  
**THE INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED: ASSESSMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Dr. Marty St. Clair** - Coe College Chemistry and Environmental Studies

11:45am – 12:45pm **LUNCH AND VIEW EXHIBITS**  
Catered in the Amazing Space Auditorium. No charge thanks to sponsors.

12:45 – 1:30pm  
**PRAIRIE ON FARMS: DESIGNING AND MANAGING COST EFFECTIVE POLLINATOR PLANTINGS IN AG LANDSCAPES**  
**Dr. Justin Meissen** - Tallgrass Prairie Center Research and Restoration

1:30 – 2:00pm  
**OWBOW AND WETLAND RESTORATIONS: BENEFITS FOR FARMERS, FISH, AND FOWL**  
**Nicholas Longbucco** - The Nature Conservancy

2:00 – 2:15pm **BREAK AND VIEW EXHIBITS**

2:15 – 3:00pm  
**MONARCH ZONES AND THE LINN LANDOWNER FORUM**  
**Clark McLeod** - Monarch Research Project

3:00 – 4:00pm **OUTDOOR DEMONSTRATIONS**

