

# 2024 Iowa Prairie Conference - August 16-18, 2024

## “Prairies – Resilient lands for the future!”

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Regents Resource Center  
1838 Highway 86, Milford, IA 51351

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### Iowa Prairie Conference Schedule of Events

#### Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>

- 5:00 – 8:00 pm Registration/check-in – at the Iowa Lakeside Lab – 1838 Hwy 86, Milford, IA  
Hot dog/brat cookout (5:30 – 7:00 pm) and campfire  
Music provided by Tom Nothnagle | Guitarist | All Things Guitar Tom
- 6:00 – 8:00 pm 30-minute virtual welcome/tours of portions of the Laboratory shown every 30 minutes at the Iowa Lakeside Lab – 1838 Hwy 86, Milford, IA
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#### Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> - Lakeshore Center, 1864 Hwy 86, Milford, IA

- 8:00 – 9:00 am Registration and breakfast -- muffins/fruit kabobs/coffee/juice/water
- 9:00 – 9:15 am Welcome and conference updates – Mary Skopec, Director-Iowa Lakeside Lab
- 9:15-10:15 am History of Cayler State Preserve. Keynote address by John Pearson, Environmental Specialist Senior, Iowa DNR
- 10:15-11:15 am Prairie fens - Dr. Rebecca Kauten
- 11:15 – 11:30 am Break
- 11:30 – 12:30 pm Archeology -- Mill Creek Culture  
Mark Anderson, Archaeologist – Sanford Museum
- 12:30 – 1:15 pm Saturday lunch: BBQ port sandwiches/chips/apple/water/tea
- 1:15 – 2:15 pm Burn cooperatives -panel moderated by Dr. Rosburg  
Panel members: Kody Wohlers, Amy Crouch, Dale Maxine
- 1:30 – 2:15 pm Prairies 101 with Dr. Russ Benedict, Central College  
(Iowa Lakeside Lab – 1838 Hwy 86, Milford, IA)
- 2:15 - 2:30 pm Saturday afternoon snack: single-serve ice cream bars/sandwiches  
Vote for the Prairie Bouquet winner at the registration table
- 2:30 – 3:15 pm The Farm Bill and follow-up from the Iowa Nature Summit – Neal Hamilton
- 3:15 – 4:00 pm Prairies and Carbon Sequestration – Dr. Daniels, Iowa State University
- 4:00 –4:15 pm Presentation of the Prairie Advocate Award – Mark Loeschke
- 4:15 - 4:30 pm Overview of hikes and outings  
Announce the winner of the Prairie Bouquet contest,
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm pizza party/water/tea/beer – Lakeside Lab

#### Hikes / Outing Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> – three options

**6:30 – 8:00 pm Queen II excursion** – restoration of shoreline using native plants  
Meet at: 37 Lake Street, Arnolds Park, IA 51331 (a 15-minute drive from the Lab)\

**6:30 – 8:00 pm Excelsior Fen / Dugout Creek Complex** –Drew Holling to lead/assist –  
Driving Directions: 130<sup>th</sup> Ave – From the Intersection of Hwy 9 and Hwy 86 (west of Spirit Lake) – Drive 7 miles west on Hwy 9 and then one mile south.

GPS Coordinates N43deg25.798 W095deg19.42

**6:30 – 8:00 pm Freda Haffner Kettlehole** - TNC will lead the hike

Southwest of Okoboji, in Dickinson County, Iowa (15 minutes west of Spirit Lake).

From Milford: Take Highway 71 north to Highway 86. Turn west and go one-and-one-half miles to 210th Street (by Oh Shuck's Bait Shop). Go west two-and-three-quarter miles to the parking area for the preserve on the north side of the road (Sign: Freda Haffner Preserve).

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### **Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 - 9:00 am Birding at the lakes with Lee Schoenewe – Meet at Lakeside Lab.

8:00 – 9:30 am Breakfast at the Lab

9:00 – 10:00 am LAND OF THE FRAGILE GIANTS – 30 YRS LATER/ FRAGILE GIANTS  
35 YRS LATER – a lunch talk at the Lab by Connie Mutel

9:00- 10:30 am Tour of Garlock Slough – Dr. Rebecca Kauten, and Dusten Paulus to co-lead.  
Meet at the breakfast area for a guided tour.

9:00 – 10:30 am The Prairie Flower – Dwight and Bev Rutter  
Address: 1765 290<sup>th</sup> Street, Spencer, Iowa 51301 (16 miles/22 minutes from Lakeside Lab)

9:00 – 10:30 am Archeological outing – Mark Anderson

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Box lunch at the Lakeside Lab

### **Hikes / Outing Sunday Afternoon, August 18<sup>th</sup>** – three options

1:00 pm **Oak Savana restoration** (east side of Spirit Lake by Angler's Bay) – Dusten Paulus,  
Iowa DNR and Chris LaRue to co-lead

1:00 pm **Kirchner Prairie** – Lucas Straw (20 miles from the Lab) Co-presenter

Rob Patterson, Iowa DNR - Prairie Lakes Wildlife Unit Biologist

Located 2 miles south of Dan Green Slough off of B 17, 7 miles west of Hwy 71 north of  
Spencer (2734 310<sup>th</sup> Street)

- GPS Coordinates - N43deg12.865 W095deg00.639

1:00 pm **Cayler Prairie** – hike/walk (8 minutes/5.7 miles from the Lab) John Pearson and  
co-leader Mark Leoschke

From the intersection of Hwy 9 and Hwy 86 on the west side of Spirit Lake, take Hwy 9 west 3.5  
miles to 170<sup>th</sup> Ave. (sign – Cayler Prairie State Preserve – 2 miles) Turn south (left) and go 2.5  
miles to the preserve. A parking area is available on the east side of the road. (sign: Cayler  
Prairie State Botanical Monument)