

**2019 Midwest Regional Forum
Honey Creek Resort State Park
April 8-9, 2019
Draft Agenda**

The Midwest Regional Forum will take place April 8th – 9th 2019 at the Honey Creek Resort State Park in Moravia, Iowa, and will bring together leading scientists, conservationists, and data analysts working to protect rare species and threatened ecosystems. The NatureServe Network of Natural Heritage Programs maintains the largest and most comprehensive data sets of at-risk species and ecosystems in the US. The Midwest region of the Network is convening this forum to bring together the 12 Midwest state programs and conservation partners to further our mission of maintaining the best data on the at-risk species and ecosystems that occur in the region, where they are, and how they are doing.

Over the course of two days, the attendees will share best practices for data collection and analysis, discuss emerging trends in biodiversity monitoring, take action to foster communication and collaboration among the Network, and learn how climate change is affecting nature in the region. This is a rare opportunity for state program staff to discuss key biodiversity topics in our Network across state lines and agencies.

Your attendance at the Forum will ensure a wide range of topics and viewpoints are covered, and that the Forum reaches as many leaders in conservation in the Midwest as possible.

Draft Agenda (this agenda may change and is for planning purposes)

April 8, 2019

Opening Remarks

- Iowa Natural History
- Keynote
- Welcome

Morning Plenary

- Program Update Lightning Rounds (5 min each)
 - Each program to address overarching topics:
 - Biggest accomplishment in 2018
 - Biggest limitation to success
 - Big Hairy Audacious Goal (B-HAG) for 2019
 - Biggest asset to your NHP that you want to share with the group
- NatureServe Updates
 - Species Distribution Modeling: update on the MoBI project, future of SDM, and involvement of Network
 - Environmental Review Tool

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Detailed agendas to be developed by Heritage staff

- Botany
- Zoology
- Ecology
- Data Management

April 9, 2019

Morning Plenary

- Application of Biodiversity Data
 - NHPs highlight conservation projects informed by Heritage data:
 - Conservation planning
 - Developing COAs
 - Landscape-scale conservation
 - Conservation guides and tools
- Climate Change
- Citizen Science
- Communication and Outreach

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Detailed agendas to be developed by Heritage staff

- Botany
- Zoology
- Ecology
- Programmatic (Session for NHP leaders to focus on unique aspects of leading a NHP)

Closing Remarks & Wrap Up