

Stewards of the Earth: 2018 Manning Lecture and Earth Day Conference

Conference Schedule

1:30-2:30 Manning Lecture: “Eco-Librium: A New Stewardship of Creation” (University Chapel)

2:30-3:00 Refreshments and Information Fair (Science, Room 125)

3:00-4:00 Workshop Session A (Science)

4:15-5:15 Workshop Session B (Science)

5:30 Closing Session (Science Auditorium)

2018 Manning Speaker Father Robert “Bud” Grant is an environmental theology professor at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. He teaches environmental ethics, serves on local and state environmental committees, writes an environmental theology column for The Catholic Messenger, and has been recognized with awards for his environmental education service.

Professor Grant was raised in Iowa. He enjoys hiking, backpacking, canoeing, snow skiing, soccer, reading (especially theology, philosophy and history), carving, prairie gardening and restoration, horseback riding, and tending his livestock: one dog, two cats, two horses, sheep, numerous fish, ducks, chickens, turkeys and geese. He is interested in social justice and environmental issues, particularly in underprivileged areas that he has visited and/or taken students including India, Bangladesh, Africa, Pine Ridge, and inner city Chicago. He led the creation of an on-campus prairie at St. Ambrose University.

The Clifford and Maxine Manning Annual Speaker Series brings a distinguished speaker in religion to Iowa Wesleyan University each year. The series is made possible through a generous endowment by the Rev. Dr. Clifford Manning and Maxine Manning. Rev. Manning was born in Agency, Iowa and graduated from Iowa Wesleyan in 1939. He was ordained as a United Methodist minister, served as a missionary to India, and was a generous philanthropist. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Judy Bales, Artist

Judy Bales is a multi-disciplinary artist who focuses on sculpture for the body, or “artwear,” mixed-media installation, and public art. On exhibit in the University Chapel is a grouping of her pieces created from recycled and salvaged plastic food containers and suspended in the tradition of Japanese aesthetics called datsuzoku. One source describes it this way: “The principle of datsuzoku signifies a break from daily routine or habit, a certain freedom from the commonplace. It involves a feeling of transcending the ordinary and conventional. The result of datsuzoku is pleasant surprise and unexpected amazement. Datsuzoku signifies a certain reprieve from convention. When a well-worn pattern is broken, creativity and resourcefulness emerge.”

Workshop Session A 3:00-4:00 pm	Workshop Session B 4:15-5:15 pm
Aldo Leopold and the Roots of the “Land Ethic,” Steve Brower (Science 131)	
Composting: Making Black Gold for your Garden, Jean Thomson (Science 222)	Composting: Making Black Gold for your Garden, Jean Thomson (Science 222)
Farming that Mimics Nature Can Regenerate Soils, Sequester Carbon, and Solve Water Quality Problems, Francis Thicke (Science Auditorium)	Farming that Mimics Nature Can Regenerate Soils, Sequester Carbon, and Solve Water Quality Problems, Francis Thicke (Science Auditorium)
Improving Water Quality in Iowa, Diane Rosenberg (Science 221)	Improving Water Quality in Iowa, Diane Rosenberg (Science 221)
Planting for Pollinators: Growing Native Prairie and Woodland Species for Pollinator Use and our Enjoyment, Lisa Louck (Science 317)	
The Quilt Game for Climate Change, Sarah Paulos (Science 219)	The Quilt Game for Climate Change, Sarah Paulos (Science 219)
Recycling to Save the Planet, IW Biology Students (Science 220)	
	Reduce Your Ecological Footprint, Bert Miller (On location at the Miller property, transportation available)
	Stewardship and God’s Great, Green Creation, Rev. Deborah Stowers (Science 131)

Aldo Leopold and the Roots of the “Land Ethic”

(Science 131, 3:00 pm)

Most people who have read Aldo Leopold are familiar with his wilderness preservation work in the Southwest or his land restoration work in Wisconsin. However, little has been known or popularized about the first 20 years of his life growing up in Burlington and his formative school years. Brower's research shows how Leopold's childhood adventures in nature initiated his "Land Ethic" journey and created a model for raising children today.

Steve Brower, President, Leopold Landscape Alliance, Burlington, Iowa. Steve grew up in Aldo's neighborhood, knew the family, and as a landscape architect uses *A Sand County Almanac* and the tenets of the "Land Ethic" to guide his conservation and design work.

Composting: Making Black Gold for Your Garden

(Science 222, 3:00 pm and 4:15 pm)

Making compost in your back yard diverts waste from the landfill and augments your garden soil with valuable organic material. Best of all, it can be done at no cost to you and so easily that it will fit the lifestyle of a very busy or lazy gardener!

Jean Thomson, Henry County Master Gardener. Jean taught English at IWU for 30 years and has gardened in her spot at the edge of oak woodlands for 40 years.

Farming that Mimics Nature Can Regenerate Soils, Sequester Carbon, and Solve Water Quality Problems

(Science Auditorium, 3:00 pm and 4:15 pm)

It was nature's ecological processes that created Iowa's deep, rich soils. Since we started farming in Iowa, we have lost half our topsoil to erosion and 60% of our soil carbon to oxidation. When we design and manage farms in accord with the principles of nature's ecology, we begin to rebuild our soils, creating healthier soils and landscapes, sequestering carbon in the soil, solving our water quality problems, and creating healthier food and more robust local economies.

Francis Thicke, Radiance Dairy. Francis, with his wife Susan, is the owner and operator of an organic dairy and crop farm near Fairfield. They process their milk on the farm and market organic dairy products through local grocery stores and restaurants. They are also experimenting with innovative regenerative organic farming practices on their farm. Francis has a Ph.D. in agronomy/soil fertility and has in the past served as the National Program Leader for Soil Science for the USDA-Extension Service.

Improving Water Quality in Iowa

(Science 221, 3:00 pm and 4:15 pm)

There are many factors that contribute to Iowa's poor water quality. Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), also known as factory farms, have a significant impact on Iowa's waterways. This session will look at the ways CAFOs contribute to water pollution and explore some ways this can be reduced.

Diane Rosenberg, President and Executive Director, Jefferson County Farmers & Neighbors, Inc. Diane is also an Iowa Consultant with the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project. She is a founding member of the Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture, a coalition of 27 community, state, and national organizations founded in 2014 calling for a factory farm moratorium until there are less than 100 water impairments.

Planting for Pollinators: Growing Native Prairie and Woodland Species for Pollinator Use and our Enjoyment

(Science 317, 3:00 pm)

Our native pollinators have evolved with our wide variety native plants, and utilizing these native plants in the landscape will be the most beneficial for the widest array of species. By working with what you have and learning more about pollinator needs, you can maximize even a small yard or space to provide vital habitat to pollinators all year round.

Lisa Louck, Iowa DNR District Forester. Covering Lee, Des Moines, Henry and Louisa Counties, Lisa works with woodland owners to manage for healthy woodlands, and also provides technical information to citizens, cities and groups on planting, care and all things tree related. She lives in Burlington with her husband and son, and enjoys getting outside in her free time also.

The Quilt Game for Climate Change

(Science 219, 3:00 pm and 4:15)

This interactive session will use quilts as a metaphor to better understand climate change and consider how to be part of the solution through practical action. We will explore climate change and the religious response. We will examine the concept of “climate justice” and leave with practical ideas for making a difference.

Sarah Paulos, Interfaith Power and Light. Lisa has served as the Program and Outreach Coordinator for Iowa Interfaith Power & Light since 2007. She is the creator of the Cool Congregations program, helping congregations and their members reduce their energy use as an act of faith. She has delivered this program to over 450 congregations in Iowa and 16 other states. It is now a program of the national Interfaith Power and Light organization.

Recycling to Save the Planet

(Science 220, 3:00 pm)

What can and cannot be recycled in and around Mt. Pleasant, Iowa? Learn what the triangles with numbers in them stamped into your plastics mean and which can or cannot be recycled. Learn how rapidly materials decompose. Show your support for Topics in Biology students who would like to see a recycling program come to the Iowa Wesleyan campus.

Gail B. Wortmann, Iowa Wesleyan Science Professor. This workshop will be led by the students of Professor Wortmann’s “Topics in Biology” class. This semester, they have been working on developing a recycling program for the Iowa Wesleyan campus. Gail has 45 years of teaching experience and has served as Iowa’s Teacher of the Year, a Pioneer Mentor, a member of North Central Regional Educational Laboratory Teacher Advisory Council, an Access Excellence Fellow, and served on the Governor’s Executive Council for STEM in Iowa.

Reduce Your Ecological Footprint

(4:15 pm, Participants will travel to Bert Miller’s property for this workshop; transportation available)

This workshop will be offered on location at Bert Miller’s property west of Mount Pleasant. Bert and his wife Laura live in a solar house and grow organic fruits and vegetables. On this tour, participants will observe and discuss passive solar, active solar, wind turbines, geothermal heating and cooling, root cellars, gardening, orchards, small scale green houses, bee-keeping, and raising chickens and fish.

Bert Miller, Teacher and environmentalist. Bert grew up in Iowa and has always been interested in the natural world. He graduated from the University of Iowa, Idaho State and Drake University. He works as a teacher and librarian at the WACO School District.

Stewardship and God's Great, Green Creation

(Science 131, 4:15 pm)

This workshop focuses on stewardship and the Bible. It attempts to reclaim and redeem some of the words found in Genesis 1 and elsewhere (dominion and subdue) that have compromised humankind's understanding, duty, and privilege as stewards of the earth.

Rev. Deborah J. Stowers, Mount Pleasant First United Methodist Church. Pastor Deb brings an understanding of the topic from her BA in Biology from Thiel College, Master of Administrative Science from Johns Hopkins, and M.Div. from the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She serves as Senior Pastor or, as she prefers Lead Follower, of the Mount Pleasant First United Methodist Church.

Conference Sponsors

Henry County Farmers and Neighbors

Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Iowa Farmers Union

Iowa Interfaith Power and Light

Jefferson County Farmers and Neighbors

Leopold Landscape Alliance

Master Gardeners of Henry County

Radiance Dairy

Southeast District, United Methodist Church