

# Illinois Geographical Society

## 2024 Annual Meeting

April 25-28, 2024

### *The Great River Road: Exploring Nauvoo & Beyond*



The Illinois Geographical Society cordially invites you to the Nauvoo, Illinois-Burlington, Iowa area for its Annual Meeting, April 25-28, 2024. The meeting will be held at Southeastern Community College. Join us as we explore the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Great River Road along the Mississippi River.



**Thursday, April 25, 2024 – Pre-Meeting Field Trip**

**Thursday Field Trip (including lunch) Cost: \$20.00**

1:00–2:15 pm: Lunch, Talk, and Exploration of the Fort Madison Area Art Association

*The Executive Director of the Fort Madison Area Art Association will give a brief talk about art in Fort Madison, Iowa. A light luncheon of lemon pasta and tomato salad will be served. We will have the opportunity to explore the art galleries and art for the month of April. A great chance to see local artists.*

Address: Fort Madison Area Art Association  
825 Avenue G  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

<https://fortmadisonart.com/>

2:30-4:00 pm: Visit the North Lee County Historical Museums

*A guide will show us the sites of the North Lee County Historical Museums. Significant sites in North Lee County include the BNSF Swing-Span Double Decker Bridge, the North Lee County Courthouse, the North Lee County Jail, the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy, and steam locomotives. Fort Madison was a military outpost that became a railroad hub in the 19th century.*

Address: North Lee County Historical Society  
814 10th Street  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

<https://www.fortmadison-ia.com/508/North-Lee-County-Historical-Society-Muse>

6:00-8:00 pm: Executive Council Dinner at Lost Duck Brewing Company

*We will be eating dinner at Lost Duck Brewing Company - a locally owned microbrewery on the Mississippi River.*

Address: Lost Duck Brewing Company  
725 Avenue H  
Fort Madison, IA 52667

8:00-10:00 pm: Executive Council Meeting, Quality Inn & Suites, Fort Madison, Iowa

**Friday, April 26, 2024 – Field Trip Day**

**Friday Field Trips (including lunch) Cost: \$45.00**

7:45-8:00 am: Registration - lobby of Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison, Iowa

8:00 am: Meet in the lobby of the Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison, Iowa

*We will carpool to the Historic Nauvoo Visitor Center to tour the sites in Nauvoo, Illinois.*

8:30-11:00 am: Visit Historic Nauvoo, Illinois

*We will meet our guides for our visit to Historic Nauvoo. Sites include the Nauvoo Temple, the Joseph Smith Historic Site, the Brigham Young Home, the Browning Home & Gun Shop, and the Stone Arch Bridge. Nauvoo is one of the important religious sites in Illinois with gorgeous views of the Mississippi River.*

Address: Historic Nauvoo Visitors' Center  
290 N. Main Street  
Nauvoo, IL 62354

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/feature/historic-sites/historic-nauvoo?lang=eng>

11:15 am-12:15 pm: Lunch and Talk at Nauvoo State Park

*After the visit to Historic Nauvoo, we will make the short drive to Nauvoo State Park. Site Supervisor Robin Hinchee will talk about the land and history of Nauvoo State Park. Lunch will be served at the site. Box lunches are from a local Nauvoo restaurant - The Red Front.*

Address: Nauvoo State Park  
Frank Stevenson Shelter  
980 South Bluff Street  
Nauvoo, IL 62354

<https://dnr.illinois.gov/parks/park.nauvoo.html>

Lunch Options: All lunches include chips, a cookie, and a bottle of water.

\_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef & Provolone (includes lettuce, tomato, mustard, mayo, and pickles on the side)

\_\_\_\_\_ Turkey & Colby Jack (includes lettuce, tomato, mustard, mayo, and pickles on the side)

\_\_\_\_\_ Garden Salad with Dressing

12:30-1:15 pm: Travel to Starr's Cave Nature Center, Burlington, Iowa

*We will cross the Mississippi River and head to Burlington, Iowa to explore the landscapes of Iowa.*

1:15-2:45 pm: Explore Starr's Cave Nature Center and Starr's Cave Park

*Explore Starr's Cave Park and Starr's Cave Nature Center with Naturalist Jacqueline Goodman from Des Moines County Parks. Visit will include a short hike. Accommodations can be made. The rock formations along Flint Creek in the park are not found anywhere else in the world. Starr's Cave itself is closed for the protection of the bat population. The site sits near the Mississippi River.*

Address: Starr's Cave Nature Center  
11627 Starr's Cave Park Road  
Burlington, IA 52601

[https://desmoinescounty.iowa.gov/conservation/parks/starrs\\_cave\\_park\\_and\\_preserve/](https://desmoinescounty.iowa.gov/conservation/parks/starrs_cave_park_and_preserve/)

2:45-3:00 pm: Travel to Snake Alley, Burlington, Iowa

*Travel the short distance from Starr's Cave Park to Snake Alley in Burlington, Iowa.*

3:00-4:00 pm: Walk or Ride along Snake Alley

*This winding clay-brick road was built by German immigrants in 1894. It features a 12.5% grade and connects old business districts in Burlington, Iowa. Ride or walk this unique stretch of road.*

Address: Snake Alley  
Washington Street at 6th Street  
6th Street between Columbia & Washington Streets  
Burlington, IA 52601

Optional:

Grab coffee at The Beancounter Coffeehouse, 212 Jefferson Street, Burlington, IA

4:00-4:30 pm: Travel to Fort Madison, Iowa

*We will travel back to Fort Madison for the evening festivities.*

5:00-6:00 pm: Social Hour with IGS President Nick Goodwin

*Enjoy a pre-dinner beverage and some great conversation.*

Address: Quality Inn & Suites  
6169 Reve Court  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

6:00-10:00 pm: Banquet

Quality Inn & Suites (Banquet Room)

6169 Reve Court

Fort Madison, IA 52627

6:00 pm: Doors open/Conference Registration

6:30-7:30 pm: Dinner

7:30-8:30 pm: Keynote Speaker

8:30-10:00 pm: Awards

**Banquet Cost: \$60.00**

Dinner will be a buffet-style meal with two different meat options, a vegetarian option, a hot side dish, potatoes, a garden salad, rolls, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverages included.

**Saturday, April 27, 2024 – Meeting**

**Conference Cost: \$30 IGS Members  
\$40 Nonmembers  
\$20 Students and Retirees**

Annual Conference - Southeastern Community College, 1500 West Agency Road, West Burlington, Iowa 52655

8:00-Noon: Paper and Poster Sessions

Noon-1:00 pm: Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Boxed Lunch Choices (All include beverage, chips, and dessert): **Lunch Cost \$25.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ Midwest Smoked Ham Club

\_\_\_\_\_ Roasted Garden Vegetable Ciabatta

\_\_\_\_\_ Southwestern Chicken Fajita Wrap

1:00-1:30 pm: Annual IGS Business Meeting

3:00-5:30 pm: Afternoon Post-Meeting Field Trip - Wildcat Den State Park

**Saturday Field Trip Cost: Free**

*Get deeper into the geography of the region with a visit to Wildcat Den State Park in Muscatine, Iowa. There are stunning rock formations, the Pine Mill Bridge, the Pine Mill Grist Mill, and the Melpine Schoolhouse. Hike, if you feel like taking a walk. The sandstone bluffs offer stunning views of the Mississippi River. The Pine Mill Grist Mill is the oldest working grist mill between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.*

Address: Wildcat Den State Park  
1884 Wildcat Den Road  
Muscatine, IA 52761

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks/Wildcat-Den-State-Park>

6:00-8:00pm: Dinner at Maxwell's on the River, Muscatine, Iowa

*Enjoy a nice dinner in Muscatine on the final night of the weekend. A short distance from Wildcat Den State Park, the restaurant is located in the Merrill Hotel.*

Address: Maxwell's on the River  
The Merrill Hotel  
119 W. Mississippi Drive  
Muscatine, IA 52761

### **Sunday, April 28, 2024 – Post-Meeting Field Trip**

**Sunday Field Trip Cost: \$5.00**

9:00-10:00 am: Visit the George M. Verity Riverboat Museum

*After exploring Illinois and Iowa, take one last adventure at the Riverboat Museum in Keokuk, Iowa to get a glimpse into the classic transportation on the Mississippi River.*

Address: George M. Verity Riverboat Museum  
200 Mississippi Drive  
Keokuk, IA 52632

<https://www.traveliowa.com/places/george-m--verity-riverboat-museum/703/>