

Great Connections 2018

Dubuque, IA

April 24 – 26, 2018



Travel to Dubuque and make some Great Connections when you join your colleagues in Dubuque, IA next spring for the third biennial Great Connections Conference and Exposition! This conference will be hosted by the The Great Lakes and Great Rivers Chapters of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) along with The City of Dubuque's 10th Annual Watershed and Stormwater Symposium

Named as one of the "Best American Riverfronts" by *USA Today*, Dubuque is set between the mighty Mississippi River and the beautiful bluffs of northeast Iowa. Dubuque provides a beautiful natural setting for this conference. All conference activities will be held in the downtown Grand River Center and Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark facilities with much of Dubuque's historic downtown in easy walking distance.

Stormwater, erosion & sediment control, agriculture & watersheds, locally-driven policy and education initiatives will be explored by pulling expertise from public and private industry sources. Effectively uniting professionals who manufacture and provide products with planners, designers, installers and inspection professionals from the public and private sectors.

Conference Overview

Tuesday April 24

- ½ Day Technical Sessions (1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
- Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Reception
- Fun Fundraiser Activity – Bring Your Bowling Shoes for Chapter Challenge Bowling

Wednesday April 25

- Open Exposition Hall
- Full Day Technical Sessions
- Evening Reception and Keynote Presentation at the National Mississippi River Museum (optional)

Thursday April 26

- General and Technical Breakout Sessions all morning
- Local project tours

Keynote

Dr. Wallace "J." Nichols is a scientist, wild water advocate, movement-maker, New York Times bestselling author, and dad. His research and expeditions have taken him to coasts and waterways across North, Central and South America, to Asia, Africa, Australia, and Europe. This is what keeps his colleagues and collaborators working hard to understand and restore our blue planet. J. is a Research Associate at California Academy of Sciences and co-founder of Ocean Revolution, an international network of young ocean advocates, SEE the WILD, a conservation travel network, Grupo Tortuguero, an international sea turtle conservation network, and Blue Mind Fund, reconnecting people to water. He has authored and co-authored more than 200 scientific papers, articles and reports and his work has been broadcast on NPR, BBC, PBS, CBS This Morning, Discover Channel, National Geographic and Animal Planet as well as featured in Time, Newsweek, GQ, Outside Magazine, Fast Company, Scientific American and New Scientist, among others.

Lecture Summary - Blue Mind: A ground breaking conversation surrounding *Blue Mind*, a New York Times Best Seller by author Wallace J. Nichols, on the remarkable truth about the benefits of being in, on, under or simply near water. Combining cutting edge research with compelling personal stories, Dr. Nichols shows how proximity to water can improve performance, increase calm, diminish anxiety, and increase professional success. *Blue Mind* not only illustrates the crucial importance of our connection to water - it provides a paradigm shifting 'blueprint' for a better life.

Technical Sessions

The IECA Great Connections 2016 Conference Education Committee is actively seeking abstracts from industry professionals willing to contribute their knowledge, share their expertise and research, and provide innovative solutions. Primary workshop tracks for the conference are -

- Erosion & Sediment Control
- Surface Water Restoration
- Stormwater Management
- MS4 Management
- Agriculture & Watersheds
- Other topics will be considered....

All interested presenters are asked to complete the on-line Call for Abstracts form by Friday, April 8, 2016. Guidelines can be found at www.iecagreatconnections.com.

Exposition and Sponsorship

Limited exhibit space (40 exhibit limit) and sponsorship opportunities are offered for this conference. These opportunities benefit both businesses involved in storm water management and conference participants. Businesses actively participating in the conference have a great venue for promotion of their products and services and offer conference participants a great opportunity to check out new products and technology directly with the experts. More information can be found at www.iecagreatconnections.com.

More Information

Further details will be published at www.iecagreatconnections.com as planning for this conference continues. For detailed information, contact Kim Kline, Conference Manager by telephone at 970.846.9015 or by email at iecagreatconnections@gmail.com.