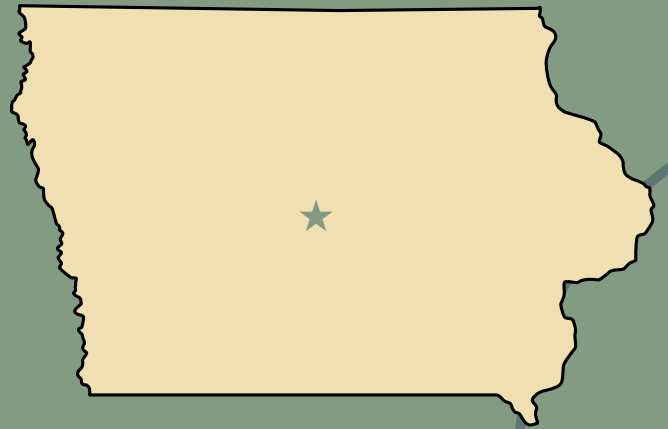


JOURNALING PLACE

Boone, Iowa



*“WHEN WE SEE LAND AS A
COMMUNITY TO WHICH WE
BELONG, WE MAY BEGIN TO
USE IT WITH LOVE AND
RESPECT.”*

--ALDO LEOPOLD,
A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC

A 2026 JOURNAL SERIES
SPONSORED BY THE



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JOURNALING PLACE

A SHARED EXPLORATION
OF BOONE

*Join us as we celebrate 125 years serving the
Boone Community. All ages are welcome!*

- Journaling Place is a **community series** exploring how we experience and understand place
- Journals provided by the **Friends of the Ericson Public Library**
- Historians, biologists, artists, poets, and storytellers will share their unique perspective on place
- Each session offers a different lens on **land, memory, and meaning**
- Learn how place shapes identity, story, observation, and creativity
- Visit unique locations in Boone County
- Talks held **May to October 2026**
- Join us to celebrate the landscapes, communities, and everyday spaces we call home
- Special thanks to the **Leonard A. Good Trust** for funding speakers
- Learn more by visiting the Ericson Public Library, following us on Facebook or Instagram, or visiting our website at **boone.lib.ia.us**



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JOURNAL PROMPTS

- Start small. An idea or two at a time is fine.
- Where was your childhood hometown? What is your favorite memory from your childhood “place”? How did your childhood hometown shape who you are?
- When did you move to Boone? Why? What did you think about living in Boone when you arrived? What do you think now?
- Print a color copy of a current Boone map, circle where you live, and paste it on a page. Jot a few notes about your home. When did you move there? What do you like about it? What do you want to change? Make a tiny drawing of your home. What sounds do you hear inside your home? Outside your home?
- Jot a couple notes about the weather and make a little drawing to indicate the current conditions.
- Think about the seasons in Boone. What do you do each season?
- Make a list or sketch to indicate your daily routine.
- Take notes at a lecture. How did the speaker introduce a new idea? What do you want to remember?
- Visit new locations in Boone. What did you find there?
- Think about the local environment. What is the dominant ecosystem (all living organisms)? How does water move in our environment? What are the physical features of a given place?
- Attend an event in Boone. Did you see familiar faces? Did you meet anyone new?
- Is there a place in Boone that holds a particularly powerful memory? Where is it? What happened?



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CREATIVE ADDITIONS

- Glue an envelope to the inside cover of your journal and collect a week of ephemera from living in Boone – receipts, Boone-specific flyers or ads, tickets, signatures, wrappers, etc.
- Cut out or print a local article and paste on a page.
- Sketch wildflowers or pollinators.
- Press a flower or leaf and paste on a page.
- Print a photo and paste on a page. Sketch a frame for it. Write a caption.
- Make crayon rubbings of interesting textures.
- Tape a small piece of trash to a page. Comment on the cleanliness of where you live.
- Make a sketch as you look out of your favorite window.
- Create a color swatch of different seasons in Boone.
- Record the temperature with colors.
- Sketch the constellations or moon phase on a given night.
- Add interesting quotes.
- Draw a four panel comic about a funny interaction.
- List the books you're currently reading or what you're currently watching or listening to.
- Add stickers or printed memes.
- Type a letter and add it to your journal.
- Embroider on a page.
- Sketch a map of your regular routine. Label the places you go.
- Sketch the bridges in Boone.



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MAY AND JUNE 2026

JOURNALING AND PLACE: PROJECT INTRODUCTION

MAY 4, 2026 | 6-7PM | ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR

Pick up your journal and discover how place shapes memory, story, and reflection.

INSPIRED BY PLACE: AN AUTHOR TALK WITH KEVIN MASON

MAY 13, 2026 | 6:30-7:30PM | ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR

During the Summer of 2021, Mason hiked the renowned dragoon trail. His book *Retracing the Dragoon Trail* is a timely study of Iowa's landscape, history, and policy.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE

MAY 20, 2026 | 6-8PM | BOONE HISTORY CENTER

Local historian Charles Irwin explores Boone's development, industries, and planning, followed by a BCHS guided downtown walk.

COMING OF AGE AND PLACE

JUNE 11, 2026 | 4-5PM | HARRISON #5, MACKAY SCHOOLHOUSE

Historian Pamela Riney-Kehrberg explores rural childhood through memoirs, revealing a fascinating narrative of family, work, and place.

NAMING AND PLACE

JUNE 27, 2026 | 12-1PM | ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY, PRAIRIE GARDEN

Tara Labovich explores naming, observation, and poetry through readings and generative writing exercises.



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JULY 2026

FORGED IN PLACE

JULY 8, 2026 | 6-8PM | POWERS FARM, OGDEN, IOWA

David Williamson shares metalwork process, showing how place shapes creativity and artistic inspiration.

OBSERVING NATURE AND PLACE

JULY 18, 2026 | 10-11AM | DON WILLIAMS PARK VIOLETS RIDGE

Steph Shepherd, IDNR biologist, leads a prairie study, exploring environment, place, and observation accompanied by guided watercolor instruction.

STORIES AND PLACE

JULY 27-28 (EXACT TBD), 2026 | 6-7PM | ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY, PRAIRIE GARDEN

Jason Walsmith shares travel stories exploring connections between storytelling, identity, and sense of place.



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AUGUST 2026

VALUE OF NATURE AND PLACE

AUGUST 3, 2026 | 6-7PM | JAY CARLSON WILDLIFE AREA

Jim Colbert shares nature stories, revealing wonder, wildlife, and connections to local landscapes.

PLAY AND PLACE

AUGUST 18, 2026 | 6-7PM | CARL FRITZ HENNING SHELTER, LEDGES STATE PARK

Andy Bartlett discusses Ledges' history, evolving recreation, and efforts preserving this unique natural place.

VOICES AND PLACE

AUGUST 24, 2026 | 6-7PM | ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR

Sarah Egge situates Boone's suffrage parade within broader trends of American culture and examines the motivations of early suffragists.

FARM AND PLACE

AUGUST 31, 2026 | 6-7PM | HERITAGE BARN

Barn historian, Steve Rimathe, will discuss the visually striking landmarks that dot our countryside and the efforts underway to preserve rural heritage.



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SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2026

HONOR AND PLACE

SEPTEMBER 14-26 (TBD), 2026 | 6-7PM | MOINGONA DEPOT

Join us in this month of gratitude for our first responders to learn about the dangers of early railroads and to honor the people of our place whose acts of courage and response contributed to safe travel.

ANNIVERSARY WEEK

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 2 | ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A vintage ice cream social, trivia night, Storytimes with celebrated readers, and a culminating event will round out our celebration.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PLACE

OCTOBER 2, 2026 | 6-7PM | ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Built with funds donated by Senator CJA Ericson, our library building was dedicated 125 years ago this month. Historian Jeff Bremer will provide critical context for the progressive reform movement, and he will place Ericson alongside leaders of the same era who boldly shaped the future of their place.



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