

# The Web

*Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists*

Fall IAN Workshop info on pages 4-8!!!

## We Found Gold!!

Maria Koschmeder Iowa CCB Naturalist

Photos by Karen Phelps, Benton CCB Naturalist

A friend of mine shared a new prairie remnant with me. It was only an acre or two of steep hillside bordered by gravel roads and corn fields. It was, however, the most awesome butterfly milkweed patch I have ever seen.

Butterfly milkweed is a bright orange color- hard to miss in the open grassland in July. It tends to grow on poorer soils just like the ones in Lake Iowa Park or around Iowa County's many pastures and roadside ditches.

For those of us who are prairie enthusiasts, butterfly milkweed is the most wonderful of plants. Why not, it has complicated and diabolical biology, certainly designed by a master. It offers sweet nectar to butterflies, especially monarchs, so they can carry off their pollenia (small suitcases of pollen) to the next plant; the plants produce a toxic milky sap that only monarch caterpillars can love and they look fabulous, brighter and more colorful than any other prairie flower in July!

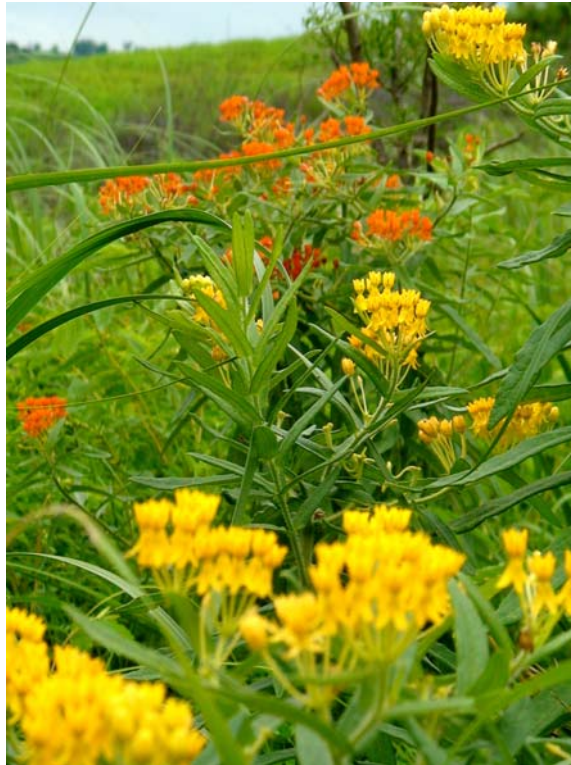
Of course, I had to share this with someone else. Karen Phelps, naturalist from Benton County, joined me and we walked through the roadside ditch to see what else might be lurking in this remnant.

We found more butterfly milkweed-shades of orange so dark it was almost red. We found other species of

prairie plants, flowers, grasses, sedges, and even a rare prairie crabapple.

We found signs of wildlife use- insects, birds, and mammals- we were in this ditch at least an hour and a half, taking pictures and exploring like little kids. And then, behind a willow bush, we stumbled upon a yellow butterfly milkweed...we could not believe it! You would have thought we found a boulder of gold!

Well, it was...gold!



Like the red butterfly milkweed, it just had a different amount of carotenes, the natural orange to red crystalline hydrocarbon pigments that makes plants yellow, orange and red. This yellow butterfly milkweed simply had less carotene than others. In a sense, it was like an albino squirrel- just lacking all the melanin pigment in its skin.

We took pictures, more pictures and even more pictures, and then, we took more pictures. It was dark before we left. Once again, we found treasure- not just a huge population of butterfly milkweed but in a variety of colors and in the most unlikely of places, a roadside ditch.

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I consider the county roadsides a linear habitat, a wealth of plant and wildlife sources. Now is a great time to “notice” the prairie while you’re driving. The Iowa DOT has developed prairies along the interstate. They are hard to miss since they have now covered most of the 4-lane highways in Iowa.

Our Iowa County Roadside Biologist has replanted and developed prairies anywhere there has been ditch cleaning, or new bridges installed, or occasionally when landowners ask for a planting in their own roadside.



We are literally surrounded by prairie but they are in bits and pieces, you have to look for these kinds of treasures. When was the last time you went on a treasure hunt? Your roadside prairies are waiting to be discovered. You never know when you might strike it rich!

For more information about roadside prairies in Iowa, contact your local county conservation board, roadside manager or Steve Holland at the Iowa DOT’s Roadside Vegetative Management Program— at [www.iowalivingroadway.com](http://www.iowalivingroadway.com).

## *IAN News and Updates:*

### **IAN Traveling Exhibits Committee**

In case you were asleep when the whoop went up back in June – the Traveling Exhibit Committee’s REAP-CEP grant was funded! So the fun really begins!

The Prairie Team members have sent their panel concepts to several prairie groups for technical review. Staff from the Tallgrass Prairie Center, Living Roadway Trust Fund, and members of the Iowa Prairie Network has reviewed the technical information on the panels. Literary professionals (maybe even your former English professor) are reviewing the panel text. And not to be left out, we are having friends and a few “people on the street” take a look at the panels to give us their responses regarding general attractiveness and an idea of what the viewer will take away from the exhibit.

Once this process is completed, we will be sending out RFP’s to exhibit design/build companies. In the meantime we are also working out the logistics end of how the exhibit will move around the state and continuing to raise those last match dollars. If your agency or friends group would like to get in on the ground floor, we could still use a few matching gifts in the range of \$200-\$500.

On board with matching funds so far are: Friends of Fontana, Friends of Warren CCB, Friends of Pocahontas CCB, City of Davenport – Parks and Recreation, Friends of Wickiup, Emmet CCB, Woodbury CCB, Woodbury CCB Foundation, Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association, Tallgrass Prairie Center –UNI, Friends of Jackson County Conservation, Iowa Trust for Local Conservation, Living Roadway Trust Fund and Pheasants Forever – Iowa. IAN EX-Com has committed \$500 to the design/build phase of the project. **These commitments get us to \$8,700 of the \$10,000 we need to match the REAP-CEP grant.** So as you can see, we can still use your financial commitment to this project! Please contact Ann Burns or Charlene Elyea if you can give us some crucial partner support!

Visitors who view the exhibit will come away with a better understanding of our prairie heritage, learn to recognize some of the amazing plants and animals of our tallgrass prairies, and gain an appreciation of the importance of prairies as habitat today and possibly food or fuel sources of the future.

We are excited to be bringing this project to the next phase!

## ***Grapevine News***

Julie Brazell, Naturalist for Clayton County Conservation has left that position for a Naturalist position at Custer State Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Dana Dittmer has resigned from her position as Naturalist with the Chickasaw County Conservation Board.

Sunday Ford, Sioux County Naturalist is expecting another baby February 22.

Cristina Groen, Shelby-Audubon County Naturalist is engaged.

Heather Hucka, Story County Naturalist is expecting a baby.

Reba Reddick, Cedar County Naturalist is engaged.

Victoria Shamblen, Plymouth County Naturalist and Dan DeVos got married.

Jessica Steines, Clinton County Naturalist is expecting a baby.

Joel Van Roekel, Warren County Naturalist and family are expecting their 2nd child.

Jessica Wagner, Jackson County Naturalist is expecting a baby.

## **IAN Booklet Committee**

ExCom has formed a committee to update the series of IAN Booklets. Many of these booklets were printed around 1996. A lot of information and statistics needs to be updated. We need many volunteers to fill this committee. If you are interested in being more active and involved in IAN, here is your opportunity. Please contact Lisa Anderson, IAN President. 515-433-0591 [lisak@boonelandfill.org](mailto:lisak@boonelandfill.org).

## **2009 IAN Photo Contest**

The 2008 Photo Contest was very well received and so we are going to have another go at it! Thanks to Kip and Sondra for their time and energy on the contest, without them we would have not have had a contest! We look forward to your 2009 entries this fall. For more information about the rules please contact Sondra Cabell at [fontanapark@iowatelecom.net](mailto:fontanapark@iowatelecom.net)

## **IAN Fundraising Update: Get Ready to Show Us Your Talent!**

The 2009 Fall IAN workshop auction theme this year is "Naturalists Have Talent". We are asking members to help prove that by auctioning off their special talent at the Fall IAN auction on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, in Woodbury County.

This year's auction will showcase the skills and talents of all of us. Some talents well known, others will surely be a welcome surprise – but this is your chance to show them off!

Between now and November 11<sup>th</sup> be thinking of what your special talent is and how you can share it with IAN. Your talent will be auctioned off for the fall fundraiser!

In order to make the auction run smoothly, Naturalists should write a description of their talent to be auctioned, set a minimum bid, and be sure to set a date/time or if you plan on being flexible for the highest bidder of the auction item.

Items up for bid may include a program you are known for (Mike's Hawk ID, Linda's Dutch oven cooking) or it may be an artistic craft (what will Pete create this year?), or perhaps you are a highly skilled cook and want to share your jams, jellies, breads, wines, etc. Maybe knitting or woodworking is your talent. Whatever it is, get ready to showcase it and put it up for bid.

Anyway, you get the idea. Let's make this an auction to remember, and strut your stuff!

# Share Your Talent

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IAN Fall Workshop, November 18-20, 2009  
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Woodbury County  
4500 Sioux River Road, Sioux City, Iowa  
Registration Deadline: November 1, 2009  
DPNC: 712-258-0838

## Wednesday, November 18, 2009 - Pre-workshop Field Trips

1. **Wild Edibles**, Sam Thayer and Mike Krebill, 12:30 - 5:00 p.m. (\$10.00)
2. **Pheasant Hunt** with Plymouth County Conservation - 12:30 - 4:00-ish (Free)  
Please provide your own guns and ammo and a valid hunting license  
Meet at Hillview Park, 25601 C60, Hinton, IA. 712-947-4270 Plymouth CCB

5:00-6:30 p.m. **Dinner** (on your own)

7:00 p.m. - **Laser Shot** and evening entertainment at Stoney Creek Inn  
Compliments of the Plymouth County Pheasants Forever Chapter. Come join us for a fun simulated "hunt" in the comforts of the indoors. Prizes will be awarded.  
Hospitality Suite at the Hotel. Sponsored by Stoney Creek Inn.

Sioux City offers a wide variety of evening entertainment.  
See the following page for more.

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## Thursday, November 19, 2009

8:30 a.m. Registration - Breakfast is available at the hotel. No breakfast at the Center

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

9:30 a.m. **General Session I**      **Room A & B**      **Scott Moats, INC**  
**Broken Kettle Grasslands & Bison Reintroduction**  
see description on following page

10:45 a.m. **Break** (make it special: remember to bring snacks to share)

11:00 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions I**

Room A **Wild Edibles - Sam Thayer**

For those of you who missed the pre-conference workshop, Sam will offer more insight into the world of Wild Edibles.

Room B **Help, I Need Volunteers! - Rita Donnelly**

Rita Donnelly, Volunteers in Policing, Sioux City Police Department  
Come and learn about the recruitment, retention and recognition ideas that work for the Sioux City Police Department Volunteer Program and how they can be applied to your program. Basic, simple ideas that work for any program will be shared as well as comments from current volunteers to let you know what keeps them coming back.

12:00 p.m. **Enjoy an Iowa Grown Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **General Session II**      **Room A & B**      **Dr. Gale Bishop, SCISTP**  
**The St. Catherines Island Sea Turtle Conservation Program: putting Natural History into Sea Turtle Conservation.**  
see description on following page

# Share Your Talent

IAN Fall Workshop, November 18-20, 2009  
- Continued -

Thursday, November 19, 2009

2:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions II**

Room A **Bushcraft I – Chris Anderson, Hartman Reserve Nature Center**  
Chris Anderson, Program Coordinator for Hartman Reserve Nature Center will teach us all about Bushcraft. A skill set and a lifestyle – Bushcraft is the act of actively participating in nature. We will discuss the differences in bushcraft and Leave No Trace philosophies, as well as cover basic and advanced skill sets used by bushcrafters. We will also discuss how bushcraft programs can be incorporated into managing natural resources. We will hike a bit so dress for the weather.

Room B **Animal Appetizers – Theresa Kruid and Jody Moats**  
Theresa Kruid, Naturalist, Woodbury CCB and Jody Moats, Naturalist, Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve, SD present Animal Appetizers: Food is always an attention-getter. Have fun learning and sampling creative snacks to help your interpretive programs.

3:00 p.m. **Break** (make it special: introduce yourself to someone you don't know)

3:30 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions III**

Room A **Bushcraft II – Chris Anderson**  
See description of Bushcraft I. We will continue and take things a bit more in-depth

Room B **Partnerships with Non-profit Groups – Sunday Ford, Sioux CCB**  
Join Sunday Ford, Sioux CCB Naturalist, and Mike Slota, Youth Chair, Plymouth County Pheasants Forever, for a presentation and discussion on some program ideas involving partnerships with other conservation organizations. Sioux CCB currently has a variety of programs reaching a total of approximately 900 people each year involving these partnerships. One such program is a Youth Banquet, cosponsored by Pheasants Forever, with a \$9,000 budget for the banquet, it has received national attention. Come away with ideas on increasing your event budget, volunteer numbers, publicity, and creative ideas.

Resource Room **What do You do on a Hike? – Victoria DeVos and Heather Hucka**  
Stretch your legs and your mind and join Victoria DeVos, Naturalist, Plymouth CCB and Heather Hucka, Naturalist, Story CCB as you climb to new heights in the Loess Hills and share different ideas on leading outdoor hikes. Outdoor Session. Please dress accordingly.

5:00 p.m. **Business Meeting**  
Room A & B

6:00 p.m. **Dinner**  
Room A & B

7:00 p.m. **Room A & B Fund-Raising Auction: Naturalists Have Talent**  
Show off your special talent (s). Be generous and strut your stuff.

# Share Your Talent

IAN Fall Workshop, November 18-20, 2009  
- Continued -

## Friday, November 20, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. Room A & B General Session III - Bill Heyborne - Morningside College  
**Venomous Animals**  
see description on following page
- 9:30 a.m. Break (make it special: connect with old friends)
- 9:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions IV
- Room A **Earthcaching I - Stacey Snyder, Grant Wood AEA 10**  
Join Stacey Snyder, Science Consultant for Grant Wood AEA 10 and learn more about this newer twist on outdoor scavenger hunts. Earthcaching provides an avenue for Leave No Trace and also focuses on the natural landscape and geology of an area. Outdoor session. Please dress accordingly.
- Room B **American Indian Weaving Techniques Through Archaeology - Jill Titcumb, Naturalist, O'Brien CCB**  
Learn about weaving through archaeology. We'll look at weaving categories, past methods, uses of objects, preservation, dyeing, and other processes. Create a basket of your own using past techniques that can easily become a great activity to use with participants of all ages! Connect with past peoples for a better understanding of their technologies and use of natural resources.
- 10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions V
- Room A **Earthcaching I - Stacey Snyder**  
Continuation of the above session. Outdoor session. Please dress accordingly.
- Room B **Loess Hills Birding - Jerry Probst and Jerry VonEhwegen, Loess Hills Audubon Society**  
Join two master birders for a brief outing to search the hills for unusual and common bird species. Outdoor session. Please dress accordingly.
- 12:00 p.m. Enjoy an Iowa Grown Lunch  
Travel Safely!

Sioux City Attractions: [www.siouxcitytourism.com](http://www.siouxcitytourism.com) or [www.downtownsiouxcity.com](http://www.downtownsiouxcity.com)

\* Sioux City Art Center \* Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center \* Sioux City Public Museum \* Argosy of Sioux City Riverboat Casino

### Shopping:

Downtown Sioux City...many specialty shops on Historic 4th St. \* Lakeport Commons...Upscale shopping area \* Southern Hills Mall

### Dining:

Rebo's-local restaurant with Cajun flare, Historic 4th St. \* Buffalo Alice-local pizza joint with dozens of beer selections on tap, Historic 4th St. \* Mac Behr's-restaurant, bar dance club, Historic 4th St. \* The Chesterfield-live local music with Wednesday Night Jam, Historic 4th St. \* Famous Dave's-walking distance from hotel \* Chili's-walking distance from hotel \* Buffalo Wild Wings-Lakeport Commons/Mall \* Red Robin-Lakeport Commons/Mall \* Olive Garden-Lakeport Commons Mall \* Minerva's-upscale restaurant with woodfire pizzas, steak, pasta on Hamilton Blvd.

Free time at the hotel

## Pre-Workshop and General Session Descriptions

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

1-5 p.m. **Pre-Workshop Session Dorothy Pecaut NC Sam Thayer, Mike Krebill**  
Edible wild plant gurus Sam Thayer and Mike Krebill team up to share their insights on this fascinating hobby. Weather cooperating, we will spend two hours outdoors, where we will focus on identifying edible wild plants and model teaching techniques. As we see plants or as questions arise, expect tips on the what, when, and how of collecting. Back inside, Sam will cover processing, storing, and preparing wild foods. Mike will demonstrate activities that you can use for programs and with school classes. Mike will provide handouts, and a few wild foods to taste. He will also recommend references for your center to sell, including Sam's award-winning *Forager's Harvest*, and his hot-off-the-press sequel, *Nature's Garden*. Sam will have both for you to look at and purchase if you wish. In addition, Sam will bring wild rice and maple syrup to sell, which he and his wife Melissa harvested this year. Session size limit is 30 participants. Fee \$10.00

Thursday, November 19, 2009

9:30 a.m. **General Session I Room A & B Scott Moats, INC**  
**Broken Kettle Grasslands and Bison reintroduction**  
Scott Moats, Director of Stewardship and Fire Manager, Iowa Nature Conservancy.  
Scott will describe the reintroduction of bison on one of the largest tracts of remaining tall grass prairies in the state of Iowa. The justification for returning a native herbivore, anticipated biological responses, and future herd dynamics will be discussed.

1:00 p.m. **General Session II Room A & B Dr. Gale Bishop, SCISTP**  
**The St. Catherines Island Sea Turtle Conservation Program: putting Natural History Education into Sea Turtle Conservation.**  
The SCISTP has completed its 19th year of integrating "Conservation, Research and Education" through the vehicle of a sea turtle conservation program on St. Catherines Is; and on the Georgia coast studying aspects of the nesting ecology of endangered loggerhead sea turtles (see [www.scistp.org](http://www.scistp.org)). The holistic natural history program has put over 127,000 hatchling sea turtles into the northern Southwestern North Atlantic sub populations of *Caretta caretta*, taught 246 K-12 Teacher-Interns in a two-semester sequence course (including an 8-day island residency) who have taught conservation and sea turtle science to 250,000 K-12 school children, and produced approximately 30 research publications, 100 presentations, 5 museum exhibits, and 11 web products, including the discovery and description of the only known fossilized sea turtle nest Thursday from the Cretaceous of Colorado.

Friday, November 20, 2009

8:30 a.m. **General Session III Room A & B Dr. Bill Heyborne, Morning Side College**  
Dr. Bill Heyborne, Professor of Biology, Morningside College discusses how venomous and poisonous animals are great models for teaching about predator-prey interactions and co-evolution. In this session, we will discuss the wide variety of animal toxins, the biological roles of these toxins and the difference between venoms and poisons

### Directions for Pheasant Hunters:

Take Hwy75 to Hinton, turn west at the stop lights (C60). We are located about a mile from Hwy75. The park office is at the top of the hill to the right. You may call Victoria at the Plymouth CCB office if you get lost: 712-947-4270

### Lodging Information:

Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, 300 3rd St., Sioux City, IA 51101. Phone 712-252-1100 or book online at [www.stoneycreekinn.com](http://www.stoneycreekinn.com) Select the Sioux City location. Double rooms (2 queens): \$70.00 per night.

A block of rooms is reserved under Iowa Association of Naturalists for November 18 & 19. When you make your reservation, ask for the special rate. Rooms will be released three (3) weeks prior to the workshop, so plan ahead.

Sioux City's newest hotel features an indoor pool, complimentary full breakfast, restaurant and bar, all in a unique woodsy atmosphere.

# Share Your Talent: IAN Fall Workshop, November 18-20, 2009

## Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Woodbury County

Please take a moment to fill out the registration and return it with payment by November 1st

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a new Naturalist or new to IAN  
 Please add me to the listserv; Yahoo email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-Workshop Sessions:

- Pheasant Hunt - Free (please provide your own guns and ammo) 12:30-4:00 pm-ish  
 Wild Edibles - \$10.00 person/30 people maximum. 1-5:00 p.m. Meet at the DPNC, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the meals you would like to sign up for. All meals are locally grown and mostly organic. Meals provided by Real Food Catering.

### Thursday Lunch: \$10.00

- Local Chicken Wraps       Vegetarian Wraps      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 roasted tomato and creme soup, multi-colored pasta with local tomato and raw vegetables, pumpkin bars

### Thursday Dinner: \$14.00

- Wild Animal Grill including: buffalo, grass-finished beef, free-range chicken       Vegetarian Lasagna      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 traditional and unusual condiments, fresh vegetable salad with greens, sweet potato fries, apple crisp

### Friday Lunch: \$12.00

- Wild Stew including: buffalo, wild turkey and grass-finished beef       Vegetable Soup      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 corn bread, baby organic mixed greens with balsamic vinaigrette, fresh baked Toll House cookies

### Things to Remember:

- Table Service
- Mug or Water Bottle
- Guns and Ammo and Valid Hunting License (for pheasant hunters)
- Talent Item for Auction

#### Reminder:

We will be having an IAN group photo after dinner on Thursday at the Nature Center.

Also, remember to mail in your IAN ExCom ballots to the address provided here if you cannot attend IAN this fall. Ballots will be available at the workshop for those planning to attend.

### Workshop Fees and IAN Membership Dues

	\$20.00 - Membership Dues	
	\$10.00 - Student Membership Dues	
	\$20.00 - Workshop Fee - Member	
	\$40.00 - Workshop Fee - Non-member	
	\$5.00 late registration fee after Nov. 1st	\$ _____

#### Please Note:

We are now asking that current members renew in the fall. Dues will be effective Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2010

### Make Checks Payable to: IAN Treasurer

Mail to: Benton County Conservation  
 Attn: Naturalist  
 901 D. Ave.  
 Vinton, IA 52349

Pre-workshop Session Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meals Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

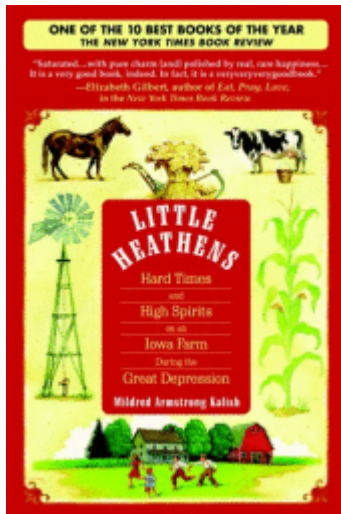
Workshop fees & dues Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration form Total: \$

## Book Review

### **Little Heathens Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression** by Mildred Armstrong Kalish

Reviewed by: Angi Reid, Silos and Smokestacks  
National Heritage Area Education & Interpretation  
Manager



Brilliantly written, *Little Heathens* sends the reader back in time through the stories, recipes and home remedies of Mildred's childhood. As she recalls daily meals and chores you begin to understand what true conservation is. Socks were darned, cut to fit smaller feet as the toes wore out and then finally used as wrist cuffs on winter coats. Nothing was wasted; it was a time of frugality and ingenuity.

As naturalists and conservationists this book enables us to see a sock as more than a foot warmer or sock puppet; perhaps it becomes a pond net or a bird feeder. As Iowans this book enables us to see what our past looked like and how we can continue to learn from it.

## Experience the Monarchs of Mexico

How can a tiny insect that weighs less than a gram fly all the way to Mexico from Iowa and points even farther North? How can they arrive at a destination they have never been to before? The same places most recently visited by their great-great-grandparents?

Traveling over 1,600 miles from Eastern Iowa, the monarchs will over-winter in oyamel fir tree forests in the volcanic mountain range in the state of Michoacan, Mexico.

Scientists predict this will be a fabulous year for the monarch as numbers are considerably high heading into the fall migration. Need proof – just look at the abundance of flowers in bloom as you travel, and note all the monarchs that are nectaring among them. These monarchs appearing now at the end of August and early September will be the same monarchs you will visit on your trip to Mexico early next spring.

Monarch enthusiasts will want to join Benton County Conservation Naturalist, Karen Phelps, on this unique opportunity to experience the Monarch butterfly in its winter home near Morelia, Mexico. The trip will take place **March 6-13, 2010**. Reservations are now being accepted with limited space available.

This will be Karen's third trip to Mexico. In 2006 and 2009, she and Sondra Cabell traveled to Mexico with people from across the United States, to meet up with their guide, William Calvert. Mr. Calvert has almost 30 years experience as a guide to the monarch wintering grounds, and his passion for, and research of the monarch butterfly proves to make this truly an educational and memorable experience.

For more information concerning costs and itinerary, or to make reservations please contact Benton County Naturalist, Karen Phelps by email at [wildthing@naturetracks.net](mailto:wildthing@naturetracks.net) or phone 319-560-9809. Reservations and down payment are requested by September 25, 2009.

### **You could write for *The Web*!!**

We are always looking for articles, book reviews and upcoming events that would be of interest to the IAN membership and any member can submit something!! To submit send your submissions to *The Web* Editor Jacklyn Gautsch at [jackie.gautsch@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:jackie.gautsch@dnr.iowa.gov). Electronic submissions are preferred in word documents for text and jpeg

## IAN ExCom Election Nominees

### Laura DeCook, Naturalist, Appanoose County Conservation

I have been a member of IAN for the past 12 years and this organization has been a tremendous resource for me! Conferences, naturalist swap meets and the list-serve have provided networking and education that has been extremely valuable to my job. The leadership of IAN over the years provided this service for me, so now I would be honored to return the favor to serve as a newly elected member of the ex-com board. I am the naturalist for the Appanoose County Conservation Board. I also have experience in serving on and leading committees. Most of my committee experience has been with local National Wild Turkey Federation chapters and as a state board member for National Wild Turkey Federation in Iowa. IAN has such a big future and I would be proud to serve on the ExCom board and to work with the other board members. Thanks for your vote!



### Tina Popson, Program Manager, Pottawattamie County Conservation

Hello! I have been a member of IAN since 2002 and have been serving as your loyal IAN ExCom numbers-cruncher (aka treasurer) in 2008 & 2009. I strive to encourage people to become engaged with the natural world and create programs and opportunities for this to occur, which I believe is critical to the future of healthy children, healthy adults and a healthy planet. It would be an honor to give back to this organization by continuing to serve on the IAN ExCom. Thanks!

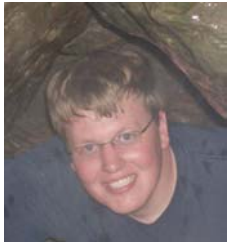
### Missy Smith, Naturalist, Warren County Conservation

I started my career as a naturalist in 2001 with Boone County. I got married and had to move to Tucson, AZ. The Air Force allowed my husband and I an opportunity to move back to central Iowa last fall. We are close to family now and I get to go back to loving my job. I am now with Warren County and enjoying it. After being back for a year, I would like to become a more active member of IAN. It would be an honor to serve on the IAN ExCom. Thank You.



### Nathan Unsworth, Naturalist, Jasper County Conservation

Since graduating from ISU in the fall of 2007, I have worked for Jasper County Conservation as a naturalist. The experience has been tremendous thus far and IAN is a big reason why. Being a member of IAN has certainly helped me transition into the professional world and grow as a naturalist. With my IAN membership, I have been able to fine-tune my own style, gain a plethora of new ideas, and have access to the greatest resource of all-the IAN members! My experience with IAN made it easy for me to volunteer and serve as the new Awards Committee Chair, as well as, run for ExCom. The IAN organization has so much to offer to its members. As a committee chair and a potential ExCom member, I hope to help continue that tradition, while implementing new ideas to keep this organization growing and evolving to become even better!



### Jenni Webster, Naturalist, Buchanan County Conservation

Hi, I am one of the naturalists with Buchanan County Conservation. Prior to moving to Iowa in 2008, I worked as both a naturalist and environmental educator in several facilities throughout Wisconsin. I am currently vice president of IACCBE Region VI and am involved with both The Friends of Fontana Park and the Richardson-Jakway Foundation in Buchanan County. I was impressed with the Iowa Association of Naturalists from the start, and would love to dig into a more active role within the organization as it continues moving forward. I appreciate your vote and support.



### IAN Absentee 2009 Ballot

If you can't be at the Fall Meeting please print and fill out the paper ballot and mail to: **Karen Phelps**; Benton CCB; 901 D. Ave; Vinton, IA 52349

Please vote for 3 of the following candidates by placing an X in the box next to their name. The empty line below the list of candidates is for write-in candidates.

- Laura DeCook**
- Tina Popson**
- Missy Smith**

- Nathan Unsworth**
- Jenni Webster**
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Experiencing the Old Creamery Trail

By Karen Phelps, Naturalist, Benton County Conservation Board

Taking advantage of a beautiful July afternoon, I recently made the 30 mile round trip bicycle jaunt from Vinton to Dysart and back on the Old Creamery Nature Trail. Maintained by a group of volunteers, the crushed limestone trail encompasses the old Iowa Northern Railroad rail bed.

Starting in Vinton, the fifteen mile trail ends in the town of Dysart, with the last mile having an asphalt surface. Known as the Dr. C.R. Roberts Memorial Parkway, this one mile section of trail was given to the town early on and is also maintained by volunteers. Providing a much needed oasis, trail users are welcomed to Dysart by what appears to be a strategically placed Casey's convenience store. The sense of pride over their little section of trail is evident as the day I rode into Dysart several volunteers were out mowing, trimming and providing general maintenance on the trail. An open air pavilion and several benches beckon patrons to utilize this area for a picnic or small gathering. The downtown area lies just off the trail and also provides ample respite areas.

According to Bob LaGrange, one of the founders of The Old Creamery Nature Trail, the land for the trail was purchased from the railroad in 1994, with the ownership of the title taking place around July 1, 1995. Several successful lawsuits arising from misuse of the trail area and remaining property by the previous owner provided the "seed" money to start work on the trail in 1999.

Mile markers keep track of the distance traveled, so pedometers can be left at home. Binoculars and a camera are recommended, as a variety of birds and wildlife can be enjoyed while walking or bicycling the trail. Shortly after leaving Vinton, I came across a colorful stand of prairie flowers including Grey Headed Coneflower, Cup Plant, Bee Balm, Compass Plant, Butterfly Milkweed, and Pale Purple Coneflower. Asters, though not yet in bloom, were awaiting their moment of glory. Several Indigo

Buntings flitted about and a red-sided garter snake glided across the trail in front of me. I was escorted down the trail for approximately one mile by a Red-Tailed Hawk and her offspring. Raspy cries to her young, kept the curious young hawks at bay, yet close enough for me to enjoy their playful antics.

The sweet fragrance of newly tasseled corn and common milkweed filled the air as I crossed one of nine bridges along the trail. As I spotted the red-orange color of the Butterfly Milkweed, my thoughts traveled back in time when the Iowa Northern was chugging its way over the 5% grade of the rails. I imagined the red socks of a hobo protruding from a box car as the hitchhiker caught a few winks in between towns. What was the scene like then? Did he see the vast cornfields and smell their sweet fragrance? Was he able to hear the cry of the hawk as she soared high overhead? How many Hobos rode the rails between these two towns, stopping only long enough to find a meal and hop back onto their steel carriage to be carried away to their next unknown destination?



The Old Creamery Nature Trail is a minimally maintained trail, but provides for a wonderful place to walk or bicycle. Most areas are packed with crushed limestone; however, a few small areas are sand or hard packed dirt and may prove muddy during wet periods. The town of Garrison is situated at approximately the half-way point and is a great starting or stopping point for those less inclined to do the full 15 miles one way. The trail committee is always looking for volunteers to help with routine maintenance. Please contact Randy Scheel of Garrison if you are interested in volunteering.

Aside from the volunteers in Dysart, to my delight and perhaps disappointment, I encountered no one else while out on the trail. The solitude was inspiring but the knowledge that no other patrons were out utilizing this very gem of a trail, placed right in their own backyards, was disheartening. As a child, and now an adult, I have always found my sense of place in the outdoors. I urge you to take advantage of the unusually cool summer and get out and enjoy the treasures of your community.

## IAN/ICEC Awards Program

Know of a person, program, or organization that has not received the recognition they deserve for their conservation and environmental education efforts? Now is your chance to rectify that! Nominations are being accepted for the Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition's 2009 Conservation and Environmental Education Excellence Awards Program.

The Awards Programs serves many functions. It recognizes those efforts to promote conservation and environmental education, rewards those involved, and publicizes and expands awareness of the excellent programs happening across the state. It's also useful in gaining local support and recognition as well as self-promotion.

Award categories are:

- *Aldo Leopold EE Award*: for lifetime achievement in EE excellence and leadership
- *Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award*: for outstanding efforts by an environmental educator
- *Chris Holt Youth EE Award*: for an outstanding EE program for youth or by youth
- *"Ding" Darling EE Award*: for outstanding EE program or event which informs and educates the general public
- *Sylvan Runkel EE School Award*: for outstanding whole-school EE program
- *Outstanding Environmental Education Program* (2 or less interpreters or 3 or more interpreters): for excellence in EE programming by an agency or institution
- *Frederic Leopold EE Award*: for outstanding EE efforts by business, industry, or labor
- *Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award*: for outstanding efforts to educate about preservation, land management, or natural resource conservation
- *Outstanding Interpretative Print Media Award*
- *Outstanding Interpretative Non-Print Media Award*

Check the web for a nomination form and examples of past winning nominations: <http://www.ianpage.20m.com>.

Submission deadline is December 1, 2009. Award forms should not exceed three pages. Self-nomination is permissible.

For more information contact: Nathan Unsworth; IAN/ICEC Awards Committee; Jasper County Conservation; 115 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E; Newton, IA 50208 or phone: 641-792-9780 or email [nunsworth@co.jasper.ia.us](mailto:nunsworth@co.jasper.ia.us).

## The Iowa DNR like to show you their appreciation!

To thank you for your support and participation of REAP, the Iowa DNR would like to give you a discount coupon for the Iowa Nature Store. When you use the discount code, **REAP**, you'll get great deals on all REAP apparel, including dress shirts, short-sleeve t-shirts, and long-sleeve t-shirts. Your costs are below what the Iowa DNR had to pay for these items.

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## Upcoming Workshops and Events:

### 2020 Vision: Creative Solutions for Our Changing World

DMACC Ankeny; September 25



[www.iaenvironment.org/](http://www.iaenvironment.org/)

### Exploring Iowa's Natural Resources

Online Class; Sept 21- Dec 13



[shannon.hafner@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:shannon.hafner@dnr.iowa.gov)

### Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency Summit

September 22; Ames



[www.iowaenergy.org](http://www.iowaenergy.org)

### Upper Mississippi River Conference

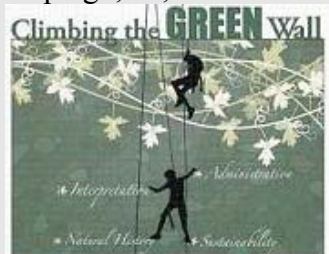
September 23-25; Moline, IL



[www.riveraction.org/umrc2009/](http://www.riveraction.org/umrc2009/)

### Midwest Environmental Education Conference

Champaign, IL; October 14-17



[www.eeai.net](http://www.eeai.net)

### Iowa Recycling & Solid Waste Management Conference & Trade Show

Waterloo; October 5-7



[www.iraisoswoconference.org/](http://www.iraisoswoconference.org/)

### Projects WILD, WILD Aquatic, Project Learning Tree

Online Course; Oct 5- Dec 6



[shannon.hafner@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:shannon.hafner@dnr.iowa.gov)

### Energy and Climate Change in the Midwest: Creating Opportunities in the New Economy

October 16-17; Iowa City



<http://ppc.uiowa.edu/dnn4/Default.aspx?tabid=295>

### Outcomes-Based Planning & Evaluation Workshop

Iowa Falls; November 4



[www.silosandsmokestacks.org/](http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/)

### Save the dates for future IAN Workshops:

- Spring 2010** – Washington County – March 3-5
- Summer 2010** – Bremer County – August 11-13
- Fall 2010** – Kossuth County – November 17-19
- Spring 2011** – Pottawattamie County – March 2-4
- Summer 2011** – Palo Alto County - TBA
- Fall 2011** – Iowa County – TBA
- Spring 2012** – Appanoose County - TBA

Please contact Karen Phelps, IAN Workshop Coordinator at (319)560-9809 or [bccbee@co.benton.ia.us](mailto:bccbee@co.benton.ia.us) if you would like to host an IAN workshop in your county.

Check out the IAN Web Site – [www.ianpage.20m.com](http://www.ianpage.20m.com)

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*Naturalists* – planting the seed of environmental stewardship by communicating the meanings and relationships in natural, cultural, and historical resources.