

The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists



IAN Fall Workshop (pages 7-9)!

No Child Left Behind

Heidi Anderson, IAN President

A few weeks ago I was asked to participate in a discussion on “No Child Left Behind,” and how it could affect environmental education in the next three to five years. I had never heard of No Child Left Behind, and didn’t know anything about it. After doing some research and discussing this with several people, I realize this is something naturalists need to be aware of.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is a federal law with a goal to improve educational opportunities for every American child. It focuses on accountability, local control, flexibility, new options for parents, and more funding for the education system. President Bush describes this law as the “cornerstone of [his] administration.” Clearly, our children are our future, and, as President Bush has expressed, “too many of our neediest children are being left behind.”

So, what does this mean? The federal government is focusing on improving student reading and math

test scores with standardized tests. These proficiency tests will compare students from Iowa to students across the country. Currently, the government is not requiring states to report science test scores. The focus is clearly on reading and math.

So, how do you measure proficiency? The State of Iowa defines proficient as achieving the 41st percentile or higher on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) or the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED), using national norms. The State of Iowa has already been reporting reading and math test scores to the government, and is working to coordinate these test results with the No Child Left Behind standards.

What is the opposition to No Child Left Behind? Some see this federal law as a radical experiment and a violation of state rights. It narrowly focuses on math and reading test scores. There are dozens of changes that are untested and unproven. There isn’t funding to support programs to help students and schools that fall below the national proficiency standards. We know that not all students learn in the same way, but these standards focus only on test scores.

How does this affect naturalists and environmental education? Maybe it will. Maybe it won’t. Teachers may not have time in their schedules to invite naturalists into the classroom because they are focused on other subjects. Maybe

the school administration won’t support field trips to parks. Science curriculum possibly could take a back seat to reading and math. On the other hand, if this is the case, we can show teachers and administrators how to integrate environmental education into reading, writing, math, and science.

To learn more about this issue, there will be a general session at the fall workshop on No Child Left Behind and environmental education. You can also check out these web sites:

www.nochildleftbehind.gov or www.nochildleft.com.

Will this be a fad? What changes in the education system will occur? This is an issue we need to keep an eye on because it could impact what and how we offer environmental education to schools.

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IAN Executive Committee Elections

Vote now in the IAN Executive Committee (ExCom) election. Five excellent candidates are vying for three seats on the ExCom. Linda Zalatel and Kelly Sonnichsen are up for re-election. Read the candidate information below, and mail the ballot to Heidi Anderson before November 13. Special thanks to Heidi for her past service on the Executive Committee.

IAN members who have planning and board skills, and a desire to serve in a policy-setting capacity, should consider being a candidate for the ExCom. A good way to begin gathering experience for a future role on the ExCom is to become involved on one of IAN's working committees. Contact any of the ExCom members on the back page of the newsletter for more information about IAN committees.



Heather Freidhof, Bremer CCB Naturalist

“Hi. My name is Heather Freidhof. I work in Bremer County. I’ve been there for 2 great years. Before that, I worked in Boone County for 2 years. IAN has been a huge asset to me in my career. I especially enjoy networking with other naturalists to see what works in their counties. This is truly a great group of individuals. I currently serve on the mentor committee. I arrange for new naturalists to be paired up with a nearby naturalist who can relay advice or lend equipment. I think this is a really positive program to get naturalists started in their careers. I would love to give back to an organization that has already given me so much. I really enjoy working with people from all over the state because it broadens my scope. I feel that ExCom would be another great opportunity for my professional growth.”

Jody Moats, SD Game, Fish, and Parks Naturalist

“Even though I cross the border everyday and work as a naturalist for the state of South Dakota, my heart and home is still in Iowa. Iowa offers an excellent organization that allows naturalists to network with their peers and other professionals, share ideas and talents, and help achieve professional and personal goals. I have been a proud member of IAN for about eight years, and would love to continue being a part of this organization as an ExCom member. I value the education that IAN has given me, and hope to have the opportunity to work on a committee that continues that education for other naturalists.”

Kelly Sonnichsen - Crawford CCB EE Coordinator

“I am currently serving as the IAN Vice President. I have enjoyed the exchange of ideas, the learning experience, and the enthusiasm the present board has offered. I would like to continue to contribute to IAN's professional growth and help develop IAN's vision in the future!”

Shane Vondracek, Sac CCB Naturalist

“I have been the naturalist at Sac County for four years now, and in that time I have learned much about IAN, the conservation board system, and being an effective environmental educator. I have served on the awards committee the last two years, last year as the co-chair. I know IAN's workshops and programs have helped me to grow professionally, and see the ExCom as the next logical step in that growth. Well, that and I've always wondered what the view looked like from the table up front. Seriously though, I feel I have the insight, attitude, and energy to be an effective committee member and hope to give back to IAN by serving on ExCom.”

Linda Zalatel, Story CCB Naturalist

Linda currently serves as Secretary on the IAN ExCom. She is running for re-election, and would appreciate your vote. Linda was unable to submit her candidate blurb prior to the printing of this newsletter.

IAN Executive Committee Ballot

Check the boxes for your three favorite candidates, and then mail this ballot before November 13 to:

Heidi Anderson, Polk CCB
11407 NW Jester Park Dr.
Granger, IA 50100

- Heather Freidhof, Bremer CCB Naturalist**
- Jody Moats SD Game, Fish and Parks Naturalist**
- Kelly Sonnichsen - Crawford CCB EE Coordinator**
- Shane Vondracek, Sac CCB Naturalist**
- Linda Zalatel, Story CCB Naturalist**



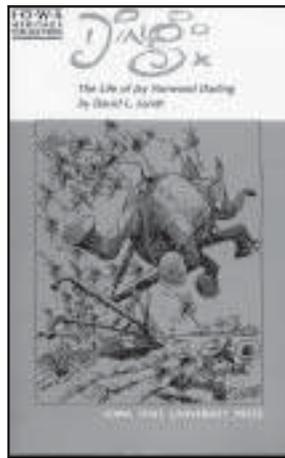
Book Review

Dan Cohen
Editor, *The Web*

Ding: The Life of Jay Norwood Darling

David L. Lendt
Iowa State University Press
Ames, IA; 1989

Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling was one of the most influential and important players during the conservation movements of the first half of the 20th century. His legacy is derived from his activism inside and out of politics, as well as his journalistic achievements as a cartoonist. A native Iowan, his story is that of one of our state's most famous conservationists. Lendt carefully documents both the personal and public life of Darling – his meteoric rise in both the fields of journalism and politics, his travels and meetings with other famous luminaries of the 1900's, and his conservation philosophy which propelled conservation at the national level.



Forest Inventory



The latest Iowa Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) brochure describes an increase in the acreage of Iowa forested land. This, and a host of other

information, is available in the brochure, *Iowa's Forest Resources in 2001*, available on the internet at: <http://ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/viewpub.asp?key=1849>. For more information, contact John Walkowiak, chief of the DNR's Forestry Bureau, at 515-241-5966.

A Bird's Eye View

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation



A Bird's Eye View, by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) staff member Marlene Ehresman, tells why and how to protect neotropical migrant birds, especially along the key Mississippi River Flyway. "Neotrops" nest in the United States and Canada but spend winters in the tropics – so they face habitat loss on two continents. Contact the INHF for a free copy of the 8-page version (contains many color photos) or the 52-page detailed version (includes 8-page insert). Or, download it from www.inhf.org/neotropbook.htm.

Books for Children

Mark Loeschke of the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau has compiled a list of recommended books on nature for children. The list below contains books with excellent writing, illustrations, and accuracy.

AMPHIBIANS

- From Tadpole to Frog by Jan Kottke
- Peepers, The First Voice of Spring by Robert McClung
- The Salamander Room by Anne Mazer
- Salamander Rain: A Lake and Pond Journal by Kristin Pratt-Serafini

BIRDS

- Backyard Birds of Summer by Carol Lerner
- Backyard Birds of Winter by Carol Lerner
- On the Wing: American Birds in Migration by Carol Lerner
- Wonders of Hummingbirds by Hilda Simon

INSECTS

- Butterflies in the Garden by Carol Lerner
- Dragonflies by Hilda Simon
- Insect Masquerades by Hilda Simon
- Living Lanterns: Luminescence in Animals by Hilda Simon
- Milkweed Butterflies: Monarchs, Models, and Mimics by Hilda Simon
- Sphinx: The Story of a Caterpillar by Robert McClung
- The Splendor of Iridescence: Structural Colors in the Animal World by Hilda Simon
- Partners, Guests and Parasites: Coexistence in Nature by Hilda Simon

PLANTS

- The Blossom on the Bough: A Book of Trees by Anne Ophelia Dowden
- Carnivorous Plants by Cynthia Overbeck
- The Clover and the Bee: A Book of Pollination by Anne Ophelia Dowden
- From Flower to Fruit by Anne Ophelia Dowden
- Flowers of a Woodland Spring by Carol Lerner
- Look at a Flower by Anne Ophelia Dowden
- Pitcher Plants: The Elegant Insect Traps by Carol Lerner
- Plant Families by Carol Lerner
- The Private Lives of Orchids by Hilda Simon
- Tree Flowers by Millicent Selsam

PLANT COMMUNITIES

- A Desert Year by Carol Lerner
- A Forest Year by Carol Lerner
- The Life of the Marsh by William Niering
- The Life of the Pond by William Amos
- The Life of the Prairies and Plains by Durward Allen
- The Life of Rivers and Streams by Robert Usinger
- On the Forest Edge by Carol Lerner
- Seasons of the Tallgrass Prairie by Carol Lerner



Developing a Sense of Wonder

Judy Levings, ISU Extension

“I should ask that a gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strength.”

- Rachael Carson

A goal of every naturalist is to fulfill the hope of Rachael Carson - to help foster a sense of wonder in every child. Yet the question is: Are our practices really helping children develop a sense of wonder?

Children express their sense of wonder and curiosity through asking questions, becoming engaged, and showing excitement. A young child may display their wonder and curiosity about something through art, imaginative play, and stories. Once a child is curious, it is through the process of questioning, observing and hypothesis making that children begin to understand. Through this, children are constructing new theories about the world. Since developing a sense of wonder and curiosity are integral to later motivation and interest in learning, it is very important to recognize, appreciate and foster a young child's expression of wonder.

Are you recognizing, appreciating, and fostering wonder? As I look at my own practices as a naturalist, educator, and mother, I ask myself this question. Am I too ready to answer a child's question without giving them time to answer it themselves, or too crunched for time to allow a child time to explore in order for them to develop ideas about the ecosystem we want them to learn about. How many times have we taken a group of youngsters for a walk in the woods and not set aside time for them to explore because we must get our objectives met, only have a 45 minute session, or not set up experiences for them to make discoveries?

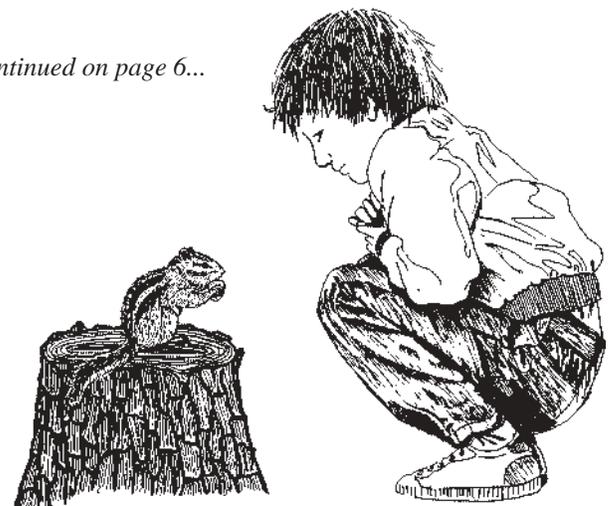
Last spring our family spent a week near the ocean, where our 3-year-old grandson had the opportunity to play on the beach. Everyday we made sandcastles, walked along the beach looking for shells, and snorkeled. Of course, a 3-year-old doesn't snorkel. Instead, in his floaties, he "swam" with the tropical fish. He was delighted in how the colorful fish came right up to him. He showed excitement. He asked questions about what they were, why they lived there, and why they would come right up to him. None of us knew how to answer his questions, and perhaps this allowed us to facilitate his learning instead of just handing him facts. Back in our apartment, there was a book on tropical fish, in a language I could not read. It didn't matter to him. He spent hours looking at the book, matching up what he saw earlier in the water and making up his own name

for the fish he saw. He then began to ask other questions: "How do these scissor fish eat;" "How come the puffy fish is so puffy;" "Why do so many of the yellow spot fish swim together;" "Why do the butterfly fish want to nibble on my toes?"

The next day we went to an aquarium where he again observed the same fish in a different setting. At the aquarium he saw, first hand, what happens to a puffy fish, and how a scissor fish eats. These combined experiences reinforced his curiosity and wonder, and a year later he is still picking up books from the library that answer some of his questions and stimulate him to question, observe, and find out more answers. We know that these experiences alone are not enough to keep his wonder or curiosity alive and his understanding of the ocean and what lives there growing. It also has to do with the relationship he has with us. His grandfather holding him in the lagoon, pointing out the fish and showing excitement about the experience with him, his grandmother sitting with him as he explores the field guide, listening to his ideas about what the fish do and how they live, and his parents listening, asking him questions, and showing their delight as he shows wonder.

I suspect, if we can continue to help him keep his inborn sense of wonder alive, he will develop a deep respect for the environment and the living things in it, as well as for learning.

Continued on page 6...



“Developing a Sense of Wonder”, continued from page 5...

If wonder is dependent on experiences and the behaviors of a caring adult, then what can a naturalist/educator do to help foster this?

1. Include pre-Kindergarten as an audience in your program. This means parent and grandparent programs, as well as programs for early child care givers. Provide programs for children to come with their parents, or conduct programs for parents on how to foster wonder and curiosity about nature.
2. Provide concrete experiences for children to explore nature with a caring adult. Try not to talk about the prairie. Get them in it. Have them bug hunt, look for mini-beasts, do shape/color walks, etc.
3. Follow up with the experience by allowing time for the children to share what they have found and to ask questions about their discoveries.
4. Use children’s ideas, and ask them questions that would help them understand more about the environment they just explored.
5. Follow up using books about the discoveries the children found. Read children a book about the environment they just explored.
6. Send home a note to parents about what their child experienced, and ways they can continue to foster curiosity and wonder about it.
7. Also, remember to keep your own wonder and curiosity level high. Visit new environments and learn new things.

REAP-CEP 2003 Grants Boost EE in Iowa

More than \$250,000 in grants has been issued to 14 conservation education projects by the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Board (CEP). The REAP CEP received requests for more than \$500,000 in funding for 24 projects, but allocated only \$350,000 per year for such grants from the state's infrastructure account. Of the remaining \$100,000 in education funds, up to \$75,000 is being contracted for a statewide outcome-based assessment of conservation programs, and any funds left will be made available for future grant requests.

Although the full \$10 to \$12 million REAP program was not funded in the past year, existing revenue from the sale of the special natural resources license plates allowed for funding of the conservation education part of REAP. Governor Tom Vilsack signed an \$11 million appropriation for full funding of the REAP formula in the coming year that will see funding restored to city, county and state park and habitat development and land purchase; prairie roadside management; historical renovation; and soil conservation activities. Funds are allocated to these programs by a formula set by law.

Conservation education grants typically are used for start-up of innovative projects that eventually become self-sustaining and widely adopted for use by others. Matching funds are not required, although preferred. The 14 grants recently approved included an additional \$100,000 in matching expenses from grantees. Grant requests were due May 15, and additional details of the process are available at the web site: iowaee.org. Grants approved (rounded figures) are listed to the right:



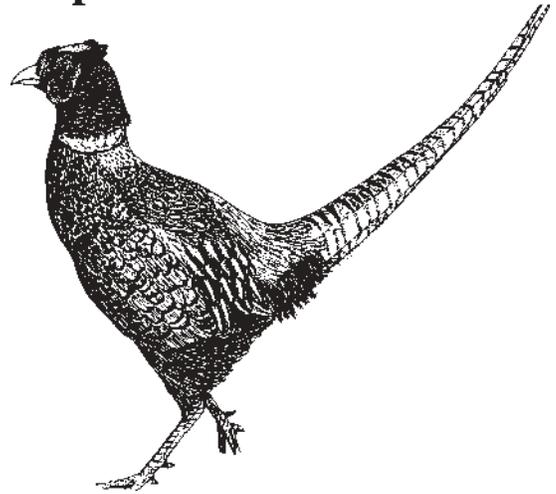
- \$16,000 to Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, to extend conservation education to home-schooled students.
- \$37,000 to ISU Extension, for educator training in the *Food, Land and People* curriculum materials.
- \$22,000 to ISU to conduct traveling workshops for those previously trained in *Nature Mapping*.
- \$8,000 to the E Resources Group, West Des Moines, to introduce toddlers to environmental education.
- \$15,000 to the Iowa Conservation Education Council for its *Winter Solstice* educators workshop.
- \$19,000 to the Iowa Conservation Education Council for bringing conservation education into schools through service learning projects.
- \$16,000 to the UNI film project on *Prairies: America's Lost Landscape*.
- \$6,000 to UNI to introduce small business pollution prevention resources to high school business teachers.
- \$16,000 to UNI to incorporate waste reduction lessons into middle school curricula.
- \$15,000 to Polk CCB to develop educational packs for park visitor self-interpretation of natural areas.
- \$21,000 to the Polk CCB to collaborate with and market the use of central Iowa conservation education centers for schools.
- \$28,000 to the Iowa Academy of Science for educator training in water quality instruction through *Project WET*.
- \$20,000 to the Iowa Soybean Association to improve environmental performance of crop producers.
- \$15,000 to the Iowa Wildlife Rehabilitator Association for professional training in wildlife diseases and rehabilitation.



Issues Affecting Today's Naturalist

IAN Fall Workshop

November 19-21
Cerro Gordo County Conservation
Lime Creek Nature Center
Mason City, IA
Registration Deadline: October 30



Pre-workshop Field Trips
Wednesday, November 19
Registration required by October 30

Pre-workshops

1. **Harnessing Our Natural Resources, 1 - 5p.m.:** A wind energy production boom is sweeping the state! Tour a wind farm and learn how it operates. Then, travel to the Landfill of North Iowa to see their new education center and learn about their educational programming. No fee.
2. **Iowa Pheasant Hunt, Noon – 5 p.m.:** Join Naturalists Dan Block and Chuck Ungs for a good, old fashioned Iowa Pheasant Hunt. North Iowa's pheasant numbers look promising for this one. No fee.
3. **A Taste of Art & History Tour, Mason City, 1 – 5 p.m.:** Take a tour of "Music Man Square," a \$10 million complex devoted to the musical heritage of Meredith Wilson, including his restored boyhood home and the 1912 River City Streetscape as seen in the film *The Music Man*. Visit MacNider Art Museum to view a wide variety of permanent and temporary exhibits, including the spectacular "Bill Baird's World of Puppets." Enjoy exhibits and artifacts from the early history of Iowa at the Kinney Pioneer Museum. Fee - \$15 per person.

Please fill out the form below and return it with your registration fee **by October 30**. Thank you.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

- Thurs. Breakfast:** Egg casserole, sweet rolls, fruit (___ meat ___vegetarian) \$ 5.00 _____
- Thurs. Lunch:** ___ Chicken cordon bleu **or** ___vegetarian lasagna (check one)
 scalloped potatoes, cheesecake \$ 6.00 _____
- Thurs. Dinner:** (at 4th Street Diner, Hanford Inn): Choice of the following:..... \$11.65 _____
 Pasta alfredo (vegetarian option), roast loin of pork, sliced roast sirloin, **or**
 grilled chicken breast. Includes soup and salad bar, baked potato, soft drink or coffee, and gratuity.
 ___Pasta ___Pork ___Beef ___Chicken (check one)
- Friday Breakfast:** Scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, bagels & cream cheese..... \$ 5.00 _____
- Friday Lunch:** Croissants, spring salad, chop-chop salad, cookie (___Meat ___Vegetarian).... \$ 5.00 _____
- Workshop Fee (IAN Members)**..... \$10.00 _____
- Workshop Fee (non-IAN Members, includes membership)**..... \$30.00 _____
- IAN Membership Fees** Regular Member..... \$20.00 _____
 Student Member..... \$10.00 _____
- Taste of Art & History Tour (pre-workshop)**..... \$15.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable to: IAN
Send Registration to: Greg Wolf, Clinton County Conservation Board, P.O . Box 68, Grand Mound, IA 52751-0068



2003 Fall Workshop Schedule

Thursday, November 20th

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:45 a.m. Introduction and Announcements

10:00 a.m. General Session - Liability and You

Are you covered? Do you have the right insurance coverage if an accident were to happen during a program? We will hear from an insurance agent and a naturalist that carries additional coverage, just in case such an event were to occur.



11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

1. Toddling Into Nature! – Renee Bartling, Cerro Gordo CCB

Learn the basic formula for a successful toddler program used at the Lime Creek Nature Center for the last five years. Find out why you should make these programs part of your environmental education curriculum and how simple and fun it can be.

2. The Alternative to Budget Cuts

Vern Fish, Black Hawk CCB; Patti Petersen-Keys, Polk CCB; Dawn Chapman, Woodbury CCB – Everybody's facing budget cuts, but we don't have to suffer. Learn some unique ways to raise additional funds from our panel.

Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

1. Community Sustainable Agriculture - Jan Libby

Sustainability is the key to the future of agriculture and a quality environment in Iowa. Learn about CSA's and how they are faring in a state dominated by large-scale farming.

2. Body Parts! – Todd Von Ehwegen, Cerro Gordo CCB; Brad Freidhof, Johnson CCB

There's nothing like a good prop to grab the attention of your audience. Find out how to preserve skulls, talons, wings, and other animal parts in this "hands-on" session. All participants, with the proper salvage permits, will take at least one body part home with them. Class size limited – there will be a "first-come, first-served" sign-up sheet.

2:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

1. EPA Superfund Site - An Industry's Perspective

Rita Dunn, Environmental Coordinator, Lehigh Cement Company

Tour a multimillion dollar Superfund Cleanup Site and learn about environmental remediation from an industry's standpoint.

2. Newsletters – Pam Holz, Washington CCB; Dan Cohen, Buchanan CCB

Having trouble with your newsletter? Maybe you are just looking for some fresh ideas. Listen in as Dan and Pam share their knowledge on creating newsletters.

3:00 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. General Session – E Literate

Sondra Cabell, Buchanan CCB; Mike Havlik, Des Moines Y Camp

What is E-Literate and what's in it for me? This is a natural cooperative action between the IAN and ICEC to engage more Iowans in environmental education.

5:00 p.m. IAN Business Meeting

At the Hartford Inn

6:30 p.m. Dinner and Naturalist Roast

7:30 p.m. IAN Auction

9:00 p.m. Karaoke Contest



IAN Fall Workshop Cont...

Friday, November 21st

8:00a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. General Session – No Child Left Behind –Connor Hood, AEA 11

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* is a landmark in education reform designed to improve student achievement and change the culture of America's schools. Learn how this law will affect Iowa schools, and what role environmental education will play.

10:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

1. Self Sustaining Education Touring Program

Ali Bass, Wyoming Game and Fish

An Iowa native, now contract working in Wyoming, has some incredible new ideas to share. Listen as she describes her hands on educational touring program.

2. Nature on the Playground

Todd Von Ehwegen, Cerro Gordo CCB;

Susan Boatman, Clear Lake Schools

Schoolyard Habitats not only provide inspiration for learning among students, educators and the community – they become an important part of the local ecosystem, providing essential habitat for wildlife. Learn about one school's successful schoolyard habitat, and find out how to encourage and foster outdoor classrooms in your community.

11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

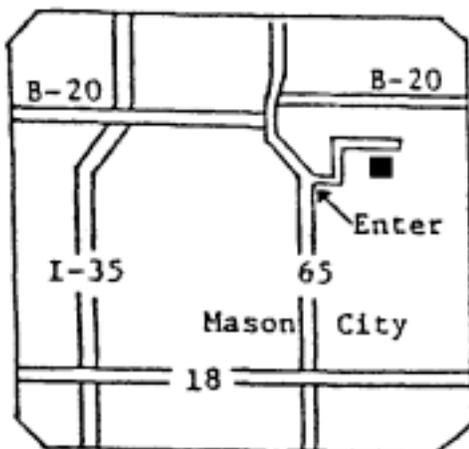
1. The Nuts and Bolts of Non-profit Groups – Wendy Zohrer, ICEC

Learn about the legalities and contracts needed when working with or as a non-profit group.

2. Firefighting – Katie Dalton, Louisa CCB; Wes Wiese, Hardin CCB

You've seen the wildland fires on the national news, now is your chance to hear a first hand account of the dangers and excitement that Wes and Katie encountered as they fought fires in Oregon in August of 2002.

Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch/Depart



Directions:

Lodging: Hanford Inn (641-424-9494/800-424-9491);
Highway 122 West, Mason City, IA.

A block of rooms has been reserved. Single: \$45.95, Double: \$49.95.
You must make your reservations by October 30 to get the discounted rate. There is a restaurant, lounge, heated indoor pool, and whirlpool.

You may sleep on the floor at Lime Creek Nature Center Wednesday and Thursday nights.
Please let Todd Von Ehwegen know by November 14. There are no showers.





From the Grapevine



Katie (Garms) Cantu, Jasper CCB naturalist, married Josh Cantu on June 6th. Both grew up in northeast Iowa (high school sweethearts!), and the wedding was held in Monona, Iowa. Josh is an engineer for Pella Windows and the couple now resides in Newton.

Long-time naturalist **Mark Wagner** left the Jasper CCB earlier this spring to become Education Director for the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa.



Heidi Anderson, Polk CCB naturalist is pregnant. The child is due on January 3, 2004.



Dan Cohen, Buchanan CCB Director, will be marrying Micki Isham on October 11. Micki is a 1st grade teacher from Rowley, Iowa.



Crawford CCB naturalist and IAN Vice President **Kelly Sonnichsen** and her husband Ryan are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter. Sophie Betty-Marie Sonnichsen was born August 19, 2003, weighing 7 lb. 10 oz.



Go Wild in Iowa: Money, Adventure, and Travel on DiscoverEquest!

Wendy Zohrer, Executive Director, ICEC

Do you want to experience the wild side of Iowa? How would you like to get paid to take part in short Iowa trips, maybe learn a new outdoor recreation skill, and also help make a difference on a local environmental project. Think about joining the DiscoverEquest team!

A REAP Conservation Education Program grant has provided the Iowa Conservation Education Council with funding for one-day, two-day, and extended traveling workshops for educators. You will receive a stipend to participate, and will also learn more on how to get funded for your school service learning projects. We are planning opportunities in Northeast, Western, and Central Iowa.

Last year, educators from across the state came together to help with the "race for space". We traveled out to the Loess Hills and fought the battle of the prairie vs. trees. After exploring the Hitchcock Nature Area, we joined the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board team to whack and stack trees and shrubs that have encroached into prairie areas. Then on we went to Monona County where we spent two days at the Loess Hills Seminar. Prairie experts and educators blended history, art, music, math and social studies into a unique and exciting educational experience.



Dan Cohen and Micki Isham wave from atop a hill in the Sylvan Runkel Preserve during a DiscoverEquest trip.

In 2004 we plan to return to the Loess Hills and expand the trip to include an optional backpacking trip that will include a night of camping under the stars, listening to the serenade of coyotes and whippoorwills.

At the time of publishing this newsletter, all of the details for the 2004 programs have not been finalized. If you want to learn more and receive the brochure on all DiscoverEquest programs, contact ICEC by e-mail at Equest@aol.com, by letter at ICEC, PO Box 65534, West Des Moines, IA 50265, or later this fall find DiscoverEquest posted at www.iowaee.org.



2003 Upcoming Educator Workshops

Energy Expo

Contact: IRENEW
563-288-2552
irenew@irenew.org

The Iowa Renewable Energy Association (IRENEW) will hold its annual Energy Expo on **September 6-7** at the Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center in Hiawatha. The Expo features workshops on topics related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. Vendors from throughout the Midwest will be present to sell the latest in products for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmentally friendly items.

Wild/Aquatic Wild

Contact: Cindy Blobaum
515-277-6110,
cindybb@juno.com

A Project Wild/Aquatic Wild/PLT training will be held **October 7 and 9** from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Drake School of Education in Des Moines. The training will focus on preparing pre-service teachers to use the materials in their classrooms.

2003 NAI Workshop

Contact: www.interpnet.com/niw2003/

The 2003 National Interpreters Workshop theme is *Sparks Your Imagination!* Workshop organizers hope you will come and be deeply moved by the Great Basin, the Sierra Nevada "Range of Light," Lake Tahoe ("the Lake of the Sky") and all those you meet and greet. The workshop will be held **November 11-15** at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nevada. Complete registration information is available online.

Winterfest Workshop

Contact: James Devig
515-382-7368
jdevig@storycounty.com

The 2004 IACCBE Winterfest Workshop will be held **January 26-28, 2004** at the Ramada Inn and Convention Center in Waterloo. The theme is *CASTING FOR NEW IDEAS*, and many top-notch speakers and concurrent sessions are planned. Keynote speakers will include Wayne Kobberdahl as Captain William Clark and Chad Pregracke, famous for his cleanups of the Mississippi River and other natural treasures.

NatureMapping

Contact: Jason O'Brien
515-294-6440
jjobrien@iastate.edu

NatureMapping is an Iowa State University Extension Wildlife Program that trains people to monitor and report the wildlife they observe and the habitats they observe them in. NatureMapping and DNR Module workshops will be held during the coming months. Check the NatureMapping web site (www.extension.iastate.edu/naturemapping/introduction/List_of_workshops.htm) for dates, places and times.

NAI Region V

Contact: Amy Garrett
amy_garrett@nps.gov

The NAI Region V Spring Workshop will be held **March 11-14, 2004** at the Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE (Located an hour or so southwest of Omaha). Pre trip field trips will include Sandhill Crane Migration Viewing.

Birding Festival

Audubon Iowa's
Important Bird
Areas (IBAs)

Program will conduct the 2003 Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival **November 7-9**. Last year's festival proved to be a resounding success with nearly 175 birders in attendance. For more information about the festival as activities are finalized, visit www.iowabirds.org and www.iowabirds.org/IBA.



2004 Winter Solstice

Contact: Gail Barels or Sondra Cabell
319-438-1364; 563-288-2552
gailbarels@aol.com or
fontanapark@iowatelecom.net

Mark **January 16-18, 2004** on your calendars for Winter Solstice. This year's theme is *Early Iowa: Landscapes and Lifestyles*. Concurrent sessions will fit into the following strands – Lifestyles and Cultures, Landscapes and Natural Areas, Art and Music. Friday's Pre-workshop sessions will be *Monarchs in the Classroom and Food, Land, and People*. Special thanks to the REAP-CEP Grant Committee for partially funding this workshop, and the Reiman Foundation for partially funding *Monarchs in the Classroom*.

Care4Iowa Congress

Contact: Chris Bedford
515-283-0777

The First Annual Care4Iowa Congress will be held **January 3, 2004** at the Temple for Performing Arts in Des Moines. The Humane Society will hold this event as part of a campaign called Care4Iowa. Farm, environmental, and religious groups have joined with the Humane Society of the United States in an effort to promote a humane and sustainable economy for Iowa.





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Articles submitted for the spring newsletter must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2004. Articles and newsletter correspondence should be sent to the address shown above.

Many of the illustrations found in *The Web* are printed courtesy of Mark Muller and Scott Patton.



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

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Check out the IAN Web Site – www.ianpage.20m.com