

The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists



IAN Spring Workshop (pages 6-8)!

Nurturing Nature with Preschoolers

Kelly Sonnichsen, past IAN Vice President

“I sincerely believe that for the child and for the parent seeking to guide him, it is not half so important to know as to feel. If the facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom, then the emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which seeds must grow. The years of early childhood are the time to prepare the soil.” – Rachel Carson

Even 40 years ago, Rachel Carson knew the best time to start environmental education and responsibility was in early childhood! Young children use all of their senses when learning about their environment. They love to be exposed to nature in the most direct manner, by experiencing it first hand.

As teachers, naturalists, environmental educators, and interpreters we all have different ideas on how to teach young children. Sometimes we wonder if we are getting any information through to this age group in between the questions of “Are you a police officer?” or stories about their dog being sprayed by a skunk. But preschoolers are capable of being enthusiastic learners, if given the right combination of age appropriate activities.

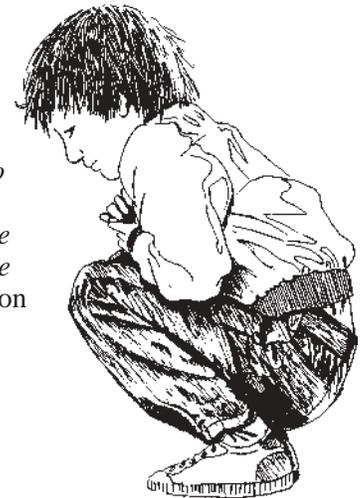
Preschoolers are different from any other age group. They have a unique set of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional characteristics. These characteristics give us, as interpreters, an opportunity to combine knowledge of child development with environmental education in a program that everyone can enjoy! **The following are recommended components of preschool programming (not necessarily in this order):**

Story: Reading or telling a story is an excellent teaching technique, before, after or during outside play. Use fictional stories that relate to the theme of your program.

Gathering Activity: A group activity that relates to the topic or the theme. Murals, play dough, water or sand play, puzzles, stamps etc. Something they are familiar with so everyone will fit into the group.

Learning Circle: A quick game, demonstration or hands-on activity that helps introduce the theme of the day.

Craft/Project: A popular part of the program that goes with the theme.



Let them be as creative as they want to be! The process is more important than the product.

Outside Activities: Try to spend as much time outside as possible. Simple games or activities that go with your theme. If you have time, let them have some time just to play!

Snack: If your program is more than an hour, preschoolers usually have a snack. We send fun recipe ideas to the teachers that they can make or pass along to the parents. They love having a snack that matches the theme for the day.

Songs/Music: Simple songs can be used throughout the program or during a specific time. Use easy songs with lots of motion.

See page nine for an example of our Salamander Room Program.

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IA News

Newsletter and Email Changes

Greg Wolf
IAN Treasurer



Attention IAN Members!
This will be the last paper copy of the newsletter that is sent by mail. Recently, the decision was made to start an electronic newsletter (approved at the last business meeting). In order to get the word out, both a paper copy and electronic issue of this newsletter will be sent.

If you do not receive the current newsletter by e-mail, I do not have your current address. Contact Shane Vondracek and give him your correct address. If you do not have an email address, the newsletter will be on the IAN web page, www.ianpage.20m.com. If you can't access the internet in anyway, please contact Greg Wolf so he can mail a copy to you. We need to conserve our resources, both the environment and our pocket book.

Sending mass email also will be going through a change. The responsibility will shift from the treasurer to the vice president. **Shane Vondracek is the new vice president and will be sending the mass email out.** Please be patient with this transfer. It may take some time to work out the kinks.

IAN Committee Updates

Fundraising Committee

Chair:
Katie Dalton, Louisa County
Progress: At the last IAN meeting we raised \$1,288.50 during the live and silent auctions.

IAN/ICEC Awards

Chairs:
Shane Vondracek, Sac CCB (IAN)
Pamela Holz, Washington CCB (ICEC)
Progress: Press releases were sent to IAN, ICEC, IACCB, Iowater, Iowa Nature Conservancy, IWINR, INHF, IEC and others to ask for nominations for 2003 awards. A deadline of December 1st was set for nominations to be received. Winners to be announced.

Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship

Chair:
Darrin Siefken, ISU Extension
Progress: A scholarship program was initiated. We had three applicants, but none planned to go into the environmental education field.



IAN Mentoring Program

Chair:
Heather Freidhof, Bremer CCB
Progress: We are currently up to nine pairs. We will do moles at the Spring IAN Workshop. Information has been sent to all the new mentors from last fall's meeting. Guidelines are still being worked on, but monthly email reminders to contact mentees are occurring now. Southeast Iowa is having a naturalist swap. Congrats!

Please remember to contact your mentees this month. I will try to send out a reminder once a month from now on. Some have been mentors longer than others. If you have been a mentor for the last several months, please let me know. I am preparing a certificate for the Spring IAN Meeting. Welcome new mentors! If you have any questions, let me know.

Jr. Naturalist

Chair:
Joel Van Roekel, Warren CCB
Progress: \$500 was awarded to continue with the patches and the program



New ExCom Members

The November election of IAN Executive Committee members resulted in a new ExCom. See the back page for contact information and the slate of 2004 officers.



Forty Important Bird Areas Identified

Ric Zarwell, Iowa Important Bird Areas Coordinator

Forty Important Bird Areas (IBAs) have been identified within Iowa's borders. Each is now part of a network of some 700 IBAs in 46 states, and a global network of more than 8,000 IBAs in 132 nations.

Hitchcock Nature Area in Pottawattamie County was dedicated as an IBA on Saturday, Oct. 10, during the Iowa Ornithologists Union's annual Fall Meeting. On-site IBA dedication ceremonies were also planned for George Wyth State Park/Hartman Reserve Complex and the Cedar Valley Nature Trail in Black Hawk County; and for the Wickiup Hill Nature Center/Cedar River Complex in Linn County. Dedication ceremonies will also take place at other Iowa IBAs in the future.

Since the inception of National Audubon's Important Bird Areas Program in Iowa 22 months ago, a statewide Technical Committee chaired by Dr. Jim Dinsmore, retired I.S.U. Professor and Iowa's leading ornithologist, and including some of the state's most knowledgeable bird watchers, have listed 37 species of birds that are experiencing serious population declines in Iowa. A habitat that supports one or more of these species during their annual life cycle qualifies that habitat for IBA recognition and priority conservation treatment in the future.

Bird watchers throughout Iowa have been directly involved in nominating habitats for the IBA Program through an innovative online nomination process. These volunteers have also provided observation data collected at nominated habitats that will be considered by the IBA Technical Committee for IBA status.

Recently, data was reviewed for 132 individual habitats. Forty of these, located in 32 counties, qualified as Iowa's first official Important Bird Areas. Additional details about this exciting bird conservation program can be viewed at www.iowabirds.org/IBA.

Audubon Iowa's IBA Program consists of three phases, each a necessary step along the path to effective habitat conservation. Phase I is the identification, recognition and prioritization of the most essential bird habitats within Iowa's borders. Phase II is surveying and monitoring birds, plant communities, and other habitat components, and organizing education programs, where appropriate at officially recognized IBAs. Phase III is protecting,



Above: Audubon Iowa's IBA Coordinator Ric Zarwell presents an IBA sign during a dedication ceremony at the Hitchcock Nature Area.

restoring, and managing each IBA according to its environmental threats and conservation needs. Each phase is an opportunity for all citizens with an interest in birds to become effectively involved in proactive, local-level, habitat-focused action.

Audubon Iowa's IBA Program is funded in part through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Diversity Program, with monies from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration (WCR) Program. For more details, contact: Ric Zarwell, Audubon Iowa's IBA Coordinator, at zarxzar@salamander.com.



Application for IAN membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this address for work? _____ Home? _____

Agency or other affiliation _____ County _____

Work e-mail _____ Home e-mail _____

Work phone _____ Home phone _____

Cell phone _____ FAX _____

Membership Type: Regular (\$20) _____ Student (\$10) _____

New _____ Renewal _____

Make checks payable to IAN, and mail to:

Greg Wolf, IAN Treasurer, P.O. Box 68, Grand Mound, IA 52751-0068

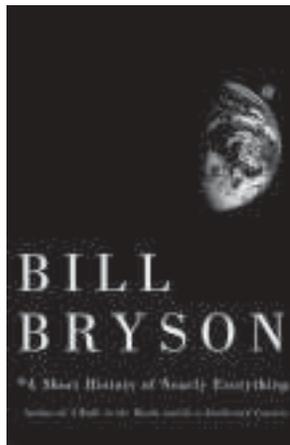


Book Review

Dan Cohen
Editor, *The Web*

A Short History of Nearly Everything

Bill Bryson
Broadway Books
New York, NY; 2003



We have all learned the facts. We know the approximate number of stars in the galaxy; that the dinosaurs went extinct; that Earth is very old; that all species are part of one family lineage described through genetic similarities. What we haven't all heard, however, are the often very interesting stories about these discoveries – how we came to know the facts of our existence. Bryson has written a book filled with the “hows” and “whos” of science. With years of research and the ability to communicate science to lay people, Bryson has written one of the best science books I have read, and one which will undoubtedly help science teachers and naturalists answer the common question, “How do you know that?”.

New DNR Book Explores Iowa's Groundwater

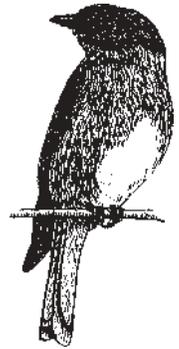
Iowa's Groundwater Basics: A Geological Guide to the Occurrence, Use, and Vulnerability of Iowa's Aquifers

While 80 percent of Iowans rely on groundwater for their drinking water supplies, few are aware of the underground conditions that supply water to wells or affect its vulnerability to contamination. This new 83-page full-color book published by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources takes a statewide, in-depth look at the geological basics of Iowa's groundwater resources - what they are; where they occur; how they behave; where they are vulnerable; and how they are used. The book is illustrated with numerous photographs, maps, and illustrations and is designed to meet the need for increased public understanding of the state's vital but largely unseen groundwater resources. For further information contact:

Iowa Geological Survey/Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
109 Trowbridge Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242-1319
www.igsb.uiowa.edu
(319) 335-1575

Advanced Education through Environmental Literacy

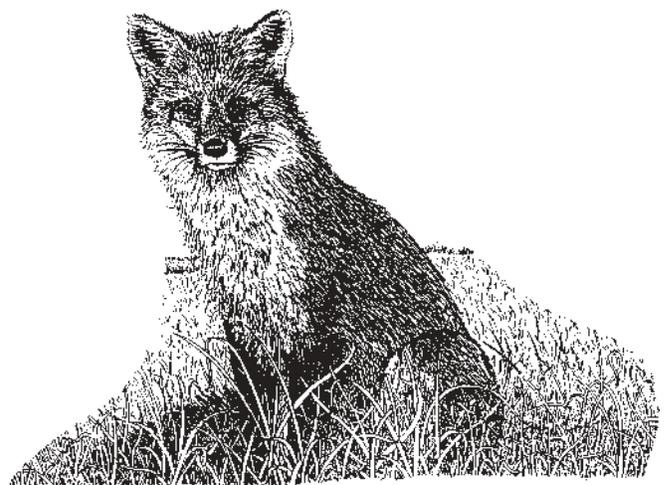
This free resource explores ways to link education and the environment to advance student learning in a variety of subject areas. The book/CD combo includes 43 activities for all grade levels, descriptions of successfully implemented programs, and research summaries on improved test scores. To order, send an e-mail with your name and mailing address to: enviroedtrainingpartnership@uwsp.edu. Materials provided by the Environmental Education & Training Partnership/Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (isn't that a mouthful?).



Economic Impacts of Watching Wildlife

The newest update on the economic impacts of watching wildlife shows that more than one million Iowans spent more than \$188 million observing, feeding and photographing the state's wildlife in 2001. This activity generated more than 5,140 jobs, with wages and salaries of nearly \$92 million. State sales and income taxes from these activities generated \$10.4 million.

The report, “2001 National and State Economic Impacts of Wildlife Watching Addendum,” details these and many other types of state and federal data related to watching wildlife. Nationally, the report shows that roughly 66 million Americans spent more than \$38 billion observing, feeding, photographing wildlife in 2001. The full report is available online at: <http://federalaid.fws.gov>.



LCV Report Gives Bush an “F”

Contact: Josh Galper or Dan Vicuña (202) 454-4678

WASHINGTON – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Deb Callahan announced on January 12 that LCV gave President George W. Bush an “F” on the organization’s 2003 Report Card on the administration’s performance on environmental issues.

The Report Card, which focused on Bush’s performance from the beginning of his term through the midway point, calculated the failing grade by taking into account a number of factors, including appointments, administrative and executive actions, and legislative initiatives.

LCV is the leading, nonpartisan political voice of the national environmental movement, and it periodically issues a report card on the performance of the president, both Democratic and Republican alike.

“President Bush is well on his way to compiling the worst environmental record of any president in the history of our nation,” said Callahan. “Bush’s dismal Report Card is dominated by a disturbing trend: time after time, Bush favors corporate interests over the public’s interest in a clean, safe and healthy environment. Under the Bush administration, corporate polluters have been allowed to write the laws.”

The Report Card found that, since taking office, Bush has assaulted environmental protections on all fronts, including air, water, land and wildlife. In particular, the Bush administration has attacked, weakened or undermined laws providing clean air, clean water, and toxic waste cleanups. Primary beneficiaries of these actions have been timber, mining, oil and gas, and real estate development companies.

For more information, visit www.lcv.org.

REAP-CEP Board 2004



The following individuals currently serve on the REAP-CEP Board. Feel free to contact them with any comments or questions.

- Anita O’Gara, ICEC Rep. (aogara@inhf.org)
- Vern Fish, IACCBE Rep. (hartmanreserve@co.black-hawk.ia.us)
- Kathy McKee, Iowa Department of Education Rep. (kathy.mckee@ed.state.ia.us)
- Ross Harrison, Iowa DNR Rep. (ross.harrison@dnr.state.ia.us)
- Linda R.F. Zaletel, your IAN Rep. (lzaletel@storycounty.com)

REAP-CEP 2003 Update

Linda R.F. Zaletel, IAN REAP-CEP

When the 2002 special session of the Legislature reduced REAP funding to \$2 million, the REAP-CEP Board did not offer the \$350,000 for the usual May 15, 2002 grant period. Instead, that grant period offered about \$160,000 from unobligated funds that remained in its account from previous years.

Later, it was determined that the 2002 legislative action did not reduce nor affect the availability of the annual \$350,000 that should have been available for the May 15, 2002 grant period. It was decided that the unexpended funds for 2002 would be available for a full grant round with application deadline November 1, 2003.

ICEC appointed a new representative to the Board: Anita O’Gara (Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation). The Iowa Department of Education appointed Kathy McKee as a new appointment.

This year the Board is working with a team to develop models to evaluate conservation education (CE) programs funded by REAP CEP, and help evaluate funded programs for ‘03 - ‘04 as needed to provide strong evidence of outcomes and results.

These models will address curriculum development, teacher workshops, and other common variations of projects which reach the REAP-CEP Board. Providing multiple evaluation models will help to fit many projects proposed to the REAP CEP, and give flexibility for future grant writers.

Nineteen grants were submitted for at total of \$499,759. Eleven grants were funded for a total \$254,367 as shown below:

- UNI: Iowa’s Neotropical Migration, Integrating Science, Math, and Language Arts Using an Environmental Theme – \$49,500.
- ICEC: REAP the Benefits – \$15,090.
- UNI-CEE: Collaboration and Dissemination Initiative – \$32,456.
- E Resources Group: Backyard Safari- \$12,227.
- E Resources Group: Toddling on the Wild Side – \$15,090.
- Iowa Nature Mapping: Teacher In-Service and Sampling Equipment - \$16,220.
- Extension, Marshall County: Jr. Conservationist & 4-H After-School Program - \$9,925.
- Extension, Fayette County: EE for Northeast Iowa – \$14,260.
- Pottawattamie CCB: Self-Guided Interpretive Trail – \$28,268.
- Iowa 4-H Foundation: Extension 21 Food, Fiber, Environmental Science Program – \$25,925.
- Des Moines Park & Recreation: Urban Prairie – \$19,820.



Timely Interpretation

2004 IAN Spring Workshop

March 17-19
Chickasaw CCB,
Twin Ponds Nature Center, Ionia, IA
Registration Deadline: February 27



Pre-workshop Field Trips
Wednesday, March 17
Registration required by February 27

- 1. Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, 1 - 5p.m.:** Kay Neumann will be offering a condensed version of her workshop. This is a fantastic workshop if you have animals brought in to your center, or you receive a lot of calls concerning wild animals. The cost is \$20 for materials that are yours at the end of the workshop.
- 2. Dig in at the Fossil and Prairie Center, Noon – 5 p.m.:** Join Floyd County Naturalists Laura Elfers and Barb McKinstry as they interpret ancient ocean life. Hunt for Devonian fossils and make your own Devonian fossil teaching kit. Then come forward in time a few years, as you tour the Floyd County Historical Museum in Charles City. It's worth the visit.
- 3. Fishing the Mississippi with Chuck Unga, Linn CCB:** Spring is walleye fishing time on the Mighty River. Chuck has been fishing the Mississippi for years, and will show you a great time. Contact Chuck for details (319-892-6489).

Please fill out the form below and return it with your registration fee by February 27, 2004. Thank you.

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Meals (✓check all that apply)

- Thurs. Breakfast:** Scrambled eggs, can roll, bagels/cream cheese, hash browns, juice/milk \$5.00
- Thurs. Lunch:** Potato bar, hot/cold toppings, bread sticks, bar/cookie, iced tea/milk, salad and dressing \$ 6.00
- Thurs. Supper:** (at Pinicon Supper Club) 3 meat buffet, including pasta and other vegetarian offerings (social hour @ 6:00 cash bar) \$10.00
- Fri. Breakfast:** Belgian Waffles w/all the fixings, fresh fruit, sausage, bacon, juice/milk..... \$5.00
- Fri. Lunch:** Choice of chicken noodle or broccoli cheese soup, deli sandwich bar, salads, cheese cake..... \$5.00

Additional Expenses:

- Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Pre-Workshop (program and materials)..... \$20.00
- Workshop fee (required)..... \$10.00
- Duck Call Fee..... \$10.00

IAN Membership Fees

- Renewing Member \$20.00
- Non Member \$20.00
- Student Member \$10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____





Timely Interpretation

2004 IAN Spring Workshop Schedule

March 18-19

Chickasaw County Conservation
Twin Ponds Nature Center, Ionia, IA
Registration Deadline: February 27th

Thursday, March 18th

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:45 a.m. Introduction and Announcements

10:00 a.m. General Session – Reenacting the Old West: Jim Wobschall NCOWS Rep.:

Have you ever wanted to witness an old fashioned shoot-out, or pictured in your mind how people living in the Old West dressed and the weapons they carried. This session is for you!

11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

- 1. Falconry – Kay Neumann, SOAR:** Learn how people have used raptors to hunt for a long time. Kay will bring one of her birds and will also show a video of a hunt.
- 2. The Traditional Bow – Gene Winters, Winter Bow Shoppe:** This session will cover traditional bow-making materials and techniques, and other types of traditional hunting weapons.

12:00 Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- 1. Pioneer Crafts – Diane Pixler, Marshall CCB and Joel Van Roekel, Warren CCB**
Pioneer crafts bring people even closer to a period, plus they are fun to make for all ages. You will get to make something to take home and use in your programs.
- 2. Body Parts 2 – Todd Von Ehwegen, Cerro Gordo CCB; Brad Freidhof, Johnson CCB**
The Boy's are back! If you didn't catch them the first time, then here's your last chance. Learn how to preserve body parts for props or programs. These guys are good.

2:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- 1. The Tale of the Fur Trapper – Mark Wagner, National Mississippi River Museum**
You've seen him sing Oul Lu Etta at the Fall meeting, now see Mark as never before. Mark will be doing a character skit, portraying an early day fur trapper.
Two thumbs up!!! says Hardin County Nature Notes
- 2. Fooling Ducks the Old Fashioned Way – Dave Sedivec, Chickasaw CCB.**
Dave is going to take you through the history of duck calling. Did you know Iowa is second only to Arkansas in the number of world champion duck callers? After exploring the different styles of calls and some important historical calls, there will be a chance for 12 people to try their hand at turning their own duck call on a lathe at the New Hampton High School. ***The first 12 people who call the Nature Center will be registered (641-394-4714).***

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. General Session – IAN Professional Standards-The Past, Present and Future – Darrin Siefken ISU Bremer County, Miriam Patton, Palo Alto CCB

Darrin will cover the standards and why they were developed. Miriam will discuss the history of IAN's efforts to develop professionals standards, and how they have affected the growth of those participating. This is an important session for the future professional growth of all naturalists.

4:00 p.m. General Session – Iowa's Natural Landscape: Bob Rye, Iowa DOT

Bob will share copies of this new interactive CD with the naturalist and will also share new tools for the classroom and about Iowa's Roadsides.

4:45 p.m. IAN Business Meeting



At the Pinicon Restaurant, Thursday, March 18:

6:00 p.m. Social (cash bar)

6:30 p.m. Dinner

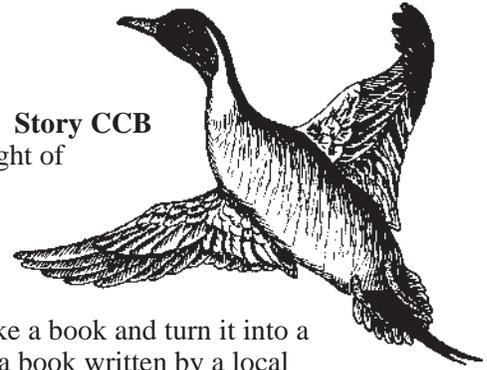
8:00 p.m. Good ol' fashioned fun, games, and contests (at the Super 8 Motel)

Friday, November 21st

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. General Session –Stories from the Stones – Amy Yoakum Story CCB

Do you have a pioneer cemetery in your area? Have you ever thought of developing a program for it? Amy has, and she's going to share with you how to tell the story of what life was like at a specific time in history.



10:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

- 1. Duck Hunting With Grandpa – Katie Dalton, Louisa CCB:** Take a book and turn it into a program. That's just what they did in Louisa County. They turned a book written by a local author and worked it into a full day field trip. It has become a big hit in Louisa County.
- 2. Dutch Oven Cooking – Linda Zaletel, Story CCB:** Linda is going to show off her culinary wisdom using Dutch ovens. All you need is charcoal, dutch ovens, some helpers, and BAM, you have lunch for up to 20 kids who are cooking the old fashioned way. The food is great and people really enjoy it.

11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

- 1. Signs, Signs, Everywhere are Signs – Lewis Major, Polk CCB:** Interpretive signs are an effective way to educate park visitors about conservation issues or ecological significant areas. Learn the steps, pitfalls, and benefits of creating an interpretive sign. Handouts will be provided.
- 2. Basket Weaving and Soap Making – Sue Kuennen:** Learn to make soap and weave a basket, using old time techniques.

12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch/Depart



Directions: Taking Hwy 63 North toward New Hampton, turn on Blacktop 346 to Nashua. Go approximately four miles west and turn north on Hickory Ave. *There is an Ohrt's Smokehouse Sign at the corner.* Stay on Hickory Ave. until it T's. The Nature Center is located at the end of the T intersection.

Lodging:

Super 8 Hotel (641) 394-3838

Ask for the IAN discount.

A block of rooms has been reserved. Single: \$51.19, Double: \$60.19. There is a heated indoor pool and whirlpool. Located on Business Highway 63, New Hampton, IA. (take Hwy 63 North to exit 201, then turn right on Business 63 and left at the 4-way stop).

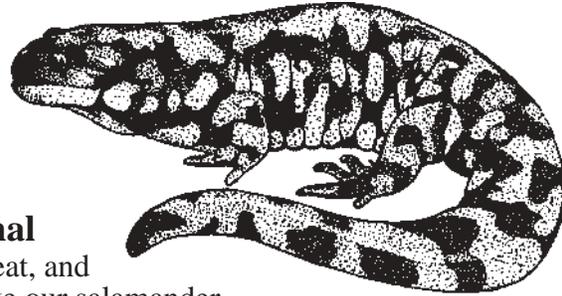
You may sleep on the floor at Twin Ponds Nature Center Wednesday and Thursday nights. Please let Dana Dettmer know (641-394-4714). There are showers.



The Salamander Room

Story

The Salamander Room by Anne Mazer (I have props that go with the story that you can order from Early Childhood Direct 1-800-631-5652).



Learning Circle:

Sally the Salamander Up Close & Personal

We talk about where salamanders live, what they eat, and amphibians and how they protect themselves. I take our salamander around the circle for them to look at and touch. Then I set our salamander in a long flat tub with dirt in it in the middle of the circle, and I feed the salamander a worm.

Outside Activity: Salamander Search

On our walk, we look for salamanders under rocks and logs in the woods, and by the pond. If we don't find any, we search for their food – worms. Sometimes, we collect worms to feed to the salamander.

Wash Hands

Gathering Activity: Salamander Concentration

I blew up a picture of a salamander, made 20 copies, colored ten different pairs of salamanders (red, yellow, blue, orange, green, purple, brown, gray & white), and laminated them. I lay the salamanders in the middle of the circle (before the kids come in from washing hands), and place a stuffed paper bag rock over each salamander. In a circle, the children take turns turning over two rocks, trying to match two salamanders. I keep going around the circle until everyone finds a match, or have them sit at their table once they find a match.

Song: *The Forest Is A Wonderful Place* by Steve Schuch

*The forest is a wonderful place,
Filled with frogs and snakes.
I wanna see a salamander's face;
The forest is a wonderful place.
(Repeat louder and quieter versions)*

We say this while we play the Salamander Concentration.

Craft/Project: Salamander Rocks

Children color and cut out a picture of a salamander and glue it on piece of construction paper. Then they can draw what a salamander eats or where it lives. Stuff newspaper into a lunch bag and fold the top over. Lay the bag over the salamander and tape the top of the bag to the construction paper. Then they can hide their salamander or find it under the rock.

Snack: Dirt and Worms

Put chocolate pudding in the bottom of a cup. Sprinkle crushed oreo cookies over the pudding, and place two gummy worms on top.





From the Grapevine



Woodbury CCB naturalist **Theresa Kruid** and her husband are pleased to announce the birth of their son. Karson John was born June 25, 2003, weighing 5 pounds 10 ounces.

Shannon Cose, Crawford CCB assistant naturalist took a job with KDSN radio station in Denison, Iowa, after being laid off due to budget cuts. She will be missed!



Congratulations to **Heidi and Mark Anderson**, proud parents of Colby William Anderson. Colby was born on Jan. 12 at 6:44 p.m. He weighed 8 lbs and 3 oz. and was 21 1/4 inches. Both mom and baby are doing well.



Tenth Annual Wings and Wetlands Workshop

Charlene Elyea, Naturalist, O'Brien CCB

The 10th Annual Wings and Wetlands Festival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, 2004. Welcome the coming of spring, celebrate National Wetland Month, and explore the unique Prairie Pothole Region of northwest Iowa. This year, the stellar event will feature Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation locations to help that organization celebrate 25 years of protecting Iowa's land, water, and wildlife for "those who follow."

This festival is coordinated over a six county region in Northwest Iowa (Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, O'Brien and Palo Alto), and offers a wide selection of programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. Events held throughout the region include bird hikes, prairie wildflower walks, trumpeter swan releases, live raptors, canoeing, birding programs for youth, and wild edibles. There is also food and door prizes at some locations.

A special event will be held on Saturday evening at the Spencer Community School Administration Building. Highlights include a buffalo burger feed, live raptor presentation, and renown Iowa naturalist Larry Stone, speaking on his new book, *Sylvan Runkel: Citizen of the Natural World*.

Join us for one or more of the programs being offered throughout the weekend. Experience first-hand our beautiful lakes, marshes, and upland habitat. Bird



hikes will offer people the opportunity to see waterfowl, shorebirds, and of course, warblers during peak migration time!

Sponsors of the festival include Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, O'Brien and Palo Alto CCBs, Palo Alto Soil and Water Conservation District, Prairie Lakes Audubon Society, Palo Alto Ducks Unlimited, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. For more information, call the Lost Island Prairie Wetland Nature Center (712-837-4866).



2004 Upcoming Educator Workshops

Wilderness Adventures

Contact: Marsha Morgan
515-294-9722
mmorgan@iastate.edu

The following Wilderness Adventures are being sponsored by ISU 4-H Extension.

Youth Backpack Trek Rocky Mountains July 17-24 \$340.00

Trip Leaders: Craig Meyers, Diane McKee and Marsha Morgan.

Youth Wilderness Canoe Trek Boundary Waters Canoe Area Trip One: June 19-26 \$320.00 Trip Two: July 17-24 \$320.00

Trip One Leaders: Katie Dalton and Dan Cohen.

Trip Two Leaders: Gail Barels
Joel Van Roekel

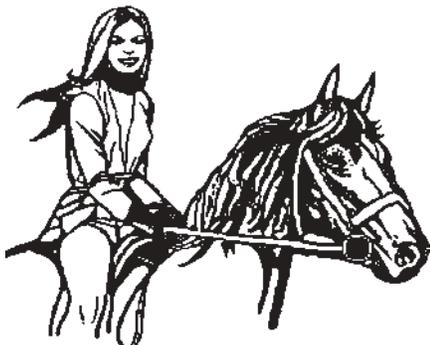
Adult Wilderness Canoe Trek Boundary Waters Canoe Area July 10-17 \$420.00

Trip leader: Jim Pease

Two hours of ISU graduate credit available for additional cost.

Adult Wilderness Horse Packing Trek in Colorado July 10-17 \$680.00

Trip leader: Judy Levings



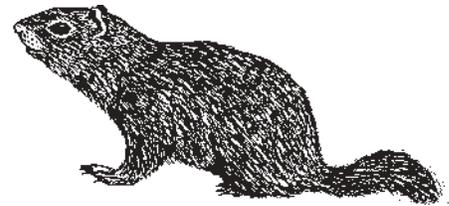
REAP Assemblies

Your local REAP Assembly needs you! Since its creation 14 years ago, Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) has devoted \$150 million to protect Iowa's city, county and state parks; make soil, water and habitat improvements; and support roadside prairies, historical sites, and conservation education. But public input is a critical component of the program's success and effectiveness! At 16 regional meetings around the state in February and March, Iowans will develop lists of natural resource investments needed in their communities to enhance their quality of life and improve their economic condition. For more information about REAP Assemblies, including a complete schedule of regional meetings, visit www.idnr.org.

NAI Region V Workshop

Contact: Amy Garrett
402-223-3514
Amy_Garrett@nps.gov

The National Association for Interpretation Region V will be holding their annual regional workshop in Nebraska City, Nebraska **March 11-14**. There's still time to make your reservations to attend this exciting opportunity to get together with your fellow interpreters. Learn more about the workshop by going on-line at www.nairegions.org/5/Nebraska2004.htm There will be a pre-workshop trip to see the annual Sandhill crane migration. The Lied Center conference facility features sustainable practices in all aspects of its management. Come to Nebraska to hone your interpretive skills with colleagues and witness the Sandhill crane migration.



Traveling Workshops

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

Iowa NatureMapping and E Resources Group, with funding from the REAP-CEP Program, are co-sponsoring a series of traveling workshops. The workshops are opportunities to learn about natural habitats, conduct hands-on monitoring of wildlife and habitats, and build upon NatureMapping skills. Ten \$150 scholarships are available, and graduate credits and CEU credit will be offered. The estimated cost to attend is \$200. Participants must have already attended Level 1 NatureMapping training (see below). Traveling workshop dates and locations are as follows:

April 23-25: Loess Hills
May 14-6: Yellow River State Forest
June 25-27: Northern Iowa prairies and wetlands

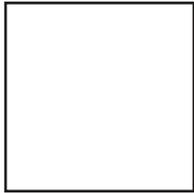
NatureMapping

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.



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



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



The Web
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Articles submitted for the summer newsletter must be postmarked no later than April 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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