

Iowa Association of Naturalists

2005 Annual Report

Executive Committee

President: Linda R.F. Zaletel

Vice President: Kelly Sonnichsen

Treasurer: Greg Wolf

Secretary: Heather Freidhof

Workshop Coordinator: Katie Dalton (Hammond)

Membership: 70 - 2005 members, 60 – 2006 members, 4 – 2007 members, 1- 2005 student, 4 – 2006 students and 16 Honorary Members

Meetings:

Spring Workshop: F.W. Kent Park, Johnson County Conservation Board - March 16-18, 2005

Preworkshop: Exploring the Amana Colonies, Herbert Hoover Historical Site, KinderNature, Coral Ridge Mall shop ‘til you drop

Featured: The Environmental Project, Recycling at your Parks and Facilities, Iowa Grown Meals for your Events, Nature Mapping, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, Population Connection, US Dept. of Labor Wage and Hour Division, Samuel Calvin; his life and photo collection, IAN Professional Standards: Findings from the Research, Giant Sloth Expedition in SW Iowa, Meet the Meskwaki, Green Buildings, Rain Gardens & Please pass the Hiking Stick

Attendance: 66

Summer Workshop: Harrison, Shelby and Audubon Counties – August 8 – 10, 2005

Featured: Activities included Loess Hills, DeSoto Bend, Dineson Prairie and free cabin accommodations.

Attendance: 12

Fall Meeting: Hitchcock Nature Center, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board – Nov. 16-18, 2005.

Preworkshop: Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo, DeSoto Bend NWR, Fontenelle Forest, Loess Hills Hike

Featured: Hitchcock Hawk Watch, Raptor Recovery Nebraska, Making the Grade – School Program Menus, Foundations, The Science and Stories of Sasquatch, Prairie Plant Hike in the Loess Hills, Predators & Prey, Lead Poisoning in Iowa Bald Eagles, Habitat Hike, Prairie Rattlesnakes, Naturalist Swap Hike, Hawk Walk.

Attendance: 73

The Executive Committee met three times during the year: March 16; August 3; November 16.

Committees

Nine standing committees were in existence in 2005. Eighteen administrative tasks were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2005.

Promotions

Fundraising
Strategic Planning Committee
Junior Naturalist
Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship
Web Page

Professional Development

Professional Development
Scholarships
Mentoring
ICEC/IAN Awards

Administrative Tasks

The following are the administrative tasks that were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2005.

Archive/Records	Bylaw changes/Elections
DNR Liaison – Jacklyn Gautsch	Guide to Interpretive Services
NAI Liaison – Amy Yoakum	Policy and Procedure Manual
ICEC Liaison – Pam Holz	Grant Program
Newsletter	Awards and Recognition
IEC Liaison – Gail Barels	IACCBE Representative – Angela Bries
REAP/CEP	ISU Extension Liaison – Darrin Siefken
Master Conservationist	Strategic Plan
IAN Listserve	501c6 status means IAN has to pay sales tax.

2005 Highlights

Professional Development

The deadline for submission was December 31. Recognition took place at the March 2005 meeting. The following were certified: Heidi Anderson, Julie Brazell, Ann Burns, Katie Cantu, Dawn Chapman, Laura DeCook, Kathy Dice, Charlene Elyea, Heather Freidhof, Christina Groen, Kristi Karwal-Clark, Jerry Keys, Maria Koschmeder, Jody Moats, Nicole Moestchen, Michele Olson, Miriam Patton, Kim Perlstein-Rowley, Karen Phelps, Diane Pixler, Tina Popson, and Todd VonEhwegen.

Katie Dalton (Hammond), Rochelle Ebel, Anita Fisher, Sunday Ford, Brad Freidhof, Theresa Kruid, Greg Wolf, Amy Yoakum were 5-year recipients. Linda Zaletel was a 10-year recipient.

Scholarships

Scholarships were given to Lewis Major from Polk CCB and Jody Moats from SD Fish & Game (\$75 to attend the Region V Workshop) and Katie Cantu received a \$50 scholarship for Spring IAN.

Awards Program

The Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and the Iowa Conservation Education Council (ICEC) presented the following Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award:

No one applied

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award:

Science Camp, Kevin Farmer

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award:

Barbara Tagami, Dickinson County Conservation Board Naturalist

Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (pop. >35,000):

Marshall County Conservation Board

Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (pop. <35,000):

No one applied

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award:

No one applied

"Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award:

U.I. Wild Project

IAN Mentoring Program

The mole program was discontinued. At the spring & fall 2005 IAN meetings, new naturalists were giving out stickers to those naturalists who introduced themselves. All those with stickers stood up and were congratulated for being welcoming to new members. Several regional groups of IAN members continue to meet at mini-workshops. Veteran members can share ideas and mentor new members. New committee members were recruited to help expedite the mentor pairing in between IAN meetings.

Mentee

Lisa Anderson (Clay)
Michelle Broderson (Lee)
Nicole Moestchen (Jackson)
Steve Hummel (Ida)
Connie Chase
Jenny Lawler (Cedar)
Victoria Sham (Plymouth)
Cari Burnstedt (Henry)
Rene Stroud (Sac)

Mentor

Charlene Elyea (O'Brien)
Pam Holz (Washington)
Michelle Olson (Jones)
Theresa Kruid (Woodbury)
Sandy Fulcher (Black Hawk)
Ann Burns (Jackson)
Rochelle Ebel (Lyon)
Therese Cummiskey (Jefferson)
Kelly Sonnichsen (Crawford)

Master Conservationist

IAN continues to sponsor the Master Conservationist Program. The cost paid out covers the IAN booklets provided to each participant. Muscatine County Extension, Story County Extension and Dallas County Extension were awarded \$250 each. The total monies spent were \$750. \$1,750 remains in this fund for approximately 7 more workshops.

Junior Naturalist Program

Fox patches were available for 2005. The turtle will be available for 2006. Patches might need to be ordered as needed in the future because IAN allotted \$500 for the fox patches and only \$185 was brought in.

Joe Halbur Scholarship

As of Dec. 31, 2005 the amount in the Joe Halbur Scholarship was \$5,389.38. Naturalist t-shirts were sold to raise money for the fund. The scholarship amount awarded is \$500. Ben Rees, of Marshalltown, was selected as this year's recipient. He began his studies at Cornell College in the fall of 2005. The Joe Halbur Scholarship committee produced a flyer/application form to be distributed to all high schools and colleges. It is also online.

Newsletter

Three newsletters were produced and distributed via email. The newsletter is also online. A few newsletters are delivered by mail.

Grants

District 3 submitted a grant written by Miriam Patton, Charlene Elyea, and Lisa Anderson. The amount given was \$500 for a touchy/feely box and buzzboard to be used at the Clay County Fair.

REAP/CEP Grant Program

IAN received a REAP/CEP grant which will allow 100 IAN members & educators to receive a scholarship to attend the National Association for Interpretation, Region V workshop to be held in Dubuque in April 5-9, 2006. Each scholarship recipient will receive \$200 to offset the cost of the workshop. The grant project has several goals: 1) Provide the financial means for 100 Iowa educators (formal and informal) to attend the workshop. 2) Assess the need for financial assistance for Iowa educators to receive in-service or attend training events. 3) Assess the benefits of attending a workshop at the regional level (were participants able to incorporate learned material into either their professional or personal lives). The grant was a cooperative project between IAN, ICEC and NAI.

IAN Web Page

The IAN web page is located at www.ianpage.20m.com. The web page includes many sections such as the IAN ExCom & Standing Committees, IAN's newsletter, upcoming workshops, professional standards, sponsored programs, publications, membership, job announcements and links. The web page includes the *Guide to Interpretive Services*, how to apply for an IAN grant, the IAN/ICEC Award Nomination Form, the Joe Halbur Scholarship application, the Junior Naturalist brochure, information about the mentoring program, the professional development form, IAN scholarship information and an application. Updates were made throughout 2005. We continue to use first names in pictures for personal safety reasons.

Strategic Planning Committee

Members were Aaron Hershberger, Brad Freidhof, Beth Waage, Lewis Major and Linda Zaletel. The first meeting was held in July 2005 at Jester Park. It was decided to produce a survey to ask the membership to define new goals and objectives for the future of IAN in the fall of 2006.

Fund Raising

A total of \$1,508 was raised at the 2005 fall auction.