

Iowa Association of Naturalists

2007 Annual Report

Executive Committee (ExCom)

President: Heather (Freidhof) Gamm

Vice President: Lisa Anderson

Treasurer: Beth Waage

Secretary: Karen Phelps

Workshop Coordinator: Katie Hammond

Membership: 2007 – 59 members yet to renew, 88 – 2008 members, 10 - 2007 student members, 1 – 2008 student member, 4 – 2009 members, and 14 Honorary Members = 176 members

Meetings:

Spring Workshop: Hurtsville Interpretive Center, Jackson County Conservation Board, March 14-16, 2007

Off-Site Sessions: Maquoketa Caves State Park, Whitewater Creek Canyon, Walleye Fishing on the Mississippi, Archery in the Schools.

Featured: Approximately 12 concurrent sessions and general sessions by Jean Eells, Allan Goldberg of the Iowa DNR, and the Jackson County Conservation Board.

Total Attendance: 75

Summer Workshop: Mahaska and Monroe Counties, August 22-24, 2007.

Featured: Tour of buffalo herd, horse drawn wagon ride of DeCook Wilderness area.

Attendance: 15

Fall Meeting: Environmental Learning Center, Muscatine County Conservation Board, November 14-16, 2007.

Off-Site Sessions: Big Sand Mound Preserve, Wildcat Den State Park

Featured: Approximately 12 concurrent sessions and three general sessions by local author Tom Savage, ISU professor Neal Iverson, and ISU Extension Wildlife Specialist Jim Pease.

Attendance: 80

The Ex Com met six times this year: February 1, March 14, August 9, August 30, November 14, and December 10.

Committees

Eleven standing committees were in existence in 2007. Sixteen administrative tasks were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2007.

Promotions

Fundraising

Master Conservationist agreement with
ISU Extension

Strategic Planning Committee

Professional Development

Professional Development
Scholarships

Mentoring
ICEC/IAN Awards
Junior Naturalist

Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship
Web Page
Traveling Exhibits

Administrative Tasks

The following are the administrative tasks that were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2007.

Archive/Records	Election Committee
DNR Liaison – Jacklyn Gautsch	Updated Policy and Procedure Manual
NAI Liaison – Amy Yoakum	Grant Program
ICEC Liaison – Karen Phelps	Awards and Recognition
IACCBE – Angela Bries	Newsletter
IEC Liaison – Gail Barels	Master Conservationist
REAP/CEP – Linda Zaletel	IAN Listserve
Changes in membership	Assited Strategic Plan Committee to develop 5 year plan

2007 Highlights

Professional Development

The deadline for submission was December 31. Recognition took place at the March 15 ,2007 business meeting. There were 35 participants with 2-five year*, 2-ten year**, and 2-fifteen year*** recognitions. The following were certified: Heidi Anderson, Julie Brazell, Ann Burns, Katie Cantu*, Dana Dettmer, Charlene Elyea, Bradley H. Freidhof, Heather Freidhof, Sandy Fulcher, Christina Groen, Katie Hammond, Pamela Holz, Heather Hucka, Chuck Jacobsen, Hilary Johnson, Kristi Karwal-Clark, Jerry Keys, Jody Moats, Michele Olson**, Miriam Patton***, Kim Perlstein-Rowley, Karen Phelps, Diane Pixler***, Tina Popson*, Angie Reid, Mark Roberts, Lora Schwendinger, Victoria Shamblen, Emily Vant Hul, Todd Von Ehwegen**, Greg Wolf, Amy Yoakum, and Linda Zaletel.

Scholarships

Scholarships were given to Karen Phelps – Benton County, \$99 to attend the Midwest Environmental Education Conference in Wisconsin, and to Laura Schwendinger, Cass County, \$15 to attend Summer IAN.

Awards Program

The Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and the Iowa Conservation Education Council (ICEC) will present the following 2007 Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

Frederic Leopold Environmental Education Award:

Cargill Corn Milling, Cedar Rapids

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award:

Mahaska County Conservation, Outdoor Youth Field Day

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award:

Mike Havlik, Boone Y-Camp

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

Clinton County Conservation

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

Floyd County Conservation
Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award:
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Landowner Options Guide
"Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award:
Katie Knight, Sheldon High School Senior, Going Green bag program

IAN Mentoring Program

Mentees are directed to the IAN website to get all the information about this program. There is now a box to check on the workshop registration form to request a mentor. This helps identify those new naturalists needing a mentor.

Several regional groups of IAN members continue to meet at mini-workshops. Veteran members can share ideas and mentor new members. Kelly Sonnichsen is the chair. There were no new naturalists in need of mentors in 2007.

Master Conservationist

IAN continues to sponsor the Master Conservationist Program and is working with Iowa State Extension to review and document the agreement. The cost paid out covers the IAN booklets provided to each participant. Woodbury County was awarded \$248.00 for their Master Conservationist Program. The total monies spent in 2007 were \$248.

Junior Naturalist Program

All patches were sold out in 2007. The budget was increased to \$1,500.00 to design a new patch and reprint several popular older styles.

Joe Halbur Scholarship

As of Dec. 10, 2007 the amount in the Joe Halbur Scholarship fund was \$1,271.43 and the CD was \$5,108.55. Naturalist t-shirts and bags were sold to raise money for the fund as well as a power point program CD. The scholarship amount awarded is \$500. Kim Karwal, a biology major at Iowa State, was selected as this year's recipient.

Newsletter

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

Grants

Pottawattamie County Conservation Board received a grant of \$440 that helped supplement another grant used to purchase equipment for new Trailcasts program. This program allows users to utilize Ipods and mp3 players for self-guided interpretive trail hikes.

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 2007. We continue to use first names in pictures for personal safety reasons. Mark Roberts, Clinton County Conservation, stepped down as Webmaster. Cari Burnstedt, Henry County Conservation is currently considering taking over as Webmaster.

Strategic Planning Committee

Members are Maria Koschmeder, Brad Freidhof, Beth Waage, Lewis Major and Linda Zaletel. The first meeting was held in July 2005. It was decided to produce a survey to ask the membership to define new goals and objectives for the future of IAN. The survey was taken by all participants of the fall 2006 workshop. A summary was written up and made available at the Spring 2007 workshop. IAN ExComm reviewed the Five Year Strategic Plan and delegated tasks among its committee.

Fund Raising

A total of \$1,213.50 was raised at the 2007 fall auction.