

2010 IAN/ICEC Conservation and Environmental Education Excellence Award Winners

The Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) are proud to announce this year's recipients of their Conservation and Environmental Education Excellence Awards Program. The winners are as follows:

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award

Dr. Carl W. Bollwinkel-Environmental Issues Instructor at the University of Northern Iowa

This award commends lifetime achievement in environmental education excellence and leadership. During his career, Dr. Carl Bollwinkel has exemplified service to environmental education and mentoring teachers into environmental leadership roles. Contributing to the creation of Environmental Issues Instructions, Carl has made it possible for hundreds of teachers and thousands of children to experience true environmental education and has influenced responsible environmental actions in schools, communities, and state organizations. Like Aldo Leopold, Dr. Carl Bollwinkel is a father of ecology. He too is a professor, writer, and field biologist whose collective contributions to conservation defy a one-paragraph description.

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award

Ina Heidemann—Newton 6th Grade Teacher

This award commends outstanding efforts by an environmental educator. Ina Heidemann has been teaching in the Newton Community School District for 24 years. She is a leader in environmental education in Jasper County and has gone above and beyond to bring natural experiences to her students both in the classroom and in the outdoors. She works closely with the Jasper County Conservation Board to enhance her student's experiences by visiting county parks, allowing naturalists to come into her classroom to share their knowledge, and by finding new ways to engage her students. Her innovative methods allow her to incorporate science, math, literature, and history into her holistic approach to teaching.

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award

Nature's Treasures—City of Davenport

The Chris Holt Award commends an outstanding environmental education program for or by youth. The Nature's Treasures program developed by Greg Wolf, Environmental Education Supervisor for the City of Davenport, reaches over 400 students at Davenport's Truman Elementary. The program was developed to supplement and enhance the reading program at the school. It allows students to make important connections between literature and the natural environment in their own backyard or school yard. The program is given to all grade levels at Truman Elementary.

“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award

Eco Iowa City

This award commends an outstanding environmental education program or event, which educates the general public. Eco Iowa City is a resourceful partnership between the Iowa City Public Library and Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center. This joint organization has found dozens of innovative methods to educate a diverse growing community on the importance of

environmental sustainability. Through educating citizens on urban storm water management initiatives, including rain gardens and rain barrels, Eco Iowa City has impacted nearly 3,000 residents. Specific highlights include selling over 300 rain barrels to the community and collaborating with the University of Iowa to demonstrate to the community the importance of rain gardens. Additionally, Eco Iowa City has encouraged nearly 4,000 residents to adopt urban composting and local food practices through holding composting and vermicomposting workshops in the community.

Outstanding County Conservation board EE Program (2 or less interpreters)

Clayton County Conservation

This award commends excellence in county conservation board's environmental education program of counties with two or less interpreters. Delivering nearly 400 classroom programs over the past year, Clayton County Conservation demonstrates how effective environmental education can impact a community. Through hands-on programming such as invasive species removal, seed collection and water quality testing, their naturalists have led the way to an increased knowledge of our natural world. As a result of these actions, in 2010 a new outdoor classroom was constructed in Garnavillo and a bus grant fund was created in order to accommodate schools in need. These actions along with countless others make Clayton County Conservation worthy of the award for "Outstanding Environmental Education Program"(2 or less full-time naturalists).

Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (3 or more interpreters)

Clinton County Conservation

This award commends excellence of an environmental education program with 3 or more naturalists. With three nature centers, a pontoon boat that seats 30 and the recent groundbreaking of the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, Clinton County Conservation Board excels in environmental education efforts. Over the course of 2010, Mark, Chuck and Jessica delivered over 2,000 educational programs; with 150 of those on a pontoon boat in the middle of the Mississippi River. Constantly seeking new opportunities, the Clinton County Conservation exemplifies what passion and dedication to environmental education can accomplish.

Outstanding Interpretative Print Media Award

Johnson County Recreation & Conservation Areas Brochure

Visited by thousands of outdoor enthusiasts each year, Johnson County Conservation strives to provide up-to-date information to their visitors through a concise and colorful brochure. Through recent revisions and the addition of captivating pictures, Johnson County Conservation can be proud of their newly designed, six panel brochure. This print media successfully informs visitors why Johnson County is a recreation destination.

Outstanding Interpretative Non-Print Media Award

The Get Outside Video Series by Polk County Conservation

In 2009, Polk County Conservation (PCC) was awarded a grant from REAP-CEP to produce a series of videos titled "Get Outside." Besides an introduction and summary video, each episode focused on an outdoor activity and featured a park especially suited to that activity. The purpose of the project was to reach an ever increasingly plugged-in society with a conservation message

that would inspire people to get outside. To date, the “Get Outside” videos have had nearly 3,500 on-line views and an opportunity to be viewed by hundreds of thousands of local television station subscribers. To view the videos, visit PCC’s website at www.leadingyououtdoors.org.

Outstanding Volunteer

Jim Haring, Clinton, IA

Jim Haring is a great conservationist who has served important causes consistently throughout his lifetime. He has served the Izaak Walton League on a local, state and national level for 57 years, the Clinton County Conservation Board for 12 years, Clinton Trees Forever for 20 years and the Clinton County Conservation Foundation for 12 years. He has been a leader in visioning and fund-raising for the Mississippi River Eco Center and the growth of Clinton County Conservation's Education Program. From being a watchdog on environmental impacts of a nuclear power plant to helping kid's catch bluegills, and from designing/building Clinton's Ike's Haven to serving lunch to young hunters, Jim has done it all. Jim Haring, above all, is a person to do the work of conservation, not just talk about it.