

The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists

Summer IAN Workshop info on pages 4 & 5!!

Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Amendment - Historic Moment for Iowa's Environment on the Ballot November 2010

Submitted by Matthew Fisher, The Nature Conservancy Eastern Iowa Project Director

Iowa voters will have a historic opportunity on November 2, 2010 to vote for Iowa's Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment. The amendment would, for the first time in Iowa's history, establish a constitutionally protected trust fund to preserve Iowa's natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities. Funding to protect our natural resources remains at near historic lows and at current levels is inadequate to address our soil and water conservation needs.

Specifically, the amendment will create the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund which will provide a permanent, reliable and accountable revenue source to improve water quality and natural areas in Iowa. Funding will include fish and wildlife habitat, parks, and trails in addition to aiding in conservation of agricultural soils and restoring wetlands to protect against future flooding.

A vote for Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Amendment is a vote for the creation of the Trust Fund - not a vote for a tax increase. Revenue for the Trust Fund will come from allocating 3/8ths of one cent from sales tax revenue the next time the Iowa legislature raises the state sales tax. This

funding recommendation was based on over three years of research and study conducted by a legislative advisory committee. The advisory committee concluded that those funds, in addition to annual state budget allocations, would meet current needs. Once created, the Trust Fund will be managed responsibly, including open, public competition for funding, mandatory audits and citizen committee oversight. In 2008 and 2009, more than 90 percent of Iowa's state legislators overwhelmingly approved legislation that would establish the constitutionally protected

Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. The final step will be to ensure that Iowans vote YES!



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On April 23, 2010 Governor Culver signed Senate File 2310 to guide the spending of the trust fund should it pass. The funds will be allocated as follows: 23% to a Natural Resources Account administered by the DNR, 20% to a Soil Conservation and Water Protection Account administered by IDALS, 14% to a Watershed Protection account co-administered by the DNR and IDALS, 13% to REAP, 13% to a Local Conservation Partnership account administered by the DNR, 10% to a Trails account co-administered by the DNR and DOT and 7% to the DNR's Lake Restoration account.

The recently signed bill requires the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and the directors of the DOT and DNR to make their decisions related to this fund in consultation with other bodies that govern natural resources policies. The bill provides for strict and comprehensive oversight of any funds by annual audits by a private accountant or the state auditor, as well as the heads of three state departments. This committee will submit regular reports to the governor detailing the management of the trust fund.

This funding is significant because it will enable us to leverage more federal funding and make this money go even further. Numerous federal cost-share and grant programs require substantial match contributions that are difficult to come by with current funding streams. The proposed funding level will also double the current REAP maximum of \$30 Million dollars to \$60 Million and fully fund the program. The current maximum has

never been fully funded. Despite these funding issues REAP has helped support a wide array of wonderful projects across the state since its inception. Everyone can think of great, local REAP-funded projects as well as projects that weren't funded. Voting Yes to Iowa's Water and Land Legacy will ensure that many more good projects are supported.

All of us that manage natural areas understand the significant challenges we face in working with such a fragmented landscape. With funding through the Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Trust Fund, we will be able to redouble our efforts in protecting the remaining natural places in the state.

What can you do? For more information on how to get involved locally contact Mark Langgin, campaign manager for Iowa's Water and Land Legacy, marklanggin@gmail.com; 515-707-0266 and visit www.IowasWaterAndLandLegacy.org for more information. From now until November 2, we will need everyone's support in telling everyone they know about the significance of this amendment. Finally, financial support is greatly appreciated. The outreach needed to reach voters and continuing to educate them about how the amendment will affect the lands and waters we all love will take a tremendous amount of time and has significant costs. Also, the coalition has speakers available to speak to any group or function in detail about the amendment. Please take advantage of these knowledgeable speakers! We have one chance to make these much needed changes-please join us in supporting the Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Amendment!

You could write for *The Web*!!

We are always looking for articles, book reviews and upcoming events that would be of interest to the IAN membership and any member can submit something!! To submit send your submissions to *The Web* Editor Jacklyn Gautsch at j.gautsch@hotmail.com. Electronic submissions are preferred in word documents for text and jpeg for images.

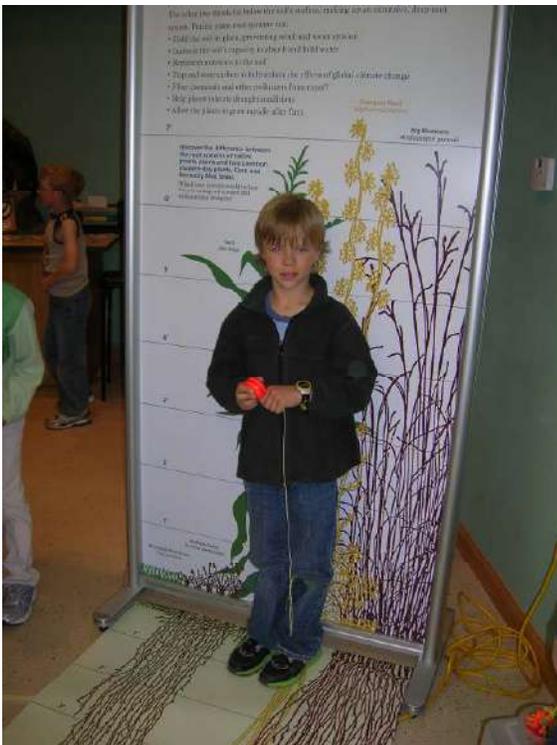
A Traveling Prairie

By Reba Reddick Cedar County Conservation Board Naturalist

The Tallgrass Prairie...What it was, what happened to it, and what may lie in its future is something that...you can now discover! Over three years ago, on December 8, 2006, a group of IAN members met to hold the first Traveling Exhibit Committee meeting. Now, as Ann Burns, Exhibit Chair, said “several snowstorms, a lot of hard work and a REAP- CEP grant later” a finished product has emerged and the first exhibit “Tallgrass Prairie- Past, Present and Future” is on display. The exhibit arrived in Cedar County at the Conservation Board Office on April 1st, 2010. It will be displayed at the Herbert Hoover NHS in West Branch for the month of May before moving on to the Hurtsville Center in Jackson County. The exhibit will follow a set schedule, moving back and forth across the state for the next two years or more.

Response so far has been tremendous and visitors to the exhibit have had many great things to say. Comments have included that the exhibit is “very informative,” “kid friendly,” and a “very good teaching tool.” Soon, more hands-on elements will be added to the current informational panels. These educational games and puzzles will be included to help engage younger visitors as they learn about this native Iowa ecosystem. If you would like to visit the exhibit, or learn more about the Traveling Exhibit Committee and their next project, contact Committee Chair Ann Burns at amburns29@yahoo.com.

The “Tallgrass Prairie” exhibit was produced by the Iowa Association of Naturalists with funds from the Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP – CEP), Living Roadway Trust Fund, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Trust for Local Conservation, the Tallgrass Prairie Center – UNI, and Truax Company.



Thirteen additional IAN member agencies, Friends Groups and other affiliate groups contributed to the development of this project:

- Friends of Calkins Nature Center
- Friends of Fontana Park
- Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation
- Emmett County Conservation
- Friends of Iowa County Conservation
- Iowa Association of County Conservation Board Employees
- Friends of Jackson County Conservation
- Washington County Conservation Foundation
- Little Sioux Valley Conservation Foundation
- Warren County Conservation
- Pocahontas County Conservation
- Iowa Trust for Local Conservation
- City of Davenport Parks and Recreation
- Linn County Conservation/Friends of Wickiup Hill
- Woodbury County Conservation Foundation

Summer IAN 2010 in Bremer County

August 11 – 13, Hosted by Bremer County Conservation and CrawDaddy Outdoors

Wednesday, August 11

1:00 pm Meet in Waverly

1:00 – 4:00 pm Climbing Wall at “W” (Wartburg College’s Health Center) and/or Kayak/Canoe rescue at indoor pool.

3:00 pm Buffalo participants leave Waverly

3:30 pm Arrive at Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch (Silos and Smokestacks site near Fredericksburg). Get up close and personal with buffalo by feeding them ears of corn out of a hayrack.

6:00 – 7:30 pm Dutch Oven supper at Alcock Park near Frederika. Set up camp. Showers/restrooms available.

7:30 – 8:00 pm Russell Benedict from Central College will talk about bats.

8:00 – 8:30 pm Watch bats fly overhead

8:30 – 10:30 pm Net bats

Thursday, August 12

7:00 am Breakfast - Dutch Oven sticky buns, bagels, fruit, granola bars

7:30 am Make and Take sandwiches, etc for lunch

8:00 am Massasauga Rattlesnake telemetry with Terry VanDeWalle. Boots/tennis shoes and long pants are required!

10:30 am Kayaking on a mystery river! Lunch on the river.

Late afternoon Return to camp, clean up & rehydrate.

6:00 pm Supper Foil packets & camp pie pizzas

7:00 – 9:00 pm Lazy night by the campfire. We will do a scavenger hunt written by Jim Pease and dated March 1977!
Bring your guitar or musical instrument. Share night programs, campfire stories and night hike ideas. Don’t forget your camp chair!

Friday the 13th!

7: 30 am Breakfast - bagels, fruit, granola bars

8:00 – 11:30 am Geocache and Earthcache our way through Sweet Marsh to a fen and a prairie. Birding and plant identification will occur at each stop. Bremer County will provide handheld GPS units.

Lunch on your own on your way home.

If you won’t be participating in some of the Wednesday activities, you can meet us at Alcock Park near Frederika for dinner and the bat study.

Directions to Alcock Park: **From the east or west**, it is easiest to make your way to highway 63. Turn east onto county road C16. There will be a brown arrowhead sign that points out the park as well as signs for the town of Frederika on highway 63. We will be camping on the west side of the park which is split by the Wapsipinicon River. Turn north onto Midway Avenue which is a gravel road. Alcock Park will be the first right turn. For those using Mapquest or GPS, the 911 address for Alcock Park is 1171 Midway Avenue, Frederika Iowa 50631.

IAN Summer Workshop 2010 Registration Form

Registration Deadline: August 3, 2010

Name: _____ County: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Meal accommodations _____ vegetarian _____ gluten free

Check meals if you plan to join us so we know how many people will be eating. Meals are included in the Workshop Fee.

Wednesday, August 11

- Climbing/Kayaking at the "W" (Wartburg College Health Center), \$10
- Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch, \$6
- Supper (Dutch Oven sloppy joes, potatoes/veggies & dessert)
- Bat Study, no fee

Thursday, August 12

- Breakfast: Dutch Oven sticky buns, bagels, fruit, granola bars
- Lunch: Sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies
- Dinner: Foil packet or pizza in camp pie cookers (Make your own with meat, mushrooms, peppers, cheese, potatoes, etc.)

Friday, August 13

- Breakfast: bagels, fruit, granola bars
- Workshop Fee: (includes meals), \$35
- Late Fee (if received after August 3), \$5

Total Payment Enclosed: _____

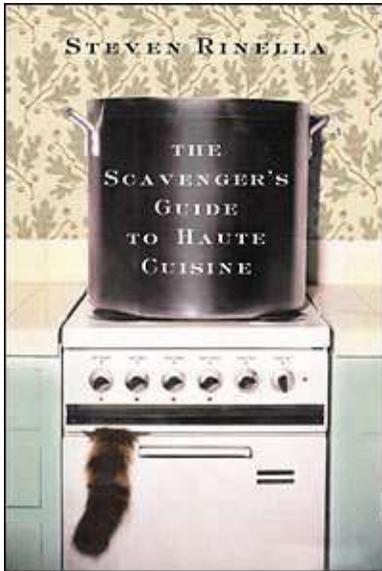
Please **make checks out to IAN Treasurer** and mail payment & registration to:
Heather Gamm, Bremer County Conservation
PO Box 412, 1104 S. Main Street Tripoli, Iowa 50676

Directions to "W" at Wartburg College, Waverly, IA 50677

From Highway 3, turn north on 12th St. by Godfather's Pizza/railroad tracks. The parking lot for the "W" is approximately 3 blocks.

Camping will be free at Alcock Park near Frederika. You may bring your own tent, sleeping bag (or rent one for \$5) and pad or call to reserve one from Bremer County Conservation (319-882-4742) or CrawDaddy Outdoors (319-352-9129). There is a shower house/restroom facility at Alcock. Bring any toiletries that you might need as well as eating utensils, water bottles and plates. Extras will be provided just in case. Boots, tennis shoes and long pants are required for the telemetry session.

Book Review



The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine Written by: Steven Rinella

Book review by Pete Eyheralde, Mahaska County Conservation Board Naturalist

If you're like most Naturalists, you probably have an incredible amount of biodiversity in your freezer - all manner of critters from forest, field, stream and road ditch. These may be taxidermy specimens in your work freezer or dinner specimens in your home freezer (although if you're like me, that line gets a little blurry sometimes).

You may have found yourself wondering at one time or another, "What am I ever going to do with this elk bladder, or these dead frogs, or this buffalo tongue anyway?" Fear not! You may have the makings for a feast of French high cuisine in your freezer without even knowing it.

In *The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine*, author Steven Rinella offers a Naturalist's version of *Julie & Julia* as he rediscovers the 1903 classic cookbook, *Le Guide Culinaire*, by master chef Auguste Escoffier. In it he finds that many of the most popular dishes served in restaurants and hotels of the late 19th century were made from wild game. As an avid hunter and fisherman he can't resist the challenge of recreating an Escoffier menu from foods he has hunted and gathered himself. *The Scavenger's Guide* takes you on a year's worth of foraging adventures and mishaps across the continent as Rinella attempts to collect the ingredients for a 45 course, three day feast of haute cuisine.

If you're looking for a humorous and entertaining read, be sure to put this book on your summer to-do list. I found myself thinking over and over, "Hey I've been there - done that!" or "I've got one of those in the freezer right now".

Warning: This book may cause you to rethink your field dressing techniques and become prone to culinary experimentation.

Grapevine News

Ben and Jess Wagner (Jackson County Naturalists) welcomed a baby girl Arabella Iris Wagner November 24th.

Erin (Webster County and Iowa DNR Naturalist) and Justin Ford are expecting a baby in August.

Former Iowa DNR AmeriCorps member Meggan Johnson (Daniels) is expecting twins!

Samuel Martin Van Roekel, son to Joel and Aimee Van Roekel (Warren County Conservation Board) was born on Jan 12, 2010 weighing in at 10.5 lbs.

Christina (Shelby & Audubon Counties Conservation Board Naturalist) and Vance Roelofs were married in Sibley, IA on March 6th.

Join the Iowa Association of Naturalists Facebook Group!!



Just visit www.facebook.com sign up for facebook then search for Iowa Association of Naturalist.

Just for Fun!

How to create a felted owl pellet

Submitted by Jenni Webster Buchanan County Naturalist

These felted pellets have been a hit with kindergarten groups, and are very simple to make.

To make one, you'll need:

- Grey roving wool from a yarn or craft store
- A pellet-shaped object that can go through the wash
- Pantyhose
- A top-loading washer
- Animal bones or feathers



First, find a pellet shaped item to wrap the wool around. I used a small football. Pull off small strips of the roving wool. Alternate tightly wrapping the wool lengthwise and widthwise so that strips criss-cross over one another. Keep wrapping until the whole pellet is evenly covered and is the desired size (keep in mind that the wool will shrink some in the wash).

Tuck your wool wrapped item inside of a pantyhose and close any open ends tightly with string or a rubber band. Run the whole thing through the wash cycle in a top-loading washer on a warm water setting. The wool should be compacted when it comes out of the wash. Allow your "pellet" to air dry overnight. Cut a slit in the top of the pellet with scissors and pull out the item inside. If the inside is dry, stuff it with extra roving wool and any bones or feathers you'd like. Enjoy!

Name this Iowa Nature Center!

Submit your guess to IAN President Tina Popson at tina.popson@pottcounty.com; please use "Name This Nature Center" as the subject line. The sender of the first correct answer will win bragging rights in the next issue of The Web!



Upcoming Workshops and Events:

Citizen Science: An Introduction to Insects Workshop

GRINNELL COLLEGE 

June 18 & 19
Grinnell, IA

Please contact: MJ Hatfield at
mjhatfield@oneota.org or 515-450-7430

Introductory Workshops



May – August 2010

Various locations statewide

Visit www.iowater.net for more information and to register.

Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

June 4-6
Onawa, IA



http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/upcoming_events/loess_hills_prairie_seminar/

2010 Governor's Conference on Environmental Education: Environment as an Integrating Context for Iowa

June 28- July 1
Honey Creek Resort



<http://www.iowaee.org/ICEC.html>

Project AWARE 2010

July 10-17

West & East Nishnabotna Rivers in SW Iowa



www.iowaprojectaware.com

North American Prairie Conference

August 1-4
Cedar Falls



<http://www.northamericanprairieconference.org/index.html>

Biological Workshops



August – October 2010

Various locations statewide

Must be a Certified IOWATER Monitor to attend
Visit www.iowater.net for more information and to register.

NAEEA 7th Annual Conference



September 28 & 29

<http://www.naaee.org/conference>

Save the dates for future IAN Workshops:

Fall 2010 – Kossuth County – November 17-19

Spring 2011 – Appanoose County – March 2-4

Summer 2011 – Palo Alto County - TBA

Fall 2011 – Iowa County or with NAI Region 5 – TBA

Spring 2012 – Pottawattamie County - TBA

Please contact Laura DeCook, IAN Workshop Coordinator at (641)856-8525 if you would like to host an IAN workshop in your county.

Check out the NEW IAN Web Site
www.iowanaturalists.org

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