

# Iowa Association of Naturalists 2011 Annual Report

## **Executive Committee (ExCom)**

President: Tina Popson

Vice President: Reba Reddick

Treasurer: Nathan Unsworth

Secretary: Pete Eyheralde

Workshop Coordinator: Brian Gibbs

**Membership 2011:** 84 regular, 1 student and 14 honorary members = 99 members

## **Meetings:**

### Spring Workshop:

Held at Raccoon River Nature Lodge in Polk County, Des Moines, Iowa, March 2-4, 2011

**Pre Workshop Sessions:** Reclaim Your Holidays, Climb Iowa Field Trip, State Capitol and Historical Building Tour.

**Evening Activity:** Salisbury House Tour, music and social

**Extra Activities:** Geocaching, IAN Book Club Discussion

**Post Workshop Session:** Bird's Eye View of the Des Moines River Valley

**Featured:** Three general session and fourteen concurrent sessions including Bonnie and Clyde history, trail camera EE, Phys Ed EE, Clean and Green Program games, ISU insect zoo, signatures on the land, social media marketing, IPERS, white-nose syndrome in bats, GreenForce, Iowa rivers, prairie chicken recovery, REAP-CEP new grant application format, nature songs, cell phone self-guided interpretation, and the new Iowa wildlife center.

**Attendance:** 86

### Summer Workshop:

Held in Palo Alto and Clay Counties, Lost Island-Huston Park, Iowa, August 3-5, 2011

Activities included: Lost Island Lake fisheries management, Shallow Lake bird survey, native plant nursery tour, telescopes, woodland hike-tree ID, restoring local food systems, and wild edibles

**Attendance:** 16

Fall Meeting: (*Statewide Naturalist Swap was held in lieu of full workshop, as many IAN members had just attended the NAI conference in St. Paul, MN*)

Held at Newton Arboretum, Jasper County, Newton, Iowa, November 18, 2011

**Featured:** Evaluation and shared topics from the 2011 NAI Conference, IAN Business Meeting, Swap of EE program ideas and materials.

**Attendance:** 40

**The ExCom met four times this year:** March 3 (Village Bean, Des Moines), August 2 (Newton Public Library), November 16 (Conference Call), and December 9 (Hickory Park, Ames).

### **Committees**

Thirteen standing committees were in existence in 2011. Fifteen administrative tasks were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2011.

#### Promotions

Fundraising  
Junior Naturalist  
Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship  
Web Page  
IAN display/brochure

#### Professional Development

Professional Development  
Scholarships  
Mentoring  
ICEC/IAN Awards  
Traveling Exhibits  
REAP Alliance  
IAN Publications

#### Administrative Tasks

The following are the administrative tasks that were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2011.

IAN Listserve  
DNR Liaison- Jacklyn Gautsch  
NAI Liaison- Amy Yoakum  
ICEC Liaison- Brian Gibbs  
IACCBE – Christina Roelofs  
IEC Liaison- Gail Barels  
REAP/CEP- Charlene Elyea

Election Committee  
Grant Program  
Awards and Recognition  
Newsletter- “The Web”  
Membership  
Master Conservationist  
Workshops and Evaluations  
Archive/Records

## **2011 Highlights**

### **Professional Development**

The deadline for submission was December 31. Recognition took place at the March 2011 business meeting. The following individuals were certified: Heidi Anderson, Lyndsey Anderson, Ann Burns, Katie L. Cantu, Rebecca Cook, Amanda Delperdang, Victoria DeVos, Anita Fisher, Brad Freidhof, Katie Hammond, Lilly Jensen, Elizabeth Kling, Jody Moats, J. Dave Murcia, Michele Olson, Miriam Patton, Karen M. Phelps, Diane Pixler, Tina Popson, Christina Roelofs, Laura Schwendinger, Missy Smith, Todd Von Ehwegen, Jessica Wagner, Greg Wolf, Amy Yoakum, Linda Zaletel.

Emily VantHul received a five year pin, Charlene Elyea received a 10 year plaque, and 29 total participants this year.

## Scholarships

- No IAN Scholarships were awarded in 2011 due to the REAP grant for NAI attendance.
- IAN members receiving REAP scholarships to attend NAI were:

Abbey Harkrader Clayton County Conservation Board

Amy Yoakum Story County Conservation

Angi Reid Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

Ann Burns Jackson County Conservation

Annette Wittrock Wapello County Conservation Board

Brad Freidhof Johnson County Conservation Board

Callie Le'au Courtright City of Des Moines Parks and Rec.

Cari Griffin Henry County Conservation

Charlene Elyea O'Brien County Conservation Board

Charles "Chuck" Jacobsen Clinton County Conservation

Charles Vigdal, Dickinson County Conservation

Chelsea Ewen Bremer County Conservation

Chris Adkins- Dallas County Conservation Department

Christina Roelofs Shelby and Audubon County

Cindy Blobaum Dallas County Conservation

Connie Betts, Naturalist Harrison County Conservation

Dawn Snyder, Woodbury County Conservation

Diane Pixler Hall Marshall County Conservation Board

Emily Herring Marshall County Conservation Board

Gail Barels Linn County Conservation Department

Greg Wolf, Davenport Parks and Recreation

Heather Gamm Bremer County Conservation

Heather Hucka Story County Conservation

Heidi Anderson, Polk County Conservation

Jacklyn Gautsch Iowa DNR

Jerry Keys Story County Conservation

Jessica Steines Clinton County Conservation

Jessica Wagner Jackson County Conservation

Jody Moats Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve

Joel M. Van Roekel Warren County Conservation Board

Karen M. Phelps, Benton County Conservation  
Katie Cantu Jasper County Conservation Board  
Kelly Dix Pottawattamie County Conservation  
Kelly Sonnichsen Crawford County Conservation  
Laura Stephens Iowa County Conservation Board  
Laura Zaugg Dallas County Conservation Board  
Lewis Major Polk County Conservation  
Lilly Jensen Winneshiek County Conservation Board  
Linda Zaletel Story County Conservation  
Lisa Anderson, Keep Boone County Beautiful  
Lora Schwendinger Cass County Conservation  
Lori Foresman-Kirpes, Polk County Conservation  
Mark Roberts, Clinton County Conservation  
Mike Havlik Des Moines YMCA Camp  
Miriam Patton Palo Alto County Conservation  
Missy Smith Warren County Conservation Board  
Patrice Peteresen-Keys Polk County Conservation  
Rene Stroud, Sac County Conservation  
Stacey Snyder UNI  
Sydney Hiatt, Pottawattamie County Conservation  
Tina Popson, Pottawattamie County Conservation  
Todd Von Ehwegen Cerro Gordo County Conservation  
Victoria DeVos Plymouth County Conservation  
Wayne Buchholtz, Mines of Spain, Iowa DNR

### **Awards Program**

The Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Council (ICEC) will present the following 2011 Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

#### **Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award :**

*Linda Zaletel-Story County Conservation Naturalist*

*Larry Stone-Clayton County Conservation Board Member*

#### **Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award:**

*Ann Burns-Jackson County Conservation Environmental Education Coordinator*

**Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program 3 or more interpreters:** *Story County Conservation*

**Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program 2 or less interpreters:**  
*Bremer County Conservation*

**Outstanding Interpretative Non-Print Media Award:**  
*Polk County Conservation*

**Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award**  
*Oskaloosa Elementary School*

**Outstanding Volunteer:**  
*Don Dunbar, Elkader, IA*

### **IAN Mentoring Program**

Mentees are directed to the IAN website to get all the information about his program. There is 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 local naturalist swaps. Veteran members can share ideas and mentor new members. Due to the NAI conference in Fall 2011, the new naturalist lunch will be held by Heather Hucka during the Spring 2012 IAN workshop.

### **Master Conservationist**

IAN continues to sponsor the Master Conservationist Program. Cost paid out covers the IAN booklets provided to each participant. In 2010 a committee began working on updates to the booklet series.

### **Jr. Naturalists**

The Fox and Turtle patches were re-printed this year and were made available for \$2/patch.

### **Joe Halbur Scholarship**

As of December the amount in the Joe Halbur Scholarship money market account was \$8286.72. Due to the NAI Conference in Minnesota this fall, the IAN fundraising events were postponed until Spring 2012. The scholarship amount awarded is \$650. Erin Gerard, majoring in Wildlife Ecology with an information and education focus at University of Wisconsin Stephens Point was selected as this year's recipient.

### **Newsletter**

Three newsletters were produced and distributed via email. The newsletter is also available online on [www.iowanaturalists.org](http://www.iowanaturalists.org). A few newsletters are delivered by mail.

**Grants**

A grant of \$200.00 was awarded the Jackson County Conservation Board for the construction of a new play-scape.

**IAN Web Page**

The web page can be found at [www.iowanaturalists.org](http://www.iowanaturalists.org). Cari Griffin (Henry CCB) continues her position as the webmaster.

**Account Balances**

General Fund- \$2,103.62

Exhibits- \$5,921.05

Joe Halbur Scholarship- \$8,286.72

Money Market- \$93,43.14

CD - \$10,000.00