



The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists

What do You do for a Living

By Pete Eyheralde, IAN Secretary

Photos by Jacklyn Gautsch, Iowa DNR

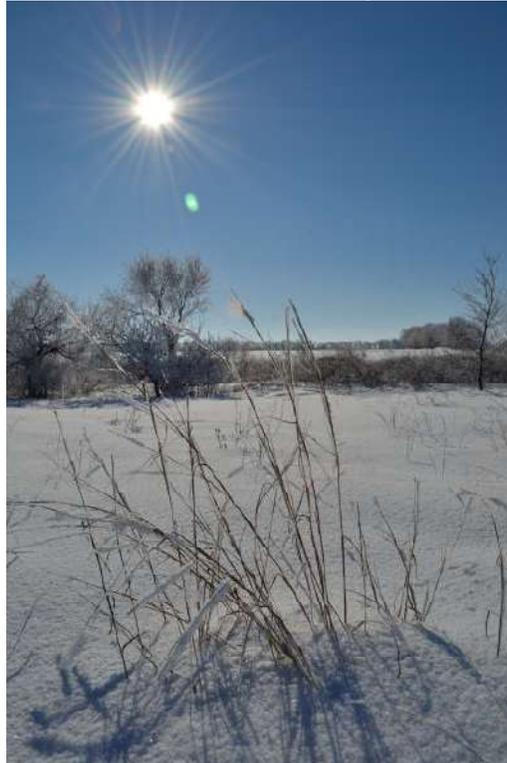
So, what do you do for a living? An innocent enough question, but when you reply, "I'm a Naturalist", are you often greeted with blank stares? Or maybe a few laughs... "So, like you're naked? At work?" Naturalist... Naturalist... big difference. As a group IAN is made up of a wide variety of individuals, each marching to his or her own drum beat, but I think all of us are connected by a deep love of the natural world. In our often hectic jobs of running from one program to the next, planning the next big event, or frantically collecting props for that program we should have left for five minutes ago, how many of us take the time to think, "What do I do for a living?" or "What am I *supposed* to be doing?" A quick dictionary search provides the following definitions:

Naturalist: a person who is expert or interested in botany or zoology, especially in the field.

Naturalist: One versed in natural history, especially in zoology or botany.

Naturalist: a student of nature; conducts scientific research of plants or animals, leaning more towards observational, rather than experimental methods of study.

Naturalist: (noun) biologist, environmentalist, conservationist, ecologist, botanist, zoologist, ornithologist, entomologist, life scientist, preservationist, natural historian, (and my personal favorite...) tree-hugger.



That's a lot of hats to wear, and yet most of us do it every day. A naturalist is nothing if not versatile. When we think of the great naturalists of history, how many of us align ourselves with the likes of Georges

Cuvier, Carl Linnaeus, Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace, John James Audubon, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson, E.O. Wilson, Rachel Carson or Jane Goodall? Those are big shoes to fill, but ones we can all strive to emulate. I consider myself a pretty decent field ecologist (at least I can fool the average 5th grader), but thinking back to the Fall IAN Workshop in Kossuth County and the running slideshow "Naturalist Challenge", I know I was stumped by a few of those slides. For those that missed it, it was a series of 50 or so slides, depicting fossils, birds, fish, mammals, herps, insects, fungus and plants that are found in Iowa. I should have known them all

easily, but I didn't. Hmmm, maybe it's time to brush up on the basics. Probably a little more time in the woods with a good field guide and a little less time in the halls of the local elementary school would do us all some good (now just try convincing your director of that) :)

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We all know the tax-paying public, your neighbors, probably even your mom, expects you to be expert in all aspects of natural history. Yet, if you were to dig through the office files and look up your official job title I'd bet most of you would find it said "Interpretive Naturalist". Not only do you have to know everything about nature, you have to be able to interpret, or explain it in a way that average people can understand. I'd go so far as to say you even have to make it fun for people to learn about nature. Perhaps we can find connections with those who are expert in combining natural history with entertainment - Freeman Tilden, Sylvan Runkel, David Attenborough, Steve Irwin, David Suzuki or Terry Tempest-Williams.

As interpretive naturalists there's a constant need to balance education with entertainment. I know in my own role over the years as Mahaska County Naturalist, I found that as the popularity and demand for programs increased, the entertainment expectations rose as well. The same old snake and furs won't cut it after you've been to the same 4th grade class for the 12th time in the school year. I found myself doing things like making homemade gunpowder bombs with 3rd graders, taking live rattlesnakes to Kindergarten and 12 foot pythons to 1st grade in an effort to always one-up the last program. There were many days where I thought, "Either they're going to totally love this or they're going to kick me out of school and ask me not to come back!" We have dual roles as scientists and communicators, yet both are equally important. As the naturalist and U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "All the biological conservation theory and forestry science in the world wouldn't add up to much if the American people didn't believe the findings."

Freeman Tilden (1883-1980) was a pioneer in the field of natural and cultural interpretation and well known for his six principles of interpretive communication. Principle #4 clearly states: *The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction, but provocation.* Think about that for a minute... How many of your programs provoke action and how many merely instruct? In these days of "No Child Left Behind" and teaching to the test, many classroom teachers will send an email list of school standards and benchmarks for

you to make sure you cover during your program. It can sometimes be challenging to squeeze a little nature into the science lesson you're presenting, let alone provoke acts of conservation in 3rd graders. I always thought of school classroom programs as sort of the gateway drug to get kids and their families out into the county parks (ex: "If you think this raccoon fur is cool, wait till you see the live ones climbing around in the real trees! That's right, real ginormous trees right in the park, and they grow bigger every year..."). Although as immersed in the natural world as we are, we might often take for granted the sight of a redbill overhead, the deer track on the trail, or the garter snake slithering across the road, let's not forget that for some

of these kids we're the only connection to nature they have in their lives.

This fall I had a chance to meet and talk with Dr. Barbara Block, a well-known and respected marine biologist from Stanford University. Here's a person that's at the top of her field, doing cutting edge research, tracking migration and thermoregulation

patterns of tunas, sharks and other large fish. Like most marine biologists she is concerned with the plight of endangered species, the increasing levels of pollution in the world's oceans and other conservation issues. So when asked what she saw as the hope for a sustainable future for humans she replied, "Getting kids outside and connected to the natural world around them." Wow... kind of makes you want to pat yourself on the back and say "Yes! I do that every day." On the other hand, maybe you didn't know you were responsible for the fate of the planet...

As William Arthur Ward once said, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." I've seen enough hikes and talks in forests, fields and rivers across our state to know that the kids of Iowa are in good hands. There are some truly great interpretive naturalists out there. So remember, when you're heading to that 5th program of the day, your feet are dragging and the thought of a nap by the campfire sounds great... There are kids out there waiting to be inspired.



Grapevine News

Detra Dettmann (Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development, Coordinator and former County Naturalist) and Mr. Todd Coffelt (Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Chief of Mines and Minerals Bureau) were recognized with the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award for their unique working relationship and their extraordinary efforts in partnering to eliminate acid mine drainage and its harmful effects on watersheds, water quality, aquatic life and vegetation in Iowa. Partnerships have been developed on eight acid mine drainage projects and have resulted in 10 abandoned mine land sites being reclaimed.

Adalyn Ann Ford was born August 15, 2010 weighing 5 lbs 14oz to Erin (Webster County and Iowa DNR Naturalist) and Justin Ford.

Brad Freidhof (Johnson County Naturalist) and wife Tammy have added a daughter (Olivia) to their herd of four boys.

Lilly Jenson is the new Education Coordinator for Winneshiek County!

Diane Pixler (Marshall County Naturalist) is engaged to John Hall, they are planning a late February wedding.

IAN Ex-Com Update

An old adage says that change is a part of the rhythm of living. True to form, we have some changes on the Iowa Association of Naturalists Executive Committee to announce. It is with reluctance that we say farewell to Laura DeCook, who served as our fearless workshop coordinator for the past year. Laura did an amazing job at arranging workshop sessions and who can forget her stress-relieving icebreakers (especially the great shoe pile at spring IAN in Washington County)? Thanks for your service Laura.

It is with pleasure that we welcome Brian Gibbs to the IAN Executive Committee. Brian will serve as Workshop Coordinator for 2011, and we look forward to his incorporation of creativity and a new perspective. Brian was the next top vote getter at the elections this fall, so we know IAN members will support the addition of Brian as an appointed leader of the organization. Welcome Brian.

Your 2011 IAN Ex-Com Members are (from left): Tina Popson (President), Nathan Unsworth (Treasurer), Pete Eyheralde (Secretary), Brian Gibbs (Workshop Coordinator), and Reba Cook (Vice-President).



Survey Says....

Submitted by Tina Popson

Nearly 70 IAN members took time to share a “few of their favorite things” by taking the recent online survey. The results are in and as the saying goes, variety seems to truly be the spice of life. Enjoy this recap!

Question 1 - Favorite Number: responses varied from 0 to 65; #3 and #13 were favorites, each with seven votes.

Question 2 – Color: as predicted, green was the overall favorite with 22 votes. Blue was a close second with 19.

Question 3 – Vegetable: peas and carrots (although not in that order) along with corn topped our favorites. Shout out to the lone okra lover as well as those who spelled broccoli and potato correctly!

Question 4 – Place: too many outdoor spots to mention; HOME was a popular answer as were our National Parks. Kudos to those who wrote Iowa. Any bets on whether or not Nathan Unsworth submitted the “tailgating lot” response?

Question 5 – Book: Just in time for the newly formed IAN Book Discussion Group, popular titles included Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver, A Walk In The Woods by Bill Bryson, Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold, and the Harry Potter series.

Digging Deeper - a Book Discussion Group

Submitted by Cindy Blobaum

Question 6 – Ice Cream: Chocolate-lovers unite! Overwhelmingly the responses involved some form of chocolate: mint-chocolate chip, New York Super Fudge Chunk, cookies-n-cream, peanut butter chocolate, rocky road, Cherry Garcia, World Class Chocolate, Chocolate and Almonds, plain chocolate, well, you get the picture. Props to the brave soul who admitted their dislike of ice cream.

Question 7 – Season: Autumn takes the cake with nearly 60% of the responses. Spring and Summer were tied for overall second favorite. Winter, Any, All of Them, and Hunting Seasons completed the answers.

Question 8 – Song: This is the category with the most variety of responses, from Metallica & Megadeth to Carole King & John Denver. Beastie Boys, Blues Traveler, Keith Urban, Beatles and Sheryl Crow also made the list. The only repeat as a listed favorite was Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World."

Question 9 – Holiday: For nearly 1/3 of respondents it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Other answers included Thanksgiving, Halloween, July 4th, Mother's Day, New Year's Day, and Today.

Question 10 – Plant: Déjà vu on the variety we saw in the ice cream category. Butterfly Milkweed, Bur Oak Tree, Lavendar, & Purple Coneflower were all popular. Sugar Maple, Trumpet Vine, Rough Blazing Star, and Bloodroot were also mentioned.

Question 11 – Movie: There is a tie in this category: "Goonies" and "The Notebook". Imagine if they made a movie combining those two plots! Classics mentioned were "It's A Wonderful Life," "Stand By Me" and "Beaches" along with more modern flicks such as "School of Rock" and "The Blind Side."

Question 12 – Animal: Owls and the Wolf topped the list of favorites for this category. Special mention awards to the unicorn, bigfoot, and the yellow lab named Mr. Gibb.

You could write for *The Web*!!

We are always looking for articles, book reviews and upcoming events that would be of interest 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.

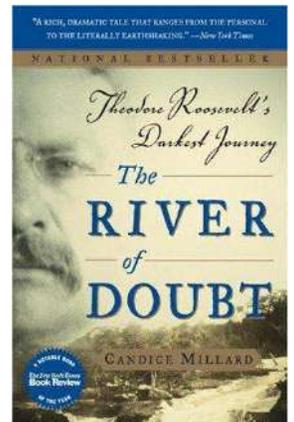
For many years, I have enjoyed reading the book reviews featured in IAN's newsletter. After reading a reviewed book, sometimes I have agreed with the reviewer's assessment, other times I haven't. Often times, I have wanted more than could be reasonably accommodated in a newsletter column - discussion, debate, alternative viewpoints! With that, plus the encouragement of other IAN members and approval of the board, I am plunging ahead to the next level - facilitating a book discussion group (BDG) at the Spring IAN meeting.

With input from other IAN members, the book chosen for the first BDG is *River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard. Very briefly, "a year after Roosevelt lost a third-party bid for the White House in 1912, he decided to chase away his blues by accepting an invitation for a South American trip that quickly evolved into an ill-prepared journey down an unexplored tributary of the Amazon known as the River of Doubt."

Although I have yet to read the book, I have looked at a discussion group guide for the novel. Just to whet your interest a bit, here are some themes encountered throughout the story:

Discuss the very concept of survival. What material provisions and mental attributes are necessary?

- What did you discover about the intricate and sometimes surreal ecology and geography of the Rain Forest? Why is it important to preserve rather than develop remote ecosystems?
- Does the self-sufficiency of the indigenous people make them noble?
- What separates Roosevelt's brand of adventurousness from that of contestants on television shows such as "Survivor?"



If this sounds interesting to you, read the book, marking a few passages you find noteworthy and join in! If this title doesn't interest you but you want to join in please bring a book and description. Of course, be warned, if your book is selected, you'll be in charge of facilitating the next BDG!



Blending the Past with the Present
Spring IAN Workshop
March 2-4th, 2011
Raccoon River Nature Lodge, Polk County



Wednesday, March 2, 2011

PRE-WORKSHOP Activities

1. **Reclaim Your Holidays – Susan Salterberg and Carole Yates, UNI CEEE (1-5:00 p.m.)** In this interactive workshop you'll share your winter holiday experiences and challenges so you better understand the conflicting feelings many Iowans have about holidays. You'll learn tools to help your clients have less wasteful, more meaningful celebrations that are easier on the environment. You'll make a plan for implementing Reclaim Your Holidays in your county. Sampling of tools at www.reclaimyourholidays.org. **This workshop will be held at the Raccoon River Nature Lodge.**

2. **Climb Iowa (1-5:00p.m.)** Experience Iowa's largest indoor climbing facility. Go to the www.climbiowa.com for more information and directions. Cost \$30 /person, includes, all climbing gear, knot-tying instruction, belaying instruction and teambuilding activities. **We will meet at Climb Iowa at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2nd. Limited number of registrations available. Register early!**

3. **State Capitol & Historical Building Tour (11:30-5:00)** Enjoy a guided tour of the building and the famous gold dome, it is also REAP day so we may take a moment to show our support. After our capitol tour we will walk to the Iowa Historical Museum. **Meet at 11:30 on the corner of Pennsylvania and East Grand at the state parking ramp on East Grand (parking at the State Parking Ramp at Pennsylvania and East Grand is free).**

Thursday, March 3, 2011

8:30 am Registration/Breakfast

9:00 am Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

9:30 am GENERAL SESSION: **Bonnie and Clyde – Rod Stanley, Dallas County Conservation**
 The outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow along with Buck Barrow, his Blanche, and teenager W.D. Jones came to the campground north of Dexter, Iowa in July of 1933. They participated in the biggest shootout in Dallas County history. Learn about this interesting bit of Iowa history.

10:30 am Break

11:00 am CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. **Caught on Camera! How to Use a Trail Camera to Create a Unique EE Program - Connie Betts, Harrison CCB** - Follow HCCB over the course of three years to see wildlife captured by a trail camera in this popular program. Learn about trail cameras and how you could use this technology to create a unique program.
2. **Physical Education: An Untapped Resource - Lilly Jensen, Winneshiek CCB** - Need more middle and high school contacts? Use outdoor recreation. Demand for physical activity in schools is increasing, and environmental educators can capitalize on it by reaching out with outdoor recreation.
3. **Fun and Games - Martha McCormick, Next Step Adventure** - Martha McCormick will lead this session in old and new games with a twist; they are all part of the Clean and Green Program Martha developed for Keep Iowa Beautiful. The games line up with the Iowa Core Curriculum, and with Character Counts! Play The School is a Mess, People to People, Three-Letter Word Forming, and more!

Noon Lunch - **Book Discussion Group – Cindy Blobaum, Dallas CCB** - Join fellow readers of **River of Doubt** by Candice Millard to share, reflect, debate and dig for deeper connections in a sure to be lively inaugural meeting of an IAN book discussion group.

1:00 pm GENERAL SESSION: **ISU Insect Zoo – Angela Tague (Tentative)** - Enjoy a minds-on presentation by the ISU Insect Zoo highlighting many of the 250+ outreach programs conducted throughout the state each year. This presentation will also include a hands-on introduction to the world of entomology.

2:00 pm Break

2:30 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. **Signatures on the Land – Dubuque CCB & Loras College** - Learn about a collaborative summer project that blends two distinct programs—Future Talk and Speaking Out. Disadvantaged youth learn about nature, engage in outdoor activities, and volunteer in the community. This model program, funded by grants, offers a variety of opportunities for replication.
2. **Social Media Marketing – Heidi Anderson, Polk CC, Tina Popson, Pottawattamie CCB, Jessica Steines, Clinton CCB** - Have you jumped on the social media bandwagon yet? Learn how to use social media to your advantage and why it's important to have an online presence other than your webpage. Several naturalists will share how they use Facebook and its benefits and challenges.
3. **IPERS- Updates and Overview** - IPERS representative will go over the general retirement benefit formula and how to maximize your benefits. The new law changes will be reviewed and how they apply to you as an IPERS employee. Handouts will be provided.

3:30 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. **White Nose Syndrome in Bats – Rebecca Christoffel, ISU Extension Wildlife Specialist** - Learn about White Nose Syndrome in bats, how to reduce human-mediated spread of the disease, and what people can do to help bats. You'll also participate in an activity that demonstrates to audiences how White Nose Syndrome is passed from bat to bat and potentially human to bat.
2. **GreenForce – Karen Brook, Trees Forever** - Trees Forever is currently developing a program called GreenForce to help young people (specifically junior high through college) get more involved in the work that Trees Forever volunteers do in Iowa and Illinois. Ideas will be shared about working with young people and how to reach out to more youth groups

4:30 pm Break

4:45 pm Business Meeting

5:45 pm Dinner

6:45-7:00 pm Travel to Salisbury House for evening activities

7:00-9:30 pm **Experience Historic Salisbury House** - Come enjoy the evening social with music and cash bar as we tour the mansion. Discover the enduring charm of 16th century England and the vibrant culture of the 21st century. Treasures of art and antiquity create the dazzling mosaic that is Salisbury House and Gardens. *Transportation provided with three 15 passenger vans leaving from the Nature Lodge beginning at 6:45 p.m.*

Friday, March 4, 2011

8:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am GENERAL SESSION: Iowa's Rivers: The Barometer of the Land-Gary Siegwarth IDNR - A passionate message on the significance of Iowa's floods. Come discover a better awareness and appreciation of Iowa's rivers, its inhabitants and the watersheds that make them all complete.

9:30 am Break

9:45 am CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

1. **Prairie Chicken Recovery by Stephanie Shepherd – IDNR Wildlife Diversity Biologist** - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has recently entered into a new partnership with the Blank Park Zoo to look into the best means for conservation of the dwindling population of prairie chickens in southern Iowa.
2. **Learn about REAP CEP's New Grant Application Format – Charlene Elyea, O'Brien CCB and Susan Salterberg, UNI** - The REAP Conservation Education Program Request for Proposals (RFP) will be different for the May grant round. IAN's representative to the CEP Board, Charlene Elyea, will explain how the application process and format have changed. Susan will also provide tips for grant writing and answer questions.
3. **Nature Song Rock-documentary (part 1) – Mike Havlik, DM YMCA Camp and Lewis Major, Polk CC** We want your songs. This session will be a fun sing along presentation that will have you clapping and

singing along. But most importantly, we want to assemble the greatest collection of nature songs ever seen. The session will be filmed and a DVD will be available as a way for you to review with lyrics, melodies, and actions. If you don't have a song to share, no problem, join us and make a few!

10:45 am Break

11:00 am CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

1. **Guide by Cell – Lori Foresman-Kirpes, Polk CC** - Guide by Cell utilizes technology to inform and educate park visitors about natural resources, unique park features and current events. Come learn how this pilot program has worked at Polk County Conservation and how it could be implemented in your area. Guide by Cell was funded by a REAP-CEP grant.
2. **Iowa Wildlife Center - Marlene Ehresman** - The Iowa Wildlife Center (IWC) is a relatively new 501c3 nonprofit organization that will provide wildlife rescue and rehabilitation services, provide skills training to conservation and rehabilitation professionals and help reach more Iowans through its environmental education program. Learn about IWC's "mantra" and be prepared to discuss how we might develop mutually beneficial activities, such as exchanges of animals, knowledge, equipment or anything else that might help the each other and the broader conservation community.
3. **Nature Song Rock-documentary (part 2) – Mike Havlik and Lewis Major**

Noon Lunch and Departure

Post Workshop Opportunity: Bird's Eye View of the Des Moines River Valley - We will drive out to the High Trestle Trail bridge and take a look at the Des Moines River valley from over 13 stories above. This old railroad bridge has been converted into an awesome attraction as a part of the new High Trestle Trail that runs over 20 miles from Ankeny to Woodward. The grand opening isn't until April but we can get a sneak peak and learn more about the interpretation and construction of this unique feature.

Geocaching on your own- Several geocaches have been hidden in Raccoon River Park just for you. If you can find all of them during the workshop and complete a puzzle, you will be eligible for a prize. GPS units available!

Lodging Information: Notice: *Reserve rooms early* –The Girls State Basketball Tournament is in town this same week and rates will most likely go up!

1. Drury Inn and Suites West Des Moines, 5505 Mills Civic Pkwy Phone 515-457-9500 or 800-378-7946 or book with the following links:

Wednesday & Thursday Reservations \$87.99/ night plus tax:

<http://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2107716>

Thursday night only reservation \$50/night government rate *must have a government ID*:

<http://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2107717>

Room block reserved until February 16th, 2011 - breakfast is available

2. Motel 6 – 7655 Office Plaza Dr N – I-80 at Jordan Creek Pkwy, Exit 121 Call 1-800-544-4866
Group name Iowa Association of Naturalists Cost: \$35.99 per night single or \$41.99 per night double plus tax

Room block reserved until Feb 2, 2011 - Free coffee, no breakfast

Directions: A PDF file with simple directions to Raccoon River Nature Lodge at 2500 Grand Avenue West Des Moines can be found at: <http://www.wdm-ia.com/Index.aspx?page=215>

Blending the Past with the Present
Spring IAN Workshop
March 2-4th, 2011
Raccoon River Nature Lodge, Polk County

Name: _____
 Affiliation: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone #: _____ Alternate Phone #: _____
 Email: _____ Please add me to the listserv.

Sign me up for following pre-workshop session:

- Reclaim Your Holidays
- Climb Iowa
- State Capitol Tour

Meals (✓ all that apply):

Thursday Breakfast: \$ 6.00

Breakfast casserole, fruit, rolls, juice OR Vegetarian casserole \$ _____

Thursday Lunch: \$9.50

Chicken ala king, salad, bread, dessert bars, lemonade/ tea OR Vegetarian option \$ _____

Thursday Supper: \$11.50

Lasagna salad, bread, and tiramisu, lemonade/ tea OR Vegetarian Lasagna \$ _____

Friday Breakfast: \$6.00

Scrambled eggs or biscuits and gravy, hashbrowns, fruit and juice \$ _____

Friday Lunch: \$9.50

Sandwiches, soup and salad, cookie, lemonade/tea OR Vegetarian veggie wrap \$ _____

Additional Expenses:

Climb Iowa Workshop \$30.00
 Workshop Fee (Required) \$20.00
 Non-Member Workshop Fee (includes membership) \$50.00
 Late registration fee after February 23th \$5.00

Meals Total = _____
 Pre-Workshop Total = _____
 Workshop Fees Total = _____
Total Enclosed = _____

Things to Remember

- ◆ Table service
- ◆ Mug or water bottle
- ◆ Favorite board game
- ◆ Snacks to share

Registration deadline:
February 23, 2011

If your payment will not arrive by the registration deadline, please inform the workshop coordinator and mail a copy of your registration form to the above address or email it to Brian_claytonccb@yahoo.com. Questions? Email the coordinator at Brian_claytonccb@yahoo.com

Make checks payable to: IAN Treasurer

Mail payment and registration form to:

Brian Gibbs
IAN Workshop Coordinator
29862 Osborne Road
Elkader, IA 52403

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



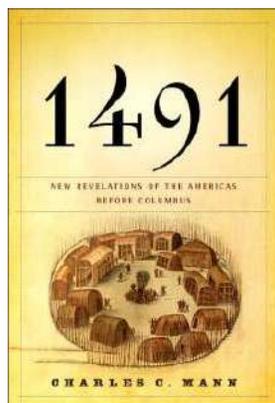
57 years, the Clinton County Conservation Board for 12 years, Clinton Trees Forever for 20 years and the Clinton County Conservation Foundation for 12 years. He has been a leader in visioning and fund-raising for the Mississippi River Eco Center and the growth of Clinton County Conservation's Education 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.

Book Reviews

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus

Written by Charles C. Mann

Book Review by Corinne Peterson, Pocahontas County Naturalist



Last July there was some discussion on the ianlistserve about the book *1491* by Charles C. Mann. If you remember the discussion, Pamela Holz wondered if the ideas set forth by Mann are credible. Gail Barrels responded, encouraging the rest of us to read it, too, and so I picked up a copy at our local library. While it's not an easy read in style or content, it is a worthwhile undertaking nonetheless. And remember, over 150 of the total 541 pages are appendices, notes, and bibliography pages. It also has a detailed index that is helpful when looking for a specific person or topic.

If you were taught – and in turn are teaching others – that Indians came to America via the Bering Strait about 13,000 years ago, that Pilgrims copied the native trick of fertilizing corn with fish, or that European colonists arriving in North America found a virgin wilderness teeming with wildlife, after reading this book you will probably need to think again. Recent archeological discoveries along with advances in mapping techniques and genetic research are provoking controversial findings as a different picture of the pre-Columbian New World emerges.

Mann explores three aspects of these recent findings – Indian demography, origins, and ecology throughout the Americas. *1491* has something for everyone as topics range from the Lost Tribes of Israel to Clovic and Folsom spear points to Mesoamerica calendars to tiny cobs of maize. In the ecology section, Mann proposes that Indians, as the keystone species, had been actively managing their environment for thousands of years. After 1492, as smallpox spread

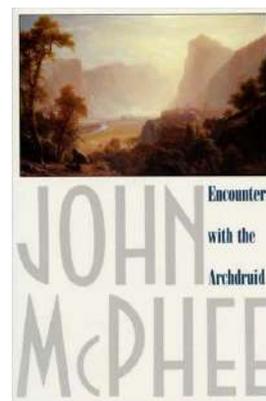
like wildfire and emptied the new world of its people, ecosystems also experienced violent change and collapse. Here in North America, Mann proposes that the great numbers of passenger pigeons and bison observed by early settlers are examples not of abundant wildlife but rather of populations and ecosystems out of control.

Anyone who enjoys learning the back story behind the main event will enjoy Mann's fresh insight. Whether you buy into the myth of the Indian as the noble savage, wild barbarian, or somewhere in between, *1491* will certainly challenge your thinking and may even change some of your ideas and teaching plans.

Encounters with the Archdruid

Written by John McPhee

Book Review by Angi Reid, Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area Education & Interpretation Manager



I have decided to go “old school” with a favorite book of mine that was published in 1971, before many of you were born. If you have never heard of John McPhee there is a whole shelf of books you will need to be checking out of your local library and I suggest you begin with this one. Written in three sections, McPhee travels along with David Browers (a demigod of the early environmental movement) as he climbs mountains, floats rivers and hikes through forests with men that oppose his environmental views. These conversations are brilliantly retold through McPhee's prose and readers can easily debate the issues of mining, land development and river damming along with the personalities in the book. Another great read by McPhee is entitled, “The Survival of the Bark Canoe”. This book details the construction of a birch bark canoe from start to completion and how one man has tried to master this traditional craft. Happy Reading!

Our Favorite Green Things: Water Bottles with a New Look

Submitted by Reba Cook, Iris Program Coordinator Augustana College



I've always been one of those people...you know the kind. I know what to do to be healthy, and can explain it to others, but I don't necessarily do it for myself. Drinking water happens to be one of those simple things I tend to overlook. I was one who benefited tremendously when Nalgene, Klean Kanteen, and other various "cool" water bottles became popular among us outdoorsy types. For a while I kept up on the latest, newest designs. I noted when BPAs hit the news and were swiftly removed from our Nalgene models. My mom, knowing me as only a mother can, even bought me an aluminum Swiss Brand bottle when she went on a bus tour of Switzerland. Soon, however, a bottle just became another bottle.



The thing I noticed recently, with the help of a co-worker who also happens to be a Mommy, is what sparked my renewed interest in one brand in particular. Klean Kanteen has made the jump into mainstream in a new way. Who says water bottles have to be for water? Now, no matter what stage of life you are in, whether it be outdoor extremist, relaxed and recharging, or baby on board, there is a beverage bottle for you! For Christmas I gave Kanteens to my sister and sister-in-laws. The classic bottle went to my own sister who has recently discovered a love for kayaking, the Kid Kanteen Sippy cups to my in-law who has two toddler boys and (my favorite) the Wine Karafe to my stay-at-home in-law whose three kids are finally all in school. So, this New Years I say "Thanks" to Klean Kanteen, and all the other brands that I'm sure are quickly following suit, for giving us the opportunity to stay green at heart no matter who we are or what we drink in our bottles.

Name that Nature Center Contest!

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!



The winner from the last issue was Katie Hammond with "Starr's Cave Nature Center" as the correct answer

Glittery Snow Candles

Submitted by Kelly Dix, Environmental Educator
Pottawattamie County

Degree of Difficulty: Beginner
Prep Time: 30 minutes

What you'll need:

- 1 lb. boxed wax
- Glitter
- Wick or twine
- ½ lb of wax
- Electric beaters
- Large bowl
- Spoon
- Double boiler or large can & pot

Step 1
Melt ½ lb. of wax in a double boiler or create your own double boiler by putting a large can inside a pot with water.

Step 2
Open the boxed wax and break it into 2 pieces. Place both pieces flat on your workspace and put a wick or piece of twine on top of one of the chunks of wax. Scoop some of the melted wax from Step 1 and spread



it on top of the wick and wax chunk. Cover the entire wax chunk.



Step 3
Working quickly, place the other chunk of wax on top of the first and squeeze them together. Make sure the wax chunks are straight and lined up correctly, otherwise the candle might not stand up alone. The melted wax that you added should bond the 2 chunks of wax together to make a candle.

Step 4
Using a potholder, remove the pan or can of remaining melted wax from the double boiler and place your wax (in the pan or can) in a large bowl. Cool the wax by filling the bowl with some ice and cold water.

Step 5
Slowly insert an electric beater into the wax. Mix the wax using the lowest setting. Continue mixing until the wax thickens and looks like marshmallow fluff.

Step 6
Use a spoon to scoop the whipped wax and place it onto the candle. Cover the entire candle with the wax.

Step 7
Sprinkle the candle with glitter to make it shimmer like freshly fallen snow. Add greenery as desired.



Upcoming Workshops and Events:

Midwest Environmental Education Conference

April 7-9, 2011
Rochester, MN



<http://www.minnesotae.org/MEEC>

NAI Region 5 Workshop

April 14-17, 2011
Pinawa Manitoba, Canada



www.nairegions.org/5/

IOWATER Workshops

March - October
Various Locations Statewide



www.iowater.net

Iowa DNR Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Workshops

March - April
Various Locations Statewide



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/diversity/vwmp.html

Project AWARE 2011

July 9-16
Turkey & Volga Rivers in NE Iowa



www.iowaprojectaware.com

BugGuide Gathering & Fieldtrips

July 29 & 30, 2011
Ames, IA



www.bugguide.net

Iowa Museum Association Annual Meeting & Conference "Transforming the Cultural Landscape"

October 16-18, 2011
Des Moines, IA



www.iowamuseums.org

National Association for Interpretation

National Workshop
November 8-12, 2011
St. Paul, MN



www.interpnet.com

Save the dates for future IAN Workshops:

Summer 2011 – Palo Alto County - TBA

Fall 2011 – TBA

Spring 2012 – Pottawattamie County - TBA

Please contact Brian Gibbs, IAN Workshop Coordinator at (563)245-1516 if you would like to host an IAN workshop in your county.

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

IAN Executive Committee

President

Tina Popson

Pottawattamie CCB, Hitchcock NC
27792 Ski Hill Loop
Honey Creek, IA 51542
(712)545-3283
tina.popson@pottcounty.com

Workshop Coordinator

Brian Gibbs

Clayton CCB
29862 Osborne Rd
Elkader, IA 52043
(563)245-1516
brian_claytonccb@yahoo.com

Vice President

Reba Cook

Augustana College
Hanson Science 209
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309)794-3372
rebeccacook@augustana.edu

Secretary

Pete Eyheralde

Iowa State University
339 Science Hall II
Ames, IA 50011
(641)891-8171
pete@iastate.edu

Treasurer

Nathan Unsworth

Jasper CCB
115 N 2nd Ave E
Newton, IA 0208
(641)792-9780
nunsworth@co.jasper.ia.us



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