

Iowa Association of Naturalists 2013 Annual Report

Executive Committee (ExCom)

President: Jess Wagner
Vice President: Kelly Dix
Treasurer: Chuck Jacobsen
Secretary: Matt Crayne
Workshop Coordinator: Annette Wittrock

Membership 2012: 75 regular, and 13 honorary members = 88 members
81 were unrenewed from 2012

Meetings:

Spring Workshop:

National Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, IA

Pre Workshop Sessions: All Day Tour including Swiss Valley, tour of Lock and Dam #11 with Brett Streckwald (USACE), Pohlman Prairie, tour of Wyaconda Coast Guard Cutter and Bouy Tender, Catfish Creek Watershed and Sustainable Projects with Eric Smechel. Sowing Stories, Reaping Meanings with Angi Reid (Silos and Smokestacks). Green Celebrations: Train the Trainer with Susan Salterberg (UNI CEEE) and Kristi Cooper (ISU Extension)

Featured: Two general sessions and eleven concurrent sessions including River of Music, Hiking and Driving Tour of Mines of Spain, A Geological View of the Iowa Landscape, Turtles: Secret of the Shell Exhibit, and Live Animal Programming.

Attendance: 67

Summer Workshop:

Held in Warren County

Activities included: Leave No Trace training, hike to Lake Ahquabi State Park, paddleboarding, and horseback riding.

Attendance: 10

Fall Meeting:

Held in Marshall County

Due to the MEEC conference held in Coralville, IAN had a one day naturalist swap in Marshall County. Attendees of MEEC shared their experience. EXCOM elections were held: Kelly Dix (Pottawattamie) was re-elected; Matt Wetrich (Carroll) and Victoria DeVos (Plymouth) were elected.

Attendance:

The ExCom met four times this year: The summer meeting was held in August at the Bass Pro Shop in Altoona, Iowa. The December meeting was held in Ames, IA and members took materials to the ISU Archives following the meeting.

Committees

Thirteen standing committees were in existence in 2013. Sixteen administrative tasks were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2013.

Promotions

Fundraising
Junior Naturalist
Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship
Web Site
Wilderness Trips
Membership

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 2013.

IAN Listserve
DNR Liaison- Jacklyn Gautsch
NAI Liaison- Amy Yoakum
ICEC Liaison- Linda Zalatel
IACCBE – Christina Groen
IEC Liaison- Gail Barels
REAP/CEP- Charlene Elyea
REAP Alliance- vacant

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

2013 Highlights

Professional Development

The deadline for submission was December 31. Recognition took place at the March 2013 business meeting where 23 members received recognition, 4 of which were new participants this year. The following individuals were certified: Lyndsey Anderson, Charlene Elyea, Bradley Freidhof, Cari Nicely, Abbey Harkrader, Emily Herring, Lilly Jensen, J Dave Murcia, Emily Ostrander, Karen Phelps, Missy Smith, Jessica Wagner, Katherine Brakeville, Katie Cantu, Sunday Ford, Diane Hall, Heather Hucka, Michelle Olson, Miriam Patton, Sarah Subbert, Tina Popson, Katie Van Der Linden, and Jennifer Meyer.

Karen Phelps received a 10 year plaque. All participants were entered into a book drawing: Cari Nicely won *A Country So Full of Game*, and Katie Cantu won *Iowa's Archeological Past*.

Scholarships

In 2013, \$1,700 was allocated for IAN scholarships and there were 8 requests totaling \$738.63.

Awards Program

The Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Council (ICEC) will present the following 2013 Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award for Outstanding Whole-school
EE Program Central Lutheran School, Benton County

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award
Christina Roelofs, Shelby and Audubon CCB's

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award
Outdoor P.E. Program of the Wapsi River Env. Education Center, Scott CCB

"Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award
Outdoor Adventure Camp, Lee County Conservation Board

Outstanding EE Program (2 or Less)
Washington County Conservation Board

Outstanding EE Program (2.5 or More)
Linn County Conservation Board

Frederic Leopold EE Award
Jean Eells, E Resources Group

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award
Tammy Turner

Outstanding Volunteer Award
Andy and Pam Stone, Jasper County

Non-print Media Award
Okoboji Osprey Web Camera, Dickinson County Conservation Board

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award for Lifetime Achievement in EE
Excellence and Leadership
Chris Adkins, Dallas County Conservation Board

IAN Mentoring Program

Mentees are directed to Heather Hucka (Story Co) or the IAN website to get all the information about his program. This year there were no mentor/mentee pairings across the state. Several regional groups of IAN members continue to meet at ideas swaps. Veteran members can share ideas and mentor new members.

IAN Publications

Due to not receiving any bids to update the publications and the likelihood of continuous needs of updating, the committee decided not to act any further on the issue. After the committee discussed the lack of participation and progress in updating the publications, President Wagner has dissolved the committee.

Membership Committee

Missy Smith will resign her position as committee chair in March of 2014 and Logan Roberts will be taking over as chair.

Joe Halbur Scholarship

The Joe Halbur Scholarship money market account was combined with the general money market account which totaled \$17,633.02. The fall fundraiser raised \$1200.00, \$650 of which went into the scholarship. The sale of naturalist t-shirts, canvas totes, along with the silent and live auction, and other games and contest, were used to raise money for the fund. Scholarship winner Kelsey Graham had attended MEEC. Chair Lora Canning mentioned that past winners are eligible to reapply for \$150 more. More rules and provisions are in discussion.

Newsletter

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

REAP Alliance Liason

Chair: Remains Vacant

We are currently looking for a member of IAN to fulfill this role. Chair duties include attending REAP meetings in Des Moines and forwarding information to the IAN list serv every other month. Please contact an ExCom member if you are interested in volunteering for this position.

IAN Web Page

Cari Nicely, Henry Co, continues her position as the webmaster.

Fund Raising

In 2013, the Fundraising Committee was responsible for all fundraising activities at the MEEC held in Coralville, IA. They were able to raise \$1,200 for IAN at this conference.

Travelling Exhibits Committee

The prairie exhibit is booked through June of 2015 and the schedule is posted on the IAN website. The Wade into Your Watershed exhibit has been delayed and IAN members interested in assisting with this committee are encouraged to contact Ann Burns at amburns29@jacksonccb.com.

Account Balances

General Fund (now includes traveling exhibits and general all in one checking account, but being tracked separately in excel file)- \$15,082.23

Certificate of Deposit- \$10,197.22

Money Market-(now includes both JH scholarship and regular in one) \$ 17,633.02

Total= \$42,912.47