

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award
For Lifetime Achievement in EE Excellence and Leadership

Chuck Ungs

For over 25 years Chuck Ungs has been a passionate naturalist in the state of Iowa. From his earliest days as an intern at Osborne Nature Center to his most current job as an education specialist for Wickiup Hill Learning Center; Chuck has worked diligently to connect people to the landscape of Iowa. Chuck takes pride on not only sharing his knowledge and stories of natural resources with people but also educates them by hosting innovative workshops such as: fishing rod building, snowshoe construction and long bow building. Chuck has also been a hunter's education instructor for 26 years and has served on numerous habitat improvement boards including Pheasants Forever and the Ruffed Grouse Society. Chuck Ungs stands up for the land ethic and has been a five time REAP delegate. His knowledge, experience and passion for all things outdoors make him an excellent winner of this year's Aldo Leopold Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Environmental Education and Leadership.



Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award
For Outstanding Efforts by an Environmental Educator
Benton County Naturalists

Karen Phelps and Aaron Askelson, Benton County Conservation Board Naturalists, have been awarded the Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award for 2014 for their efforts to build new displays and an outdoor classroom. After several years of meeting with design specialists, obtaining quotes, and sketches, and multiple years of fundraising, they realized the "studio" built displays were simply not within their budget. Shortly after Aaron was hired, he and Karen sat down to hatch a plan to construct the much needed displays in house. They were not allowed to give up any programming and there was a minimal amount of money in the budget for displays. But they did it, and with the majority of the displays completed in 2014, an open house was held and to rave reviews! Benton County Naturalists also worked with other staff members to develop an outdoor play area. They constructed a balance log area, made entirely with logs from trees destroyed in the devastating windstorm (derecho) of 2011. They have also made a Wickiup area out of willows, a slide-balance discovery area, children's discovery garden, butterfly gardens, and a prairie reconstruction. Congratulations to Karen and Aaron for all you do for the citizens of Benton County as well as those that visit your nature center and parks.



Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award
For an Outstanding EE Program for Youth or
Conducted by Youth (Preschool-Grade 12)

Dallas County Conservation Board's Wilderness Trek

Dallas County Conservation Board's, Wilderness Trek (Selway Bitterroot Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness) is unique. First, it is a program targeting high school learners. EE programming for this demographic is rare, it is extremely under served and in dire need of more attention. For 21 years DCCB has been immersing youth into 4.5 million acres of wilderness, 1500 miles away from home. Everything about this experience is rigorous, from the application process to the actual event of carrying all of their gear on their backs, hiking miles into a wilderness; sleep on the ground, [defecating] in the woods, eating marginal meals and WORKING on building trails. Yet every year applicants are turned away. Second, it is a joint effort between an Iowa County Conservation Board, a federal agency– United States Forest Service, and a private, non-profit foundation– Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Wilderness Foundation, the latter two being located in Idaho. Even though this experience is anything but easy, it is easy to see why this Wilderness Trek is being honored with the Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award.



2014 “Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award
Buena Vista County Conservation, “Discovery Outdoors”
program

The Discovery Outdoors program coordinated by the **Buena Vista** Naturalist has been awarded the “Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award for 2014. “Discovery” is part of the Genesis program. It is a non-profit adult day program that specializes in providing activities for people with disabilities. “Discovery Outdoors” provides monthly programs that offer outdoor opportunities for this group. Fishing is a favorite activity during the summer months. Additional activities include; hiking, insect hunting, bird watching, and monarch tagging. When the weather turns, participants make bird feeders and snowflakes, learn about mammals and touch furs and live animals. This winter, they will try snowshoeing. Congratulations to BV Naturalist, Katie Struss and Buena Vista County Conservation for your “Discovery Outdoors” program and all you do for this unique group of participants.



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

Winneshiek County Conservation Board

Winneshiek CCB concentrates on providing science and outdoor recreation presentations. Since 2008, the education department has increased their annual presentations given by an average of 22% per year and their annual program contacts by an average of 20% per year, nearly tripling their program and contacts outputs over 7 years. In 2014, they have given and are scheduled to give 500+



programs reaching over 15,000 people. That is 71% of the county's population! Along with the regular EE programming they have implemented some unique opportunities to the citizens and tourists of the county to explore the nature areas through scavenger hunts, which has now been duplicated in other counties. They have also provided training for primarily PE and science teachers around the state to get their students outside and active through a program called Fit Environment. Luckily around Iowa you don't have to search far for an outstanding EE program, but at this time we are proud to present Winneshiek CCB with the honor of being the Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (2 or less interpreters).

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

Clinton County Conservation Board

The Clinton County Conservation Board has been and continues to be a pioneer and a leader in interpretation in the State of Iowa. Over the course of 2014 their staff delivered 2,686 programs to over 65,000 participants- FYI that is more people than actually live in Clinton County. Along with their programs, the staff maintains four interpretive sites including the "Blue Heron," an outdoor classroom solidly situated on a pontoon boat. Their new facility, the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, has been well received and has hosted over 100 programs and dozens of fish/turtles. All in all, Clinton County Conservation continues to lead the charge in outstanding EE programming and what is possible if you just put your mind to it. Congratulations CCCB!



Outstanding Interpretive Print Media Award

Henry County Conservation Board

Three times a year HCCB sends out a colorful newsletter to over 650 individuals. It not only looks fantastic but has been effectively promoting programs for many years. Way to go Henry County! Without your dedication to the printed word, EE programming would not be as accessible and fun to read about.



Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education Award For Outstanding Whole-School EE Program

North Cedar Community Elementary School in Mechanicsville, Cedar County

The North Cedar Community Elementary School in Mechanicsville & Cedar County Conservation have been awarded the 2014 Sylvan Runkel EE Award for their work on installing a prairie outdoor learning area behind their school. The entire school (preK - 4th grades) has been involved. Cedar County Naturalist, Sarah Subbert, has helped with 34 planting programs at the Mechanicsville School since the spring of 2011. This has involved 498 kids and 49 adults. Every year, students and teachers help by planting prairie seeds or plants as well as collecting prairie seeds. The afterschool program uses the outdoor learning area for free play and several bird houses and feeders have been put up. Teachers use the area for



plant/insect life cycles as well as soil, rock, plant id and tree lessons. Congratulations to North Cedar Community Elementary School and CCCB for providing the children of your region a project that all can be involved in and benefit from.

Outstanding Volunteer

Laura Anderson

Laura Anderson is a volunteer for the Buena Vista County Conservation Board for the past two years. She began working as a junior high science teacher for St. Mary's Catholic School three years ago. Laura is passionate about environmental education and volunteers her time with the Buena Vista County Conservation Board in a variety of ways including - starting a friends group, volunteering at annual events, helping coordinate seasonal youth camps and promoting BVCCB programming wherever she goes including the grocery store. Congratulations to Laura for being an invaluable asset to the Buena Vista County Conservation Board!



Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award

For Outstanding Efforts to Educate About Preservation, Land Management, or Natural Resource Conservation

Kay Neumann

Kay Neumann has been rehabilitating sick and injured raptors since before she started her nonprofit SOAR – Saving Our Avian Resources, in 1999. For Kay, educating others about the natural world around them has often included a non-releasable raptor. Kay's belief that the incorporation of live animals into educational programming makes lasting impressions on the audience and can help people make personal connections with the topic, with the land, with their surroundings. While research and education is the core of SOAR's mission, Kay also tirelessly works to collect data on lead-affected eagles, educating others about the impacts of lead on bald eagles and simple ways to eliminate lead exposure. Her message - to use personal connections with individuals and wild animals to bring attention to important natural resource conservation projects and issues - will continue as long as raptors need her help. IAN & ICEC congratulate Kay Neumann and SOAR on winning the Ada Hayden Award!



**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR
YOUR DEDICATION TO EE IN IOWA!**