

# Iowa Association of Naturalists 2014 Annual Report

## **Executive Committee (ExCom)**

President: Kelly Dix

Vice President: Matt Wetrich

Treasurer: Victoria DeVos

Secretary: Matt Crayne

Workshop Coordinator: Annette Wittrock

Submitted by Secretary, Matt Crayne

**Membership 2014:** 93 regular, and 13 honorary members = 106 members

## **Meetings:**

### **Spring Workshop:**

Held in Dickinson County

**Pre Workshop Sessions:** Lakeside Lab Tour, Glacial Landmark Tour, Low Impact Development Tour

**Featured:** Next Generation Science Standards, Locally Grown Foods, Watershed and Lake Management, County IT and GIS, Path to Clean Water, Talkin' Turkey to Toddlers, Emerging Threats to Iowa Trees, Greatest STEMs from Iowans, Explore Area Attractions

**Attendance:** 65

### **Summer Workshop:**

Held in Mahaska County

Activities included: Bowfishing, stinkbait making program, fossil cleaning & dig site visit

**Attendance:** 16

### **Fall Meeting:**

Held in Iowa County

**Pre-workshop Sessions:** Leopold Education Project Training, Amana Colonies, Indian Grass Hills

**Featured:** Something About Wilderness, Iowa Young Birders, Wildlife Value Orientations, IACCB & IAN, Social Media Roundtable, Tree and Forest Health Update, Displays with Karen & Aaron, REAP Watershed Grant, Summer Camp Roundtable

Annette Wittrock (Wapello) and Matt Crayne were both re-elected to serve another term.

**Attendance:** 85

**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. Spring and Fall Meetings were held at IAN workshops.

## **Committees**

Twelve standing committees were in existence in 2014. Sixteen administrative tasks were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2014.

### 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

### Administrative Tasks

The following are the administrative tasks that were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2014.

IAN Listserve  
DNR Liaison- Jacklyn Gautsch  
NAI Liaison- Heather Hucka  
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

## **2014 Highlights**

### **Professional Development**

There were 27 participants in the 2014 professional development program, with 2 of them being new. They were Heidi Anderson, Lyndsey Anderson, Katherine Brakeville, Ann Burns, Katie Cantu, Megan Cook (new), Laura DeCook, Victoria DeVos, Charlene Elyea, Chelsea Ewen, Sunday Ford, Diane Hall, Emily Herring, Rebecca Horton, Heather Hucka, Lilly Jensen (5 years), Lora Kanning, J. Dave Murcia, Cari Nicely, Michele Olson, Miriam Patton, Karen Phelps, Tina Popson, Christina Roelofs (10 years), Emily Santiago (new), Katie Struss and Sarah Subbert.

### **Scholarships**

In 2014, \$1,000 was allocated for IAN scholarships. There were 7 requests with 5 of them granted. Five one hundred dollar scholarships were awarded.

### **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

## **Awards Program**

The Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) presented the following 2014 Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award for Outstanding Whole-school EE Program                    *North Cedar Elementary School, Sarah Subbert Cedar County*

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award  
*Karen Phelps & Aaron Askelson, Benton County Conservation Board*

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award  
*Wilderness Trek, Chris Adkins & Laura Zaugg, Dallas County Conservation*

“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award  
*‘Discovery Outdoors’ Program, Katie Struss, Buena Vista County Conservation*

Outstanding EE Program (2 or Less)  
*Winneshiek County Conservation Board*

Outstanding EE Program (3 or More)  
*Clinton County Conservation Board*

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award  
*Kay Neumann*

Outstanding Volunteer Award  
*Laura Anderson, Buena Vista County*

Non-print Media Award  
*Outstanding Newsletter, Henry County Conservation Board*

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award for Lifetime Achievement in EE Excellence and Leadership  
*Chuck Ungs, Linn County Conservation Board*

## **Membership Committee**

Logan Roberts (Warren) took over the vacated chair in March of 2014.

## **Junior Naturalist**

Diane Hall (Marshall) is now the committee chair. Two new patches were ordered this year: goldfinch and wild rose.

## **Newsletter**

Jackie Gautsch (Iowa DNR) has stepped down as the newsletter editor. Kelly Dix (Pottawattamie) has stepped in for 2015 as the editor. Three newsletters were produced and distributed via email. The newsletter is also available online on [www.iowanaturalists.org](http://www.iowanaturalists.org)

### **REAP Alliance Liaison 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 listserv every other month. Please contact an ExCom member if you are interested in volunteering for this position.

### **IAN Web Page**

Cari Nicely (Henry) continues her position as the webmaster.

### **Fund Raising**

In 2014, the Fundraising Committee was responsible for all fundraising activities at the Fall IAN Workshop. They were able to raise over \$1,200 for IAN at this conference. The Halloween Hike booklet is now going digital. Emily Herring (Story) has stepped down from her position as chair of the committee. She has been replaced by Mary Bulger (Lee).

### **Travelling Exhibits Committee**

The prairie exhibit still making its rounds, and the schedule is posted on the IAN website. The Wade into Your Watershed exhibit committee is in the process of working with the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium on an exhibit.

### **Account Balances**

Checking- \$20,287.69

Certificate of Deposit- \$10,206.11

Joe Savings- \$ 17,634.83

**Total= \$48,128.63**

### **EXCOM Elections**

Annette Wittrock and Matt Crayne were both re-elected to serve a second term on the executive committee. Crayne has switched positions from Secretary to President, while Kelly Dix has switched from President to Secretary.