

Iowa Association of Naturalists 2017 Annual Report

Executive Committee (ExCom)

President: Karen Johlas-Szalkowski

Vice President: Amy Loving

Treasurer: Victoria DeVos

Secretary: Michelle Berns

Workshop Coordinator: Emily Herring

Submitted by Secretary, Michelle Berns

Membership 2017: 185 regular, and 3 honorary members = 188 members

Meetings:

Spring Workshop:

Held in Plymouth County at Hillview Recreation Area. There were 51 in attendance.

Pre-workshop Sessions: Explore the Northern Most Loess Hills of Iowa, DSLR Photography Basics, and CPR Certification.

Featured: How to write a better press release, Gear Swap, Nurturing Seniors with Nature, Make and take craft corner, STARRING our Neighbors!, Introduction to shooting, Dutch Ovens 101, Prehistoric stone tools: common artifacts and common tricksters, Trains across Iowa, Native American Games, Working with people of all abilities, Black Hawk Lake Restoration Project, Can we build a mountain bike trail in your park, Are you communicating effectively, Let's Knot.

Summer Workshop:

Held in Jackson County. There were 22 in attendance.

Activities included: Iowa Trumpeter Swan reintroduction program, tour of nature center, tour Maquoketa Caves, Clinton CCB's 29 foot Voyageur canoe, Mussel Blitz, Aquatic Invertebrate ID, Dutch Oven cooking demonstration, Birding at Green Island, wild edibles, and outdoor rock climb.

Fall Workshop:

Held in Warren County at the Annett Nature Center and Warren County Izaak Walton League. There were 91 in attendance.

Pre-workshop Sessions: Woodland Mounds Hike and Native American Presentation, Bike the Great Western Trail and Iowa Distilling Company Tour, and Pammel Park Tour and Madison County Bridge Tour.

Featured: Enriching Critter's Lives, Tipis, Peaches, and Grandbabies, Interpretive Plans, History of Lake Red Rock Area and Peacetree, Team Building, The Green yard Makeover: A Beautiful Yard Landscape that Restores Ecosystem Services for People, Pollinators, and Songbirds, How to Pack, Prepare, and Guide Multi-day Adventure Trips, Field to Fork, The Life of a Worm Farmer: From cocoon to your garden; the benefits of earthworm castings, Maple Syruping, Beekeeping Observational Hives and Lip Balm, Identifying Rocks in Iowa, Drone Safety and Success.

The ExCom met three times this year: The summer meeting was held in Warren County, Iowa. Spring and Fall Meetings were held at IAN workshops.

Committees

Thirteen standing committees were in existence in 2017.

Promotions

Fundraising

Junior Naturalist

Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship

Professional Development

Professional Development

IAN Scholarships

Mentoring

Website/Social Media
Wilderness Trips
Membership
Newsletter
IAN Liaison- Vacant
DNR Liaison- Jacklyn Gautsch
NAI Liaison- Heather Hucka
ICEC Liaison- Linette Bernard
IACCBE – Christina Groen
IEC Liaison- Gail Barels
REAP/CEP- Charlene Elyea
REAP Alliance- Logan Roberts

ICEC/IAN Awards
Traveling Exhibits
Workshops

2017 Highlights

Professional Development

There were 31 participants in the 2017 professional development program, with 2 of them being new.

25 years:

Diane Hall

20 years:

Michele Olson

15 years:

Katie Cantu

Heidi Anderson

10 years:

Lyndsey Anderson

5 years:

Chelsea Ewen

Abbey Harkrader

Katie Struss

Sarah Subbert

New:

Elizabeth Schram and Amy

Loving

Alternate years:

Aaron Askelson

Megan Cook

Laura DeCook

Victoria DeVos

Charlene Elyea

Sunday Ford

Emily Highnam

Trenton Hoekstra

Rebecca Horton

Heather Hucka

Lilly Jensen

Jennifer Meyer

J. Dave Murcia

Cari Nicely

Emily Ostrander

Mirriam Patton

Karen Phelps

Christiana Roelofs

Emily Santiago

Jessica Wagner

There were 31 members who received a professional development award. Awards were presented to those present. Requirements of the awards were explained. Contact Charlene Elyea for more information.

IAN Mentoring Program (Welcome Committee)

Mentees are directed to Heather Hucka (Story Co) or the IAN website to get all the information about this program. Veteran members can share ideas and mentor new members. Committee name changed to Welcome Committee in 2016 and Heather Hucka developed a new brochure.

Awards Program

The Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) presented the following 2017 Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award

Jenny Koska- Metro Waste Authority, Des Moines

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award

Jones County Conservation – Youth Conservation Crew

“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award

Bob and Connie Van Ersvelde- Tallgrass Prairie Chapter of the Audubon Society

Outstanding EE Program (2 or Less) for Excellence in EE Programming by an Agency or Institution

Floyd County Conservation- Heidi Reams

Outstanding EE Program (3 or More) for Excellence in EE Programming by an Agency or Institution

Story County Conservation Board

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award

Kent Park Bird Banders, Johnson County Conservation Board

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Dave Stedwell- Volunteer for Clinton County Conservation

Outstanding Interpretive Print Media

Water Quality Trading Cards- Des Moines County Conservation

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

Darrell Batterson- Retired Iowa DNR Conservation Officer and Volunteer for Jasper CCB

Frederic Leopold Environmental Education Award

Adopt a Stream Program- Metro Waste Authority, Des Moines

Membership Committee

Victoria DeVos took over the chair of the Membership Committee. In 2017, there were a total of 188 members (185 regular and 3 honorary). ExCom revised the list and added Ex-official members that were previously listed as honorary members. They receive access to the listserv, but still pay membership fees. ExCom nominates an honorary member and members make a vote, they do not pay membership or workshop fees, and cannot vote.

Junior Naturalist

Michele Olsen is the committee chair.

Newsletter

Three newsletters were produced and distributed via email. The newsletter is also available online on www.iowanaturalists.org

REAP Alliance Liaison

Vacant

IAN Web Page

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

Fundraising

In 2017, the Fundraising Committee was responsible for all fundraising activities at the Fall IAN Workshop. We were able to raise \$1443.83 between silent/live auctions, guessing jars, naturalist district wars, and pop sales.

Travelling Exhibits Committee

The prairie exhibit still making its rounds, and the schedule is posted on the IAN website. Jen Meyer (Jackson CCB) is committee chair.

Accounting Balances as of November 2017

Checking: \$18,515.94

General Savings: \$19,345.54

Joe Savings: \$7,485.20

Certificate of Deposit 19 month: \$5,039.67

Certificate of Deposit 59 month: \$5,388.63

Total Net: \$55,774.98

EXCOM Elections

Emily Herring and Karen Johlas-Szalkowski's terms ended. They were both re-elected for a second term. Emily Ostrander was elected to serve as treasurer. Michelle Berns and Amy Loving have completed year one of term one.