



FALL 2017

The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists



Collecting Reptiles and Amphibians From the Wild in Iowa

by Don Becker, IowaHerps.com

Live animals make educating the public so much easier. They allow people to connect with nature in a way that pictures do not allow. Iowa's reptiles and amphibians are not very common in the pet trade, which makes it difficult to obtain native species for public display and presentation. This leaves a choice to be made, between using non-native species, or collecting an animal from the wild. Using non-native species obtained from the pet trade does not allow people to learn about the animals in their area. On the other hand, Iowa's populations of reptiles and amphibians are declining, and removing an animal from the wild may not seem like a good idea. If done responsibly, though, the educational benefit of having a native species outweighs the impact on the native population in the majority of cases.

The most important thing you can do to minimize the impact on a wild population is to avoid taking in adult animals. Often, people want to bring in very large adults to impress the public, but the more responsible action is to take in only young animals. The overwhelming majority of babies that are produced each year will not survive long enough to reproduce. In the first year alone, most will perish. Many will fall victim to predators, and more will simply fail to find an adequate place to spend their first winter. As each year passes, the number that will survive decreases, and most species take at least a few years to be

mature enough to reproduce and start the cycle again. An adult that has survived long enough to reproduce has beat the odds and is not easily replaced if removed.

Taking proper care of the animals you have also reduces the stress on wild populations. If an animal isn't well cared for, more animals will have to be removed from the wild to replace them. The standard pet store setup, consisting of green cage carpet, a hide box, and a heat lamp on a screen lid, is not the preferred way to house your animals, and can cause a number of health issues. Most notably, heat lamps warm up the air, causing it to rise up through the screen lid, taking any humidity with it. Dry air in the enclosure can lead to shedding issues in snakes, and respiratory problems in other species. When using glass aquariums with screen lids, a hide box full of wet moss can be used to

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provide an area with proper humidity for many snakes and lizards. A shallow area of damp sand can be used for box turtles. A whole article could be written on the proper care of each group of animals, let alone each species. Iowa's species are not too complicated though, and with a little research, proper housing and care is not difficult.

Of course, being responsible also means following the law. What is allowed to be taken from the wild in Iowa, and who is allowed to take it? The answers are not always clear, but can be broken down depending on the status of the animals in question. Iowa's reptiles and amphibians all fall into one of four categories: unprotected non-game, protected non-game, bait and game, and threatened and endangered Species. Each of these categories has its own set of rules and regulations. These rules apply to everyone, including educators, and county conservation departments. Regardless of the employer all state, county, and city personnel need a permit.

Unprotected non-game animals have no rules about collection from the wild. The only reptile or amphibian species defined as unprotected non-game are the "garter snake", and the timber rattlesnakes that are located outside of a specific list of counties they are known to live. Timber Rattlesnakes are usually found within the protected counties, so they do not really fall into the unprotected non-game category. "Garter snake" can be interpreted to mean two or three species, depending on who you ask. It could mean the common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) and the plains garter snake (*Thamnophis radix*), but it may also include the western ribbon snake (*Thamnophis proximus*) which is technically a type of garter snake. The law most likely only meant to include the two species with "garter snake" in their name, and that is the safest interpretation to go by when deciding what rules to follow.

The majority of Iowa's reptile and amphibian species are considered protected non-game, which includes all wild reptiles and amphibians not covered by any other category. Species of special concern are not given any extra protection, and are covered by rules for protected non-game animals as well. These species may not be taken from the wild without an Educational Project Permit, but they may be possessed if obtained from a legal source. Proof of where the animal was obtained should be provided. The burden of proof is on the person in possession of

the animal. The best course of action would be to obtain an Educational Project Permit to keep these species, even if they can be obtained without collecting them from the wild.

Bait and game species includes all frogs (toads are considered frogs under Iowa Code), salamanders, and turtles, except for threatened and endangered species. These species may be taken for food and bait with a valid fishing license pursuant to Iowa's fishing regulations. There is debate on whether or not these species can be collected and kept long-term in captivity with only a fishing license. Fishing regulations define possession limits of the number of frogs and turtles kept, but does not provide any limits for the length of time a live animal may be in your possession before it is used for bait or food. The required fees to maintain an Educational Project Permit are less expensive than maintaining a yearly fishing license, making it the better choice for keeping bait and game species for use in education.

Threatened and endangered species are given the most protection, and may not be taken from the wild, or even possessed, without an Educational Project Permit. Many people believe that a permit is not required to keep these species if they are purchased from a pet store or online source, but that is not true. If an Educational Project Permit allows a threatened or endangered species to be kept, the local Iowa DNR Conservation Officer must be notified when one is taken into possession.

Further reading about these rules can be found in Chapter 481a and 481b of the Iowa Code, and Chapter 76 and 77 of the Natural Resource Commission [571].

- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2017/481a.pdf>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2017/481b.pdf>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/chapter/06-21-2017.571.76.pdf>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/chapter/08-30-2017.571.77.pdf>

When in doubt, don't assume. Call your local Conservation Officer.

Exciting Changes for IAN

Karen Johlas-Szlakowski, IAN President

Did you know that IAN is an affiliate organization of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (IACCB)? It is and that is really exciting!!! Right now there are some really great options available to us as an organization because of this affiliation. Tom Hazelton, the CEO of IACCB, presented some information about what he has been working on to our executive committee at the end of August. We couldn't be more excited to share that information with you.

Currently I serve on the IACCB strategic planning committee meeting as the IAN representative. I invited Tom to the IAN executive committee, so he could present the "plan" to the rest of the committee. After Tom left, the Executive Committee (ExCom) discussed the presentation and unanimously decided it was time for us to move our organization in to the 21st century. The process will be gradual over the next three years.

I am sure you are wondering what types of changes? IAN would still function very much like we do today, but some of the "behind the scenes" things will operate differently, more efficiently, effectively, and all and all BETTER.

Financial Management: IAN will essentially have our funds coordinated with centralized banking and accounting by an accountant. All checks and bills will be written under IAN's name through IACCB. Audits and IRS reporting will also be completed. The IAN treasurer will still track all of our organization's finances, approve all bills to be paid, manage our budget, and report our financial status to all members. The big thing you need to know is that our money is our money and no one else gets to "touch" our money.

Electronic Meetings: IAN will have an opportunity to use some type of electronic meetings for all the membership. For example, ZOOM or GoToMeetings are some possibilities being considered by the IACCB committee. We all probably like face-to-face but sometimes a quick online meeting could save hours in meeting time and eliminate travel expenses. We foresee this opportunity as a great tool for some of our committees to hold meetings with folks from every corner of the state.

Event Registration: We will be able to use mycotyparks.org for our event registration. This will allow members to register for IAN workshops online with a credit card, or they can choose to mail a payment. This option will save hours of time for our workshop chairperson, as they would no longer have to enter every bit of registration information for each workshop into an excel file. This feature will also assist with recording payments and keeping membership lists updated.

Surveys: Currently IACCB has an annual membership to Survey Monkey. IACCB plans to extend the use of this membership to all affiliate organizations. Now IAN would be able to use more than just the free version for surveys to members.

Along with all those listed opportunities there were a few others like an USPS box and permanent email that are available. At this time, IAN would more than likely not use those, but possibly could in the future.

Wow, exciting changes!!! I'm sure you are asking but at what cost? Well, IACCB is working to keep the cost very affordable. Tom said at this time he is looking at \$500 a year. There will also be an a-la-carte list of opportunities with costs available soon. This is a very reasonable cost and fits within the current IAN budget. IAN will still very much remain the same with outstanding members, educational workshops and tons of fun, but the business side will step into this century.

New Ideas: Little Covered Wagon Kit

Cindy Blobaum, Naturalist, Dallas County

Naturalists face an ongoing challenge. We are always trying to come up with new ways to connect people with the outdoors, our natural history, and our cultural heritage. This past summer, we developed a new way to do this that basically combines the well-known park packs with the Journey West game/program. Starting with just a general idea and a used little red wagon I purchased off Craigslist, Doug Menz, our head operations man, quickly conquered the challenge of making the wagon frame an easy-to-assemble kit. Since then, the little covered wagon kit has been used successfully with camp groups of up to 15 kids ages 4 – 12 as well as by families who check it out during their site visit.



A few notes about our wagon:

The wagon is available for use only during our open hours. It cannot be removed from the grounds, but the operations staff did agree that users could pull it through the prairie (and not just keep it on a trail!)

For groups, I gave each kid one part. They had to work together to figure out how to assemble it as I stood by to provide guidance if asked. For families, there were printed instructions. Kids love to ride in it, or pull around their stuffed animals. By request, I am developing activity cards for families to use. The activities will include:

- comparing/contrasting the covered wagons in our museum
- measuring how far the wagon travels for each turn of the wheel (some kids had to count the rotations to keep track of miles traveled per day!)
- standing next to a prairie plant that is taller than they are
- finding things to match the colors of a rainbow in the prairie

I plan on bringing the kit to the fall IAN workshop – and would love to hear your suggestions on how to make it even better!



Naturalist Spotlight: On Being a Naturalist

Mark Wagner, Retired Director of Education, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Since I have now joined the ranks of the retired, I have been asked to share some observations and stories from my career as a naturalist.

I grew up in the country near Dubuque, along the Mississippi River. I graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology in 1972. For my required field experience, I was fortunate to work two summers for the National Mississippi River Wildlife & Fish Refuge.

After graduation, I was accepted into the Peace Corps to go to the country of Dahomey (now Benin), West Africa, a French speaking country between Nigeria and Togo. For two years, I worked training African farmers to use bulls for agricultural fieldwork and worked with blacksmiths to build field tools for bulls and oxen. I extended for a third year to work in the 250,000-acre Pendjari National Park, living in a tent in the middle of the park where I had daily and nightly encounters with African wildlife. My position entailed wildlife studies, making park improvements, and interpreting the park to visitors, a rather new field called conservation education at the time. Working in a park in Africa was a dream come true.

While in Africa, I met my future wife, Marybeth, a Peace Corps volunteer from Minnesota. I also returned to Africa in 1996 and 1998 to do training with blacksmiths in the country of Mauritania to design and build donkey-pulled agricultural field tools. I spoke French for all of that training.

Upon returning to the United States after the 3 years in Peace Corps, I was able to begin a position with Grundy County Conservation Board as an interpretive-naturalist. I found that I enjoyed teaching others about the outdoors and the plants and wildlife in the parks. It was then that I met a few other naturalists in Iowa and we began networking and talking about forming an Iowa connection to AIN, which is now NAI.

We formed what was called the Iowa Association of Naturalists, and Mary Duritsa from Black Hawk County became the first president. I became the first vice president. Since there were only a handful of members, we usually met in a booth at a restaurant over a meal and a pitcher of beer, or at a conference. I will not go into more detail as the

IAN history for the first ten years can be found on the **IAN website > documents > IAN history**.

After two years with Grundy County, I was asked to become the naturalist in Jasper County where I stayed for 25 years. I helped build bridges, playgrounds, trails, and an astronomical observatory. It was a great place to work, but after 25 years, some of the parents chaperoning their children on field trips would say that they remembered when they had come on a school field trip with me. I said to my wife that perhaps it is time to move on. By the time I



Naturalist Spotlight continued...

left Jasper County, the interpretation field and number of interpreters and naturalists in Iowa had really grown, and it was wonderful to see how many members there were in IAN.

When the Dubuque County Historical Society received a Vision Iowa grant to enlarge its museum to become the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, I applied for the position. I have a passion for both history and conservation so told them I would be the perfect fit to develop their new educational programs there. Luckily, they agreed and it has been a great 14-year career to build the program, develop curriculum, and work with a large and passionate staff of museum educators and volunteers. It has also been great making many national connections.

Upon retiring, people have asked me what I am going to do. My response is **once a naturalist always a naturalist**. Teaching others about nature and the environment is in my blood. I look forward to completing some long overdue projects and continuing the Mississippi River headwaters trip my brother and I began the past two years. We also have some grandchildren to visit and help them learn to love the outdoors. I am also a newly appointed board member on the Dubuque County Conservation Board so my work in conservation is not finished.

I think one of my proudest accomplishments was being at the forefront, with other early naturalists in Iowa, in establishing the Iowa Association of Naturalists, to experience the growth of environmental awareness nationwide, and to work in conservation in Iowa.

For anyone beginning as a naturalist today, I would recommend learning to speak very loudly and train your voice not to give out. To learn to read people and have eye contact with everyone you are talking to, but mainly educate by making your message fun and exciting for your audience and by having fun yourself. If you are excited, they will be excited.

Name that Nature Center



Submit guesses to Michelle Berns mberns@co.muscatine.ia.us

Please use "Name that Nature Center" as the subject line. The sender of the first correct answer will win bragging rights in the next issue of The Web!

Nature Craft: Elderberry Whistle

By Mike Granger, Naturalist at Wapsi River EE Center, Scott County

Let me introduce a great half hour nature craft, the Unicorn Whistle. Recently I made them with some campers at a Harry Potter themed summer camp. The whistle is made from Elderberry *Sambucus canadensis*, which is a common shrub along the trails here at the Wapsi River Center, plus it can be found through Iowa's woodlands. The shrub is easily recognizable by its straight branches with light greyish to brown bark. Its stems and branches are covered with many pores.

Elderberry can be harvested in the spring by cutting elderberry stalks down low, and trimming the smaller branches. Gathered stalks can be bundled and dried for later use. Be sure the stem is dried out to work with as the plant has some toxicity when fresh. The stalks can be dried naturally, or in an oven before working with them. I use a chop saw to cut the elderberry into 3 to 4 inch sections. Here is a list of tools that will also be helpful.

- Screwdrivers
- Chainsaw file
- Sections of sandpaper
- Cordless drill
- 1/4, 3/8, 1/2 inch drill bits



To make a unicorn whistle, campers hollow out their stems with screwdrivers and sanded the ends with sandpaper. I then use a cordless drill with different size drill bits to finish reaming out the hole. You can also decorate them with markers, but I prefer to leave them natural. To play the Unicorn Whistle, plug one end with your thumb, holding the tube sideways, with your lips on the other and blow across the end at 45 degrees, like a pop bottle. Unicorn whistles have a natural, beautiful, crisp clear note. Just remember, each Unicorn Whistle "chooses its owner" and your campers get to take them home!

Grapevine News

Becky Horton was promoted from seasonal naturalist to full-time naturalist at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center in Scott County.

Bekah Beall, of Story County, had a baby boy, Oliver Penn, on June 24.

Mark Wagner retired from the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium on August 31.

Kelsey Longnecker started as the new naturalist in September at Warren County.

Heather Hucka has been selected to receive the 2017 National NAI Master Frontline Interpreter Award and will accept the award at the national workshop in Spokane, Washington.

Logan Roberts started as the new Naturalist/Park Ranger in July at Otter Creek Lake and Park in Tama County.



Executive Committee Candidates



Hi, IAN members. I'm running for re-election for IAN Executive committee. I was formerly secretary and currently president. I would love for the opportunity to finish a few projects that were started during my first term. I'm excited to see through some changes that are coming in the next few years as our partnership with IACCB continues to grow. For those of you who don't know me, I've been in the field over 16 years and work as a naturalist for Warren County Conservation. Like most of our membership I love being outside and sharing my knowledge. A few of my favorite outdoor activities include, hiking, trail running, SUP, kayaking, gardening, and monarch tagging. Thank you for allowing me to be on EXCOM and I look forward to possibly serving a second term.

My name is Emily Herring and I am the naturalist in Marshall County. My membership in IAN has given me so much knowledge, support, and inspiration that I would like to continue to pay it forward by serving on the Executive Committee. I am running for re-election this year. Last year I became the workshop chair, and look forward to providing workshops that benefit the IAN membership. I hope you'll consider letting me share my passion and dedication for our natural world as a representative of the IAN Executive Committee.



Hi, my name is Emily Ostrander, and I am the naturalist for Lyon County (the far NW corner, think Canada). That being exciting in itself, I am also excited to say I am running for IAN treasurer. A little bit about myself...I have been a naturalist for Lyon County for about 7 years and before that 4 years at Madison County. I live with my husband, Kris, on a little acreage by Little Rock, Iowa, and we have two little boys (Tucker-1 and Lincoln-4). I love trying new things, like rock climbing at summer IAN. P.S. I am afraid of heights. One thing I have not tried yet is serving on ExCom and that is something I would love to do. IAN has given me all the resources to be a successful naturalist and the opportunities to try some really fun things. Thanks, IAN. So in short, I would love to give back to the organization that has given me much! And don't worry, I am better at math than writing!



IAN Fall Workshop 2017

November 7 – 9

Hosted by Warren County Conservation



Workshop Locations

Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Ave., Indianola, IA 50125

IKES, 16383 118th Ave., Indianola, IA 50125

Hotel Accommodations

Country Inn & Suites, 501 E Trail Ridge Ave., Indianola, IA 50125

1-800-830-5222, 515-962-5777

Country Inn & Suites is holding 25 rooms for Iowa Association of Naturalists until **October 7, 2017**. After this date, they will not guarantee to have rooms available. The rate is \$89 per night plus 12% tax. Plan on booking your reservation early.

PRE-WORKSHOP FIELD TRIPS (3 options)

November 7, 2017

1. Woodland Mounds Hike and Native American Presentation

Cost: free

1PM-4PM

Meet at the nature center to carpool, 15565 118th Ave, Indianola, IA 50125.

Hike the largest contiguous forested area above South River. The archaeological features found in Woodland Mounds Preserve provide a powerful insight into the lifestyles, spiritual beliefs, and mindset of the Woodland Culture people that inhabited the site 2000 years ago. We will explore their village, examine some artifacts they left behind, and experience their sacred spaces. You will learn what clues to look for to discover the American Indian heritage in your county.

Gary Valen taught at Simpson College from 1962 to 1975 after which he became the Dean of Students for another nine years. During that time, he spent his spare time exploring creek beds, river banks, hill tops, and plowed fields in search of the artifacts of American Indian cultures. He discovered the mound group of Woodland Mounds in 1963 and located the village site a year later.

His wife, Betsy Lyman, the second Director of the Warren County Conservation Board, saved the property from becoming a housing project by raising the funds to make it a county preserve. The artifacts collected by Gary from the village site have been donated to WCCB to be used for education programs and archaeological research.



Artifacts from the Carlisle cache, Warren County, Iowa

IAN Fall Workshop continued...

2. Bike the Great Western Trail & Iowa Distilling Company Tour

1PM-4PM

\$21 to rent a bike or no charge if you bring your own bike.

Meet at the trailhead on Innwood Street, Martensdale, IA.

The Great Western Trail was built on a former Chicago Great Western Railroad.

WCCB staff member, Doug Gaumer, will lead the bike ride from Martensdale to Cumming, a leisurely 8.5 mile ride. The paved trail is 16.5 miles total and is managed by Warren and Polk County Conservation Boards.

Kick back those tired legs for a tour and samples at the Iowa Distilling Company. Located in a 100 year old brick building, a small town of 350 people, and cornfields in sight, this is a local favorite. Their spirits include whiskey, rum, and vodka.

WCCB can provide a shuttle back to ANC, or you are welcome to ride the route back to Martensdale.

***Three samples will be complimentary as part of the tour, additional samples and beverages are available for purchase.*

3. Pammel Park Tour and Madison County Bridge Tour

1PM-4PM

No charge. Limited to 26 participants.

Meet at the Roseman Covered Bridge, 2451 Elder Berry Ave, Winterset, IA 50273

Middle River is directly across from Madison County Conservation office, located just south of Winterset at 2273 Clark Tower Road.

Join our neighbor, Amy Holly, with Madison County Conservation to learn the history of Pammel Park and tour some of the covered bridges.

We will meet at Roseman Covered Bridge. We will launch at the covered bridge access and plan to take out at the Ford at Pammel Park. This stretch is one of the most scenic sections of river in Madison County. The canoe trip, will last approximately 3 hours depending on water conditions. If the water conditions or weather is not favorable for a canoe trip we will meet at Middle River Park and then carpool for a tour of the covered bridges and a few county parks.



Participants should dress to be on the water and bring any sacks or refreshments they wish to have during the trip. All equipment will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own equipment, but you will be responsible for transport.

IAN Fall Workshop continued...

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

8:30-9AM Check in at Annett Nature Center (ANC)

9:00-9:15AM Announcements at ANC Pavilion

9:20-10:20AM SESSION I (Concurrent Sessions)

Enriching Critter's Lives

Blank Park Zoo, Location: IKES

Amy Wilson will be presenting on the enrichment for a variety of animals, focusing on reptiles and birds of prey. Different forms of enrichment will be covered, and different techniques for determining best enrichment items for different species.

Tipis, Peaches, and Grandbabies

Maria Koschmer, Walking Stick Farms, Location: ANC

Maria will discuss starting a small business in the conservation field, what to consider, what to investigate, setting expectations, and changing perspectives about resources and funding. She currently is the owner of Walking Stick Adventures, which features restored prairie, pond, and small timber habitats. They offer summer camps, scout workshops, school programs, and manage a tipi camp business.

10:30-11:30AM SESSION II (Concurrent Sessions)

Interpretive Plans

Christina Roelofs, Shelby County Conservation/IA DNR, Location: ANC

Do you need to write an interpretive plan, but don't know where to start? Christina recently completed an interpretive plan for Prairie Rose State Park. She will go over the process and what was included in this plan.

History of Lake Red Rock Area and Peacetree

John Pearson, IA DNR Ecologist, Location: IKES

Lake Red Rock is located in Marion County and is Iowa's largest lake with over 15,000 acres of water and 35,000 acres of land. The "Peace Tree" is a landmark of Lake Red Rock with a long history of extending from pioneer era to the present day. Learn more about the history of this 500 year old sycamore tree.

11:30AM-12:30PM LUNCH at the IKES

12:30-1:45PM GENERAL SESSION

Dan Block, Team Building Blocks, Location: IKES

Dan Block is celebrating his 25th year of leading team-building workshops across the country. So attention IAN!! Here is our chance to see what kind of team we can be. This session will challenge our organization to work as a team. Expect hands on fun and be ready to show some IAN teamwork at its best.

IAN Fall Workshop continued...

1:50-2:50 1:50-2:50 PM SESSION III (Concurrent Sessions)

Teambuilding

Dan Block, Team Building Blocks, Location: IKES

If you'd like to feel more confident and prepared in leading team activities with groups, this is the workshop for you. Hands on interactions, a list of the best resources, and detailed descriptions means you will leave with a number of new skills and activities for your team building toolbox.

The Green Yard Makeover: A Beautiful Yard Landscape that Restores Ecosystem Services for People, Pollinators and Songbirds

Jim Kessler, Instructor at Iowa Valley Community College, Location: ANC

How can a yard be landscaped to support songbirds, bees, butterflies, and a family while reducing storm water and chemical runoff? The Green Yard Makeover is a beautiful eco-friendly landscape option that uses native plants to transform a portion of a turf lawn. This session will explain how to use a rain garden, small butterfly gardens and a woody border to attract wildlife to your yard. It also includes a small garden to provide healthy food for parents and children.

3:00-4:00 PM SESSION IV (Concurrent Sessions)

How to Pack, Prepare, and Guide Multi-day Adventure Trips, Shireen Cave, Canoe Sportoutfitters, Location: IKES

Ever wonder how to get a group of people out into the wild safely and successfully and do it on a budget? Learn how to work through planning and executing an adventure travel trip. Shireen has guided trips along the east coast, the Apostle Islands, out west in Lake Powell, and around central Iowa.

Field to Fork

Jim Coffey, IA DNR, Location: ANC outside or in garage area

Need a refresher on how to clean game? Never cleaned game before? This session is for you. This will be a hands-on session that includes cleaning an animal. Learn the tips and tricks from a wildlife biologist who believes in consuming what you harvest.

4:15-5:15PM IAN Business Meeting at the IKES

5:30PM Dinner at the IKES

Live auction following dinner. BRING AUCTION ITEMS!

S'mores and campfire at ANC pavilion after the auction.

Sit and relax around the campfire. WCCB will supply the s'mores and fire. You are welcome to bring snacks and beverages of your choice.

IAN Fall Workshop continued...

Thursday, November 9, 2017

8:30-9:30AM SESSION I (Concurrent Sessions)

The Life of a Worm Farmer: From cocoon to your garden; the benefits of earthworm castings.

Central Iowa Organic Fertilizer, Mike & Traci Wyatt, Location: 5912 155th Street, Indianola, IA 50125

Visitors will see how an industrial worm farm works. At Central Iowa Organic Fertilizer, we raise worms from cocoons, grow them to adults, feed them a special combination of grains (no garbage or waste products, so no odors at the Wyatt farm), separate the castings from the worms, bag the castings for retailers, and sell to farmers and market gardeners. Watch the process for making OMRI listed organic worm castings.

Maple Syruping

Laura DeCook, Mahaska County Conservation, Location: ANC

Each year, Mahaska County Conservation Board staff makes maple syrup for public event and school programs. Take part in this session to learn about the maple syruping process, tapping trees, collecting sap, and boiling the sap down into syrup. You will find out why the Mahaska County staff look forward to making syrup in the chilly air each February.

9:30-9:45AM Travel Time/Break

9:45-10:45AM SESSION II (Concurrent Sessions)

Beekeeping Observational Hives and Lip Balm

Carly Vannoy, Iowa Honey Queen and Jess Wagner, Jackson County Conservation, Location:

Come learn about honeybees, honey, and beekeeping at this informative session. Presented by 2017 Iowa Honey Queen, Carly Vannoy. You will learn how bees make mummies, the color of mystery honey, and much more. Jess will guide us through making lip balm with beeswax. Take home a sample lip balm and recipe to use for programming.

Identifying Rocks in Iowa

Phil Kerr, Geologist, Iowa Geological Survey, Location:

Iowa is underlain by various different lithologies, and differentiating between them can be challenging. Adding to the complexity are erratics brought down by glaciers. Different methods for identification, old and new, will be demonstrated. Feel free to bring along a rock sample for identification.

10:50-11:50 AM GENERAL SESSION

Drone Safety & Success

Donovan Cole, Zia Aerial Cinematography, Location:

Donovan has produced media for various nonprofit organizations. His presentation will cover his experiences, expertise, and how you can use these tools to further your organization's mission. This session speaks in depth about drone safety, aerial photography, and how you can use drones to educate. In addition, he will cover the best strategies to incorporate unmanned aerial vehicles into your organization's mission and promotional strategies.

12:00 PM Lunch at IKES

**Fall IAN Workshop
November 7-9, 2017
Warren County Conservation**

Name _____
 Affiliation _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone # _____ Alternate phone # _____
 Email _____

(Please indicate if this is a new email address or you need to be added to the listserv.)

Please register me for the following pre-workshop session:

_____ Woodland Mounds Hike and Native American Presentation, 1-4PM	FREE
_____ Bike the Great Western Trail & Iowa Distilling Company Tour, 1-4PM	\$21 Bike rental (optional)
_____ Pammel Park Tour and Madison County Bridge Tour, 1-4PM	FREE

Meals (please check all that apply)

Wednesday Lunch: \$12.00

Meat _____ *Smokey D's BBQ, Chopped Pork & Smoked Turkey, Mac & Cheese, Coleslaw
 Scotch-a-roo for dessert*
 Veggie _____ *Portebella mushroom wrap with boursin cheese, lettuce, and tomato
 Scotch-a-roo for dessert*

Wednesday Dinner: \$10.00

Both served with a salad and assortment of cookies, GF PB Blossom Cookie
 Meat _____ *Italian Sausage Lasagna*
 Veggie _____ *Vegetarian Lasagna*

Thursday Lunch: \$8.00

Boxed lunch from Funaros. Each boxed lunch comes with chips and a cookie.
Circle one: white or wheat bread or lettuce wrap
Circle one: turkey, ham, roast beef, veggie or egg salad

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Additional Expenses:

Workshop Fee (Required)	\$25.00
Late registration fee after Oct. 31	\$5.00

Please make checks payable to: IAN Treasurer

Mail Payment Form to:

**Emily Herring
 IAN Workshop Coordinator
 2349 233rd Street
 Marshalltown, IA 50158**

Pre-Workshop Total	_____
Meal Total	_____
Membership Fee	\$20.00
Total	_____

Please contact the workshop coordinator, Emily Herring, at eherring@marshallcountytia.gov or 641-844-2833 with any additional questions. If your payment will not arrive by the registration deadline, please let Emily know by calling or emailing. If your registration form is not received by the deadline, you will be charged the \$5 late fee. No exceptions. If you cancel after the deadline, some or all of the fee will be kept.

T-shirts, Get Your T-shirts!

We still have some of the new IAN t-shirts left, and they will be at the workshop available for purchase! We have a few mediums, and several large, XL, and 2XL available for purchase. If you pre-ordered a t-shirt and were not able to pick it up at the spring workshop, they are still on hold for you. Contact Mary Bulger mbulger@leecounty.org with any questions about t-shirts.



Upcoming Workshops

IACCB Fall Conference – September 21-23, 2017, Sioux Center, IA
MEEC – October 11-14, 2017, St. Charles, IL
IACCB New Employee School – November 1, 2017, Des Moines, IA
Fall IAN – **TUESDAY November 7-9, 2017**, Warren County, IA
NAI National Workshop – November 14-18, 2017, Spokane, WA
Winterfest – January 24-25, 2018, Waterloo, IA
Spring IAN – March 14-16, 2018, Clinton County, IA
NAI Region 5 – April 4-7, 2018, Austin, MN

REMINDER!

IAN Professional Development Applications are due December 31st to:

Charlene Elyea,
occb@iowatelecom.net

O'Brien County Conservation Board
4931 Yellow Avenue
Peterson, IA 51047

JOIN A COMMITTEE!!

Interested in getting more involved in IAN? Consider joining one of our many committees!

Committee	Name	Email
Wilderness Trips	Aaron Askelson	aaskelson@bentoncountyparks.com
Social Media	Cari Nicely	cnicely@henrycountyconservation.com
Workshops	Emily Herring	eherring@marshallcountyiowa.gov
Mentoring	Heather Hucka	HHucka@storycountyiowa.gov
Social Media	Jackie Gautsch	Jackie.Gautsch@dnr.iowa.gov
Traveling Exhibits	Jennifer Meyer	jen@jacksonccb.com
IAN Scholarship	Jessica Steines	jsteines@clintoncounty-ia.gov
Joe Halber Scholarship	Laura Kanning	lkanning@casscoia.us
Memberships	Victoria DeVos	vdevos@co.plymouth.ia.us
Fundraising	Mary Bulger	mbulger@co.iowa.ia.us
Junior Naturalists	Michelle Olson	Jonescountynaturalist@yahoo.com
Professional Development	Charlene Elyea	occb@iowatelecom.net
IAN/ICEC Awards	Sarah Subbert	cedarccb@cedarcountry.org



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IAN Executive Committee



President

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski

Warren County Naturalist II
15565 118th Ave
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-6169, Ext. 206

karenjohlas-szalkowski@warrencb.org

Secretary

Michelle Berns

Muscatine County Naturalist
PO Box 109
Muscatine, IA 52761
563-264-5922

mberns@co.muscatine.ia.us

Vice President

Amy Loving

Ed Coordinator, Nahant Marsh
4220 Wapello Ave.
Davenport, IA 52802
563-336-3373

aloving@eicc.edu

Workshop Coordinator

Emily Herring

Marshall County Naturalist
2349 233rd Street
Marshalltown, IA
614-844-2833

eherring@marshallcountya.gov

Treasurer

Victoria DeVos

Plymouth County Naturalist
PO Box 1033
Hinton, IA 51024
712-947-4270

vdevos@co.plymouth.ia.us



Naturalists

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