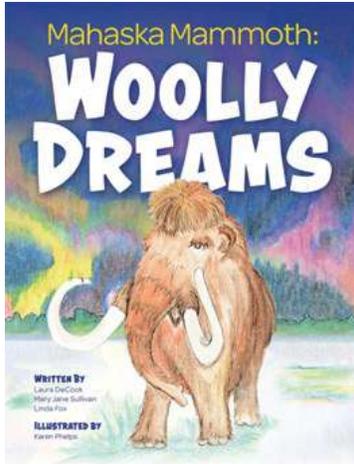




The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists



Woolly Dreams: How to Write and Publish a Children's Book

by Laura DeCook, Naturalist, Mahaska County Conservation Board

For years I have had a dream to write and publish a children's book. Little did I know that this dream would become a reality while digging up mammoth bones in rural Mahaska County, Iowa. If you have had your own dream to write and publish a children's book, I will explain the journey that was taken in the book "Mahaska Mammoth: Woolly Dreams."

Since 2010 the bones of three woolly mammoths have been discovered on private land in Mahaska County. I had the great opportunity to be a part of this dig and learn so much about Iowa's pre-history. While digging for bones at the site one day, I mentioned the idea of writing a children's book about woolly mammoths to Mary Jane Sullivan, an active volunteer for the Mahaska County Conservation Board. I explained that a children's book could become a way to educate the public about the woolly mammoths discovered in our county. Mary Jane instantly supported the idea and said that she had been thinking about a children's book too. I knew on that day that we could actually get the book written. Mary Jane and I have worked together on many projects and her enthusiasm about the idea spurred me into action.

Mary Jane and I met many times with our third author, Linda Fox, to create a story line and research facts about the last Ice Age. Linda joined our team

because she is a retired children's librarian. She has many talents and knowledge about children's books! The story developed into 32 pages, and after editing, we decided to involve an illustrator. I asked my friend of many years and the current director for Benton County Conservation Board, Karen Phelps, if she would be interested in drawing the illustrations for our story. Karen jumped at the opportunity to share her drawing talents. She has always loved drawing wildlife and with her artistic eye, we knew she would do a great job.

We finally came to the stage of writing where we knew we would need professional editing and publishing. After researching places that could offer this service, we chose to work with a nearby company in Pella, Iowa called The Write Place. It was the right place for us. The

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Woolly Dreams continued...

Write Place offers self-publishing contracts, which is when the publisher edits, lays out and prints any book written. The other route we could have taken would have been submitting our text to various publishers and wait to see who would want to publish our book. Self publishing allowed us to make the book in the way we wanted it, not what a publisher wanted it to be. The Write Place provided wonderful help with editing suggestions and with the layout of the book and illustrations.



Once the book layout was finished, we began to promote the book.

We sold many books prior to printing, which gave us money to pay for the printing costs. The initial printing was also made possible by private donations. As of today, we have printed approximately 1,500 copies in hard and soft cover.

If you have a special feature in your county area, consider writing a children’s book to draw interest to your county’s jewel. It is a rewarding experience that it will be read by many people for years to come!

Name that Nature Center



Submit guesses to Michelle Berns at 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!

Partnering for Traveling Exhibits – More for All of Us

Jen Meyer, Education Coordinator, Jackson County Conservation Board and Jessie Lowry, Director of Conservation and Research, Blank Park Zoo

The National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium (NMRMA) has generously made two of their exhibits, *Secrets of the Slough* and *Turtles: Secrets of the Shell* available to other organizations. With the end of the supporting REAP grant reporting periods, these exhibits will be available to borrow free of charge to IAN member sites. NMRMA has graciously offered to continue technical support and to provide maintenance services as needed.



For links to the Google Drive folders with information on who has hosted the exhibit in the past and who is scheduled to receive it, put your name on the list to host, view the contract, photos, sample news releases, and all other pertinent information contact Jen Meyer with Jackson County Conservation at Jen@JacksonCCB.com or call 563-652-3783.

In addition, the Blank Park Zoo has made their *Hunters Lead the Way* exhibit free to us all. Lead ammunition has long been used to hunt game because of its accuracy and availability. However, lead ammunition fragments into tiny pieces when striking the animal (up to 420 pieces). When left in gut piles and carcasses, these lead fragments can be deadly to scavengers, particularly raptors like bald eagles. Lead fishing tackle can cause similar issues when ingested by waterfowl who mistake it for small pebbles.

Hunters, anglers and other conservation groups are forming alliances to raise awareness about this issue by promoting non-lead options for hunting and fishing.

The recovery of the bald eagle has been one of this country's greatest conservation success stories. Now, the majority of injured and sick eagles brought into wildlife rehabilitation facilities are testing positive for lead. It has been documented that 130 different species of wildlife are affected by lead in the environment. By voluntarily using non-lead ammunition and tackle, hunters and anglers can ensure there are no unintended consequences of lead in the environment.

The **Iowa Hunters Leading the Way** campaign aims to provide all the information needed to switch to non lead ammunition and fishing tackle. Information is provided through interactive displays, while website and printed materials highlight the availability and performance of non-lead options.

Go to iowaleadingtheway.com or email conservation@blankparkzoo.com to find out more.



Student Air Rifle Program (SAR) Expands to Iowa

Lewis Major, Naturalist, Polk County Conservation Board

Air rifles, when used properly, are safe, universal, and fun, making them the go-to tool to introduce youth and adults to the sport of target shooting. Target shooting is known as a lifelong sport and can be practiced for most at an early age and continue through adulthood. Until recently, there was no official training available in Iowa for professional educators to become certified air rifle instructors, making it difficult to offer target shooting as part of their programming.



In response to this need, Polk County Conservation wrote and received a Resource Enhancement and Protection-Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP) grant to coordinate and offer the Student Air Rifle program (SAR) to professional educators, allowing them the opportunity to become trained, confident and competent air rifle instructors.

Eighteen individuals from across the state trained as SAR Basic Air Riflery Instructors (BARI) during the workshop. Two of the 18 became Basic Air Riflery Instructor Trainers (BARIT), allowing for more staff to train as BARI in the future. The 18 BARI staff

members, mainly from County Conservation Boards across IA, represent Cerro Gordo, Jackson, Linn, O'Brien, Polk, Poweshiek, Story, Tama, and Webster counties. In addition, local staff from the Veterans Affairs in central Iowa were trained.

The REAP-CEP grant provided funding and support to bring SAR trainers from Missouri to Iowa to provide the SAR BARI training. The grant also provided funding for two official standardized SAR equipment kits to be shared among County Conservation BARIs. The equipment kits are comprised of air rifles, lead-free pellets, lockable storage cases, rifle racks, target holders, pellet net, and safety glasses.

“We are delighted with the opportunity to partner with passionate individuals in Iowa to offer SAR to even more students,” mentioned Jake Hindman, President and CEO of SAR.

SAR, developed by the Missouri Youth Sport Shooting Alliance (MYSSA™), is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. SAR uses school-aligned units of study, teacher training, universal whistle commands, positive language, and standardized equipment to facilitate an introduction to the lifetime sport of target shooting to school-aged youth in grades 4 through 12.

To start SAR in your county, email Patrice Petersen-Keys: patrice.petersen-keys@polkcountyiowa.gov. For more information about the Student Air Rifle program (SAR), visit: www.studentairrifleprogram.org.



Upcycled Crafts

By Kinsey Edmonds, AmeriCorps Naturalist, Nahant Marsh Education Center

RECYCLED PAPER KITE

Step 1: Fold paper in half.

Step 2: Fold corner down and staple in place. Repeat with other side.

Step 3: Punch a hole behind the staples and attach a string. You're ready to fly a kite!



CEREAL BOX PICTURE FRAME

Step 1: Decide which size frame you are going to make. Cut two rectangles that give you a 1½" to 2" border around your picture.

Step 2: With the help of an adult, use scissors or an X-acto knife to cut the inside rectangle out of one piece. This needs to be slightly smaller than your photo. Decorate.

Step 3: Use glue to attach three sides to the back. Leave the top open to add a photo.



Grapevine News

Frances Owen has been hired as a naturalist in Johnson County. Frances was previously a naturalist in Des Moines County for three years.

On behalf of the Wapsi River staff, SCCB, and Board of Supervisors, Dave Murcia accepted the **2018 Eddy Award for Excellence in Education** by River Action, Inc.

Emily, Joe, and Nina Herring welcome a little boy into their family on Valentine's Day.



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. 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 at mbulger@co.iowa.ia.us with any questions about t-shirts.



Upcoming Workshops

- Fall IAN – November 7-9, Blackhawk County
- Summer IAN - August 1-3, Bremer County
- Fall IAN - November 7-9, Blackhawk County
- NAI National Workshop - November 27 - December 1 New Orleans, Louisiana
- Spring IAN - March 6-8, Polk County

Call for Presenters

Do you have a project or skill you want to share? Or do you know someone who would be a great presenter? The workshop committee is compiling a list of folks who are interested in presenting at future workshops. Contact Emily Herring at eherring@marshallcountya.gov.

JOIN A COMMITTEE!!

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

Committee	Committee Chair	Email
Wilderness Trips	Aaron Askelson	aaskelson@bentoncountyparks.com
Website	Cari Nicely	cnicely@henrycountyconservation.com
Workshops	Emily Herring	eherring@marshallcountya.gov
Mentoring	Heather Hucka	HHucka@storycountyiowa.gov
Social Media	TBD	Interested in serving as chair? Let ExCom know!
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



IAN Summer Workshop 2018 – Wilderness Training

Ingawanis Woodland Bremer County

2588 Hawthorne Avenue, Janesville

(Please note this location is **different** than the Ingawanis Adventure Base or the Ingawanis Boy Scout Camp.)

Wednesday, August 1

- 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Registration Eagle Lodge - Introductions, hand out gear, set up campsites, review schedule
- 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Wilderness First Aid, Mark Curran, CrawDaddy Outdoors - Introduction and assessment I

Everyone should be prepared for injuries and medical problems when situations arise where professional medical care is not readily available. Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training prepares you to deal with emergency situations when help is an hour, day, or even a week away. Thus, you could find yourself in a "wilderness" situation in your own home. WFA training does not teach first aid skills, but instead teaches you to make proper assessments and informed decisions for giving treatment to injured or ill persons in remote areas. This course is a 16-hour, 2-year certification from the Emergency Care & Safety Institute (ECSI). Your fee includes a weather-resistant Field Guide that can be a valuable resource to you at home or on your next backcountry adventure.

- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch - Sack lunch (Bring your own.)
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Wilderness First Aid: Assessment II
- 1:30 - 2:15 p.m. Leave No Trace Basics, Heather Hucka, Story CCB
- 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Wilderness First Aid: Chest Injuries, shock, head and spine injuries, bone and joint injuries
- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Camp stove use and supper preparation
- 6:00 - ???? p.m. Dinner (dehydrated meals) and round table discussion: Different type of trips and marketing

Thursday, August 2

- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast preparation and meal, lunch preparation
- 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Wilderness First Aid: Wounds, wound infections, abdominal problems, hypothermia, heat problems
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch on trail
- 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Wilderness First Aid: Lightning, altitude sickness, submersion incidents, allergies, anaphylaxis
- 2:30 - 2:45 p.m. Break
- 2:45 - 4:45 p.m. Wilderness First Aid: Final scenario, wilderness first aid kits, closing and evaluations
- 4:45 - 6:00 p.m. Food planning, preparation, dehydration, dietary planning – Sondra Cabell, Buchanan CCB
- 6:00 - ???? p.m. Dinner (store bought meals) and round table discussion: Evening activities, safety, and emergency procedures

Friday, August 3

- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast preparation and meal
- 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Round table discussions: Pre-and post-trip meeting and evaluations, travel and transportation
- 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Discuss IAN Trip Leader Standards
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Clean up gear and head home. (Lunch will be on your own.)

Summer 2018 IAN Workshop - August 1st - 3rd

Wilderness Committee, Bremer County Conservation, CrawDaddy Outdoors - Wilderness Training
Ingawanis Woodland Bremer County - 2588 Hawthorne Avenue, Janesville

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Alternate Phone # _____

*E-mail _____

*(Please indicate if this is a new e-mail address or if you need to be added to the listserv.)

Meals (Please check all that apply.)

Wednesday Dinner - Dehydrated Dinner Potluck	Herbivore ____ Carnivore ____	\$6.00 ____
Thursday Breakfast - Backpack Breakfast		\$3.00 ____
Thursday Lunch - Backpacking Lunch		\$5.00 ____
Thursday Dinner - Store Bought Backpacking Meals	Herbivore ____ Carnivore ____	\$5.00 ____
Friday Breakfast - Backpack Breakfast		\$3.00 ____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Additional Expenses:

Workshop Fee (Required) \$95.00

Membership - If not already a member \$20.00 _____

Meal Total _____

Total _____

Please make checks payable to:

IAN Treasurer

Mail Payment Form to:

Emily Herring, IAN Workshop Coordinator

2349 233rd Street

Marshalltown, IA 50158

No Late Registration Allowed - Registration Deadline July 9th, 2018

Workshop fee includes the class to become two-year certified from the Emergency Care & Safety Institute

Please contact Emily Herring at eherring@marshallcountytia.gov or 641-752-5490 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 not be able to register. No exceptions. If you cancel after the deadline, some or all of the fee will be kept.



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Visit us at www.iowanaturalists.org

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Naturalists

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