

# Iowa Association of Naturalists 2018 Annual Report

## **Executive Committee (ExCom)**

President: Karen Johlas-Szalkowski

Vice President: Amy Loving

Treasurer: Emily Ostrander

Secretary: Michelle Berns

Workshop Coordinator: Emily Herring

Submitted by Secretary, Michelle Berns

**Membership 2018:** 159 regular, and 4 honorary members = 163 members

## **Meetings:**

### **Spring Workshop:**

Held at Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center in Clinton County. There were 60 in attendance.

**Pre-workshop Sessions:** Exploring Western Clinton County Parks and Wildlife Areas, Shooting Range, and an evening activity with Quad Cities Astronomical Society.

**Featured:** Early Bird Sessions on the Blue Heron Pontoon, Take Flight! Building a live birds of prey program from the bottom up, Discovering Stories with Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Conservation and Management of the Imperiled Ornate Box Turtle: Linking Ecology to Conservation, The Voyageur Canoe, Creating "Natural" Habitats for Reptiles, Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC), Milan Bottoms Bald Eagle Night Roost Survey Project, Guitar for Dummies, Trapping: A Wildlife Management Tool, 30 Years of Turtle Camp- The Painted Turtle Canvas, Technical Writing for Naturalists, The Cargo Canoe Experience, Next Generation Science Standards Workshop, Terrific Terrariums, Partnering for Urban Conservation: Nahant Marsh, Ashes to Art, Wasp Watchers- Tracking the Spread of the Emerald Ash Borer, Primitive Hunting Tools.

### **Summer Workshop:**

Held in Bremer County. There were 31 in attendance.

**Activities included:** Wilderness Training- Wilderness First Aid, Leave No Trace, Food planning, preparation, dehydration, dietary planning, Round table discussions on pre and post trip meetings/evaluations travel and transportation.

### **Fall Workshop:**

Held in Black Hawk County. There were 115 in attendance.

**Pre-workshop Sessions:** Auto Tour: Conservation Efforts along the Wapsipinicon River, Project Archaeology Workshop- Investigating Shelter, "Pieces and Parts" Taxidermy. Special Wednesday Night Activity at Singlespeed Brewery- program on Cedar Valley Association of Soft Trails and Trivia.

**Featured:** Stormwater Management Practices: Improving Water Quality in Our Urban Communities, Herp Update, Found: Connecting Self and Place Through Local, Natural Color, Behind the Scenes Tour: Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Accessible Adventures: Utilizing Short-Term Loan for Recreation Activities, Taking a Likin' to Lichens, Summer Camp Roundtable, Internship Panel and Roundtable, Walk with an Ecologist, Working with Insect Collections and Identifying Insects, New ABCs: ACEs, Botjoy and Connections Matter, Training Seasonal Staff, Sunrise Yoga, Flowers of the prairie, Graphic Design for Naturalists, Help Your Students SOAR with Real Iowa Data, DIY Exhibits, Environmental Education for Afterschool Programs, Real Data Through Watersheds: TES-MMW, Animal Camouflage: Appearance (and Disappearance) in Nature, Social Media Update, Introduction to Permits and Licenses.

**The ExCom met four times this year:** The January retreat was held in Polk County at the Jester Park Cabins. The Spring and Fall meetings were held at IAN workshops, and the summer workshop was held in Story County.

**Committees**

Thirteen standing committees were in existence in 2018.

Promotions

- Fundraising
- Junior Naturalist
- Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship
- Website/Social Media
- Wilderness Trips
- Membership
- Newsletter

Professional Development

- Professional Development
- IAN Scholarships
- Mentoring
- ICEC/IAN Awards
- Traveling Exhibits
- Workshops

- IAN Liaison- Vacant
- DNR Liaison- Jacklyn Gautsch
- NAI Liaison- Heather Hucka
- ICEC Liaison- Linette Bernard
- IACCBE – Christina Roelofs
- IEC Liaison- Gail Barels
- REAP/CEP- Charlene Elyea
- REAP Alliance- Vacant

**2018 Highlights**

**Professional Development**

The chair of the Professional Development committee is Charlene Elyea with O’Brien County Conservation. There were 34 participants in the 2018 professional development program, with five of them being new. Awards were presented to those present at the Spring IAN workshop.

<b>25 Years:</b>	<b>Alternate Years:</b>	
Miriam Patton	Lyndsey Anderson	Cari Nicely
<b>15 Years:</b>	Heidi Anderson	Michele Olson
Karen Phelps	Aaron Askelson	Emily Ostrander
<b>5 Years:</b>	Katie Cantu	Heidi Reams
Emily Herring	Megan Cook	Christinia Roelofs
Rebecca Horton	Laura DeCook	Chelsea Rowcliffe
<b>New:</b>	Victoria DeVos	Emily Santiago
Brianne Blom	Charlene Elyea	Caitlin Savage
Danika Cox	Sunday Ford	Elizabeth Schramm
Sarah Davelaar	Lilly Jensen	Katie Struss
Kinsey Edmonds	Jen Meyer	Sarah Subbert
Amy Loving	Dave Murcia	Elizabeth Waage
		Jess Wagner

## **IAN Mentoring Program (Welcome Committee)**

Heather Hucka with Story County Conservation is the chair of the Welcome Committee. The name was changed in 2016 from the mentoring program to the welcome committee.

## **Awards Program**

The chair of the Awards committee is Sarah Subbert with Cedar County Conservation. The Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) presented the following 2018 Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

### **Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award**

Audra Faber, Pella Christian High School

### **Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award**

Decorah Seventh Grade "One Well" Unit

### **"Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award**

Blank Park Zoo for their Iowa Hunters: Leading the Way Program

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

Charlene Elyea, O'Brien County Conservation

### **Outstanding Volunteer Award**

Coralee and Ruby Bodeker

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

Jean Eells, E Resources

### **Frederic Leopold Environmental Education Award**

SOAR (Saving Our Avian Resources)

### **Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award**

Pella Christian High School, Biology Department

## **Membership Committee**

The chair of the membership committee is Vicoria DeVos with Plymouth County Conservation. In 2018, there were a total of 163 members (159 regular and 4 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**

The chair of the Junior Naturalist committee is Michele Olsen with Jones County Conservation.

## **Newsletter**

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**

Vacant

### **IAN Web Page**

In 2018 the IAN website was completely revamped and placed on a different server. Cari Nicely with Henry County Conservation and Lilly Jensen with Winneshiek County Conservation co-chair this committee.

### **Fundraising**

The chair of the fundraising committee is Mary Bulger with Iowa County Conservation. In 2018, the Fundraising Committee was responsible for all fundraising activities at the Fall IAN Workshop. We were able to raise \$1443.65 between silent/live auctions, old t-shirt sales, and the new IAN logo stickers with the get to know your naturalists game.

### **Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship**

The chair of the Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship is Lora Kanning. Kaleb Kaster was awarded a \$500.00 grant for the 2018 year. \$75.00 was raised from drink sales at IAN workshops.

### **Travelling Exhibits Committee**

The chair of the Travelling Exhibits Committee is Jen Meyer with Jackson County Conservation. The Tall Grass Prairie Exhibit travelled to three counties in 2018. The National Mississippi River Museum has two travelling exhibits as well. Secrets of the Shell travelled to three counties and Secrets of the Slough travelled to one. IAN members also have access to the Blank Park Zoo exhibit; Get the Lead Out, and an exhibit from Silos and Smokestacks called; It Takes an Iowan.

### **Accounting Balances as of December 31, 2018**

**Checking:** \$21,346.05

**General Savings:** \$19,347.56

**Joe Savings:** \$7,015.93

**Certificate of Deposit 19 month:** \$5,051.68

**Certificate of Deposit 59 month:** \$5,469.52

**Total Net:** \$58,230.74

### **EXCOM Elections**

At the end of 2018, Michelle Berns and Amy Loving's terms ended. They were both re-elected.