

Iowa Association of Naturalists 2020 Annual Report

Submitted by Secretary, Rene Stroud

Executive Committee (ExCom)

President: Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe

Vice President: Heidi Reams

Treasurer: Emily Ostrander

Secretary: Rene Stroud

Workshop Coordinator: Brianne Blom

Membership 2020: 184 regular, and 6 honorary members = 190 members

Meetings: Nov 4-6th Fall IAN Virtual Workshop, Jan. 15th at Jester park Cabins in Polk County

Spring Workshop:

Cancelled due to Covid-19

Summer Workshop:

Cancelled due to Covid-19

Fall Workshop:

Held virtually and hosted by Brianne Blom. There were 100 registered.

Pre-workshop Sessions: None due to online format

Featured: Iowa's Wetland Habitats, Exploring the Life of Bumble Bees, Keynote was A Journey To The Top Of The World With The First Woman From Iowa To Climb Everest, Rediscovering the Lost Art of Natural Navigation, Iowa-Based Phenomena Resources

ExCom met five times this year: The January meeting was held in Polk County at Jester Park, the February (Spring), March, Summer (August) and Fall (November) meetings were held via Zoom

Committees

Thirteen standing committees were in existence in 2020.

Promotions

Fundraising

Junior Naturalist

Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship

Website/Social Media

Wilderness Trips

Membership

Newsletter

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

IAN Liaison- Vacant
DNR Liaison- Holly Schulte
NAI Liaison- Heather Hucka
ICEC Liaison- Mary Bulger
IACCBE – Christina Roelofs
IEC - Vacant
REAP/CEP- Victoria DeVos
REAP Alliance Liaison-Amy Warnke
ICCS Liason-Victoria DeVos

2020 Highlights

Professional Development

The chair of the Professional Development committee is Katie Struss with Buena Vista County Conservation. There were 35 participants in the 2020 professional development program, with two of them being new. Awards were presented to those present at the Spring IAN workshop.

15 Years:

Victoria DeVos
Sunday Ford

10 Years:

Lora Kanning
Carli Nicely
Emily Ostrander

5 Years:

None

New/1st Year:

Abbey Conrad
Kristen Bieret

Other Awardees:

Heidi Anderson
Lynsey Anderson
Rebecca Baugh
Kristen Bieret
Mary Bulger
Katie Cantu
Abby Conrad
Danika Cox

Sarah Davelaar
Laura DeCook
Victoria DeVos
Cecilia Dirks
(Hagen)
Sunday Ford
Ashley Hansen
Abbey Harkrader
Faith Henricks

Lilly Jensen
Lora Kanning
Amy Loving
Jennifer Meyer
Dave Mucia
Kinsey Nielsen
Cari Nicely
Allison Norduft
Michele Olson

Emily Ostrander
Paige Owings
Heidi Reams
Chelsea Rowcliffe
Katie Struss
Sarah Subbert
Elizabeth Waage
Jessica Wagner
James Wiebler

IAN Mentoring Program (Welcome Committee)

Lilly Jensen with Winneshiek County Conservation is the current chair of 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) will present the awards at the Spring 2022 workshop in Ringgold County.

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award: For Outstanding Efforts to Educate About Preservation, Land Management, or Natural Resource Conservation

None awarded

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

None awarded

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award

Bev Wagner of Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award

Polk County Conservation's Youth Corps

"Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award

Shawnell Richter, Lydia Goehring, Christina Roelofs, Megan Wisecup, and Rachel Aliss

Frederic Leopold Environmental Education Award

None awarded

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

Heidi Reams of Floyd County Conservation

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

Scott County Conservation

Outstanding Interpretive Print Media

Kristen Bieret from Sac County Conservation

Outstanding Interpretive Non-Print Media

Michelle Wilson (IDNR), Anne Riordan (IDNR), and Christina Roelofs (Shelby Co./IDNR)

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Olivia Brown from Louisa County

Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award

Holms Helps – Collaboration between Holms Junior High and Green Iowa AmeriCorps

Membership Committee

The chair of the membership committee is Victoria DeVos with Plymouth County Conservation. In 2020, there were a total of 190 members (184 regular and 6 honorary).

Junior Naturalist

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

Newsletter

Amy Loving with Nahant Marsh is the editor for “The Web” newsletter submissions. Three newsletters were produced and distributed via email. The newsletter is also available online at www.iowanaturalists.org

REAP Alliance Liaison

Amy Warnke with Madison County Conservation is the committee Chair. There was nothing reported.

IAN Web Page

Cari Nicely with Henry County Conservation is stepping down and Danika Cox is the new committee chair.

Lilly Jensen with Winneshiek County Conservation co-chairs this committee.

The main overhaul of the website is done. Heidi will be checking Facebook for any needed updates. Guidelines for media presence were discussed.

Fundraising

The chair of the fundraising committee is Mary Bulger with Iowa County Conservation. The fundraising committee was able to raise \$545 through the virtual fundraiser.

Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship

The chair of the Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship is Lora Kanning.

Allison Scheel re-applied and was awarded a \$1000.00 grant and Avery Keenan was awarded a \$1000 grant for the year of 2020.

Travelling Exhibits Committee

The chair of the Travelling Exhibits Committee is Jen Meyer with Jackson County Conservation.

There are currently six available exhibits: Tallgrass Prairie, Secrets of the Slough, Secrets of the Shell, Get the Lead Out, The Snake Exhibit, and an albino animal exhibit. The Tallgrass Prairie needs a storage area.

Accounting Balances as of November 5th, 2020

Checking: \$36,383.14

General Savings: \$19,350.98

Joe Savings: \$5,907.05

Total Net: \$61,641.17

EXCOM Elections

At the end of 2020 Michelle Burns and Amy Loving are exiting the committee. The newly elected ExCom members are Rene Stroud (Pott. CCB) and Heidi Reams (Floyd CCB). Emily Ostrander (Lyon CCB), Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe (Mitchell CCB), and Brianne Blom are continuing their two year term.