

## 2001 IAN/ICEC Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Announced

### **Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award:** *R. Thomas Tanner, Iowa State University.*

This award commends a lifetime achievement in environmental education (EE) excellence and leadership. Tanner has been a pioneer in the field of contemporary environmental education (EE) since his teaching career began in the 60s. As a national leader and innovator, he has written books, articles, and papers on the subject, while creating curricula and speaking at conferences. He also spearheaded the Iowa Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration in 1986.

### **Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award:** *Joe Boyles, Polk County Conservation Board.*

This award commends outstanding efforts by an environmental educator. Boyles' most outstanding project as a naturalist is his work with the DNR to reintroduce ospreys. For the project, Boyles dedicated an enormous amount of time creating a manual for assistants, organizing volunteers, constructing a hack tower, and checking on the birds daily prior to release.

### **Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award:** *Clinton County Chapter of Pheasants Forever and the Clinton County Conservation Board.*

This award commends outstanding efforts to educate others about preservation, land management, or natural resource conservation. In response to a lack of knowledge about Iowa's prairie history, these two agencies collaborated to create a "Prairie for Schools" program. Through this innovative program, prairie plots were planted at local schools for use as outdoor classrooms. A teacher's guide on how to use the prairie was also created.

### **Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (pop. >35,000):** *Lee County Conservation Board.*

This award commends excellence in a county conservation board's EE program of counties with a population of over 35,000. Lee County offers a diverse program, including unique field trips such as Mississippi River Days, themed summer camps, fishing tournaments, and public programs such as the large annual Bald Eagle Appreciation Days. They sponsor several highly skilled Envirothon teams in local high schools and fundraise money for Wild In Iowa trunks which specialize in school activities about native wildlife.

### **Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (pop. <35,000):** *Palo Alto County Conservation Board.*

This award commends excellence in a county conservation board's EE program of counties with a population of less than 35,000. Palo Alto County has taken full advantage of their small population by forging strong partnerships and programs with other agencies, connecting with all kindergarten through six graders within the county, and reaching the public through their award-winning nature center. Unique programs include a newsletter for elementary students and a new program to reduce waste during field trips.