

1997 IAN/ICEC Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Announced

The Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Council are proud to announce this year's recipients of their Conservation and Environmental Education Excellence Awards Program. Eight awards will be presented. The winners are as follows:

Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (pop.>35,000): *Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Black Hawk County Conservation Board.*

This award commends excellence in a county conservation board's environmental education (EE) program. Hartman Reserve has a very diverse and strong EE program. Beyond the usual school field days, the center also sponsors teacher workshops, promotes in-school recycling, public recreational opportunities and wildlife reintroduction programs.

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award: *Duane Toomsen, Iowa Department of Education.*

This award recognizes lifetime achievements in EE excellence and leadership. Toomsen has been involved in EE for over 25 years. His accomplishments include service on the Iowa Conservation Education Council Executive Committee, bringing EE curriculum materials such as Project WILD to Iowa, and creating and administering the EE portion of the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act – Conservation Education Program (REAP – CEP). His efforts have extended beyond the state of Iowa and as well as the United States.

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award: This award recognizes formal or non-formal educators for innovative EE programming beyond his/her job expectations. Two people have been selected to receive the award this year.

- *Tonya Sworts*, Lee County Conservation Board. Sworts has expanded Lee County Conservation Board's environmental program considerably. Her programs now include in-school and outdoor field days, summer day camps, weekend public programs, and special interpretive trips.
- *Barb Kinneer*, James Madison Middle School, Burlington. Kinneer has encouraged environmental action in her students through the formation of an Ecology Club, volunteerism at the local nature center, and the development of outdoor classrooms. She is also involved in the Three Rivers Environmental Council which sponsors teacher workshops in southeast Iowa.

Frederic Leopold Environmental Education Award: *The Monsanto Company, Muscatine.*

This award honors an outstanding EE effort by business, industry, or labor. The Monsanto Company in Muscatine co-owns Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve and hosts a Big Sand Mound Field Day every two years. Other efforts include prairie restoration, hunter safety programs, household hazardous waste clean-up, and sponsoring many EE programs in Louisa and Muscatine Counties.

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award: *Uncle Ike Nature Program, Marshall County.*

This program, designed for youth, was first created by the Marshall County chapter of the Izaak Walton League and the Marshall County Conservation Board in 1983. The program, which has spread to other counties in Iowa and across the nation, promotes conservation education among students.

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award: This award commends outstanding efforts to educate conservation professionals or private landowners about preservation, land management, or natural resource conservation. Two awardees have been selected for this award.

- *Dean Prestemon and Paul Wray, ISU Extension Foresters.* These leaders in Iowa forestry education have added the idea of woodland stewardship to timber harvest. Through workshops, they promote individualized woodland management with an eye toward the future.
- *Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation:* Environmental education is one of the Foundation's primary goals. The Foundation has a broad audience from youth to professionals to the general public. One of its more commendable efforts is the publication of *The Landowner's Options* which details permanent land protection and is used across the nation.