

## 1998 IAN/ICEC Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Announced

**Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (pop.>35,000):** *Starr's Cave Nature Center, Des Moines County Conservation Board.*

This award commends excellence in a county conservation board's environmental education (EE) program of counties with a population of over 35,000. Starr's Cave Nature Center has a very strong and diverse EE program from field days and public programs to working with cooperating agencies.

**Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program (pop.<35,000):** *Louisa 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. Louisa County has a strong EE program with nearly 100% contact with all elementary students in the county. Along with other EE programs, Louisa County has a unique soil and water program they have developed in cooperation with the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District.

**Frederic Leopold Environmental Education Award:** *Local 838 – United Auto Workers Waterloo.*

This award honors an outstanding EE effort by business, industry, or labor. Over the past eight years, this union has played a major role in sponsoring and organizing Earthworks in Black Hawk County. The Earthworks program helps schools earn credit to fund field trips to Hartman Reserve Nature Center, allowing schools to participate in EE field trips that may not be able to otherwise.

**Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award:** *Boone County 5th grade ExCEL students.*

These 12 students, as 4th graders, actively pursued and promoted a public campaign for the Boone County Conservation Board to hire a naturalist. As a result of their efforts, this county now has its very first naturalist.

**Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award:** *Trees Forever Iowa Buffer Initiative.*

This award commends outstanding efforts to educate conservation professionals or private landowners about preservation, land management, or natural resource conservation. The Iowa Buffer Initiative, sponsored by Trees Forever and other agencies, held workshops across the state to educate landowners about increasing water quality through tree plantings serving as buffer strips along waterways.