



# Iowa Association of Naturalists

Iowa State University, 339 Science Hall II, Ames, IA 50011

[www.iowanaturalists.org](http://www.iowanaturalists.org)

## Executive Committee

Victoria DeVos  
Bobbi Donovan  
Michael Maas  
Heidi Reams  
Chelsea Ewen-Rowcliffe  
Rene Stroud

**2023 Spring IAN Business Meeting  
Sioux County Conservation  
Prairie Woods Nature Center - Howarden, IA  
March 8th, 2023  
12:00 PM**

**In attendance:** *Victoria DeVos, Michael Mass, Heidi Reams, Chelsea Ewen-Rowcliffe, Rene Stroud, Kaitlin Anderson, Heidi Anderson, Aaron Askelson, Becky Baugh, Kristen Bieret, Emma Bruck, Mary Bulger, Hailey Christoph, Clay Steele, Danika Cox, Lindsey Craig, Matt Crayne, Sarah Davlaar, Haley Eckerman, Sunday Ford, Mike Granger, Hannah Schmitt, Shania Hansen, Dayton Harson, Hannah Hernandez, Emma Jacobs, Amanda Jones, Lora Kanning, Katie Klus, Theresa Kruid, John Laird, Sunshine Laursen, Jackie Lingle, Kelsey Longnecker, Amy Loving, Lewis Major, Marley Millar, Adam, Tiffany Morgan, Dave Murcia, Hannah Nelson, Allison Nodurft, Michele Olson, Tony Vorwald, Emily Olander, Dakota Popp, Lia Risser, Christina Roelofs, Tyler Ruge, Sara Runyan, Kari Sandage, Emily Schallert, Ashley Scheve, Curtis Schnack, Jennifer Stroyan, Sarah Subbert, Jessica Wagner, Jimmy Wiebler, Maddie Young, Brianne Blom, Mark Roberts*

- I. **Call to order** – President Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe
  1. Meeting was called to order at 12:24 pm
  - B. Agenda approval. Theresa Kruid made a motion to approve, Jess Wagner second. Motion Carried.
  
- II. **Secretary's Report** – Secretary Rene Stroud
  - A. Approval of the Minutes. Matt Crayne motioned to approve. Allison Nodurft seconded. Motion carried.
  - B. Approval of Annual Report- Emma Bruck motioned to approve and Dakota Popp seconded. Motion carried.
  
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Victoria DeVos
  - A. Budget-
    1. The budget looks to be over because Jr. Naturalists underestimated how many stickers they would sell. We are spending the same out of pocket as the increased costs are from purchased stickers.
    2. Workshop looks low but that is because we are waiting on the ICCS check from mycountyparks. This is normal for this time of year.
    3. \$10,000 went out of checking and went into a high yield CD. We will most likely make about \$500 on interest come time to cash it.
    4. Trivent had \$10,000 and is riding the stocks roller coaster.
    5. Money from savings- although it can be used, we also anticipate a person writing a REAP CEP grant for big projects like traveling displays.
  - B. Membership updates- We have 181 current members for 2023. Fall is the time of year that you can renew your membership for the next calendar year. If you are not getting listserv stuff but should be, talk to Victoria.
  - C. Approve Report- Brianne Blom made a motion to approve and Aaron Askelson seconded. Motion passed.



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- IV. **IAN Committee Reports (Approx. 3 min each)** – Vice-President Michael Maas
- A. **Professional Development** - Katie Struss – 3 -10 year awards; Becky B. Abby H., Theresa K. Be sure to do your professional development awards. If you don't know what that is, go to Bree's program. It is easy to fill out your professional development form if you use roman numerals on your workshop agenda.
  - B. **Junior Naturalist** - Michele Olson- Stickers are more eco-friendly. There are still patches available. We are doing the 5 free stickers. There are forms for the record sheet available online. There are not a ton of extras left but there are a few. They were more expensive then the patches so IAN covered a part of the cost. If you want more, let Michele know for a new order. If you don't use them, return or give them to a friend. If all 5 stickers are given out before the next conference you get in a drawing for Crawdaddy's. Be sure to go to the google drive or call a Jr. Naturalist committee member.
  - C. **Joe Halbur Scholarship** - Lora Kanning- Applications have come in. They will be on the google drive. Reading in March and awarding in April. Over 10 applied. There is room on the committee.
  - D. **IAN Scholarships** - Faith Hunt- Presented by Aaron Askelson. Right now \$384 has been given out of the \$1,500 budget.
    - 1. They are looking for an increase of \$6,000 for the NAI conference. We are asking IAN ExCom to increase (a one time increase) the scholarship amount in anticipation of the NAI. It was done in 2011 and 2018 and asking for it again.
  - E. **Welcoming Committee - Brianne Blom**- Please see Brianne if this is your first few years or you have not been welcomed. There are free mugs for new members.
  - F. **ICEC/IAN Awards** - Sarah Subbert- 21 applications this year in 9 categories. There are 12 categories in total. The applications are on google drive or ask Sarah. They will give out awards today.
  - G. **Traveling Exhibits Committee** - Jen Stroyan- The Tall Grass Prairie Exhibit is being used for the first half of the year but it needs revamping. Outhouse Productions can revamp it. For \$5,000 we can change the exhibit to Monarchs. All told it was \$24,000 for Monarchs, and IA. Pollinators, Iowa Creature Species. They are looking for \$5,000 in seed money and the goal is to write a REAP-CEP grant for the money. The other issue is storage of this exhibit- she is looking for someone who might have extra space to let her know. or a trailer. There is a traveling exhibit from MN. About wolves/coyotes and it costs \$10,000 per year. Nature centers who want to pre-commit need to let her know.



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1. Note for the future-when committees want money from IAN they need to ask for it in the fall as we just approved the proposed budget in the past winter. Ex-Com did write in \$5,000 into the traveling exhibits budget as they knew they were moving forward on this project, however they were under the impression that \$5,000 was the total cost. That money can be used for a trailer or to help get grant money.
  - H. **Fundraising** - Britney Snell-Last fall she had a baby so she wasn't there. She is looking forward to next year and she is looking for committee members to join her. It consists of a few zoom meetings and helping run events at the Fall IAN.
  - I. **Wilderness Trips** – Tony Vorwald- This committee is to help people take wilderness trips. They just had a brainstorming event for new projects. One project is a list of who has gear to share on the server, and wilderness first aid, summer IAN trips.
- V. **Affiliate Reports (Approx 3 minutes each)**
- A. **ICCS** - Bobbi Donovan- Adam Shirley has officially taken over as CEO. He mentioned looking for upcoming legislation that is not conservation friendly, Winterfest was the biggest so far, and there are many new directors.
  - B. **ICCBE/Winterfest** - Christina Roelofs- Big winterfest this year and getting ready.
  - C. **ICEC Liaison**- Lilly Jensen- Tiffany Morgan presented (Secretary). They are a group of formal and non-formal educators. Iowa affiliate to NEEAA. They serve formal and informal educators. MEEC will be coming up at the same date as the IAN workshop, but follow along on social media for that. The February ICEC was held at Drake this winter and was great. They have some of the programs on the website. They are supporting Game Jam and you can link into that to learn more. They are doing C-STEM to reach out to teachers. They are doing a survey to naturalists to build a landscape of what is happening with EE across the state and will make that information available.
  - D. **IDNR** – Holly Schulte- presented by Christina Roelofs- The last hire has been completed. They are redistricted to a West, Northeast, and Southeast, so there is a West Side you have AJ. Central is still Holly New hire is south and east is Rose Danahar.
  - E. **NAI Liaison** - Heather Hucka- April 3-5<sup>th</sup> in Council Bluffs, IA. We are calling all IAN members to be presenters. To show why IA is the best! Keep in mind that it is history, zoos, nature, etc. More details to come.
  - F. **REAP Alliance** - Amy Warnke
  - G. **REAP CEP** – Victoria DeVos- Due May 15th at 11:59pm. Write a grant or find someone who will write a grant for that money for EE purposes like traveling displays or NAI conferences.



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Due to time the agenda was tabled- Patti K. made a motion to table the meeting and Brittany S. seconded. Motion Carried.

J. Host County Recognition- Heidi presented Sunday with a gift

K. **ICEC/IAN awards were given:**

1. Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award-Polk County Conservation EE
2. Aldo Leopold EE Award-Mike Krebill
3. Chris Holt Youth EE Award- Prairie Woods Nature Center Mural of Sioux County Conservation
4. Outstanding Interp Print Media Award- Danielle Bennett - Ida County Conservation
5. Sylvan Runkel EE School Award- Cedar River Academy
6. "Ding" Darling EE Award- Women in the Wilderness-Kayla Clausen, Decatur County Conservation
7. Outstanding EE Program (2 or fewer Staff)- Kate Zimmerman, Ringgold County
8. Outstanding EE Program (3+ Staff)- Jessica Waner, Jennifer Meyer, Tony Vorwald of Jackson County Conservation
9. Outstanding Interp Non-Print Media Award- Fayette County Solid Waste Commission, Fayette County Conservation, and Northeast Iowa RC&D recycling video series

**The meeting was called back into order at 7:10 pm by Chelsea Ewen-Rowcliffe**

Membership said they wanted the newsletter, so we need articles by May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are new please submit a little bio and pictures.

V. **Workshop Committee Report** - Workshop Coordinator Heidi Reams

A. Upcoming Workshops

1. Summer 2023 - Summer Workshop is in Marshall on Aug 9-11<sup>th</sup> and there will be a concert night
2. Fall 2023 - Fall Workshop Nov 1-3<sup>rd</sup> is in Carroll County
3. Spring 2024 -Spring Workshop is NAI
4. Summer 2024 - Clay and Dickinson County are either 5-7<sup>th</sup> or 6-8<sup>th</sup>
5. Fall 2024 -Johnson county
6. Spring of 2025 - Mahaska County
7. Summer 2025-Open

VII. **Discussion/Action Items (5 minutes each)**

A. **Upcoming NAI/IAN Conference-** April 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Hampton Inn in Council Bluffs



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- B. Traveling Exhibits-Discussed above
- C. Website- ExCom is actively working to update and clean up the website.
- D. Newsletter- Per the survey, members liked the newsletter. However, that means that submissions are needed. Articles will be put in the google drive. Commonly contributed works included grapevine news, a favorite craft, or program, or book. If you want to be in the next newsletter please submit by May 1, so it can be in the May 15th edition.
- E. The Common Ground Project is finished and is up on the website and that project is finalized.
- F. Reminder for Group Photo -
- G. IAN Strategic Planning Survey- 31 people have responded to the membership survey, please fill it out. Chelsea will send out a new link via listserve. This survey helps to drive IAN forward so we are best serving our members.
- H. Carpooling Efficiency Award- 5 people for 6.5 hours- Nahant Marsh
- I. Rare/Cool Sightings & Happenings-
  - Victoria heard air escaping from the ground and it was hissing and an unidentified dead thing- It had an orange belly and black back.
  - Michael saw 3 Trumpeters Swan with Kindergarteners
  - Dakota saw a Townsend's Solitaire at their birders workshop
  - Carroll Co. saw many swans or snow geese
  - Clay and Lia saw a Limpkin
  - Tony saw a Cricket frog
  - Shania also saw a teachers cricket frog

**VI. Adjourn** – Matt Crayne made a motion to adjourn Curtis Schnack seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at at 7:23 pm