

Iowa Association of Naturalists 2019 Annual Report

Submitted by Secretary, Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe

Executive Committee (ExCom)

President: Michelle Berns

Vice President: Amy Loving

Treasurer: Emily Ostrander

Secretary: Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe

Workshop Coordinator: Brianne Blom

Membership 2019: 186 regular, and 4 honorary members = 190 members

Meetings:

Spring Workshop:

Held at Jester Park Nature Center in Polk County. There were 94 in attendance.

Pre-workshop Sessions: Basic Air Rifle Instructor (BARI) Training, Monarch Monitoring Citizen Science “Train-the-Trainer” Workshop, Behind the Scenes Tour of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Insects in Resin preservation techniques.

Featured: “Tidbit Talk” on Tourism, Trips, and Tips for Group Travel Planning, Conservation Education Grant Program, How to Run a BioBlitz, Advocating and Integrating Nature in Health and Wellness, Panel Discussion- “If I Present It, Will They Come?” on public programming, Bobcats in Iowa: An Exploration in the Life History and Biology of Bobcats on the Iowa Landscape, Education Raptors 101: What You Need to Know and Consider, Behind the Scenes Tour of Jester Park, Building a Conscious Wardrobe: Where Conservation and Your Closet Meet, Introduction to Permits and Licenses, Tracking Hike with Pete Eyheralde, Trails and Greenways INHF Update, Evening Social – “Game Night at the Jester Park Outdoor Recreation and Wellness Center”, Early Morning Yoga, Shinrin Yoku – Mindfulness in Nature, “Are You Telling the Story?”- Improving Your Storytelling and Messaging in Programs, Big Trees of Iowa, Using AmeriCorps to Grow Your Program, “Tidbit Talk” on STEM Activities, On the Spectrum – Programming with Autism, Shooting Sports Trailer Mobile Archery and Air Rifle Range, Vermicomposting in Schools .

Summer Workshop:

Held in conjunction with ICEC with Walking Stick Adventures and Iowa County Conservation at Walking Stick Adventures Farm in Williamsburg, IA. There were 28 in attendance.

Activities included: Dutch Oven Cooking at Iowa’s Farmer’s Markets, Dutch Oven prep for dinner, Tipi Story and Setup, Evening Social of Homemade Wine Tasting, Creek Creep and Hike to Iowa River, Carpool tour of Price Creek Watershed Project

Site, Talking Stick campfire discussion, Perseid Meteor Viewing and Starry Nights program, Archaeology in Iowa

Fall Workshop:

Held in Hamilton and Webster County Conservation. There were 109 in attendance.

Pre-workshop Sessions: Gypsum City OHV Park: A Closer Look at Iowa's Largest Off-highway Vehicle Destination, McMurry Hatchery Tour and Bell's Mill Park History and Gristmill Tour, Self-guided Geology Tour of Boone River Bike Trail, Pine Needle Basket Weaving. Evening campfire and outdoor activities (atlatl, tomahawk, and knife throwing, hiking, sharing program ideas, and networking).

Featured: Importance of Karst Interpretation for Water Quality Issues, Personal Safety and Self Defense, School of the Wild: From Iowa City to Iowa Cities, Naturalist Swap Program, New Project WILD – Field Investigations, Authentic Data, and STEM, Solar Panels of Little Wall Lake Education Tour, Paddling Sports & Safety Instruction 101, Interpreting Native Cultures: Best Practices for Incorporating Indigenous Cultural History into Environmental Education, Together We Can Make a Difference – Reducing Lead Poisoning in Wildlife, We Can Have Both with Regenerative Farming, Celebrating Lifelong Learning through Arts and Natural Resources, NGSS-Aligned Lessons and Storylines, Helping the Public with Wildlife Concerns and Wildlife Education Partnerships, Revitalizing the Master Conservationist Program in Iowa, How to Start a Waste Reduction Awareness Program (WRAP), River Rascals: Connecting Kids and Rivers, Bee Health Research in Iowa Soybeans and Prairie, Food Allergy Awareness, On the Spectrum – Programming with Autism Part II.

Friends of Conservation Summit:

Held at Jester Park Nature Center – Polk County Conservation. There were 19 in attendance. This one-day summit focused on topics such as financial best practices, recruiting board members, working with Community Foundations, and more.

Featured: Recruiting Members and Broadening your Membership Profile, Campaign Preparedness, Donor Fund Management, Working with Community Foundations, Benefits of Membership, and Fundraising Panel.

ExCom met four times this year: The January meeting was held via Zoom. The Spring and Fall meetings were held at IAN workshops, and the summer workshop was held in Marshall County.

Committees

Thirteen standing committees were in existence in 2019.

Promotions

Fundraising

Junior Naturalist

Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship

Website/Social Media
Wilderness Trips
Membership
Newsletter

Professional Development

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- Amy Warnke

2019 Highlights

Professional Development

The chair of the Professional Development committee is Charlene Elyea with O'Brien County Conservation.

There were 37 participants in the 2019 professional development program, with four of them being new. Awards were presented to those present at the Spring IAN workshop.

15 Years:

Christina Roelofs

10 Years:

Laura DeCook
Lilly Jensen

5 Years:

Aaron Askelson
Jennifer Meyer

New/1st Year:

Cecilia Hagen
Faith Hendrichs
Allison Nordurft
Paige Owings

Other Awardees:

Lynsey Anderson
Rebecca Baugh
Mary Bulger
Katie Cantu
Megan Cook
Danika Cox
Sarah Davelaar

Victoria DeVos
Charlene Elyea
Sunday Ford
Ashley Hansen
Abbey Harkrader
Emily Herring
Lora Kanning
Amy Loving

Dave Mucia
Kinsey Nielsen
Cari Nicely
Michele Olson
Emily Ostrander
Karen Phelps
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 chair of the Welcome Committee.

There is a “new naturalists” table available at the evening dinners during IAN workshops to encourage welcoming and networking.

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 2020 workshop in Ringgold County.

The awards committee is interested in adding an additional category of “One Naturalist”.

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

Michelle Helscher, 5th grade teacher at Louisa Muscatine Elementary School

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award

Jefferson County Conservation’s Camp Kyle

“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award

Clinton County’s Building Better Birders Cruises with Kelly J. McKay

Frederic Leopold Environmental Education Award

None awarded

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

Jones County Conservation

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

None Awarded

Outstanding Interpretive Print Media

Story County Conservation

Outstanding Interpretive Non-Print Media

None Awarded

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Kelly J. McKay – Clinton County

Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award

Clay County Conservation

Membership Committee

The chair of the membership committee is Victoria DeVos with Plymouth County Conservation. In 2019, there were a total of 190 members (186 regular and 4 honorary). There will be some changes coming to the listserv soon, such as the inability to save documents. She reminded members that they may have to login to their yahoo account to get in the group.

Junior Naturalist

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

Patches are currently available with an order form accessible from the IAN website.

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. Committee meetings will be taking places in 2020.

IAN Web Page

Cari Nicely with Henry County Conservation and Lilly Jensen with Winneshiek County Conservation co-chair this committee.

Transition to the new server went smoothly and the committee is currently working on guidelines for what content is acceptable to be placed on the IAN webpage.

Fundraising

The chair of the fundraising committee is Mary Bulger with Iowa County Conservation. With several fundraising activities throughout 2019 (Stump the Naturalist, Silent Auction, and after supper the live auction) the fundraising committee was able to raise \$1,416.42.

Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship

The chair of the Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship is Lora Kanning. Allison Scheel was awarded a \$500.00 grant for the 2019 year.

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.

Accounting Balances as of December 31, 2019

Checking: \$26,534.32

General Savings: \$19,349.42

Joe Savings: \$6,556.55

Certificate of Deposit 19 month: \$5,059.26

Certificate of Deposit 59 month: \$5,551.63

Total Net: \$63,051.18

EXCOM Elections

At the end of 2019, Karen Johlas-Szalkowski and Emily Herring are exiting the committee after four years. The newly elected ExCom members are Brianne Bloom (Clay CCB) and Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe (Mitchell CCB). Emily Ostrander (Lyon CCB) was elected to another two-year term.