



# 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

Michael Maas

Heidi Reams

Chelsea Ewen-Rowcliffe

Rene Stroud

Bobbi Donovan

## Iowa Association of Naturalists 2023 Annual Report

Submitted by Secretary, Rene Stroud

### Executive Committee (ExCom)

President: Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe

Vice President: Micheal Maas

Treasurer: Victoria DeVos

Secretary: Rene Stroud

Workshop Coordinator: Heidi Reams

Officer-at-Large: Bobbi Donovan

**ExCom Meetings:** ExCom met seven times this year: January 4th meeting were held via zoom due to poor weather, they met via zoom on January 30th, the March meeting took place in Sioux County, on March 26th a meeting was called via zoom, the August 29th meeting was held at Story County, on October 30th a meeting was held over zoom, and the fall meeting was held on Nov 1st in Carroll County.

**Business Meetings:** Spring IAN Business Meeting was held on March 8th at Sioux County & Fall IAN Business Meeting was held in Carroll County on November 1st.

### **Spring Workshop:**

The "Seeing the Unseen" Conference in Sioux County Conservation on March 8-10th, 2023.

**Pre-workshop Sessions:** Alternative Agriculture in a Traditional Agriculture World, Native American/Dutch Heritage Museum and tour of Orange City, Oak Grove Park Mt Bike Trail

**Featured:** In Delight of Little Things; Escape the Nature Center; Tips on Teaching Preschoolers; A Conservation Guidance for Blanding's Turtles in NE Iowa; Getting the Word Out; A Brainstorm of Fundraising Ideas, Basic Methods of Understanding Iowa's Landforms and Regions; Increasing Middle and High School Opportunities; Making Nature Accessible for Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired; What Do I Need to Know About Crucial Conversations; Full Access Tour of Nature Center; Wild Wool; Welcome to IAN; Basic Fly Tying 101; Operation & Safety Park Equipment; Signs, signs Everywhere are Signs, MyCountyParks.com

**Summer Workshop:** The PUBLIC-People, Unified By Learning In Conservation conference was held during the Summer Workshop on Aug. 9-11th in Marshall County.



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**Featured:** Conservation Easements; Forestry Hike; Geology Program; Creative Pie Iron Sandwiches; Iowa River Walk; Innovative Public Program Round Table; Make and Take Charcuterie Boards, Escape Room, Live and Local Concert, Reflective Scavenger Hunt

**Fall Workshop:** "Confluence of Conservation" was the theme of the Fall IAN conference held by Carroll County on November 1-3rd.

**Pre-workshop Sessions:** History of Carroll County; ISU Extension Grant Writing Workshop; Save Our streams Training; ISU Outreach Monarchs, Native Bees and More Training

**Featured:** Global Coffee Tasting; Monarch Conservation Consortium-Saving Monarchs; Novel Partnerships to Facilitate Conservation Outcomes; Roundtable Discussion of Wilderness Trips; STEM Connections; Bumble Bee Atlas; Graduate Fellowships; Native Bee Challenge; Music & Programming; Community Science for Clean Water; The Power of Using Student Questions to Support Student Learning; Connecting Educational Resources; Water Rocks Musical; Connecting to Higher Level Education; Integrating Community Art into Naturalist Programming; NASA Earth Science Resources; Wild and Wacky Naturalist Stories; BOW Workshop; EE Permits; Hide Tanning

**Honorary Members:** Jean Eels (2021); Mark Wagner & Linda Zalatel (2020); Mike Krebill (2018); Miriam Patton (2017); Larry Stone (2016); Ann Burns (2015)

## **Committees & Affiliates:**

Eleven standing committees and seven affiliates in existence in 2023.

### Committees

Professional Development - Katie Struss

Junior Naturalist - Michele Olson

Joe Halbur Scholarship - Lora Kanning

IAN Scholarships - Faith Hunt

Membership - Victoria DeVos

Welcoming Committee - Brianne Blom

ICEC/IAN Awards - Sarah Subbert

Traveling Exhibits Committee - Lisa Ralls

Fundraising - Brittany Snell (Vacant at the end of 2023)

Wilderness Trips - Tony Vorwald

Workshop- Heidi Reams



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## Affiliates

ICCS: Bobbi Donovan

ICEC Liaison: Lilly Jensen

IDNR Liaison: Christina Roelofs

NAI Liaison: Heather Gamm

REAP Alliance: Amy Warnke

REAP CEP: Victoria DeVos

ICCB: Christina Roelofs

## 2023 Highlights

### Professional Development

The chair of the Professional Development committee is Katie Struss with Buena Vista County Conservation. There were 37 participants in the 2023 professional development program, 5 of those applicants were first timers. This year 2 naturalists reached 20 years, and 2 reached 15 years while another 2 reached 5 years.

### IAN Mentoring Program (Welcome Committee)

Brianne Blom of Clay County Conservation is the current chair of the Welcome Committee.

### 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) presented the awards at the Spring workshop.

**Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award For Outstanding Efforts by an Environmental Educator** WINNER: Bree Blom from Clay County Conservation

**Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award** WINNER: Lynne Campbell from Iowa State Extension

**Ding ” Darling Environmental Education Award** WINNER: The Blank Park Zoo

**Outstanding Environmental Education Program (two or less Naturalists)**

WINNERS: Billie Willie & Julie Fosado from Kossuth County Conservation

**Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award** WINNERS: Dan Cohen from Buchanan County Conservation

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**Outstanding Interpretative NonPrint Media WINNER:** Polk County Conservation  
**Sylvan Runkel Award.** WINNERS: None Awarded  
**Outstanding Volunteer Award WINNER:** None Awarded  
**Outstanding Interpretative Print Media WINNER:** None Awarded  
**Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award WINNER:** None Awarded

## Membership

The chair of the membership committee is Victoria DeVos with Plymouth County Conservation. In 2023, there were a total of 220 members (213 are paid for 2023 and 7 honorary members).

## Junior Naturalist

The chair of the Junior Naturalist committee is Michele Olsen with Jones County Conservation. Patches are still being sold until inventory runs out. Bamboo stickers were sold this year. This year ExCom purchased oak leaf stickers for the membership in hopes of promoting the program.

## Newsletter

Michael Maas is the editor for “The Web” newsletter submissions. At the end of 2023, Chelsea Ewen Rowcliff will help with the newsletter. Newsletters are distributed via email and they are available online at [www.iowanaturalists.org](http://www.iowanaturalists.org).

## IDNR Liaison

Outreach trailers are available for check-out, outdoor skills training will be offered, and archery range grants are available. Upcoming rule changes will require campers to move 50 miles after camping for 14 consecutive days at a site.

## NAI Liaison

NAI has asked IAN to co-host the 2024 spring NAI conference in Western IA/Eastern NE.

## REAP Alliance

Amy Warnke-They are continuing to advocate for IWILL. Continue to ask your legislatures to fund the bill. Please attend your local REAP meeting.

## REAP CEP

Victoria DeVos- Grants can be submitted twice a year, May and November. Before submitting a grant you are encouraged to watch a grant review via zoom and/or ask the grant review committee questions.



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## Fundraising

The fundraising chair Britney Snell will be stepping down. The fall fundraising event asked membership to bring items to represent their district. A cake walk inspired game was played for members to win a chance to receive a prize. A silent auction was also held. The committee sold shirts and sweatshirts prior to the fall workshop.

## Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship

The chair of the Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship is Lora Kanning. The 2023 winner was Abigail Bates. Lora keeps a document of winners and their home counties for counties as a resource when looking for interns.

## IAN Scholarships

The chair is Faith Hunt. They awarded three scholarships in 2023.

## Traveling Exhibits Committee

The chair of the Traveling Exhibits Committee is Jen Meyer with Jackson County Conservation is stepping down. 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. The committee is working on revamping the Tallgrass Prairie exhibit to Backyard Critters and Iowa Native Pollinators.

## **Accounting Balances as of November 2023**

**Checking:** \$22,105.18

**General Savings:** \$19,361.75

**Joe Savings:** \$1,908.60

**Total Net:** \$63,769.16

## EXCOM Elections

At the end of 2023, The position of president was filled by Rene Stroud, VP was filled by Michael Maas (Buchanan CCB), and the secretary position was filled by Chloe Proffitt (Van Buren CCB).

ExCom members are:

President-Outgoing president: Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe (Mitchell CCB), Incoming: Rene Stroud (Pottawattamie CCB)

Vice President: Michael Maas (Buchanan CCB)

Workshop Coordinator: Heidi Reams (Floyd CCB)

Position-at-Large: Bobbi Donovan (Story CCB)

Secretary: Outgoing: Rene Stroud (Pott Co), Incoming: Chloe Proffitt

Treasurer: Victoria DeVos (Plymouth CCB)