

# Iowa Association of Naturalists 2016 Annual Report

## **Executive Committee (ExCom)**

President: Matt Crayne

Vice President: Emily Herring

Treasurer: Victoria DeVos

Secretary: Karen Johlas-Szalkowski

Workshop Coordinator: Annette Wittrock

Submitted by Secretary, Karen Johlas-Szalkowski

**Membership 2016:** 116 regular, and 1 honorary members = 117 members

## **Meetings:**

### **Spring Workshop:**

Held in Henry County at Oakland Mills Nature Center and Iowa Wesleyan University. There were 43 in attendance.

**Pre-workshop Sessions:** Growing up Wild Training, Geode Hunting, and hiking at Shimek Forest.

**Featured:** Fairview Zoological Farm, Make & Take Everything Comes From Something Kit, New Afterschool Programs with IADNR, Hydro Power at Oakland Mills, Winter & Spring Tree ID, Top 10 Activities for an Uncluttered Living, Lake Geode Watershed, Natural Soaps, Working with Local Colleges, and Taxidermy to Go.

### **Summer Workshop:**

Held in Shelby County at Nishna Bend Recreation Area. There were 12 in attendance.

**Activities included:** A tour of Sawmill Hollow Aronia Berry Farm, Loess Hills Lavender Farm, Custom Seed Service, Milk & Honey Farmtable Delivery and Procurement, Rosmann Family Farms, Iowa Wines, Dinesen Prairie, Prairie Rose State Park/ Goats on the Go, Museum of Danish America, The Flour Mill, and canoeing on the West Nishnabotna River.

### **Fall Workshop:**

Held in Floyd County at Tosonak Recreation Area in Marble Rock, IA. There were 88 in attendance.

**Pre-workshop Sessions:** Fossil & Prairie Tour, The Famous Floyd County Tour, and Kayak Float

**Featured:** A Wild Update, Saving Pollinators One Garden at a Time, How Do You Reach Teens, Power to the Pollinators, IAN, the details, Nature Hike, Fossils, Parliamentary Procedure Basics, Fundraising Auction, Geocaching, Find Your Path to Publication, Be Storm Aware, Attention to Prevention: Keeping All Heads Cool During Conflict, and Beekeeping.

**The ExCom met four times this year:** The summer meeting was held in Fort Dodge, Iowa. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting was held in Ames, IA. Spring and Fall Meetings were held at IAN workshops.

## **Committees**

Fifteen standing committees were in existence in 2016. Sixteen administrative tasks were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2016.

### Promotions

Fundraising  
Junior Naturalist  
Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship  
Website/Social Media  
Wilderness Trips  
Membership  
Newsletter  
IAN Liaison  
DNR Liaison- Jacklyn Gautsch  
NAI Liaison- Heather Hucka  
ICEC Liaison- Linette Bernard  
IACCBE – Christina Groen  
IEC Liaison- Gail Barels  
REAP/CEP- Charlene Elyea  
REAP Alliance- Logan Roberts

### Professional Development

Professional Development  
IAN Scholarships  
Mentoring  
ICEC/IAN Awards  
Traveling Exhibits  
Workshops

## **2016 Highlights**

### **Professional Development**

There were 27 participants in the 2016 professional development program, with 3 of them being new. They were: Heidi Anderson, Lyndsey Anderson, Aaron Askelson (new), Katie Cantu, Megan Cook, Laura DeCook, Victoria DeVos 10 years, Charlene Elyea 15 years, Chelsea Ewen, Sunday Ford 10 years, Diane Hall, Abbey Harkrader, Emily Highnam (new), Trenton Hoekstra (new), Rebecca Horton, Lilly Jensen, Jennifer Meyer, J. Dave Murcia, Cari Nicely 5 years, Michele Olson, Emily Ostrander, Karen Phelps, Christina Roelofs, Emily Santiago, Katie Struss, Sarah Subbert, and Jessica Wagner. There were 27 members who received a professional development award. Victoria presented awards to those present. Requirements of the awards were explained. Contact Miriam for more information.

### **IAN Mentoring Program**

Mentees are directed to Heather Hucka (Story Co) or the IAN website to get all the information about his program. Veteran members can share ideas and mentor new members. Committee name changed to Welcome Committee in 2016 and Heather Hucka developed a new brochure.

### **Awards Program**

The Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) presented the following 2016 Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

#### **Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award**

Becky Horton, Zombie Archery Class held at Wapsi Environmental Education Center

#### **Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award**

Justin Kinney, Ridge View High School

#### **“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award**

Quad City Pollinator Conference Planning Group

**Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award for Outstanding Whole-School EE Program**

Nevada Central Elementary Multi-age Teachers and Story County Conservation

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

Henry County Conservation

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

Nahant Marsh Education Center

**Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award**

Polk County Conservation, Pollinator Gardens

**Outstanding Volunteer Award**

Kaleb Kaster, Harlan High School volunteered with Shelby County Conservation

**Outstanding Interpretive Print Media**

E Resources Group, Women Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) and Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication at Iowa State University

**Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award for Lifetime Achievement in EE Excellence and Leadership**

Miriam Patton, Palo Alto County Conservation

**Membership Committee**

Logan Roberts (Warren) continues to chair the Membership Committee. In 2016, there were a total of 117 members (116 regular and 1 honorary). ExCom revised the list and added Ex-official members that were previously listed as honorary members. They receive access to the list serve, but still pay membership fees. ExCom nominates a honorary member and members make a vote, they do not pay membership or workshop fees, and can't vote.

**Junior Naturalist**

Michele Olsen is the committee chair and catfish and kestrel patches were ordered.

**Newsletter**

Kelly Dix (former Pottawattamie County Environmental Educator) stepped down from being newsletter editor. Pam Holz will take over this position for 2016. Three newsletters were produced and distributed via email. The newsletter is also available online on [www.iowanaturalists.org](http://www.iowanaturalists.org)

**REAP Alliance Liaison**

Logan Roberts (Warren) took over this committee and reports back to the IAN Membership regarding the REAP Alliance happenings.

### **IAN Web Page**

Cari Nicely (Henry) continues her position as the webmaster.

### **Fundraising**

In 2016 the Fundraising Committee was responsible for all fundraising activities at the Fall IAN Workshop. We were able to raise \$796.50 for IAN at the fall workshop with live and silent auctions. IAN t-shirts were sold and profits were \$235.

### **Travelling Exhibits Committee**

The prairie exhibit still making its rounds, and the schedule is posted on the IAN website. Jen Meyer (Jackson CCB) is committee chair.

### **Accounting Balances as of March 2016**

**Checking:** \$14,616.68

**General Savings:** \$9,343.71

**Joe Savings:** \$8,292.65

**Certificate of Deposit 19 month:** \$5,000

**Certificate of Deposit 59 month:** \$5,230.43

**Total Net:** \$42,483.47

### **EXCOM Elections**

Annette Wittrock and Matt Crayne terms have expired. Michelle Berns and Amy Loving will be joining ExCom and Emily Herring, Victoria DeVos, and Karen Johlas-Szalkowski will remain on ExCom.