

Iowa Association of Naturalists

2008 Annual Report

Executive Committee (Ex Comm)

President: Katie Hammond

Vice President: Beth Waage

Treasurer: Tina Popson

Secretary: Karen Phelps

Workshop Coordinator: Lisa Anderson

Membership 2008: 143 regular, 4 student members and 14 Honorary Members = 161 members
There were 18 memberships from 2007 that were not renewed.

Meetings:

Spring Workshop:

Held at the Prairie Heritage Center in O'Brien County, Peterson, Iowa, March 5-7, 2008

Pre Workshop Sessions: Project Bluestem Certification, Watchable Wildlife Tour, If These Walls Could Talk (tour of old buildings with new purpose)

Featured: Approximately 12 concurrent sessions and three general sessions including Cindy Blobaum – naturalist and author, Eric Martin with CHARACTER COUNTS, and Patrick and Steve Saulsbury, Darin Mauer and Brian Buckmeier presenting “Day for Hunting Dinosaurs”.

Attendance: 63

Summer Workshop: Dallas County,

ACA Canoe and Kayak training

Attendance: 14 and 2 instructors

Fall Meeting:

Held at Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Black Hawk County Conservation, Cedar Falls, Iowa, November 12-14, 2008.

Pre Workshop Sessions: Waste and Life Cycles: Favorite Stories, Activities and Resources to Engage Students. “Udderly” Crazy about Tractors, John Deere Tour, Hansen’s Farm Fresh Dairy tour as well as UNI Museum and Tall Grass Prairie Center Tour.

Featured: Approximately 10 concurrent sessions and two general sessions including Caleb Mattison – Luther College, Barb Gigar – Iowa DNR, as well as keynote speaker David Williamson who spoke on New Realities in Environmental Leadership.

Attendance: 103

The Ex Comm met five times this year: March 5, May 5, August 1, November 12, and December 12. The December meeting was held with the newly elected board at the ISU Archives in Ames.

Committees

Eight standing committees were in existence in 2008. Nineteen administrative tasks were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2008.

Promotions

Fundraising
Junior Naturalist
Joe Halbur Memorial Scholarship
Web Page

Professional Development

Professional Development
Scholarships
Mentoring
ICEC/IAN Awards

Administrative Tasks

The following are the administrative tasks that were the responsibility of the ExCom during 2008.

Archive/Records	Election Committee
DNR Liaison – Jacklyn Gautsch	Guide to Interpretive Services
NAI Liaison – Amy Yoakum	Policy and Procedure Manual
ICEC Liaison – Pam Holz	Grant Program
IACCBE – Christina Groen	Awards and Recognition
IEC Liaison – Gail Barels	Newsletter – “The Web”
REAP/CEP – Linda Zaletel	Membership
REAP Alliance – Beth Waage	Master Conservationist
IAN Listserve	Traveling Exhibits
Workshops and Evaluations	

2008 Highlights

Professional Development

The deadline for submission was December 31. Recognition took place at the March 2008 business meeting. The following individuals were certified: Heidi Anderson, Lyndsey Anderson, Julie Brazell, Ann Burns, Katie Cantu, Dana Dettmer, Charlene Elyea, Bradley H. Freidhof, Heather Gamm, Christina Groen, Katie Hammond, Erica Hartman, Heather Hucka, Jerry Keys, Theresa Kruid, Marissa Nordschow, Jessica O/Connor, Michele Olson, Miriam Patton, Kim Perlstein-Rowley, Karen Phelps, Diane Pixler, Tina Popson, Laura Schwendinger, Victoria Shamblen, Dawn Snyder, Emily Vant Hul, Greg Wolf, Amy Yoakum, Elizabeth Yoder and Linda Zaletel.

Heather Gamm, Kim Perlstein and Karen Phelps were 5-year recipients receiving pins. Jerry Keys was a 10-year recipient and received a plaque.
31 total participants with six being new participants.

Scholarships

Scholarships were given to Elizabeth Yoder (\$75) and Angie Auel (\$29.50) to attend Spring IAN. Jessica O’Connor to attend Winter Fest (\$50). Laura Zaugg to attend Winter Solstice (\$50).

The following persons were awarded scholarships to attend NAI Region V: Jody Moats (\$75), Jerry Keys (\$75), Marissa Nordschow (\$45), Amy Yoakum (\$25), Heather Hucka (\$25), Lewis Major (\$25) and Lori Foresman-Kirpes (\$25).

Awards Program

The Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and the Iowa Conservation Education Council (ICEC) will present the following 2008 Environmental Education Excellence Awards:

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award:

No award given

Frederic Leopold EE Award

No award given

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award:

Junior Conservation Program in Marshall County

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award:

No award given

Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program population greater than 35,000

No award given

Outstanding County Conservation Board EE Program population less than 35,000

No award given

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award:

No award given

"Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award:

Project AWARE

Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award:

Two schools have been selected to receive this award:

Davis Elementary, Grinnell, IA and Tilford Elementary, Vinton, IA

Outstanding Interpretative Print Media Award:

Wapsipinicon River Water Trail brochure for Buchanan County

Outstanding Interpretative Non-Print Media Award:

Watchable Wildlife of Northwest Iowa website by

Iowa Lakes RC&D and Bruce Morrison

IAN Mentoring Program

Mentees are directed to the IAN website to get all the information about this program. There is a box to check on the workshop registration form to request a mentor. This helps identify those new naturalists needing a mentor.

Several regional groups of IAN members continue to meet at mini-workshops. Veteran members can share ideas and mentor new members. Kelly Sonnichsen remains chair.

Mentee

Nate Ungsworth – Jasper Co.

Mentor

Pete Eyheralde – Mahaska Co.

Master Conservationist

IAN continues to sponsor the Master Conservationist Program. The cost paid out covers the

IAN booklets provided to each participant. Polk County Conservation received \$250.00 and Dickinson County Conservation received \$134.00. The total spent in 2008 was \$384.00. \$1,616.00 remains in this fund.

Junior Naturalist Program

IAN is in the process of developing new patches. The place where the patches came from is no longer in business and IAN is currently seeking out new alternatives.

Joe Halbur Scholarship

As of Dec. 12, 2008, the amount in the Joe Halbur Scholarship CD was \$5,120.98.

As of Dec. 12, 2008, the amount in the Joe Halbur Scholarship savings account was \$1,517.74.

The fall fundraiser raised \$614.45.

The sale of Naturalist t-shirts, canvas totes, Halloween Hike Scripts, Scat Cookbook, along with an auction (silent and live), reverse bingo, and a photo contest, were used to raise money for the fund. The scholarship amount awarded is \$500. Sarah Subbert, attending UNI, was selected as this year's recipient.

Newsletter

Three newsletters were produced and distributed via email. The newsletter is also online. A few newsletters are delivered by mail.

Grants

Marissa Nordschow, Winneshiek County Conservation Board, received a grant of \$105.00 for the Iowa Children's Bill of Rights while Greg Wolf, City of Davenport received \$395.00 of \$500.00 requested for the Garden of Oz program.

IAN Web Page

The IAN web page is located at www.ianpage.20m.com. The web page includes many sections such as the IAN ExCom & Standing Committees, IAN's newsletter, upcoming workshops, professional standards, sponsored programs, publications, membership, job announcements and links. The web page includes the *Guide to Interpretive Services*, how to apply for an IAN grant, the IAN/ICEC Award Nomination Form, the Joe Halbur Scholarship application, the Junior Naturalist brochure, information about the mentoring program, the professional development form, IAN scholarship information and an application. Updates were made throughout 2008. We continue to use first names in pictures for personal safety reasons. Cari Burnstedt, Henry County Conservation is the current webmaster.

Fund Raising

A total of \$1,190.00 was raised during the 2008 Fall Auction.