

The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists



IAN Summer Workshop (page 7)!

Geocaching Craze

Heidi Anderson, IAN President

Families and individuals across the country are heading outdoors to participate in a new high-tech scavenger hunt. They are searching for a little box, or cache, often hidden in a park or wildlife area. The only thing guiding them is an electronic gadget called a GPS device. This new craze sweeping the country is called geocaching.

The basic idea behind geocaching is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world, and then share those locations over the internet. GPS users can use the latitude and longitude coordinates to find the caches. Once the cache is found, the visitor may find a reward inside. If something is removed, the visitor is asked to leave something in return. Also enclosed is a log book to write your name, date, and experience finding the cache.

I attended the GPS pre-workshop training at the spring IAN meeting and was surprised how easy a GPS unit is to use. A GPS unit is an electronic device that can determine your approximate location within six

to 30 feet anywhere on the planet. It communicates with satellites orbiting earth to determine positions in latitude and longitude, using triangulation. Some GPS units have their own maps and built-in electronic compasses.

GPS devices are being used by the military, farmers, automotive industry, and outdoor enthusiasts. Anglers use them to mark good fishing spots. Hunters use them to mark wildlife signs and the location of their tree stands. Backpackers use them for navigation in the backcountry. A hand-held GPS device can be purchased for \$100 to \$1,000, depending on the features.

So, why is geocaching catching on so quickly? Many people enjoy using and playing with the latest techno gadget. Others enjoy exploring the outdoors in a new way. It's also a fun family activity. It is a way to combine exploring the outdoors with technology.

As with any new activity in our parks, some conflicts can arise. A well-visited cache was hidden on a hillside in Jester Park. A path was being worn through the woods to it, and it was located in an environmentally sensitive area. In this case, we removed the cache and contacted the person who had placed it there. We asked him to work with our park ranger to find a new location in the park. Some organizations have banned or limited the number of geocaches allowed in their parks. The National Park Service does not

allow any geocaches in their parks because they do not want visitors traipsing through sensitive historical, cultural, or environmental areas.

Geocachers are encouraged to ask permission to hide caches, but often don't. If someone does approach you, try to work with them so that everyone can enjoy the parks.

You might be surprised to discover there are already some geocaches in your parks. Go to www.geocaching.com and type in your zip code to see a list of geocaches in that area.

How do you get a hold of GPS units? ISU Extension has purchased several kits to place in county extension offices across Iowa. These kits are available for checkout to teachers and naturalists who have attended GPS training workshops. For more information, contact your local county extension office or visit www.extension.iastate.edu/e-set.

There are many advantages for naturalists to jump into the geocaching craze. You could develop a geocaching trail from park to park. The reward at each cache could be a scenic overlook or a historical marker. Another idea is incorporating the use of GPS devices into orienteering programs. The possibilities are endless!

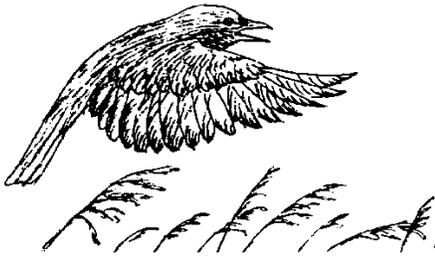
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IAN News

IAN Committee Reports



IAN Mentoring Program

Chair:

Heather Freidhof, Bremer CCB

Committee members:

Heather Freidhof, Darrin Siefken, Wes Weise, Kelly Sonnichsen, Nan Geske, Dan Brinkman

Purpose:

Help existing and new IAN members feel welcome to IAN and Iowa. To assist new Naturalists in learning the CCB system, discover resources, and learn new techniques of Environmental Education. If you know of any new naturalists in your area, please call Heather at 319-882-4742.

Progress:

We continued the mole program at the Fall and Spring IAN meetings. We have four pairs of mentors, and new naturalists in place. We have been working on putting together a book list, supplier list, training opportunities, helpful web sites as well as guidelines for mentors. We are continuing to think of ideas for workshop programs that would be beneficial for newer naturalists. We hope to continue local naturalists meetings. We would encourage you to start one in your area.

Scholarship Committee

Chair:

Patti Petersen-Keys, Polk CCB

Committee Members:

Patti Petersen-Keys, Steve Martin, Jason O'Brien, Michele Olson, Sondra Cabell

Purpose:

Award scholarships to members that need financial assistance to attend professional development workshops.

Progress:

No scholarships have been awarded at this time. For scholarship information, call Patti at 515-323-5359.

IAN/ICEC Awards

Chairs:

Shane Vondreck, Sac CCB (IAN)
Pamela Holz, Washington CCB (ICEC)

Committee members:

Shane Vondreck, Pamela Holz, Di Holt, Kathy McKee, Darrin Siefkin, Mark Roberts, Greg Wolf, Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Marc Benedict

Purpose:

Recognize and reward outstanding achievements in conservation and environmental education, and publicize and expand awareness of excellent programs across the state.

Progress:

Choose and notified five winners for 2002, one awarded at ICEC Winter Solstice, one at school ceremony and three at the IAN Spring Meeting.

Fundraising Committee

Chair:

Katie Dalton, Louisa CCB

Committee Members:

Katie Dalton, Mike Havlik, Tessa Pugh, Tara Hainstock

Purpose:

To raise money for IAN through an auction at the Fall workshop.

Progress:

At the last Fall IAN meeting, \$1,480.50 was raised during the live and silent auctions.

Jr. Naturalist

Chair:

Joel Van Roekel, Warren CCB

Committee members:

Joel Van Roekel, Michele Olson, Brad Freidhof

Purpose:

Create and distribute patches, and update materials for the Iowa Jr. Naturalist Program.

Progress:

New patch for this year is the wild rose. Patches are available by calling Joel at 515-961-6169.

Webmaster

Chair:

Mark Roberts, Clinton CCB

Purpose:

To maintain a website for the Iowa Association of Naturalists. The site is currently located at

www.ianpage.20m.com

Progress:

Updates on job opportunities, ExCom, Standing Committees, Annual Report, and upcoming workshops. Contact Mark Roberts to post anything on the website 563-847-7202/cccb@netins.net.



REAP-CEP Spring Grant Round

Linda Zaletel, IAN REAP-CEP Representative

The REAP-CEP Board was notified in February that it would be funded with its full allotment for the grant round this spring. The money came from license plate and interest payments on the REAP account. The Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Natural Resources Commission approved an emergency rule on February 13, switching administration of the CEP from the Department of Education to the DNR.

New guidelines in Section 2, *Purpose and Process*, were added to the application form. The Board wants the public and lawmakers to acknowledge that these grants demonstrate to the people in their area that REAP plays an important part in their lives.

The following are new general guidelines:

- **Public Communications Required**

In carrying out the work of a grant, the grantee will need to include documentation of public communications. The purpose of this activity is to inform Iowans, and particular targeted audiences, about the outcomes/benefits of the grants.

- **Evaluations**

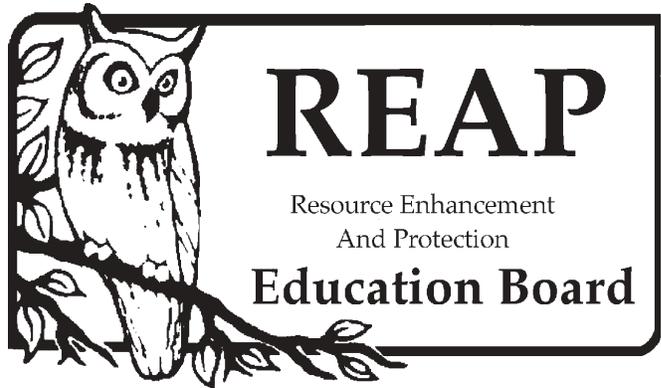
Outcomes and benefits determination and reporting. For grants awarded in calendar year 2003, grantees will work with a contractor of the CEP Board to determine and report on outcome-based evaluations of their grants.

This year, the Board is working with a team to develop models to evaluate conservation education (CE) programs funded by REAP CEP, and help evaluate funded programs for '03-'04 as needed to provide strong evidence of the outcomes and results of CE programs. These models will address curriculum development, teacher workshops, and other common variations of projects which reach the REAP board.

Joe Halbur Scholarship Available _____

Heidi Anderson
IAN Chair

For several years, IAN has raised money for the Joe Halbur Scholarship fund. We've finally reached our goal of \$5,000! Any moneys raised over \$5,000 will be used to award scholarships to students who plan to further their education in programs of environmental education, cultural interpretation, historical interpretation or outdoor recreation. This year IAN is offering a \$200 scholarship. Application deadline is July 15, 2003. Announcement of the recipient will be made by July 31, 2003. Inquiries and application materials may be obtained from Darrin Siefken, Joe Halbur Scholarship Chair, dsiefken@iastate.edu or (319) 882-3659.



Providing multiple evaluation models will help to fit many projects proposed to the REAP CEP, and give flexibility for future grant writers. The Board hopes the evaluation models will reflect good practice in evaluation systems for future years.

Be sure to read all the sections before filling out a grant application! The REAP-CEP application is available for download from the ICEC Web Site (www.iowaee.org).

Anita O'Gara has been appointed as the new ICEC representative. Anita works at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (aogara@inhf.org), and joins current board members:

- Vern Fish, IACCBE Representative (hartmanreserve@co.black-hawk.ia.us);
- Tony Heiting, Department of Education Representative (tony.heiting@ed.state.ia.us);
- Ross Harrison, DNR Representative (ross.harrison@dnr.state.ia.us); and
- Linda R.F. Zaletel, your IAN Representative (lzaletel@storycounty.com).

Remember to let your legislators know how important REAP is to you and your community!

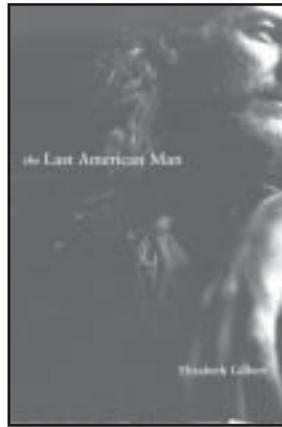


Book Review

Dan Cohen
Editor, *The Web*

The Last American Man

Elizabeth Gilbert
Penguin Publishing
New York, NY; 2002



Elizabeth Gilbert, in *The Last American Man*, tells the story of Eustace Conway, a modern day Daniel Boone who, by the age of 17, was off on his own, living in a teepee and fashioning his life from wildness. As an adult, Conway became an adamant naturalist on a determined crusade to change people's thoughts about conventional lifestyles. By delving into his family background and social relationships, Gilbert reveals Conway's multifaceted personality — his strengths and weaknesses, and good and bad characteristics that make him a model of the pioneering spirit.

Sylvan T. Runkel: Citizen of the Natural World

Larry A. Stone

Sylvan Runkel shared the joys of nature with thousands of Iowans. He captivated two generations with his stories of the plant and animal “citizens” of our natural communities.

Although Sylvan died in 1995, his legacy endures. He was coauthor of three books:

Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands, *Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie*, and *Wildflowers and Other Plants of Iowa Wetlands*. He was a founder of IAN and an inspiration to many naturalists.

In 2002, IAN awarded a grant to Larry Stone to help publish Sylvan's biography. The new book, *Sylvan T. Runkel: Citizen of the Natural World*, by Larry A. Stone and Jon W. Stravers, shares some of Sylvan's favorite stories, while shedding fresh insights on the heritage and experiences that shaped his remarkable life.

The regular cost of the book is \$15, including tax. Shipping is \$2 extra. Special IAN member price is \$14, with free shipping, or \$12 if the book is purchased in person at an IAN workshop. For details, contact Larry A. Stone, 23312 295th St., Elkader, IA 52043, phone 563-245-1517/stone@alpinecom.net.



Bird Trunks Have Migrated!

The REAP-CEP, Iowa Ornithologists Union, Iowa Conservation Education Council, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources sponsored Migratory Bird Learning Trunks have new locations! Due to a use survey, the trunks have been relocated to make them more accessible.

The trunks contain items to do many of the activities in *Solve the Crime: Save the Song of Spring*, an activity guide about Neotropical migratory birds and their Midwest connections. Besides the activity guide, there are children's books, puppets, videos, a CD-rom bird guide, felt story board, and more! Trunks are available for use in each Area Education region at the sites shown below.

- AEA 1, Bev Brink
800-632-5918, ext. 222
- AEA 2, Lime Creek NC
641-423-5309
- AEA 3, Lost Island NC
712-837-4866
- AEA 4 Oak Grove Park
712-552-1047
- AEA 5, Harriet Adams
800-669-2325, ext. 5565
- AEA 6, Marshall CCB
Diane Pixler, 641-754-6303
- AEA 7, Black Hawk CCB
319-277-2187
- AEA 9, Clinton CCB
Mark Roberts, 563-847-7202
- AEA 10, Linn CCB
Gail Barels, 319-438-1364
- AEA 11, Jester Park
Lewis Major, 515-323-5361
- AEA 12, Woodbury CCB
Dawn Chapman, 712-258-0838
- Crawford CCB
Kelly Sonnichson
712.263.3409
- AEA 13, Pottawattamie CCB
Tina Popsen, 712-545-3283
- AEA 14, Karen Lampe
800-362-1864/515-782-8443
- AEA 15, Pioneer Ridge NC
641-682-3091
- AEA 16, Lee CCB
319-463-7673
- At-Large, McFarland Park
515.232.2516



Touch The Land

Contact Marsha Morgan, 4-H Youth and Development
515-294-9722, mmorgan@iastate.edu, or
Tracy S. Petersen, Continuing Education and
Communication Systems, 515-294-9915

Iowa high school students interested in the outdoors and the environment should attend *Touch the Land*. Touch the Land will be held in combination with the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference, June 24 and 26, at Iowa State University in Ames. You do not need to be in 4-H to attend the conference.

This year, agricultural practices affecting wildlife and stream life will be explored through mini workshops and travel experiences.

During the two days of fun and learning, participants will interact with others at the Youth Conference. The cost of the Iowa 4-H Conference is \$100. Contact your county extension office to see if scholarships are available.



Before you Accuse Me, Take a Look at Yourself...

Lewis Major, Naturalist, Polk CCB

That's what I would say if I were a predator in the State of Iowa. It's a surprise to many people that large predatory animals were once common in Iowa. As a naturalist, educating people about the outdoors, I never tire of seeing the amazement on people's faces when I tell them, "at one time we had black bears, wolves, and mountain lions in Iowa".

Shortly after Iowa became a state in 1846, several of the largest predators ever to inhabit the state were quickly banished. Most were viewed as a troublesome and dangerous nuisance. Some were even considered "deadly". In a time long before wildlife regulations and conservation enforcement, these animals had no protection other than their own ability to survive.

Unfortunately, early settlers hunted, trapped, and poisoned these animals as often as they wished. As a result, black bear, along with wolves, were extirpated from the state by the 1860's. Mountain lions were also extirpated from Iowa in the 1860's, followed by lynx in the 1880's, and bobcat in the 1890's.

By the early 1900's, all that some considered to be dangerous had been extirpated from Iowa, making the state a little "safer" for everyone. However, the consequences of removing large predators from Iowa would not become evident until years later.

Along with the removal of predators from the state, the early pioneers were also altering the habitat. The vast seas of prairie that blanketed Iowa were rapidly being replaced with fields of row crops. The altering of habitat, coupled with the disappearance of predators, benefited a species of animal thought to be absent from Iowa around 1900, white-tailed deer.

White-tailed deer quickly returned to the state and established a strong foothold by the early 1900's, and over the last century have managed to become one of the most populous animals in Iowa. Today, most people are aware of the growing problem with white-tailed deer. Most of us have either experienced the horrific event of hitting a deer with our car, or know someone who has.

Recently, however, there has been another animal making some noise in the news. Mountain lions seem to be creeping back into Iowa. Several confirmed and non-confirmed sightings have been reported across the state. Many Iowans seem to be concerned with their safety and the safety of their families. Having been gone from the state for nearly 150 years, mountain lions now face an "I'm not sure about this" attitude from citizens. These large predators are not a threat to us, but perhaps a blessing in disguise.

Many people fear the return of these large predators will lead to fewer of us coming home from trips to the supermarket. However, this is not the case. According to an article published last year on

CNN.com, mountain lions are responsible for about seven deaths annually in the United States.

Domestic dogs, the animals we keep as pets and dress up in little doggie sweaters, are responsible for 18 deaths a year. Snakes follow at 15, and sharks at six.

Based on the numbers, you can see that even collectively these "deadly" animals are not as deadly as we would like to imagine. If these numbers still seem shocking to you, let me put it in perspective. According to the Bureau of Justice, there were 1,251,200 violent crimes reported in the United States in 2000. Of those crimes reported, approximately 15,517 were homicides. Who is truly the "deadly" animal? So, before we accuse them, take a look at ourselves.

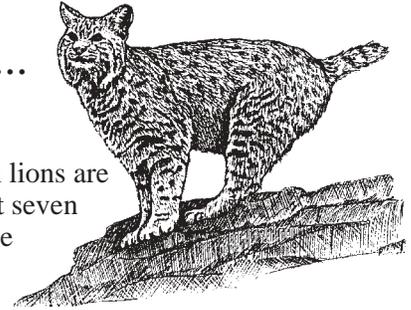
The wild animal that is accredited with one of the highest number of deaths in the United States is truly ironic. It's not a large predator. It doesn't have huge fangs or sharp claws. We don't fear them, but encourage our children to adore them. What is this incredibly dangerous animal? It's our old friend, the white-tailed deer. According to the same article on CNN.com, an average of 135 people are killed each year in automobile deer collisions. This number is nearly three times higher than annual deaths by mountain lions, dogs, snakes, and sharks combined.

So why do so many people try and paint a terrifying picture of natural predators when in fact, they may just be our saving grace? According to a publication by the Missouri Department of Conservation, a male mountain lion can consume 35 deer annually. A couple dozen mountain lions, could harvest roughly 840 deer each year. Not too shabby!

The time may be upon Iowans to make a decision to either accept large predators as part of our ecosystem and natural heritage, or repeat the same mistake again and run them out of the state. Hopefully, this time we will understand their importance in the balance of other wildlife species, and the fact that they are of little or no threat to us. Not only are they of little threat to us, they just may be the best solution to our growing deer problem, which is a threat to everyone.

When we take time to learn the truth about animals, usually we find they are not as deadly, vicious, or mean as most would like for us to believe. They are usually non-aggressive, beneficial species that are important links in the balance of nature.

In case this article hasn't eased your concerns about falling victim to a wild animal, you may like to know that according to the August 2002 column, *Raw Data*, 150 people were killed worldwide by falling coconuts in the year 2000. Heads up!



E-Literate Update

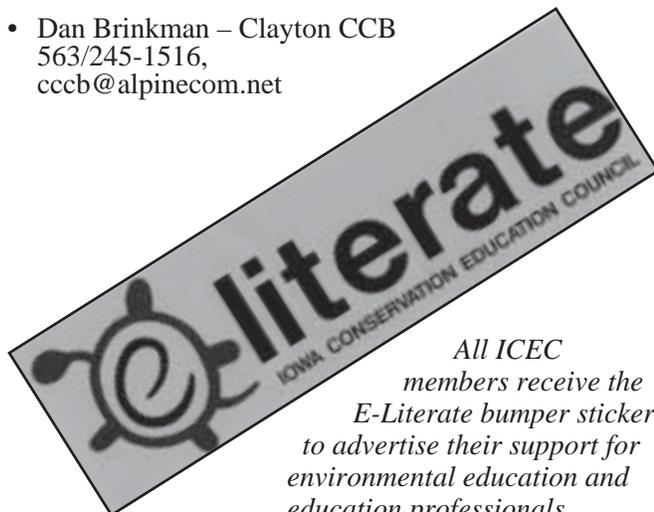
Dan Cohen, E-Literate Co-Chair

The Iowa Conservation Education Council's (ICEC's) new *E-Literate initiative*, targeted at engaging non-educators in promoting and participating in the cause of environmental education, is underway. The E-Literate Committee is inviting businesses and nonprofit organizations to join the initiative. Invitations are being sent to select businesses and groups with demonstrated interests in education, conservation, or the environment.

Naturalists are helping invite people, businesses, and organizations in their communities to join ICEC as E-Literate members. Information about E-Literate membership is available for naturalists interested in helping promote environmental education to people outside the education profession. A camera-ready flier can be obtained via email (pdf) by contacting Dan Cohen (bccbdan@trxinc.com).

Naturalists are also serving as E-Literate Regional Coordinators who field questions and help promote field trip and service learning projects. Feel free to contact the following people if you have field trips or service learning projects you would like to be promoted through ICEC.

- Jerry Keys – Story CCB
515/232-2516, jkeys@storycounty.com
- Heather Freidhof – Bremer CCB
319/882-4742, bccbbccb@netins.net
- Barbara Tagami – Dickinson CCB
712/338-4238, btagami@co.dickinson.ia.us
- Andria Cossolotto – Cass CCB
712/243-3542, acossolotto@casscoia.com
- Katie Dalton – Louisa CCB
319/523-8381, katie_dalton@yahoo.com
- Dan Brinkman – Clayton CCB
563/245-1516,
cccb@alpinecom.net



All ICEC members receive the E-Literate bumper sticker to advertise their support for environmental education and education professionals.

Good Times! Good Workshops!

Are you thinking about joining the fun and learning at this year's IAN Summer Workshop in Clinton County (see page 7)? Keep in mind the good times to be had while rubbing elbows with other naturalists...



Left and above: Spring IAN Workshop participants join together to raise a teepee, from the ground up



Above: Mike and Lew know well the value of networking with other educators at IAN workshops.





IAN Summer Workshop

Mighty Mississippi: The Heartbeat of the Land

July 14-16, 2003

Rock Creek Marina & Campground

Hosted by Clinton County Conservation Board

Phone: 563-847-7202 ~ Fax: 563-847-7204 email ~ cccb@GMTel.net

www.clintoncountyiowa.com/conservation

Monday, July 14:

1:00 p.m.: Arrive and move into cabins

Cabins have electricity and four bunks, and are free for IAN workshop participants. Participants provide their own bedding. Participants may also choose to tent camp free of charge

1:30 p.m.: Load Blue Heron Pontoon Boat

Travel south on the Mississippi and its backwaters, and participate in:

- Musselling
- Fish Sampling
- Turtle Trapping
- Birding
- Seeing Nuclear Power on the River
- Traveling the mouth of the Wapsipinicon River
- Visiting Princeton Beach

6:00 p.m.: Dinner, campfire style, at Princeton Beach (\$5)

Grilled ham and cheese over the fire, chips, s'mores, and soda

7:00 p.m.: Campfire Social on Princeton Beach

Tuesday, July 15:

7:30 a.m.: Breakfast at Rock Creek Camp Store

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, donuts and coffee available for purchase

8:30 a.m.: Carpool to Soaring Eagles Nature Center

A formerly private nature center that is currently merging with Clinton CCB.

- Tour Nature Center
- One Room Schoolhouse
- Farm Animal Zoo

Noon: Lunch at a Clinton Restaurant

We will take a poll for fast food or sit down accommodations. Each person will be responsible for the cost of their meal.

1:00 p.m.: Bickelhaupt Arboretum Tour

The Heartland Collection of dwarf & rare conifers, and a pinetum featuring rare conifers.

- Prairie grasses and flowers native to the Midwest
- A large collection of flowering trees, including crab apples, magnolias, redbuds, and others
- Ornamental Shrubs, 300 different plants, including a well labeled lilac collection
- Hosta Hillside, featuring more than 100 cultivars and other shade loving plants
- Daylily Collection featuring all the Stout Medal winners
- Other collections of shrub roses, perennials, and herbs of garden interest

3:00 p.m.: Disc golf

- Course installation costs and procedures
- How to play, rules, and demonstration
- Round of 18 "pole holes"

6:00 p.m.: Pizza Hut delivered to Rock Creek (we will pass the hat)

7:00 p.m.: Evening canoe float on the Mississippi Backwaters

Wednesday, July 16:

7:30 a.m.: Continental breakfast at cabins (\$5)

8:30 a.m.: Load Blue Heron Pontoon Boat

Travel north on the Mississippi and its backwaters.

- Visit Beaver Island, history and wildlife tour
- Lock through Lock & Dam #13
- Tour Lock & Dam #13
- Observe industrial and commercial uses of the Mississippi

Noon: Depart from Rock Creek

Contact Clinton CCB (above) to register **by July 1**. Projected cost per participant is \$10 for the two meals provided, and approximately \$20 for three out-of-pocket meals (all meals on Tuesday). There are no other workshop fees!





From the Grapevine



Theresa (Minaya) Kruid, Woodbury CCB naturalist, married Jeff Kruid of Hawarden, Iowa last November 13. The private ceremony was held on Catalina Island, CA, with the Pacific Ocean behind them and a pair of gulls for witnesses.

Phil Broder will be leaving the Des Moines County Conservation Board at the end of May. After five years as the Naturalist in Des Moines County, Phil is leaving to become Director of Education at The Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, New Jersey. Good luck, Phil!



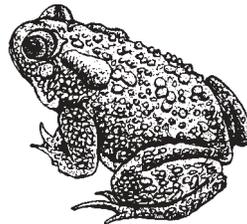
Chuck Jacobsen has joined the Clinton CCB education staff. This stems from the merger of Soaring Eagles Nature Center (private) with the Clinton CCB. The next time you see him at a workshop, ask him to play something from John Denver.



Attention IAN members

In the past, the IAN ExCom has given addresses, including emails, to agencies that provide our membership with information on environmental issues, conferences, and workshops. As of now, however, if a member or organization would like to email members with information, they must send the information to me first and I will forward it out to the membership. Information sent to me needs to indicate that it needs to go to all IAN membership. Currently, the email list is being converted to usable form, so it will be up and running soon.

— Greg Wolf, Treasurer



Application for IAN membership

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Is this address for work? _____ Home? _____
 Agency or other affiliation _____
 County _____
 Work e-mail _____ Home e-mail _____
 Work phone _____ Home phone _____
 Cell phone _____ FAX _____
 Membership Type: Regular (\$20) _____ Student (\$5) _____
 New _____ Renewal _____

Make checks payable to IAN, and mail to:

Greg Wolf, IAN Treasurer, P.O. Box 68, Grand Mound, IA 52751-0068

Web via email

The Web is a great way to inform IAN members and present articles of interest. The IAN ExCom has discussed ways to cut down on newsletter costs while maintaining the quality of *The Web*. One possibility is to offer *The Web* via electronic email. If you think this is a good idea, please email anyone on the ExCom (see back page). Feedback would be helpful to determine if this idea is a worthwhile venture.



2003 Upcoming Educator Workshops

Water Quality

Contact: Miriam Patton
712/837-4866
paccb@ruthventel.com

Water Quality: Issues & Action is targeted for 4-12 grade educators. This workshop provides background information on water quality issues and suggests ways students can get involved in local action projects. Educators will return to the classroom with activities they can incorporate into lessons. The workshop will be held **June 26-27**, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Lost Island Nature Center, Ruthven. Limit of 12 participants; \$50 stipend available towards credit hours.

NatureMapping

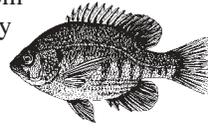
Contact: Jason O'Brien
515-294-6440
jjobrien@iastate.edu

A DNR/NatureMapping *Bird Module* workshop will be held **May 17** at FW Kent Conservation Education Center near Coralville, IA. The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and costs \$15.00. Lunch is included. This workshop will cover specifics on bird monitoring, identification, and conservation, and train you to participate in raptor nesting, colonial waterbird nesting, and peregrine falcon surveys. An optional 7 a.m. bird watching hike is available prior to the workshop. Registration forms will be posted on the Iowa NatureMapping web site (www.extension.iastate.edu/naturemapping) and IDNR Wildlife Diversity site (www.iowadnr.com).

Check the NatureMapping web site for other trainings planned throughout the year.

Level 1 IOWATER Schedule

- June 25, 8 am- 5 pm
UNI/Iowa Geology
(teachers only)
Sherman Lundy
(319-235-6583)
- June 27, 5-9 pm/, June 28, 9 am-3pm
Twin Ponds Nature Center, Ionia
Dana Dettmer (641-394- 4714)
- Aug. 1, 5-9pm, Aug 2, 9 am-3 pm
Surrey Hts Fire Station, Bettendorf
Jeff West (563-332-3113)
- Aug. 11, 5-10 pm, Aug. 12, 5-10 pm
John F. Kennedy Park, Fort Dodge
Karen Hansen (515-576-4258)
- Aug. 15, 5-9 pm, Aug. 16, 9 am-3 pm
Kirkwood College, Williamsburg
Maria Koschmeder (319-655-8466)



Growing in the Garden

Contact: ISU Extension
www.iowaee.org

A Growing in the Garden Workshop will be held at Seed Savers in Decorah, on **Thursday, June 5**, for:

- **Grades K-3 educators, 8 a.m. to noon.**
- **Grades 4-6 educators, 12:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m.**

Lunch will be provided by Seed Savers. Registration Deadline is May 21, 2003

Wilderness Education

Contact A. Jay Winter
641/747-8383.

American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) allows educators to experience a variety of outdoor skills. If you are inexperienced in the outdoors and always wanted to learn, or if you are already at a higher level of outdoor skill and want to learn more, AWLS is for you. Workshops will be held at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center in Guthrie Center. AWLS I will be held **June 23 - 27**, and AWLS II will be held **July 28 - August 1**.

Wild/Aquatic Wild Schedule

- June 12, 8 a.m. - noon
Winfield Elementary School.
Julie Ohde, 319/523-8381,
lccb@lccb.org.
- June 23-24, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Lost Island Nature Center, Ruthven.
Miriam Patton, 712/837-4866,
paccb@ruthventel.com. Cost: \$15;
Graduate Credit available
- June 23-24, 8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wickiup Hill, Toddville
Bruce Frana, 319/399-6765,
bfrana@aea10.k12.ia.us
Gail Barels, 319/892-6485,
Recertification credit available

Interpretive Skills Training

The deadline for "early" registration for NAI's Western Regional Interpretive Skills Training (WRIST) has been extended until May 15. This five-day event offers intensive hands-on training in topics such as interpretive writing, development of non-personal interpretive media, and personal interpretation skills. You don't have to live in the West to take advantage of the opportunity for training at this low-cost, beautiful facility at the foot of Pike's Peak in Colorado Springs, **June 2-6, 2003**. For more information, see the NAI Website at www.interpnet.com.

Birding Festival

As an outreach and education event for Audubon Iowa's Important Bird Areas (IBAs) Program, the 2003 Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival will be held **November 7-9**. Last year's festival proved to be a resounding success with nearly 175 birders in attendance. For more information about the festival as activities are finalized, visit www.iowabirds.org and www.iowabirds.org/IBA.





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Articles submitted for the fall newsletter must be postmarked no later than August 10, 2003. Articles and newsletter correspondence should be sent to the address shown above.

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Naturalists - planting the seed of environmental stewardship by communicating the meanings and relationships in natural, cultural, and historical resources.

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Check out the IAN Web Site – www.ianpage.20m.com