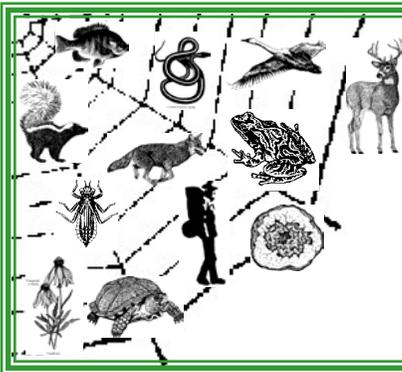


The Web

Newsletter of the Iowa Association of Naturalists

Summer IAN info on Page 5-7!!



A Message from Richard Leopold Iowa DNR, Director

Most of us tend to come out of college brimming with new ideas and eager to change the world. I was no different during the early stages of my professional career some 25 years ago when I took my first position as a forester for the U.S. Forest Service in the Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota.

But unfortunately, many times our early enthusiasm and optimism gets clouded with bureaucracy and deadly cynicism as we encounter the realities of being an advocate for understanding and caring for our natural environment. I sincerely hope that all of us naturalists understand the important role we play in the conservation of our natural resources here in Iowa. I believe we are on the cusp of some great days ahead of us for conservation in Iowa. Public interest in the outdoors is on the increase. Awareness of issues such as water quality and global warming make headlines and give us the opportunity and responsibility to educate our citizens on the needs for public wild places, alternative energy sources, and improved pollution prevention practices.

At this writing, we are on track for an additional \$4.5 million for the Resources Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP), bringing the annual allocation to \$15.5 million. The proposed “Iowa Power Fund”, when implemented, will encourage energy efficiency activities, assist efforts to power our state with less polluting methods, and support research on sustainability of our natural resources. Water



quality improvement strategies and resources continue forward at a good pace, resulting in cleaner lakes, rivers, and streams for both aquatic life and human recreation opportunities.

There is also active discussion taking place about creating a sustainable funding source for conservation in Iowa, to the tune of \$150 million a year! All of us in the field of conservation should be watching closely this proposal to develop sustainable funding in Iowa. While being a long way from being a “done deal,” the fact that this discussion is even taking place is both exciting and encouraging.

In closing, keep your chin up, keep your passions high, and share with peers to remind yourself why you do what you do. A quote that is framed on my desk states: “I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, God helping me, I will do”. I appreciate your work, am proud to have a close affiliation with you, and hope you continue to realize the key role all of you play, sharing your passion and enthusiasm, in protecting our natural resources and serving the citizens of Iowa.

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Get Involved with IAN, it is your Organization!!

by IAN President Heather Freidhof (Gamm)

The Iowa Association of Naturalists is run by naturalists. That is what the ExCom or Executive Committee's job entails. This 5 person committee is made up of your peers elected by you. We strive to make positive decisions for the group as a whole.

It is that time again when we are looking for a few good men/women! This fall, IAN will be holding its annual elections. Heather Freidhof (Gamm) has completed her 4 year term and will be leaving ExCom. Two other positions are up for a possible reelection. Karen Phelps has filled her first two year term and is willing to serve another two year term. Lisa Anderson has fulfilled the last year of Nicole Moestchen's two year term. So, she will also seek reelection for another two year term. You may have read elsewhere in this newsletter that Lisa is no longer working for Clay County Conservation because her husband has taken a new job with Story County Conservation. Lisa has pledged her loyalty to IAN and is still wishing to remain a part of our organization.

What is involved if I want to run for ExCom? Well the ExCom meets only four times a year. Two meetings are

scheduled the Wednesday before IAN conferences. The other meetings are scheduled in January and August. Candidates run to be on the ExCom, actual positions are decided after elections.



Are you interested in stepping up to volunteer for your organization? Please let a current ExCom member know or tell a member of the Elections Committee. Current ExCom members include; Heather Freidhof (Gamm), Lisa Anderson, Karen Phelps, Beth Waage and Katie Hammond. The Elections Committee includes: Julie Brazell, Clayton County Conservation, Katie Cantu, Jasper County Conservation and Christina Groen, Shelby/Audubon Counties.

Chocolate the Exhibition information from www.fieldmuseum.org
submitted by Lisa Anderson, IAN Vice President

Use the enticing subject of chocolate to teach your class about the intriguing relationship between nature and culture.

Cocoa Connections: From Beans to Bars - A Resource Kit for Educators contains 12 lessons—six lessons on chocolate and the environment and six lessons on chocolate and culture—that will increase your students' understanding of the connections between humans and their environment. Each lesson outlines learning objectives, a list of materials needed, and instructional activities. The full curriculum also includes extension activities, an overview of the *Chocolate* exhibition, a suggested reading and film list, and classroom-friendly recipes.

Student activity sheets for each unit are provided in both English and Spanish. A hard copy of the curriculum is also available when you borrow *The Story of Chocolate*

exhibit case from Harris Loan center. For more information on this, download the Resources for Educators section at www.fieldmuseum.org.



Using chocolate as a framework, students can:

- discover the botanical source of chocolate, *Theobroma cacao*, a small tree of the tropical rainforest interior;
- explore the ecological connections between people, plants, insects, and other animals within the tree's habitat;
- investigate cultural interactions and conservation concerns resulting from the cultivation, processing, exchange, and consumption of cacao and other foods; and
- recognize the changing economic and cultural roles of cacao and chocolate in local and global economies over time.



The Mammoth Hunters By Reba Reddick, Cedar County Naturalist

The landscape was covered with ice, miles thick. The climate was harsh, with bitter temperatures and strong winds. No, this is not a description of Iowa in February 2007, but instead a picture of this area hundreds of years ago, at the end of an ice age. At that time there were people who spent their lives hunting the mega fauna roaming the continent. Little is known about how they survived. But we do know they lived right here in what is now the state of Iowa.

The Paleo-Indians, this group of native people who lived at the end of the Pleistocene era almost 10,000 years ago, were one of the groups who left their mark behind across the state and especially in Cedar County. The Rummells-Maske site near the Cedar River is one of the largest excavation sites of artifacts, specifically Clovis points, from this time period in the Midwest and the only Early Paleo-Indian site excavation found in Iowa.

Some of the 5th grade students at Hoover Elementary in West Branch spend time getting to know the history of their place by learning about these Iowa natives every fall. Many more students and county residents, however, have no real understanding of this group of people or the struggles they faced in life. Soon that may change.

The Cedar County Conservation Board was recently awarded a grant from IAN to help with the development of a new program focusing on the Paleo-Indians and their hunting techniques. Students, teachers and the general public will have opportunities to become Paleo-Indian hunters for the day. Hunting mega fauna like the giant buffalo, mammoth or mastodon was not an easy task.

Participants will get a chance to use an atlatl and see how they would have fared as a hunter of the time.



What is an atlatl? Well it's a long stick designed to help throw an even longer stick, of course! The atlatl is really an efficient weapon used to hurl a spear, which could be 5' or more in length, hundreds of feet with great propulsive force. Each spear would be fitted with a long spear point, much larger than an arrowhead, which had been formed by flint-knapping and was sharp enough to pierce the hide of the prey. It is believed that many hunters working together could bring down an animal using these weapons, successfully putting 'mammoth-burgers' on the dinner table.

With the purchase of atlatls, spears and replica Clovis points, Cedar County will be able to offer participants the opportunity to get a glimpse of history by attempting to learn a skill from the past. You can soon join the Cedar County Conservation Board for a mammoth sized adventure and test your spear throwing skills in the 'harsh' Iowa environment. Ice not included.

May 15 is Conservation Education Project Grant Proposal Deadline

Interested in conducting a conservation education project, but don't have the funds to implement it? Consider applying for a Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP CEP) grant. The next deadline for proposals is May 15. (Proposals must be postmarked by that date.) A copy of the application information may be found at the CEP's new website, <http://www.iowareap.com>. At this site, you can also learn about the CEP program and past grant awards.

If you apply, plan to attend the CEP Review of Proposals Meeting on Tuesday, June 5 at 1 pm. It will be held at the Story County Conservation Board Meeting Room, 56461 180th St., Ames. All applicants are expected to attend. If you have questions about grant procedures, contact Susan Salterberg, CEP Contract Monitor, at salterberg@uni.edu or 319-337-4816.



What is Networking by Linda Zaletel, Story County Naturalist

One thing that the IAN survey; completed by the membership at the Fall 2006 workshop; pointed out was that networking was very important to IAN members. So, just what is networking? According to the dictionary networking is the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions. It's fun to watch the networking at meetings. Most naturalists want new ideas, exchanging ideas on programming information to incorporate into their own programs. We do this by talking, laughing, hand gestures (the good kind), and sometimes by demonstrating through body movements (i.e. fly like a bird). In fact, I would say we are great at networking!

But let's look closer at what networking is all about and how we can increase effective networking to benefit IAN and ourselves professionally.

Networking is about our personal histories with others. We get an idea from someone, it works in our programs, and then the next time we see this person, we reminisce and become friends. We have a personal history with this person. Then each time we see each other it's like old home week. We laugh, talk and often group together

So, how can we increase networking? It's the power of the invitation, new members need to be invited and then be introduced to networking. Think back to when you attended your first IAN meeting or maybe one of the regional, national or

Midwest conferences. When did you feel a part of the group? From surveys done at several of the conferences, people often say they feel welcome when they see someone they know walking into the conference! Others said it was when they hit the conference table and someone said welcome and guided them to a hospitality room

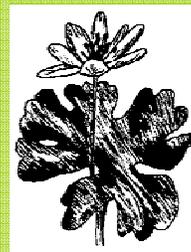
One of the other important questions asked in the survey was about outreach to other organizations. We have talked about networking with them and inviting them in. So, if IAN decides to invite the membership of these organizations, we need to remember how to network properly. We need to use the gift of the invitation, and then welcome them when they attend IAN meetings.

Fundamentally, networking leads to outreach and outreach leads to inclusiveness and welcoming and that leads to more members, more loyalty and attendance and volunteering which leads to more networking.

Networking is fun and an easy way to enrich ourselves. It can broaden our horizons and enhance our careers. But, it can also be potentially devastating if you act rudely, insensitively or ignore the needs and desires of others. Remember, it's crucial to our success that we treat networking as an exchange of ideas, information and experience.

Grapevine News

This year 35 members received Professional Development recognition at the spring IAN meeting. These members have completed a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education during the past year. There were two five year recipients (pins), two ten year recipients (plaques) and two 15 year recipients (gift certificate to Larry Stone or Darrin Siefken).



Lisa Anderson and husband have moved to Colo, Iowa in Story County, where she is a teacher for a 3 & 4 year old class room at the ISU child care @ Vet Med in Ames. She says of the move "Wow is it a change! But it's fun! Please send any preschool programs my way."

Heather Freidhof married Blake Gamm on April 21. They enjoyed a short honeymoon in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Her new name will be Heather Gamm. They hope to finish remodeling their home by the end of May.

Aaron Hershberger now works for Nebraska Game and Parks. His main job will be promoting hunting.



IAN Summer Workshop 2007
Rewilding Iowa - Horsepacking Treks
Wednesday August 22—Friday August 24
Monroe—Mahaska Counties

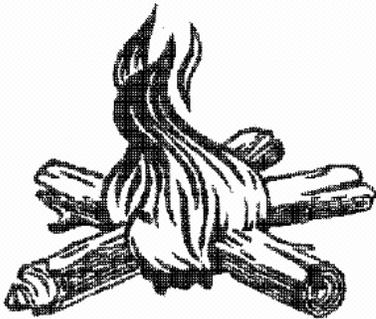
Wednesday August 22

12:30 pm **Arrive at DeCook Ranch — Brown Barn**
1:00 pm **Carpool to Tall Grass Bison Ranch**
2:00 pm **Tour of Tall Grass Bison Ranch**
3:30 pm **Yellowstone Wilderness Treks**
Bob Jackson, NPS Backcountry Ranger
5:00 pm **Return to DeCook Ranch — set up camp at Pine Pond**
6:00 pm **Supper at Kinfolks Eatin' Place** (meal cost: \$8-10)
Evening: **Camp at Pine Pond**
Campfire Activities, Music, Wilderness Ethics



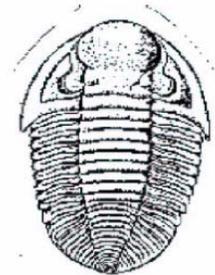
Thursday August 23

8:00 am **Breakfast — Pack Lunches**
9:30 am **Horse Packing Demo**
11:30 am **Wagon Ride Tour of DeCook Ranch**
Wild Country Ranching — Lunch
Prairie Remnant Hikes
4:00 pm **Break - Pack Gear**
5:00 pm **Hike to Camp Whippoorwill**
6:00 pm **Supper—Dutch Oven Cooking**
Evening: **Social Time**
Backpacking Demo—Night Hike—Campfire



Friday August 24

8:00 am **Breakfast**
9:00 am **Hike to Base Camp (DeCook's) - Pack Lunches**
9:30 am **Carpool to Mahaska County**
10:30 am **Fossil Hunting at Russell Wildlife Area**
12:00 pm **Picnic and Tour of Cedar Bluffs State Preserve**
2:00 pm **Depart**



Questions? Contact one of the Monroe County or Mahaska County Naturalists planning the workshop Laura DeCook at (641)946-7226 or Pete Eyheralde at (641)673-9327.



IAN Summer Workshop 2007 - Activity and Site Descriptions

DeCook Ranch: The DeCook's raise 260 head of cattle on their organic, grass based ranch. Their mission is to raise grass-fed cattle while preserving Iowa's natural and wild landscape. This is what they term "wild country ranching". During a wagon ride and horseback tour we'll learn about this unique method of ranching. We will also tour native prairie remnants, savannas, and reconstructed wetlands. Evenings will be spent camping outdoors at the pine pond and camp Whippoorwill, located on the ranch. "Indoor sleeping" available for inclement weather.

Tallgrass Bison Ranch: We'll trek to see the largest bison herd in Iowa. Tallgrass Bison, located just north east of Promise City, in south central Iowa maintains their herd of over 400 grass-fed bison on 1000 acres. Ranch owner Bob Jackson also spends part of his year out west, where he's worked as a backcountry ranger in Yellowstone National Park for 30 years. He's used his experience with wild bison in a unique management system for his Iowa herds.

Yellowstone Wilderness Treks: Bob Jackson will share his 30 + years of experience as a backcountry ranger in Yellowstone as well as insights to working in the backcountry with youth groups, horses, mules and pack trains. **Horsepacking Demo:** Mike and Laura DeCook will share their experience in packing horses into the Bob Marshal Wilderness in Montana, a 2.5 million acre roadless area with 1.5 million acres of designated wilderness. We'll learn about special camping equipment, how to pack a mule, and basics in wilderness ethics with horses.

Russell Wildlife Area Fossil Beds: This 220 acre tract which surrounds the Mahaska County Conservation Center and extends south to the South Skunk River is an excellent example of disturbed land that has been allowed to revert back to its natural state. Part of the park was once a limestone quarry and crushing operation. For many years this area has been well known for its Mississippian Age fossils. Collectors from across the country travel here each summer to search for remains in this ancient ocean. A display featuring the fossils of the park will help you brush up on your prehistoric ID before heading down the trails to hunt for these sea creatures turned to stone. You can expect to take home trilobites, horn corals, bryozoa, snails, clams, worm castings, crinoids, blastoids and several species of brachiopods.

Cedar Bluffs State Preserve: This very unique 225 acre area contains a wide variety of deciduous trees, wildflowers, ferns and liverworts. Within the park you'll find prairie, savanna and oak hickory forest uplands. Maple basswood forests, and a variety of flora more typically seen in north east Iowa's Paleozoic Plateau, can be found in the cool microclimates of the canyons. Lookout points along the 2 mile trail allow hikers an excellent view of the Des Moines River Valley. We'll hike down the steep walled canyons and along towering sandstone bluffs at the edge of Cedar Creek to see the largest population of the endangered Goldie's wood fern in the state. Pennsylvanian age plant fossils, Woodland burial mounds, prehistoric rock shelters, and 19th century rock carvings can all be found on this hike.

What To Bring:

- Snack to Share
- Money for 1st Night Supper
- Water Bottle
- Notebook and Pen for Journaling
- Hiking Shoes
- Camping Gear: Backpack, Sleeping Bag and Pad, Mess Kit, Flashlight, Personal Hygiene Kit, Camp Towel, Matches, Personal First Aid Kit, Camp Cord
- *Optional Gear:* Tent, Musical Instrument, Binoculars, Camera, Sunscreen, Insect Repellant, Sandals, Fishing Tackle (the pond is stocked with walleye), Swimming Suit.



IAN Summer Workshop 2007 Registration Form

Registration Deadline: August 8, 2007

Name: _____ County: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Wednesday, August 22

Dinner: Kin Folk's Eatin' Place (pay on your own)

Thursday, August 23

Breakfast: bagels, muffins, toast, cereal, fruit

Lunch: Sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies

Dinner: Dutch oven and campfire cooking

Friday, August 24

Breakfast: bagels, oatmeal, fruit, granola bars

Lunch: Sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies



Workshop Fee: (includes meals) _____ \$15

Late Fee (if received after August 8) _____ \$ 5

Total Payment Enclosed _____

Please make checks out to IAN, and mail payment and registration to:

Pete Eyheralde, Mahaska County Conservation

2254 200th Street

New Sharon, Iowa 50207

Directions to DeCook Ranch – Brown Barn

From the East:

Driving north or south on Hwy 5. When you reach the metropolis of Lovilia, turn west on H16, just north of the Caseys. Head west on H16 for about 2.5 miles.

Pavement ends – turn right and follow H16. Go about 3.5 miles until you see a big brown barn on the right (north) side of the road. Look for IAN sign and park.

From the West:

Driving north or south on Hwy 14 (south of Knoxville). Turn east on G76. Go about 6 miles – on the curve, turn right onto VanBuren Drive. Take the first right onto 170 St. (follow covered bridge signs). When the road splits continue driving straight. After covered bridge, go 1.5 miles and turn left on H16. Brown barn is just ahead on the left. Look for IAN sign and park.



***PARTY* “Playful, Active, Recreation: Targeted for YOU”**

By Lori Foresman-Kirpes, Polk County Naturalist

It’s time for an outdoor *PARTY*...an outdoors skills party with middle school students. Yeah...that hard to reach middle school audience of hormone induced, too cool to try anything deemed “not cool” group of youth. Many of these participants would rather be shopping at the mall or simply talking with their friends on their cell phones. However once they get over the “too cool blues” and try an outdoor activity like fishing, canoeing, or geocaching they quickly discover it is cool to *PARTY* in the outdoors.



PARTY, “Playful, Active Recreation: Targeted for YOU”, was a pilot program funded by a REAP CEP (Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program) grant. The goal of this program was to get teens active in the outdoors while teaching them about environmental issues. The five outdoor skill curriculums developed for this program included snowshoeing, winter hiking, canoeing, geocaching/orienteering and fishing. Naturalists from Polk County Conservation (PCC) collaborated with existing after-school programs which included the Chrysalis Foundation After-School Girls Groups and Polk County Extension’s “Show’em Watcha’ Got” programs. Partnering with existing youth education agencies helped to make this pilot program a huge success. It allowed us to focus on developing the outdoors skill programs rather than organizing the students. Environmental issues and concepts were integrated into the outdoor skills sessions. PCC provided outdoor skills instruction to over 580 middle school students in a nine month period.

Three different evaluation questionnaires were conducted to measure the success of the program. These evaluations included a retrospective survey, post evaluation, and teacher survey. Students showed a 36% increase in knowledge of environmental issues, 44% increase in knowledge of outdoor skills, and 41% were more likely to share their experience with family and friends. A few of the comments from the evaluations: “It was cool and I got some exercise while learning”, “I had a lot of fun Geocaching, I hope I can do it again”, “Something fun, new and educational”, “It was alright but I am not an outdoors person”, “It was something new. I don’t really like nature”. (Sometimes the evaluations are not what you want to hear!)

The teachers also completed an evaluation at the end of the school year. 100% of the teachers responding stated, YES! They would schedule another *PARTY* program. One teacher reported: “My students learned a lot from the programs. They became interested in the activities they were exposed to. Many of them had never experienced fishing, canoeing, or using a GPS. I heard many times how they were going to talk to their parents about trying an activity with them.”

The student post evaluations indicated 64% of the students shared the learned outdoor skill with family and friends. This is a great percentage considering most teens don’t share a whole lot with their parents! Other post evaluation results indicated that 15% of the teens tried the outdoor skill on their own since the previous session, and 17% of the teens visited a new park or nature area since the previous session.

Many of the students wrote in their evaluation that....it really was COOL... that is an amazing compliment from teens with the “too cool blues”. If you want to be cool and learn more about *PARTY* or would like copies of the outdoor skill lesson plans developed via this REAP CEP grant contact Lori Foresman-Kirpes at lforesm@co.polk.ia.us 515-323-5380.



2007 IAN Scholarship Winner Announced

Kimberly Karwal, of Elliot Iowa, will receive this year's Iowa Association of Naturalists Joe Halbur Scholarship. The Joe Halbur Scholarship is awarded to one high school senior or college student who plan to further their education in programs of environmental education, cultural interpretation, historical interpretation or outdoor recreation. They must be a resident of Iowa and plan to attend an in-state college.

Kim Karwal is an active freshman at Simpson College in Indianola. She is majoring in environmental science with minors in biology and geology. She has participated in a river clean-up with her canoe club, she manages the college's greenhouse and she will be a geology teacher's assistant in the fall. In high school she made it to the state envirothon competition as well as All-State Speech competition.

Kim has experienced first hand the world of environmental education through her mom and her sister. Kim is the daughter of Deb and Bryon Karwal. Deb is the Naturalist in Montgomery County and her sister Kristie worked for Des Moines County for a time. Kim has had a chance to work along side her family and as a volunteer at the Montgomery County Nature Center. She has found that she really likes working with kids in nature and is also interested in animal rehabilitation.

Book Review: The Children's Blizzard, by David Laskin,
reviewed by Charlene Elyea, O'Brien County Naturalist

Severe storms have been erupting across the nation more often lately. We hear of midnight tornados in Florida, snows that would cover homes in Michigan, and record breaking hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. Even with detailed weather reports the savage storms can claim human lives.

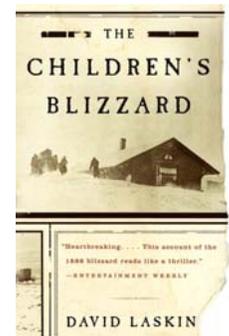
Now step back in time ... imagine how much a storm can impact people when there is no warning of its arrival. The Children's Blizzard, by David Laskin, allows a glimpse at such an experience.

The book describes an intense and unexpected blizzard that swept across the upper plains on January 12, 1888. At this point in our history, the National Weather Service was just beginning. People regarded technical reading of weather maps as mystical and foreign, and there was certainly no means in place to relay warnings to the vast majority of the people living isolated out in the prairie. By the following morning more than a hundred children lay dead on the Dakota-Nebraska prairie.

This story chronicles the storm through the experiences of a dozen or so families impacted by the storm as well as an army lieutenant stationed at the fledgling weather station in St. Paul. It is a heart rending yet beautifully written book that allows the reader a glimpse of the struggles of life on the prairie.



We would like to congratulate Kim for receiving the IAN Joe Halbur Scholarship and welcome her to the world of environmental education in Iowa. For more information about the IAN Joe Halbur Scholarship, contact Maria Koschmeder, Committee Chair, at 319-655-8466 or iccbec@netins.net.



Striving For Mediocrity By Beth Waage, Warren County Naturalist

It is not often that I strive to be average, but in the case of my Ecological Footprint (EF) I aim to be less than mediocre. An EF takes in to consideration your lifestyle and then calculates how much productive land and water you need to support what you use and what you throw away. I figured my EF at www.myfootprint.org. The following disclaimer greets you when you enter the site:

CAUTION: THIS QUIZ MAY SURPRISE YOU, SHOCK YOU, OR MAKE YOU THINK. PLEASE REMAIN CALM...BUT NOT TOO CALM!!

Then it takes you through generic questions to come up with the number of acres required to support you. My number is 20 acres, which I thought was low until I learned that worldwide there are only 4.5 productive acres available per person. The site also helps you figure how to make your footprint smaller.

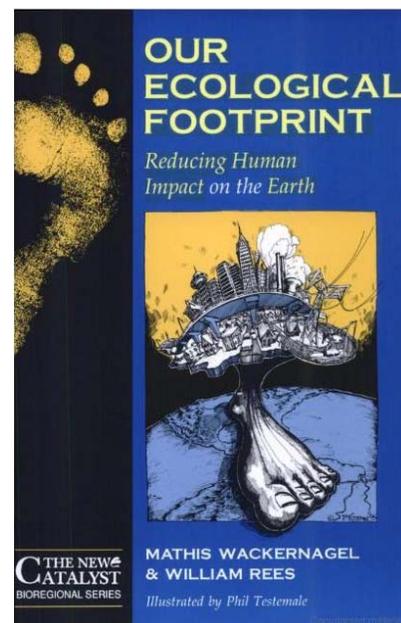
Where did EF come from?

Dr. William E. Rees of the University of British Columbia came up with EF in hopes to reopen the debate of human carrying capacity, a concept of which many scientists find irrelevant due to the fact that current technology can compensate for human growth. He developed a complicated formula for determining a nations footprint, which has since been revised by others to calculate individual footprints. Dr. Rees says that the Ecological Footprint analysis is an “ecological camera that takes a snapshot of our current demands on nature. (It) can show how much we have to reduce our consumption, improve our technology, or change our behavior to achieve sustainability.”

What it comes down to is something we all know, that we need to use less resources, and we need to use what resources are left wisely. Figuring your ecological footprint is helpful because it gives you hard data and if you change your lifestyle and re-enter that in to the quiz, you can physically see your

numbers drop. It gives you something tangible related to how you are impacting the earth and how sustainable your actions are.

There are a couple of different things you can do with the above information. You can forget about it, because we do live in a time where we are oversaturated with this type of information i.e. An Inconvenient Truth, etc. Or you can pass it on to others and utilize it in your programs/lesson plans/daily life. There is a website for kids to figure out their footprint: www.kidsfootprint.org. This site also has teacher lesson plans related to footprints. Hopefully we can reduce our impact on this planet, weather it is by using information learned while figuring ecological footprints, or one of the many other methods available.

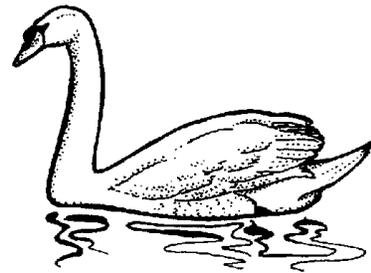


To learn more about Dr. Rees' Ecological Footprint analysis, check out his book, [Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth](#) by Mathis Wackernagel & William Rees. The book will be available for purchase from CrawDaddy Outdoors or Larry Stone at the next IAN meeting.



Upcoming Workshops and Events:

Wings and Wetlands Festival
Saturday May 12 and Sunday, May 13, 2007
Northeast Iowa



Welcome the coming of spring, celebrate National Wetland Month, and explore the unique prairie pothole region of Northwest Iowa.

This 13th annual festival is coordinated over a six county region in Northwest Iowa and offers a wide selection of programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. Events held throughout the region include bird hikes, kayaking and canoeing adventures, Trumpeter Swan releases, live reptiles and youth programs. There is also food and music at some locations.

Sponsors of the festival include Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, O'Brien, and Palo Alto County Conservation Boards; Palo Alto Soil & Water Conservation District, Prairie Lakes Audubon Chapter; and Palo Alto Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever Chapters. For more information, call the Prairie Heritage Center (712-295-7200) or the Lost Island Prairie Wetland Nature Center (712-877-4866).



Boone River Canoe School

May 23 – 24, 2007

Or

July 28-29, 2007

10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Briggs Woods in Hamilton County

Cost: \$50 / cabin or \$35 to camp

Join Iowa DNR's River Programs Coordinator Nate Hooegeven, for a two-day course including classroom and on-water training for tandem canoe. This intensive course will follow the American Canoe Association's "River Essentials" curriculum. This course will be instrumental for students who plan to enroll in an ACA instructor certification course. Participants will receive an Iowa DNR certificate of completion.

The May 23-24 class will be geared toward naturalists, camp instructors, or canoe outfitters that offer guided canoeing trips. The class on July 28-29 will be oriented more toward trip leaders, or those who would like to be, for canoe & kayak clubs. This class will also cover introducing beginning paddlers to the sport, trip planning and fostering an atmosphere of safety. These are not novice courses, participants are expected to have previous river canoeing experience. Meals are not provided; participants should bring a sack lunch each day, but can plan on having supper at a restaurant in Webster City.

Pre-registration required through Hamilton County Conservation by calling Lori Westrum at 515-832-9570. Registrations must be pre-paid at least one week in advance of the course. Class size will be limited to 6 people. Checks are payable to Hamilton CCB. For questions on course content, call Nate Hooegeven at 515-281-3134.





2007 Iowa Prairie Conference
Prairies on the Edge
July 13-14, 2007
Briar Cliff University
Sioux City, IA

The 2007 Iowa Prairie Conference – *Prairies on the Edge* – will be held at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, on July 13-14 with post-conference activities on July 15. The conference will focus on the Loess Hills of western Iowa and will include invited speakers, field trips, exhibits, and a banquet.

Prairies on the Edge is sponsored by Briar Cliff University, Loess Hills Alliance, and Woodbury County Conservation Foundation with major funding grants from REAP-CEP and Living Roadways Trust Fund.

Register *early and save* on registration fees. Additionally, *special* registration fees are available for those who have never attended an Iowa Prairie Conference. All information including registration and a call for posters can be found at <http://www.ipc2007.com>.

Questions? Contact bennaid@cableone.net.

Help the DNR Determine the Recreational use of Iowa Streams

If you use Iowa's streams — whether fishing along a river or splashing around the creek in your backyard — the Iowa DNR is looking for your help.

The DNR is asking for input on how people recreate in Iowa's streams as the agency completes recreational assessments on streams in the state. Iowans can access a short survey at www.iowadnr.gov/water/standards/ to list the streams they use, what activities they use them for and where they access the streams. The survey is in addition to postcard surveys left at streamside residences as the DNR conducted on-site stream assessments.



The DNR will factor the results from the survey into its decision making for applying recreation-based stream designations to Iowa's waters. These assessments are part of classifying recreational stream uses in the state, and will help determine the appropriate level of protection for the stream.

The DNR is currently revising its water quality standards to come into compliance with the federal Clean Water Act.



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

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