

2013 IAN-ICEC Conservation and Environmental Education Excellence Award Winners

The Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) are proud to announce this year's recipients of their Conservation and Environmental Education Excellence Awards Program. The winners are as follows:

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award *For Outstanding Efforts by an Environmental Educator*



Christina Roelofs, a shared naturalist with Shelby & Audubon County Conservation Boards, has been awarded the Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award. Christina was hired in 2000 and has since developed two foundations to help increase funding for EE programming, developed two websites, writes a quarterly newsletter, develops school programs, campground programs and summer day camps, serves on numerous committees including Winterfest and is a certified Hunter Education instructor as well as National Archery in the Schools Program instructor. Furthermore, she has spent numerous

volunteer hours working with Kay Newman, a wildlife rehabilitator, in order to obtain the necessary permits to keep a Screech Owl, two Red-tailed Hawks, two Bald Eagles and coming soon, an endangered Barn Owl. Congratulations to Christina for all you do for BOTH Shelby and Audubon County Conservation Boards.

Outstanding Environmental Education Program (2 or less naturalists)

Washington County is this year's winner of the Outstanding Environmental Education Program. They have one full time naturalist, who works on a small budget to create a quarterly newsletter and present programming. This year was their 50th anniversary and both the newsletter and Halloween Hike celebrated the history of their organization and careers in conservation. In 2012-2013 they led 318 programs and reached 12,944 participants. In addition to programming many other projects throughout the park have been completed including paved trails that have enhanced the park use.



Outstanding Environmental Education Program (2.5 or more naturalists)

The Linn County Conservation Board won the IAN/ICEC award for Outstanding Environmental Education Program with three or more interpreters. The four Naturalist employed by Linn County have a combined experience of seventy-seven years. This past year they have doubled the size of their nature center, the Wickiup Hill Learning Center. Approximately thirty schools have come to their nature center. Over the past year they have conducted 312 educational programs. In the past five years they have reached over 70,000 people through their outstanding Environmental Education efforts.

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award

For Outstanding Efforts to Educate About Preservation, Land Management, or Natural Resource Conservation

For 14 years Tammy Turner has been a leader in garbage. She can tell you where to stick your plastic and how many times cardboard can be recycled before it becomes just another roll of toilet paper. Over the years Tammy has implemented countless programs including, convenient campground recycling, rain garden construction, composting 101 and vermicomposting. But Tammy goes beyond the typical 40 hour work week; she spends her weekends teaching friends and neighbors the value of rain barrels and how you can really make dirt out of old veggies, brown leaves and paper. Recently she wrote a grant that enabled Waste Trac to buy recycling bins that can be used throughout the community free of charge. The bins debuted this year at Irishfest and Tammy was there throughout the weekend taking pictures and making sure everyone knew how to properly use the bins. Tammy Turner exemplifies what it means to live your passion and Iowa is lucky to have her! Congratulations Tammy on receiving the 2013 Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award.



“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award

For Outstanding EE Program or Event which Informs and Educates the General Public

Since 2003 Lee County Conservation has facilitated “Outdoor Adventure Camp”. The camp, funded in part by Three Rivers Conservation Foundation, offers recreational opportunities for local youth at an affordable price. Activities include; archery, gun safety, kayaking, fly fishing and trapping. By the end of the 3 day camp, participants know how to safely shot a deer, skin a pheasant and trap a raccoon. Nearly four hundred campers have participated over the last 10 years and through generous donations and CCB enthusiasm, this program will continue for another 10 years.

Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award

For Outstanding Whole-School EE Program

This award commends an outstanding whole school environmental education program. The staff and students at Central Lutheran School took on a task that blossomed into a great outdoor classroom. They started working with Benton CCB in March of 2013 to design and implement a plan to reduce energy costs to the school and enhance the school grounds. After much research and grant writing, the students and Benton CCB planted 52 native trees and temperature gauges. With guidance from BCCB these students have taken ownership in these trees and continue to study the effects of the trees on the energy costs of the school as well as the trees themselves.



Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award, Outdoor P.E. Program of the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center, Scott CCB

The Outdoor P.E. Program of the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center has partnered with the Davenport Community School District's P.E. class to promote healthy outdoor recreation with sustainability in mind. The program runs for three weeks in spring and again in the fall and is offered to upper-classmen in Davenport Central High School. The classes hold up to 20 students in each class with 2 classes each spring/fall that are given programming in Fish Iowa & Take Me Fishing units, canoeing, and kayaking. Program highlights include: aquatic stewardship, healthy habitats, resource management, catch & release, boater safety (including self rescue), & ethics. The success of the program caught the attention of Davenport North High School administrators, and now the North High School P.E. class has joined the Outdoor P.E. Program introducing yet another class of up to 20 students. The program is led by Director/Naturalist Dave Murcia, and this year alone has completed 26 classes reaching 433 high school students and teachers.

Non-Print Media Award

Okoboji Osprey Web Camera, Dickinson CCB



This past year Dickinson County Conservation Board installed a camera on a 60 foot high osprey nesting platform. The camera is a "birds-eye view" of well, a bird. Over the course of the summer the redesigned Dickinson website had over 70,000 page views. Much of this traffic was to view the family of osprey that took up residence on the nesting platform. Along with increase website visitation, naturalist traveled

throughout the county delivering programs about Iowa's osprey population. Congrats on DCCB for such a highly successful camera placement and spreading the word about this beautiful fish hawk that calls Iowa home.

Outstanding Volunteer

The 2013 Volunteer Award goes to a special pair in Jasper County. Andy and Pam Stone are more than just husband and wife—they are both former teachers, conservation enthusiasts, world travelers, and two outstanding volunteers for Jasper County Conservation and other local environmental organizations. According to Keri Van Zante, JCCB Director, "The Stones are always willing and able to help out with nearly any of our program requests, whether they are well planned out field trips or last minute panic attacks! If they are in the State of Iowa, they are right there with us to take on whatever group of kids or adults we are educating. Both are skilled speakers and are highly knowledgeable about the outdoors. There isn't a conservation subject matter that I can think of that they wouldn't be able to present, and present well!" Whether it is helping with the annual Halloween Hike, leading a station for a field trip, or being the official timers at the "Off the Beaten Path" race, Andy and Pam contributions to the Jasper County Conservation Board are greatly appreciated and admired by many. Congratulations Pam and Andy!

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



Chris Adkins is this year's Aldo Leopold Environmental Education recipient. This award recognizes individuals who have made lifelong commitments to environmental education. Since 1997, Chris has been a naturalist for Dallas County Conservation. His teachings favor feelings over facts, stories over technology, and always invite each person to discover their sense of place by developing a deeper connection to the land they call home. Through these native lessons, Chris has empowered thousands of young children and adults to discover their lowan

roots, but he has also expanded high school student's capacity to feel alive, by taking them on wilderness treks in the mountains of Idaho. By greeting you with a "hey brother, or hey sister," Chris extends his kinship to all of us. So join me in giving Chris Adkins an applause of gratitude for his commitment to connecting us to a world full of hope, peace and beauty.