

# *E-News*

## **A Publication of the Iowa Environmental Council**

The Iowa Environmental Council *E-News* is published around the first of every month. It provides environmental news and information to requesting individual members, member organizations, directors and cooperators. Nonmembers are also encouraged to subscribe to this electronic newsletter.

All material may be republished. Submissions can be made anytime, but must be received by the deadline as announced in a monthly reminder email. To submit items for *E-News*, or to subscribe, contact the Iowa Environmental Council at 515-244-1194 or email Lynn at [lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org](mailto:lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org).

**Please share this with others!**

**You can also open this as a PDF file at <http://www.iaenvironment.org/news/newsbulletins.php>.**

## ***January 2010***

### **Table of Contents:**

#### ***From the Council...***

- “Big River,” sequel to “King Corn”, POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER
- Citizen Lobby Training, Jan 18, Des Moines
- Environmental Lobby Day, Jan 19, Des Moines
- Announce Your Internship Opportunities in E-News

#### ***Events, Training and Activities Calendar***

- Affordable Green Building Training, various dates this winter, West Union
- Practical Farmers of Iowa’s Annual Conference, Jubilee!, Jan 8-9, Marshalltown
- Annie’s Project – a Course for Farm Women, begins Jan 13, Marshalltown
- A Culture of Conservation: The Tools We Need To Grow, Jan 13, Ames
- Wastewater Conference, Jan 13-14, Des Moines
- Iowa Conservation Education Coalition Winter Solstice Workshop, Jan 15-17, Moravia
- UNI Graduate Course for Teachers--Waste Reduction, beginning Jan 22, Cedar Falls
- Iowa Rivers Revival Second River Congress, Jan 23, Ames
- Beekeeping Course, Begins Jan 27, Marshalltown
- Women Food & Agriculture Annual Conference, Jan 28-29, Storm Lake
- Iowa Bicycle Summit, Jan 29 and 30, Des Moines
- People’s Eco Art Project, Jan 30, West Lake Okoboji
- Urban Food Systems for Des Moines, Jan 30, Des Moines
- 3 Lectures by Authors Terry Tempest Williams and Rick Bass, Jan 30 and 31, Ames
- Education Workshop hosted by Iowa Recycling Association, Feb 3, Urbandale
- Wet Prairie Workshops for Teachers and Naturalists, Feb 5-10, Mt. Vernon
- Iowa Paddlesport Expo, Feb 12-14, Lake Red Rock
- Exploring Iowa's Natural Resources On-line Course for Teachers, Begins Feb 15, Online
- America's New Farmers: Policy Innovations and Opportunities, Mar 4-5, DC
- A Watershed Year: Lessons Learned – Preparing for the Future, Mar 9, Des Moines
- Iowa Water Conference, Mar 9-10, Ames
- Natural Living Expo, Mar 27-28, Des Moines

## ***Opportunities & Announcements***

- Job Opening: Environmental Analyst and Advocate
- Job Opening: Public Interest Environmental Policy Advocate – Iowa
- Job Opening: Resource Director
- Job Opening: Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Opening: Green Ambassador
- Student Scholarship Available from Keep Iowa Beautiful
- Volunteer Opportunity: Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Research Program
- New Mississippi River Initiative Will Fund Iowa Watershed Projects
- Local Fishing Education Mini-Grants
- Green Building for Iowa Utilities Board and Office of the Consumer Advocate
- Exploring Iowa's Great Outdoors Videos Now Available Free Online
- Fortunate Wilderness DVD Available for Purchase Online

## ***You Should Know...People and Programs***

- New website: Iowa-based Food and Ag Network
- Appliance Rebate Program Announcement
- 

## ***From the Council...***

### **Big River Film Premier (Sequel to King Corn)**

Originally scheduled to air on Thursday, January 7, in Des Moines, the Iowa premiere of this documentary has been postponed until February – date to be announced. Big River is a follow-up to King Corn, Ian and Curt's experiment to learn where food comes from by growing an acre of corn in Iowa. In Big River, Ian and Curt return to Iowa with a new mission: to investigate the environmental impact of the chemicals used on their acre of corn has had on water quality downstream. Tickets are \$20 per person with proceeds benefiting Iowa Environmental Council and Practical Farmers of Iowa. Watch E-News for an announcement of a new date in February.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Citizen Lobby Training**

#### **Monday, January 18, Des Moines**

The Iowa Environmental Council is offering an 1-hour, evening training on how to citizen lobby and fact sheets on key environmental policies for 2010, at our offices at 521 East Locust, suite 220, in Des Moines. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. The time of the training will be set, based on the needs of the individuals pre-registered. Many individuals planning on attending Environmental Lobby Day, on January 19, will be traveling from out of town and we want to be sure they have the opportunity to attend.

**Registration deadline: noon, Friday, January 15.** We will offer this same training during the day on January 19, at the Lucas State Office Building cafeteria. Please call Lynn to register: 515-244-1194.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Environmental Lobby Day**

**Tuesday, January 19, State Capitol Building in Des Moines, First Floor Rotunda**

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; press conference at 11:00 a.m.; stay all day or stop in for an hour. Please help us tell state lawmakers that Iowans want policies that protect our natural resources and provide a safe, healthy environment for this and future generations. Representatives from Iowa Environmental Council member organizations will be in the rotunda, with table displays and information. Training on how to citizen lobby and fact sheets on key environmental policies for 2010 will be provided that day and also the evening before (see Citizen Lobby Training above). For more details or call or email Lynn, 515-244-1194, ext 210; [lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org](mailto:lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Announce Your Internship Opportunities in E-News**

We're already receiving requests from students who want to know if there are summer environmental internship opportunities in Iowa. Remember, you can announce these in E-News. Just submit a brief paragraph and a website or email address where interested candidates can get more information.

## ***Events, Training and Activities***

### **Affordable Green Building Training**

#### **Various dates, West Union**

Center on Sustainable Communities is offering free workshops on each phase of building an affordable, energy efficient and sustainable residential home. The Affordable Green Building Training program supports West Union's disaster recovery efforts and its designation as a Green Pilot Community. Professional and homeowner workshops are being offered. To view the full schedule and more details visit: [www.icosc.com/westunion.asp](http://www.icosc.com/westunion.asp). Registration is required - Contact Leslie Berckes at Center on Sustainable Communities (COSC): 515-707-2787; [Leslie@icosc.com](mailto:Leslie@icosc.com); [www.facebook.com/icosc](http://www.facebook.com/icosc).

Submitted by Siobhan Spain

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Practical Farmers of Iowa's Annual Conference, Jubilee!**

#### **January 8-9, Marshalltown**

Please join us this weekend at Marshalltown Community College. PFI is celebrating 25 years of networking, cooperation, learning, and developing diverse farms, healthful food, and vibrant communities. Come celebrate! We will honor our past and look to our future. Four PFI farmers will offer us their vision of their farms, Iowa agriculture, and the PFI they will know 25 years from now. The conference offers a diverse line-up of workshops, organized according to the priorities of Iowa farmers. For more information, visit [www.practicalfarmers.org](http://www.practicalfarmers.org) or call (515)232-5661.

Submitted by Sally Worley

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Annie's Project – a Course for Farm Women**

#### **Begins January 13, Marshalltown**

This course is to be held on Wednesdays, Jan. 13- Feb. 17 from 6-9 PM in the Business & Technology Center at Iowa Valley Continuing Education, Marshalltown. Annie, a farm wife, spent her lifetime learning to be an involved business partner with her husband. Annie's project takes her experiences and shares them with farm women. Topics included: Women & Money; Business Plans; Mission Statement & Goals; How Property is Titled; Cash & Crop Share Leases; Retirement & Estate Planning; Using Spreadsheets; Risk Management; Types of Insurance; Fast Tools; and Financial Record. Co-sponsor: ISU Extension. The cost is \$50 which includes a workbook. To learn more, visit [www.IowaValley.com](http://www.IowaValley.com) or call 641-752-4645 or 800-284-4823.

Submitted by Jean Brownlie

\* \* \* \* \*

**A Culture of Conservation: The Tools We Need To Grow  
January 13, Ames**

We all know how important good soil and water quality is to our livelihoods. We work toward this goal daily—whether we are working with our peers, those who affect the law, farmers and Iowans in general. Yet we can always improve on how well we deliver this message. Plan now to attend a forum, A Culture of Conservation: The Tools We Need to Grow, on January 13, 2010, at the Gateway Conference Center, Ames, Iowa. This forum—geared toward farmers, educators, agency personnel and others—may help us tell the conservation story better. This one-day conference is sponsored by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Learning Farm and Iowa Water Center. The forum is free, but registration is required. For forum details and registration information, visit

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/JanuaryConference1.html>. Register by January 7 to be included in a drawing for a photograph by Jerry DeWitt.

Submitted by Carol Brown

\* \* \* \* \*

**Wastewater Conference – Save the Date  
January 13-14**

The 12<sup>th</sup> conference of the Iowa Onsite Waste Water Association (IOWWA), set for January 13 and 14, 2010, is expected to draw 400 contractors, manufacturers, state regulators and maintenance personal working in Iowa’s onsite wastewater industry. It features national and state speakers, educational breakout sessions and an exhibit area filled with state-of-the-art septic systems, tanks, vehicles and other heavy equipment used on-the-job. The conference is held at the Polk County Convention Complex in downtown Des Moines and registration information can soon be found at [www.iowwa.com](http://www.iowwa.com). If questions, contact IOWWA’s executive director Alice Vinsand, [alice@avinsandinc.com](mailto:alice@avinsandinc.com) (515-225-1051).

Submitted by Alice Vinsand

\* \* \* \* \*

**Iowa Conservation Education Coalition Winter Solstice Workshop  
January 15-17, Moravia**

The 2010 Winter Solstice Workshop will be held at Honey Creek Resort in Moravia, Iowa (on Lake Rathbun) and features keynote speaker David Sobel, author of *Beyond Ecophobia* and *Place Based Education*, publications of the Orion Society. Friday night Iowa musician Dave Moore will be performing after the opening program. Tickets will be \$10 for the general public and free to Workshop attendees. The concert starts at 8:00 p.m. Registration is \$75 for current ICEC Members. To download a registration packet visit: <http://www.ceee.uni.edu/Portals/0/ICEC%20Registration.pdf>. Please be sure to include this survey with your registration form: <http://www.ceee.uni.edu/Portals/0/ICEC%20Survey.pdf>. For more information or questions, contact Heather Niec, [adminicec@hotmail.com](mailto:adminicec@hotmail.com).

Submitted by Heather Niec

\* \* \* \* \*

**Iowa Turf Conference and Trade Show to have Sessions on Environmental Stewardship  
January 19-21, Des Moines**

Businesses, government agencies, private land owners—anyone—who wants to do a better job of managing turf on their properties, including golf courses, can pre-register for the conference by calling the Iowa Turf Grass office at 515-232-8222 by January 11<sup>th</sup> for the conference discount. Conference dates are Jan. 19-21, 2010 and located at the Polk County Convention Complex and the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Des Moines. For a program, with times and names of sessions, and to register online, see <http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference.htm>.

Submitted by Tom Girolamo

\* \* \* \* \*

**UNI Graduate Course for Teachers--Waste Reduction  
Beginning January 22, Cedar Falls**

Waste Reduction: Addressing the Overlooked "R" is an interdisciplinary environmental course in which teachers may earn one hour of graduate credit. It is great for middle school teachers, but adaptable to K-12 teachers. Part I will be held Friday, Jan. 22 (6-9 pm) and Saturday, January 23 (8:30-5) in Davenport; Part II will be held Friday, April 16 (6-9 pm). The course is \$50 or free. Go to <http://www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/workshops.aspx> for workshop details and to register.

Submitted by Susan Salterberg

\* \* \* \* \*

**Iowa Rivers Revival Second River Congress  
January 23, Ames**

Held Saturday, Jan 23, at the Story County Conservation Board (56461 180th St, Ames, Iowa), 1-5 P.M. No cost to attend. The 2nd River Congress will continue to build upon the interest and success from last year's Congress. Over 75 people attended and identified key river concerns and priorities and created a [River Bill of Rights](#). The purpose of this congress is to continue to expand a statewide network of river supporters who are willing to communicate with their legislators about the importance of water quality and river conservation. We continue to hear from Iowa legislators and Iowans alike that there is no voice for Iowa's rivers. With your help we can change that. Click [here](#) to view the full agenda for the afternoon. The River Congress is free and open to anyone interested in attending. To RSVP or for more information: Rosalyn Lehman, [rlhman@iowarivers.org](mailto:rlhman@iowarivers.org); 515-202-7720 or visit [www.iowarivers.org](http://www.iowarivers.org).

Submitted by Roz Lehman

\* \* \* \* \*

**Beekeeping Course  
Begins January 27, Marshalltown**

This course is offered Wednesdays, Jan. 27 – Mar. 3 at Iowa Valley Continuing Education in Marshalltown. Instructor, Phil Ebert is a professional beekeeper will help you learn how to get started as a beekeeper. Topics covered: disease control and pests, year-round seasonal management, the history of beekeeping, uses, and more. The seventh week includes a field trip to a local bee yard on the weekend. The cost is \$35 which includes a workbook. To learn more, visit [www.IowaValley.com](http://www.IowaValley.com) or call 641-752-4645 or 800-284-4823.

Submitted by Jean Brownlie

\* \* \* \* \*

**Women Food & Agriculture Annual Conference  
January 28 and 29, Storm Lake**

Please register today for the joint WFAN/IWINR 2010 annual conference on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 28 and 29 at [King's Pointe Resort](#) in Storm Lake, IA. Mention IWINR/WFAN when you call to make your reservations: 866-552-5960, or you may [reserve a room on their website](#). Our joint conference will offer networking and educational opportunities for any woman working in food systems or natural resources enhancement. [Click here to view the brochure and registration form.](#) [http://www.wfan.org/Women\\_Food\\_and\\_Agriculture\\_Network\\_Home.html](http://www.wfan.org/Women_Food_and_Agriculture_Network_Home.html)

Submitted by Lynn Laws

**2010 Iowa Bicycle Summit  
January 29 and 30, Des Moines**

Join us Friday, Jan. 29 and Saturday, Jan. 30, 8:30am - 4:30pm at the Holiday Inn Downtown at Mercy Campus, 1050 6th Avenue, in Des Moines. [AGENDA](#); REGISTRATION - [Electronic](#) or [Mail-in](#)

The 2010 Iowa Bicycle Summit is sponsored by the Iowa DOT and the Iowa Bicycle Coalition. The Friday Bicycle Facility Design Workshop will feature information on urban non-motorized transportation, urban trails, waterfront redevelopment, open space planning, and community revitalization. The Saturday Workshop is geared towards grassroots bicyclists who want to better their communities. The full session is \$155, but just Saturday is \$25. <http://www.iowabicyclecoalition.org/>

Submitted by Mark Wyatt

\* \* \* \* \*

**People's Eco Art Project**  
**January 30, West Lake Okoboji**

Come be 'part of the art' at the third annual People's Art Project at the Iowa Great Lakes, at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 30. Artist Chad Branham will design the hundred-foot cardinal on the ice in Miller's Bay at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. This ephemeral art project will line up people on the ice in the shape of a cardinal—a local favorite. His design will take over 100 people to complete. Once everyone is in place the cardinal will be photographed from an airplane by Judy Hemphill. Participants are asked to meet at Peace Corner at 11:00 a.m.(northwest corner of Highways 9 and 71) to ride a bus to the project site at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. People are encouraged to dress warmly and, if possible, to dress in red. "Even if you don't have a red coat, you can bring a red towel and throw it over your shoulders." said Branham, "Just come and have fun. And if you can whistle like a cardinal, you will get to be in the beak." For information about participating in this year's ArtsLive People's Project go to their website at ARTSLIVE.org or call Jane Shuttleworth at 712/337-3669, Ext 7. The photo will be taken at noon, so that people can participate in more of the Winter Game activities.

Submitted by Jane Shuttleworth

\* \* \* \* \*

**Hope for the Hungry: Feeding Greater Des Moines**  
**January 30, Urbandale**

Get inspired, ask questions, connect with others, and take action at your child's schools, at your church, in your neighborhood, at your local food pantry, with your service organization, or in your own backyard. Iowan keynote speakers include author, Debra Landwehr Engle, and landscape architect and Olmstead Scholar, Jason Grimm. Other panelists and workshop leaders sharing resources will be representing: the City of Des Moines, Food Bank of Iowa, Farm to School, Table to Table, Master Gardeners, Des Moines Area Religious Council, and more. The first 30 to register get a FREE gift from Yes! Magazine from their "Food for Everyone" issue #49. Registration is **limited** to the first 100 due to space. Hosted by Food & Faith: A Call to Action and Urban Ambassadors. Register online at [IowaTix.com](http://IowaTix.com) for only \$15 (plus fees) or \$20 at the door. Email [adam@urbanambassadors.org](mailto:adam@urbanambassadors.org), or call (515) 491-0706. Visit [www.UrbanFoodDSM.ning.com](http://www.UrbanFoodDSM.ning.com) for schedule, speaker bios, and available workshops.

Submitted by Adam Hammes

\* \* \* \* \*

**Meaningful Work: The Writer as Citizen - Terry Tempest Williams and Rick Bass**  
**January 30, Ames**

Sat., Jan 30, 2010, 4 p.m., Ames ISU, Sun Room, Memorial Union. Join symposium keynotes Terry Tempest Williams and Rick Bass in a conversation about the role of literature in environmental and community activism. Terry Tempest Williams is a conservationist, advocate for free speech, and author of *Refuge*. Her most recent book is *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*. Rick Bass is the author of twenty books, including the autobiographical *Why I Came West* and the short story collection *The Lives of Rocks*. He lives in the Yaak Valley in the northern Rockies, where he has been active in protecting the land from roads and logging. The discussion will be moderated by Dean Bakopoulos, an assistant professor in the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Environment.

Submitted by Mary McBee

\* \* \* \* \*

**Finding Beauty in a Broken World-Terry Tempest Williams  
January 30, Ames**

Sat., Jan 30, 8 p.m., Great Hall, Memorial Union, ISU. Terry Tempest Williams is a conservationist, advocate for free speech, and author of *Refuge*, a classic in environmental literature. She has been called "a citizen writer," a writer who speaks and speaks out on behalf of an ethical stance toward life. She has testified before Congress on women's health issues, camped in the remote regions of Utah and Alaska wildernesses and worked as "a barefoot artist" in Rwanda. Williams publications include *An Unspoken Hunger: Stories from the Field*; *Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert*; and *The Open Space of Democracy*. Williams's many awards and achievements include a Guggenheim Fellowship in creative nonfiction, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, the Robert Marshall Award from The Wilderness Society, and the Wallace Stegner Award from the Center for the American West.

Submitted by Mary McBee

\* \* \* \* \*

**The Lives of Rocks: Field Notes on Finding Home-Rick Bass  
January 31, Ames**

Sunday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m., Sun room, ISU memorial union. Author and environmentalist Rick Bass is the author of twenty books. His first short story collection, *The Watch*, set in Texas, won the PEN/Nelson Algren Award; and his 2002 collection, *The Hermit's Story*, was a Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year. The recipient of a Pushcart Prize and an O. Henry Award, Bass started writing short stories during his lunch breaks while working as a gas and oil geologist in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1987 he moved to the Yaak Valley in the northern Rockies, where he has been active in protecting the land from roads and logging and serves on the board of the Yaak Valley Forest Council and Round River Conservation Studies.

Submitted by Mary McBee

\* \* \* \* \*

**Education Workshop hosted by Iowa Recycling Association  
February 3, Urbandale**

Join us 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Urbandale Library for a workshop hosted by Iowa Recycling Association. Topics include: Social Networking ("Social Media 101", Nathan Wright, Lava Row), Water Quality ("LEAP into Groundwater", Jamie Oltman, The Groundwater Foundation), Education Tools ("In and Out of the Box", Amy Yoakum, Story County Conservation). Cost: \$30 before January 15; \$40 Beginning January 16. For more information and registration: [www.iowarecycles.org](http://www.iowarecycles.org) or 515-265-1596.

Submitted by Teresa Kurtz

\* \* \* \* \*

**Wet Prairies Workshop for Teachers and Naturalists  
February 5-7 and April 30-May 1, Mt. Vernon**

Presented at Sleep Inn, Mt. Vernon, IA (near Cedar Rapids) by Environmental Issues Instruction (eii), a program of the UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education. Learn how to help your students explore and improve Iowa Wet Prairies with units coordinate with Iowa Core Curriculum. For primary through Community College teachers and naturalists who will receive 2 UNI graduate credits, materials, meals and housing for only \$198 registration due to REAP and LRTF grants. ICEC has teacher registration stipends available. For more information visit [www.uni.edu/ceee/eii](http://www.uni.edu/ceee/eii), request a paper brochure at [bollwinkel@uni.edu](mailto:bollwinkel@uni.edu) or call 319-273-2783.

Submitted by Carl Bollwinkel

\* \* \* \* \*

**Iowa Paddlesport Expo  
February 12-14, Lake Red Rock**

Weekend of programs, clinics and special deals for water sports enthusiasts. Saturday at 10 a.m., partners will be there to share information on the status of the future Hickory Creek Wilderness Camp, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's exciting new project at Lake Red Rock. No admission fee. More info. online at [www.canoesportoutfitters.com/Iowa%20Paddlesport%20Expo.htm](http://www.canoesportoutfitters.com/Iowa%20Paddlesport%20Expo.htm). Hosted by CanoeSports Outfitters, Indianola. Contact Jeff Holmes at 515-961-6117 or [jeff@canoesportoutfitters.com](mailto:jeff@canoesportoutfitters.com) for more information.

Submitted by Ann Robinson

\*\*\*\*\*

**Exploring Iowa's Natural Resources On-line Course for Teachers  
February 15 – May 9, Online**

The goal of this twelve-week on-line class is to help you incorporate local natural resources into your curriculum. You will work in small groups and individually to create a network of contacts and resources to teach about natural resources. Participants are required to spend 5-6 hours per week on-line completing assignments and participating in group discussions. Participants should be comfortable navigating web pages, have access to internet and a computer on a daily basis, and possess basic computer skills.

Registration deadline is February 9, 2010. Registration fee: materials and 2 license renewal credit for \$50 or 2 graduate credits from Drake University for \$250. For more information, contact Shannon Hafner, Aquatic Education Program, Iowa DNR, 641/ 747-2051, [Shannon.Hafner@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Shannon.Hafner@dnr.iowa.gov)

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

\*\*\*\*\*

**America's New Farmers: Policy Innovations and Opportunities  
March 4-5, DC**

The Drake Forum on America's New Farmers: Policy Innovations and Opportunities will take place Thursday and Friday March 4-5, at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington DC. The two day meeting will bring together policy advocates, government officials, and beginning farmers from across the nation to consider how best to support policies creating the next generation of America's farmers. A dozen agricultural groups and institutions involved with new and beginning farmers are cooperating with Drake on this initiative. The Forum will begin with a panel of new farmers talking about their hopes and needs for public policy. Discussion sessions are planned on: land access and availability; innovations in finance and credit; lessons from beginning farmer efforts; new farmer training and education programs; opportunities for new farmer communities; and markets and sustainable rural revitalization. The closing plenary will address the road ahead in identifying opportunities for national policy action. For more information and to register go to: <http://www.agandfoodlaw.com/2009/12/drake-forum-on-americas-new-farmers-set.html>.

Submitted by Marian Riggs Gelb

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Watershed Year: Lessons Learned – Preparing for the Future  
March 9, Des Moines**

Please save the date and plan to attend, March 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Iowa State Historical Building, 600 East Locust, in Des Moines. Learn more about trends in Iowa precipitation and water run-off, how Iowa is preparing for future floods, and much more. Also learn about a new book: *A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008*, which brings together perspectives from physical and environmental scientists, hydrologists, economists, public policy experts, engineers and community managers on what happened, what we can learn from this devastating experience and how we can better prepare for flooding in the future. Watch for an update on this workshop in February E-News.

Submitted by Joe Bolkcom

\* \* \* \* \*

**Iowa Water Conference  
March 9-10, Ames**

“Pulling It All Together: Policy, Programs and Practices” is the theme for the 2010 Iowa Water Conference to be held March 8-9, 2010 in Ames. The conference will feature the Iowa Stormwater Conference and the Iowa Agriculture and Environment Conference. This year the Iowa DNR Sourcewater Protection Program will also be leading several sessions. The goal of the Iowa Water Center is to offer a conference that provides networking and collaboration opportunities for major water initiatives in Iowa and to provide an opportunity for water professionals and the public to communicate. The event will be held at the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center in Ames. The Stormwater Conference, Agriculture and Environment Conference, and Sourcewater Protection sessions start at 1:00 pm, followed by an evening panel discussion and plenary session at 5:00 pm. An evening reception follows at 6:30 p.m. Sessions continue on March 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, please go to the following website: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/water/homepage.html>.

Submitted by Hillary Olson

\* \* \* \* \*

**Natural Living Expo  
March 27-28, Des Moines**

Calling all eco-friendly businesses and organizations! It's time to reserve your spot at the 5th Annual Natural Living Expo, which will be held on March 27-28, at the Polk County Convention Center. The event is free for the public and attracts a health-conscious and environmentally friendly audience. The more than 100 exhibitors at the 4th Annual Natural Living Expo included 1000 Friends of Iowa, the Center on Sustainable Communities, the Iowa Environmental Council, Silent Rivers Design & Build, Wallace Farms and Whiterock Conservancy. There is a discount for businesses and organizations that register in January. For more information or to download Natural Living Expo vendor materials, please go to <http://www.naturallivingexpo.org/>, call Laurie Belin at (515)276-6971, or e-mail [laurabelin@yahoo.com](mailto:laurabelin@yahoo.com).

Submitted by Laura Belin

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***Opportunities and Announcements***

**Job Opening: Environmental Analyst and Advocate**

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) is seeking a professional staff person to support our Upper Mississippi River project through an integrated program of research, communications, and advocacy. The goal of the project is to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff from agricultural operations in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Successful candidates will have relevant academic training in the natural, agricultural or social sciences and experience in environmental advocacy. The position is located in Ames, Iowa. A strong commitment to natural resource conservation, environmental protection, and public health is essential. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to [employment@ewg.org](mailto:employment@ewg.org). For more information and a job description visit <http://www.ewg.org/jobs>.

EWG is also seeking a legislative policy analyst to work in our Washington, DC office. For more information and a job description visit <http://www.ewg.org/jobs>

Submitted by Andrew Hug

\* \* \* \* \*

**Job Opening: Public Interest Environmental Policy Advocate – Iowa**

The Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC), the Midwest’s leading environmental legal advocacy and eco-business innovation organization, seeks to hire a Policy Advocate to work in our Des Moines office to promote clean energy, clean water and conservation projects in Iowa. The Policy Advocate will play a key role in ELPC’s mission to achieve environmental progress and economic development together in Iowa and will work with ELPC’s regional program staff on environmental quality and clean energy advocacy across the Midwest/Great Plains. For more information, visit <http://elpc.org/category/jobs#job-2206> or email Andrew Snow at [asnow@elpc.org](mailto:asnow@elpc.org). **Application Deadline is Jan. 30, 2010.**

Submitted by Andrew Snow

\*\*\*\*\*

**Job Opening: Resource Director**

Plains Justice, a Great Plains environmental justice law center with offices in Iowa, Montana and South Dakota, seeks a Resource Director who will report to the CEO and work co-operatively with the Board, attorneys and other staff and volunteers to raise, manage and evaluate effective use of financial resources. Demonstrated fundraising success required. Location negotiable among our offices. Competitive non-profit salary, great benefits, flexible work environment. Contact [info@plainsjustice.org](mailto:info@plainsjustice.org) for detailed job description. No phone calls please.

Submitted by Sue Patton

\*\*\*\*\*

**Job Opening: Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator**

The Coordinator will work in Spirit Lake, Iowa, to manage and coordinate the implementation of the objectives of a water quality conservation project and activities, conservation planning and application of practices, information and education and other related activities essential to the district and NRCS. The activities will address areas of environmental concern that may include but are not limited to sedimentation, nutrients, pesticides, proper development, run off control and other water quality issues. **Application Deadline: January 26, 2010.** For a complete job description, salary, hiring requirements, and how to apply, go to <http://cleanwateralliance.net/blog/>.

Submitted by John Wills

\*\*\*\*\*

**AmeriCorps Opening: Green Ambassador**

There currently is open a Green Ambassador AmeriCorps DNR position for the Capitol. All interested parties should email a cover letter and their resume to Jane Mild at the DNR. This position is required to serve a minimum of 300 hours over a time period of approximately 3 months in length (Jan. 11th – April 20th during the legislative session). Three days per week, 8:00AM – 2PM. Some flexibility may be possible. This AmeriCorps position is an Education Award ONLY slot. The education award is \$1,000 and is available upon successful completion of all program requirements. If the successful applicant is 55 years of age or older, the education award may be transferred to a child, grandchild or foster child. The education award must be used within seven years. For more information about the education award please go to: [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_individuals/benefits/index.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/index.asp) The close date is January 20, 2010.

Email your cover letter and resume to Jane Mild at [jane.mild@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:jane.mild@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515.242.6004. More information about AmeriCorps can be found at [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

Submitted by Allan Goldberg

\*\*\*\*\*

**Student Scholarship Available from Keep Iowa Beautiful**

Through the leadership of Bob Byers, long-time educator, Keep Iowa Beautiful's (KIB) Litter-Free School Campus program was initiated in northwest Iowa in 2003. In memory of Bob and his dedication to our organization, KIB and the Byers family established the Robert E. Byers Scholarship Fund within the

Keep Iowa Beautiful Endowment Fund last year. We are excited to offer up to four, \$500 scholarships to Iowa high school seniors in 2010! Students across Iowa enrolling in an Iowa college or university to major in community enhancement or environmental areas of study are eligible. Students can download the application on-line at <http://www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com/iframes/ibyrsScholarship.html>. **Deadline for application: must be postmarked by February 1, 2010.** Please contact the KIB office at 515-323-6507 with any questions.

Submitted by Lynn Laws

\* \* \* \* \*

**Volunteer Opportunity: Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Research Program**

Do you have an interest in wildlife ecology and wolf-moose dynamics? Are you passionate about wilderness camping and our National Parks? Are you a hardy soul with a tolerance for bugs, lack of conveniences, and long days of rugged hiking? If so, please consider a special opportunity to volunteer for the summer wolf-moose research program at Isle Royale National Park. Expedition teams are being organized right now for May, June, and August 2010. Each expedition involves a week-long trek through the boreal forests of Isle Royale. Expedition teams will collect valuable data and record important observations. In the process, you'll learn about the natural history of Isle Royale and its wilderness ecosystem. Application forms and further information are available at: <http://www.isleroyalewolf.org> (click on Research Expeditions in the left hand column). If you have specific questions, please contact Ken Vrana, director, Isle Royale Institute at [kjvrana@mtu.edu](mailto:kjvrana@mtu.edu).

Submitted by Rebecca Kauten

\* \* \* \* \*

**New Mississippi River Initiative to Fund Iowa Watershed Projects**

On November 23th Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that 41 watersheds in 12 Mississippi River basin states have been selected to participate in a new initiative to improve water quality of the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) will provide approximately \$320 million in USDA financial assistance over the next four years for voluntary projects in these priority watersheds in Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin. MRBI will help producers implement conservation and management practices that prevent, control and trap nutrient runoff from agricultural land. The watersheds selected in Iowa include the North Raccoon, Boone and Maquoketa river watersheds. Also Iowa shares 2 selected watersheds with adjoining states; the Upper Cedar River watershed with Minnesota and the Lower Grand River watershed with Missouri. Requests for project proposals for smaller watershed projects within these 41 watershed areas will be announced in the next several weeks. For more information on this new program, see

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/mrbi/mrbi\\_watersheds\\_maps\\_and\\_list\\_page.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/mrbi/mrbi_watersheds_maps_and_list_page.html).

Submitted by Susan Heathcote

\* \* \* \* \*

**Local Fishing Education Mini-Grants  
Application Deadline: February 15, 2010**

The Aquatic Education Program will award up to ten (10) - \$500 mini grants for local angling education programs that provide multiple experiences and/or an ongoing support network for beginning anglers. Programs must use Fish Iowa! and demonstrate local partnerships that can support efforts after the grant period (two years). For more information, contact the Aquatic Education Program, Iowa DNR, 641/747-2200, [AquaticEd\\_Info@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:AquaticEd_Info@dnr.iowa.gov)

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

\* \* \* \* \*

**Green Building for Iowa Utilities Board and Office of the Consumer Advocate**

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) selected BNIM to design an energy efficient office building on the Capitol Complex to house these two agencies and serve as a testament to the sustainable stewardship of the State of Iowa. The building will serve as a model energy efficient office building to demonstrate proven, cost-effective new construction energy efficiency measures. Sustainable features include a daylight harvesting louver screen and light tubes that help to supplement daylighting. The site features a storm water collection system to capture all site storm water as well as additional diverted off-site storm water. The project is on track to achieve LEED Platinum Certification. See <http://www.bnim.com/fmi/xsl/press/index.xsl?token.arid=112>

Submitted by Erin Gehle

\*\*\*\*\*

**Exploring Iowa’s Great Outdoors Videos Now Available Free Online**

Polk County Conservation recently received a REAP-CEP grant to produce 18 conservation videos. The videos are available on their website at <http://www.conservationboard.org/Pages/videos.aspx> and will air on a variety of local cable stations. The video series, entitled “Get Outside,” shows viewers how to have fun while exploring Central Iowa’s great outdoors. Explore the mysterious Skunk River oxbows by kayak, find out the best places to ice fish and cross country ski, whatever it is you like to do outdoors, any time is a great time to get outside.

Submitted by Kami Rankin

\*\*\*\*\*

**Fortunate Wilderness DVD Available for Purchase Online**

George Desort’s film about the Isle Royale wolf/moose study is now available on DVD and can be purchased on our website, [www.irkpa.org](http://www.irkpa.org). The film features interviews with the biologists, including eminent wolf biologist Dave Mech, who has spent nearly four decades of his professional life doing groundbreaking work on Isle Royale’s wolves and moose. You can read the full Audubon Magazine review at <http://www.audubonmagazine.org/web/royale/>

Submitted by Rebecca Kauten

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***You Should Know...People and Programs***

**New website: Iowa-based Food and Ag Network**

Imagine one place where you can get tips on buying meat directly from a farmer, connect to local food groups in Iowa, explore post-harvest handling techniques, discover ways to manage niche pork feed costs, and learn how to use goats to control weeds. Your one-stop information center is [www.valuechains.org](http://www.valuechains.org), the new Web site for Value Chain Partnerships (VCP), an Iowa-based network for food and agriculture working groups. Begun in 2002, VCP now includes groups working in the areas of niche pork, regional food systems, small meat processing, and the state’s fruit and vegetable and grass-based livestock industries. Check out the website today! [www.valuechains.org](http://www.valuechains.org)

Submitted by Lynn Laws

\*\*\*\*\*

**Appliance Rebate Program Announcement**

The US Department of Energy anticipates approval of our proposed program for appliance rebates. A rescheduled start date of the program will now be March 1, 2010. **HOWEVER:** A rebate website and toll-free number will be available a **few weeks prior** to March 1, 2010. The website will contain the application form, rules and information regarding the rebate process. Please continue to check the Iowa

Office of Energy Independence website for additional details as they become available:  
<http://www.energy.iowa.gov/>. An official list of approved appliances and rebate amounts are also available via the OEI web site. View [frequently asked questions](#) about the appliance rebate program.  
Submitted by Lynn Laws  
\* \* \* \* \*

This monthly electronic newsletter is a service of the  
Iowa Environmental Council  
521 East Locust Street, Suite 220, Des Moines IA 50309  
Ph 515-244-1194; Fax 515-244-7856  
<http://www.iaenvironment.org>  
If you have comments or would like to unsubscribe, please contact Lynn Laws, 515-244-1194, ext. 210 or [lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org](mailto:lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org) .

**If you find the monthly e-news helpful, please consider making a donation to support it. Your gift will make possible the future production and improvements of e-news. To make your gift online, visit [Network for Good](#). THANK YOU!**

- END -