

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.

Please share this with others!

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

February 2010

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From the Council...

“Big River” Film Showing in Des Moines

February 18, Fleur Cinema and Cafe

Join us on Thursday, February 18, at Fleur Cinema in Des Moines, for a viewing of “Big River,” a follow-up by the creators of the documentary “King Corn,” where two college buddies experiment to learn where food comes from by growing and selling 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. We will be showing an abbreviated version of “King Corn” prior to showing “Big River.” **Reception and snacks at 6:00 p.m.; films begin at 6:45 p.m.** A panel of farmers will lead a discussion after the films. For more information or to purchase advance tickets call 515-244-1194, ext 202.

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Make a Difference for Iowa's Environment -- Become a Policy Volunteer for the Iowa Environmental Council

Want to make a difference for Iowa's natural environment? We work daily to let legislators and other policy makers know what environmental issues are important to Iowans. But policy makers really want to hear directly from their constituents—YOU. We make it easy for you to stay on top of environmental policy-making in Iowa and to be in contact with your legislators and other decision makers. Please take 5 minutes to go to <http://capwiz.com/iaenvironment/home/>. You can sign-up there to receive Action Alerts from us, which contain links to sample emails which you can personalize and send to your decision-makers. Learn about current legislation we are monitoring by clicking on the blue "Issues and Legislation" tab on that same page. Find contact information for your elected officials by clicking on the "Elected Officials" tab. Don't wait! Become a Policy Volunteer today and make a difference for Iowa's natural environment.

Events, Training and Activities

Iowa Bicycle Summit

January 29-30, Des Moines

Join us at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Friday and Saturday, Jan 29-30, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. This year's statewide conference of bicycle advocates promises to get your gears working, with RAGBRAI Ride Right program, several safe routes to school sessions and more. Friday features a bicycle facility design workshop with John LaPlante, a Chicago engineer with ties to nationwide bike projects and publications. Saturday sessions will present design innovations, safe routes to school, safety and urban dirt programs. Registration and details are online at www.IowaBicycleCoalition.org. Contact Mark Wyatt of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition at 515-309-2867.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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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

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Interfaith Power & Light Event

January 30, Marshalltown

Join Iowa Interfaith Power & Light for an inspirational day of activities in Marshalltown, including a tour of their LEED certified library, a get-to-know-you lunch, and a presentation and workshop by the renowned doctor and author of "Serve God, Save the Planet," Matthew Sleeth, whose faith has called him to walk the talk of environmental stewardship. Sleeth's last presentation in Iowa at the general assembly of the Disciples of Christ was standing room only. Register now with Pastor Lott at chalice@centraldoc.org. Prior to Dr. Sleeth's presentation at 1:00 PM, Iowa IPL is hosting a tour of

Marshalltown's LEED certified library at 11:00 AM and an informal Dutch treat lunch at Noon at the Tremont Grill. To register for any part of the day, please contact Pastor Janet Lott at chalice@centraldoc.org. To learn more about Dr. Sleeth, [check out this interview](#).

Submitted by Lynn Laws

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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 for only \$15 (plus fees) or \$20 at the door. Email adam@urbanambassadors.org, or call (515) 491-0706. Visit www.UrbanFoodDSM.ning.com for schedule, speaker bios, and available workshops.

Submitted by Adam Hammes

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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

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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

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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

**Practical Farmers of Iowa Webinars - Growing Food in Iowa
February and March, Online**

This February and March you can learn a lot about growing food in Iowa from the comfort of your home or office. Online “webinars” include the following 1 ½ hour programs: Grow Vegetables Year-Round; Opportunities for Agroforestry; and MUCH MORE! To see all the offerings, register for programs, learn more, go to www.practicalfarmers.org/farminar or contact Sally Worley at (515) 232-5661 or sally@practicalfarmers.org.

Submitted by Lynn Laws

COSC's Affordable Green Building Training, HVAC Certification and Storm Water Management Seminar

Various dates, West Union and Cedar Falls

February learning opportunities through Center on Sustainable Communities (COSC) include: 1) Affordable Green Building Training Professional Series Session #3 and Homeowner Session #1 in West Union; 2) An advanced 2-day HVAC workshop Feb. 16-17 in Cedar Falls; and 3) A valuable Storm Water Management Workshop, featured at the Black Hawk SWCD Annual Conference on Feb. 17 in Cedar Falls. Learn more at www.icosc.com.

Submitted by Siobhan Spain

Community Infrastructure Public Forums

Various dates in February and various locations in Iowa

You're invited to a community forum in the area to provide input on a comprehensive infrastructure plan for Iowa's future economy. Join your community in discussing Iowa's infrastructure in the following sectors: Buildings and Vertical Infrastructure, energy, natural Resources, telecommunications, transportation. Through five community forums, the state of Iowa is seeking input from stakeholders in the private, non-profit, and local public sectors to ensure that Iowa's infrastructure meets the demands of the future economy. Your perspective is critical to Iowa's future economy. Five community forums will be taking place across the state in Des Moines, Coralville, Ottumwa, Dubuque, and Sioux City. For details of dates and locations contact Arlinda McKeen - amckeen@sppg.com. Please spread the word. We need everyone to help make Iowa strong and competitive! Questions may be directed to Arlinda McKeen - amckeen@sppg.com.

Submitted by Marian Riggs Gelb

**Grant-writing Workshop – Rural Energy for American Program
February 1, Hiawatha**

REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) Grant-writing Workshop Feb. 1st 1-5:30, Hiawatha. Are you a small farmer, rural small business-person or a representative of a sustainable ag or energy group? If so,

you may want to sign up to attend a workshop hosted by the National Center for Appropriate Technology and Leopold Center Farm Energy Workgroup to learn more about the REAP program. This USDA program has already helped fund many rural and farm energy-related projects, and we want to help small-scale farmers and locally-owned rural businesses learn more about how they can take part. This workshop is free, but please reply to richd@ncat.org to RSVP- seating for the first workshop is limited, so please sign up asap. Updates and workshop agenda are available at: www.localfoodlocalenergy.com.

Submitted by Rich Dana

Opportunity to Tell Legislators that Iowa Rivers are Important to You

February 2, Des Moines

You are invited to attend Iowa Rivers Revival’s legislative reception, Feb 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Noodle Zoo Café, E 6th & Locust in Des Moines. No Cost – light appetizers and beverages provided
RSVP (not required, but helpful): rllehman@iowarivers.org or 515-202-7720. This reception provides an opportunity for Iowa’s legislative leaders to recognize that rivers have representation and an increasing base of support advocating on their behalf. The purpose of this reception is to raise awareness and to continue having conversations about the issues concerning Iowa’s rivers and our connections to rivers. 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!

Submitted by Roz Lehman

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 or 515-265-1596.

Submitted by Teresa Kurtz

Iowa Recycling Association Legislative Event and Casual Reception

February 3 and 4, Des Moines

You are invited to attend Iowa Recycling Association’s legislative event and casual reception. IRA Casual Legislative Reception is Wednesday, February 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Monihan’s at the Renaissance Savery, 401 Locust St., Des Moines. No Cost – light appetizers provided. The IRA Legislative Event is Thursday, February 4, 7:30-10:00 a.m. on the First Floor-North Rotunda Circle, State Capitol building. Both events provide an opportunity for Iowa’s legislative leaders to recognize that recycling is vital to the economic growth and environmental well-being of our state. The purpose of IRA’s presence at the Capitol is to raise awareness, to educate, and to continue having conversations about the issues concerning recycling and recycling related activities in Iowa. Join Iowa Recycling Association members, stakeholders, and legislators for the opportunity to discuss economic, environmental and recycling issues important to you! **Please E-mail your legislator and encourage them to attend ([Find Your Legislator](#)).**

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/ceec/eii, request a paper brochure at bollwinkel@uni.edu or call 319-273-2783.

Submitted by Carl Bollwinkel

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Raccoon River Watershed Planning

February 6, Jefferson

The North Raccoon River watershed has been chosen as one of the four watersheds in Iowa to be eligible for a portion of the \$320,000,000 Mississippi Basin Initiative funds for nitrogen reduction to be administered by the NRCS. The RRWA will hold an informational meeting, open to the public, to learn about the Raccoon River Watershed Planning Process on February 6 at the Jefferson Community Center (204 West Harrison) in Jefferson, Iowa at 10:00 a.m. Tom Buman of Agren Inc. will lead the discussion. Cornelia Flora, Susan Heathcote, Linda Kinman and Adam Kiel will comment. RRWA merchandise will be available. Contact: Mike Delaney (mikedelaney1@mac.com) www.northraccoon.org

Submitted by Mike Delaney

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Transition Towns Meeting

February 6, Des Moines

The Transition Des Moines group will meet on Saturday, February 6, at 2 p.m. We are starting a six-session discussion course of *The Transition Handbook* (2008) by Rob Hopkins. *The Transition Handbook* offers concrete strategies for engaging with the local community to build resilience against possible threats including climate instability, resource depletion, and financial downsizing, providing a positive vision for turning our global predicament into an opportunity. We will be learning from the book and from each other. If you are interested in coming to the meeting, please email Margaret Weiner, meyweiner@gmail.com, and she will let you know the details about place, materials, etc. You may also contact her if you have questions or would like to receive emails about future activities from this group.

Submitted by Margaret Weiner

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Green Plumbing in Your Home and Business

February 9-10, Des Moines

A Structured Plumbing class with an emphasis on energy efficiency is being held in Des Moines February 9-10, offered by Indigo Dawn, a green development company. Imagine a world where hot water is delivered to every plumbing fixture wasting no more than 1 cup as you wait for the hot water. This is the type of innovative thinking instructor Gary Klein, with Affiliated International Management, LLC, will be offering in this two day class. This session will characterize single family hot water distribution systems, describe the current practices, assess the magnitude of the problem and the benefits that will come from solving it, discuss ways to think about hot water system efficiency, and recommend steps that can be taken to reduce unnecessary losses from hot water distribution systems in both retrofit and new construction. See link for additional information and to register, or contact Tizzy Hyatt at 515-681-6781 / IndigoDawnDevelopment@yahoo.com. Also see

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e2ow21191ebccf3b>

Submitted by Shari Hrdina

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Iowa Paddlesport Expo

February 12-14, Indianola

Get an early start on preparing for spring and summer at the Iowa Paddlesport Expo, Feb 12-14, at Canoe Sports Outfitters in Indianola. With nearly 40 presentations, great prices, and manufacturer reps, this will be a great weekend for paddlers. The programs, clinics, and special deals run from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14. Beginning Saturday at 10 a.m., partners will share information on the status of the future Hickory Creek Wilderness Camp, INHF's exciting new project at Lake Red Rock. There is no admission fee. View the online schedule at <http://www.canoesportoutfitters.com/Iowa%20Paddlesport%20Expo.htm>. Contact Jeff Holmes of CanoeSports Outfitters at 515-961-6117.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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. 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

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

On Farm Digestion: Considering the Options

February 16, Amana Colonies

On February 16, at 9 a.m., the Amana Farms Renewable Energy Center and Iowa State University Extension will be holding the education outreach program "On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion: Considering the Options." The program will be held at the Iowa Artists Theatre Co. in the Amana Colonies, and it will be followed by a digester tour at the Renewable Energy Center. The three-hour program beginning at 9:00 a.m. will contain information on the Amana Farms beef manure digester including goals and objectives, design and installation, and the farm's experiences; feasibility considerations for on-farm manure digesters; manure digester opportunities in Iowa; and digester methane production for carbon credits. Following lunch on your own, tours of the Amana Farms digester will be available at the Renewable Energy Center. The registration fee is \$25, and no pre-registration is required, attendees should register on-site. <http://www.abe.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/amana-program.html>

Submitted by Allan Goldberg

Bald Eagle Watch

February 21, Central Iowa

Stop by the Saylorville Visitors Center to learn about our national symbol, the bald eagle, from noon-4 p.m. Then venture out to different areas around the lake to observe them in their natural setting. On the same day, Jester Park Lodge will be hosting "Spirit," a live eagle used for education. Hourly programs at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. will give visitors a close look at this amazing species. All ages welcome.

Submitted by Kami Rankin

Lecture: Wisdom of the Last Farmer

February 28, Ames

Join us Feb 28 for "Wisdom of the Last Farmer" lecture, 7 p.m., Memorial Union Sun Room, Iowa State University campus in Ames. The author of eight books, David Mas Masumoto grows organic peaches, nectarines, and grapes on his 80-acre farm in Del Rey, California. He is author of Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm and Wisdom of the Last Farmer: Harvesting Legacies From the Land. Masumoto is a self-described "artist farmer," capturing the stories of family and the land through literature. The 2010 Shivvers Memorial Lecture coordinated by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Details: <http://lectures.iastate.edu/lecture/19881>

Submitted by Laura Miller

Projects WILD/WILD Aquatic/Learning Tree On-line Course

March 1 – May 2, online

Participants will use course materials and resources to help integrate Iowa's environment/nature into their classroom. Course readings, assignments and guest speakers encourage participants to share their ideas and experiences with peers. Assignments will help educators correlate environment/nature activities to district standards and benchmarks while meeting the essential concepts and skills as outlined by the Iowa Core Curriculum, Characteristics of Effective Instruction and Every Learner Inquires. **Registration deadline is February 23.** Registration fee: materials and 1 license renewal credit for \$50 or 1 graduate credit from Drake University for \$150. For more information, contact Shannon Hafner, Aquatic Education Program, Iowa DNR, 641/747-2051, Shannon.Hafner@dnr.iowa.gov.

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

Drake Forum on American's New Farmers

March 4-5, Washington DC

The Drake Forum on America's New Farmers is a two day national policy conference to identify innovative policies and projects at the federal, state, and local levels to support new and beginning farmers. To be held in Washington DC on March 4 and 5, the conference will feature national keynote speakers and regional voices on panel discussions. Drake University Agricultural Law Center is organizing the conference with a number of additional co-sponsors. Iowa organizations helping with the conference include Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and the Beginning Farmer Center both at Iowa State University; Buy Fresh Buy Local-Iowa; and Practical Farmers of Iowa. The conference will weave a strong focus on stewardship as it relates to new and beginning farmers and ranchers throughout eight panels and four plenary presentations. Full details can be found at www.drakeforum.org E-Mail questions regarding the forum to americasnewfarmer@drake.edu or call 515-271-4956.

Submitted by Matt Russell

Ames Reads Leopold

March 6, Ames

Citizens in Ames will join other communities nationwide in honoring the legacy and land ethic of Aldo Leopold with the third annual reading of essays from A Sand County Almanac. The event is on Saturday, March 6, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Farwell Brown Auditorium of the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Avenue. A diverse group of civic leaders, university faculty, students, and retirees will read passages from Leopold's writings, complimented with photos from the Leopold family archives, and images of nature and the land that Leopold loved. The Aldo Leopold Foundation and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture are event sponsors. See <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm>.

Submitted by Philip Damery

Life in the Raccoon River

March 6, West Des Moines

The RRWA will hold its annual “Life in the Raccoon River” meeting at DMACC West (5959 West Grand Ave) West Des Moines, Iowa on Saturday, March 6 from 8:30 to 1:00. Topics will include: Water Quality, Fish, Birds and Flowers in the Raccoon Watershed. The presenters will be: Laura Brenner, Melinda Coogan, Adam Kiel, Tony Seeman, Clay Pierce, Matt Wetrich and Eileen Miller. RRWA merchandise will be available. Contact: Elizabeth Hill (ardeaherodias@gmail.com)

www.northraccoon.org

Submitted by Mike Delaney

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Iowa Water Conference

March 8-9, 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

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Growing Sustainable Communities Conference

March 9, Dubuque

Mayor Roy D. Buol and the Dubuque City Council are pleased to announce that Dubuque’s third annual “Growing Sustainable Communities” conference will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The theme of this year's conference is "Sustainability: A Tool for Community and Economic Development." Conference workshops will focus on the following sustainability principles: Regional Economy, Green Buildings, Healthy Local Foods, and Community Knowledge. As community and business leaders across the country learn more about sustainability, they have realized that sustainability offers the opportunity to improve the quality of life for our community while capitalizing on new economic development opportunities. Dubuque’s annual conference will bring together regional industry leaders, elected officials, business owners, and those interested in learning more about opportunities to help their communities grow and prosper in the most sustainable way possible. For more information or to register for the event, please visit www.sustainableDubuque.org.

Submitted by Cori Burbach

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New Book and Program about Flooding in Iowa

March 9, Des Moines

The new book, “A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008,” that will be released this March, is a compilation of twenty-five chapters written mostly by Iowans with perspectives on flood prediction, effects, response and recovery and future preparedness. In anticipation of the release of the book, the UI Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research (CGRER) is organizing a program to highlight the book’s publication and to focus attention on the challenges ahead as we better prepare for the floods of the future. The program, A Watershed Year: Lessons Learned – Preparing for the Future, will be held Tuesday, March 9, 6:30-8:00 pm, at the Iowa State Historical Building, 600 East Locust, in

Des Moines. Learn more about the book, trends in Iowa precipitation and water run-off, how is Iowa preparing for more floods, and much more. Refreshments and book signing. For more book details see <http://uipress.uiowa.edu/books/2010-spring/mutel-water.htm>.

Submitted by Joe Bolckom

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Prairie Preview

March 9, Iowa City

Prairie Preview XXVII will be held Tuesday, March 9 at Parkview Evangelical Free Church in Iowa City. Doors open at 6:30 PM for you to visit exhibits from your favorite environmental group with Bill Witt, Photographer and Writer, speaking at 7:35. His talk is titled "Enchantment by Prairie." This free event is sponsored by the Johnson County Heritage Trust. For more information call 319/338-7030, email info@jcht.org or visit www.jcht.org. Refreshments provided.

Tammy Richardson

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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 Bolckom

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Volunteers Needed for Ice Storm Cleanup at Whiterock Conservancy

March 13, Coon Rapids

Join volunteer forces to help clean up winter storm damage at Whiterock Conservancy, in Coon Rapids. Remove brush and fallen trees from main hiking trails, river campgrounds and the historic Home Farm. If you can help out, please meet at 10 a.m. at the Betts Shop on Fig Ave (.8 miles south of Hwy 141). Contact elizabeth@whiterockconservancy.org to RSVP. See www.whiterockconservancy.org. Please wear winter appropriate clothing, sturdy boots and bring leather gloves. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Submitted by Emily Babin

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An Evening for Elephants

March 27, Des Moines

Please join us at the Blank Park Zoo Discovery Center, in Des Moines, March 27, 5:30-6:30pm Social Hour and Animal Viewing, 6:30 Dinner, Presentation and fundraising auction following dinner. The International Elephant Foundation (see <http://www.elephantconservation.org/elephant.php>) is dedicated to saving African and Asian Elephants by providing funds and scientific expertise to support elephant research and conservation programs worldwide. As the largest land-dwelling mammals on earth, elephants are facing many threats to their survival including: habitat loss, increasing conflict with human populations and poaching for ivory. These amazing creatures, who form tight family bonds, are known for their intelligence and have memories that span decades. Join us as we embark on a mission to save these magnificent animals. Cost: \$30; student discount: \$20-this event only (with valid student ID). All proceeds raised will be donated directly to International Elephant Foundation.

Submitted by Jessie Weeks

**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.

Submitted by Laura Belin

Opportunities and Announcements

Job Opening: Clean Energy Intern

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is a private non-profit corporation that works to promote sustainable technologies and systems, especially for the benefit of economically disadvantaged individuals and communities. NCAT is seeking a current student or recent graduate with an interest in renewable energy and energy efficiency to work part-time based in our Iowa office as a Clean Energy Intern. This is a wonderful opportunity for the right student to work on a national program under the direction of an experienced Energy Specialist. The student will be working on a number of projects focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Full time summer work is also available. Application Process: All applications must include a cover letter, a current resume and a completed and signed NCAT intern application form. Cover letter must highlight experience and skills relevant to the position. NCAT intern application forms are available online at www.ncat.org or from our Personnel Office. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Send or bring completed application materials to: Jerrid Burk, NCAT Human Resource Specialist, e-mail: jerridb@ncat.org, P.O. Box 3838, Butte, MT 59702.

Submitted by Rich Dana

Summer Farm Internships in North Central Iowa

One Step at a Time Gardens is seeking three interns this summer. Take advantage of a great summer opportunity that mixes environmental and agricultural interests. The farm raises fresh vegetables and pastured poultry on 6 acres, serving 150 farm members, farmers market and wholesale markets. The internship provides practical, hands-on experience and lots of information and resources for a thorough introduction to Iowa's sustainable agriculture network. Our farm setting is ideal with wetlands, woods, and recreational opportunities right on and beside the farm. For more information, contact Jan Libbey at libland@peconet.net or visit our website at www.ostgardens.com.

Submitted by Jan Libbey

Presenters, Exhibitors and Volunteers Needed for Iowa Children's Water Festival

The Iowa Children's Water Festival is a free one day event educating over 2,000 fifth grade students from across the state of Iowa, about the importance of safe, reliable, and cost effective drinking water. The 14th annual Festival will be held at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny on May 13. The Festival relies on the generosity of business and industry and the valuable time of our volunteers to insure the delivery of quality programming with an effective message. You can participate by sharing your expertise—be a presenter or exhibitor at the Festival! Or you can be a volunteer: help with presentations, lunches, games, behind the scene activities. Contribute to the Festival: Both financial and in-kind contributions to the festival are also needed. For more information, visit:

www.iowachildrenswaterfestival.org or contact Laura Sarcone at (515) 283-8705 or sarcone@dmww.com.

Submitted by Laura Sarcone

Watershed Planning Grants Available

DNR Watershed Planning Grants can help local groups create long-term plans to improve rivers, lakes and streams on the state's impaired waters list. Groups can request \$10,000 to \$50,000 in grant funding to create a plan. The DNR is accepting applications through April 1. More information and forms available at www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/planning.html or contact Steve Hopkins at (515) 281-6402 or Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov.

Submitted by Jessie Brown

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/ibyerscholarship.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

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

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

New Iowa Birders' Guide

The Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development (Iowa Valley RC&D) is pleased to announce the publication of a Birder's Guide to the Iowa and Cedar River Valleys. This 62 page full color book features information on dozens of places to go birding in Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Linn, Poweshiek and Tama Counties. The heavily illustrated guide is the third in a series of natural resource guides developed by the RC&D that includes the *Paddlers Guide: Iowa River Valley Water Trail* and the *Sportsman's*

Guide to the Iowa River Valley. The guides are available from the Iowa Valley RC&D offices at 920 48th Avenue Amana, Iowa 52203, by calling 319.622.3264 or on-line with a credit card at <http://www.ivrcd.org/>.

Submitted by Lynn laws

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New Iowa Water Quality Reports Available Online

1. *Swimming in Uncertainty: Addressing Organic Wastewater Contaminants in Iowa's Water* describes how organic wastewater contaminants are ignored by environmental regulation that has not kept pace with industry's drive to promote personal products. Not only do these unregulated pollutants pass through our regulations, they pass through our waste and drinking water treatment processes. Executive summary at: www.iowapolicyproject.org/2009docs/091201-OWC-xs.pdf.

2. *Scum in Iowa's Water: Dealing with the Impact of Excess Nutrient* describes how state policy has left Iowa waterways open to contamination by bacteria resulting from phosphorus and other nutrients primarily from agricultural sources. The report details recent record high levels of cyanobacteria in drinking water sources. Executive summary at: www.iowapolicyproject.org/2009docs/091217-cyanobacteria-xs.pdf.

3. *Water Quality Trading and Wetland Banking: Lessons for Iowa* analyzes two newer programs used across the Midwest and whether they lead to water quality improvement. The report concludes that without strong and enforceable standards for nutrient pollution, water quality programs can not be effective. Executive summary at: www.iowapolicyproject.org/2010docs/100113-ISU-water-xs.pdf.

Submitted by Teresa Galluzzo

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Nominations Requested for 2010 Environmental Stewardship Awards

Please help Metro Waste Authority honor the businesses, organizations, and/or citizens who continuously work to take care of Central Iowa's environment. This is a way to help us all acknowledge and be inspired by the energy, determination and creativity of our environmental stewards. Go to http://www.mwatoday.com/initiatives/environmental_stewardship_award.aspx to learn more and make a nomination.

Submitted by Brad Gerndt

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You Should Know...People and Programs

Iowa Wildlife Center – New Center and Website

A new Iowa nonprofit, the Iowa Wildlife Center (IWC), has launched its website! This fledgling organization's mission is to rescue, treat and rehabilitate wildlife, provide critical support and training for the public agencies and professional rehabilitators already working in the field, and educate Iowans about wildlife and habitat stewardship. IWC is now raising funds to construct our facility on our 75-acre site near Ledges State Park in Boone County. Take a look at the website, browse for news about events and progress and read the tips for what to do if you find wildlife that needs help. While you're at it, drop us a line and tell us what you think about the new endeavor. Visit www.iowawildlifecenter.org.

Submitted by Marlene Ehresman

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Iowa Food Cooperative, Des Moines area

Doesn't a fresh lettuce salad with heirloom tomatoes, mushrooms and carrots sound great this time of year? Think you've got to wait until spring? Think again! The Iowa Food Cooperative has all these products and much more. The Iowa Food Cooperative carries only Iowa products, so when you shop with

them, you're supporting local businesses, communities and families. You decide what to buy, how much to buy and from which producers. The order cycle begins the 1st of each month. You can add items to your shopping cart at any time until the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11 p.m. There's no minimum. Delivery is the third Thursday of the month at the distribution point, which is currently located at Merle Hay Mall in Des Moines. There is a one-time \$50 membership fee (waived for EBT/food stamp cardholders). This fee is redeemable and transferable. And, the annual fee after the first year is just \$10. In addition, you'll pay 10% of your purchases, which is used to support the ongoing services of the Iowa Food Cooperative. You'll have convenient access to a wide variety of food and some non-food products directly from Iowa farmers, you'll acquire a better knowledge of where your food comes from and you'll establish relationships with the people that produce it. Please check out the website at <http://www.iowafood.org/>. The instructions to join are easy. And don't hesitate to contact me at fallonlynn@gmail.com, or call me at (515) 201-9405, if you have any questions.

Submitted by Lynn Fallon

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This monthly electronic newsletter is a service of the
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Ph 515-244-1194; Fax 515-244-7856
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