

# *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).

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## ***April 2010***

### **Table of Contents:**

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

- Revisioning the Corn Belt – Annual Conference Lecture and Discussion

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

- COSC Workshops: Affordable Green, Exterior Lighting, Consumer HVAC and More; Various dates and locations in Iowa
- Fairfield Backyard Conservation Series, Throughout April, Fairfield
- April Stormwater Workshops, Various dates and locations in Iowa
- Native Spring Flowers of the Raccoon Watershed, Apr 3, Perry
- Observing Birds in the Des Moines Metro Area, Wednesdays-thru May 26, Des Moines
- Food Cooperative Gathering, Apr 6, Des Moines
- Wind Conferences, Apr 6 and 7, Ames
- Lecture: Natural Flows: Water, Flooding, and Nature in Iowa, Apr 8, Storm Lake
- Water Monitoring Conference & IOWATER Open Forum, Apr 9-10, Ames
- Outdoor Youth Summit, Apr 10-11, Guthrie Center
- Lecture: Natures Instructions for a Sustainable Future Are Written in the Grasslands, Apr 14, Sioux City
- Osprey 5K Fun Run/Walk, Apr 17, Indianola
- 5th Annual Earth Day in the Junction, Apr 18, West Des Moines
- Earth Day Trash Bash, Apr 22, Des Moines
- “It's In Our Hands” Earth Day 40th Anniversary events, Apr 23 and 24, Ames and Madrid
- The Corridor Earth Day Celebration, Apr 24, Cedar Rapids
- Cool Congregations - Earth Stewardship Training, Apr 24, Indianola
- Beyond the River Banks: Celebrating Iowa's Cedar Valley, Apr 30-May2, Waterloo
- An Afternoon with the Author: Fred Kirschenmann, May 2, Ames
- Iowa Wildflower Week Events, May 2-8, Statewide
- Solar Olympics, May 6, Cedar Falls
- Renewable Energy Training Series, May to Oct, Cedar Rapids

- Volunteers Needed for Polk County Spring 2010 Water Quality Snapshot, May 12, Des Moines area
- Cool Congregations - Earth Stewardship Training, May 15, Coralville
- Bike to Work Week, May 17-21
- Transition Town Training, May 22, St. Paul, MN
- Dedication of 200-acre addition to the Boone Forks Wildlife Management Area, May 22, Hamilton County
- Oelwein Area Clean-up – Volunteers Needed, June 26, Oelwein area

## **Opportunities & Announcements**

- Job Opening: Water and Agricultural Campaign Director
- Volunteers Needed
- AmeriCorps Program Planning Grants Available
- Local Gardens Need Volunteers to Feed the Hungry – Des Moines area
- Rain Barrels Locally Made From Recycled Materials
- Pledges Sought for Paddle Across Iowa

## **Reserve these 2010 dates**

- Register Now for Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup, Aug 13-15
- Ninth Annual River Run Garbage Grab (R2G2), Aug 14, (Des Moines Area)
- Becoming an Outdoor Woman, Sep 17-19
- Iowa Environmental Council Annual Conference, Oct 15

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

### **Revisioning the Corn Belt – Annual Conference Lecture and Discussion**

In addition to Bill McKibben, we're excited to announce that [Joan Nassauer](#) will also be speaking at our conference on October 15. Nassauer is the author of *From the Corn Belt to the Gulf* and is a professor at the School of Natural Resources and Environment, at the University of Michigan. Here's what she will talk about...

Is it possible to have a healthy U.S. agricultural economy, a healthy food supply, healthy rural communities, healthy agricultural ecosystems and healthy streams? Should we have to compromise any one of these environmental and societal goods to achieve another? Can this be achieved while the United States helps to feed the world, aims to achieve greater energy independence, and trades equitably with other nations? Can agricultural landscapes be reclaimed as desirable places to live and delightful places to visit? Is each of these a legitimate goal of federal agricultural policy? Joan Nassauer addressed all these questions in her research for the book, *From the Corn Belt to the Gulf*, using two watersheds in Iowa as the basis for her studies. She will share what she discovered at our annual meeting in October.

Stay Tuned!

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## **Events, Training and Activities**

**COSC Workshops: Affordable Green, Exterior Lighting, Consumer HVAC and More**  
**Various dates - West Union, Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, West Des Moines**

Center on Sustainable Communities April offerings begin with its engaging "Affordable Green Building

Training" sessions in West Union for professionals on April 2 and homeowners on April 3. In Cedar Rapids on April 8th, RDG Planning & Design teaches an informative COSC workshop on commercial exterior lighting. On April 21 in Sioux City, Cenergy teaches a valuable course to homeowners on the benefits of quality heating & cooling installations. Register today through [www.icosc.com](http://www.icosc.com) and stay-tuned for open house events at the West Des Moines Affordable Green Demonstration Home. Also, visit COSC at Earth Day in the Junction on April 18 and at ECOpaalooza in Iowa City on April 22.

Submitted by Siobhan Spain

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### **Fairfield Backyard Conservation Series**

#### **Throughout April, Fairfield**

There's a little something for everyone: Permaculture, Rain Garden in a Day, Beekeeping, Pollinators, Good Bugs Bad Bugs, Composting, Green Roofs...and so much more. For more info contact Fairfield Sustainability Coordinator, Scott Timm, email [stimm@iastate.edu](mailto:stimm@iastate.edu) or 515-291-2560. View entire Backyard Conservation Workshop Series at <http://www.pathfidnersrcd.org/> under News and Events.

Submitted by Detra Dettmann

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### **April Stormwater Workshops**

#### **Various Dates and Locations**

The Iowa Stormwater Education Program is offering workshops this month:

Rainscaping Rain Garden & Bioretention Cell Design, Tuesday - April 6th – Bettendorf.

Salt & Deicing Strategies, Wednesday - April 21st – Ankeny.

Rainscaping Rain Garden & Bioretention Cell Design, Tuesday - April 27th – Ankeny.

For more information, please go to [www.iowastormwater.org](http://www.iowastormwater.org)

Submitted by Kathleen Gibbons

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### **Native Spring Flowers of the Raccoon Watershed**

#### **April 3, Perry**

Eileen Miller, Raccoon River Watershed Association Flower Group leader, will present a program on "Native Spring Flowers of the Raccoon Watershed" at the RRWA annual meeting in Perry at the Hotel Patee on April 3 at 11:00. A business meeting for members begins at 10:00. The general public is invited to Eileen's slide show and ecological presentation. Eileen has recoded in phenological order 246 species of flowering plants in the Raccoon River Watershed. She has wonderful photographs of most of them. You can see her work on the RRWA Flower Page. Go to [www.northraccoon.org](http://www.northraccoon.org). There will be a tour of the Happy Hollow wildflower preserve near Perry after lunch. You may reserve lunch at the Pattee by contacting Mike Delaney, [medelaney54@aol.com](mailto:medelaney54@aol.com).

Submitted by Mike Delaney

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### **Observing Birds in the Des Moines Metro Area**

#### **Wednesdays through May 26, Des Moines**

Each Wednesday through May 26, central Iowa birder John Bissell will meet interested persons of all ages at Des Moines' Gray's Lake Park to identify birds in the park. Gray's Lake is on the east side of Fleur Drive, opposite Des Moines Water Works, and the event takes place from 11 am to 11:45 am. Through April 14 meet at the beach in the northwest corner of the park, and after that, through May 26, meet in the parking lot at the southeast corner (closest to McCrae Park). Past sightings have included loons, grebes, gulls, terns, shorebirds, raptors (including bald eagles), vireos, warblers, native sparrows, and many others. Bring binoculars if you can. For more information, or to verify that the event is taking place on a specific Wednesday, call 515-313-1298.

Submitted by Lee Searles  
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**Food Cooperative Gathering**

**April 6, Des Moines**

The Iowa Food Cooperative would like to invite you to a gathering at The Des Moines Social Club, on Tuesday, April 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., to learn how you can get healthy, local food from local Iowa farmers. We'll have delicious samples prepared by local chefs and members, Cynthia and Jason Kapela. Meet some of our producers and Iowa Food Cooperative members and listen as they share their stories and answer questions. For more information: [www.iowafood.org](http://www.iowafood.org). Please RSVP to Lynn Fallon at [fallonlynn@gmail.com](mailto:fallonlynn@gmail.com).

Submitted by Lynn Fallon  
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**Wind Conferences**

**April 6 and 7, Ames**

The Iowa Alliance for Wind Innovation and Novel Development (IAWIND) and Iowa Wind Energy Association (IWEA) are teaming up on April 6th and 7th to present back to back conferences at the ISU Scheman Building in Ames, Iowa. On April 6th, IAWIND will focus on technical, research and development, manufacturing and workforce issues facing the wind industry. IWEA's part on April 7th is open to stakeholders from all aspects of the wind energy industry. Industry leaders will address legislative, regulatory and legal issues, transmission, safety and wind development in Iowa. For more information on speakers and to register go to <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/iawind/home.html>.

Submitted by Harold Prior  
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**Backyard Abundance Introduces "Seeds of Sustainability"**

**March dates, Iowa City area**

Backyard Abundance and its partners have organized a series of environmental education events entitled "Seeds of Sustainability" that run through March. Screening environmental films, a seed swap, presentations on growing local food and a book discussion are scheduled in Iowa City and Coralville. The series culminates with presentations and workshops by Dave Jacke. Mr. Jacke is a nationally acclaimed ecological landscape designer and author of the award-winning book "*Edible Forest Gardens*." For more information and to see a list of all events, visit the Backyard Abundance website:

[www.BackyardAbundance.org](http://www.BackyardAbundance.org).

Submitted by Fred Meyer  
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**Lecture: Natural Flows: Water, Flooding, and Nature in Iowa**

**April 8, Storm Lake**

Connie Mutel will speak at Buena Vista University, Estelle Siebens Science Center Room 126 on the BVU campus in Storm Lake, Iowa on April 8 2010 at 7:00 PM. A reception will follow at 8:00 PM. Connie Mutel is the author of *The Emerald Horizon: The History of Nature in Iowa* and the editor of *A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008*. She has written extensively about nature, ecosystems, and human effects on Iowa's environment. She will interpret the 2008 floods in Iowa in the context of the natural water flows of the Tallgrass prairie and changes in the landscape, streams and rivers over the past 160 years. She proposes "a vision for the future" to restore functioning ecosystems and ecosystem services, leading to a less flood-prone hydrology. Contact Carolyn Ashbaugh, [ashbaugh@bvu.edu](mailto:ashbaugh@bvu.edu) for further information about the talk and about a book signing at the Storm Lake Public Library on April 7.

Submitted by Carolyn Ashbaugh

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**Water Monitoring Conference & IOWATER Open Forum  
April 9-10, Ames**

Water quality professionals and volunteers can discover where Iowans are headed in improving Iowa's water resources at the DNR's 10-Year Water Monitoring Conference and IOWATER Open Forum. The conference will be held April 9 to 10, Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. This year's concurrent sessions will address hydrology and water quality, public health, nutrients, community involvement in water quality protection, biological health, and stormwater issues. Registration information, including forms and agendas, are now posted at [www.igsb.uiowa.edu/wqm](http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/wqm). Submitted by Mary Pat Heitman

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**Outdoor Youth Summit  
April 10-11, Guthrie Center**

The [Iowa Outdoor Youth Summit](#) will be held at [Springbrook](#) Conservation Center on April 10 and 11. It will be a great opportunity to get your group involved in an important service learning experience. The goal is to engage at least 100 youth and adults in a planning process to address "[Nature Deficit Disorder](#)." We hope to have about 25 teams of 3-5 kids and adults attend, work together to develop plans to get more kids outside and execute those plans back home. [Download, complete and submit the Outdoor Youth Summit Registration Form](#). While you're at it, join the [Facebook](#) cause, "Have Fun Outdoors." Download more information [here](#).

Submitted by Martha McCormick

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**Lecture: Natures Instructions for a Sustainable Future Are Written in the Grasslands  
April 14, Sioux City**

Richard Manning, award-winning environmental author and journalist will be the featured speaker on Wednesday April 14 at 7 p.m. in the St. Francis Center on the campus of Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA. His talk, Nature's Instructions for a Sustainable Future Are Written in Grasslands, is free and open to the public. A reception and book signing will follow. Copies of his books Grassland and Rewilding the West (among five finalists for the 2010 Orion Magazine Book Award) will be available for purchase. At 6:00pm members of the Iowa Prairie Network will sponsor a walk on the Sioux City Prairie, immediately west of the campus. For further details see [www.briarcliff.edu/prairiestudies](http://www.briarcliff.edu/prairiestudies) or [www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/calendar.php](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/calendar.php)

Submitted by Brian Hazlett

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**Osprey 5K Fun Run/Walk  
April 17, Indianola**

An Osprey 5K will take place Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. (8:00-8:45 a.m. Registration/Package Pick Up at the Annett Nature Center). The course starts and finishes at the Annett Nature Center, located at 15565 118th Avenue in Indianola. The 3.1 mile route includes Lake Ahquabi State Park. Immediately following the event, snacks and refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Annett Nature Center Osprey Project. Get your registration form at [www.warrencb.org](http://www.warrencb.org). For information contact Missy Smith at 515-961-6169 or [missysmith@warrencb.org](mailto:missysmith@warrencb.org).

Submitted by Missy Smith

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**5th Annual Earth Day in the Junction**

**April 18, West Des Moines**

Sunday, April 18th from 10am-4pm, Historic Valley Junction, West Des Moines. Created to promote environmental education and green practices in the Des Moines area, this celebration of Earth Day's 40th anniversary features a 5K Run/Walk beginning at 10:00am. Throughout the day, enjoy a diverse group of exhibitors, children's activities, demonstrations, food and live music by Mary McAdams from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Kalimbanan – Strolling Minstrel from 1-3:30 p.m. Visit [www.earthdayinthejunction.org](http://www.earthdayinthejunction.org) for more information.

Submitted by Jamie Lamb, Historic Valley Junction Foundation

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**Earth Day Trash Bash**

**April 22, Des Moines**

Put together a team and join us on Earth Day, April 22, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Entertainment will continue until 6:00 p.m. Food & Beverage will be available for purchase. Earth Day means action! Volunteer teams will clear away litter that has accumulated on our streetscapes, in our parks and on our trails over the winter months. After a thorough sweep of their assigned territories throughout Des Moines, teams will gather at Simon Estes Amphitheater for refreshments, music and awards. This fun event will allow for some friendly competition – all to benefit and beautify our city. The Trash Bash will also mark the conclusion of YPC's [Green Challenge](#). Show Your Commitment. We need your commitment to our community to make Trash Bash 2010 happen. Learn more by contacting [parksvolunteer@dmgov.org](mailto:parksvolunteer@dmgov.org) or call (515)248-6380.

Submitted by Lynn Laws

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“It's In Our Hands” Earth Day 40th Anniversary events

April 23 and 24, Ames and Madrid

The Iowa Wildlife Center and friends invite you to a weekend of song, ceremony and wildlife. Friday evening enjoy a concert with well-known musician and author Douglas Wood, with opening entertainment by popular Iowa naturalist Mike Havlik and feathered friends. Saturday, check out the location of the future IWC facility where there will be a variety of activities, including hikes, wagon rides, live animals, Wildlife CSI and presentations from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. More about the event and IWC at [www.iowawildlifecenter.org](http://www.iowawildlifecenter.org) or contact Marlene Ehresman at 515/233-1379.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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**The Corridor Earth Day Celebration**

**April 24, Cedar Rapids**

Join multiple Cedar Rapids organizations for the 1st Annual Corridor Earth Day Celebration on Saturday April 24th from 10am – 4pm at Teamsters Hall, 5000 J Street Cedar Rapids, Iowa for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Earth Day! The first 100 people in the door receive a free reusable bag! There will be multiple speakers, informational booths and vendors with fun activities and information for everyone! Plus, live music, wonderful door prizes and the event is free and open to the public! Check out [www.corridorearthproject.com](http://www.corridorearthproject.com) for more details!

Submitted by Emy Sautter

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**Cool Congregations - Earth Stewardship Training**

**April 24, Indianola**

People of faith across Iowa are caring for God's creation by reducing energy use in their own homes, reducing climate change pollution, and saving money in the process! Bring a team from your congregation to a training workshop to learn how to get your faith community involved in a 'Cool

Congregations' stewardship program. Saturday, April 24 at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola. Register online at [iowaipl.org/calendar](http://iowaipl.org/calendar) Cool Congregations is a program of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, gathering people of faith to protect creation. [iowaipl.org](http://iowaipl.org)  
Submitted by Sarah Webb

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### **Beyond the River Banks: Celebrating Iowa's Cedar Valley**

#### **April 30-May 2, Waterloo**

Iowa Rivers Revival is excited to host our 5th Annual Conference in Iowa's Cedar Valley. Beyond the Rivers Banks provides a watershed focus that recognizes that rivers and streams need space to expand and recede, coexisting in harmony with the communities and habitats they shape. With the Floods of 2008 on our heels and threats of flooding in 2009 and 2010, many Iowans are talking about a new vision for Iowa's waterways to ensure the safety of Iowa's river communities and to preserve and enhance Iowa's natural heritage. The conference starts with a social reception on Friday evening (location to be announced) with the recently formed Cedar River Watershed Coalition. Saturday we will meet at the Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Airline Community Room, 1346 West Airline Hwy in Waterloo. Saturday will include a three-part watershed plenary, Cedar Valley Field Trip, the featured presentation "Troubled Waters," Annual banquet-River Town of the Year Award and live auction fundraiser. The conference ends Sunday with the Cedar Valley Trail tour – by boat, bike or foot. For more information visit [www.iowarivers.org](http://www.iowarivers.org) or contact Roz Lehman; [rlehman@iowarivers.org](mailto:rlehman@iowarivers.org) or 515.202.7720.  
Submitted by Roz Lehman

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### **An Afternoon with the Author: Fred Kirschenmann**

#### **May 2, Ames**

Please join us Sunday, 2 p.m., Farwell T. Brown Auditorium, Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Avenue, for a reading by Leopold Center Distinguished Fellow Fred Kirschenmann from his newest book, *Cultivating an Ecological Conscience: Essays from a Farmer Philosopher* (University Press of Kentucky 2010). The book is a collection of Kirschenmann's writings on farming, philosophy and sustainability over a 30-year journey toward what has been called a new agrarianism. Kirschenmann splits his time among Iowa, his family's North Dakota organic farm and New York, where he is President of the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture. Sponsors: Ames Public Library and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

Submitted by Laura Miller

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### **Iowa Wildflower Week Events**

#### **May 2-8, events statewide**

This year marks the first annual week to promote and celebrate the state's native wildflowers, with events statewide. For more details, visit the [Iowa Native Plant Society website](http://www.inhf.org). On May 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will host a hike at Wildin Prairie, 80 acres of remnant and restored prairie with 16 small potholes. The hike will be easy, but bring rubber boots for wet conditions at the site. For more information about the hike, visit INHF's website at <http://www.inhf.org> or contact Ann Robinson at 515-288-1846.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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### **Solar Olympics**

#### **May 6, Cedar Falls**

The University of Northern Iowa is pleased to announce the 2010 Solar Olympics! The event will be held on May 6 at the Center for Energy and Environmental Education in Cedar Falls and will include three

events: mini solar car racing, and a solar art and solar oven competition. The CEEE has hosted solar races every May for several years, and the ovens and art are new this year. If you are unable to travel to Cedar Falls, **we may be able to come to you and arrange a race for your area**, so contact us today! The event is open to all students grades 4-9. More information on the events, location, and how to borrow mini solar car kits can be found at [www.ceee.uni.edu](http://www.ceee.uni.edu), click "FREE" under the "Education" dropdown menu or email [jrsolarsprint@uni.edu](mailto:jrsolarsprint@uni.edu).

Submitted by Angela Wichtendahl

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### **Renewable Energy Training Series**

#### **May to October, Cedar Rapids**

Beginning May 8th, 2010, I-Renew will proudly kick off our much anticipated Renewable Energy Training Series held in conjunction with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. These workshops will include introductory classes and site assessor training in Solar Photovoltaics (PV), Solar Hot Water (Solar Thermal), and Small Wind Systems. Classes will be held every month through October at Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids, IA. They offer a convenient local venue to attend MREA's gold standard training classes and are a fantastic way to gain knowledge and experience within the growing renewable energy field. This is a great opportunity to get in to the industry at the ground level. Contact I-Renew and visit <http://irenew.org> for pricing and scheduling details today!

Submitted by Karen Perry

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### **Volunteers Needed for Polk County Spring 2010 Water Quality Snapshot**

#### **May 12, Des Moines area**

We'll start the day at 8:30 a.m. at Izaak Walton League Clubhouse, 4343 George Flagg Parkway (formerly Valley Drive), with instructions for new volunteers. We'll end the day by 3 p.m. Professionals and volunteers around Polk County will help collect water samples at 70 sites on rivers, streams and lakes. We invite you to join in the fun and help us learn more about the water quality in Polk County. Three main goals of the project are: involve the public and re-energize volunteer water monitors in Polk Co.; determine bacteria levels in small urban streams; and evaluate nutrient impacts to water from lawns, gardens, golf courses, etc. Sampling kits and monitoring instructions will be provided, along with a brief training session. Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. If you can help, please call Susan Heathcote at 515-244-1194 ext 205. Also consider bringing a friend along. It is a great way to introduce others to urban water quality issues and environmental stewardship.

Submitted by Susan Heathcote

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### **Cool Congregations - Earth Stewardship Training**

#### **May 15, Coralville**

People of faith across Iowa are caring for God's creation by reducing energy use in their own homes, reducing climate change pollution, and saving money in the process! Bring a team from your congregation to a training workshop to learn how to get your faith community involved in a 'Cool Congregations' stewardship program. Saturday, May 15 at Community of Christ Church in Coralville. Register online at [iowaip.org/calendar](http://iowaip.org/calendar) Cool Congregations is a program of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, gathering people of faith to protect creation. [iowaip.org](http://iowaip.org)

Submitted by Sarah Webb

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### **Bike to Work Week, May 17-21**

Bike to Work Week is a celebration of commuting to work by bicycle. Many first time bike commuters use Bike to Work Week as a target to give bicycle commuting a try. The Iowa Bicycle Coalition is

partnering with [www.bikeiowa.com](http://www.bikeiowa.com) to for an online pledge and registration system. Persons can visit the website and sign the pledge. Statistics for fuel savings, total mileage, and which employers have the most bike commuters are posted on the website.

Submitted by Lynn Laws

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**Transition Town Training**

**May 22 and 23, St. Paul, MN**

Many who heard the presentation on Transition Initiatives at the IEC annual meeting last fall, will be glad to hear that another Training for Transition opportunity is coming up in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN the weekend of May 22 and 23, 2010. The Training for Transition course is designed to give a detailed introduction to the most important skills necessary to successfully set up, develop, and run a Transition project in your locality. It is designed for people who are already in a group working to achieve this, or are thinking of creating such a group. For more information about this Training for Transition or to register, visit: [www.goodworkinc.org](http://www.goodworkinc.org) or e-mail: [training@goodworkinginc.org](mailto:training@goodworkinginc.org). For more information about the Transition Movement in the United States, visit [www.transitionus.org](http://www.transitionus.org)

Submitted by Margaret Weiner

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**Dedication of 200-acre addition to the Boone Forks Wildlife Management Area**

**May 22, northeast of Stratford, Hamilton County**

The public is invited to experience and celebrate this property with a scenic oak-hickory woodland that also features prairie remnants, wet meadows and riparian woodland. It is slated to be part of one of Iowa's next Bird Conservation Areas for its importance to species such as the rapidly declining cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*). The site's quarter mile of the Boone River will also help preserve one of Iowa's highest quality stream segments. Hosted by the project's primary conservation partners, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Watch [www.inhf.org/events](http://www.inhf.org/events) for more details or call Ann Robinson at 515-288-1846.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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**Oelwein Area Clean-up – Volunteers Needed**

**June 26, Oelwein area**

The City of Oelwein and P.L.E.A.S.E. in conjunction with the Fayette County Solid Waste Commission and Buchanan County Conservation Commission are sponsoring a one day clean up of Otter Creek, Lake Oelwein, and the Fontana Park impoundment on June 26, 2010. There will be some "charismatic mega trash" left over from the E5 tornado and land based projects available for people not wanting to canoe but help out. Volunteers are needed. A limited number of paddle craft are available to reserve or you may bring your own craft. Lunch will be provided. Meeting time is 8:00 a.m. at Lake Oelwein. Questions and boat reservations may be directed to Nathan Lein at 319.283.1212.

Submitted by Nathan Lein

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## ***Opportunities and Announcements***

**Job Opening: Water and Agricultural Campaign Director**

The Hoosier Environmental Council is hiring a Water and Agriculture Campaign Director. This new job opening at HEC is a dream opportunity for someone who wants to protect our rivers and lakes, and reverse the tide of the industrialization of hog & dairy farming. The ideal candidate has a passion for, and

policy knowledge of rivers and agriculture, and savvy leadership & communication skills. Experience is naturally an important requirement as is a solid policy background. For complete job description and how to apply [http://www.hecweb.org/File/Job\\_Announcement-HEC\\_Water\\_and\\_Ag\\_Campaign\\_Director-Mar\\_2010-v2.pdf](http://www.hecweb.org/File/Job_Announcement-HEC_Water_and_Ag_Campaign_Director-Mar_2010-v2.pdf)

Submitted by Brad Klein

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### **Volunteers Needed**

The DNR's Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program needs volunteers for these critical areas: campground hosts, wildlife research, and parks maintenance. For more information on these and other volunteer needs, please visit our website: [www.keepersoftheland.org](http://www.keepersoftheland.org) or contact Elizabeth Gull at 515-281-0806 or [elizabeth.gull@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.gull@dnr.iowa.gov).

Submitted by Elizabeth Gull

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### **AmeriCorps Program Planning Grants Available**

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) is pleased to announce the availability of federal funding in the form of AmeriCorps State Planning & Implementation grants, which provide one year of funding to help organizations plan to effectively apply for and manage an AmeriCorps program and one year funding for a small AmeriCorps project (equivalent of 10 full-time members or MSYs). Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations, schools, Indian tribes, faith-based organizations, or government agencies. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to projects that support education, healthy futures, clean energy/environment, veterans, and opportunities for Iowans. Successful programs utilize service as a strategy to meet community needs, while working towards the development and growth of the AmeriCorps members serving the organization. Applicants should apply through the ICVS using the RFP posted at <http://www.volunteeriowa.org/ameriCorps2010rfp/> Application deadline is April 30, 2010 at 3:00pm.

Submitted by Pamela Helfer

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### **Local Gardens Need Volunteers to Feed the Hungry – Des Moines Area**

In the greater Des Moines area several action groups are forming to plant gardens for the purpose of donating local produce to places that feed hungry people such as the Des Moines Area Religious Council's Emergency Food Pantries, the Food Bank of Iowa, and groups that provide meals to homeless and hungry people. Gardens are being established on community, church, and school land. Food whose shelf-life is exhausted is being picked up by volunteers and delivered to places that can pass it on to the hungry; schools are providing curricula that helps children learn where food comes from and about making healthy food choices. If you would like to learn more about these action groups contact Adam Hammes [adam@urbanambassadors.org](mailto:adam@urbanambassadors.org); Diana Sickles [dsickles@mindspring.com](mailto:dsickles@mindspring.com); or Linda Gobberdiel [Gobberdiel@aol.com](mailto:Gobberdiel@aol.com). Each group has a particular focus that they attend to; they meet on an as-needed basis to support each other and continue to work toward a common goal: to alleviate childhood hunger in the greater Des Moines area by 2015.

Submitted by Diana Sickles

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### **Rain Barrels Locally Made From Recycled Materials**

We make sturdy rain barrels from recycled food shipping barrels right here in Iowa, on the north edge of Beaverdale (4240 Clinton Avenue, Des Moines IA 50310). We install firmly sealed spigots, overflow and screened intake holes, and UV protective polish. Using stormwater where it falls by harvesting it in a rain barrel reduces runoff, pollution, and erosion, as well as providing free soft water for non-potable uses such as washing windows, vehicles, and watering indoors & outdoors. More info at

[www.rainbarrelsiowa.com](http://www.rainbarrelsiowa.com).

Submitted by Holly Gettys

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### **Pledges Sought for Paddle Across Iowa**

John Craun of Newton plans to paddle the length of the Des Moines River to raise funds and awareness of the Hickory Ridge Wilderness Camp at Lake Red Rock. April 25-May 7, Des Moines River statewide (May 1 at Saylorville Lake Dam), all dates subject to change due to river conditions. Craun is seeking pledges as he paddles more than 400 miles in his kayak. To learn more about Hickory Ridge or John Craun and his challenge, visit INHF's website at <http://www.inhf.org/hickoryridge> or call Todd Robertson, IDNR, at 515-243-3714.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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## **Reserve these dates**

### **Register Now for Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup**

#### **August 13-15, Starts in Anamosa**

Registration forms for the 2010 Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup from Anamosa to Hale on August 13-15 are now available online at [www.lowerwapsicleanup.org](http://www.lowerwapsicleanup.org). Why sign up early? There are a limited number of free canoes and gear available for this event, so early sign-up secures a boat for you.

Additionally, you can mark it off your "to-do" list and as a bonus help the coordinators plan logisitcs!

Please feel free to email Melisa Jacobsen at [coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org](mailto:coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org) or Jackie Gautsch at [j.gautsch@hotmail.com](mailto:j.gautsch@hotmail.com) with any questions or call 309-737-9016.

Submitted by Melisa Jacobsen

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### **Becoming an Iowa Outdoors woman**

#### **September 17-19**

BOW is an opportunity for anyone 18 years or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits. Mark your calendars...

Questions? Contact Julie Sparks at (515) 281-6159; [Julie.Sparks@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Julie.Sparks@dnr.iowa.gov).

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### **Iowa Environmental Council Annual Conference**

#### **October 15, Des Moines area**

Keynote: Bill McKibben

Questions? Contact Lynn Laws: (515)244-1194, ext 210; [lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org](mailto:lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org)

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