

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>.

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From the Council...

New Fact Sheet Available Online: Mercury Pollution from Coal Combustion

See http://www.iaenvironment.org/documents/Mercury_Fact_Sheet_4-21-10.pdf. And be sure to follow our progress on air quality issues in Iowa at <http://www.iaenvironment.org/airQuality/airquality.php>.

Events, Training and Activities

Health and Environmental Dangers of GMOs (genetically modified organisms)

April 29, Fairfield

Hear GMO Expert, Jeffrey M. Smith, present information on the health and environmental dangers of genetically modified organisms. The Institute for Responsible Technology is a Fairfield, IA based non-profit devoted to consumer education on the impacts of GMOs in our food supply. We are very interested

in forming partnerships with other local environmental and organic farming groups on this vital issue. More information is available at: www.responsibletechnology.org

Submitted by Amanda Cousins

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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 or contact Roz Lehman; rlhman@iowarivers.org or 515.202.7720.

Submitted by Roz Lehman

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Backyard Abundance Hosts Permaculture-Based "Create Abundant Landscapes" Classes

May thru October, Iowa City area

Create Abundant Landscapes is a series of weekend classes that help people create beautiful landscapes that save time, energy and money while directly improving the health of our environment. A wide variety of hands-on activities create a fun and engaging learning experience. Permaculture design certification is offered for people completing all courses in the series. For more information and to register for classes, visit the Backyard Abundance website: www.BackyardAbundance.org.

Submitted by Fred Meyer

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COSC Workshops: Affordable Green Building Training and Bob Yapp

Various dates - Davenport, West Union, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City

Center on Sustainable Communities (COSC) presents two green building workshops free-of-charge as part of its "Day of Sustainability" in Davenport on Tuesday, May 4th. Homeowners, engineers, architects, contractors, realtors, municipal staff and others will benefit from expert insight on the value of incorporating green roofs and sustainable storm water practices into a community's built environments. A workshop covering Landscaping and Exterior Details on May 7th wraps up COSC's successful "Affordable Green Building Training" in West Union. And, on May 8th, COSC presents two "Old Windows Aren't a Pane - They're Green!" workshops by nationally recognized home and window restoration expert Bob Yapp. The first session starts at 9:00 am in Cedar Rapids and the second at 1:30pm in Iowa City. To register for any COSC event, visit www.icosc.com for details, or contact Leslie Berckes at Leslie@icosc.com or 515-707-2787.

Submitted by Siobhan Spain

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Iowa Wildflower Week Events

May 1-8, events statewide

The Iowa Native Plant Society is sponsoring the first annual Iowa Wildflower Week. Various organizations and agencies have submitted their wildflower-related field trips and events scheduled from

May 1-8. There are walks in most parts of the state. The busiest days are May 2 and May 8. Please go to the INPS calendar for details: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/index.php>. Dianne is coordinating IPHW for its sponsoring organization, the Iowa Prairie Network. Submit events as they are scheduled to Dianne Blankenship, IWW Coordinator for INPS, bennaid@hotmail.com

Submitted by Dianne Blankenship

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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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Savanna and Prairie Restoration Volunteer Work Day at Whiterock Conservancy

May 6, Coon Rapids

Join Whiterock Conservancy staff and volunteers to aid in savanna and prairie restoration projects on May 6, from 12:00-4:30pm. Help us finish up a small tract of savanna restoration within a nearly 100-acre restored savanna, plant prairie seeds on several wetland buffers, and transplant prairie seedlings to gardens around the Garst Home Farm and Bur Oak Visitor's Center. Please wear work clothes, sturdy boots, gloves, and a smile! Please RSVP by May 1 or for more information, contact Michelle Heater of the Iowa DNR Keepers of the Land Americorps Program at michelle.heater@dnr.iowa.gov. Meet at Whiterock Conservancy Headquarters, 1390 Highway 141, located 0.5 miles east of Coon Rapids.

Submitted by Michelle Heater

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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, click "FREE" under the "Education" dropdown menu or email jrsolarsprint@uni.edu.

Submitted by Angela Wichtendahl

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Wildin Prairie Hike

May 8, southwest of Algona, Kossuth County ([map](#))

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

**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

**Jim Pease on Talk of Iowa
May 11, Iowa Public Radio**

Be sure to tune into IPR on May 11 at 10 a.m. to hear Dr. Jim Pease, a renowned Iowa naturalist and a regular guest on Talk of Iowa. The broadcast is the second Tuesday of each month from 10-11 a.m. [Learn more](#) about Jim Pease and his show on Talk of Iowa. [Click here](#) to download podcasts that include Jim's April show on frogs and toads. INHF is a sponsor of Pease's show.

Submitted by Danny Akright

**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

**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 iowaipl.org/calendar Cool Congregations is a program of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, gathering people of faith to protect creation. iowaipl.org

Submitted by Sarah Webb

Bike to Work Week

May 17-21, Statewide event

Bike to Work Week is designed to promote cycling for its many benefits including like increased health and fitness, reducing our environmental impact, and promoting outdoor enjoyment. The event is statewide with multiple local Bike Month events occurring all over the state. Learn about them [here](#). Join other Iowans to bike to work, or register even if you don't work or can't ride there. Find more about Bike Week, Bike Month, and other BikeIowa events and programs at www.bikeiowa.com. Sponsored by BikeIowa, INHF and others.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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Iowa Learning Farm presents the Conservation Station

May 20, Ames

You are invited to the Iowa Learning Farm's official launch of the Conservation Station! The debut of the mobile learning center will be Thursday, May 20, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Ada Hayden Park in north Ames. At this event the Conservation Station will be officially launched and ILF team members will demonstrate the learning center, housed in the front, and the new rainfall simulator contained in the back of the Conservation Station. Also enjoy a light lunch and the park's trails and wildlife. The event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is requested; email: ilf@iastate.edu or phone 515-294-8912.

Submitted by Carol L. Brown

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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. Slated to be part of one of Iowa's next Bird Conservation Areas, the site's quarter mile of the Boone River will also help preserve one of Iowa's highest quality stream segments. Watch www.inhf.org/events for more details or call Ann Robinson at 515-288-1846.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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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.goodworkinginc.org or e-mail: training@goodworkinginc.org. For more information about the Transition Movement in the United States, visit 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 for more details or call Ann Robinson at 515-288-1846.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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Family Outdoors Day

May 23, Solon

Johnson County Heritage Trust's Family Day, 1-3 pm, May 23rd (rain or shine) at Turkey Creek Preserve near Solon, Iowa. Join Univ. of Iowa School of the Wild instructors as they explore the creek, the prairie, the fungi, the tracks and the stories of this preserve. Fmi: www.jcht.org.

Submitted by Steve Sempken

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Dedication of Observation Tower at Grimes Farm

May 29, Marshall County

Join us at 10 a.m. on May 29 to help dedicate the new Mildred Hach Grimes Memorial Observation Tower, which overlooks the Linn Creek Corridor at the Grimes Farm Conservation Area. It stands 30 feet above ground level and can support more than a dozen people on the main platform. INHF Vice President Anita O'Gara will speak at the event sponsored by the Marshall County Conservation Board. [Learn more about the tower](#). In the early 1990s, the Grimes family began working through the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Marshall County to perpetuate this farm's use as a model learning site for conservation.

To learn more about Grimes Farm and its location, visit www.grimesfarm.com.

Submitted by Danny Akright

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G.R.A.S.S. (Great Race Against Shrubs and Shade)

June 4, Castana

9:00 a.m., June 4, meet at the parking lot for the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area, 178th St. and Oak Ave., (rural) Castana, IA (also used for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar). See directions, map, and additional program information at: http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/upcoming_events/loess_hills_seminar.

G.R.A.S.S. Contact: Doug Chafa, Wildlife Management Biologist, Iowa DNR, IA, 712-420-2437, doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov. This half-day conservation effort was first organized by Jean and Chad Eells, this is now organized annually by the Iowa DNR as a pre-Loess Hills Prairie Seminar event. It attracts many volunteers and the interns of conservation organizations. Those who participate make a well-recognized, significant contribution to prairie management. Be sure to bring sunscreen, bug spray, and water as well as loppers and hand saws if you have them. Also, wear sturdy shoes and gloves.

Submitted by Dianne Blankenship

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Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

June 4-6, Onawa area

The 34th Annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar – Prairie Past and Present – June 4 evening through June 6 noon. At West Monona High School, Onawa, and the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area/Sylvan Runkel State Preserve. Come celebrate Prairie and learn about many other topics. Sessions and programs for all ages. Educators have the opportunity to receive credit at a reduced rate. Early childhood workshop – Growing Up Wild. Special evening programs and field sessions for children and families. Campfire programs with Jerome Kills Small. Sponsored by Northwest AEA, Monona CCB, Iowa DNR, with support from many other organizations. See full information including the program and registration form at: www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/upcoming_events/loess_hills_seminar. For more information, contact Gloria

Kistner at 800-352-9040, Ext. 6080 or gkistner@nwaea.com. LHPS coordinator, Dianne Blankenship at: bennaid@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Dianne Blankenship

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Yoga in the Park

Begins June 5, Des Moines

Celebrate the great outdoors every Saturday this summer with Yoga in the Park, at Gray's Lake. The Des Moines Park and Rec team offer FREE yoga classes at 9:00 AM every Saturday morning at Gray's Lake. No yoga experience is required and no registration is needed.....just bring your mat and join in any Saturday June through September,2010. The classes are taught by Yoga Instructors from local yoga studios who have volunteered their time to offer this special opportunity to the community. If you have any questions feel free to call Tim Smith at 515-208-9216.

Submitted by Denny Kelly

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Yoga Under the Oaks at Whiterock Conservancy

June 18-20, Coon Rapids

Balance, flexibility and strength are all essential qualities of nature. Move your life to a more healthy and balanced place through yoga and meditation on a restored oak savanna. Join Lynn DuBord, instructor with Illuminate Yoga + Natural Solutions for a weekend retreat in the scenic 4,300 acre Whiterock Valley. All experience levels are welcome. For a complete schedule and Lynn's bio, click [here](#) or visit www.whiterockconservancy.org. Registration is \$195, which includes meals prepared with local foods. Register before May 1 to receive \$40 off. Call Emily (712) 684-2697 x 115.

Submitted by Emily Babin

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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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Sustainable Community Planning Workshop

June 29, Des Moines

1000 Friends of Iowa will present "Sustainable Planning - the Concept and Experience in Iowa" workshop on Tuesday, June 29, at the Holiday Inn - Mercy Campus, north of downtown Des Moines. This day-long educational event will feature Dan Burden(Walkable Communities, Inc.) who will discuss sustainable development and conduct a walking tour of the 6th Avenue Corridor. Other regional speakers include David Doyle (EPA), Craig Malin (Davenport City Planner), and Susan Roberts (Iowa Food Policy Council). Visit www.1000friendsofiowa.org for more details.

Submitted by Linda Gobberdiel

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Opportunities and Announcements

Job Opening: Grant Program Officer

The McKnight Foundation is now seeking a program officer to help us target our grantmaking to restore the water quality and resilience of the Mississippi River, through strategies to preserve wetlands, reduce farm pollution, and improve related interagency-intergovernmental coordination. Our ideal candidate would also have knowledge of energy and climate change issues. For more information, see

<http://www.mcknight.org/about/jobs.aspx>

Submitted by Susan Heathcote

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REAP Grant Deadlines

Just a reminder of the REAP Conservation Education Program grant deadlines: May 17--Grant proposals due (see www.iowadnr.gov/reap/cep.html for the grant guidelines and application information). June 4, 1:00 p.m.-- CEP Review of Proposals Meeting; June 4, 12 noon -- Presentation: Successes/Challenges of Winneshiek County Conservation Board's "Fit Environment" Project and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's "5 Steps to Planning Projects Around Outcomes," Story County Conservation Board Meeting Room, 56461 180th St., Ames.

Submitted by Susan Salterberg

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EPA Environmental Education Training Program Grant

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications to help manage the National Environmental Education Training Program over the next five years. EPA will award one cooperative agreement, worth approximately \$10 million over five years that will provide teachers and other education professionals with resources and support to enable them to teach about environmental issues more effectively. EPA will accept applications until July 26, 2010. More information about the application process for the National Environmental Education Training Program:

<http://www.epa.gov/education/educate/solicitation.html>

Submitted by Linda Kinman

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Volunteer Land Stewards Needed

Whiterock Conservancy has a few vacancies for its Volunteer Land Steward Program. Through quarterly hikes, land stewards will provide WRC with indispensable information relating to the protection and health of the land. Best of all, you can explore Whiterock at your leisure in the scenic Middle Raccoon River Valley! As a land steward, we hope that you will build a lasting relationship with the land. Gain valuable skills relating to conservation and habitat restoration. Bring your dog, your family or your friends on your visits. Enjoy the beauty of Whiterock Conservancy! Contact Emily for an application:

emily@whiterockconservancy.org

Submitted by Emily Babin

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State Park Campground Hosts Needed

If you love to camp and enjoy working with people, you might have what it takes to be a great campground host! In exchange for a free campsite, campground hosts commit to at least 4 weeks of service. Tasks include answering questions, explaining rules and regulations, helping with registration, directing people to points of interest, litter control, light maintenance, and other responsibilities as agreed upon with park staff. To download an application and to see a list of parks needing hosts, visit

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/volunteer/camphostpage.html> or contact Elizabeth Gull at (515) 281-0806 or elizabeth.gull@dnr.iowa.gov.

Submitted by Elizabeth Gull

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Volunteer Opportunities in Alaska

The Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges are holding their spring volunteer training in Homer on May 21-23. It may be too late to apply for this training *this year*. But it's a good time to check out these interesting volunteer opportunities, including ones working with native communities. They provide housing and some travel expenses. For more information, go to

www.alaskarefugefriends.org/volunteer_overview.php.

Submitted by Mary McBee

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IOWATER Introductory Workshops

IOWATER is a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program. Upon completion of the introductory workshop, you will be a certified IOWATER Citizen Monitor. To register and find the dates and locations of workshops, visit <http://www.iowater.net/Workshops/IntroductoryWorkshops.htm> or contact IOWATER at (319) 335-1575 or iowater@iowater.net.

Submitted by Elizabeth Gull

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Apply to Become a Photovoltaics Instructor Training

The University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE) is accepting applications for a training opportunity that builds capacity for installers of solar energy systems in Iowa.

CEEE represents Iowa in a seven-state program through the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Nine participants from Iowa will be trained as instructors in applied solar photovoltaics and solar hot water. **Applications are due May 1.** Applications may be accessed online at www.the-mrea.org/instructortraining; <http://www.the-mrea.org/instructortraining> and should be submitted to apply@the-mrea.org. For more information, visit www.ceee.uni.edu/solartraining.aspx or contact 319-273-2573, jeff.beneke@uni.edu or carole.yates@uni.edu.

Submitted by Carole Yates

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Missouri River Public Meetings

The U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers invites you to participate in the upcoming series of MRAPS public scoping meetings that begin later this month. At the meetings you can provide formal comments, suggestions, and recommendations to the Corps regarding the study. The scoping process will include 30 open-house style meetings for the public, and 11 Tribal meetings. MRAPS is a congressionally authorized study evaluating the Flood Control Act of 1944. It's the first-ever review of the legislation that created the dams and reservoirs on the Missouri River and some of its tributaries. The study will analyze the eight authorized purposes to determine if congressional changes are warranted. The study is scheduled to be completed in five years. The eight authorized purposes are: Irrigation, Water Quality, Flood Control, Recreation, Navigation, Hydropower, Water Supply, and Fish and Wildlife. The study will seek input from Tribes, Federal and State agencies, stakeholders, and the general public. All public scoping meetings will run from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information on the scoping meetings go to: www.mraps.org

Submitted by Paul Lepisto

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[Listen to David Mas Masumoto, Wisdom of the Last Farmer](#)

You can listen to a podcast of third-generation Japanese-American farmer and best-selling author David Mas Masumoto from his recent presentation in Ames, "Wisdom of the Last Farmer - Why Memory Matters: Transformative Farmer and Flavors." You'll also find a video about Masumoto's California farm and the mouth-watering organic peaches grown by his family. Masumoto presented the 2010 Shivvers Lecture hosted by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

Submitted by Laura Miller.

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Cell Phone Audio Tour – New to Polk County Conservation

It's Fun! It's Easy! It's Free! Polk County Conservation announces a new a cell phone audio guide tour through Jester Park and Brown's Woods Park. Look for the audio tour signs located throughout the park and nature trails. Each stop provides park visitors the opportunity to hear about unique park features, current events, wildlife and natural resources in the area. Simply dial the number on the sign then press the indicated number when prompted. Each stop has its own unique message and allows the park visitor the opportunity to leave comments. There will be 30 informational messages at Jester Park and 20 informational stops at Brown's Woods Park. Give it a try. Let us know what you think. For more information, contact Lori Foresman-Kirpes at 515-323-5380 or lori.kirpes@polkcountyia.gov.

Submitted by Kami Rankin

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Policy Brief: Think Wind; Think Iowa

Iowa wind turbines now produce as much as 20 percent of the state's total electricity, a benchmark Denmark reached a few years ago. In addition, Iowa ranks second only to Texas in the United States on wind-power capacity, but is far ahead of Texas on a per-capita basis, according to a new report released this March by the nonpartisan Iowa Policy Project. Check out this 4 page policy brief at

<http://www.iowapolicyproject.org/2010docs/100303-IPP-wind.pdf>

Submitted by David Osterberg

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Reserve these dates

Mississippi River Canoe Trip

July 31-August 7

Paddlers are invited to enjoy the majestic Mississippi River on the Great River Rumble from Dubuque to Muscatine July 31 to August 7. The Great River Rumble is an annual week-long canoe/kayak trip. Each year it travels a different section of river, usually on the mighty Mississippi. Additional information may be found at riverrumble.org or by emailing info@riverrumble.org.

Submitted by Kathy Stevens

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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. Please feel free to email Melisa Jacobsen at coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org or Jackie Gautsch at 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.

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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

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Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health

November 17-18, Iowa City

This conference will provide cutting edge research, education and outreach information on rural and agricultural safety and health. It's an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, rural health providers, and agricultural producers to communicate on rural and agricultural needs, services, research and methods for putting research into practice. Abstracts will be accepted until July 7, 2010. Please visit www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash for more information.

Submitted by Abby Harper

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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.

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