

# *E-News*

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

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

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

**Please share this with others!**

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

## **August 2010**

### **Table of Contents:**

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

- [Save with early bird registration](#): Toward a Greener Earth, Toward a Greener Iowa, Oct 15, Des Moines
- 2009 Annual Report now available online.

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

- Community Supported Agriculture – Farm Field Day, Jul 31, near Atlantic
- Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Days, summer 2010, various locations
- Renewable Energy Training Series, various dates and locations
- Backyard Abundance Hosts Permaculture-Based “Create Abundant Landscapes” Classes, Aug-Oct, Iowa City area
- Cattle Grazing and Goat Browsing to Increase Biodiversity, Aug 1, Maxwell
- North American Prairie Conference, Aug 1-5, Cedar Falls
- Learn How to Write an AmeriCorps Program Grant, Aug 3, Oskaloosa
- Public Listening Session on the President’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, Aug 4, Minneapolis
- Lower Wapsi Cleanup Deadline Approaching, Deadline Aug 5 (Clean-up Aug 13-15)
- Iowa’s Water & Land Legacy "Campaign Kick-Off" Party, Aug 6, Des Moines
- Blazing Star Walk, Aug 7, Central Iowa
- Shoot Your Commute, Aug 8, Des Moines
- Native Pollinators 101, Aug 10, Ames
- Lighting Design and Control Seminar, Aug 12, Iowa City
- Xstream Cleanup 2010, Aug 14, Quad Cities
- River Run Garbage Grab – Volunteers Needed, Aug 14, Central Iowa
- COSC at Iowa Downtown Summit and its 2nd "COSC connects," Aug 24-25, Davenport and Aug 30, Des Moines
- Iowa Farmers Union State Convention, Aug 27-28, Marshalltown
- Envisioning Sustainable Des Moines, Aug 30, Des Moines
- Hybrid Technology Training, begins Aug 31, Marshalltown

- Iowa Star Party, Sep 2-5, Coon Rapids area
- Apple Cider-Making Day, Sep 10, Decorah
- Natural History Weekend at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Sep 10-12, Okoboji area
- Iowa Audubon Annual Pelican Gala Fundraiser, Sep 11, Ames
- Rivers Rock! River Float & Music Fest, Sep 11, Greene County
- Becoming an Outdoor Woman, Sep 17-19
- Teachers Online Course: Exploring Iowa's Natural Resources, begins Sep 20 online
- Energy Efficiency Summit, Oct 12, Ames
- Toward a Greener Earth, Toward a Greener Iowa; Save Today with Earlybird Registration, Oct 15, Des Moines
- Understanding Watersheds Workshops for Teachers and Naturalists, November 12-14, 2010 and April 15-16, 2011, Pleasant Hill

### **Opportunities & Announcements**

- Job Opening: Mississippi River Public Policy Manager
- Job Opening: Executive Director, Iowa Interfaith Power and Light
- State Revolving Fund Green Project Solicitation
- Keep Iowa Beautiful Announces Beautification Grant Program
- Watershed Planning Grants Available
- Grant Available for Environmental Organizations
- Public Comments Requested Regarding Missouri River Uses
- UNI to offer two sustainability courses this fall
- Wanted: Holiday stories
- River of Words Contest
- Mississippi River Photo Contest
- AIA Iowa Annual Convention – Call for Exhibitors
- Hazardous to Your Health: How the Civil Justice System Holds Corporate Polluters Accountable
- Energy Efficiency Success Story

### **Reserve these 2010 dates**

- Iowa Environmental Council Annual Conference, Oct 15
- Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health, Nov 17-18
- ICEC 2011 Winter Solstice, January 21-23, 2011

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

### **Save with Earlybird Registration:**

### **Toward a Greener Earth, Toward a Greener Iowa**

**October 15, Des Moines**

Register for the conference online today and take advantage of early bird registration reduced rates.

[http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/Register\\_Online\\_TODAY.php](http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/Register_Online_TODAY.php)

The Council's 2010 annual conference on October 15 features Bill McKibben, American environmentalist, founder of [350.org](http://350.org) and a prolific writer and dynamic speaker on global warming, alternative energy and localized economies. Our afternoon session will feature Joan Nassauer and her research on improving Iowa's rural landscapes for water quality, healthy ecosystems, and economic productivity. Visit our website at [http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/2010\\_Conference.htm](http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/2010_Conference.htm) for all the latest details. Questions? Call Lynn at 515-244-1194, ext 210.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Annual Report Now Available Online**

Iowa Environmental Council Annual Reports are made available only online and no longer printed and mailed to members. Currently you can download and view our 2009 Annual Report at <http://www.iaenvironment.org/about/whoweare.php>.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

### **Community Supported Agriculture – Farm Field Day**

#### **July 31, near Atlantic**

Saturday, July 31, Rolling Acres Farm near Atlantic, IA, will host a farm field day, noon to 3 p.m. The event will begin with a potluck at nearby Harrisdale Homestead, followed by a tour and discussion at Rolling Acres, a community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm owned by Denise O'Brien and Larry Harris. Both events are free and open to the public. The discussion at Rolling Acres will focus on the farm's processes: planting, maintenance, marketing, harvesting, and preparation for distribution through the CSA, local restaurants, and institutions. Of special interest: the farm's high tunnel and a cooling system, the CoolBot. This is a family-friendly event but will be of particular interest to women farmers. Women, Food and Agriculture Network and Practical Farmers of Iowa are co-sponsors.

Directions: Rolling Acres is one mile north of Harrisdale Homestead. Both are one mile east of Hwy 173, which is exit 54 off I-80. Addresses are 60182 Dallas Rd (Harrisdale Homestead) and 59624 Chicago Rd. (Rolling Acres). Bring a dish to share at the potluck. Beverages and dinnerware will be provided. For more information, contact Denise at 712-243-3264, or WFAN at 515.460.2477.

Submitted by Jan Grant

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Days**

#### **Summer 2010, various locations**

Summer means field days and there will be plenty of opportunities to visit a farm in the months to come. Check out the field day schedule for Practical Farmers of Iowa, a program supported by the Leopold Center since 1999:

<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events/2010%20Field%20Guide.pdf>

Or go to <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm> for a quick summary of field day topics and links to more information.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Renewable Energy Training Series**

I-Renew continues to host our 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. Participants in the introductory workshops will learn how basic systems work, diagram the system types, describe and identify components, understand the best application and limitations of each system type, make energy efficiency recommendations, estimate system loads, and understand the basics of renewable energy site assessment. Please check the website for dates at: <http://irenew.org/workshops/index.html>

Submitted by Karen Perry

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Backyard Abundance Hosts Permaculture-Based “Create Abundant Landscapes” Classes August 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](http://www.BackyardAbundance.org).

Submitted by Fred Meyer

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Cattle Grazing and Goat Browsing to Increase Biodiversity**

#### **August 1, Maxwell**

Join us for a field day, August 1, 1:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Maxwell. This field day is a look at a Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture research project in its third year that is trying to increase biodiversity through cattle grazing and goat browsing. Cow-calf pairs are helping restore prairie damaged in the 2008 flood. A potluck will be held at 6 p.m. featuring Carney's prairie-fed beef. Contact: Linda D. Appelgate, (515) 963-8654 Ext. 4. For driving directions or more information, check out the [flyer](#). Learn about more of the Leopold Center events:

<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm>

\* \* \* \* \*

### **North American Prairie Conference**

#### **August 1-5, Cedar Falls**

The 22nd North American Prairie Conference is coming to UNI this summer, August 1 - 5. Prairie keynotes, prairie management, prairie research, prairie field trips and prairie exhibits. Details at [napc2010.org](http://napc2010.org)

Submitted by Kirk Henderson

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Learn How to Write an AmeriCorps Program Grant**

#### **August 3, Oskaloosa**

With the 2009 passage of the Serve America Act, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service anticipates increased federal funding for AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa in the coming years. To prepare for this growth, the commission wants to make sure that interested schools, nonprofits, Indian tribes, community groups, government agencies, and other eligible applicants know how to write a quality application to host an AmeriCorps program. The final workshop will be held on August 3rd at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, from 9am to 4pm with a one-hour lunch break. The workshop is free, and pre-registration is required, online at <http://www.iowalifechanging.com/promotions/2010AmericorpsTrain3/>

Submitted by Pamela Helfer

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Public Listening Session on the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative**

#### **August 4, Minneapolis, MN**

Please join senior representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of Defense for a public listening session and discussions in Minnesota on conservation, recreation, and reconnecting people to the outdoors. The session will be held August 4 from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis. This past April, President Obama signed a memorandum establishing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to develop a conservation agenda worthy of the 21st century and to reconnect Americans with our great outdoors. The public listening session and discussions on August 4<sup>th</sup> provide an opportunity for the leaders of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to hear from you and other voices in the region about solutions for building a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda and for reconnecting people with the outdoors. To

register visit <http://epa.gov/region5/news/features/americasgreatoutdoors.html>. This event is free and open to the public. We will make an effort to accommodate everyone. **In the event you are unable to participate in person, please submit your comments and ideas via the America's Great Outdoors website at <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/>.** If you have questions, please call Jennifer Ostermeier at (312) 353-0618.

Submitted by Marian Gelb

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Lower Wapsi Cleanup Deadline Approaching!**

#### **Deadline August 5 (Clean-up August 13-15)**

This is a final notice for the August 13-15 Lower Wapsi Cleanup covering from Anamosa Access to Jungletown Access (Hale). You must register whether you want to be an on-land or on-water volunteer. You may sign up to participate up to the day of the event, but t-shirts and meals may not be available after August 5th. Free finger food and beverages Friday evening from 5-8 during registration. Any questions contact Jackie at [j.gautsch@hotmail.com](mailto:j.gautsch@hotmail.com) or at 608-797-5343.

Submitted by Melisa Jacobsen

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Iowa's Water & Land Legacy "Campaign Kick-Off" Party**

#### **August 6, Des Moines**

Join the party and show your support for Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund on Friday, Aug 6 at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines at 101 E. Locust Street. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has kindly invited the campaign to use their annual meeting as an opportunity to rally support for [Iowa's Water and Land Legacy](#) vote.

Iowa voters will have a historic opportunity in November 2010 to vote in support of a constitutional amendment establishing a trust fund to preserve Iowa's natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities. The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund will provide a permanent, dedicated and accountable funding mechanism for protection of water quality, conservation of agricultural soils and improvement of natural areas in Iowa, including fish and wildlife habitat.

TNC is hosting the August 6 party to thank coalition partners and get everyone fired up for victory in November! We have just over 3 months to go before Election Day and now is the time to come together and let Iowans know about the historic "once in a lifetime" opportunity we have to [VOTE YES on QUESTION #1](#) this November.

(FREE FOOD/DRINK)

Submitted by Lynn Laws

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Blazing Star Walk**

#### **August 7, Central Iowa**

Join the Blazing Star Walk--Diane Blankenship, Eileen Miller and Mike Delaney plan to attend. Drop in for either or both walks. Please let Mike know if you plan on joining them: [mikedelaney1@mac.com](mailto:mikedelaney1@mac.com).

8:00 Sheeder Prairie (N. of Hwy 44, W. of Guthrie Center)

10:00 Tipton Prairie (E57 E. of Cooper, W. of N.Raccoon R.)

Submitted by Mike Delaney

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Shoot Your Commute**

#### **August 8, Des Moines**

You can participate in a giant photo shoot for Sustainable Transportation on Sunday, August 8, from 2-4 p.m. Email Adam [adamhammes@gmail.com](mailto:adamhammes@gmail.com) from Urban Ambassadors if you would like to sponsor or be a volunteer cyclist/driver in a re-creation of the infamous Munster, Germany (car/bus/bike) photo here in

Des Moines. Also, you can just show up and watch, and still be in the photo as a spectator on the sidewalk. Google "Munster, Germany bicycle photo" to learn more. Our photo shoot will take place on E. Locust in Des Moines, between E. 4th and E. 6th streets with the state capitol in the background. 40 cyclists and 40 car-drivers are needed! Des Moines Area Regional Transit, Drive Time Des Moines, Tobin Bennett Photography, Center on Sustainable Communities, and the Des Moines Bicycle Collective are all partners who want to make this happen and want to create a major marketing campaign for Sustainable Transportation!

Submitted by Urban Ambassadors

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Native Pollinators 101**

**August 10, Ames**

Learn more about how to help build populations of native pollinators on August 10, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Iowa Pollinator Conservation Short Course. The event is free to the first 30 registrants. Similar workshops are being offered throughout the United States by the Xerces Society thanks to a grant from the USDA's natural Resources Conservation Service and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. Details about the Iowa workshop at:

<http://www.xerces.org/enewsletter/iashortcourse.html>

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Lighting Design and Control Seminar**

**August 12, Iowa City**

You are invited to attend the August American Institute of Architects' Iowa Professional Development Seminar entitled Lighting Design & Control at the University of Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame in Iowa City, Thursday, August 12. Attend this seminar and acquire the knowledge to overcome lighting challenges in your next project, while improving the comfort, functionality and energy efficiency for those who use the spaces you design. Attendees will earn 3 AIA LU Hours AIA/CES approved and 1 GBCI CE Hour. This presentation will be held in conjunction with the CR.IC.AC | AIA Iowa Annual Golf Outing at Finkbine Golf Course in Iowa City. This event is sponsored by Integrated Sales Inc. and Lutron. [Printable Registration Form](#) | [Online Registration Form](#) Questions? Please contact the AIA Iowa office at 515.244.7502.

Submitted by Jessica A. Reinert

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Xstream Cleanup 2010**

**August 14, Quad Cities**

Xstream Cleanup is a Quad City-wide cleanup of creeks, drainage ways, and sections of the Mississippi and Rock Rivers. Must register before August 6th to be guaranteed a T-Shirt. Cleanups will be held August 14, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at 45 locations in Bettendorf, Davenport and LeClaire, Iowa; Campbell's Island, East Moline, Milan, Moline, Rock Island and Silvis, Illinois. For more information and to register visit [www.xstreamcleanup.org](http://www.xstreamcleanup.org). 2010 marks the 7th annual Xstream Cleanup.

Submitted by Paula Webinger

\* \* \* \* \*

### **River Run Garbage Grab – Volunteers Needed**

**August 14, Central Iowa**

Bigger than ever with 7 more miles of river waterways to clean up and, given all the flooding, this will be a definite record breaker. We're estimating over 30 Tons of trash and debris will be removed. Therefore we need 500+ volunteers! Can you help? This 9<sup>th</sup> annual clean-up of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers begins at all sites at 9a.m. on August 14, and allows volunteers the opportunity to remove trash from the rivers or along adjacent trails. Paddlers, rowers, power boaters, walkers, hikers, bicyclers, mountain

bikers, birders, etc are all welcome! Want to participate on the river but don't have a canoe? Sign up for any of our land-based clean ups! In an effort to reduce unnecessary waste we are not providing bottled water this year so volunteers will need to bring their own water bottles to their event. Join our riverfront celebration at 6 p.m. This year we are going all out with a big celebration at the Izaak Walton League Lodge where live entertainment and food will be provided FREE for volunteers. Music provided by Community Jazz Center Big Band. Door prizes will be given away. To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.riverstewards.org> and click on "register now." There you'll find a map. The blue balloons on the map are where on-the-water clean-up crews will start and the green balloons are where land clean-up crews will begin.

Submitted by Brad Gerndt

\*\*\*\*\*

### **COSC at Iowa Downtown Summit and its 2nd "COSC connects"**

**August 24-25, in Davenport and Aug. 30 in Des Moines**

Visit COSC's resource table at the 2010 Annual Iowa Downtown Summit in Davenport on Aug. 24th. The 2-day event focuses on historic preservation-based commercial district revitalization. On Monday, Aug. 30th, join COSC, USGBC Iowa Chapter and Urban Ambassadors for the 2nd installment of "COSC connects" at Jasper Winery. The after-work social event features engaging discussions, complimentary appetizers, live music, prize drawings and a cash bar. Network, get inspired and discover the possibilities for achieving greater sustainability in Iowa. Learn more at [www.icosc.com](http://www.icosc.com).

Submitted by Siobhan Spain

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Iowa Farmers Union State Convention**

**August 27-28, Marshalltown**

The Iowa Farmers Union State Convention will be held August 27-28 at the Marshalltown Community College. Join us to interact with Iowa Congressional candidates as well as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture challenger Francis Thicke. Sample local wines, enjoy meals featuring local foods, have your say on the 2010-2011 state policy and board, and more. See our website, [iowafarmersunion.org](http://iowafarmersunion.org), for more information or contact Amber Anderson, [amber@iowafarmersunion.org](mailto:amber@iowafarmersunion.org).

Submitted by Amber Anderson

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Envisioning Sustainable Des Moines**

**August 30, Des Moines**

Plan now to attend the next "COSC connects" as we partner with Urban Ambassadors and the USGBC Iowa Chapter for the topic of "Envisioning Sustainable Des Moines." The sustainable social collective takes place from 5-7pm at Jasper Winery. R.S.V.P today on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) or by contacting Carrie Boyle at 515-707-2784 or [Carrie@icosc.com](mailto:Carrie@icosc.com).

Submitted by Lynn Laws

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Hybrid Technology Training**

**Begins August 31, Marshalltown**

Hybrid Technology training for anyone that works on cars today or in the future starts August 31 at Consumer's Energy in Marshalltown. Also available are Hybrid Towing & Dismantling Safety & Hybrid Emergency Personnel Training. See [www.fixhybrid.com](http://www.fixhybrid.com) or [www.IowaValley.com](http://www.IowaValley.com) or call 800-284-4823 for more information.

Submitted by Jean Brownlie

\*\*\*\*\*

**Iowa Star Party**  
**September 2-5, Coon Rapids area**

The 8th Annual Iowa Star Party will be held September 2-5 at [Whiterock Conservancy](http://Whiterock Conservancy). Register for the weekend or come for the FREE PUBLIC NIGHT held on Friday, September 3rd to enjoy an evening of stargazing under some of Iowa's darkest skies. Local astronomers will help guide you through the night sky to learn more about galaxies, stars and nebula, millions of light years away. Telescopes are available. Please bring a blanket to sit on. For more information, visit [www.iowastarparty.com](http://www.iowastarparty.com) or email [resort@whiterockconservancy.org](mailto:resort@whiterockconservancy.org).

Submitted by Emily Babin

\*\*\*\*\*

**Apple Cider-Making Day**  
**September 10, Decorah**

Join Perry-O and David Sliwa at Sliwa Meadow Farm in Decorah, for this fun, family-friendly event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will begin with setting up the press, then pick and wash apples from the farm. Bring your own apples if you have some. We will make the cider using an old hand crank buckeye press from the 1860s. If you want to take cider home, bring your own clean containers. We'll have a potluck picnic at noon, and keep squeezing until the apples are done. Includes a tour of this well-established, off-the-grid diversified sustainable-ag farm that includes fruit trees, grapes, berries, cut flowers, chickens and bees. For registration and information, call 515-460-2477 by Wednesday, Sept. 8.

Submitted by Lynn Laws

\*\*\*\*\*

**Natural History Weekend at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory**  
**September 10-12, Okoboji area**

Spend a fun and fascinating weekend at Iowa's prettiest campus, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, during Natural History Weekend, on September 10-12. Learn about Iowa's geologic history, native flora and ecosystems through field trips and lectures. Fens – Iowa's most unusual wetland- and giant sloths will be some of this year's featured topics. Teachers seeking graduate or continuing education credits are encouraged to attend. Presenters include Jean Prior, Lynnette Seigley, David Brenzel, Mark Loeschke, Gary Phillips and Lee and Nancy Schoenewe. Natural History Weekend kicks off Friday evening, September 10 and continues through Sunday noon. Interested persons may sign up for the full program or by day, with meals included. There is no fee for the Friday evening opening lecture. Lodging on the rustic Lakeside campus is also available and a recommended part of the experience. For more information, visit the Lakeside website at <http://www.lakesidelab.org/News.html> and click on the links for Natural History Weekend, or contact Jane Shuttleworth, 712/337-3669 Ext7 or [jane-shuttleworth@uiowa.edu](mailto:jane-shuttleworth@uiowa.edu).

Submitted by Jane Shuttleworth

\*\*\*\*\*

**Iowa Audubon Annual Pelican Gala Fundraiser**  
**September 11, Ames**

Iowa Audubon's 2010 fundraiser will be held 6-9 p.m.Sat., Sept. 11, at McFarland Park Conservation Center, 56461-180th St. in Ames. The event includes a social hour with appetizers and beverages, home-made desserts, and silent auction. Guest speaker and Zearing, Iowa native Carrol Henderson, author of 12 books on birds and nature, will tell the story of "Ralph Handsacker's Talking Eggs"--the now-famous egg collection he discovered at an old farm near Colo, Iowa, in 2005. Pelican Gala proceeds will further bird conservation and education in Iowa. For information and reservations visit the events page at [www.iowaaudubon.org](http://www.iowaaudubon.org).

Submitted by Doug Harr

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rivers Rock! River Float & Music Fest, September 11, Greene County, IA**

Join Iowa Rivers Revival and many of our paddling friends and other river supporters for a pure river celebration. We will start with a relaxing day floating on the N Raccoon River (11AM-3PM; Henderson Park Access to Squirrel Hollow Access). Dinner & Music Fest follows at the Big White Barn - Farmhouse Life, 2244 U Ave Rippey IA 50235 (directions [www.farmhouselife.com](http://www.farmhouselife.com)). Dinner from 5-7 pm. Reserve a catered meal or bring your own picnic. BYOB and bring your own lawn chairs. Live music from 7-9 pm featuring Jon Stravers & Big Blue Sky ([www.bigblueskyproject.com](http://www.bigblueskyproject.com)) - their musical style includes the influence of folk, bluegrass, blues, and reggae. Through their art they seek a closer connection to the planet, and indeed their musical writing comes from the inspiration of wild places and a celebration of our natural heritage and the natural rhythms of life. Bring your own canoe and float with IRR (prior reservations required - call Robin Fortney, 515.277.1763 (home) or [rbfortney@midamerican.com](mailto:rbfortney@midamerican.com) for more details). Rentals available from the Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce (call 515.386.2155 to make reservations). Admission for meal & music is \$25/adult and \$10/children 12 & under. For music-only: \$15/adult and free for children 12 & under. **RSVP by Sept 4 to [riversrockfest@gmail.com](mailto:riversrockfest@gmail.com)**. For more info, call 515.229.6988. Hosted by Iowa Rivers Revival.

\* \* \* \* \*

**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).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Teachers Online Course: Exploring Iowa's Natural Resources  
September 20 - December 12, 2010**

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. You will create a unit for an environmental topic (of your choice) that meets your specific classroom or teaching needs. You are required to spend 5-6 hours per week on-line completing assignments and participating in group discussions. You 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 September 10, 2010. Registration fee: materials and 2 license renewal credit for \$50 or 2 graduate credits from Drake University for \$250. For more information, contact Shannon Hafner, Aquatic Education Program, Iowa DNR, 641/ 747-2051, [Shannon.Hafner@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Shannon.Hafner@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Submitted by Shannon Hafner

\* \* \* \* \*

**Energy Efficiency Summit  
October 12, Ames**

The Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency presents an annual networking forum and summit on current issues for professionals in Iowa's energy efficiency sector. This year's Summit will be held October 12 in Ames, with a networking reception the night of October 11. Featured topics include: LEDs: reviews on interior and exterior lighting applications, purchasing tips, and performance data; successful citywide sustainability initiatives in Dubuque & Fairfield; advances in occupant controls and energy monitoring in commercial buildings; legislative and ENERGY STAR updates; funding and training resources available for energy efficiency; strategies Iowa municipalities can use to finance and encourage local energy efficiency projects; and more! Check out details today by visiting [www.iowaenergy.org](http://www.iowaenergy.org). Or check us out on Facebook!

Submitted by Laura Riley

\* \* \* \* \*

**Toward a Greener Earth, Toward a Greener Iowa; Save Today with Earlybird Registration  
October 15, Des Moines**

Register for the Iowa Environmental Annual conference online today and take advantage of early bird registration reduced rates. [http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/Register\\_Online\\_TODAY.php](http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/Register_Online_TODAY.php)  
The Council's 2010 annual conference on October 15 features Bill McKibben, American environmentalist, founder of [350.org](http://350.org) and a prolific writer and dynamic speaker on global warming, alternative energy and localized economies. Our afternoon session will feature Joan Nassauer and her research on improving Iowa's rural landscapes for water quality, healthy ecosystems, and economic productivity. Visit our website at [http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/2010\\_Conference.htm](http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/2010_Conference.htm) for all the latest details. Questions? Call Lynn at 515-244-1194, ext 210.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rain, Runoff and Rivers: Understanding Watersheds Workshops for Teachers and Naturalists  
November 12-14, 2010 and April 15-16, 2011, Pleasant Hill, IA or  
February 11-13 and April 29-30, Mount Vernon, IA**

Presented at Sleep Inn, Pleasant Hill, IA (near Des Moines) and Sleep Inn, Mount 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 understand watershed issues and take action to mitigate flooding via activities coordinate with the Iowa Core. 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, LRTF, KIB and EPA grants. Check with ICEC for teacher registration stipends at [behlers@netins.net](mailto:behlers@netins.net). For more information visit [www.uni.edu/ceee/eii](http://www.uni.edu/ceee/eii), request a paper brochure at [bollwinkel@uni.edu](mailto:bollwinkel@uni.edu) or call 319-273-2783.

Submitted by Carl Bollwinkel

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***Opportunities and Announcements***

**Job Opening: Mississippi River Public Policy Manager**

The Biodiversity Project and the 30+ member Mississippi River Network: Headwaters to Gulf (MRN), is looking to hire someone for a 2-year contract to work on the coalition's policy agenda. The MRN is a collaborative effort of 32 organizations who have joined together to protect and restore the Mississippi River. The Policy Manager will provide key analysis and proactive policy development in issues relating to the restoration and conservation of the Mississippi River, analyze proposed legislative or administrative changes to Federal policy and law related to the River and cultivate support for those policies and proposals among policymakers and other stakeholder organizations. The ideal candidate will have experience with and understating of how policy is made and changed at a federal level and familiarity with issues related to the Mississippi River, specifically the current status of Federal legislation and appropriations. It is intended for this person to work in Washington D.C, but this may be flexible. Please visit [www.biodiversityproject.org](http://www.biodiversityproject.org) for the full job description and related requirements. Or you may e-mail [jbrowning@biodiverse.org](mailto:jbrowning@biodiverse.org). Position is open until filled.

Submitted by Jennifer Browning

\*\*\*\*\*

**Job Opening: Executive Director, Iowa Interfaith Power and Light**

Iowa Interfaith Power and Light (Iowa IPL) is seeking a Full-Time Executive Director to lead its state-wide effort to mobilize the religious community to become leaders in addressing climate change through education, assistance with carbon footprints reductions, and advocacy for sustainable policies at all levels

of government. The Executive Director is responsible for developing and implementing a strategic vision in conjunction with Iowa IPL's Board of Directors, seeking sustainable sources of funding for the organization, inspiring the involvement of volunteers, forming and maintaining strong contacts in religious and environmental communities, and creating and disseminating official materials and newsletters on behalf of the organization to its network of supporters as well as local, state, and national media. For more information, including information on application, go to [www.iowaipl.org/jobs](http://www.iowaipl.org/jobs).

Submitted by Tim Fink

\*\*\*\*\*

### **State Revolving Fund Green Project Solicitation**

The requirement to fund “green” projects through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs was introduced in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal stimulus bill in 2009. Green was defined by Congress as water and energy efficiency, green stormwater infrastructure, and other environmentally innovative practices in water and wastewater systems. The requirement to fund green projects has been carried over into this year’s federal funding for the SRF programs and we are now soliciting applications. Information on how to apply for green project financing is now available on the SRF website at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/greenapp.html>. This includes a program overview, eligibility guidelines, and special green project applications for Clean Water SRF and Drinking Water SRF. Please read the overview and the eligibility guidelines carefully before starting the application process.

Submitted by Patti Cale-Finnegan

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Keep Iowa Beautiful Announces Beautification Grant Program**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources at its Environmental Protection Commission meeting July 20<sup>th</sup> approved an agreement with Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) to administer a grant program for communities with a population of 5,000 and under. To find out what projects are eligible, go to <http://www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com/grantsAwards.html>. Maximum grants are \$5,000 for beautification and \$15,000 for derelict building projects. Factors that will enhance grant success include: Projects with long-term or continuing benefits; projects involving youth with a focus on service learning hour opportunities; projects that have an ongoing structure, planning effort or organization such as Keep Your Community Beautiful, Main Street, and Trees Forever. Special consideration for the derelict building segment will be given to those applicants that hire the unemployed for the deconstruction, reconstruction or clean up of the properties. Grant applications and detailed information is available on the KIB web site [www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com](http://www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com) on the front page and under the grants program area. **Applications are due or postmarked no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010.** Electronic / email applications are accepted.

Submitted by Lynn Laws

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Watershed Planning Grants Available**

The DNR is opening the third round of Watershed Planning Grants, which help local Iowa groups find solutions for improving Iowa’s state’s lakes, streams and rivers. Groups can get started by calling for a consultation to discuss their ideas and have their questions about the grant application process and watershed improvement answered. Applications are due Sept. 1. Planning grants offer \$10,000 to \$50,000 to develop Watershed Management Plans that address problems and create solutions for waters on the state’s impaired waters list. Local or regional groups, organizations or agencies (public or private) are eligible to apply. More information is available on the DNR website at:

[www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/planning.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/planning.html).

Submitted by Jessie Brown

\*\*\*\*\*

**Grant Available for Environmental Organizations**

The Iowa Wells Fargo Environmental Green Team Grant Program is again offering a grant in the amount of \$2,500 to an Iowa non-profit 501c3 environmental organization. If interested, please email [greenteamiowa@wellsfargo.com](mailto:greenteamiowa@wellsfargo.com) for an application. **Deadline for submissions is 5pm on Monday, August 16, 2010.** A decision will be made on or before September 01, 2010.

Submitted by Brad Gerndt

\*\*\*\*\*

**Public Comments Requested Regarding Missouri River Uses**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to know your thoughts, concerns and ideas regarding the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS). MRAPS is a congressionally authorized multi-year study of the current uses of the Missouri River. This is the first review since passage of the 1944 Flood Control Act which created most of the dams and reservoirs on the river. The Corps will be accepting comments on the MRAPS study through September 20th. You can learn more at [www.mraps.org](http://www.mraps.org) and then email comments to [mraps@usace.army.mil](mailto:mraps@usace.army.mil) or mail comments to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers –Omaha District  
Attn: Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study  
1616 Capital Avenue

Omaha, NE 68102

Submitted by Paul Lepisto

\*\*\*\*\*

**UNI to offer two sustainability courses this fall**

The University of Northern Iowa will offer two sustainability courses this fall and enrollment is open for the two-credit-hour courses, Wind Energy Applications in Iowa and Introduction to Sustainability. Both classes will be held Tuesdays, Aug. 23 through Dec. 17. Wind Energy Applications in Iowa will take place from 5:30 to 7:20 p.m. in Buchanan Hall, Room 106, at Hawkeye Community College. The course may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit. Introduction to Sustainability will take place from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in Room 7 at the Industrial Technology Center (ITC) on the UNI campus. For more information about the Wind Energy Applications in Iowa course, or additional offerings available through Continuing and Distance Education at UNI, call 319-273-2121 or visit [www.uni.edu/continuinged](http://www.uni.edu/continuinged). For more information about the Introduction to Sustainability course, contact the UNI Registrar's Office at 319-273-2241 or visit [www.uni.edu/registrar](http://www.uni.edu/registrar).

Submitted by Lynn Laws

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wanted: Holiday stories**

The University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education is working on a green holidays project. We want people across the state to share their stories with us for possible inclusion on our website. Would you be willing to take 5 or 10 minutes out of your day to do some fun reflecting about your holidays, and share your perspective with us? We are asking for 2-4 sentences from willing participants about a holiday topic. Here are several questions you could ponder... What is your favorite thing about the holidays? What are the most important traditions in your family? What parts of your holiday routine take more out of you than they give back? If you send us your very brief story, please sign it with your city and provide a context, such as "Parent of three in Carroll, IA." By emailing your story, we want you to understand we take that as permission from you to edit it for length and, if it fits our needs, publish it on the UNI CEEE website and possibly in other ways for the green holidays initiative. Send your questions and stories to Susan Salterberg at [susan.salterberg@uni.edu](mailto:susan.salterberg@uni.edu).

Submitted by Susan Salterberg

\*\*\*\*\*

**River of Words Contest**

River of Words is a free, annual, international poetry and art contest on the theme of watersheds for students K-12. The Grand Prize winners win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC to attend the award ceremony at the Library of Congress. River of Words also publishes an annual poetry book of winning submissions. Every child is acknowledged with a personalized "Watershed Explorer" certificate. Children may enter on their own, through schools, or through other organizations such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. River of Words could be a great enhancement to an existing program, a creative stand-alone project, or a great opportunity for students to independently add to their artistic and creative portfolio. It could also be used as a small portion of a larger science project, art project, or research project. An educator's guide for curriculum for instructors is available. Entry deadline is December 1, 2010. For more information visit: [www.riverofwords.org](http://www.riverofwords.org).

Submitted by Jean Krewson

\* \* \* \* \*

**Mississippi River Photo Contest**

Attention Mississippi River enthusiasts and photographers alike! The 2010 1 Mississippi photo contest presented by 1 Mississippi collaborative organizations, like the Iowa Environmental Council, and Brookfield Renewable Power has arrived. This contest celebrates the beauty of the Mississippi River through the incredible talent of local photographers. We're looking for photos that tell the remarkable story of the Mississippi River through picture perfect moments— long walks along River trails, community festivals, city reflections in still waters and birds soaring into sunsets. We want to see what the River means to you. Submit up to three photos by **August 8, 2010** for your opportunity to win. Winners in both the amateur and professional categories will be chosen based on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact and artistic merit. In addition to great prizes, winners will be printed on 1 Mississippi banners displayed throughout the River region! For more information on submission rules, prizes and deadlines, please visit <http://www.1mississippi.net/1-mississippi-photo-contest>.

Submitted by Lynn Laws

\* \* \* \* \*

**AIA Iowa Annual Convention – Call for Exhibitors**

Planning for the annual AIA Iowa Convention is underway. It will take place on September 30-October 1 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. Companies interested in exhibiting environment-related products to an audience of architects and designers are invited to register for an exhibit booth. For details please visit <http://www.aiaiowa.org/displayconvention.cfm?conventionnbr=8598>.

Submitted by Jessica A. Reinert

\* \* \* \* \*

**Hazardous to Your Health: How the Civil Justice System Holds Corporate Polluters Accountable**

A new report released in July by the national counterpart of the Iowa Association for Justice illustrates how corporations have evaded U.S. environmental laws for decades, later to be held accountable and responsible for clean-up through the civil justice system. The report examines how trial lawyers help communities seek justice when destroyed by corporate polluters. The report, entitled "Hazardous to Your Health: How the Civil Justice System Holds Corporate Polluters Accountable," can be found at <http://www.justice.org/environment>.

Submitted by Andrew Mertens

\* \* \* \* \*

**Energy Efficiency Success Story**

Plains Justice and The Iowa Business Council for Energy Efficiency are spotlighting successes in energy efficiency in our state. While we're sure you've heard some people say they don't think it's real, let Waverly Light and Power show you that it can be done, and how they're committed to energy efficiency. Read their story at [http://api.ning.com:80/files/sQVoXSFv\\*ChmxE-2zEanejeFGbTRU9jLOK2XIVSac3X0ZdteCGL96ROboM3PI7xJRTkp2T9p4y348k1tkvR9vfeEFcMwG6Qn/Waverly\\_Iowa.pdf](http://api.ning.com:80/files/sQVoXSFv*ChmxE-2zEanejeFGbTRU9jLOK2XIVSac3X0ZdteCGL96ROboM3PI7xJRTkp2T9p4y348k1tkvR9vfeEFcMwG6Qn/Waverly_Iowa.pdf)

Submitted by Doug Wagner

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Reserve these dates*

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

**October 15, Des Moines area**

Keynote: Bill McKibben. [Register today](#) and save with [early bird registration](#). Questions? Contact Lynn Laws: (515)244-1194, ext 210; [lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org](mailto:lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash) for more information.

Submitted by Abby Harper

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ICEC 2011 Winter Solstice**

**January 21-23, 2011**

Sketching Iowa's Heritage: How to Draw Children Back into Nature. Honey Creek State Park Resort (Moravia, Iowa). For more information on both of these events please see the website [iowae.org](http://iowae.org) or contact Heather Niec at [Adminicec@hotmail.com](mailto:Adminicec@hotmail.com).

Submitted by Heather Niec

\*\*\*\*\*

This monthly electronic newsletter is a service of the  
Iowa Environmental Council  
521 East Locust Street, Suite 220, Des Moines IA 50309  
Ph 515-244-1194; Fax 515-244-7856

<http://www.iaenvironment.org>

If you have comments or would like to unsubscribe, please contact Lynn Laws, 515-244-1194, ext. 210 or [lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org](mailto:lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org).

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

- END -