

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>.

September 2010

Table of Contents:

From the Council...

- **Hear from Bill McKibben, Iowa Farmers and other speakers regarding Iowa's future, Oct 15, Des Moines. Early Bird Registration Held over ONE more day – through September 1**
- Office Available for Start-up Environmental Organization
- Follow us on Twitter!

Events, Training and Activities Calendar

- Center on Sustainable Communities Fall Schedule, various dates, Des Moines, Sioux City, Corning
- Anatomy of Iowa Floods: Preparing for the Future, various dates and locations
- Reconnecting Children with Nature: Growing Up Wild Early Childhood Training, various September dates and locations
- Backyard Abundance Hosts Permaculture-Based “Create Abundant Landscapes” Classes, Sep-Oct, Iowa City area
- Air Quality Rule Meeting, Public Welcome, Sep 2, Des Moines
- Iowa Star Party, Sep 2-5, Coon Rapids area
- Trees & Water Quality Symposium, Sep 9, Moline, IL
- 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
- Iowa Native Plant Society Annual Meeting and Field Trip, Sep 11, Decatur County
- An Evening for African Predators, Sep 11, Des Moines
- Johnson County Heritage Trust Family Day, Sep 12, Johnson County
- Public Hearing on Iowa Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule, Sep 13, Des Moines
- Walk for Wildlife, Sep 15, Polk County
- Buck Naked Need Dough Great Outdoors Fund Friends Celebration, Sep 17, Polk County

- Becoming an Outdoor Woman, Sep 17-19
- Local Foods Meeting, Sep 18, Perry
- Cool Congregations Coffee, Sep 18, Iowa City
- Tour of the Kothenbeutel Prairie, Sep 18, Franklin County
- Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local Harvest Party, Sep 19, Des Moines
- Park(ing) Day, Sep 19, Des Moines
- Teachers Online Course: Exploring Iowa's Natural Resources, begins Sep 20 online
- Iowa Environmental Protection Commission, Sep 21, Pottawattamie County
- Autumn Equinox Hike at the Jennett Heritage Area, Sep 23, Story County
- Outdoor Explorations for Early Learners, Sep 23 AND Oct 23, Des Moines area
- Rainscaping Native Landscaping & Soil Quality Restoration Design Training Program, Sep 24, Ankeny
- Solar and Small Wind Installers Summit, Sep 24, Grinnell
- Teaching with Energy in Grades K-5, begins Sep 25, via ICN
- Outdoor Expo for Kids, Sep 25 and 26, Des Moines
- Rainscaping Rain Garden & Bioretention Cell Design Workshop, Sep 30, Ankeny
- Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter Annual Dinner, Oct 1, Des Moines
- Candidate Gathering, Oct 2, Perry
- Cool Congregations Coffee, Oct 7, Cedar Falls
- Under the Cider Moon – Celebration of Autumn, Oct 9, Johnson County
- Iowa Energy Summit, Oct 12, Ames
- Toward a Greener Earth, Toward a Greener Iowa, Oct 15, Des Moines
- Iowa Environmental Health Association Fall Conference, Oct 19-20, Altoona
- 1000 Friends of Iowa 2010 Annual Meeting, Oct 30, Ankeny
- Understanding Watersheds Workshops for Teachers and Naturalists, November 12-14, 2010 and April 15-16, 2011, Pleasant Hill

Opportunities & Announcements

- Job Openings: Green Iowa AmeriCorps Members & Assistant Program Director Green Iowa AmeriCorps
- Job Openings: AmeriCorps/Iowa DNR Keepers of the Land
- Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) Request For Grant Applications
- State Revolving Fund Green Project Solicitation
- A-Mazing Prairie Festival CANCELED
- Public Comments Needed Regarding Smart Planning
- MRAPS Comment Deadline Approaching
- Nominations Requested for Best Development Awards
- Invest in Nature...Tour Iowa's Lost Natural Treasures!
- River of Words Contest
- Iowa Wildlife Center Reaches another Milestone
- Iowa Prairie Heritage Week
- Lower Wapsi Cleanup Results
- What if the coal's running out, too?
- Iowan Earns National Environmental Volunteer Award

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...

Hear from Bill McKibben, Iowa Farmers and other speakers regarding Iowa's future

Early bird registration held over one more day – through September 1

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

The Council's 2010 annual conference on October 15 features Bill McKibben, American environmentalist, founder of 350.org and a prolific writer and dynamic speaker on global warming, alternative energy and localized economies. Our afternoon session will feature a video produced this summer : "Conservation Conversations" with Iowa farmers; their thoughts and challenges when it comes to protecting Iowa agricultural soils and water quality in rural streams. Also speaking is Joan Nassauer, author of "From the Corn Belt to the Gulf." She will share her research, conducted with Iowa farmers, regarding a new vision for Iowa's rural landscape. Visit our website at

http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/2010_Conference.htm for all the latest details.

Questions? Call Lynn at 515-244-1194, ext 210.

Office Available for a Small or Start-up Environmental Organization

The Iowa Environmental Council has a 10' x 10' office available in the East Village, in downtown Des Moines, for a minimal monthly rent, to any small or start-up environmental organization. Two previous tenants, Iowa Global Warming and the Iowa chapter of the National Center for Appropriate Technology, were helped to start-up their operations in Des Moines by renting shared space with the Iowa Environmental Council at 521 East Locust. The space is again available. If you are a part of a small or start-up environmental organization and are wanting to take the next step into a physical location, give us a call. Space includes use of a conference room, break room, and desks. Can negotiate use of some office equipment, such as a copier and postage meter. For more information, email or call Marian Riggs Gelb, mrgelb@iaenvironment.org, 515-244-1194, ext 201.

Follow us on Twitter!

If you're a fan of the Iowa Environmental Council, follow us on Twitter! From our account, [Iowa Env](#), we send out occasional Tweets about Council projects and state and national environmental news.

We're always looking for great, relevant Tweeters to follow, so if you have recommendations, please let us know. Not sure what [Twitter](#) is? Here's a [good intro](#), some [background info](#), and [how environmental groups are using it](#).

Events, Training and Activities

Center on Sustainable Communities Fall Schedule

Various dates - Des Moines, Sioux City, Corning

Center on Sustainable Communities (COSC) has a fall schedule started with numerous valuable green workshops. On Sept. 23rd (Des Moines) & 24th (Sioux City) is "Mortar Matters" featuring two nationally recognized historic masonry preservation specialists. On Sept. 28 (Des Moines), its 2030 Now: Case

Study of MUM's Sustainable Living Center - explores how Architecture 2030 Challenge can be achieved today using readily available materials in Iowa. On Oct. 2 (Des Moines) Bob Yapp presents two enlightening workshops on sustainable alternatives to installing siding and replacing windows. Also Oct. 2 (Corning) COSC's Affordable Green Building Training begins in support of the community's landmark "Iowa House" project. Additional workshops have been scheduled! Visit www.icosc.com for details and register today by contacting Leslie Berckes at Leslie@icosc.com or 515-707-2787.

Submitted by Siobhan Spain

* * * * *

Anatomy of Iowa Floods: Preparing for the Future

Various dates and locations

Attend a public seminar, where we will examine 2008 floods, precipitation trends, watershed practices, floodplain initiatives. The University of Iowa Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research has added four community flood seminar dates across Iowa in response to requests from more Iowa communities to help people better understand the 2008 Iowa floods and how Iowa residents, local, regional and state leaders and landowners can better plan and prepare for future flooding. The seminars will take place in four communities beginning Sept. 7 and ending Sept. 30. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer session. For more information, see <http://www.cgrer.uiowa.edu/calendar/2010/08/08162010.htm>. The upcoming seminars follow five community seminars held in June and July in Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Waverly, Mason City and Ames. More than 350 people attended and participated in discussions at the seminars. To see materials from the these seminars visit <http://www.cgrer.uiowa.edu/>.

Submitted by Joe Bolkcom

* * * * *

Reconnecting Children with Nature: Growing Up Wild Early Childhood Training

Various September dates and locations

Growing up Wild is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder and nature. Participants will be led through inquiry based explorations to lead kids outdoors. Participants will be actively engaged throughout the workshop to help increase their comfort with outdoor explorations. This training will be offered at locations across the state this fall. Below is a list of current dates and locations. Visit our website (www.iowadnr.gov/education/wkshop.html) to register for a specific site or for more information.

September 11, 2010 - Children's Imagination Station (1826 3rd Avenue South, Denison, IA)

September 11, 2010 - Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center (10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville)

September 18, 2010 - Valders 376 Luther College (700 College Dr. Decorah, Iowa)

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

* * * * *

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.

Submitted by Fred Meyer

* * * * *

Air Quality Rule Meeting, Public Welcome

September 2, Des Moines

The next PM2.5 (fine particle pollution) Implementation Workgroup Meeting will be held Sept. 2 at 9 AM in the DNR Air Quality Bureau conference room at 7900 Hickman Road Ste 1, Windsor Heights. Go to http://www.iowadnr.gov/air/prof/meet_wg/pm25/index.html for additional information.

Submitted by Mindy Kralicek

* * * * *

Iowa Star Party

September 2-5, Coon Rapids area

The 8th Annual Iowa Star Party will be held September 2-5 at [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 or email resort@whiterockconservancy.org.

Submitted by Emily Babin

* * * * *

Trees & Water Quality Symposium

September 9, Moline, Illinois

You are invited to join Trees Forever at the Trees & Water Quality Symposium on September 9, at Stoney Creek Inn, Moline, Illinois. Morning keynote: Dr. Tom Sauer, National Laboratory for Agriculture & the Environment. Luncheon keynote: Randy Neprash, Bonestroo. Workshop and Panels. You don't want to miss this informative, educational day! Registration fee (includes lunch): Members-\$15; Non-members-\$20. Please note: CEU's are available upon request. See

<http://www.treesforever.org/Events/20100909/194/Trees-Water-Quality-Symposium-Moline-IL.aspx>

Submitted by Susan Heathcote

* * * * *

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 Lakeside Laboratory from September 10-12. Learn about Iowa's geologic history, native flora, and ecosystems through field trips and lectures. Fens and giant sloths will be two of this year's featured topics. Teachers seeking graduate or continuing education credits are encouraged to attend. The program kicks off Friday evening and continues through Sunday noon.

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.

Submitted by Jane Shuttleworth and Peter van der Linden

* * * * *

**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.

Submitted by Doug Harr

* * * * *

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

11 a.m. Paddle Trip; 5 p.m. Dinner & Music Fest. Join Iowa Rivers Revival for a pure river celebration! Start with the Paddle Trip on the N Raccoon River from 11 am - 3 pm (an American Canoe Association sanctioned event). Begins at Henderson Park Access and ends at Squirrel Hollow Access. Bring your own canoe and float with IRR (sign-up required at 515.277.1763 or rbfortney@midamerican.com; no charge to participate). Canoe rentals are available from the Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce (515.386.2155). River or weather conditions may require cancellation of the Paddle Trip, so please provide your contact info when making arrangements. Note: Canoeing & kayaking are potentially life threatening sports. Participants will assume full responsibility and liability for their own preparedness and safety. Dinner & Music Fest follows at the Big White Barn - Farmhouse Life, 2244 U Ave Rippey IA 50235 (directions www.farmhouselife.com). Dinner is from 5-7 pm. Reserve a catered meal or bring your own picnic. Live river music from 7-9 pm featuring Jon Stravers & Big Blue Sky. Admission for "meal & music" is \$25/adult and \$10/children 12 & under. For "music-only" (bring your own picnic & listen to music) is \$15/adult and FREE for children 12 & under. BYOB and bring your own lawn chair. **RSVP for Dinner & Music Fest by SEPT 4** to riversrockfest@gmail.com. Please specify "meal & music" or "music-only." Dinner & Music Fest will be held rain or shine. For more info go to www.iowarivers.org or call 515.229.6988.

Submitted by Roz Lehman and Chris Wilbeck

* * * * *

**Iowa Native Plant Society Annual Meeting and Field Trip
September 11, Decatur County**

Join us for the Iowa Native Plant Society annual meeting and field trip at Timberhill Oak Savanna in Decatur County - September 11, 11am-3pm. Pauline Drobney will lead the field trip along with owners, Bill and Sibylla Brown. Please see the INPS website calendar at

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/index.php> for directions to Timberhill and for important details.

Submitted by Dianne Blankenship

* * * * *

**An Evening for African Predators
September 11, Des Moines**

Join us on Sept. 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. for a social hour, dinner and fundraiser for Blank Park Zoo. Zoo officials are pleased to welcome Dr. Michael Briggs, co-founder and CEO of the African Predator Conservation Research Organization. APCRO is dedicated to studying the viability and health of African predators in the short term as well as evaluating their potential for long-term survival. They are working

to protect a variety of African predators including spotted hyenas, African wild dogs, jackals, African lions, African leopards and cheetah. These great cats and rare canines play a key role in African ecosystems. Join us to learn about APCRO's pioneering work to save them. Tickets need to be purchased in advance and space is limited. Go to www.blankparkzoo.com for more details.

Submitted by Jessie Weeks

* * * * *

Johnson County Heritage Trust Family Day

September 12, Johnson County

Join Johnson County Heritage Trust members for the organization's annual Family Day at Belgum Grove, Sunday, Sept. 12, from 1-3 p.m. Move through five different learning stations and experience fun, hands-on activities designed to teach about our natural prairies, streams, ponds, wetlands and woodlands.

Belgum Grove is located four miles west of Hills on the south side of 500th Street (F26). The event is free and all are welcome. For more information, visit www.jcht.org, call 319-338-7030 or email

info@jcht.org.

Submitted by Tammy Richardson

* * * * *

Public Hearing on Iowa Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule

September 13, Des Moines

A public hearing for the Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule will be held Sept. 13 at 1 pm in the DNR Air Quality Bureau conference room at 7900 Hickman Road Ste 1, Windsor Heights. To learn more about the Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule, go to <http://www.iowadnr.gov/air/prof/ghg/ghg.html>. Contact Marnie Stein at marnie.stein@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-281-8468 if you have questions.

Submitted by Mindy Kralicek

* * * * *

Walk for Wildlife

September 15, Polk County

Enjoy a family walk through the park or extend your trip with a 5 or 10K Volkspport walk on September 25, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Jester Park Shelter #4. All ages are welcome, along with pets that are on a 6-foot leash. There is a \$2 registration fee payable at the event. Proceeds benefit wildlife habitat in Polk County.

Submitted by Kami Rankin

* * * * *

Buck Naked Need Dough Great Outdoors Fund Friends Celebration

September 17, Polk County

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Jester Park Lodge for the Great Outdoors Fund's annual Friends Celebration (formerly known as Buck Naked Need Dough). This celebration recognizes the many people who have contributed to the Fund and the many projects that have benefitted the citizens, land, and wildlife of Greater Des Moines. Guests can mingle, enjoy fine catering, taste wine and beer samples, and participate in a live auction and raffles. Tickets sell for \$50 per person or \$400 per table (8 seats). Pre-registration is required and seating is limited. For more information and to get tickets, go to

www.greatoutdoorsfund.org.

Submitted by Kami Rankin

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

Local Foods Meeting

September 18, Perry

The Raccoon River Watershed Association will host a "Local Foods" meeting on Sept. 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Hotel Pattee in Perry. LaVon Griffieon (Local Foods), Dr. Cornelia Flora (Local Foods and Community, Lynn Fallon (Local Foods Networks), Kurt Bronnenburg (bee-keeping). The Pattee will prepare a 12:30 meal from local foods.

Submitted by Mike Delaney

* * * * *

Cool Congregations Coffee

September 18, Iowa City

Join us for coffee and conversation on Saturday, September 18, at 1pm – 2:30pm, at Trinity Episcopal, 320 E. College St., in Iowa City. This is an opportunity for Iowa City area congregations to continue the conversation begun through Cool Congregations and Interfaith Environmental Action about caring for the earth in the context of a faith community. It will include time to share updates on individual congregational activity as well as special guest speakers Susan Salterberg on Reclaim Your Holidays: Practical Ways to Create Meaning, and Rev. Clint Twedt-Ball, Director of the United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society and co-director of the Matthew 25 Ministry Hub and the Block by Block program who will address how to engage your faith community in voicing our concerns about climate and energy legislation to our elected representatives. Register online by clicking on the link for these events at http://www.iowaip.org/cc_calendar.html. For more information contact Sarah Webb at coolcongregations@iowaip.org.

Submitted by Sarah Webb

* * * * *

Tour of the Kothenbeutel Prairie

September 18, Franklin County

Please join us on Saturday, Sep 18, 10 a.m.-noon, east of Sheffield, Franklin County for a tour of a prairie. Brian Fankhauer, with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, will lead the trip, cosponsored by the Iowa Native Plant Society. This will be an easy hike. Kothenbeutel Prairie is owned by INHF and is only open to the public for special events or with permission from the Foundation. For a link to background about the prairie or directions, go to www.inhf.org/events.htm. In case of questions, contact Brian at 515-249-1338 (cell).

Submitted by Ann Robinson

* * * * *

Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local Harvest Party

September 19, Des Moines

"Get to know your farmer and your food" on Sunday, September 19th , 4-6PM, Drake University. Buy Fresh Buy Local member farmers, restaurants, and caterers will be creating a mouthwatering array of dishes from this year's harvest. Come and sample their creations and some Iowa wines, and spend time getting to know the farmers who grew the food. Full details at www.buyfreshdrake.org

Submitted by Matt Russell

* * * * *

Park(ing) Day

September 19, Des Moines

PARK(ing) Day is Sept. 17th. Show your support for urban green spaces. Join us and build your own park out of a parking spot the city! <http://parkingday.org/> Just remember to get permission and feed the meter... Contact Adam Hammes of Urban Ambassadors for help in planning (515) 491-0706 or adam@urbanambassadors.org. RDG Planning & Design kicked this event off in 2008 and in 2009 we joined along with Genus Landscaping, Mars Cafe, and Confluence. Help us set the bar higher this year. We want 10 organizations, 10 mini-parks. The more creative the better. Watch the YouTube clips here <http://www.youtube.com/adamgo10#p/a/u/1/-d7Lt01AbOI> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaFVdcsJu0g>

Submitted by Adam Hammes

* * * * *

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

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

* * * * *

Iowa Environmental Protection Commission

September 21, Pottawattamie County

The next Iowa DNR Environmental Protection Commission meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21 at 10 AM in Pottawattamie County. The agenda and meeting room will be available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/epc/index.html> approximately 10 days before the meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

Submitted by Mindy Kralicek

* * * * *

Autumn Equinox Hike at the Jennett Heritage Area

September 23, Story County

Take a hike, on Thursday, Sep 23, 6-7:30 p.m., to celebrate the first day of fall and see the prairie reconstruction underway at Jennett Heritage Area, (near Nevada) which features 25 acres of diverse remnant prairie pasture within a 171-acre project. Be prepared to hike a couple of miles. Read more at www.inhf.org/jennett, where you'll find directions and a map. Sponsored by the Story County Conservation Board and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Please **pre-register by Sept. 22** by calling 515-232-2516 or e-mailing conservation@storycounty.com, so you can be contacted in case a weather cancellation is necessary. Please note: This property is not yet open to the public, except during such special events.

Submitted by Ann Robinson

* * * * *

Rainscaping Native Landscaping & Soil Quality Restoration Design Training Program

September 24, Ankeny

Join us Friday, Sept. 24, at the IAMU Training Complex in Ankeny, 9:00 – 3:30 (\$75). See www.iowastormwater.org for more information. A technical training session that addresses native turf, native plantings in gardens, and native prairie restoration on a larger scale such as corporate campuses and stream and lakeshore buffers. It will address native landscaping function in the urban landscape, essential design elements, construction and maintenance of this stormwater quality best management practices. Technical training will also be provided on soil quality restoration for new developments and existing managed turf yards and areas.

Submitted by Kathleen Gibbons

* * * * *

Solar and Small Wind Installers Summit

September 24, Grinnell

You are invited to take part in the upcoming Solar and Small Wind Installers Summit, to be held in Grinnell Iowa on Sept. 24, 9 a.m. -5 p.m. This event will be held to bring together people currently in the business of installing small renewable energy systems as well as electrical and mechanical contractors interested in entering the market, tech instructors and trainees, utility personnel, inspectors and regulators. We will discuss issues of professional certification, safety and consumer protection as well as laying the groundwork of adoption of a state RE installers code of ethics. Sponsored by NCAT, IREnew, Alliant Energy and the UNI/CEEE. For more info, contact Rich Dana, Energy Specialist - National Center for Appropriate Technology, richd@ncat.org, 319.530.6051, www.ncat.org.

Submitted by Rich Dana

* * * * *

Teaching with Energy in Grades K-5

Begins September 25, via ICN

Pat Higby at the UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education is offering a class for anyone who wants to incorporate more energy in their educational presentations. Together the participants will explore energy related issues and develop Iowa Core appropriate lessons. Cost is just \$75 for two graduate hours! First and last classes meet at UNI on Sept. 25 and Dec. 4. The other classes are from 4 to 6 pm at an ICN room near you! To register visit www.uni.edu/continuinged/enroll and choose "All other courses..." For more information contact Pat at 319-273-6012

Submitted by Pat Higby

* * * * *

Outdoor Expo for Kids

September 25 and 26, Des Moines

On September 25 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) and 26 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) the Izaak Walton League of Des Moines will be offering outdoor recreation opportunities to the general public at their Outdoor EXPO for Kids and Families at Waterworks Park. A Water Sport Village staffed by the Ikes, The Raccoon River Watershed Association, Central Iowa Paddlers, Whitewater Coalition, Canoe Sport Outfitters, Iowa Canoe Outfitters, Iowa State Canoe Club and others will offer paddling on the pond, a canoe and kayak show and paddling demonstrations. The EXPO planners are expecting 10,000 people. Last year's event attracted 4,000. The current 25 Water Sport Village volunteers are not enough. Contact Mike Delaney if you could help out for an hour or two either day. It was great fun last year seeing hundreds of folks who had never paddled before on the west pond at Waterworks. For more information:

<http://eventful.com/desmoines/events/iowa-outdoor-expo-kids-families-/E0-001-023747976-8>

Submitted by Mike Delaney

* * * * *

Outdoor Explorations for Early Learners

September 25 and October 23, Des Moines area

Please join us on both of these days (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM) (attendance on both days is required) at the Heartland AEA Johnston Office at 6500 Corporate Dr. in Johnston. Participants will learn how to build upon children's sense of wonder about the world around them through relevant, inquiry-based exploration. Participants will be introduced to strategies, skills, and resources (including Growing Up WILD and Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood) to help them lead children in age-appropriate, interdisciplinary outdoor experiences. You must register electronically through the [Heartland AEA 11 website](#). **Registration deadline: September 10.** For more information, contact the [DNR Aquatic Education Program](#) (641/747-2200).

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

* * * * *

Rainscaping Rain Garden & Bioretention Cell Design Workshop

September 30, Ankeny

Join us Thursday, Sept. 30, at the IAMU Training Complex in Ankeny, 9:00-3:00 (\$75). See www.iowastormwater.org for more information. A technical training session that addresses rain garden & bioretention cell function in the urban landscape, essential design elements, and construction and maintenance of these infiltration best management practices for stormwater quality management.

Submitted by Kathleen Gibbons

* * * * *

Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter Annual Dinner

October 1, Des Moines

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune will be the featured speaker at this year's Iowa Chapter Annual Dinner scheduled for Friday, October 1, at the Des Moines Botanical Center. Join us for a cocktail cruise at 4:30 and dinner at 7:00. Find all the details at

<http://iowa.sierraclub.org/AnnualDinner/2010Dinner.htm>

Submitted by Neila Seaman

* * * * *

Candidate Gathering

October 2, Perry

Join us from 9-noon at Hotel Pattee in Perry. The Raccoon River Watershed Association Board of Directors has invited all candidates who represent the citizens of the 4,000 square mile Raccoon River watershed to a gathering at the Hotel Pattee in Perry, Iowa. Candidates for State-wide offices who chose to attend will be given the opportunity to speak to the entire assembly. Candidates for district offices in the watershed will be given the opportunity to meet with constituents. The goal of the gathering is to candidates to speak to citizens and citizens to speak to candidates on issues of interest to the RRWA.

Check the RRWA website for the schedule and comments from the candidates concerning the Raccoon River. [Candidate Gathering--Oct 2--Perry](#)

S* * * * *

Cool Congregations Coffee

October 7, Cedar Falls

Another Cool Congregations Coffee will be held for Cedar Falls/Waterloo area congregations at 7pm-8:30pm, St. John's Lutheran Church, 715 College, Cedar Falls, IA 50613. Special guest speakers will be *Carole Yates* on Reclaim Your Holidays: Practical Ways to Create Meaning, and the *Green Team at St. John's Lutheran* will be giving a tour of the energy efficient improvements they have made to their facility with a help of a grant. Register online by clicking on the link for these events at

http://www.iowaip.org/cc_calendar.html. For more information contact Sarah Webb at coolcongregations@iowaip.org.

Submitted by Sarah Webb

* * * * *

**Under the Cider Moon – Celebration of Autumn
October 9, Johnson County**

Johnson County Heritage Trust invites you to our 4th annual "Under a Cider Moon . . . a Celebration of Autumn" Saturday, October 9 at the Schwab Celebration Barn near Solon, Iowa. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. This is a live and silent auction event with live music, hors d'oeuvres and adult locally brewed beverages. Cost is \$50.00 per person with \$30.00 of that being tax deductible. RSVP by 9/17 for early bird drawing. For reservations or more information visit www.jcht.org, call 319/338-7030 or email info@jcht.org.

Submitted by Tammy Richardson

* * * * *

**Iowa Energy 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's municipalities can use to finance and encourage local energy efficiency projects, and more! Check out details today by visiting 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 conference online today and take advantage of early bird registration reduced rates. 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 and a prolific writer and dynamic speaker on global warming, alternative energy and localized economies. Our afternoon session will feature a video produced this summer : "Conservation Conversations" with Iowa farmers; their thoughts and challenges when it comes to protecting Iowa agricultural soils and water quality in rural streams. Also speaking is Joan Nassauer, author of "From the Corn Belt to the Gulf." She will share her research, conducted with Iowa farmers, regarding a new vision for Iowa's rural landscape. Visit our website at

http://www.iaenvironment.org/conference/10/2010_Conference.htm for all the latest details.

Questions? Call Lynn at 515-244-1194, ext 210.

* * * * *

**Iowa Environmental Health Association Fall Conference
October 19-20, Adventureland Inn, Altoona**

This two-day, semi-annual educational conference will consist of three tracts: 1) Health Effects of Hazardous Materials; 2) Environmental Health in Practice; and 3) Policy, Legislative, Standards and Program Updates. For more information, please go to www.ieha.net.

Submitted Eric Bradley

* * * * *

1000 Friends of Iowa 2010 Annual Meeting

October 20, Ankeny

1000 Friends of Iowa invites you to attend our 2010 Annual Meeting on October 30 at the Griffieon Family Farm in Ankeny. These meetings are small-scale conferences for our members and others who are interested in 1000 Friends of Iowa and the issues we address. We host a members meeting where our members elect board members, and other business as stated in our By-Laws and we offer a variety of educational opportunities. For more information about our Annual Meetings, and to register for the 2010 Annual Meeting, visit www.1000friendsofiowa.org.

Submitted by Crystal Leto

* * * * *

**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 gradate 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. For more information visit www.uni.edu/ceee/eij, request a paper brochure at bollwinkel@uni.edu or call 319-273-2783.

Submitted by Carl Bollwinkel

* * * * *

Opportunities and Announcements

Job Openings: Green Iowa AmeriCorps Members & Assistant Program Director Green Iowa AmeriCorps

The University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education is seeking individuals with an interest in facilitating energy conservation efforts for residents of northeastern Iowa. Ten-month and six-month team member positions are available in Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids and Decorah. Members will build management skills through specific team leader roles. Duties include home weatherization, facilitating energy education programs and participating in community outreach projects. A four-month position as assistant program director is also open to support the Green Iowa AmeriCorps team. The program assistant will work closely with both the program director and other team members and develop skills to successfully manage an AmeriCorps program. Green Iowa AmeriCorps is operated through UNI's Center for Energy & Environmental Education. Support for the program comes from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, Iowa Power Fund and the Iowa Office of Energy Independence. For more information and to apply, visit www.greeniowaamericorps.org or contact Cortney Schiappa, Green Iowa AmeriCorps Program Director, University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education - RM 109 Cedar Falls, IA 50614, greeniowadirector@gmail.com, 319-273-7233.

Submitted by Cortney Schiappa

* * * * *

Job Openings: AmeriCorps/Iowa DNR Keepers of the Land

The Iowa DNR Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps Program is seeking AmeriCorps candidates. AmeriCorps is the national service program that provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with education awards in exchange for three months to one year of community engagement. AmeriCorps members at the DNR work alongside environmental professionals to lead

Iowans in caring for our natural resources. For more information, or to apply, check out this web page:
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/volunteer/amicorps/index.html>

Submitted by Elizabeth Gull

* * * * *

Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) Request For Applications

A total of \$1.2 million in grant funds are available to local watershed improvement committees, soil and water conservation districts, public water supply utilities, county conservation boards, cities and counties. Projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, those addressing agricultural runoff and drainage, flood prevention, stream bank erosion, municipal discharge, storm water runoff, unsewered communities, industrial discharge and livestock runoff. Each project can request up to \$200,000 in funding over four years. There are several new guidelines that are part of this Request for Applications (RFA). Potential applicants should review the RFA in full at www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp to make sure their proposal qualifies. **All applications are due on Friday, Oct. 1, 2010.** Application materials can be downloaded from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship website at www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp. To receive more information or ask questions, contact Jerry Neppel at 515-281-3599.

Submitted by Bill Ehm

* * * * *

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. **Deadline for application: December 1, 2010.**

Submitted by Patti Cale-Finnegan

* * * * *

A-Mazing Prairie Festival CANCELED

The annual A-Mazing Prairie Festival that was scheduled for Sunday, September 26th, has been cancelled due to flooding. Check back next year on Sunday, September 25, 2011!

Submitted by Kami Rankin

* * * * *

Public Comments Needed Regarding Smart Planning

Established by the Iowa Legislature in 2010, the [Iowa Smart Planning Task Force](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning) is charged with making recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly regarding local and regional planning in Iowa. Please continue to check www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning for end of September and beginning of October dates and locations of the public hearings for the smart Planning Task Force's findings. (Dates were not available at the printing of this newsletter.)

Submitted by LaVon Griffieon

* * * * *

MRAPS Comment Deadline Approaching

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) wants your comments on the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS). Congress directed the Corps to review the eight project purposes established in the Flood Control Act of 1944. The purposes include: flood control, hydropower, irrigation, recreation, navigation, fish and wildlife, water quality, and water supply. MRAPS will determine if changes to these purposes and the existing federal water infrastructure are warranted. This Public Scoping comment period runs **through September 20, 2010**. Submit your comments at: mraps@usace.army.mil . For more go to: www.mraps.org or <http://www.mraps.org/comment-form>.

Submitted by Paul Lepisto

* * * * *

Nominations Requested for Best Development Awards

1000 Friends of Iowa is now accepting nominations for the 2010 Best Development Awards. 1000 Friends of Iowa established the Best Development Awards in 2001 to showcase development projects and programs in Iowa that best reflect the principles of smart growth and sustainability and to recognize the efforts of the cities, companies, organizations, and individuals that are responsible for these projects. The winners of our Best Development Awards are models of how responsible development practices provide benefits to the community, the environment, and quality of life for future generations. **Nominations must be received by September 17, 2010**. For information on how to submit a nomination, learn more about the Principles of Smart Growth, or find out about last year's Best Development winners, visit www.1000friendsofiowa.org. For additional information please contact Karen Howard at Karen-howard@iowa-city.org or 319-356-5251.

Submitted by Linda Gobberdiel

* * * * *

Invest in Nature...Tour Iowa's Lost Natural Treasures!

Whiterock Conservancy (WRC) will be offering 2-hour personal landscape tours with Tolif Hunt, Executive Director. The tours are an excellent way to learn firsthand how WRC is restoring resilience to the land and to explore rare Iowa habitats such as tallgrass prairie, wetland seeps, prairie kames and oak savanna. Afterwards, enjoy wine and cheese overlooking the Middle Raccoon River Valley. \$250 for groups up to 5. Tours are available on Fri. September 24, Tues. October 12, or Sat. October 23, 2010. To arrange your tour, or inquire about alternate dates, call Emily at (712) 684-2697 ext. 115. Visit us online at www.whiterockconservancy.org.

Submitted by Emily Babin

* * * * *

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.

Submitted by Jean Krewson

* * * * *

Iowa Wildlife Center Reaches another Milestone

The Iowa Wildlife Center recently received news from the IRS granting it 501c3 federal income tax exemption status. IWC applied for exemption in late June and six weeks later the application was approved – much faster than anticipated. The wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, training and education organization will begin Phase 1 of facility construction this fall, and fundraising to accomplish it. Visit www.iowawildlifecenter.org or phone 515/233-1379 for more information.

Submitted by Marlene Ehresman, IWC

* * * * *

Iowa Prairie Heritage Week

The governor has declared a full week for Iowans to honor our prairie heritage. Iowa Prairie Heritage Week - September 12-18, 2010. Visit the Iowa Prairie Network calendar at <http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org/> to find an event near you. Some events occur earlier or later in September. If you'd like to plan an event or if you know of an event that is not listed, please contact Dianne Blankenship at bennaid@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Dianne Blankenship

* * * * *

Lower Wapsi Cleanup Results

Congratulations to the canoe and land volunteers that worked to bring in 4.7 tons of trash from the 23 mile section covering Anamosa to Hale. We were able to recycle 58% of what was removed from the river! Pictures can be found at www.lowerwapsicleanup.org and if you would like to be on the contact list for next year please email Melisa Jacobsen at coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org. In 2011 we will be covering Jungletown Access to Walnut Grove Access.

Submitted by Melisa Jacobsen

* * * * *

What if the coal's running out, too?

Most thinking about the U.S. energy future rests on the commonplace assumption that we have enough coal to last 200 years or more. But what if that just ain't so? Grist blogger David Roberts is spotlighting [a new analysis of coal production](#) which finds that most projections of coal reserves, when scrutinized, turn out to be greatly exaggerated. The good news about a "Peak Coal" scenario, Roberts says, is that humankind's ability to cook the planet would be curtailed. The bad news: plenty of additional harm could still be done. The worse news: the biggest potential catastrophe lies not in a changing climate but the sudden crash of all the world's economies. Reprinted from Midwest Energy News

Submitted by Lynn Laws

* * * * *

Iowan Earns National Environmental Volunteer Award

Congratulations to Brad Gerndt of Des Moines, one of four individuals to win a 2010 Wells Fargo national award for volunteerism. Brad has donated thousands volunteer hours and worked tirelessly, in leadership, for the Green Team at Wells Fargo in Des Moines. Here's a brief excerpt from a very long list of his efforts on behalf of Iowa's environment: "Brad, working with various departments in the company, has initiated or helped with and promotes continuously the following: internal recycling of 100% paper shred and recycle, bottle/cans recycling, batteries, mechanical oils, kitchen grease, metals, light bulbs, computers and peripherals, aluminum, landscaping waste, even rainwater recycling. He also is a great educator internally and externally [on environmental issues]. He also led a "Power down" campaign where turning off lights and computers and monitors was instrumental... Brad is a very active member of Iowa Environmental Council, Keep Iowa Beautiful, River Run Garbage Grab Board, Sierra, Green Drinks, local Transitioning Groups (Ames, Des Moines), World Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society,

Arbor Day, and stays in very regular contact with local, state, national, and international legislators and leaders regarding our precious environment and global climate change.” Congratulations Brad!

Submitted by Lynn Laws

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

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

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 iowaee.org or contact Heather Niec at 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 .

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 -