

# E-News

A Publication of the Iowa Environmental Council

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## October 2011

*From the Council...*

**Register Now**



In Iowa, where 90 percent of the landscape is involved in agriculture, residents have three chances every day to make a positive impact on the state's environment. They're called breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Join us to explore the connection between what Iowans eat and the environment by [registering](#) for **Agriculture for Life: Cultivating Diversity in Iowa Fields and Food Systems**, to be held November 3 at Drake University in Des Moines.

[This year's event](#) features an exciting slate of speakers. Keynote speaker **Frances Moore Lappé**, author of *Diet for a Small Planet*, will reveal how changing our thought process about the biggest environmental challenges of our time may be the key to solving them. Special guest **Ricardo Salvador**—who served on Iowa State University's agronomy faculty and is now a program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation—will present a history of agriculture in Iowa to show how the food system we have today grew up right here in our own state.

In the afternoon, we'll learn about policy solutions for a sustainable food system in Iowa and hear stories from Iowans who are creating such a system in our state today. [The conference agenda, available online](#), includes speakers like **Penny Brown Huber**, who has developed an entrepreneurial training program to ensure small farms are also successful businesses.

**Matt Russell**, who coordinates the Buy Fresh Buy Local chapter in greater Des Moines, will share ideas about feeding Iowans with more food from Iowa. And **Sue Honkamp**, who was a brand manager for Oscar Meyer before moving to Iowa with her family, will explain her passion for putting local foods on her family's dinner table.

As always, there will be plenty of time to visit the non-profits and business displays, network with colleagues and others concerned about local foods, our rural economy and Iowa's environment.

You can join with these Iowans and others who are creating **Agriculture for Life**, November 3, 2011, at 8:30 in the Olmsted Center at Drake University, Des Moines. [You can register online](#) or by calling 515-244-1194, extension 210.

### **Council Staff Transitions**

During September we welcomed Annie Beaman as our new Water Program Assistant. Annie recently moved home to Iowa and joined the Council after completing her legal studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. As a law student, Annie focused her academic work on environmental law, while also distinguishing herself as a

community leader and coalition builder in issues of economic justice--particularly foreclosure and unemployment. In recognition of this work, Annie received the Bernard Berk Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to Helping the Economically Disadvantaged. She also brings a lifetime of agricultural experience and a passion for land stewardship, as she was born and raised on a cattle farm in Madison County. Shannan Garretson, who had held the position previously, moved on to a full time position at Barker Lemar Engineering Consultants.

Lynn Laws, who many of you know from being our communications director moved on to pursue her communication career in Colorado closer to her family. As the Council re-evaluates its communications needs, Matt Hauge has joined the staff temporarily as the Annual Conference Coordinator. You may remember Matt as our intern from the summer of 2010 who produced the Conservation Conversations video shown at last year's conference.

## **Events...**

### **National Security and Iowa's Energy Future**

October 20, 2011 at 07:00:00 PM, Bulldog Auditorium, Olmsted Center, Drake University  
Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn, with 35 years of experience in the U.S. Navy, will highlight the close link between energy and international security and the imperative for innovative government policies, focused investments and effective deployment of technology to create a high-quality, sustainable global environment.

### **Green & Main Announces Fall Classes**

Green & Main will be offering two classes to the public in continuation of its Sustainable Renovation Series. Classes will discuss the lessons learned and conclude with a behind-the-scenes tour of the progressive construction project. *Window Solutions for Historic Renovations & Planning for a Sustainable Site*, including a tour of native plantings, will be discussed on Oct 7th and an *Overview, Lessons Learned & Project Research from the Green & Main Project* will be discussed November 11th.

Find out more about these events, and others around the state, on our [Event Calendar](#).

### **Regional REAP Assemblies Continue in October**

Your participation in REAP assemblies is important to keep funding for our Natural Resources strong. You can find the dates and locations on the Assemblies at the [DNR website](#).

### **Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa Now Hiring for Field Crew Leader/Members for 2012 Season (AmeriCorps Members ages 18-25)**

Conservation Corps Field Crew members and leaders participate in on-the-job training to learn natural resources management skills and put those skills into practice working on conservation projects across the Upper Midwest. Please visit our website at [www.conservationcorps.org](http://www.conservationcorps.org) for more information. Apply online at [www.conservationcorps.org/apply](http://www.conservationcorps.org/apply) by December 16th, 2011. Contact: Carissa Butler, Recruitment Coordinator, at 651-209-9900 x 31 with additional questions.

### **Report on American Views of Industrial Agriculture Released**

Americans support conservation, are willing to cut subsidies to corn and soybeans, and support requiring farmers to meet environmental standards when they accept taxpayer's subsidy dollars. Those are among the findings from an agriculture and food attitudes [survey](#) conducted by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation announced today by the Environmental Working Group.

We observe how those results are consistent with some results from a pair of surveys conducted by the industrial ag coalition US Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, which showed among other things that consumers were most concerned about obtaining more information about how chemicals and pesticides are used in agriculture.

### **Member, Member Organization Receives awards at Garden Club of America Zone XI Living Green Conference**

Mark Ackelson, President of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, received the Zone Conservation Commendation, which is awarded to a citizen or group of citizens who have made a significant contribution to conservation within the zone. It was awarded to him in honor of his "significant efforts to preserve Iowa's lands for future generations."

The Zone XI Aldo Leopold Award, awarded in recognition for extraordinary service, dedication and commitment in land preservation and responsible stewardship, was given to Whiterock Conservancy, in honor of their mission "to preserve a unique part of Iowa and educate future generations." Tolif Hunt, the Executive Director of Whiterock Conservancy, accepted the award on the organization's behalf.