

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.

This document can also be downloaded in pdf format at
<http://www.iaenvironment.org/news/newsbulletins.php>.

Please share this with others!

June 2009

Table of Contents:

From the Council...

- New Air Quality Program Director Hired
- Communications Intern on Board for the Summer
- SAVE THE DATE – Annual Conference, Sep 25, Ankeny
- Water Quality Snapshot Big Success

Events, Training and Activities Calendar

- Program: Living with Future Floods, June 4 and 5, Iowa Public Television
- National Trails Day Ride - Wabash Warm-Up, Jun 6, Western Iowa
- Transforming Business: Ray Anderson, Jun 10, Des Moines
- Local Food Commerce Planning Workshop, Jun 10, Cedar Falls
- Iowa River Cleanup – volunteers needed, Jun 13, Begins in Iowa City
- Iowa River Paddle & Picnic, Jun 13, Meet at Steamboat Rock
- “WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands” , Jun 15-16, Central Iowa
- Teaching Outdoor Skills: Basic Fishing and Archery, Jun 16 & 17, Guthrie County
- Benefit for Restoration Efforts in the Middle Raccoon River Watershed, Jun 18, Coon Rapids
- Dirt Trails Workshop, Jun 19, Indianola
- Affordable Sustainable Housing Workshops, beginning Jun 19, West Des Moines
- Summer Solstice Celebration and Prairie Seed Harvest, Jun 20, Western Iowa
- Junk It in June, Jun 20, Hampton
- Project AWARE 2009, Jun 20-27, Cedar River
- BioBlitz, Jun 20-21, Allamakee County
- Cruise for the Good Earth, Jun 21, Okoboji
- Transforming Business: Using the Natural Step Framework, Jun 22, Des Moines
- Missouri River Clean-up, Jun 27, Sioux City
- Stream and Watershed Integrated Management (S.W.I.M.) Workshop, Jul 9, Guthrie Center
- Restore Yourself: Yoga Under the Oaks, Jul 10-12, Coon Rapids area
- Paddlefest, Jul 11, Adel
- Volunteers Needed at Whiterock Conservancy, Jul 11, Coon Rapids area
- Motorcycle Fun Run for Frog Conservation, Jul 12, Des Moines

- Water Policy and Politics—One Week Course, Jul 13-17, Northwest Iowa
- 1000 Friends Annual Meeting, Jul 25, Iowa City
- Greenwave Festival, Aug 15-16, Iowa Great Lakes area
- Whiterock Conservancy Celebration, Aug 29, Coon Rapids area
- Volunteer Water Monitoring TRAINING, this summer, various locations
- New Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Outdoor Ed Program, various dates and locations
- Iowa Learning Farm Field Days 2009, various dates and locations

Opportunities & Announcements

- Job Opening: Communications Director
- Volunteers Needed: Keepers of the Land
- Sign Petition to Protect Recreation, Flood Plain, Open Spaces – Des Moines area
- Abstracts Now Being Accepted for Agricultural Safety and Health Forum
- Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee Update

From the Council...

New Air Quality Program Director Hired

We're very pleased to announce that Leland (Lee) Searles, our new Air Quality Program Director, joined the staff of the Iowa Environmental Council on May 11. Lee is on contract for 20 hours/week and can be reached at 515-244-1194, ext 204, Searles@iaenvironment.org. You can learn about Lee's past work and skills that he brings to the job at <http://www.iaenvironment.org/about/staff.php>. To learn more about our Air Quality Program, go to <http://www.iaenvironment.org/airQuality/airquality.php>.

* * * * *

Communications Intern on Board for the Summer

In past years the Council has had summer interns studying political science and law, and interested in learning about environmental policy. This year Stephanie Hall has joined our staff as a communications intern. Stephanie is a junior at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO, majoring in communications. News Editor of her college's newspaper, she brings excellent writing skills and much experience in social media. She will be assisting with several communications projects over the summer. Stephanie can be reached at shall@iaenvironment.org.

Please be sure to welcome both, Lee and Stephanie next time you're in our office!

* * * * *

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Conference, September 25, Ankeny

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual conference on Sep 25, on the Ankeny Des Moines Area Community College Campus. Our theme: 2020 Vision: Creative Solutions for our Changing World. "Change can come orderly, or it can come violently because we waited too long to prepare. Either way, change will come. Our job is to prepare for change and be ready for it," said Fred Kirschenmann, farmer and former executive director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, at Iowa State University.

* * * * *

Water Quality Snapshot

For many reasons, including the fact that our office is located in Polk County, the Iowa Environmental Council assists in coordinating a water quality snapshot twice a year in Polk County. This year our spring snapshot had more volunteers than ever! To learn more, go to www.iaenvironment.org and click on

“Water Quality.” For questions and to sign-up to participate in our fall water quality snapshot in Polk County, contact Susan Heathcote, heathcote@iaenvironment.org.

Events, Training and Activities

Program: Living with Future Floods

June 4, Iowa Public Television

The Iowa Journal will explore if it is time for Iowa to change the way it deals with floods. This episode will air Thursday, June 4 at 8 p.m. on statewide Iowa Public Television. It will be rebroadcast on Friday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. on IPTV. The program will also be available online at Iptv.org. The 2008 floods destroyed 1.2 million acres of corn and soybeans and inundated communities, including Cedar Rapids, Iowa’s second largest city. A year after the floods, as residents and landowners continue to recover, many Iowans now search for long-term solutions to hold back the water. Suggestions include more intense conservation measures in rural areas to control run-off of flood waters on the landscape. In urban areas, some communities take a second look at ordinances regarding construction currently allowed in floodplains. If changes aren't made, some elected state officials suggest compulsory measures. For more information about The Iowa Journal, visit www.iptv.org/iowajournal or call (515) 242-3146.

Submitted by Susan Heathcote

National Trails Day Ride - Wabash Warm-Up

June 6, Western Iowa

Ride from Malvern to Shenandoah in western Iowa’s Loess Hills. This National Trails Day ride is a fundraiser for the Wabash Trace, and also marks the 30th anniversary of Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and 20th year of the rail-banking of the Wabash Trace. Ride starts at 10 a.m. at Bowley's Bistro, (formerly Latte Da), located on Main St. in Malvern, just off the trail. Ride 22 miles of gentle grade at your own pace on the way to the Depot Deli in Shenandoah, where there will be evening entertainment. Stops for interpretation, live music and refreshments. Bus transportation provided at 9 a.m. Sat. morning from Shenandoah to the start in Malvern. \$10 minimum donation requested. Get more details at the BikeIowa website <http://www.bikeiowa.com/>. Look on the calendar at or contact Becca at 515-210-0269.

Submitted by Ann Robinson

Transforming Business: Ray Anderson

June 10, Des Moines

The third in a series of speakers on corporate sustainability, Ray Anderson is a global hero. Founder and Chairman of Interface Global and named TIME's "Greenest CEO", their Mission Zero campaign has saved over \$300 million and counting for the company and catapulted them to the forefront of industrial ecology. Author of "Mid-Course Correction" with his new book out in September. Polk County Convention Complex at 6:00 PM. Cost \$40/\$50 at the door. Sponsored and introduced by [Silent Rivers Design](http://www.silentriversdesign.com). To register, please visit <http://www.iowaeventscenter.com>

Submitted by Urban Ambassadors

Local Food Commerce Planning Workshop

June 10, Cedar Falls

Local government, school, and community leaders are invited to a statewide workshop to explore their role in expanding local food commerce through planning. The workshop will be held Wednesday, June 10, 8:30 a.m. -12 noon at the UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education (CEEE). Presenters from Iowa cities, counties, and schools will share first-hand experience in local food planning. The event is free, but registration is required by emailing Kamyar Enshayan, director, CEEE, at kamyar.enshayan@uni.edu <<mailto:kamyar.enshayan@uni.edu>> For more information, visit www.ceee.uni.edu <<http://www.ceee.uni.edu>>, News & Events.

Submitted by Carole Yates

* * * * *

Iowa River Cleanup

June 13, Begins in Iowa City

“Take Me From the River,” an Iowa River Cleanup begins at 8 a.m., Saturday June 13 (Rain Date June 14). We need experienced canoe paddlers and jon-boat captains to participate in removal of trash left from recent flooding on the Iowa River. Canoes will be launched from the Iowa City Sturgis Ferry boat ramp on Old HWY 218 South at 8 am. The length of the paddle is 9 miles and about 6 hours, landing at the Hills Access. The garbage will be unloaded from the canoes & boats at the Hills Access boat ramp. Please contact Carol Sweeting for more information and to register for the “Iowa River Cleanup” event.

Phone: 319-356-5164; or e-mail: carol-sweeting@iowa-city.org . Sponsored by: City of Iowa City, Johnson County Conservation, IDNR, Mid American Energy, Touch the Earth Outdoor Recreation and Education, Fin and Feather, and Durham School Services.

Submitted by Carol Sweeting

* * * * *

Iowa River Paddle & Picnic

June 13, Steamboat Rock

Celebrate the beauty and history of the scenic Iowa River. Join Iowa Representative Annette Sweeney and the Southfork Watershed Alliance on Saturday, June 13th for a community paddle and river program highlighting the conservation and water quality efforts taking place in the watershed, the recreational opportunities along the river and ways we can work towards enhancing the river conditions and water quality in the area. Registration starts at 10 a.m. in Steamboat Rock. Paddle participants will be shuttled to Eagle City to start the river tour at 11 a.m. River conditions will determine tour pace. The tour will end at the Boat Club in Steamboat Rock with a picnic and river program. The tour and program are free and open to the public and will take place rain or shine (rain cancels the tour only). Canoes, safety equipment and meals are available upon reservation and at no additional cost to participants. There is limited registration – **RSVP with event coordinator as soon as possible**. To RSVP or for more information, visit: www.southforkwatershed.org or contact Dave Sweeney, event coordinator, 641-373-4340 (cell); dsweeney@iowatelecom.net.

Submitted by Roz Lehman

* * * * *

“W0W! The Wonders of Wetlands”

June 15, 16, Central Iowa

This class, targeted for grades 4-12, will provide a comprehensive introduction to wetlands and their three definitive parameters: water, soil, and plants. If a wetlands study is already part of your curriculum, "WOW!" will provide additional information and over 40 learning activities for both indoor and outdoor use. Class members will learn from each other as they become acquainted with the activities in the "WOW!" teachers' guide. We'll put that learning into practice through wetlands exploration. There is a constructed wetland a short walk from the class site. Be prepared to wander through the tall prairie grass and possibly get a little muddy! The registration fee includes the 330-page "WOW!" curriculum guide.

One hour of license renewal or Drake credit is available for teachers. For more information on the workshop, contact the facilitator Mary Gillaspay at 515-323-6505 or mgi@mwatoday.com

Submitted by Mary Gillaspay

* * * * *

Teaching Outdoor Skills: Basic Fishing and Archery

June 16 and 17, Guthrie County

Hands-on sessions will acquaint participants with methodologies used to teach archery and fishing. Participants will receive a basic archery instructor packet and the Fish Iowa! basic spincasting module. Lodging and meals will be provided at the Springbrook Conservation Center for June 16. Costs are included in the registration fee or covered by the Iowa DNR. Cost: \$45 includes materials and 1 license renewal credit. Drake Graduate Credit - additional \$100. A limited number of stipends of \$150 are available to teachers who agree to develop an integrated lesson plan to help defray expenses. For more information, contact: AquaticEd_Info@dnr.iowa.gov. **Registration Deadline: June 5.** Online Registration Only: Go to the Heartland AEA 11 website – www.aea11.k12.ia.us. Click on “Professional Development Catalog” on the left-hand menu, under “Quick Links Area.” Scroll down to the middle of the “Professional Development Catalog” page to “OR... Enter Activity an Activity Number.” Type HL002199991001 in the box.

Submitted by Shannon Hafner

* * * * *

Benefit for Restoration Efforts in the Middle Raccoon River Watershed

June 18, 6-9 p.m., Coon Rapids

All the way from Pittsburgh, PA, Gypsy Dave and the Stumpjumpers will be teaming up with Whiterock Conservancy and the town of Coon Rapids, IA to play some authentic American roots music that combines folk, bluegrass and country. So bring your family for a night of good music and celebration at Riverside Park. Free will donations are encouraged. Proceeds benefit Whiterock Conservancy’s restoration efforts in the Middle Raccoon River Watershed. Visit www.whiterockconservancy.org for more information.

Submitted by Emily Babin

* * * * *

Dirt Trails Workshop

June 19, Indianola

“Embracing Iowa Dirt” is a workshop focused on the design, construction and management of sustainable, natural trails. It will be held Friday, June 19, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at [Lake Ahquabi State Park](#) in Indianola. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch and materials. Open to the public, join Iowa’s city, county and state land managers for a discussion led by the [Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew](#) and supported the [Iowa Department of Natural Resources](#) on best practices in natural trails. [Online registration](#) for the event is open at <http://www.iowadirt.org> now. In short, this workshop is for anyone who wants to learn about design, construction and management of dirt trails. For more information, contact Ryan Hanser, 515.229.3737, <http://www.centraliowatrails.org>.

Submitted by Ryan Hanser

* * * * *

Affordable Sustainable Housing Workshops

Beginning June 19, West Des Moines

COSC will be hosting a series of workshops starting Friday, June 19, at the West Des Moines Affordable Green Demonstration Home in Valley Junction. There will be an on-site workshop at every phase of construction to illustrate affordable sustainable steps that can be taken in new home construction. The West Des Moines Affordable Green Demo Home is located at 927 Maple St. in West Des Moines. Visit

our website for the tentative schedule and curriculum, and sign up early to reserve your spot!

www.icosc.com

Submitted by Emily Karsjens

* * * * *

Summer Solstice Celebration and Prairie Seed Harvest

June 20, Western Iowa

Celebrate the longest day of the year. Spend time in the native prairie of the Loess prairie seed in season, 9am – 3 pm, at Country Homestead B&B, in Turin, Iowa. Following prairie seed harvest will be a potluck cookout over a cedar cadaver campfire. Beverage and whole-grain bread, and grass-fed organic beef burgers will be provided. Bring something to put in the potluck. Around the mealtime those gathered will acknowledge the place of the Summer Solstice among the seasons and do some sharing of reflections—over the ways we find ourselves affirming life these days, the abiding concerns we have over the future of the planet, and the ways in which we might make a concerted effort to be instruments of healing. If you have a musical instrument and/or a favorite song to sing, bring it along. If you want to be certain that your grass-fed burger is here for you, be sure to respond and reserve a spot. For more information, address and directions: chbnb@netins.net.

Submitted by David and Lin Zahrt

* * * * *

Junk It in June

June 20, Hampton

Hampton, Iowa is hosting “*Junk It in June*” on June 20th, 9 am to 3 pm. Included are demonstrations of how to use safer, non-toxic materials in your home. Why not visit Franklin County, have a great day enjoying your visit, see how you can save money, save your health and home? There will be a large Farmer's Market that day - and we take great pride in our homegrown farm products! Any questions, email: Deb Brown 641-458-1114, deb@debworks.com. Also visit Deb Brown's website at www.debthinksgreen.com. Watch the Hampton Iowa Blogspot for more details of *Junk It in June*: <http://readhampton.blogspot.com/>.

Submitted by Deb Brown

* * * * *

Project AWARE 2009

June 20-27, Cedar River

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is looking for adventuresome volunteers to take part in the seventh annual Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) river cleanup event. This year's expedition, scheduled for June 20-27, is expected to bring hundreds of volunteers to the Cedar River to clean it up from Center Point to Muscatine, a distance of nearly 80 miles. Volunteers participate by floating the river in a kayak or canoe and cleaning up river trash along the way. While the expedition lasts an entire week, volunteers may stay and help for as little or as long as they like. Project AWARE is an initiative of the DNR's IOWATER and Iowa Water Trails Programs. For more information on this event and to download the registration materials, please visit www.iowaprojectaware.com or contact Project AWARE by email at iowater@iowater.net or phone Jackie Gautsch at (319) 335-1761.

Submitted by Jackie Gautsch

* * * * *

BioBlitz

June 20-21, Allamakee County

Join other biophiles for a special weekend of discovery and help INHF celebrate its 30th anniversary at our fourth and probably final BioBlitz at Heritage Valley, a beautiful natural area in northeast Iowa. Novices, Generalists and Specialists are welcome. **Register before June 15** for BioBlitz 2009. June 20-

21 (1 p.m. Saturday- 1 p.m. Sunday). Extended event for science professionals is offered June 19-20 immediately preceding the regular event (1 p.m. Friday through 11 a.m., Saturday). Please read the detailed information available from the BioBlitz 2009 section the INHF website, at <http://www.inhf.org/bioblitz-2009.htm>. Registration required. Space will be limited. For more information, e-mail Marlene Ehresman mehresman@inhf.org, or call 515- 288-1846.

Submitted by Ann Robinson

* * * * *

Cruise for the Good Earth

June 21, Okoboji

The Friends of Lakeside Lab are sponsoring "Lakeside Launch, A Cruise for the Good Earth" on Sunday June 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. Participants will tour West Okoboji Lake on the Queen II excursion boat to raise money for water quality monitoring, environmental education, and student scholarships. The event includes live music, water-quality games, live and silent auctions, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and a full bar including special "Lakeside Libations." To register or for more information, call Don Brown at 712-332-2604 or Peter van der Linden at 712-337-3669 ext 5.

Submitted by Peter J. van der Linden

* * * * *

Transforming Business: Using the Natural Step Framework

June 22, Des Moines

One-day training from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM sponsored by and located at the [Meredith Corporation](#) at 1716 Locust. Only 20 openings still available. The cost of \$200 includes the ability to register with the Blekinge Technical Institute in Sweden to have a team of PhD students in Strategic Leadership in Sustainability give one to two months of distance consulting in November and December of 2009. A leading cancer scientist, Karl-Henrik Robèrt authored The Natural Step Framework in 1989 and today they have licensees in 11 countries and have made their way into the boardrooms of international corporations, including Nike, The Home Depot, Bank of America Corp. and McDonalds Corp. In the early 1990's, IKEA took the Natural Step training then founded the Forest Stewardship Council for certifying sustainable lumber. Municipalities, schools and even the U.S. Marine Corps have adopted The Natural Step Framework. To register, please visit <http://www.iowatix.com>

Submitted by Urban Ambassadors

* * * * *

Missouri River Clean-up

June 27, Sioux City

Saturday June 27th the 2nd Siouxland Missouri River Clean-up will be held. Last year volunteers from Sioux City, IA, South Sioux City, NE and North Sioux City, SD along with federal, state, and local agencies and other organizations pulled 15 tons of trash from the Missouri River. The massive effort was proof that people in the area love the river and want to improve it. You are invited to come and help with this year's Clean-up. To learn more go to: www.riverrelief.org/event/Siouxland-clean-up-09/

Submitted by Paul Lepisto

* * * * *

Stream and Watershed Integrated Management (S.W.I.M.) Workshop

July 7-9, 2009, Guthrie Center

The Stream and Watershed Integrated Management workshop is designed to train individuals who work with stream/watershed principles and practices. Classroom instruction in stream and watershed management is augmented with field trips and exercises where participants develop project plans for management of a local site. A Certificate of Participation for continuing education purposes is provided to participants for satisfactory completion of 24 hours of training. Workshop Goals include to: provide the

scientific basis for understanding streams, stream corridors, and watershed functions; identify Best Management Practices for streams, stream corridors, and watersheds; and provide access to the tools of assessment of these functions where feasible. <http://www.iowadnr.gov/education/swim.html> For further information please contact Don Sievers, Iowa DNR, 641-747-8383 ext. 14

Submitted by Don Sievers

* * * * *

Restore Yourself: Yoga Under the Oaks

July 10-12, Coon Rapids

Interested in Yoga meditation? Enjoy being in nature? Register for “Restore Yourself: Yoga Under the Oaks” at Whiterock Conservancy near Coon Rapids. All levels of experience are welcome. Camp in Iowa’s wild lands for three days, or visit us for a full or half day. To sign up or for more information, contact Jeana Feazel at (712) 684-2697 x112 or jeana@whiterockconservancy.org.

Submitted by Emily Babin

* * * * *

Paddlefest

July 11, Adel

The Raccoon River Watershed Association will hold its annual "Paddlefest in Adel" on Saturday, July 11 in Kinnick Feller Park, Adel from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will include a canoe and kayak show (bring your hand made wood and canvas boats and other unusual paddle craft), canoe and kayak races, music by Rob Lumbard, BBQ by Cafe in the Park, Fly fishing demonstrations by Central Iowa Fly Fishers, children's outdoor games and activities, displays by outdoor sports organizations and float trips down to Adel and from Adel downstream. Go to www.northraccoon.org for additional information.

Submitted by Mike Delaney

* * * * *

Volunteers Needed at Whiterock Conservancy

July 11, Coon Rapids area

Whiterock Conservancy is looking for volunteers to help us remove or repair our aged fence lines. No experience necessary. We’ll be working 10-4, but any time commitment you can give would be greatly appreciated. Please wear outdoor work appropriate clothing and bring leather gloves. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Call 712-684-2697 x115 or visit www.whiterockconservancy.org for more information

Submitted by Emily Babin

* * * * *

Motorcycle Fun Run for Frog Conservation

July 12, Des Moines

The Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines is sponsoring a Motorcycle Fun Run for frog conservation called “Hogs for Frogs.” The run will be held on Sunday July 12th. Early registration for the run is \$20 per bike, \$10 per passenger. Day of event it will be \$25 per bike and \$10 per passenger. You may register soon at www.blankparkzoo.com or for more information contact Jessie Weeks at jrweeks@blankparkzoo.org. Proceeds will benefit the Northern Crawfish frog. There will also be a Bike Night Zoo Brew on Wednesday July 8 at the Zoo featuring the band Fat Tuesday.

Submitted by John Kathleen Krogmeier

* * * * *

Water Policy and Politics—One Week Course

July 13-17, Milford

Iowa Lakeside Lab, near Milford, is offering a one-week course on Water Policy and Politics from July 13 to 17. The emphasis is on current legal and policy debates, but the course also reviews the history of water development and politics in the United States. The instructor is Dian Gottlob J.D., Ph.D. of the University of Iowa. Participants enroll through the University of Iowa but can also arrange to receive credit at Iowa State, UNI, or Drake. A non-credit option is available. The cost is \$242 (\$381 for graduate credit) plus a registration fee of \$40; room and board are available at additional cost at Lakeside Lab. For more information please go to <http://www.lakesidelab.org/ustudents/index.html>.

Submitted by Peter van der Linden

* * * * *

1000 Friends Annual Meeting

July 25, Iowa City

Mark your calendars for the 1000 Friends of Iowa Annual Meeting! This year's meeting will be held Saturday, July 25 at the Iowa City Recreation Center. We'll update our website, <http://www.1000friendsofiowa.org>, with complete details of the meeting once finalized. Please save the date and plan to join us!

Submitted by Crystal Leto

* * * * *

Greenwave Festival

August 15-16, Iowa Great Lakes area

We are gearing up for the Second Annual Greenwave Festival. This year we have expanded it to two days of fun, Sat, Aug 15th and Sun, Aug 16th. On Saturday we will have a day of special speakers, including the world renowned Amory Lovins from the Rocky Mountain Institute (for bio follow this [link](#)), DNR Director Rich Leopold and many more. This will be held at the Sami Center. On Sunday there will be a Fun Run in the Morning and starting at noon we will kick off the music at Kenue Park. The music, vendors and booth display will be open to the public from noon till 8pm Sunday August 16th. Last year we had around 1000 people participate. If you have questions or are interested in a booth or being a sponsor, contact Charles Vigdal at the Dickinson County Conservation Board, 712-336-6352 ext 2212, cvigdal@co.dickinson.ia.us.

Submitted by Charles Vigdal

* * * * *

Whiterock Conservancy Celebration

August 29, Coon Rapids area

Whiterock Conservancy will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of Khrushchev in Iowa on Saturday, Aug 29. This festival will celebrate how agricultural innovation can help further international understanding. Join dozens of Russian guests in Coon Rapids that day to enjoy a farm machinery parade, the historic Garst Farm House, an original two-person play, family-fun activities, music, and tours of Whiterock Conservancy. www.whiterockconservancy.org For more information call Rachel Garst at 712-999-7031.

Submitted by Rachel Garst

* * * * *

Volunteer Water Monitoring TRAINING

This summer, various locations

IOWATER, Iowa's statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program, will host workshops throughout the state this summer. During the two-day workshop classroom instruction will be combined with hands-on training as participants learn how to monitor and assess the quality of their local streams, rivers, and lakes. IOWATER emphasizes a perspective based on the "watershed," or the area of land that

drains into a body of water. As workshop participants will learn, much of the trash, chemicals and other materials used on the land will eventually end up in the water.

The dates and locations for workshops in 2009 are:

July 21 & 23 Oakland Mills Nature Center; Mt. Pleasant, IA

August 28-29 GrimesFarm & Conservation Center; Marshalltown, IA

September 11-12 Central Park Nature Center; Center Junction, IA

Workshop registration fees are \$25 per person or \$35 for a team and cover all program fees, meals, and testing equipment. The deadline for registration is one week before the workshop. For more information or to register, please visit www.iowater.net.

Submitted by Jacklyn Gautsch

* * * * *

Iowa Learning Farm Field Days 2009

Various dates and locations

The Iowa Learning Farm has several field days planned for this summer. The locations are statewide and the topics are varied. Visit the Iowa Learning Farm Web site for additional dates and detailed information about each field day: www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf.

Thursday, June 11: ILF/SWCD cover crop field day at the Lewis Byers farm, Pierson; Woodbury County

Wednesday, June 17: ILF/SWCD field day at the Paul Hunter farm, Decorah; Winneshiek County

Thursday, July 23: ILF/SWCD field day at the Max Schmidt farm, Elma; Howard County

Wednesday, July 29: ILF and Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) field day at the Fred Abels farm, Holland; Grundy County

Thursday, August 27: ILF field day at the Nate Ronsiek farm, Hawarden; Sioux County

Friday, October 2: ILF/PFI Cover Crop Working Group field day at Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids; Guthrie County.

Iowa Learning Farm is a partnership between the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources; in cooperation with Conservation Districts of Iowa and the Iowa Farm Bureau.

Submitted by Carol L. Brown

* * * * *

Opportunities and Announcements

Job Opening: Communications Director

The Iowa Association for Justice (IAJ) is seeking a communications director to design, implement, oversee and evaluate public relations (PR) and communications programs for the Association. Applicants should possess the following skills and abilities: Affinity for legal issues and absolute commitment to the cause of justice for all, familiarity and facility with new media and information technologies, ability to work well under pressure and meet deadlines, ability to assimilate and articulate complicated information and complex issues, ability to build productive relationships, be at ease and develop rapport with all kinds of personality-types, ability to work well as part of a team, while also taking individual initiative and ability to plan and organize strategic communications and earned media campaigns. Excellent writing and oral communication skills are a must. Background and experience in media, communications and/or PR sectors is preferred. Post-secondary education or training in media, communications and/or PR studies is a plus. Political and/or legislative campaign experience is desirable. This is a full-time, salaried position, based in Des Moines, Iowa (salary commensurate with experience; good benefits; great office environment). Qualified applicants should submit resume and cover letter (by June 30) to

info@iowajustice.org. For more information:

<http://www.iowajustice.org/IA/index.cfm?event=showPage&pg=Careers>.

Submitted by Brad Lint

* * * * *

Volunteers Needed: Keepers of the Land

Make a difference for Iowa's natural resources! Check out volunteer opportunities on the Keepers of the Land website: www.keepersoftheland.org. We look forward to having you join our volunteer team!

Submitted by Elizabeth Gull

* * * * *

Please Sign Petition to Protect Recreation, Flood Plain, Open Spaces – Des Moines area

A group of concerned citizens united to preserve the Des Moines River Greenbelt and protect neighborhoods north of Des Moines from costly, unplanned development has created a website that offers information on a proposed road project (NW 26th Street Interchange & MLK Extension) that threatens to destroy natural habitat and negatively impact five recreational trails along the Des Moines River greenway north of Euclid Ave. To learn more about the Neighborhood Natural Recreation Preservation Project or to sign an online petition opposing the road go to www.nnrpp.org.

Submitted by John Wenck

* * * * *

Abstracts Now Being Accepted for Agricultural Safety and Health Forum

Abstracts are now being accepted for research, education and outreach presentations at the Midwest Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health Forum, to be held Nov. 18-19, at the Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston, Iowa. This conference will provide an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, and agricultural producers to communicate on rural and agricultural needs, services, research, and methods for research to practice implementation. Information regarding sponsorship, exhibit opportunities, and abstract application forms are available at <http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/> or by calling 319-335-4224.

The deadline for abstracts is July 1.

Submitted by Eileen L. Fisher

* * * * *

Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee Update

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) met May 12th – 14th in Bismarck. MRRIC, formed to offer guidance to the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is made up of Federal, State, Tribal, and Stakeholder interests from throughout the basin. The committee makes recommendations on river recovery efforts and on the new Missouri River Ecosystem Recovery Plan (MRERP). MRRIC reached tentative consensus on recommendations for the upcoming MRERP Purpose and Need statement. Also on a letter to the FWS regarding expediting the release of a Similarity of Appearance (SOA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for public comment on the commercial harvest of shovelnose sturgeon. MRRIC's next meeting will be in Pierre July 21st-23rd. For more information go to: www.mrric.org.

Submitted by Paul Lepisto

* * * * *

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 -