



**ICEC**  
IOWA CONSERVATION  
EDUCATION COALITION

# NEWSLETTER

## Pathways to Education

*To empower Iowa's formal and nonformal educators to promote environmental literacy and facilitate networking.*

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**facebook.**



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### **ICEC Board Members**

**Linda Zaletel**  
Chair

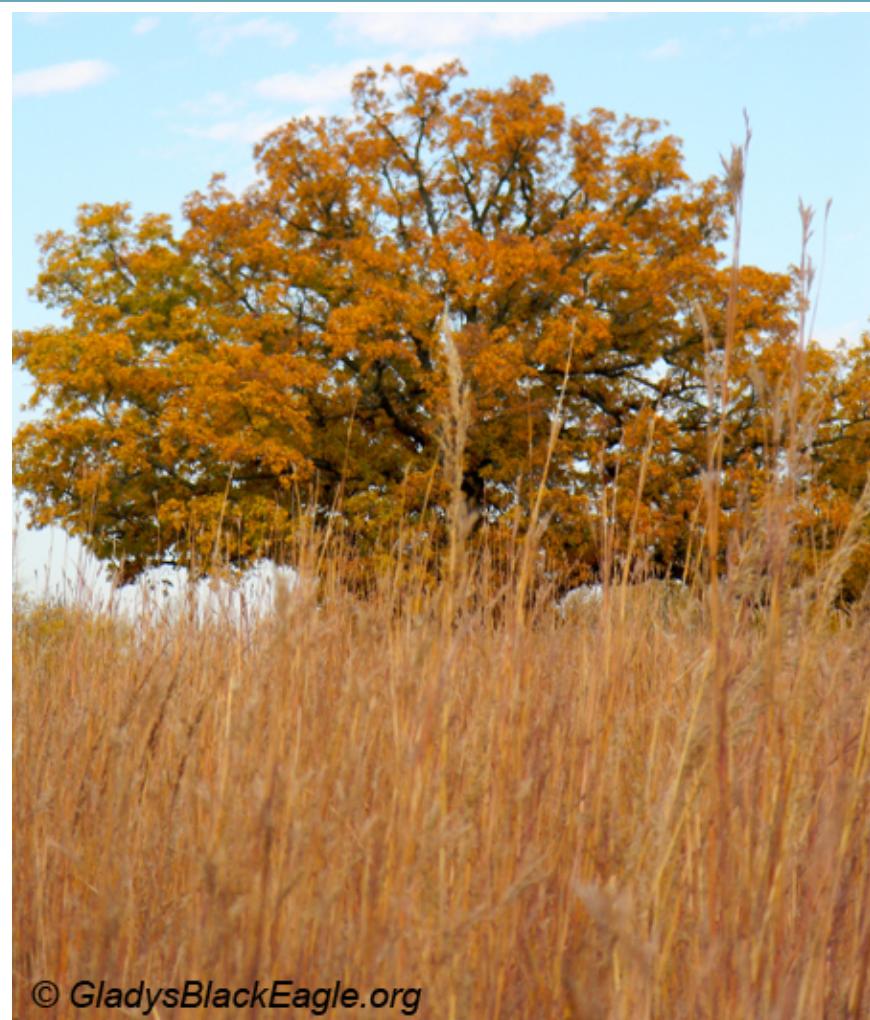
**Emily Klein**  
Vice-Chair  
*Boone County  
Conservation Board*

**Lisa Ralls**  
Treasurer  
*Winnebago County  
Conservation Board*

**Heather Anderson**  
Co-Secretary  
*Waukee Schools*

**Terrie Hoefer**  
Co-Secretary  
*Saving Our Avian*

August 2015



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Greetings all... I hope that the summer has been a time for you to enjoy the wonder around you, relax, and renew. Please take a moment to read this newsletter, check out opportunities, and share this with a colleague.

All the best,

Linette Bernard

**From the chair!**

*Incoming ICEC Executive Director, Linette Bernard (left) with retiring Executive Director, Linda Zaletel*

In June the board welcomed Linette Bernard as our new Executive Director! Linette's organizational skills are tops and she is very savvy about the Internet, Facebook, and is very familiar with non-profit organizations! She is already starting out strong!!!!

At the July 22 Ex Com meeting I (Linda Zaletel) was elected to serve out Heather Olsen's term and was elected chair. I hope to continue what our current board has started and can offer advice from serving as executive director for the past three years. Heather Olsen's commitments to family have become a priority and ICEC thanks her for her years of service on the Ex Com.

Winter Workshop 16 is a go! The board has decided to hold a Saturday Workshop with the ICEC Annual Membership Meeting the Friday evening before. Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday, February 5 and 6, 2016. The planning committee will concentrate on the theme of wildlife. ICEC did not receive a REAP-CEP grant this spring to help with workshop costs, but will apply for the November grant round. This year many good grants were submitted and there just was not enough money to go around.

ICEC is putting together a committee of experts in the environmental education, naturalist, and teaching fields to talk about the future. After this meeting the committee will send out a survey to the membership regarding what's next for the organization. Look for your survey this fall.

**Martha Tushaus  
McCormick  
Next Step Adventure**

**Beth Martin  
Des Moines Schools**

**Jane Shuttleworth  
Iowa Lakeside Lab**

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We lost a strong member of ICEC and advocate for conservation education! Yvette McCulley, Iowa Department of Education Science Coordinator, retired from her position. So far that position has not been filled. Yvette was a great spark in the large picture of science in Iowa and was a great supporter of ICEC. Many thanks, Yvette!

ICEC is also proceeding on the Project WILD and KinderNature grant with the Iowa DNR. Changes in the aquatic education department of the DNR last November had put the Project WILD part of the grant behind schedule. We have had several meetings with DNR personnel and are back on the right track now.

The KinderNature site is moving along fast thanks to Missy King Smith and Linette Bernard and the Blue Lakes Websites. The new web design looks great. All the activities have been updated to include correlation to the Early Learning Standards and will be searchable, too.

I hope to see all of you at ICEC's Winter Workshop in 2016!

### **Winter Workshop 2016 - Save the date!**

Share with peers and invite others to the 2016 workshop. Be watching the website and the ICEC Facebook page for details about this workshop.

From Winter Work 2015 evaluations:

- A teacher said, "Great idea - would attend again; look forward to the development of the network into a productive set of connections."
- A conservationist said, "Very eye opening on the need for a communication link between groups. Agency people know what is going on, but how do we get the story out better."
- A non-formal educator said, "Having the AEA contact willing to be a liaison to teachers through the contacts with science teachers/principals, etc. was fabulous!"

### **Midwest Environmental Education Conference 2015**

October 21-24, 2015, Madison, Wisconsin

[Full package registration for MEEC is now available!](#)

ICEC members, please email Linette ([execicec@gmail.com](mailto:execicec@gmail.com)) for a passcode to use when you register for the full conference package

for a reduced rate (\$235 for the 3-day conference Oct. 22-24). In addition, ICEC can earn a \$10 per registrant kick-back with a minimum of 30 registrants.



### KinderNature to return soon!

## KinderNature

As Linda mentioned above... progress is moving along quickly on the new KinderNature website. Be on the look-out for an email announcement that the site is live! Also... look for a KinderNature Facebook page in the coming weeks.

### REAP-CEP Grants - November Deadline

Got an idea to advance environmental literacy, but lack funds? The Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP) annually awards \$350,000 for conservation education in Iowa. Plan now for the November 1 grant deadline. The average grant award is approximately \$22,000, and mini-grants for \$3,500 or less are also available.

For more information about the application process and the types of programs funded, go to the [REAP Conservation Education website](#).

### Federal and State Legislation

#### Elementary and Secondary Education Act

The original Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was first signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, who aimed to alleviate poverty with educational opportunity. Last renewed during the presidency of fellow Texan George W. Bush as "No Child Left Behind," it is widely unpopular for its focus on federally mandated testing and high-stakes accountability measures. ESEA is the definitive educational law of the land.

The US House passed, on July 8, its version of the new law, the Student Success Act. The US Senate passed on July 16 their version of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act titled Every Child Achieves Act. For the first time, this senate-passed version has environmental education as a subject that would be covered by this comprehensive funding law under allowable STEM projects.

Now key representatives from both parties and chambers, will enter the conferencing process, meeting to agree on a compromise reconciling both rewrites. Meetings were scheduled for the end of July, but the back and forth of a conference committee is expected to take weeks.

The US House adjourned July 29 for its August recess and won't have votes again until Tuesday, September 8. The US Senate will be on recess for the month of August as well. Even though Congress is in recess, education staff will continue to move the conference process forward. When Congress returns to Washington, both chambers will have their hands full on key legislation including the highway funding bill, a law governing the Federal Aviation Administration, and averting a government shutdown on October 1. Coming to compromise on the ESEA may not be a high priority.

[Click here to learn more about what we might expect from the conference committee.](#)

[Click here to read about highlights of both versions.](#)

### **The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund**

Just before the Iowa legislative session closed, Rep. Tom Sands, R-Wapello, introduced HSB256, which included language to fund Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWILL). So at this time a bill has been introduced in both chambers and both bills are viable for the 2016 Legislative Session. Because we are at the beginning of the two year legislative cycle, his bill will remain live for next session and will give us something to talk about over the summer. The senate bill will also remain live. This is the first time the Trust Fund has had a bill in both chambers and the first real opportunity to initiate discussions for both parties to work across the aisle and find a way to fund the Trust

### **Other professional development opportunities!**

## **One Goal: The Successful Child**

*September 18 - 19 at The Meadows Events and Conference Center  
in Altoona, Iowa*

The Institute features two keynote speakers and nearly 80 workshops in a variety of areas, as well as exhibitors, discussions, and a chance to get to know other early childhood professionals from around the State! [Learn more at the IAEYC website!](#)

## **2015 ICTM-ISTS Math & Science Conference**

*September 20-21, 2015 at Valley High School in West Des Moines,  
Iowa*

[Visit the conference site for details.](#)

## **Iowa Environmental Council 2015 Annual Conference**

*Friday, October 2, Drake University*

[Learn more at the conference website!](#)

## **Outdoor Explorations for Early Learners: Growing Up WILD**

*October 3, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

*Heery Woods State Park (27887 195th St., Clarksville, Iowa)*

Registration Deadline: September 25, 2015

For more information, contact Cindy Thompson at 641-229-6655 or [via email](#).

## **NAAEE 44th Annual Conference**

*October 15-18, 2015 in San Diego, California*

Registration is open for one of NAAEE's most anticipated conferences ever! Check out the [registration packet](#) (opens as PDF) to learn about the exciting lineup of keynote speakers, workshops, and concurrent sessions, along with the Research Symposium, field trips, and special events. Explore timely topics in depth through the optional Thursday workshops: creating a diverse workforce, early childhood, systems thinking, climate change education, and much more.

## **Books, resources, and other 'cool stuff'**

### **Washington Post Energy and Environment page**

- [New research suggests](#) nature walks are good for your brain, posted 6/29/15
- The staggeringly [large benefits of conserving nature](#), posted 7/13/15

### **Sharing Nature with Children 35th Anniversary Edition**

*By Joseph Cornell*

[Book is available here.](#)

## **Wild Ones: Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program**

*Deadline: October 15, 2015*

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program gives small monetary grants to schools, nature centers, or other nonprofit educational organizations for the purpose of establishing outdoor learning centers. Funds will be provided only for the purchase of native plants and seed. Learn more about the [Seeds for Education Grant Program.](#)

## **Green Teacher Magazine Call for Proposals: Place-Based Education Issue**

*Deadline extended: August 15, 2015*

What inspires teachers to take students out of the classroom to learn? What are the challenges? What are the rewards? Scheduled for publication in the summer of 2016, this special issue of Green Teacher will address the particular rewards and challenges teachers encounter while learning with their students outside of the classroom. Articles will encompass how educators (classroom teachers and non-formal educators) orchestrate place-based learning worldwide. Green Teacher welcomes contributions about the history of this practice, inspirational tales, how students meet standards, logistics of learning outdoors, and so on. [Submit your outline of a possible contribution before August 15.](#)

## **Birds Without Borders**

*Birds Without Borders*

involves kids in investigations using eBird and other datasets and culminates in their devising conservation initiatives based on themes in Partners in Flight's *Saving Our Shared Birds* report. Includes two free downloadable lessons, one on the ecological role of birds and the other on conservation planning. [Learn more about Birds without Borders.](#)

## **Water Runs Through This Book**

From Fulcrum Publishing, in cooperation with the Ecology Center at Utah State University, *Water Runs Through This Book* celebrates this essential ingredient to life: water. Author and educator Nancy Bo Flood and award-winning photographer Jan Sonnenmair, combine imagination and scientific facts to explore this ever-changing and mysterious element. Written for ages 8-12, [Water Runs Through This Book](#) teaches how vital water is to all aspects of our lives and includes conservation tips everyone can

incorporate into daily life. \*\*This sounds like a good fit with the Winter Workshop 2015 theme!

### **DIY Lake Science App**

Investigate freshwater ecosystems where you live with this new DIY [Lake Science App](#) from UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science, funded by the National Science Foundation. The field adventures include making a viewscope to look for underwater plants and animals and crafting a Secchi disc used in measuring water clarity. The app also includes indoor activities.

### **Natural Start Alliance**

*My Summer Vacation: A Nature Kindergarten Study Tour in Scotland*

Author and nature-based preschool director Rachel A. Larimore shares her summer adventures on Claire Warden's Scotland study tour of nature kindergartens. [Read more.](#)

### **Greatness STEMs from Iowa!**

### **Freebies from the National Science Teacher Association.**

#### **Membership**

The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) is a 501(c)3 Iowa non-profit first organized in 1958! Our mission is to empower Iowa's formal and non-formal educators to promote environmental literacy and facilitate networking.

ICEC needs you! Join or renew your membership today. Memberships expire on January 31. Your membership supports excellence in conservation education through networking with formal and non-formal educators and their support services, and conservation professionals!

Remember to visit the [ICEC Facebook page](#), like it, and share it! From time to time, I try to post interesting and pertinent information and would appreciate feedback on those posts! The more you comment on a page's post, the more that page will show in your news feed!

**Sincerely,**

Linette Bernard

Executive Director

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition

319-238-1199

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