Greetings all...
I hope you've all made time for some time in nature this fall and that homes and homesteads are ready for what lies ahead weather-wise! Please take a moment to read your ICEC newsletter and share with a colleague or two.

All the best,

Linette Bernard
Executive Director

**From the chair!**

“Science the heck out it!”

The quote from the movie the Martian. So that’s what we will do in the state of Iowa. In August the next generation Science standards were integrated with the Iowa Core. Phyllis Anderson attended a
statewide science consultants meeting regarding the roll-out of the new Iowa Core Science Standards. She learned that ICEC is ahead of the game in offering details of how conservation and environmental education fits into the new science standards. Formal educators will have a year to really understand and implement the new plans. ICEC and county naturalists have always looked at the process of how science is taught. We look forward to many workshops in the future to help educators learn the process of many conservation and environmental education issues and how to incorporate them into the classroom.

Speaking of workshops: The ICEC Winter Workshop is February 4-5, 2016 at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center. The theme is Contemporary Environmental Issues and New Iowa Science Standards: Transforming Conservation Outreach. Last year ICEC’s Winter Workshop presented an overview of the NGSS. This year we will help non-formal educators begin to align the work they do with all three dimensions of the New Iowa Science Core. The part that is the most different from before is about changing how we teach. There’s going to be some hard work involved since some of us, there are a few of us, have some really entrenched ideas about how to teach! We can’t just pick out the standards and say this lesson covers these points, we also need to reinforce the other two dimensions or we’re not really doing NGSS. It’s not just the lessons that need to be aligned, so do we! Old dogs and new tricks...

Three AEA science consultants, three non-formal educators, three environmental science researchers, and a school district science facilitator will lead the workshop. Conservation professionals will need this so they can be ready when the formal educators coming knocking on your door for help. Scholarships are available! Go to IowaEE.org for more information. Will give you all a heads-up when it is time to register!

My family spent a weekend in northeastern Iowa in a primitive, beautiful cabin along the Turkey River. The area’s habitat was perfect: close to the river, in the woods, with prairie on the along the road in and a small wetland. It was so quiet except for the call of barred owls and at night the big dipper seemed like it was dipping into the cabin. We Dutch-oven cooked, played cards, went fishing, hiked, and just generally relaxed. No cell service, so we talked and laughed. Another fall day we hiked at Ledges State Park and watched the kids stand by the xxx and as cars drove through fast and splashed the kids. We all need time to reacquaint ourselves with the beauty of our natural environment and understand its interworking’s. It’s so hard to get away from the rush of day-to-day life. So take a day with your family, hike in the woods or prairie, and maybe even get splashed by water.

Enjoy!
Linda Zaletel
ExCom Member, Terrie H, shared this photo of her kid-at-heart husband crossing the water at Lower Ledges.

Winter Workshop 2016 - Date Change

Winter Workshop 2016
February 4-5 at Springbrook Conservation Education Center

Contemporary Environmental Issues and New Iowa Science Standards:
Transforming Conservation Outreach

With newly adopted Iowa Science Standards that put natural resources back into the school curriculum, it's important that the non-formal conservation education community be well prepared to assist the schools so that we stay relevant and great partners.

To help reach our conservation professionals and non-formal educators, the dates of the workshop have shifted! Please adjust your calendar as Winter Workshop will be February 4-5, 2016.

Why should I come? The workshop will feature:

- keynote speakers on diverse contemporary conservation content,
- in-depth work with the new three-dimensional Iowa science standards and,
- access to coaches who can help non-education conservationists improve outreach to schools and other audiences.

Naturalists will see exactly where their programs fit into the core. Teachers will receive curriculum support from professionals.
Registration Costs? Grant funding and fundraising are in the works to lower registration costs for this two-day workshop. A limited number of scholarships are available. You will get email notification when you can register for this workshop.

KinderNature.org

If you’ve not... please visit KinderNature.org and check out this new resource for early care and education providers! KinderNature will be highlighted as a resource for folks attending a Reconnecting with Nature - Growing Up WILD workshop. Sign up for periodic email from KinderNature and please check out the KinderNature Facebook page, too.

Nominations for Excom

ICEC has ExCom two positions that are up at the end of 2015.

We need to thank Jane Shuttleworth for her six years of service to ICEC by serving two three-year terms on the ExCom! At the July ExCom Meeting, Linda Zaletel was appointed to fill the vacated term for Heather Olsen and that term also expires at the end of 2015.

Per bylaws, the ExCom needs to have at least seven members and no more than 13. Nominations were solicited and the following were received! Please keep an eye out for an email to vote for new ExCom members sometime early December.

Karess Knudtson

This is an exciting time for the ICEC organization; as the state of Iowa moves towards the integration of the Next Generation Science Standards. As integration begins, ICEC has a unique position among formal and non-formal educators. Within NGSS there are many opportunities to incorporate Environmental Education into Iowa classrooms.

My educational background, teaching, and work experiences have prepared me to help propel ICEC towards this progression. Having been a classroom science teacher and a naturalist I have gained insight into the unique needs of both formal and non-formal education. Two years ago, I was asked to serve on SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee) for the Okoboji Community School District. Serving on this committee has enabled me to stay current with the immediate needs and decisions being made within the district.

I believe that one very important objective for ICEC is to lay a course of action for naturalist to follow towards integration of NGSS, as well as, STEM into their educational offerings for teachers and school districts; therefore helping naturalist transition towards educational experiences that “fit” seamlessly into curricular standards of the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karess Knudtson
1978 250th Street
ICEC can again be a leader in the state in environmental literacy! With the passage of the Next Generation Science Standards now called the Iowa CORE Science Standards. ICEC has always advocated for environmental literacy to be taught in schools. Now formal educators will need to tap into ICEC’s workshops for guidance on the new Iowa CORE Science standards and how to implement them in their classrooms.

Last year the winter workshop was about networking with other agencies preparing them to look at the new science standards. We reached out to formal educators, AEA Science Consultants and conservation professionals to get to know each other again over an Important Iowa issue: water.

I worked for the Story County Conservation Board as a naturalists for 33 years. After I retired I became the Executive Director of ICEC. In those three years I gained experience in budgeting, workshop planning, grant and report writing reports, newsletter design, and networking throughout the state of Iowa with other county naturalists, Department of Natural Resources personnel, AEA Science consultants, and STEM advocates. I would like to continue to work within ICEC to keep environmental literacy alive in Iowa.

Please keep an eye out for an email to vote for new ExCom members sometime early December.

Report from NAAEE 2015

ICEC ExCom member, Martha McCormick shares some thoughts after attending the North American Association for Environmental Education last month in San Diego.
What do you know about NAAEE? I didn’t know much, until their annual conference in San Diego this past October. Frankly, I was impressed! NAAEE stands for North American Association for Environmental Education and when the email about their conference came across my inbox, I was intrigued.

I didn’t think I’d ever heard of the organization and the conference looked really good. The focus was on diversity and inclusion in environmental education—subjects near and dear to my heart. A trip to San Diego is always a draw, and the pre-conference shore investigation cinched the deal.

After I got there I realized that I’ve used their materials, in several ways, for a long time. Number one, NAAEE’s *Excellence in Environmental Education* provided guideposts for developing [Teachers-Going-Green.com](http://Teachers-Going-Green.com) and other conservation education programs I’ve developed. Second, ICEC is the Iowa affiliate!! And finally, I was involved in an ICEC collaborative project with KACEE (Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education) and other Midwest affiliates in Missouri and Nebraska.

Aside from the conference, visiting the [Scripps Research Institute](http://ScrippsResearchInstitute) to learn about ocean studies and kayaking on a fairly choppy Pacific Ocean were highlights. Of course the San Diego Zoo is world class, and Balboa Park has that California vibe—families and couples walking and talking; eating and drinking.

Ah, but the conference! So much to learn and think about. The workshop sessions were well attended, planful and informative. The NAAEE leadership is enthusiastic and positive. The last keynote, a panel of young leaders under 21 years old; their take on environmental stewardship was inspiring.

Shelly Johnson, Education Coordinator at Next Step Adventure, and I attended a variety of sessions. We were particularly interested in a monitoring project that the Field Museum in Chicago is doing with [high schools in the Calumet region of south Chicago](http://highschoolsinthecalametregionofsouthchicago). Ideas percolated from the sessions and from visits with other educators from California, New Mexico and Michigan, to name a few.

We came home looking forward to the 2016 conference. And guess what? It’s in Madison, Wisconsin, relatively close-to-home!! It would be a great thing to send a strong and long delegation there next October 18-22nd. What do you think? Sound like a good idea? If it does, please let the ICEC Board know of your interest, and how we can help you get there. Email Martha McCormick at NextStepAdventure.com.

---Submitted by Martha McCormick, ICEC Board Member

Environmental educators in the Midwest will have a fabulous opportunity to more easily attend the NAAEE national conference! Put October 19-22, 2016 on your calendar. The conference is being held at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, WI!

**ICEC-IAN Award Nominations due December 1**

Have you or someone you know done something GREAT for conservation or environmental education in Iowa? If so, fill out the IAN/ICEC Awards application and turn in by December 1. These awards are sponsored by Iowa Association of Naturalists and Iowa Conservation Education Coalition and are named for some of our heroes in Iowa conservation. Deadline for applications December 1.
Download the nomination form from the IAN website OR submit your nomination online through the ICEC website!

Other professional development opportunities!

Technical River Restoration Workshop - Oakland, IA, Nov 13
Regional and state experts will present compelling, science-based information about natural river restoration practices for professionals assisting landowners and/or designing bank stabilization projects, such as IDALS, NRCS, and SWCD field and engineering staff, county conservation board staff, county engineers, and consultants. However, the workshop is open to anyone interested in participating. More details here.

Sustaining Our Iowa Land (SOIL), Nov.19-20 at Drake University
The Drake University Agricultural Law Center, in cooperation with the Leopold Center, will host a two-day, state-wide conference on soil and water conservation policy. The conference will bring together individuals and organizations working to protect Iowa's soil and water resources to consider the role of policy and law in shaping our stewardship efforts. See more here.

Save the Date! August 15-17, 2016 Nature-Based Preschool National Conference
Dodge Nature Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, will be the host for this conference. The Twin Cities are an urban center that is teeming with nature-based learning. In addition to engaging sessions, speakers, and networking at Dodge Nature Center (home to their famed Nature Preschool), we'll also include opportunities to visit other area schools, including Tamarack Nature Center's nature preschool, and the farm-based Children's Country Day School. Learn more.

Books, resources, and other cool stuff

International Journal of Early Childhood Environmental Education Winter 2015
The winter 2015 issue of the International Journal of Early Childhood Environmental Education (IJECEE) is now online. IJECEE is a free online peer-reviewed journal designed to promote thoughtful sharing of information to support effective practice, research, and policy around the world. Please forward this free-access journal to your networks. The public is invited to submit scholarly written manuscripts for consideration for the next issue. Please share your thoughts about the IJECEE winter issue with editors Yash Bhagwanji or Bora Simmons.

New NSF Report on Environmental Research and Education over 10 Years
This National Science Foundation (NSF) Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (AC-ERE) Report states that the nation is at an environmental crossroads. America’s Future: Environmental Research and Education for a Thriving Century; A 10-year Outlook, advances the notion that viewing environmental protection and economic prosperity as conflicting goals is outdated, and that "environment and development go hand-in-hand with making a nation strong and prosperous." Read the report here.
Natural Start Alliance
Read an interview with Natural Start’s director on everything from the risk of ticks to the challenges of getting busy families outdoors, visit a family childcare center in Connecticut serving infants through preschoolers with an outdoor classroom, and catch up on all the latest news from around the Web. Read more here!

A Lost Classic Found
*Of Wilderness and Wolves* is a collection of essays now in print for the first time, written by one of the country’s most influential wildlife biologists, Paul Errington. An ISU professor and holder of the Wilderness Society’s Aldo Leopold Medal in 1962, Errington looks at humanity’s relationship with wolves, which were considered vicious and destructive predators that were nearly eliminated from the lower 48 states by the mid-1900s. The book is available from the [University of Iowa Press](#).

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 educations 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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[www.IowaEE.org](http://www.IowaEE.org)

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