Spring news from ICEC!

April 2018

Big Trees Innovation Fund: Planting the seeds of conservation education

Donate on Earth Day

The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition has a long history of advancing excellence in conservation education in Iowa. Our success is due in no small part to the work and commitment of a long list of passionate educators and advocates that have made incredible impact through the power of conservation education. We think of these leaders as our “Big Trees,” whose work and encouragement “plant” new leaders and inspire action, just as big oaks nurture new generations of trees.
In light of Duane Toomsen’s passing in November of 2017, ICEC developed the Big Trees Innovation Fund. Duane’s impact on conservation education in Iowa cannot be overstated. As the Environmental Education Consultant at the Department of Education for 34 years, Duane was a pillar of our community and directly impacted the lives of thousands of educators and students.

The purpose of the Big Trees Innovation Fund is to honor the legacy of the Big Trees, such as Duane, while providing for the future of conservation education in our state. In that spirit, the fund will be used to expand and enhance conservation education across Iowa, fostering new growth through innovative projects and outreach efforts.

The Big Trees of our past have grown ICEC into what it is today. Now, through contributions in their honor, we will plant the seeds that will become the future of conservation education in Iowa.

We invite you to donate to our fundraising campaign to kick off the fund. The campaign will run April 22nd to May 22nd. Look out for an email on April 22nd with a link to the fundraising page. Thank you for your support of ICEC!

Register for the Outdoor Learning Environments Conference: June 18-19, Ames, IA

In partnership with Prairie Rivers of Iowa, ICEC invites educators, conservationists, community leaders, landscapers, and others that value outdoor education to our inaugural Iowa Outdoor Learning Environments Conference!
Outdoor Learning Environments (OLEs) are deliberately designed outdoor spaces that provide an intentional setting for exploration, inquiry, and learning to empower environmental literacy and education.

The conference will tackle every aspect of establishing, using, and maintaining an OLE, including how to incorporate STEM activities into teaching in the outdoors. The conference will be held at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, IA.

Check out our detailed agenda and learn more and register before April 30th for early bird rates!

Congratulations to the 2017 ICEC/IAN Award Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 IAN/ICEC Excellence in Environmental Education Awards! These awards recognize the best of environmental education in Iowa. This year, we had an incredible group of nominees from across the state, representing outstanding programs and individual contributions in the field of EE. Congratulations to all who were recognized for their great work. Read more about the winners here
For more events, check out our website!

The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organized in 1958! ICEC provides ways for Iowa’s environmental educators to learn, build relationships, and creatively collaborate. Together, we help Iowans of all ages learn and make responsible environmental decisions in a changing world. Your membership supports excellence in conservation education in our state!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Join our Members-Only Facebook group!

Oct. 10-13, 2018
NAAEE 47th Annual Conference
EE: A Force for the Future
Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA

Partnership with Monarchs on the Move

ICEC is proud to announce a new partnership with ISU Extension and Outreach to facilitate “Monarchs on the Move” training across Iowa. ICEC is working with ISU Extension and Outreach staff to reach a broad audience of Iowa youth with the new “Monarchs on the Move” curriculum.

The “Monarchs on the Move” curriculum focuses on the unique life cycle of the monarch butterfly and ways to conserve habitat to protect the monarch, the flagship species for other native pollinators. The program was designed by a team of Iowa State professionals, researchers, and staff associated with the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium.

Over a dozen Iowa high school 4-H students were trained in the STEM curriculum over the weekend of March 2-3. The 4-Hers will use the curriculum to teach other youth about the monarch, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm to inspire fellow young people.

Each trained teen leader will share the “Monarchs on the Move” experience at local and regional events. If you are interested in having a 4-H student lead a program for
youth in your community using the “Monarchs on the Move” curriculum, contact Alicia Vasto at exec@iowaee.org or 515-729-1047.

We are also looking for additional youth leaders to train in delivering the program content. The next training will take place on April 28th in Linn County. If you know a high school student that would be interested in taking on such a leadership role, contact Alicia. Teachers and county naturalists interested in learning about the curriculum will be welcome at the training as well. More information on signing up will be available soon.

Questions about the “Monarchs on the Move” program can be directed to Lynne Campbell at lynnec@iastate.edu or 515-294-2076.