



ICEC

IOWA CONSERVATION
EDUCATION COALITION

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2022

An Overview of Activities and Accomplishments of ICEC

A Look Back and Ahead

2022 in review

Throughout 2022, ICEC continued to make progress on our overarching goal of supporting conservation education and educators in Iowa. ICEC held our Winter Workshop in person at the University of Iowa College of Education, with an online option. This may be our new normal. January 2022 saw work begin on our REAP-CEP grant - Change for the Climate. ICEC had assistance from education majors at the UI to expand the topics and resources for Game Jam 2022. After covid-related rescheduling, ExCom members were able to gather for a PEEPs meeting (and difficult brain-work) at Leid Lodge in Nebraska. ExCom members volunteered at the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Envirothon Competition state contest. We hope to expand our relationship with Envirothon - stay tuned. ICEC supported the Ames High School 9th Grade Science Public Exhibition. An ExCom ad-hoc committee explored developing a C-STEM framework ('c' for conservation) - more on this next year. Read on for more details about a few of these projects and others. Thanks go to each ExCom member for their leadership in the past year. Thanks also to membership for their support and participation in our projects.



Looking ahead to 2023

Heading into 2023, we look forward to continuing supporting conservation education in ways both familiar and new. We will connect with members new and old at Winter Workshop in Des Moines, we will continue to find creative ways to incorporate conservation education in classrooms (don't forget to sign up for the 2023 Game Jam!), and we will support educator training in the Project Wild series of curriculum across the state.

We will also push our own boundaries once again as we strive to better understand what it means to provide meaningful, effective, and long-lasting conservation education. The finishing touches are being put on the final report for our "Change for the Climate" project funded through REAP-CEP. We look forward to sharing the many lessons learned by project participants as they were trained in "community based social marketing" behavior change strategies and applied them to conservation projects within their own communities. We are also in the final preparation stages of a landscape analysis project undertaken by regional environmental agencies to better understand the gaps and opportunities for conservation education both in Iowa and the Midwest. Watch your email for information on how you can support that work by answering questions about the conservation education work you do.

And, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to host two AmeriCorps service members as we undertake this work. They will help ICEC analyze, prepare, and implement programs and practices that allow us to build the capacity of this volunteer-led organization. Thanks to the Holthues Trust for their support.

Here's to a productive and exciting 2023!

Change for the Climate

In January 2022, with REAP-CEP funding, a small group of conservation education folks undertook learning about Community Based Social Marketing



to help them develop small projects to take on climate change. These could be broadly defined as helping community members make simple changes to

reduce emissions or sequester carbon. Participants took the on-line CBSM course on how to implement the method which takes the time upfront to find out if a great idea will actually result in behavior change - or just “look” like a great idea. This takes

a very different mindset from just coming up with cool ideas that we think might work and spending time and money on something that, in the end, made no real difference at all. Participants all made major adjustments to what they thought going into the project and what they did in the end that they’d researched for efficacy.

These projects will be written up in a collection of case studies that will lightly present the CBSM methods and you will see how it made a difference in the implementation of the project. All participants have expressed longer-lasting results and more support from their agencies for this approach. The case studies will be available in early 2023.

Thanks to our sub-contractors and participants in this project!

PEEPs Collaboration

Work Started, Postponed Twice

The Plains Environmental Education Partnership (PEEPs), under a grant from the Pisces Foundation, brought together state conservation / environmental education leaders

from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wyoming for a three-day leadership clinic designed to build capacity for each state organization as well the PEEP as a region.



Four targeted collaborative goals were established and the leaders worked together to develop action plans around these four priorities:

- Fund Development
- Organizational Infrastructure
- Regional Communications Plan
- Collaborative Events and Programs

The PEEP states are currently working together to do an assessment of conservation / environmental education providers across the region to better understand gaps and opportunities that exist. Plans are to launch the survey in early Spring of 2023.



Scan to visit the ICEC website.
<https://iowaeec.org>



Game Jam

ICEC hosted our 4th Game Jam in Spring 2022 with help from University of Iowa College of Education students with four different topics to choose from - water pollution, endangered species, invasive species, and renewable energy. Teams were encouraged to incorporate field investigation data and observations, online data resources, and investigations in a new game idea. Fourteen teams built and submitted games around the theme for judging. A virtual award ceremony was held in mid-April 2022.

Grades 3-5 Analog Game

1. *Invaders!* - Dominic and Phillip, Decorah Home School Assistance Program
2. *Guess the Endangered Animal* - Waylon and Helen, Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary
3. *Tie - Save the Native* - Madison, Mya, and Bristol, Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary AND *Race Against Time* - Taelyn, Josie, and Morgan, Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary

Grades 5-6 Digital Game

1. *Plastic Fishing* - Johan, Jenna, Jackson, Ronin, and Malcom, Orange Elementary
2. *Adventures of the Endangered* - Max and Zach, Sidney Elementary

Learn more about Game Jam here:

<https://iowaee.org/ee-science-in-iowa/game-jam/>.

Winter Workshop 2022

Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change

The climate crisis is leading to dramatic changes across Iowa's landscape as our natural and human communities face unprecedented extremes in weather, from continual flooding to derechos, to extreme heat and lasting droughts. Conservation and environmental educators of all kinds need the skills and knowledge that will help them not only navigate the contentious conversations surrounding climate change, but also foster meaningful behavior changes to benefit the collective work against climate change.

Iowa educators could earn one recertification credit through AEA Learning Online by participating in seven of the offered sessions. Some sessions remain available for on-demand access on our website here:

<https://iowaee.org/ee-science-in-iowa/resiliency-and-adaptation-to-climate-change/>.

Thank you to the University of Iowa College of Education for supporting Winter Workshop 2022.

Statement of Financial Position

as of December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021

ASSETS

| Current Assets | Dec. 31, 2022 | Dec. 31, 2021 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cash | | |
| Veridian Checking | \$ 4,000.30 | \$ 4,372.02 |
| Veridian Savings | \$ 82,689.71 | \$ 56,220.55 |
| Veridian MEEC Checking | \$ 137.55 | \$ 137.55 |
| PayPal Balance | \$ 500.00 | \$ 1,119.13 |
| Total Cash | \$ 87,327.56 | \$ 61,849.25 |
| Other Current Assets | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total Current Assets | \$ - | \$ - |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 87,327.56 | \$ 61,849.25 |

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Liabilities | | |
| None | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total Liabilities | \$ - | \$ - |
| Net Assets | \$ 87,327.56 | \$ 61,849.25 |
| Net Assets without Restrictions | \$ 53,245.98 | \$ 33,756.81 |
| Net Assets with Donor Restrictions | | |
| WILD Resources | \$ 26,069.33 | \$ 24,739.13 |
| Big Trees Fund | \$ 1,860.48 | \$ 1,797.76 |
| Scholarship Fund | \$ 888.62 | \$ 1,418.00 |
| MEEC | \$ 137.55 | \$ 137.55 |
| REAP CEP 22-15 | \$ 5,125.60 | \$ - |
| Total Net Assets w/Donor Restrictions | \$ 34,081.58 | \$ 28,092.44 |
| Total Net Assets | \$ 87,327.56 | \$ 61,849.25 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | \$ 87,327.56 | \$ 61,849.25 |

ICEC Executive Committee Fiscal Year 2022

Louis Beck, *Co-Chair* - Retired FFA / Ag Ed Instructor

Lilly Jensen, *Co-Chair* - Northeast Iowa RC&D

Barb Gigar, *Treasurer* - Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Tiffany Morgan, *Secretary* - Instructional Media Designer, Iowa PBS

Kyla Burns - Johnston High School

David Conrads - Director, UI Wild, University of Iowa College of Education

Ted Neal - Clinical Professor Science Education, University of Iowa College of Education

Kean Roberts - Ames Community School District / Drake University

Peg Steffen - Retired science teacher, STEM Consultant

Tony Vorwald, *Co-Chair* - Jackson County Conservation Board

Jerry Neppel, *Ex Officio* - Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

ICEC–IAN Award Winners 2022

These awards recognize the contributions of conservation educators, partners, and supporters to the advancement of environmental education in Iowa. Full winner bios here: <https://iowaee.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2022-IAN-ICEC-winner-bios.pdf>

Ada Hayden Conservation Education Award

Polk County Conservation, Jester Park Native American Artifact Exhibit

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award

Mike Krebill, Retired

Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award

Charles Jacobsen, Clinton County Conservation

“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award

Women in the Wilderness - Kayla Clausen

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award

Prairie Woods Nature Center Mural, Sioux County Conservation

Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award

Cedar River Academy

Outstanding Environmental Education Program (two or less full-time equivalent naturalists) for excellence in environmental education programming by an agency or institution
Ringgold County Conservation

Outstanding Environmental Education Program (three or more full-time equivalent naturalists) for excellence in environmental education programming by an agency or institution
Jackson County Conservation

Outstanding Interpretive Non-Print Media Award
Fayette County Solid Waste Commission and Fayette County Conservation

Outstanding Interpretive Print Media Award
Ida County Conservation



2022 Conservation Teachers of the Year

ICEC and the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program [co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI)], annually presents an award to two educators who are creating awareness of soil conservation and water quality in their classrooms. Full bios here: <https://iowaee.org/awards-scholarships/soil-conservation-teacher-of-the-year/>

Division I (K-8 teacher) Recipient:

Kelsey Wigans, Gilmore City-Bradgate Elementary, Gilmore City

Kelsey works with elementary students to plan, start seedlings, plant, tend, harvest garden produce, and plant ten green spaces at the school. Kelsey helps students learn about soil and water conservation practices, crop rotation, and the importance of pollinators. The school hosts a farmer’s market, selling locally grown produce to customers.

Division II (9-12 teacher) Recipient:

Margaret Hogan, Beckman Catholic School, Dyersville

Margaret and her husband operate a crop and livestock farm in Delaware County, implementing no-till, cover crops, prairie and pollinator habitat plantings, contour farming, and contour strip cropping. Margaret uses her own farming and conservation experience to involve her students in conservation projects at school and her farm.



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Aquatic WILD™

Project WILD®

KinderNature
a resource for early childhood educators

WILD Resources

ICEC, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, continues to offer Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, and Growing Up WILD (GUW) training. WILD and GUW training is offered both in person and online. GUW is offered in partnership with Iowa State University Extension, with participants able to receive Department of Human Services early childhood training hours. The KinderNature website supports GUW. Monthly email highlighting a project activity are sent to all trainees. Topics are focused on the target audience being either K-12 or PreK-2nd.