Member Newsletter April 2022

In this issue...

ICEC News
IAN-ICEC Award Winners
Soil Conservation Teacher of the Year
PEEPs
Game Jam
WILD AmeriCorps
ICEC Resources

Items of Interest
Professional Development
Resources from NAAEE
Resources and Links
Other News

IAN-ICEC Award Winners

This award program recognizes the incredible contributions of educators, partners, and supporters towards the advancement of conservation / environmental education in Iowa. Download the complete bios from the ICEC website.

- Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award - Barb Gigar, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award - Charles Jacobsen, Clinton County
Soil Conservation Teacher of the Year Awards

ICEC sponsors the Iowa Soil Conservation Teacher of the Year Awards for a grade K-8 teacher and a grade 9-12 teacher. The awardees are teachers who are creating awareness of soil conservation and water quality in their classrooms. Award nominations are due by June 10, 2022. Feel free to reach out to your local Soil and Water Conservation District to complete the nomination paperwork! Nominations should be emailed to the Iowa Department of Ag and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality by June 10. The Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have several opportunities to recognize individuals who are making outstanding contributions toward soil conservation and water quality. To learn about all the award opportunities, visit the Conservation Districts of Iowa website.

Back to top

PEEPs

PEEPs is the Plains Environmental Education Partnership and includes Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Spearheaded by the Kansas affiliate, these state groups are participating in a leadership clinic to build capacity and inclusivity for environmental education organizations both individually and collectively. So far, ExCom has participated in an organizational assessment and met with the project’s consultant. A core team of ExCom members met in person with all the PEEPs
representatives in March 2022. Much of the Iowa team’s work centered on strategic planning to improve board diversity, activity, and building board capacity. Stay tuned for updates and next steps regarding this group’s work.

This work began in early 2020 and has seen activities rescheduled and reorganized more than once! Thanks to the Kansas Association for Environmental Education and the Pisces Foundation for the support.

Game Jam Spring 2022

This year’s game jam is a collaborative effort between ICEC, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Project WILD, and students from a University of Iowa College of Education class about applying biological and earth sciences concepts in an educational environment. The topics this year included:

- Endangered species
- Water pollution
- Invasive species
- Renewable energy

Fourteen teams of elementary and middle school students have created 4-minute videos about their game and have submitted it for judging. Four teams created digital games and the others are board or role playing games. Eleven teams are grades 3-5 and 3 are grades 6-8. Teams of judges will look at the submission and choose the top game ideas for recognition later this spring.

WILD AmeriCorps

Through a partnership between ICEC and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Project WILD coordinator, two 3-month Green Iowa AmeriCorps member positions will be available from mid-May through mid-August (300 hours). Here is a brief position description. AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance while in service plus a scholarship upon successful completion of their term. Please reach out to the Iowa DNR Project WILD Coordinator with your questions or to express an interest.

ICEC Resources

Check out these resources available on the ICEC website!

- Calendar of events and courses from ICEC, co-sponsored by ICEC, our partner organizations, and others.
- Equity and Inclusion in Environmental Education - Visit this page for links to the on-demand videos from Winter Workshop 2021
- WILD Resources
  - Monthly email to support Project WILD and Aquatic WILD (sign up here),
  - Book search for PK-12 and parents / educators
- KinderNature includes on the homepage weekly tips in "Max's Corner" and highlighted activity from the activity bank in KinderNature
  - Monthly email to support Growing Up WILD (sign up here),
  - Book search for PK-2 and parents / educators,
- Authentic Iowa Data Resources
Professional Development

The North Central Region Water Network is hosting a one-of-a-kind conference this summer focusing on climate and equity and the myriad of ways the changing climate is impacting our communities and our work. The Climate Intersections Conference will take place in-person July 12-14, 2022 in Duluth, Minnesota. This is a great opportunity to get together face-to-face with natural resource, water, and climate professionals from across the region to learn about their work and programming, share ideas, and get some much needed inspiration – all in the backdrop of Lake Superior. More information can be found here.

A source for climate change, climate interpretation training: https://climateinterpreter.org/training/.

Summer Institute for Climate Change Education - "Finding Our Collective Strength" virtual conference, July 18 & 19, 2022 plus one regional day on July 20, 21, or 22. The Summer Institute for Climate Change Education is structured to allow time for learning and networking. During the first two virtual days hosted by Climate Generation, educators can select from concurrent workshops. During the third day, educators will attend a cohort workshop facilitated and hosted by a regional cohort leader to focus on place-based climate change education and the need for ongoing support throughout the year. Cohort days may be in-person or online, depending on educator and cohort leader needs in that region. Each group of 20-50 educators will explore local impacts, actionable solutions, connections to local experts, and planning and networking. Learn more about the Summer Institute.

K-5 eBird Explorers Workshop – St. Louis, MO
Join Cornell Lab and the World Bird Sanctuary educators for an inspiring professional development opportunity for K-5 educators at the World Bird Sanctuary for an in-person professional development experience on July 18-20, 2022. Learn more about eBird Explorers.

Save the Date - Watch for details from the Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI) on their 2023 annual conference April 7-8, 2023 to be held in the Quad Cities (Rock Island or Moline). Pre-conference activities on April 6. We’ll share details as we get closer. EEAI is the ICEC counterpart in Illinois.

Resources from NAAEE

NAAEE 2022: Call for Presentations is open - deadline April 29, 2022
Learn more about the conference and submit proposals here.
2022 EE 30 Under 30 Nominations Now Open!
Do you know of an incredible leader under the age of 30 who is shaping a sustainable future?
Nominations for the EE 30 Under 30 Class of 2022 are open until April 11 at 10:59 p.m. CT for leaders of all kinds, from any country, sector, or discipline. This is a fantastic opportunity for global collaboration and community! Visit naaee.org/ee30Under30 to learn more and nominate yourself or a fellow leader. Since 2016, the North American Association for Environmental Education's EE 30 Under 30 program has recognized 180 individuals from 40 countries who are making a difference through environmental education; the awardees in the EE 30 Under 30 Class of 2021 included educators, social entrepreneurs, artists, and researchers from 14 countries.


Power of Us Workforce Survey: Calling All Youth-Serving Professionals and Volunteers
Every person who works with young people is committed to helping them thrive. On athletic fields, in afterschool programs, in libraries, in faith-based institutions, youth-serving professionals and volunteers are making a difference every day. Through the Power of Us Workforce Survey, youth-serving professionals and volunteers can contribute to a national effort to explore, define, and elevate their profession. Take the survey today!

Back to top

Resources and Links

Biotech Outreach
The Biotechnology Outreach Education Center at Iowa State University develops STEM programming for K-12 teachers and students while supporting vital researcher-teacher partnerships. Check out this program to learn about upcoming professional development, research experiences, classroom resources, and more!

Greening STEM Approach
The Greening STEM model is an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to teaching STEM subjects that uses the natural environment and real-world challenges to engage learners and deliver high-quality STEM education. Learn more here.
Learn about the Redford Center
The Redford Center Stories is a free environmental justice education program and curriculum for youth that celebrates transformational storytelling, creative education, community well-being, and global justice. Learn more here.

Teach Climate Network from Climate Generation
Join a national network of teachers dedicated to teaching climate change! The Teach Climate Network provides teaching tips, resources, inspiration, and community networking with educators from all disciplines, grade levels, and educational settings.

Boost climate literacy with real-world solutions and storytelling
*Bright Green Future* brings together inspiring stories of solutionaries to make climate education accessible and engaging for high school and college students. The book uses storytelling to offer students hope for the future, and a path towards action by applying ecological knowledge to transform our modern economy. Each chapter comes with discussion questions to create lessons and activities that make climate literacy real, actionable, and awesome! Learn more and get the educators discount with code “EDUCATORSROCK!”

Children and Nature Network
- Health & Nature Fellow Charmaine Godley works to make Georgia schools places of nature connection.
- There are dozens of studies indicating the power of nature to reduce stress, improve mental health and help young people recover from trauma. This story provides a more personal account from teens engaged in Team Wilderness programs, designed to connect diverse youth to the outdoors.
- Beneficial Risks - This book, *Beneficial Risks* (published in 2021), was reviewed on the Children & Nature Network site and may be a good resource for any organization / agency looking to reexamine their outdoor or experiential education program.

Project Learning Tree
- Native American Heritage Month, Thanksgiving, and year-round resources for educators
- Celebrate Earth Day with Community Science Projects
- Curriculum offerings
- PLT releases new activities for exploring nature with young children, ages 1 - 6.

NGSS and CLEAN at a glance

**Looking to craft a land acknowledgement statement for your organization?** Here is a good U.S.-based resource to guide your work.

Here are some Iowa examples:
- University of Northern Iowa
- University of Iowa
- Iowa State University

Other News

**Water Wisdom: The Indigenous Scientists Walking in Two Worlds** Read here.
A dose of nature can cure the blues! Read here.

Soil and Water Conservation Society
The 77th Soil and Water Conservation Society’s International Annual Conference is now accepting applications for student moderators. Application deadline is May 20, 2022. Learn more about student moderator application here.

Conservation Photo Contest is wanting to see entries that display soil and water conservation and people in action, showcase the beauty of the world’s natural resources, and / or inspire conservation professionals working to ensure the future of our natural resources on both private and public lands. Learn more about the contest here.

Storm Lake students design school conservation project - read the Sioux City Journal article here.

Richard Louv Prize for Innovation in Nature Connection - Act quick as the deadline for applications is April 12 at 5:00 PT.

Doctoral Candidate Research
Do you currently work at an Environmental Learning organization and are you interested in participating in a research study? Survey closes May 1, 2022. Follow this link to learn more. #Inclusive_EE_21study #Inclusive_EE

Back to top

The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) is a 501(c)3 Iowa non-profit first organized in 1958! We have a long-standing tradition of providing professional development to formal and non-formal educators in conservation and environmental education. ICEC is the unifying voice for conservation and environmental education in Iowa.

ICEC needs you! If you need to renew your membership, visit our website. Memberships expire on December 31 and should be renewed by 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! The more you comment on a page's post, the more that page will show in your news feed!

Sincerely,
Linette Bernard, Project Coordinator
Iowa Conservation Education Coalition
exec@iowaee.org

Executive Committee Members
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title / Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lilly Jensen</td>
<td>Co-Chair, Winneshiek County Conservation Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Beck</td>
<td>Co-Chair, Retired, FFA / Agriculture Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany Morgan</td>
<td>Secretary, Iowa PBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barb Gigar</td>
<td>Treasurer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyla Burns</td>
<td>springx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Conrads</td>
<td>U of Iowa College of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted Neal</td>
<td>U of Iowa, Science Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kean Roberts</td>
<td>Ames Comm. School District / Drake University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Schott</td>
<td>Sac &amp; Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peg Steffen</td>
<td>Retired science teacher, STEM Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Vorwald</td>
<td>Johnston High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Edmondson</td>
<td>Ex-Officio, Ex-Officio, Heartland Area Education Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Neppel</td>
<td>Ex-Officio, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stewardship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright © 2022 Iowa Conservation Education Coalition, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because either you are a member of ICEC, former member, or have requested to receive periodic updates from ICEC.

Our mailing address is:
Iowa Conservation Education Coalition
12684 155th St
Ackley, Iowa 50601

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](mailto:) or [unsubscribe from this list](mailto:).