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Member Newsletter August 2022

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ICEC Leadership

Share your passion and leadership on ICEC ExCom! The call for nominations will go out in September with paperwork due back to ICEC by the end of October. **Learn more about ICEC and the Executive Committee on our website.**

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Soil Conservation Teacher of the Year Awards

The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program presents awards to outstanding teachers (one K-8 and one 9-12) who are creating awareness of soil conservation and water quality in their classrooms. After review of all applications by a statewide committee, these two individuals have been awarded the Soil Conservation Teacher of the Year by the Conservation Districts of Iowa.

- Kelsey Wigans (Humboldt) in the K-8 division
- Margaret Hogan (Delaware) in the 9-12 division

ICEC supports this award program with a commemorative plaque (to be awarded to these individuals at

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PEEPs

PEEPs is the Plains Environmental Education Partnership and includes Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. The PEEPs states met in Nebraska City, NE in March 2022 for a regional leadership clinic to build capacity and inclusivity for environmental education organizations both individually and collectively. Each state's team worked on their own priority strategy for increasing interest / capacity for environmental education. These strategies were combined for a regional plan. The Iowa team focused on leadership and ExCom development. **Download a PDF of the regional plan summary.**

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"Change for the Climate" Cohort Continues Their Work

Last December, ICEC was awarded REAP-CEP funding to explore how Iowa's conservation educators can use community-based social marketing as a tool to encourage positive and lasting social change, particularly in relation to climate change. We issued an open application for Iowans to join the "Change for the Climate" Cohort and help their community (however they define it) adapt to, respond to, and mitigate climate change.

Cohort participants applied through a competitive process and then jumped right into their training, attending a 12-hour national behavior change workshop in January and ICEC's Winter Workshop in February. Since then, they've been working under the guidance of project consultants to define, plan, and implement a community-focused behavior change project focused on adapting to or mitigating climate change.

Projects range from bringing pollinator-friendly plants to backyards to increasing recycling and composting to reducing energy consumption through turning off computers. Cohort members are working diligently and deliberately to identify and remove barriers to participation, collect meaningful measures of behavior, and ensure lasting change.

Watch upcoming newsletters and ICEC's website for future updates on cohort progress and the final project case study that will assimilate and distill the trainings, successes, and lessons learned of the Cohort together into useful resources and tactics for all Iowa educators to encourage and promote lasting positive behavior change in their communities.

Cohort members represent a range of geographic areas, interests, and approaches to conservation education and

but each member has also built a support team of other individuals, organizations, and agencies.

- Heidi Swets, Northeast Iowa Peace & Justice Center
- Erica Carnes, Blank Park Zoo
- Sam Harris, City of Dubuque Sustainability Office / Green Iowa AmeriCorps
- Shellie Orngard, Prairie Rivers of Iowa
- Beth Waage, Story County Conservation

Photo: Team members from the Northeast Iowa Peace & Justice Center cohort distribute compost bins to residents in Winneshiek County.

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Game Jam

Game Jam for the 2021-2022 school year was 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. As a class, they worked with the ICEC Game Jam guru, Peg Steffen, to produce four new Game Jam topic resources: water pollution, endangered species, invasive species, and renewable energy.

Game Jam 2022 concluded with judges reviewing the teams' submitted video about their game design. Submissions were reviewed by age group and game type (analog or digital). Winning teams celebrated during an online presentation. Congrats to these teams!

Analog Grades 3-5

- First Place - Invaders! - Decorah Homeschool Assistance Program – Dominic and Philip
- Second Place - Guess the Endangered Animal - Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary School – Waylon and Helen
- Third Place - Save the Native - Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary School – Madison, Mya, Bristol
- Third Place - Race Against Time - Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary School - Taelyn, Josie, Morgan

Digital Grades 5-6

- First Place - Plastic Fishing- Orange Elementary - Johan, Jenna, Jackson, Ronin, Malcolm
- Second Place - Adventures of the Endangered - Sidney Elementary - Max and Zach

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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,

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**

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Professional Development

Check out these Iowa Project WILD Online Training Modules, available with or without re-certification credit to receive the new Project WILD and Aquatic WILD guides! The goal of Project WILD is to develop awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment resulting in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment. Each online module includes an overview of the guide and resources for **Aquatic WILD** and **Project WILD**; you may order a copy of the guide upon completion of the activities included in the "modules" on this site. **Click here to learn about re-certification credit** through Iowa AEAs for Project WILD / Aquatic WILD. **Email the state coordinator for more info on the credit option.**

Check out these teacher workshops from the **Blank Park Zoo**! These academic year workshops run 4:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Each class cost is $50.00 to help cover materials and meals, payable to Blank Park Zoo online; plus AEA credit fees (information regarding AEA registration will be sent to participants prior to each class). Workshops held in either the Events Center or Discovery Center Conference rooms at the zoo.
September 9 & 10, 2022 - **Ecosystems**
November 11 & 12, 2022 - **Zoo Structure and Design**
January 13 & 14, 2023 - **Wild Genes**
February 17 & 18, 2023 - **Patterns in Nature**
March 24 & 25, 2023 - **Wonders of Water**

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.

Project Dragonfly - Miami University's **Project Dragonfly** is accepting applications now through early 2021 for graduate courses and master's degrees that offer extraordinary experiences through zoos and botanical gardens in the United States and in 15 countries throughout the world. Click here to learn about their Advanced Inquiry Program, Global Field Program, and Earth Expeditions. Sign up for one of their **informational webinars** to learn more!

Outdoor Recreation Roadmap: A Community-Led Approach to Leveraging Your Natural Assets for Economic Success and Local Renewal. **Six 1-hour video sessions, Sept. 20 - Oct. 25, 2022 + one-on-one coaching.** How do you make the burgeoning outdoor recreation economy work for your community? In this course, we drill down to the nitty gritty—how to bring your community together around outdoor recreation to generate more awareness and buy-in, make quick progress that can be sustained over time, and create meaningful changes that make a difference for your community's business and economic vitality, physical health and confidence. You'll learn a step-by-step process that

Iowa Science Teachers Section Meeting Pushed to 2023 - In mid-July, the Leadership Team of the Iowa Science Teaching Section of the Iowa Academy of Science made the decision to shift the Fall 2022 ISTS conference to 2023 based on teaching and substitute shortages leading to situations where practitioners are unable to attend professional development opportunities.

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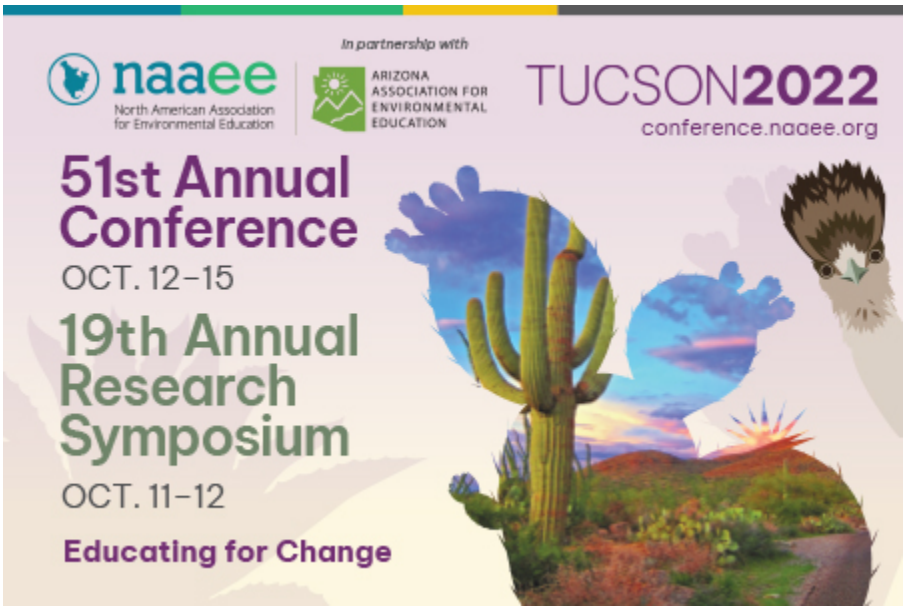
Resources from NAAEE

Register for #NAAEE2022 and Apply for 2022 Conference Scholarships!
Registration is now open! Join NAAEE and environmental educators from around the world as we explore the powerful role education can play in creating healthier communities and tackling today's complex environmental and social issues. **Check out the list of available conference scholarships.** Applications are due August 19.



Gaming for Good: Developing Wildlife Empathy and Encouraging Conservation Behaviors
Mobile gaming can play a powerful role in engaging players by framing conversations and wildlife such that animals are seen as the animate objects they are, as well as increasing knowledge, providing new experiences, and activating imaginations.

Education for Regeneration - A Nature-based Approach
Chew on this blog!

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Resources and Links

New Spanish Resource on Iowa's Natural Resources Now Available
Iowa State University Extension has recently published Spanish translations of the entire **Iowa's Nature booklet series**. Each booklet explores a dimension of Iowa's biological and geological diversity, including Landforms and Geology, Soils, Prairies, Forests, Aquatic Environments, Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Plants, State Symbols, and Influential Voices. The booklets are designed to serve as an Iowa-focused, one-stop, introductory resource for upper middle and high school students and the general public. Funding for

A new book by Neil Hamilton entitled ***The Land Remains*** which blends personal memoir, a history of Midwestern land conservation, and an analysis of contemporary issues of soil health, water quality, public lands, and future challenges to tell the story of how land shapes our lives. Written by Prof. Neil Hamilton, a well-known agriculture and land policy authority who recently retired after 36 years directing the Agricultural Law Center at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. Neil is a long-time advocate of land, education, Aldo Leopold, water rights, land rights, and more. **Click here for more info on this book from Ice Cube Press**. Thanks for the share, Steve Semken!

Teach Climate Network from Climate Generation

Climate Generation's newly updated **Climate Fiction and Nonfiction Reading Guide** includes book titles and discussion questions to help you talk about climate change without using data, graphs, or the scientific method (unless you want to)!

Children and Nature Network

- **Giving Patients the Power to Self-prescribe Nature**
- **The Vitamin N Challenge - start in the summer and continue into the fall!**
- **That's nice, mija: Finding common language in nature connection**
- This C&NN toolkit, **Nature Helps Children Recover from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**, developed in partnership with Casey Family Programs, highlights how time in nature can be a powerful antidote to the negative impacts of trauma and stress in children's lives. Check out this research paper: **Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Protective and Therapeutic Potential of Nature**
- Need to do a lit review for connecting children with nature? **Check this out!**

Project Learning Tree

- Introduce students to urban birdwatching - **this page has many ideas and resources to get started.**

Climate Literacy & Energy Awareness Network (CLEAN)

- **Browse the CLEAN Collection by NGSS Topic** - CLEAN supports teaching and learning about climate and energy with 850+ free peer-reviewed, scientifically accurate, and classroom-ready resources.
- **Explore the CLEAN Collection of climate and energy learning** - Accurate education about climate and energy topics has never been more important, and it can be challenging to locate reliable, vetted educational materials to use in your classroom.
- **Student Exploration of the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States** - This high school module follows the 5E instructional model to promote student discovery and learning about the complex interactions between climate change, the environment and human health. Students describe the impacts of changing climatic conditions on human health with emphasis on vulnerable populations and apply systems thinking to create a visual model of various health implications arising from climate change.

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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

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

Lilly Jensen, Co-Chair
Winneshiek County Conservation Board

Louis Beck, Co-Chair
Retired, FFA / Agriculture Education

Tiffany Morgan, Secretary
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Kean Roberts
Ames Comm. School District / Drake University

Peg Steffen
Retired science teacher, STEM Consultant

Anthony Vorwald
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