



Iowa Conservation Education Council

ICEC provides educational pathways to
enable lowans to make responsible
environmental choices.



2005 ICEC Executive Committee

Craig Meyers, Co-Chair
Heartland AEA
Des Moines, Iowa

Pamela Holz, Co-Chair
Washington County Cons. Board
Ainsworth, Iowa

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YMCA Camp
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Anita O'Gara, Vice Chair
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
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Susan Jahn, Vice Chair
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Gail Barel, Treasurer
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Marion, Iowa

Phyllis Anderson, Secretary
Grant Wood AEA
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Rachel Sandhorst
Luther College
Decorah, Iowa

Rich Leopold
Iowa Environmental Council
Des Moines, Iowa

Carol Schutte
North Iowa Area Community College
Mason City, Iowa

Susan Salterberg
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Brian Soenen
Iowater
Sioux City, Iowa

Message from the ICEC Chair

By Pamela Holz, Co-Chair for 2005

What a busy year for ICEC! So much progress, so much change. I have been glad to have been a part of it all.

Regretfully, we began the year by saying goodbye to longtime Executive Director Wendy Zohrer. Your Executive Committee chose to look at this situation as an opportunity to re-evaluate the position. What were the main tasks we needed this position to do? What type of person were we looking for? What were our financial capabilities? Since the end result was a bit different than what we had previously, we changed the title to Administrative Coordinator. At the beginning of the summer, we contracted with Heather Niec for this position and are excited about the possibilities (see page 7 for more about Heather).

The year also began with another great Winter Solstice. We had the workshop thoroughly evaluated so we could better meet your needs. In the end, we decided to move the workshop around the state beginning with the Indianola area for 2006.

We also hosted two other exciting events this year. Through the direction of the Iowa Environmental Council, we assisted with the 2005 Governor's Conference on Environmental Education. We helped to bring out Governor Vilsak to see some of the excellent EE places and programs across the state.

In July, we held the Midwest Environmental Education Conference at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, bringing in environmental educators from around the Midwest. Through the help of many grants, we were able to keep costs low and still provide a high quality conference.

Naturally, there were several behind-the-scenes activities performed by your ExCom to keep the organization running smoothly. We will continue to serve you, our members, in the years to come. Be sure to let us know how we best can help you.

2005 ICEC Programs

Winter Solstice

“Explore Iowa - Past to Present” was the Iowa Conservation Education Council’s theme for Winter Solstice 2005. Over one hundred ten spirited participants packed the classrooms at Springbrook State Park in January for Winter Solstice. Winter Solstice came alive with wonderful keynotes and presenters focusing on Iowa’s cultural changes with enlightening music taking the stage. Ice fishing, spear throwing and snowshoeing were invigorating along with impressive top notched sessions. Thank you to the following sponsors: Resource Enhancement and Protection-Conservation Education Program; Humanities Iowa; Iowa Department of Transportation-Living Roadway Trust Fund; and Iowa State Bank, Ruthven.



Midwest Environmental Education Conference

The Midwest Environmental Education Conference (MEEC) was held on July 20–23, 2005 at the North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa. There were over 180 participants that took part in many of the activities offered such as: nationally known speakers, nine field trips, and 45 concurrent sessions. We give thanks to all the sponsors: Resource Enhancement and Protection –Conservation Education Program; Iowa Department of Transportation-Living Roadway Trust Fund; Alliant Energy Foundation; The NIACC Foundation; Mason City Convention and Visitors Bureau; and Mason City Riverfront Commission.

EPA Leadership Summit and Regional Activities

The Iowa Conservation Education Council developed a membership services and communication plan as part of the 2004–05 EPA Leadership Summit grant. These two plans helped build environmental education within our statewide organization.

A variety of survey and evaluation instruments were used to evaluate membership services, make changes where



needed, and implement new ideas. These survey/evaluation instruments can be found in the appendices of this report. The communication plan included a review of the organization’s newsletter; an increase in personal contact with members and lapsed memberships; and a significant reorganization of the ICEC section of the website www.iowee.org.

The Northeast Iowa Field Day was held September 23, 2005. The theme was “Prairies” and was geared for classroom educators and non-formal educators. A compilation of prairie curriculum materials for elementary and secondary educators were provided. It was a day of rain but ten hearty educators still attended the field day. The service-learning component was postponed.



2004 IAN/ICEC Environmental Education Award Winners

Aldo Leopold

Environmental Education Award

Robert Rye, IDOT Field Senior Coordinator

This award commends a lifetime achievement in environmental education (EE) excellence and leadership.

Chris Holt

Youth Environmental Education Award

Clinton County Conservation Board and Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency

This award commends an outstanding EE program for or by youth.

Bohumil Shimek

Environmental Educator Award

Pamela Holz, Washington County Conservation Board, Naturalist

This award commends outstanding efforts by an environmental educator.

Ada Hayden

Conservation Education Award

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

This award commends outstanding efforts to educate about preservation, land management or natural resource conservation.

“Ding” Darling

Environmental Education Award

Polk County Conservation Board

This award commends an outstanding EE program or event for the general public.

Outstanding County Conservation Board

EE Program (> 35,000)

Linn County Conservation Board

This award commends excellence in a county conservation board's EE program for counties with a population of over 35,000.

Outstanding County Conservation Board

EE Program (< 35,000)

Buchanan County Conservation Board

This award commends excellence in a county conservation board's EE program for counties with a population of less than 35,000.

Service Learning Mini Grants Program

These grants are available to members seeking funds for nature based environmental education projects with emphasis in native prairie plantings. Funding for the Service Learning grants was provided by the Iowa Department of Transportation-Living Roadway Trust Fund.

This year's recipients include:

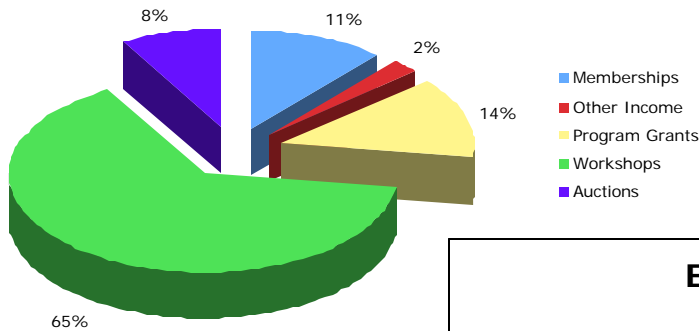
***Hawkeye Community College, Cedar Falls, Prairie Partnership - \$200**

The students of the Hawkeye Community College joined with the Black Hawk County Conservation Board in developing a prairie plant demonstration area.

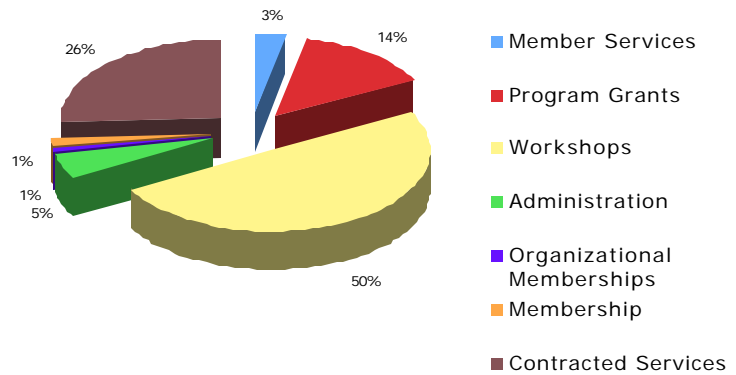
***Washington Intermediate, Red Oak, Kid's Art Garden - \$158**

The 4th & 5th graders of Washington Intermediate designed an art garden with native plants.

Income Summary



Expense Summary



BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
Starlighter's Fund	210.00
Chris Holt Scholarship Fund	3,070.98
Savings Acct #1009621	25,506.61
COD Account #20395	25,746.70
Iowa State Bank	1,970.29
American Express Financial	12,374.15
AXP Cash Management Fund	<u>2,152.15</u>
Total Checking/Savings	71,030.88
Accounts Receivable	129.50
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>129.50</u>
Total Current Assets	71,160.38

Other Assets

Prepaid Expenses-Contracted Services	1,500.00
Total Other Assets	<u>1,500.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	72,660.38

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Total Current Liabilities-Grant payments	<u>9,627.50</u>
Total Liabilities	9,627.50
Equity	
Retained Earnings	1,635.28
Opening Bal Equity	58,327.00
Net Income	<u>3,070.60</u>
Total Equity	<u>63,032.88</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	72,660.38



Hello, ICEC

By Heather Niec, ICEC's New Administrative Coordinator

I am so glad to be a part of the wonderful connections ICEC has to offer its many members.

Growing up in Eastern Iowa, my love for the outdoors was fueled by the many weekend camping adventures with my family. I guess you could say it really started when I was as young as 5. I was attending afternoon kindergarten. It was great spending time with my dad before school usually fishing. How many kids can say they would go fishing before school? I can't remember how many times I might have been late for school, but what a great excuse.

I attended the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls and majored in Natural History Interpretation which is just a fancy word for Environmental Education. Throughout my college experience I interned at very diverse places. I worked with the Jackson County Conservation Board in Maquoketa, the Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Cedar Falls and the Science Station and Mississippi Valley Girl Scouts in Cedar Rapids. All of these experiences helped me prepare for my future jobs in the conservation field.

Soon after graduation, I landed a job with the Cedar County Conservation Board where I spent a lot of time presenting programs. I loved my job as naturalist, teaching children and adults of all ages about the wilderness around them. There were many new programs I brought to Cedar County and missed this job I left in January of 2005. I had a baby girl in September of 2004 and my husband and I decided that it was in our best interest for me to be a stay-at-home mom for a while. Along with leaving, I gained a lot of free time.

Which brings me to ICEC, I am glad to be part of a group to help those in the environmental education field connect. I look forward to working with the members of ICEC as their new Administrative Coordinator.

2005 Governor's Conference on EE

by Richard Leopold, Executive Director, Iowa Environmental Council

Every five years since 1970 there has been a Governor's Conference on Environmental Education, focusing on the needs and value of environmental education (EE) in Iowa. On June 14th and 15th of this last summer, this conference took place as a "road show" at five sites that have significant environmental education stories to tell across Iowa. These were the Wolfe Nature Center (Red Oak), Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (Prairie City), Center for Energy and Environmental Education (Cedar Falls), Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center (Toddville), and the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium (Dubuque).



At each site local leadership coordinated booth displays of regional EE significance, and a series of presentations on EE topics. Focuses included many direct outcomes of EE such as strengthening youth education, expansion of community stewardship, and development of efficient and effective public EE opportunities. By the numbers total between the five sites, there were 15 presentations, over 90 booth displays, and over 350 participants including teachers, naturalists, legislators, media, and the general public.

Highlights of the two-day conference included the releasing of a Trumpeter Swan and Bald Eagle (not together!) at the Wolfe Nature Center and Governor Vilsack signing into law two important pieces of environmental legislation at Wickiup Hill concerning promoting renewable energy production and improving water quality.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the planning committee, the site coordinators who made this conference a success at the local level, and Governor Vilsack's office. Sponsorship for this conference came from REAP Conservation Education Program, the Living Roadway Trust Fund, Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination, the Iowa Environmental Council, and, of course, ICEC. See you at the next one in 2010!