



# IWINR NEWS

The Newsletter for members of Iowa Women In Natural Resources  
Volume 16, Number 1 August 2004

## Floating Around Iowa

A float trip down one of Iowa's beautiful rivers is a great way to get kids in tune with nature. Not only will they gain some valuable paddling and water skills, but they will also be able to explore places only accessible by the river flourishing with Iowa's natural resources and history.

There are many great rivers in Iowa that have much to offer paddlers at all levels of expertise. The Iowa DNR has published a Canoe and Stream Fishing Guide that is a great resource when planning a canoeing or kayaking trip. There are also many Outfitters along Iowa's rivers that offer rentals, shuttling services and some even have camping available.

One of the most popular rivers to canoe or kayak in Iowa is the Upper Iowa River which is rich in scenic beauty with its high bluffs and natural springs. Although the Upper Iowa is very popular don't let the popularity of a river fool you. There are many other rivers in Iowa that have a lot to offer. Whether you're a history buff or an avid birdwatcher there's something out there for everyone.



Being experienced on the river, and with pointers from many more experienced paddlers I have realized just how important it is to bring your own weather! You just never know when the weather might turn. Being prepared for any

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event could make a huge difference in your comfort level. Relax, enjoy, and let the river take you away!

### **Additional TIPS:**

Here is a list of some items you should consider as you pack for your trip:

- Waterproof pack or bag
- Bathing suit or other quick drying clothing
- Lightweight pants/skirt and a long sleeve shirt in case of sunburn
- Towel
- River shoes or sandals
- Hat or visor
- Raingear
- Sun stuff (waterproof) & bug spray
- Cooler for lunch and/or beverages
- Snacks (paddling makes you hungry!)
- Water bottle
- Camera and film (water protected)
- Canoe seat or pad to sit on
- Additional clothing depending on weather
- Instruments of water warfare (kids love these)

1. Water resistant is **NOT** the same thing as waterproof!
2. **NEVER** take glass on a river! Please take it out when you're removing garbage from the river but don't take it onto the water with you. Broken glass in a river is not appealing to human body parts.
3. Separate items in two or three different waterproof bags depending on whether or not you think you will need them. I put emergency items such as (a change of clothes, meds., first aid kit) in what I call my "Unhappy Bag". I strive not to have to open the "Unhappy Bag"!
4. **STOP** and enjoy the river and its surroundings. Unless you're in a race take time to explore what you're seeing. Just remember to respect private landowners and only explore public areas unless you ask permission first.

Floating Around Iowa was written by Deb Howe, Iowa DNR ATV Officer and IWINR Board Member

### ***A Letter From the IWINR President***

Hello All,

I'd like to wish you all a happy summer as the new president of Iowa Women in Natural Resources! I think this is a great organization to be a part of. I've only been a member of IWINR for about 3 years now but already, I've made many new friends and important career contacts. I've also been able to help other young women interested in the out of doors which is a very rewarding experience.

By the time this newsletter reaches your hands, Outdoor Journey will have already occurred. Now for those of you that do not know what Outdoor Journey for Girls is, let me explain. It's a three-day camp developed to help girls learn more about the out of doors. Sessions include archery, orienteering, camping



survival, fish id, etc. The girls leave for home with their hunter's safety certification, more knowledge of the outdoors, positive role models, and friendships with girls from all corners of the state.

As a chaperone, I know firsthand how life altering this camp can be for both the girls and adult chaperones and instructors. It's a great way to share your love of nature with a young woman who in turn can teach others to appreciate what we hold so dearly. If you would like to assist as a chaperone or instructor for the next year's camp, please contact me at [mdaniels@rivermuseum.com](mailto:mdaniels@rivermuseum.com). Have a wonderful summer!

## Fishing – Fun for Everyone!

It's summer in Iowa – the sun is out, the heat is high, the humidity is out of this world and the mosquitoes are the size of bats! Makes me want to go fishing! Yes you heard me right – fishing! A little sun screen and bug spray are all I need for an afternoon of catching monster-sized bass or dinner plated-sized bluegill in Iowa's many lakes and rivers.



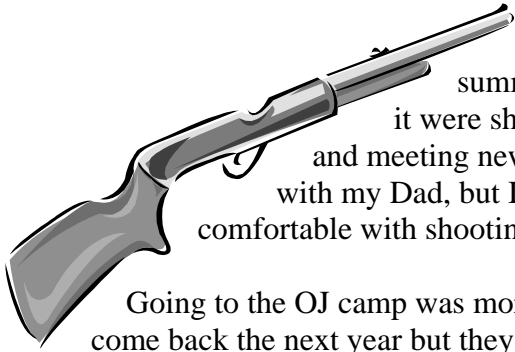
Every year, the first full weekend in June is Iowa's Free Fishing Weekend. It's a great way to introduce your friends and family to a great hobby – fishing. Fishing is a sport that can be done all year long relatively inexpensively: a borrowed pole, a dozen night crawlers, a bobber, sinker and a hook are all you need for a few hours of enjoyment. Bring along a few friends and you have a recipe for fun!

I have many wonderful childhood memories of fishing – both good and bad! I remember winning a contest for catching the largest rainbow trout (over 7 pounds I might add) and getting stranded out in the middle of the Mississippi River when our boat motor went out! To this day, one of my favorite meals is bluegills fried in my dad's secret batter!

These fishing experiences have helped to shape my life. Family, neighbors, friends and county conservation board naturalists all helped teach me about the outdoors when I was a child instilling in me an appreciation and respect for nature. I believe that is why I chose the career path I did – working in an aquarium and teaching our youth about nature's wonders. It is my goal to help children appreciate Mother Nature and all her beauty. It can be done simply through a fishing trip, hike or visit to a local park. These kids are our future. Spend a few hours with a kid and help them appreciate what we all hold so dearly!

Fishing – Fun for Everyone was written by Meggan Daniels, Museum Educator for the National Mississippi River Museum and IWINR President.

## Outdoor Journey Participant Shares Her Thoughts



I went to Outdoor Journey for Girls in the summer of 2002 when I was 14. My favorite parts of it were shooting at the targets and clay pigeons, canoeing, and meeting new people. Since then, I have gone deer hunting with my Dad, but I didn't get one. I shot at one, but I wasn't real comfortable with shooting the gun. I still had fun.

Going to the OJ camp was more fun than I thought it would be. I wanted to come back the next year but they said that I couldn't take it again. Maybe I'll come back when I'm old enough to chaperone.

*Andrea Boose  
Evansdale IA*

## Upcoming events and Oppourtunites:

### **The Power of Renewable Energy**

**August 25, Ankeny**

Professor David Osterberg will discuss the science of global climate change, the promise of renewable energy, and the need for policy change. He will describe the Midwest solar bike trip planned for September 2004 and share pictures from previous solar bike tours in Iowa and Northern Europe. For more information contact Brooke Norris at (319) 384-5485 or e-mailing [brooke-norris@uiowa.edu](mailto:brooke-norris@uiowa.edu).

### **“Wild Imagination” Exhibit at Neal Smith NWR**

**Through August 29**

The J.N. “Ding” Darling art gallery at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge will host “Wild Imagination” – a wildlife art show featuring a collection of breathtaking work created by noted South Dakota artist Russ Duerksen.



Each of the more than 50 pieces in the show is available for purchase, and a portion of the proceeds go to the Friends of the Prairie Learning Center. The Friends provide funding which supports environmental educational programming at the Refuge.

Local and regional wildlife artists are featured in the “Ding” Darling Gallery on two month rotation. The goal of the gallery is to use the arts to help promote conservation of wildlife habitats and species.

The gallery is open every day, from 9-4 Monday through Saturday, and from Noon to 5 on Sunday. For more information call Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge at (515) 994-3400 or check [www.tallgrass.org](http://www.tallgrass.org).



## **Polk County Water Quality Snapshot Results Presentation**

**September 8, Des Moines**

Review the results of the June 2nd Polk County Water Monitoring Snapshot. The meeting will be from 12:00 to 1:00 in Rooms 4E and 4W of the Wallace Building, 900 East Grand in Des Moines. Bring along any interested friends, co-workers, neighbors and colleagues because we will also be discussing plans for a repeat sampling of the Snapshot Sites on October 13th. Bring a sack a lunch and learn what

the June Snapshot found in Polk County's rivers and streams. In addition to a review and discussion of the monitoring results we would like feedback from the volunteers who participated in the spring event so that we can improve things when we go back out to repeat the snapshot sites in October. Contact Jacklyn Neely for more information at [jacklyn.neely@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:jacklyn.neely@dnr.state.ia.us).

## **Reserve Your Booth Space!**

**September 10-11, Des Moines**

Is your group represented at the 2004 Iowa Environmental Council's Annual Conference? Display space is available to showcase your organization! Visit our [www.earthweshare.org](http://www.earthweshare.org) for more information and to register.

## **I-Renew 2004 Energy Expo**

**September 11-12, Hiawatha**

I-Renew is pairing up again this year with Prairiewoods Fransiscan Spirituality Center in Hiawatha to present the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Renewable Energy Expo: "Renewables – Now!" The Expo is free and open to the public. Featured speaker this year is Dan Chiras, a leading authority on green building and renewable energy options for home construction.

Over 40 workshops for adults and activities geared specifically to children include photovoltaic system wiring, solar hot water and heating, wind energy installations around Iowa, strawbale home construction, affordable, energy efficient and superinsulated home construction. Other topics include living off the electric grid, and ways to make whole communities more energy efficient. Information on hybrid and biodiesel fueled cars will also be presented. Alliant Energy, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and grassroots organizations will present their perspectives and programs supporting renewable energy.

Workshops on the hour from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday, with the keynote speech at 1 pm. Sunday workshops run from 10:30 am to 4 pm. Children's activities available all day both days. Come learn what you can do to change our energy future! More information at [www.irenew.org](http://www.irenew.org) or by calling 563-432-6551.

## **HawkWatch at Effigy Mounds National Monument**

**September 25-26, Marquette**

An event for the whole family, starting at 8 a.m. Sat. with a Bird Walk, followed by introductory speech by Mark Ackelson of INHF. All activities open at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday 10-4. Activities include presentations with live hawks and owls, evocative displays and exhibits, a variety of children's activities including dissection of owl pellets, a HawkWatch store with many exciting items (proceeds go towards next year's presentations), and the release of trapped and banded birds of prey, enabling everyone to view raptors up-close and see them released again to the wild. In between, there is the opportunity to see raptors as they fly overhead, and to learn to identify them with the help of our experts. The entire event is free to the public. For further information, contact: Pat Heidenreich, 1-563-873-3736 or redstart@alpinecom.net. Check out the INHF website at [www.inhf.org](http://www.inhf.org). Call Effigy Mounds at 563-873-3491.



## **Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency Annual Conference**

**October 27, Des Moines**

The Iowa Energy Summit 2004, "Achieving New Heights of Energy Awareness" will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. The goal of the conference is to inform, educate, and motivate Iowans to continue to develop and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The keynote address will be delivered by Mr. Fred Yebra, P.E., M.B.A., Energy Services Unit Manager for the City of Austin, Texas. Mr. Yebra will be discussing the phenomenal success of Austin's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and the motivation of the community that led to this success. If your business or organization is interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Diana Hawkins at (515) 321-6766 or [dhawkins@iowaenergy.org](mailto:dhawkins@iowaenergy.org).

## **PCCB Volunteer Opportunities:**

**September 12: Pelican Festival**

This large festival is drawing near and we need to get our volunteers lined up (it takes a lot to pull off this event). PLEASE RSVP to Heidi Anderson at 323-5360 or [handers@co.polk.ia.us](mailto:handers@co.polk.ia.us) and let her know when you can help between the hours of 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**September 18: Prairie Seed Harvest at Chichaqua**

10 a.m. to noon

Help us gather remnant prairie and wetland seed for future plantings. RSVP to Kami Rankin at 323-5363 or [krankin@co.polk.ia.us](mailto:krankin@co.polk.ia.us).

**October 9: Fall Festival at Jester Park**

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

This annual festival continues to grow and we need volunteers to assist with games, crafts, etc. Contact Lewis Major at 323-5361 or [lmajor@co.polk.ia.us](mailto:lmajor@co.polk.ia.us) if you can help.

## **Iowa's Neotropical Birds Workshop**

Learn about the neotropical migrant birds of Iowa using the Solve the Crime: Save the Song of Spring materials and the Bird Trunks developed with REAP funding. Classroom teachers will team with Naturalists to explore the content background, issues involved, and actions to protect Iowa's neotropical migrant birds.

### *WORKSHOP LOCATIONS AND DATES:*

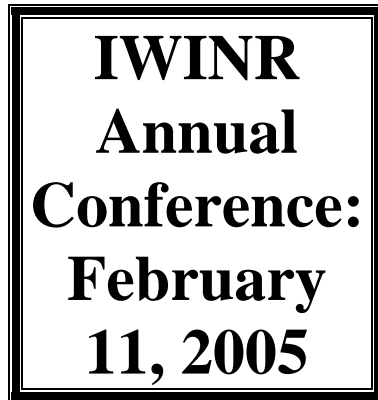
**Dubuque** - November 12-14, 2004 and January 28-29, 2005

**West Des Moines** - February 4-6, 2005 and April 8-9, 2005

To pre-register or obtain more information contact Dr. Carl W. Bollwinkel at 319-273-2783 or [bollwinkel@uni.edu](mailto:bollwinkel@uni.edu). Visit [www.uni.edu/ceee/eii](http://www.uni.edu/ceee/eii) for more information

## **Save the Date! IWINR Annual Conference**

Our Annual Conference will be held February 11, 2005 at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center in Hiawatha, Iowa. Contact Deb Howe at [Deborah.Howe@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Deborah.Howe@dnr.state.ia.us) or Karen Aulwes at [Karen.Aulwes@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Karen.Aulwes@dnr.state.ia.us) for more information.



## **On-going Opportunities:**

### **Iowans Encouraged to Report Ag Odors**

To assist rural Iowans in reporting agricultural related odors, the DNR is offering a toll-free number, **1-800-961-ODOR**, as part of an ongoing effort to better investigate rural air quality.

The DNR is conducting a rural odor study and responding to odor complaints from persons who live or conduct business near large animal confinement operations. During periods of heavy odor, Iowans can call 1-800-961-ODOR to report ag related odors from animal confinements, feeding operations or manure spreading. The odor study effort is in addition to monitoring select locations for ammonia and hydrogen sulfide levels.

After an odor complaint is received, a trained and certified inspector will collect odor concentration data. This data collection study can help decision makers, researchers and others foster recommendations on how to better control odors and determine if odor control regulations are needed. The toll-free reporting number and data collection is not an enforcement effort and no action will be taken against the odor source.

### **Leopold Center Seeks New Project Ideas in Marketing**

The Leopold Center has issued a request for pre-proposals (RFP) for research and education projects that will advance its marketing and food systems initiative. Interested researchers and educators associated with educational or nonprofit organizations in Iowa should submit a brief concept paper describing their project by August 24. The RFP targets research and education projects that test and create new

business structures which allow Iowa's small and midsize farmers to retain more of the value for food, fiber or energy produced according to high standards of environmental and community stewardship. The RFP is on the Leopold Center web site, [www.leopold.iastate.edu](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu). For questions, contact Rich Pirog at [rspirog@iastate.edu](mailto:rspirog@iastate.edu).

### **HP/Dell Offer PC Recycling Programs**

The world's two biggest PC manufacturers have dueling free computer recycling programs. From July 18 to Sept. 6, Hewlett-Packard will recycle, free of charge, any computer, monitor, digital camera, fax machine, cell phone, or other gadget dropped off at any Office Depot store -- one gadget per person per day. The crafty marketing folks at Dell will make it even easier by sending a truck to your home to pick up your old machine -- if you buy a new Dell PC. HP says their limited-time program will probably be extended in some form; Dell's is open-ended. Electronic devices are riddled with lead, arsenic, mercury, and other nasty chemicals that leach from landfills into groundwater or harm the overseas workers tasked with tearing widgets apart. So recycle 'em, would ya?



### **Rain Garden “Toolkits” Available**

Rain garden "toolkits" are available for homeowners, business owners, parks, and anyone else who might be interested in working on improving water quality. Funded by REAP/CEP, and in conjunction with the NRCS, and URBAN (Urban Resources & Borderland Alliance Network). Groups encouraged to attend include environmental groups and public works agencies that currently deal with water quality issues. All are invited to participate. Contact Laura Elliott at (515) 237-1453 if interested or for more information.

### **IDALS/ISU Receive EPA Grant**

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Iowa State University are the recipients of a \$1 million grant from the EPA Targeted Watersheds Grant Program. EPA administrator Mike Leavitt was in Des Moines on July 19 to make the national announcement of 14 grants nationwide. The Iowa project was featured in his remarks.

### **IWINR News is Going “Paperless”!!**

Starting in October IWINR News will be send out over email to all members who have email addresses listed in the IWINR directory (the others will receive the snail mail version). If the email address listed in our directory is outdated or you would rather receive a paper copy, please let Jackie know at [jacklyn.neely@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:jacklyn.neely@dnr.state.ia.us)!

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c/o: Jacklyn Neely  
3711 E 43<sup>rd</sup> Ct  
Des Moines, IA 50317

TO:

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**IWINR registration/Renewal Form:**

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Name

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Affiliation/Employer

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Address

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Phone (D)

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Phone (E)

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Email

Active \$15     Student \$10     Lifetime \$300     Sponsoring \$25 and up

Please clip out this form and send it and your check (payable to IWINR):  
Stephanie Penniston, Treasurer, 205 E. Fifth St., Tipton, IA 52772