

# Iowa Women in Natural Resources

## *Sustainability For the Future Presentations*

### **Dr. Laura Jackson**

Laura Jackson is Professor of Biology at the University of Northern Iowa where she coordinates a graduate program in Ecosystem Management. She received her bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College, and a Ph.D. in Ecology (minor in Agronomy) from Cornell University. Laura teaches courses in ecology and environmental studies and does research on the restoration of biological diversity in agricultural landscapes.. She served two terms on the State Preserves Advisory Board, and currently chairs the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Board. Laura is married to Kamyar Enshayan, and they are raising two daughters.

### **The sustainable Iowa landscape: resilience in the face of global change**

### **Andrea Geary**

The mission of this program is for residents of Black Hawk and surrounding counties to easily find locally grown fruits, vegetables, and agricultural products while encouraging residents to support farmers markets, family farms lockers, & businesses that serve or sell locally grown products. This has stimulated the economic vitality of the area.

### **Buy Fresh Buy Local**

### **Tracy Fahrion, Information Specialist, DNR**

Explore the evolution of static websites to community platforms which provide sharing, collaborating and enhancing a user's online experience.

### **Web 2.0: The Next Generation**

### **Rebecca Kauten, Urban Monitoring Coordinator, DNR**

Get a full-spectrum view on urban water quality monitoring: from watershed assessment to targeting "hot spots," BMP performance assurance and sustainable planning for water quality.

### **Water Quality Monitoring in the Built Environment**

### **Dan Channer, Struxture Architecture**

Learn the green building methods Peregrine Financial is incorporating in their new building site in rural Cedar Falls to earn LEED certification.

### **Sustainable Building**

### **Darice Baxter, Environmental Specialist, University of Iowa**

Darice will discuss the trials of environmental testing after the floodwaters left Iowa City. Rules and regulations were not the only roadblocks faced!

### **After the Flood**

### **Panel Discussion**

Students will hear from professionals in the field advice on a wide range of topics to assist them in getting the upper hand in their job search.

### **Where the Jobs Are!**

### **Tracy Fahrion, Information Specialist, DNR**

### **Ginger Walker, Cherokee County Conservation Board Director**

This will be a hands-on session that will provide a step by step process for publishing an online presence using basic HTML. This class will also include an introduction of various online blogging tools, community sites and content management systems (CMS). This session will include a demo of a Domain Direct web builder site used by Cherokee County Conservation Board.

### **Getting Online, Web Pages 101**

### **Liz Christiansen: Director of University of Iowa Sustainability Office**

In her new role, our former Deputy Director of the DNR will coordinate and develop programs to promote sustainability and resource conservation; lead or coordinate efforts to formulate institutional goals, policies, practices and measure progress; seek grants and other funding to financially support campus sustainability efforts; and work to enhance and enlarge the UI community's understanding of the importance and feasibility of sustainability initiatives from an ecological and financial perspective.

### **Closing Remarks**

# Iowa Women in Natural Resources

## *Biographies*

### **Dr. Laura Jackson**

### **The sustainable Iowa landscape: resilience in the face of global change**

Laura Jackson is Professor of Biology at the University of Northern Iowa where she coordinates a graduate program in Ecosystem Management. She received her bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College, and a Ph.D. in Ecology (minor in Agronomy) from Cornell University.

Laura teaches courses in ecology and environmental studies and does research on the restoration of biological diversity in agricultural landscapes. She is coeditor with Dana Jackson of *The Farm as Natural Habitat: Reconnecting Food Systems and Ecosystems* (2002) and has given many presentations on this topic to scientific, farm organizations and general audiences in the US and Australia. She served two terms on the State Preserves Advisory Board, and currently chairs the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Board. Laura is married to Kamyar Enshayan, and they are raising two daughters.

### **Andrea Geary**

### **Buy Fresh Buy Local**

Andrea is the Program Coordinator for the Northern Iowa Food & Farm Partnership (NIFFP), which is the food initiative at UNI's Center for Energy and Environmental Education. The NIFFP not only manages the Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign, but also promotes local food in a comprehensive manner in Black Hawk, Bremer, Benton, Butler, Buchanan, Grundy, and Tama Counties. They are currently focused on increasing the infrastructure for the distribution of local food, as well as continuing efforts toward marketing and education. She is a long-time local food enthusiast and advocate, and was owner/operator of a locally-sourcing bakery in a former life.

### **Tracy Fahrion, Information Specialist, DNR**

### **Web 2.0: The Next Generation**

Tracy Fahrion is an information specialist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and has managed their website, [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov), for the past 11 years. Fahrion is currently working with other state agencies to improve the State of Iowa's online presence by making individual sites more compatible with each other and also working towards setting statewide standards. She also enjoys geocaching, trap and skeet shooting and was thrilled to harvest her first deer recently.

### **Rebecca Kauten, Urban Monitoring Coordinator, DNR**

### **Water Quality Monitoring in the Built Environment**

Rebecca serves as the urban monitoring coordinator for the Iowa DNR Watershed Assessment and Monitoring Section. She works with organizations and individuals interested in gathering data from developed areas as it relates to impacts on water quality. Prior to her work with the Section, Rebecca managed a watershed project that experienced one of the most active implementation seasons on record for urban stormwater management. She has presented her work to the National Urban Affairs Association, National Watershed Coalition, the International and Great Rivers Chapters of the International Erosion Control Association, state and local stormwater management workshops and water quality conferences. Rebecca holds certification in stormwater pollution prevention plan design and erosion and sediment control inspection from the University of Minnesota Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Northern Iowa, and serves as board member for many conservation-related organizations.

### **Dan Channer, Structure Architecture**

### **Sustainable Building**

Dan Channer is a partner in Structure Architects from Waterloo, Iowa. Dan is responsible for programming, design, development, working drawings, and construction observation for the firm. Dan holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Iowa State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from the University of Nebraska. He has designed the Hawkeye Community College Library and Student Center and is currently working on a LEED certified building in Cedar Falls.

### **Darice Baxter, Environmental Specialist, University of Iowa**

### **After the Flood**

Darice serves as an Environmental Specialist for the University of Iowa and is an alumna from UI's Environmental Science & Geoscience program. She has a background in storm water compliance, asbestos, and indoor air quality control and maintenance. She also serves on the board of directors for IECA's Great Rivers Chapter and holds certifications as a Certified Inspector of Erosion and Sediment Control (CISEC) and Certified Professional in Sediment and Erosion Control – In Training (CPESC – IT). Darice is also certified in asbestos abatement practices, which include identification and testing of suspect materials known to contain asbestos and managing the subsequent abatement project.

Darice's primary job responsibility is to oversee storm water quality compliance at construction sites. As such, she is an integral part of the building process of all newly constructed buildings at the U of I. Each new building or remodeling project that disturbed one acre or more has been assessed by her. Darice pushes for storm water post-construction practices to be implemented and recommends best management practices utilized on individual sites. During the construction phase, she inspects each site weekly for compliance. She reviews and approves all storm water pollution prevention plans for the UI.

During and after the flooding of 2008, Darice served as a resource for not only reconstruction efforts, but health and safety concerns as facilities staffs were able to re-enter buildings and work on flood recovery. She will discuss what conditions were like as the waters rose, and how the University continues with the recovery and rebuilding process.

## **Panel Discussion**

## **Where the Jobs Are!**

**Joli Vollers: IDNR**

**Lori Eberhard: IDNR @ George Wyth State Park**

**Tracy Fahrion, Information Specialist, DNR & Ginger Walker, Cherokee County Cons. Board Director**      **Getting Online, Web Pages 101**

Tracy Fahrion is an information specialist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and has managed their website, [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov), for the past 11 years. Fahrion is currently working with other state agencies to improve the State of Iowa's online presence by making individual sites more compatible with each other and also working towards setting statewide standards. She also enjoys geocaching, trap and skeet shooting and was thrilled to harvest her first deer recently.

Ginger Walker has served as Director of the Cherokee County Conservation Board since April 2006 and as Naturalist since December 2004. Raised in southwestern Pennsylvania, she grew up enjoying the outdoors and earned a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University in 1996. A job with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service drew her to the Midwest, where prairie ecology has become her passion. As CCCB Director, she manages about 1200 acres of public land in the Little Sioux River watershed, balancing the management of wildlife habitat with the need for outdoor recreation and environmental education.

**Liz Christiansen: Director of University of Iowa Sustainability Office (Former DNR Deputy Director)**      **Closing Remarks**

In 1990, Liz began work for the East Central Iowa Council of Governments in Cedar Rapids as a solid waste planner. She helped cities and counties plan for and implement recycling, composting and environmental education activities. In the mid 1990's, Liz became the recycling/education coordinator for the Bluestem Solid Waste Agency and also served as spokesperson during the agency's landfill siting process. She went on to work for Linn County in the finance and budget department.

Governor Tom Vilsack appointed Liz to the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission in 1999. In 2000 she became the Administrator of the Land Quality and Waste Management Assistance Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. In 2002, Liz was appointed Deputy Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. As such, she is the chief of operations, serving roughly 1,100 employees, over one hundred field offices across the state and with an annual operations budget of around \$120 M.

In her new role, Liz will coordinate and develop programs to promote sustainability and resource conservation; lead or coordinate efforts to formulate institutional goals, policies, practices and measure progress; seek grants and other funding to financially support campus sustainability efforts; and work to enhance and enlarge the UI community's understanding of the importance and feasibility of sustainability initiatives from an ecological and financial perspective.