



April 2001

# Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps



Vol. 1, No. 2

## Fish and Wildlife Division

Welcomes **Christine Evans** and  
**Nathaniel Umphrey!**

Christine Evans is serving with the DNR in Allamakee, Clayton, and Winneshiek counties. Her responsibilities include gathering information about woodland habitat. She works with field inventory, which involves site visits and the classifications of woodland habitat by species, size, and age characteristics. This is called stand mapping. She then enters the information into an ArcView program, along with site descriptions.

Christine attended Texas Tech University and earned her degree in Wildlife/Fisheries Management with a minor in Biology. She has extensive experience working with wildlife studies. Recently Christine worked in New Mexico on an elk wintering ground study.

Spending time outdoors with her dog, Sidney, is what Christine enjoys most.

Nathaniel Umphrey is serving with the DNR and NRCS in Cedar County. He is a wildlife biology/burn specialist. Currently he is creating burn plans for landowners and enhancing land for wildlife quality by using burning regiments for native grasses. He will also work with the DNR private lands wildlife biologist. Nathaniel will also be involved with schools with outdoor classrooms.

Nathaniel is currently attending Coe College. He will graduate in May, earning his B.A. degrees in Biology and Environmental Science, with a minor in Chemistry.

During his free time, Nathaniel enjoys hunting, hiking, and fly-fishing.



## Waste Management Assistance Division

Greets **Ben Schlader** and  
**Elizabeth Frederick!**

Ben Schlader and Elizabeth Frederick are serving with the DNR as environmental educators at Springbrook conservation education center. A focus of their service is on natural resource interpretation with topics ranging from wildlife identification to waste management (i.e. recycling and composting). Ben and Elizabeth lead educational programs for groups visiting the education center. A majority of the groups are comprised of school aged children; however, some adult groups also visit during the year.

Ben received his AA degree in conservation from North Iowa Area Community College, and his BS degree in Animal Ecology, with a wildlife option, from Iowa State University.

He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking.

Elizabeth graduated with a degree in Agriculture Studies from Iowa State University. She then worked with Dallas County Conservation Department.

In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys hunting, hiking, horseback riding, skeet and trap shooting, and just about anything outdoors!

*Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.*

*-- Rachel Carson*

## Elk Rock Volunteer Day

Co-Editors: Erika McCroskey and Kathy Belden

Submitted by Todd Fritz

April 28, 2001 there will be a volunteer day held at the Elk Rock State Park equestrian campground from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Elk Rock is located off Highway 14, six miles north of Knoxville, IA. AmeriCorps/DNR will be working along with the Iowa Equestrian Council and various other volunteers to repair erosion problems on the riding trails, build hitching posts in the campground, prune tree branches on the riding trails, and most important spend a day with "mother nature". Items you may want to bring are; work gloves, shovel, pruning shears, and a lunch for the day. Please join us.

Any questions may be directed to Bill Ward, IEC at 641-724-3325 or Andrew Orlowski, AmeriCorps/DNR at 515-281-3134.

## Resource Management Crew Update



Submitted by Todd Fritz

..... Management Crew is gearing up for a summer of "getting things done". Crew leaders Andrew Orlowski and Todd Fritz will be working with twelve crew members across the state to help manage Iowa's natural resources. The group will be doing service from mid-May through mid-August, focusing on Lake McBride State Park in Solon, IA, Bedell State Park in the Lake Okoboji area, and Waubonsie State Park near Hamburg, IA. This year the crew will be traveling from site to site camping out and cooking over the fire every night. The duties of the group will be minimizing erosion problems on high impact hiking trails, restoration of native ecosystems, and assisting in recruiting and organizing

volunteers, and implementing AmeriCorps community service projects.

Kyle Ehlers will be on the road focusing primarily in the equestrian parks. Kyle is the Resource Management Crew's Posi-Trac technician. He will be bouncing from park to park working on erosion problems in the State Parks equestrian areas. The management crew and Kyle will be collaborating throughout the summer on larger scale projects.

## Volunteer Training

As the summer approaches, many of you will be working with volunteers. Some of our members recently learned more about volunteer management.

On April 2, volunteer recruitment training was held in Des Moines. Linda Terry, Erika McCroskey, Todd Fritz, V Pierce and Meggan Daniels represented the DNR at this statewide AmeriCorps training. Many topics were discussed including why volunteers are important, how volunteers are used, and how to recognize the work of those volunteering.

In order to be effective, an organization or agency must first decide on goals that will determine why volunteers are needed. Next there must be a plan, and a job design (or position description) for their work. The next step is recruiting and training volunteers for their particular position. And finally, effectively supervising and evaluating their work will determine the success of this partnership. And remember; always recognize volunteers for their work!

For more information, or specific ideas for effectively using volunteers, please contact Erika McCroskey at (515) 281-0806 or by e-mail at [Erika.McCroskey@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Erika.McCroskey@dnr.state.ia.us).



*Most people are on the world, not in it--have no conscious sympathy or relationship to anything about them--undiffused, separate, and rigidly alone like marbles of polished stone, touching, but separate.*

*--John Muir*

# Members Council Briefing

Submitted by Andrew Orlowski

The second meeting of the Members Council was held March 5, 2001 in Muscatine, Iowa. The council is still focusing on getting organized and starting a well thought out, structured, and lasting organization. The council by-laws were discussed and formulated and a representative from Iowa City was chosen to type up the official by-laws. They will include:

1. Statement of purpose—The Council's purpose is to address and resolve members' concerns and needs and to strengthen the spirit of AmeriCorps.
2. Members are referred to as representatives of the council.
3. Each representative will keep a notebook with all relevant materials and information so that future members will have a record of what has already been accomplished.
4. Each representative will receive one vote during majority decisions.
5. Kim See will serve as president until her term of service has been completed.

The group also discussed Youth Service Day, which is an attempt by AmeriCorps to demonstrate its appreciation of young volunteers. School children from across

the state will attend the event in order to be recognized for their volunteer service. Ideas for entertaining activities for the 1,000 to 2,000 children attending the event were discussed, and included games such as "Oh Deer", "Lap Sit", and "Trust Your Neighbor".

Finally, three AmeriCorps programs from across the state gave presentations on their achievements. One of the programs presenting was the Upper Iowa AmeriCorps, which has 10 members assisting in ten Head Start classrooms with children's daily activities. Another program that was represented was the "A Safe Place to Grow and Learn" program which has members providing service to improve school success by tutoring and organizing after-school programs. Also, the Ecosystem Management Team discussed their plans for the Prairie Rescue on Earth Day. This event's main objectives are to educate the people of Iowa about the problems involved with trying to rebuild Iowa's native prairie land. Along with the education will come the hard work of getting people's boots dirty as they remove invading brush, evaluate species composition, and prepare to make controlled burnings of the prairie remnants.

Many hurdles remain, but the Iowa AmeriCorps Members Council is steadily taking shape. However, the success of the Members Council depends heavily upon all members. That way any concerns or issues that AmeriCorps members have can be addressed and solved. If you have any issues or comments about the program that you would like to discuss, contact Erika McCroskey at (515) 281-0806 or [Erika.McCroskey@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Erika.McCroskey@dnr.state.ia.us) or contact Todd Fritz at (515) 281-3134 or [Todd.Fritz@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Todd.Fritz@dnr.state.ia.us)

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## Notes from the Editors:

Just a reminder to everyone--be PROUD to be AmeriCorps!!! We want to spread the word about the program and how great it is. So, when it comes to stating your job title or organization affiliation, go with AmeriCorps every time. We all are serving in cooperation with other organizations and programs, but we are *always* AmeriCorps members. For example, when I introduce myself, I say I am an AmeriCorps member serving in the Iowa DNR with the Volunteer Program and IOWATER.

Also—Congratulations to Anthony Hauptert and Corey Meyer!!! Both have accepted full time positions with the DNR. We hope your AmeriCorps experience assures success in your new positions!

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### Dates to Remember

April 21	Prairie Rescue Day (Earth Day)
April 25-26	IOWATER training at Springbrook for all Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps members
April 28	Elk Rock Volunteer Day
May 3	Youth Services Day
May 30-June 2	AmeriCorps training in the Loess Hills
June 4	Leadership Council meeting
August 6	Peer Exchange and Recognition Ceremony

If you know of any information that should be included in upcoming issues of this newsletter, including comments or suggestions, please contact: [Kathy.Belden@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Kathy.Belden@dnr.state.ia.us), or [Erika.McCroskey@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Erika.McCroskey@dnr.state.ia.us)

If you have any AmeriCorps questions, please contact: [Linda.Terry@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Linda.Terry@dnr.state.ia.us)



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