

Conservation Education Resources in Iowa

Aquatic Education Program
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
2014



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Accessibility

This information is available in alternative formats by contacting the DNR at 515/281-5145 (TTY users - contact Relay Iowa, 800/735-2942) or by writing the DNR at 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

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Federal Agencies

National Park Service – NPS

www.nps.gov

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The web site includes educator resources.

NPS SITES IN IOWA

Effigy Mounds National Monument

Harpers Ferry, IA

www.nps.gov/efmo

Hebert Hoover National Historical Site

West Branch, IA

www.nps.gov/heho

Natural Resource Conservation Service – NRCS

www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

The National Resource Conservation Service works through 100 field offices to provide technical assistance to landowners, farmers, communities, groups, and other agencies to help them protect the state's natural resources including soil, water, and wildlife habitat. Most offices have publications on soil and water conservation, habitat establishment, and more that can be requested in bulk for students. NRCS provides advice to farmers on soil conservation measures and cost-share incentives; soils information for public use; and watershed programs for urban and rural communities. NRCS oversees several programs that provide cost share and other incentives for conservation practices to protect or enhance natural resources on private land. Information is available on their web site. Resource Conservation and Development (RC & D) areas help communities improve their economic base through training, seed money, and guidance. NRCS works through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) overseen by locally elected boards.

Iowa League of Resource Conservation and Development Councils – RC&D

<http://iowaleaguercd.org/councils>

RC&D Councils are multi-county units. Direction and leadership comes from local citizens within the area. Specifically, an RC&D is a local project in which residents work together with other organizations in woodland management, alternative crop development, and other areas of local interest. There are 12 RC&D Councils in Iowa.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – COE

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT

Rock Island, IL

www.mvr.usace.army.mil

OMAHA DISTRICT

Omaha, NE

www.nwo.usace.army.mil

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT

Kansas City, MO

www.nwk.usace.army.mil

The Corps of Engineers is responsible for maintaining navigation on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and managing four flood control reservoirs – Coralville, Rathbun, Red Rock, and Saylorville Lakes. They maintain recreation areas for public use and provide public educational programs about protecting natural resources (e.g., eagle watches, camper programs, junior ranger programs). The Rock Island District encompasses approximately the eastern two-thirds of Iowa and publishes a quarterly

newsletter, the *Mississippi River Review*. The remainder of the state is under the jurisdiction of the Omaha and Kansas City Districts.

COE SITES IN IOWA

Note: Information about reservoirs and locks and dams is located on the websites for each of the Districts.

Coralville Iowa City, IA	Lake Rathbun Centerville, IA	Lake Red Rock Knoxville, IA	Saylorville Johnston, IA
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Mississippi River

- L&D #11, Dubuque, IA
- L&D #14, Pleasant Valley, IA
- L&D #15, Mississippi River Visitor Center, Rock Island, IL
- COE, Mississippi River Park Rangers, Thomson, IL
- L&D #16, Muscatine, IA

Missouri River

Omaha, NE Office

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – US EPA
Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)**

www.epa.gov/region07/

EPA’s mission is to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment — air, water, and land. EPA works with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes to develop and enforce environmental regulations. EPA researches and sets national standards for environmental programs and delegates to states and tribes responsibility to issue permits, and monitor and enforce compliance. The Agency also administers voluntary pollution prevention programs and energy conservation efforts. Several educational resources are available on their web site.

USDA Forest Service – USFS

www.fs.fed.us/r9/

The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. It is the largest forestry research organization in the world and provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forestry agencies. Region Nine’s web page provides an eastern region fall color report, roadless area maps, wildlife, fish, and rare plant updates, and lists of recreational opportunities and events in National Forests. Naturewatch lists nature viewing opportunities, encourages safe and sound viewing ethics, and helps local communities’ economics. (<http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/>)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – USFWS

www.fws.gov/midwest/

USFWS is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation’s fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefits of people. Major responsibilities include: migratory birds, endangered species, certain marine mammals, and freshwater and anadromous fish. The USFWS manages six national wildlife refuges totaling 109,843 acres in Iowa. Over 1 million people visit refuges each year to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs, and view wildlife.

REFUGES IN IOWA

Desoto National Wildlife Refuge

Missouri Valley, IA

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/>

Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge / Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Macgregor, IA

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/driftless_area/

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper_mississippi_river/

Iowa Wetland Management District / Union Slough

Titonka, IA

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/iowa_wmd/

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/union_slough/

Neal Smith national Wildlife Refuge

Prairie City, IA

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/neal_smith/

Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge

Wapello, IA

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/port_louisa/

U.S. Geological Survey – USGS

www.usgs.gov

The USGS stands as the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior. The USGS focuses on four major areas: natural hazards, resources, the environment, and information and data management. USGS provides a host of informational and educational resources available through their web site.

IOWA WATER CENTER

Iowa City, IA

<http://ia.water.usgs.gov/>

COOPERATIVE FISH & WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT

Ames, IA

www.cfwru.iastate.edu

State Agencies

Iowa Department of Education – DE

www.educateiowa.gov

The Department of Education has information about conservation education opportunities on their website.

Area Education Agencies – AEA

<http://www.iowaaea.org/>

The state's education system also includes nine Area Education Agencies (AEA's) that loan materials and provide training opportunities to educators. The contact for conservation education in most AEA's is the science consultant.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – DNR

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Education.aspx>

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is responsible for ensuring the proper management and protection of Iowa's natural resources while actively encouraging public use and enjoyment of these resources in a manner consistent with sound management principles. DNR provides public assistance and educational materials and programs, and is involved in environmental regulation and enforcement. DNR produces many publications including a bi-monthly magazine, the *Iowa Outdoors*.

Public Universities

Iowa State University

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

www.extension.iastate.edu

ISU Extension provides outreach in agriculture and natural resources, business and industry, communities, families, youth, and extended and continuing education. Contact your county office, or visit their web site for a complete listing of available publications. ISU Extension and Iowa Association of Naturalists have published several series of informational booklets for educators.

LEOPOLD CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

www.leopold.iastate.edu

The Center offers conferences, workshops, tours, and youth camps. Some examples include: Iowa Master Conservationist Program, networking opportunities for Iowans involved in food systems and value added projects, Center-sponsored investigators, and presentations at educational in-service training sessions, conferences, field days, and other events.

University of Iowa

HYGIENIC LABORATORY

www.shl.uiowa.edu/

The Environmental Health Program performs diverse sample testing of everything from air to wastewater, including clinical specimens, fish, foods, soil and sediment, and water.

DIVISION OF RECREATIONAL SERVICES

www.recserv.uiowa.edu

The University's Division of Recreational Services offers environmental education programs, maintains a raptor rehabilitation and education center, and has facilities for outdoor activities at the University of Iowa Macbride Nature Area.

University of Northern Iowa

CENTER FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION – CEEE

www.uni.edu/ceee/

The Center for Energy and Environmental Education promotes actions at the local level that have global implications. CEEE's work focuses on energy use, land use, materials use, and consumption and population growth.

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE – IAS; IOWA SCIENCE TEACHERS SECTION – ISTS

www.iacad.org/

ISTS is the largest membership component of the Iowa Academy of Science. It advocates for excellence in Science Education by promoting professionalism, influencing policy, and enhancing learning. ISTS holds an annual fall conference to disseminate new teaching techniques and resources. IAS sponsors *Project WET* – water related activities for all grade levels. Its web page has downloadable activities and science links.

County Conservation Boards – CCB

www.mycountyparks.com

County conservation boards own and manage public areas (museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, forests, wildlife, and other conservation areas) in their counties. Many of these areas are good field trip destinations. CCB naturalists often assist with school programs and/or help locate other volunteers. Every Iowa county has a CCB.

Conservation Organizations

Bass Angler Sportsman Society – B.A.S.S.

www.iabass.com

B.A.S.S. has more than 2,800 clubs nationwide dedicated to the future of bass fishing. They promote catch-and-release, encourage community involvement, lobby, introduce youth to fishing, and conduct tournament creel census reports.

Bass Federation – Student Angler Federation

<http://www.highschoolfishing.org/>

SAF promotes the formation of fishing clubs and outdoor activities within schools. A byproduct of SAF efforts is the creation of competitive fishing in club tournaments and events between neighboring schools.

Conservation Districts of Iowa – CDI

www.cdiowa.org

Soil and water conservation districts are legal subdivisions of state government managed by a board of five elected commissioners. Commissioners carry out state and federal laws and programs. They also serve as local sponsors for watershed projects, resource and development areas, and soil surveys. The National Association of Conservation Districts publishes materials for educators on soil and water conservation.

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. – DU

www.ducks.org

Ducks Unlimited's mission is to fulfill the annual life cycle needs of North American waterfowl by protecting, enhancing, restoring, and managing important wetlands and associated uplands. Since 1937, DU has raised money for conservation of prime wildlife habitat in all fifty states, each of the Canadian provinces, and key areas of Mexico. Downloadable materials are on their web site.

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association – HFFA

www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com

HFFA is a non-profit organization of Iowa anglers and conservationists dedicated to promoting fly-fishing and associated activities. HFFA is an affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), an organization devoted to promoting all types of fly-fishing and protecting fly-fishing waters and their inhabitants. HFFA has worked on trout stream improvements in northeast Iowa, publishes a newsletter, and sponsors events around the state each year including introductory fly-fishing and fly tying clinics.

Iowa Association of Naturalists – IAN

www.iowanaturalists.org/

The Iowa Association of Naturalists promotes the development of skills and education within the art of interpreting natural and cultural resources in Iowa. IAN publishes a newsletter, *The Web*, educator information, and a *Guide to Environmental Education and Interpretive Services in Iowa*, and sponsors a junior naturalist program and continuing education workshops.

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition – ICEC

www.iowaee.org/

ICEC strives to ensure a healthy environment in Iowa by improving environmental literacy. ICEC promotes innovative educational methods and strategies; develops diverse partnerships; facilitates networking; provides access to information, research and trends; and embraces a balanced perspective on environmental issues.

Iowa Environmental Council – IEC

www.iaenvironment.org/

The Iowa Environmental Council is an alliance of diverse organizations and individuals working together to protect Iowa's natural environment.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation – INHF

www.inhf.org

INHF builds partnerships and educates Iowans to protect, preserve, and enhance Iowa's natural resources for future generations. Several educational publications are available online.

Iowa Ornithologist Union – IOU

www.iowabirds.org

The Iowa Ornithologist Union is a nonprofit group organized to promote enjoyment and study of birds.

Iowa Prairie Network – IPN

www.iowaprairienetwork.org

The Iowa Prairie Network sponsors guided hikes, work projects, and education programs designed to learn about, teach, enjoy, and protect Iowa's prairie heritage. It provides technical advice on prairie management and prairie preservation methods and technical publications.

Izaak Walton League of America, Iowa Division – IWLA

<http://iowaikes.org/>

A nonprofit conservation organization formed nationally in 1922, the Ikes are dedicated to protecting the air, land, and water resources. Priority issues include water quality, manure management, and energy issues. Check for a local chapter in your area.

Loess Hills Alliance

www.loesshillsalliance.com/

The Loess Hills Alliance provides grassroots, broad-based representation for land use management and stewardship in the Loess Hills region. The Alliance communicates, cooperates, and coordinates conservation efforts in the Loess Hills.

National Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

The National Arbor Day Foundation is the world's largest tree-planting organization. It provides more than 8 million trees for planting throughout America each year. Their web site has many ideas for celebrating Arbor Day and youth education materials are available.

National Audubon Society (Iowa Audubon)

www.audubon.org

The National Audubon Society's goal is to restore ecosystems so other birds and wildlife can flourish and enrich the diversity of life on Earth.

National Wild Turkey Federation – NWTF

www.nwtf.com

NWTF is a grassroots, non-profit organization with 390,000 members in 50 states, Canada, and 11 foreign countries. It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private, and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport. NWTF helps sponsor many educational events around the state.

National Wildlife Federation – NWF

www.nwf.org

The National Wildlife Federation is a grassroots, non-profit organization founded in 1936 by editorial cartoonist J.N. "Ding" Darling. NWF's main goal is to encourage people of all ages to conserve and protect the environment. Hands-on nature programs, educator resources, activities, and lesson plans are available.

Nature Conservancy, Iowa Chapter

www.tnc.org/iowa

The Nature Conservancy is an international, nonprofit environmental organization committed to the protection of biodiversity. Its mission is to preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Pheasants Forever – PF

www.pheasantsforever.org

Pheasants Forever is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protection and enhancement of pheasant and other upland wildlife populations through habitat improvement, public awareness and education, and land management that benefits farmers and wildlife. Most Iowa counties have chapters and local contacts.

Practical Farmers of Iowa – PFI

www.practicalfarmers.org

Practical Farmers of America promotes the interests of Iowa farmers by encouraging, sponsoring, and conducting research and educational activities designed to improve land productivity and enrich the health, environment, and economic well-being of farm families.

Saving Our Avian Resources – S.O.A.R

www.soarraptors.org/index.html

SOAR is a non-profit organization that supports wildlife rehabilitation and education in western Iowa.

Trees Forever

www.treesforever.org

Trees Forever's mission is to facilitate planting and care of trees and conservation and restoration of forests through action-oriented programs, education, and public awareness.

Trout Unlimited – TU

www.tu.org

TU is a national organization with more than 150,000 members in about 400 chapters supported by about 30 offices across the country. TU is at the forefront of fisheries restoration work at the local, state and national levels.

Whitetails Unlimited – WTU

www.whitetailsunlimited.com

Whitetails Unlimited is a national conservation organization dedicated to the betterment of the whitetail deer and its environment. WTU supports educational programs, habitat conservation, and preservation of the hunting tradition.