

Summer 2008

Iowa Academy of Science: The New Bulletin, v04n2, Summer 2008

Iowa Academy of Science

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Iowa Academy of Science

The New Bulletin

Volume 4 Number 2 Summer 2008 Electronic Version



The Iowa Academy of Science is established to further scientific research and its dissemination, education in the sciences, public understanding of science, and recognition of excellence in these endeavors.

Message from the Executive Director

Hello from the Iowa Academy of Science. Many Iowans have been affected by the recent widespread flooding and severe weather that has afflicted the state. Lives and property have been lost yet residents have been drawn together to overcome the hardships. If you have been directly impacted by recent events we hope you are on the way to recovery.

The 120th IAS Annual Meeting was held at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids with over 360 people in attendance. A well deserved thank you goes to our members and everyone at Kirkwood who worked to make the meeting a success. If you were unable to attend we hope to see you at the 121st meeting which will be held at Des Moines University, April 17-18, 2009.

The Academy has been adding new members. IAS members who have asked colleagues and institutions to join the Academy should stand up and take a bow. You are the most effective representatives for the Academy. Please contact us for copies of the IAS promotional brochures. Personally hand a brochure to a prospective member and encourage them to join.

The new IAS National Wildlife Refuge Audio Series website is online. This site was developed by the IAS through a grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Go to www.scienceiniowa.org/nwr to check it out. This site meets an important part of the IAS mission to promote the public understanding of science.

The IAS Speaker Series continues at the Saylorville Visitor Center. Please visit our webpage at www.iacad.org for more information.

Please read this Bulletin for more information on what is happening with the Iowa Academy of Science. If you have comments or suggestions for the Academy please contact the IAS office.

—Craig Johnson, Executive Director

REAP-CEP Funds Iowa Project WET

The Iowa Academy of Science has received a REAP-CEP grant of \$24,850 to offer Project WET workshops to 360 new preservice educators and to partner with Ducks Unlimited to offer a pilot wetlands workshop to 20-30 inservice elementary teachers. The Iowa Academy of Science has been offering Project WET workshops since 1999. For more information email Marcy at Seavey@uni.edu.



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Invitation to the 2008 Iowa Science Teachers' Section Fall Conference

As conference chair for the 2008 ISTS fall conference I would like to personally invite you to join us for this year's conference "Science Our Past and Future." Our keynote speaker is Charles Darwin as portrayed by storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis, in honor of the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth. The conference is Thursday, October 23, 2008 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines, with additional opportunities Wednesday evening. The conference will give you an opportunity to meet and network with Iowa's science educators.

I would also like to invite you to give a presentation at the conference. It is difficult to keep current with your field of interest when you teach. This conference gives Iowa's science teachers a chance to do that and your presentations will help. The presenter forms are available at <http://ists.pls.uni.edu/>

We hope to see you there.
Traci Maxted

ISTS Fall Conference Kicks off at the Science Center of Iowa

The 2008 ISTS Conference will begin on Wednesday evening with an Open House for Iowa educators and conference attendees at the Science Center of Iowa. A ticket to the Open House will entitle you a behind the scenes look at the Science Center of Iowa including access to all the exhibits, IMAX, special education programs designed for teachers, refreshments and the ISTS Section Chair Reception. This event is specifically designed for Iowa Educators (K-12 teachers, non-formal educators, professors) and is not open to the public.

Educational programming will take place throughout the building with presenters available to answer questions about the particular area and the programming SCI can offer:

- Star Theater – planetarium
- John Deer Adventure Theater – location of live science theater presentations
- Observation Deck – telescopes will be made available that evening for stargazing** (weather permitting)
- Iowa Learning Center Commons – SCI Discovery Labs – laptops and interactives will be laid out in the ILC commons to show a variety of examples for the SCI discovery labs

Join in an evening of science fun and collegial conversations! Registration for the reception is \$15 and can be purchased with your conference registration (<http://ists.pls.uni.edu/>) or at the door.

Have you recently moved or changed your phone number, email or other contact information?



Keep your Academy membership records up to date by contacting Toni at: iascience@uni.edu

Or log into the IAS Member's Only Website (www.iacad.org) and update your profile yourself from any web browser!



Science: *Our Past and Future*

Iowa Science Teachers Section of the Iowa
Academy of Science
Fall Conference October 23, 2008

You are invited to attend the
2008 Iowa Science Teachers Section
of the Iowa Academy of Science
Fall Conference

With a special appearance
by luncheon speaker,
Charles Darwin
(as portrayed by Brian Ellis)

Who: All Iowa Science Educators
When: Thursday, October 23, 2008
Where: Polk County Convention Complex, Des Moines
*with opening reception at the Iowa Science Center
on Wednesday evening!*

To register and for more information visit:
<http://ists.pls.uni.edu/>





Thanks to a Preserve America Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the hard work, knowledge and skills of several Iowa Academy of Science members (see credits box), the Iowa Academy of Science is fulfilling our mission's objective—enhancing public understanding of science in a whole new way. Iowans can now listen to Iowa scientists and science teachers describe the wonders of our state's ecology, geology and conservation history while learning about our National Wildlife Refuges.

The audio series can be experienced online or can be burned onto a CD or mp3 player and taken out into the field. The files range in level from elementary to advanced, providing a little something for everyone. Teachers and parents can provide their students with an enhanced experience by linking to the website activities. Included activities, some developed for this series and others selected from our partners, encourage Iowa youth to experience the natural wonders of Iowa and to begin to think and act like scientists.

Please take some time to visit this new academy website and comment on what you see. Then consider volunteering your own expertise for the Academy's next public understanding of science project.

Series Host

Rod Philp

Authors/Narrators

Desoto National Wildlife Refuge

De Anna Tibben & William R. Clark

Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge

Lynn Brant & Chad Heinzl

Iowa Wetland Management District

Carol Boyce & Marcy Seavey

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

Tom Fenton, Jim Pease & Kathy McKee

Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge

Jan S. Wielert, Neil Bernstein & Matt McAndrew

Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge

Mark L. Anderson, Rick Lampe & Jane Shuttleworth

Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge

Theresa Theis, Jim Pease & Carol Schutte

Project Directors

Marcy Seavey

David O'Shields

**Listen to the
Iowa Academy
of
Science
National Wildlife Refuge
Audio Series
on the web at:**

www.scienceiniowa.org

Listen, Visit, Learn!

*Bison and Egret photo courtesy USFWS, Des Moines Lobe Wetlands Photo
Courtesy NRCS.*

2008 Iowa Academy of Science Speakers Series Visitor Center, Saylorville Reservoir

All presentations begin at 7:00pm, are free and open to the public.

September 13 -

Some of Iowa's Awesome Plants and Their Nifty Adaptations

Tom Rosburg, Associate Professor of Biology, Drake University

October 18 -

Sea Turtles of Georgia; Perspective from the Prairies of Iowa

Gale Bishop, Emeritus Professor of Geology, Georgia Southern University

For more information contact: Saylorville Lake Visitor Center (515) 964-0672

Kaitlynn Hood Awarded ESTA for Elementary Science Education

Kaitlyn Hood is an elementary teacher at Perkin's Academy in Des Moines and a graduate of Drake University. She works with the Science Center of Iowa and Drake promoting inquiry science in the elementary classroom. In the Science and Children article *Inquiring Minds Do Want to Know* (Feb, 2007, co-authored with Dr. Gerlovich) she describes an inquiry-based lesson as teaching "more than just about concepts. It gives students a process



to use when they encounter other problems in and out of the classroom." In his nominating letter, Dr Gerlovich describes Kaitlyn as "one of those rare individuals who possess the skills to succeed in many fields. Thank goodness she has selected education where she can have a positive influence on the next generation of citizens". The Iowa Academy of Science Awards and Recognition Committee could not agree more and awarded Kaitlyn the 2008 Excellence in Science Teaching Award for Elementary Education. Pictured above, Kaitlyn is presented her award by her former elementary science methods instructor and Iowa Academy of Science member, Jack Gerlovich.

Nominate a great science teacher you know for an ESTA Award. Visit the IAS website at: <http://www.iacad.org/recognize.html#esta>

Scrapbook 2007-2008



ISTS Fall Conference Keynote Speaker, Andrew Chaikin with ISTS Section Conference Chair, Gail Vermeulen at the ISTS Luncheon, photo by Tom Ervin



2008 Iowa Junior Academy of Science Participants at IAS Annual Meeting, Photo by C. Johnson



*AM Poster Session
Photo by C. Johnson*



IAS Annual Meeting Picnic Presentation with Laura Krouse, Photo by C. Johnson.

Chemistry Fans
Photos by C. Johnson (top) & M. Seavey (bottom)



Iowa Natural Heritage Association Workshop at the IAS Annual Meeting, Photo by C. Johnson.



Pictured to the right, Academy member, David Speckhard and Loras College President, James E Collins are presented with Loras College's Iowa Academy of Science Institutional Member Plaque.



GLOBE, Project WET and America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie events, Photos by M. Seavey.



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