



# The Environmental Advocate

J A N U A R Y - F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 3

## I-CALL: A New Tool for Natural Resources Advocacy

Excerpted from *Iowa Environment Quarterly*,  
the Newsletter of the Iowa Environmental Council

**What is it?** The Iowa Conservation Advocates' and Leaders' Link (I-CALL) is a communications tool for advocacy and leadership on environmental issues. Managed by the Iowa Environmental Council



(IEC) the list is used to automatically create and distribute timely, targeted, issue-specific messages to volunteers.

**How does it work?** Here is an example. An important bill is up for a vote in a committee of the Iowa Senate. Members of the Council's Legislative Roundtable know several legislators are unsure how they'll vote. I-CALL volunteers in the home district of these "fence-sitters" receive information about the issue and the upcoming vote. These volunteers contact their state senator—with a letter, e-mail, or phone call—to advocate for Iowa's environment. Following the vote, I-CALL volunteers are informed of the outcome—and how their senator voted.

Bills and committee votes are not the only times when a coordinated conservation voice is needed. I-CALL may also encourage adoption of specific regulations by the DNR by facilitating pro-conservation public comments. I-CALL might deliver a strong message at public hearings or other events.

**Why will it work?** Volunteers make it work. This is an active system for natural resources advocacy on key issues. It's not a newsletter, and it's not for watchers. It's a tool for doers to make environmental concerns heard. Too often, the conservation voice arrives too fragmented, or too late or too diffuse to be most effective. I-CALL delivers the public voice to the right people, at the right time, with a powerful pro-conservation message. I-CALL makes such action convenient, and it reflects the best of Iowa as a common sense, nonpartisan, reasoned and thoughtful approach to vital and important conservation issues.

**What can I do to help?** First, become an I-CALL Volunteer. Visit [www.iowacall.org](http://www.iowacall.org), call 515-309-3152, or e-mail [ICALL@iowacall.org](mailto:ICALL@iowacall.org). Second, recruit others you think should know about I-CALL. The IEC has a goal of recruiting 2000 volunteers for the I-CALL list.

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Iowa City, IA 52244

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 8  
2:00 pm, Iowa City Public Library,  
Meeting Room B

[Eating Our Way to a Better Future](#)  
A presentation by Carol Hunt, local food systems coordinator with the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District.

## EA Needs You

As an all-volunteer organization, EA relies heavily on its board to organize activities and events, produce the newsletter, maintain the website, and bring enthusiasm and new ideas to the organization. We currently need at least one more board member to join us. Anyone who is interested in environmental issues is encouraged to attend a board meeting.

For more information, please contact Becky Soglin at 351-6410 or email [bsoglin@earthlink.net](mailto:bsoglin@earthlink.net).

## about this newsletter...

The *Environmental Advocate* is the newsletter of Environmental Advocates, P.O. Box 1831, Iowa City, IA 52244. An elected board of directors sets policy and oversees the organization's activities.

EA welcomes letters and submissions to the newsletter. However, we reserve the right to reject or edit any submission; articles represent the views of the authors and not necessarily those of EA. If you would like to contribute, contact Sarah Walz, newsletter editor, at 466-0908 or by e-mail at [sarah-walz@uiowa.edu](mailto:sarah-walz@uiowa.edu).

E-mail submissions should have all text included within the body of the message; no attachments, please.

## EA Awards Grant to Longfellow Elementary

At its December meeting, the EA board voted to award a \$150 grant to Longfellow Elementary for books that will support its environmental education program.

Ten years ago science teachers at Longfellow Elementary along with interested students created an environmental “strand” to enhance the science curriculum already in place. The program supplements the core science curriculum from kindergarten through sixth grade and is now maintained by Longfellow teachers, parents, students, and the area volunteers—it is not funded by the school district.

The environmental education program has constructed a butterfly garden and bird habitat on the school grounds, conducts annual field trips to Lake MacBride’s School of the Wild, and brings guest speakers into classrooms to discuss environmental topics ranging from waste reduction to soil geology and prairie restoration.

Longfellow students support the Raptor Center and help with the annual Ralston Creek clean-up effort in the Longfellow Neighborhood.

Last year, Iowa state revenues were down 2%. Most state agencies faced across-the-board cuts of 4.7%. In a last minute scramble to “fix” the budget, the total slashed from environmental programs was 27%!

Over the last 3 years, the state of Iowa has lost 42% of environmental funding!

—from the Iowa Environmental Council website

# Annual Report 2002

## Environmental Advocates—Programs and Activities

Again this year we want to thank our EA members and Iowa Shares supporters for making it possible for EA to sponsor a number of educational programs and provide support for innovative environmental projects in 2002.

Here is a report of our 2002 accomplishments:

### February:

EA donates \$1000 to support Friends of Hickory Hill Park’s Land Enhancement and Acquisition Fund (FHHP-LEAF).

EA cosponsors a League of Women Voters Forum with state senators Joe Bolkcom and Robert Dvorsky and representatives Ro Foege, Vicki Lensing, Mary Mascher, and Dick Myers.

EA cosponsors “Public Power for Conservationists,” a presentation on the public power initiative for Iowa City.

EA and Iowa Wetlands in Need (IWIN) host a presentation and discussion of proposed legislation and activities aimed at protecting Iowa’s threatened isolated wetlands at the state and local levels.

### March:

EA provides \$1000 to support Concerned Citizens for Sand Prairie Preservation in their effort to save a rare prairie sand dune that is threatened by development. The prairie site is home to ornate box turtles.

EA awards a \$500 grant to the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District’s effort to develop a food education program aimed at fostering support for locally produced foods. EA funds contribute to a matching grant set by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

EA awards a \$400 grant to Iowa Wetlands in Need (IWIN) to cover travel costs to a national isolated wetlands conference in Washington, DC.

EA provides \$100 in support to the Iowa United Nations Association for college and university students in the state to participate in the “Sustainable Futures for Iowa Program.”

### April:

EA hosts its annual meeting and potluck. Mary Stevenson of Prairie Edge Nursery gives a presentation entitled “Growing Your Own Prairie: How to Have a Sample of an Iowa Prairie in Your Own Back Yard.”

### May:

EA cosponsors a presentation and discussion entitled “Garbage: What to Do with It” to review Iowa City’s recycling program and Mt. Vernon’s pay-as-you-throw program.

### June:

EA sponsors a presentation entitled “Yards for Kids: Significantly Reducing the Use of Lawn Chemicals in Our Community” with Dr. Kaymar Enshayan. EA provides \$100 to support the Green Bike Tour headed by David Osterberg and Joe Bolkcom. The tour travelled to northern Europe to investigate alternative energy strategies and sustainable cities.

### July:

EA hosts a tour of the Iowa City Recycling Center and Hazardous Waste Facility.

### September:

EA cosponsors the Hickory Hill Park Community Conservation Symposium. The event explores environmental management of Hickory Hill Park and alternative development patterns that preserve open space.

### October:

EA cosponsors a presentation on the Green Bike Tour by David Osterberg and Joe Bolkcom.

### November:

EA hosts a tour of Iowa City’s new wastewater treatment facility.

### December:

EA awards a \$150 grant to Longfellow Elementary School’s environmental education program.

# EA Accepting Grant Applications

## Deadline: March 1

Environmental Advocates (EA) is accepting applications for its spring 2003 grants program. Proposed projects should show clear environmental benefits to the Johnson County area through either action or education. Projects should also support EA's overall mission of making our local environment cleaner, safer and more life-sustaining.

Priority will be given to one-time grants; applications for yearly support for continuing projects are discouraged. Priority also will be given to persons who are members of Environmental Advocates. Approximately \$750 in grants will be awarded, with a maximum award of \$500 for any one project. Applications are due March 1. See accompanying article for descriptions of recent projects that received EA grants.

If funds are provided, recipients must recognize Environmental Advocates in promotional materials or announcements related to the project and send a copy to EA. In addition, recipients will be asked to provide an article for the EA newsletter, or make a presentation for the public, describing how the funds were used or, if appropriate, allowing the public to participate in some aspect of the project.

To apply, please submit a short application (less than 2 pages) with the basic information requested in item 1 and section headings addressing areas 2-7 listed below. Please keep applications to two pages. You may also include photos/illustrations, if needed; however, such items will not be returned.

1. Contact's name; organization/group's name; contact's and/or group's mailing address, phone number and email address
2. Are you or a member of your organization an EA member?
3. Describe your organization's overall mission/goals (if applicable).
4. Describe goals for this project.
5. Describe the environmental benefits to the Johnson County area for your project.
6. Please provide a brief outline of your budget/how you intend to spend the grant money.
7. List other contributors/cooperators and the amount provided by those organizations (list in-kind contributions if applicable).

Send applications to:

Environmental Advocates  
PO Box 1831  
Iowa City IA 52244

For more information, contact Jennifer, grants coordinator, at 624-3954 or [jandsohara@juno.com](mailto:jandsohara@juno.com), or visit the EA web site at <http://www.jccn.iowa-city.ia.us/~envadvoc/> for a copy of the application form.



## Remembering Kate Klaus

Iowa City lost a great environmentalist with the death of Kate Klaus in November. Kate was a dedicated and passionate lover of trees. She co-founded the Heritage Trees of Iowa City and the Nancy Seiberling Heritage Grove at the north entrance of Hickory Hill Park. The grove of native oaks, hickories, and other species will be appreciated for generations to come.

The goal of the Seiberling Grove is to restore the area to white oak savanna and to replenish the aging forest of Hickory Hill Park. The young native trees that you see at the upper entrance to the park (off North Dodge) were planted and cared for with weekly watering and mulching—much of which was done by Kate and any volunteers she could round up during hot and humid summer evenings.

Kate's love of trees extended beyond the park with her work to document heritage trees throughout Iowa City, including trees in her Goosetown neighborhood.

Our deep sympathy goes out to her husband Carl and her many friends. She will be missed. Memorial donations may be made to Heritage Trees of Iowa City, c/o The Civic Center, Iowa City, Iowa. A memorial service will be held in the spring at the Nancy Seiberling Heritage Grove.



**Environmental Advocates**

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## Support Iowa Shares

Iowa Shares is a coalition of 18 social and environmental nonprofit organizations working to build better communities through research, education, advocacy and direct service. Environmental Advocates, Women's Resource & Action Center and United Nations Association are three local organizations addressing community problems at their roots.



Payroll deduction is available through the University of Iowa and Iowa City Community Schools. Donors can give cash or checks. Contact: Del Holland, 338-5220 or Jean Martin 351-6391 for further information.



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Environmental Advocates February Event

## Eating Our Way to a Better Future

Saturday, February 8, 2003

2 p.m. • Iowa City Public Library • Meeting Room A

Learn how you can “vote” with your food dollar by supporting local sustainable food production. Carol Hunt, local food systems coordinator for the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District, will discuss where to find locally produced foods (including Community Supported Agriculture) and the benefits of local food production for our community and our environment.

This presentation will include a demonstration of how to use locally grown foods even in the dead of winter. Tasty samples will be available to the audience. This event is sponsored Environmental Advocates and is open to the public.