



Indian Creek NATURE CENTER

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Nature Center Friends,

During my year as president of the board of directors the Nature Center was impacted by the two largest catastrophes in its history: the June flood (*see photos, right*) and autumn's financial fallout. Even with tremendous physical flood damage and financial strain the Center had an outstanding year. Despite the flood, most summer activities continued. The organization hosted more than 17,000 people for fun and informative programs. We found nearly a half-million dollars to protect 28 wooded acres along Otis Road. Despite the dropping stock market, friends and donors made record contributions late in the year, and the organization finished the fiscal year in the black. Major challenges remain. There's plenty of flood damage yet to repair, and the stressed economy will not spare our Nature Center, but 2008's hurdles proved that the organization's staff and volunteers are resilient, creative, hardworking, and dedicated to serving people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Kathy Horan

Kathy Horan, *President*
2008 Board of Directors

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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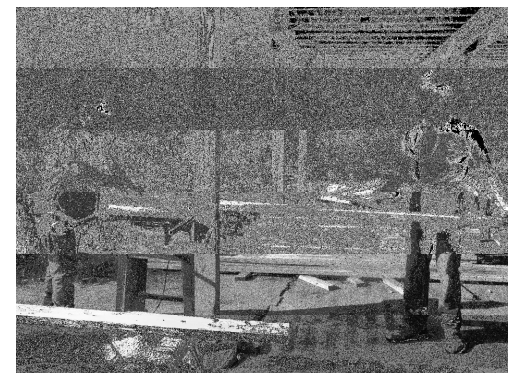
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June: Director Rich Patterson with canoe, near the back door of the Nature Center barn



Second Photo: Sodden items ready to be hauled away. Third Photo: Volunteers Merle Ries (left) and Lester Sendeki prepare wood for restoration work



December: Thanks to the hard work and support of many the barn's ground level was ready to host shoppers for Nature's Noel

FINANCIAL POSITION, ENDOWMENTS

2008 Operating Financial Summary

INCOME

Programs	\$58,200
Guild	31,716
Sales	20,342
Contributions	125,330
Grants	50,000
Endowment Distributions	67,232
Memberships	34,520
Memorial gifts	3,879
Miscellaneous	10,273
TOTAL	\$401,492

EXPENSES

Programs	\$5,491
Guild	14,431
Sales	14,273
Personnel	278,188
Facilities	14,731
Administrative	16,836
Fundraising	2,188
Miscellaneous	753
TOTAL	\$346,891

NOTES: (1) The figures above exclude restricted income and expenses.

(2) Nature Center finances are audited annually by Koppenhaver & Associates, PC.

(3) Because the Nature Center has spent years building its endowment and is vigilant at keeping expenses low, the financial health of the organization in this challenging time is solid, if not robust.

Thank you to those donors who gave to the Indian Creek Nature Center via a Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation fund. Friends who donated to the new Land Perpetual Care Endowment Fund are listed on page 7. Those who donated to other endowment funds include:

ICNC Charitable Trust Endowment Fund

Roger Heidt · Elizabeth Hladky · William McCracken Estate · Steve & Susan Ovel · Lorie Reins-Schweer · Rockwell Collins · Rohde Family Charitable Foundation · Bob Rush & Judith Whetstine · Jim & Sara Sauter · Karen Zazza

Paul Christiansen Memorial Fund David & Ginger Hansen · Richard Martin & Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Alex Strait Memorial Fund

See page 6, under "Alex Strait (GCRCF Fund)."

The **Indian Creek Nature Center Charitable Trust** is an endowed fund managed by The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, with oversight by the ICNC Board of Trustees. As of Dec. 31, 2008 those assets totaled approximately \$961,000. Annual disbursements support Nature Center operations. Numerous other funds have been set up at the GCRCF for ICNC's benefit. These funds are included below.

In 2008 the Nature Center gratefully accepted support from the following funds of The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (GCRCF).

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(Continued on page 4)

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Indian Creek Nature Center
operations are partially supported by
a Hotel-Motel Tax Fund grant from
the City of Cedar Rapids.

The ICNC staff is privileged to
work with the **Indian Creek
Nature Center Guild**, a
volunteer group that hosts two
major fundraising events
annually. This spirited, dedicated
crew provides critical operational
support to the Nature Center.
Many thanks to all Guild members!

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...and numerous in-kind donors

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(Continued on page 6)

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**Also, gifts given to honor Nancy
Patterson for her birthday (see left).*

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Half acre (\$6,500+)

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**DONORS WHO GAVE TO THE PURCHASE AND
PRESERVATION OF VĚČNÝ WOODS AND/OR TO
THE ICNC LAND CARE ENDOWMENT FUND**

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Additional Partners

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City of Cedar Rapids
Greater Cedar Rapids Community
Foundation
Iowa Resource Enhancement and
Protection (REAP) awarded a
grant totaling \$236,472 to help
fund the land's purchase.
Linn County Conservation Board
Cynthia Thompson-Adhikari
Marty & Diane Wiesenfeld

VOLUNTEERS, MISSION STATEMENT, STAFF

Hundreds of volunteers donate thousands of hours each year at the Indian Creek Nature Center. The Nature Center staff is most thankful for their support, enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work. In fact, volunteers are the key ingredient of the Nature Center's success. Volunteers do a wide variety of tasks, including: building trails, assisting with events, leading school programs, building cabinets, restoring land, removing non-native plant species, providing clerical support, and serving on our Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and organizational committees. Without volunteers the Nature Center would not be the "special place for wildlife, plants and people" that it is today.

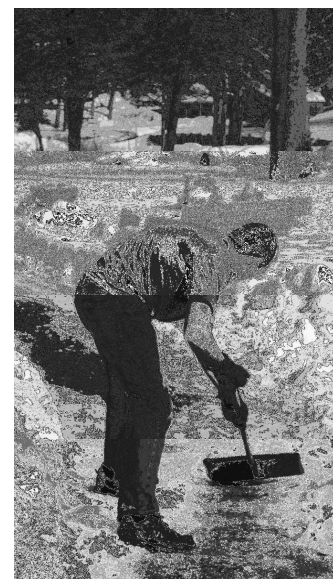
Indian Creek Nature Center's purpose is to promote a sustainable future by:

-  nurturing individuals through environmental education;
-  providing leadership in land protection and restoration; and,
-  encouraging responsible interaction with nature.



Walter W. "Bill" Schneider, one of the Nature Center's most dedicated and long-term supporters, received the 2008 Founders' Award. When accepting the award he provided a fascinating account of the formation and early days of the Nature Center.

(Pictured above, l-r: Char Pence, Bill Schneider, Stan Reinis, Jean O'Donnell, BB Stamats. 1974.)



Congratulations to our 2008 jack-in-the-pulpit award recipients: Mary Christensen and David Lammers!

Mary is pictured in one of the many hats she wears as an ICNC volunteer. David is shown in typical fashion, working hard with no outerwear on (in winter).

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER STAFF

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Nancy Lackner, Development Assistant
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Rich Riehl, Facility Caretaker
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