



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Nature Center Friends,

Look into Nature and you will know everything better. (Albert Einstein)

Indian Creek Nature Center founders BB Stamats and Jean O'Donnell understood this and in 1973 acted by creating Iowa's only private nonprofit nature center. Today woodlands, wetlands and prairies are home to many species of plants and wildlife that you, I, and our children can access seven days a week not far from home.

Four decades of community volunteers, Guild members, trust and board members; individual, family and business donors and a seriously dedicated and educated staff have understood and safeguarded a mutual belief that nothing can replace our interaction with nature.

Nature inspires most human invention, provides beauty and inspires art, and provides spiritual reprieve from everyday stress. Yet, for many of us, our immersion in nature has nearly been lost. When is the last time your child or grandchild watched a frog, tromped through a field while observing birds and butterflies, or helped turn maple sap into sweet, delicious syrup?

With exposure to nature one gains a better understanding of how it can give and also replenish itself when protected and respected. Time at the Nature Center can develop a respect for natural food sources; for instance, children can watch how bees toil long and hard to make honey.

When my presidential duties took me to the Center, its purpose and mission greeted my senses as I simply walked from my car to the 1932 barn which still houses Nature Center programs and



Lisa Ramlo at Věčný Woods

(Continued on page 8)

FINANCIAL POSITION, ENDOWMENTS

2010 OPERATING FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME	
Programs	\$68,748
Guild	39,980
Sales	25,964
Contributions	124,994
Grants	48,000
Endowment Distributions	59,668
Memberships	32,460
Memorial gifts	2,375
Miscellaneous	34,706
TOTAL	\$436,895

EXPENSES	
Programs	\$7,282
Guild	19,455
Sales	15,753
Personnel	313,201
Facilities	21,360
Administrative	22,001
Fundraising	1,754
Miscellaneous	52,858
TOTAL	\$453,664

NOTES:

- (1) The *unaudited* 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 continues to be solid, if not robust.

Thank you to those donors who gave to the Indian Creek Nature Center via a Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (GCRCF) fund. Contributors include:

ICNC CHARITABLE TRUST ENDOWMENT FUND

Roger Heidt · Peggy & Jim Meek · Estate of Marie Nischwitz · Christine Powers · Rockwell Collins Matching Gift Program

GLADYS BOCK CHILDREN'S FUND

Tuesday Study Club

HARRIET & ROBERT ECKARD NATURE FUND

Estate of Robert A. Eckard

NORM & FLOY ERICKSON ENDOWED FUND

Alliant Energy Foundation · Norman Erickson

ICNC FOUNDERS' FUND *See Memorial Gifts, page 7.*

DOROTHEA GARBERSON WILDFLOWER PROJECT FUND

Richard & Nancy Garberson

LAND PERPETUAL CARE ENDOWMENT FUND

Steve & Kay Dummermuth

LYNCH/SCHULZ ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Janet & Steven Hamous · Jim Schulz

CARL & DORIS MCCLAIN FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL

RESTORATION Pat & Don Boland: *See Memorial Gifts, page 7.*

METRO HIGH CHILDREN'S TRAIL FUND

Dann Grindeman Mft, Inc · State Farm Insurance Foundation/Metro High School

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, 2010, Charitable Trust assets exceeded \$1.22 million. Annual disbursements support Nature Center operations. ICNC also received 2010 support via other GCRCF funds, listed below.

In 2010 the Nature Center gratefully accepted support from the following funds of The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Robert W. & Elizabeth M. Allsop Fund · Bena Homestead Endowment Fund* · Blahnik/Garden Club Speakership Fund · Bloomhall Family Donor Advised Fund · Gladys Bock Children's Fund · Steven & Joanne Carfrae Fund · Paul Christiansen Memorial Fund · Clancey Family Fund · Norm & Floy Erickson Endowed Fund · Dorothea Garberson Wildflower Project Fund · Dean & Laura Gesme Family Fund · ICNC Charitable Trust Endowment Fund* · ICNC Founders' Fund* · ICNC Land Perpetual Care Endowment Fund* · Kolln Family Endowed Fund · David & Chris Kubicek Endowed Fund · Roger & Thea Leslie Endowed Fund IV · Lynch/Schulz Environmental Fund · Carl & Doris McClain Fund for Ecological Restoration · Jo & Larry McGrath Endowed Fund · The Momentum Fund · Ron & Sue Neil Endowed Fund · William B. Quarton Fund · Doug & Pat Sedlacek Donor Advised Fund · Jay G. Sigmund Fund · Lynne Stimple Memorial Trail Fund · Alex Strait Memorial Fund · Helen Troxel/Ella Johnson Miller Fund

* also received a distribution from the equivalent Friends Fund

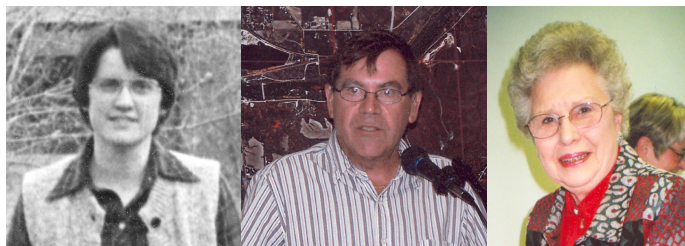
HIGHLIGHTS, VOLUNTEERS, STAFF

VOLUNTEER TRIBUTE

The Nature Center staff is most grateful for the support, enthusiasm, dedication and hard work of the hundreds of friends who volunteer each year. Volunteers are the key ingredient of the Center's success. They build trails, assist with events and programs, build cabinets, restore land, remove non-native plant species, and serve on boards and organizational committees. Without volunteers the Nature Center would not be the special place for wildlife, plants and people that it is today.

The ICNC staff is proud to work side-by-side with the **INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER GUILD**, a volunteer group that hosts two major fundraising events annually. This spirited, dedicated crew provides critical financial assistance to the Nature Center. Plus they're just plain fun! *THANK YOU to our many inspiring Guild members for all you do.*

Founders' Awards presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting in January 2010 went to three long-serving ICNC enthusiasts: **JOYCE FLEMING** (below, left, from an undated file photo), **DAVE KUBICEK** (below,



middle, speaking at a 2003 ICNC event) and **NORMA NEWMEISTER** (above, right, in 2005).

Former ICNC board presidents **BOB ANDERSON** (below, as a teacher-naturalist in the 1970s) and **LARRY MCGRATH** (right, speaking at the Center's 20th Anniversary event in 1993) received Founders' Awards in



gratitude for their exemplary service to ICNC for more than thirty years. Also honored at the 2010 Annual Meeting were Jack in the Pulpit Award recipients **JERRY CHAPMAN**, **KATHY HALL**, **DAVID HUOVINEN** and **LARRY UNASH**.



There's always something fascinating going on at ICNC! You'll see more of these girls—photographed in Fall 2010—and their friends on the Center's sparkly "new" website (www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org).



*Ownership of the **GRANDON PROPERTY** was formally transferred to the Nature Center in 2010. Most of the acreage will remain in forest reserve.*

Part-time Naturalist **DAVID BRENZEL** and Marketing Coordinator **SUSAN GORDON** joined the Nature Center staff in early 2010. David's flexible schedule and capabilities allow him to fill in when he's most needed. David also serves as the Center's Summer Nature Camp director. Susan gets the word out about ICNC happenings to Eastern Iowa and beyond. She also fills in at the front desk. "I'm not a very outdoorsy person," admits Susan, "but I believe I'm exactly the type of person the Nature Center needs to attract. I want to lure more 'indoor' people outdoors. There are so many great things going on out here that anyone and everyone can enjoy. It's my job to make sure people know about them."

OPERATIONS DONORS

Indian Creek Nature Center operations are partially supported by a **HOTEL-MOTEL TAX FUND** grant from the **CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS**.

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Lonnie Stein
Sally Stephenson & Kevin Collins
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To **OUR MANY MEMBERS:** thank you
for believing in ICNC!

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BUSINESS & ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS & GRANTS

= IN-KIND

@ = IN-KIND & OPERATIONS

+ = GREATER C.R. COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION (GCRCF) FUND

"FAMILIES IN NATURE"

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Alliant Energy Foundation
Altorfer Inc. Fund+
Andreas Foundation
City of Cedar Rapids Hotel-Motel
Tax Fund
Crescent-Janko Masonic Foundation
CRST International Fund+
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International Paper-Cedar River Mill
ITC Midwest
Linn County Supervisors Witwer
Trust
Rockwell Collins
United Fire Group
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BERYL WEEKLEY spent many years as a teacher-naturalist at ICNC. She loved the kids and spending time here.

IN HONOR OF...

JOYCE FLEMING

Steven & Janet Schroeder

BEV GRINDEMAN-ADAMS

Dann Grindeman

SHEILA HAHN

Steve Streff

VIRGINIA HORAN

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Daniel & Rebecca Zange

Joann & Fred Zehr

Mark & Tracy Zimmerman

Dawn Zimpfer

MISSION, RESTRICTED & IN-KIND GIFTS & GRANTS

(Board President's Letter, continued from page 1)

staff. I enjoyed the sound of laughing children with no media playing in the background. While taking in the smell of thawing ground I marveled at the amount of sap produced by each tree, often while listening to the beautiful sound of many birds. The mission is apparent as pride gleams from the Eagle Scouts and many Metro High School students who completed or worked on projects.

Accomplishments of the Nature Center in 2010 were:

1) Enhanced social media communications. 2) Transitioned ownership of a wonderful tract of land gifted by Carleen Grandon. The nearly 30 acres of ecologically significant land has been protected and will be prepared for public access. Some of the less ecologically healthy acres may be repurposed for commercial use, positioning the Nature Center for long-term success through endowment growth. 3) As we moved away from the immediacy of post-flood recovery we embarked on a planning and visioning process as staff and the board completed a consult through the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA). The visioning process will continue through 2011 to address long-term needs: to move facilities to higher ground, expand programming, grow the endowment, and establish facility expansion goals. 4) Lastly, the Nature Center embarked on an initiative to educate and engage the public on controlling private land water runoff. This effort included installing permeable paving, selling rain barrels and hosting workshops.

The most lasting impact during my term as board president came from Rich Patterson and the Nature Center staff. I and many others—members and casual visitors alike—enjoy the fruits of their hard labor of love of nature. The dedication of these folks transcends the usual; the fiscal success of the Nature Center follows. Thank you to all who have made contributions to sustain this important corridor treasure, where nature immersion is just a few minutes away from our busy, technology-invaded lives.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ramlo

President, 2010 Board of Directors

*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.

RESTRICTED GIFTS & GRANTS

Allan Custom Homes
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Alliant Energy Foundation
Andreas Foundation
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Bloomhall Family
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