

Central Iowa SIERRA CLUB SIERRAN



Winter 2012/2013

Central Iowa Group Newsletter

Annual Fall Fund-Raiser

By Ginger Soelberg

Thanks to all who supported the Silent Auction, our fall fund-raiser. When you support the Central Iowa Sierra Group, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own back yard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wildness and wildlife, to improve air and water quality, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. With generous donations and enthusiastic bidding, over \$1200 was raised. Proceeds from past auctions have supported many environmental projects, such as nature camperships for inner-city youngsters, river cleanups, and the protection of natural areas.

To our members who donated food, created art work, and contributed other auction items, thanks! Your support is appreciated.



Thanks to all the folks who supported our annual auction by donating and bidding on the many great items.



Please express your thanks as you patronize the following businesses and other organizations that donated to our Silent Auction:

Active Endeavors
Campbell's Nutrition Center
Grounds for Celebration
Woodland Bed and Breakfast Marshalltown
Back Country Outfitters
Big Sky Bread Co.
Sportsman's Warehouse
Isabel Bloom
Polk County Conservation Board
Sarah's Hallmark
Johnston Ace Hardware
Papa John's Pizza
The Learning Post
Larry Stone, author and photographer
Prairie Point Book Store,
Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge
Starbuck's Coffee
Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que
Panera Bread Bakery-Cafe
Des Moines Symphony

Des Moines Art Center
Earl May Garden Center
Rich's Brew, Johnston
Bandit Burrito
Great Harvest Bread Co.
Cold Stone Creamery
Texas Roadhouse
Olympic Flame Restaurant
Miyabi 9 Restaurant
Green Goods
For the Home
Boesen the Florist
Dallas County Conservation Board
Turtle Farm Community Supported Agriculture
Raccoon River Valley Trail Assn.
Katy Politch Massage
offINNAZONWERLD
Zumi
Bike World
La Mie Bakery and Restaurant
Buzzard Billy's
Alba Restaurant
Reiman Gardens
Friedrich's Coffee
Louie's Wine Dive
Des Moines Community Playhouse

Dr. Jim Pease Challenges Sierra Club to "Get Kids Into The Wild"

by Jim Riggs

Dr. Jim Pease, WOI talk show host and retired Iowa State University professor of biology challenged Des Moines Sierra Club members to protect Iowa's wild areas and to get our children out into them.

Children love the natural world. Dr. Pease said, "Parks provide places for children to play, explore, and imagine." He emphasized the importance of kids' having experiences with the natural world while they grow will into adults who appreciate and support parks and natural areas as being important to their lives on this Earth.

Most of us have acquired a conservation ethic that encourages everyone to leave natural areas as we find them and leave only tracks. Pease suggested that perhaps that is a partially misguided tradition. Kids love to collect. They love leaves, rocks, and fossils. He mentioned the Rockford Quarry and their policy of encouraging children to take a few of the wonderful fossils home with them. Children who hike, camp, fish, hunt, and wander in wild places tend to become adults who are willing to fund those kinds of areas with their taxes.

Before WWII, Iowa spent a significant portion of its budget on natural areas. Today, our spending is only a small fraction of the budget. Each year our state parks receive about five million dollars of state money to fund their operations. Meanwhile, they produce revenues of about seven million dollars--money that goes directly into the state's coffers rather than the parks themselves. This system of funding leaves park managers with little incentive to maintain our parks in good condition--other than the wish to do a quality job.

Dr. Pease cautioned us that some of our political candidates would love to privatize our parks and that that

would be a dangerous precedent. He suggested that we be vigilant in watching for efforts to transfer the ownership of our parks to private hands. Communities are learning that access to parks is an important part of people's quality of life and that parks and open areas attract business.

He talked of a traditional walk with his grandchildren under the full moon, an event that was a pleasure for him and a special memory for the youngsters. *Walk When the Moon Is Full* by Fran Hamerstrom is a book that he recommended as readable and worthwhile for nature lovers.

Dr. Pease closed on a positive note by reminding us that two years ago 62% of Iowans voted for the Water and Land Legacy Amendment to the Iowa Constitution. This amendment requires that the next time the Iowa Legislature passes an increase in the sales tax, of three-eighths of one percent will go into the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund which will provide constant funding for Iowa parks and natural resources. Iowans do care about their natural resources.

Many of us left the meeting thinking about youngsters whom we should and could expose to the out-of-doors. We are people who love nature, and it is our responsibility to see that nature is there for future generations to enjoy.



Dr. Jim Pease, keynote speaker at Silent Auction.

Central Iowa Group at Iowa Outdoor Expo

The Iowa DNR and the local chapter of the Izaak Walton League held their annual Outdoor Expo on September 22 and 23 at Water Works Park in Des Moines. The Expo is held every year to expose families and children to outdoor recreation opportunities. Karen Tigges and Debbie Neustadt

represented the Central Iowa Group and Iowa Chapter with displays about our outdoor activities and conservation programs. They also handed out temporary tattoos depicting the Sierra Club hiker, which appealed to the current and future hikers among the participants.

Ray Harden: Central Iowa Member Profile

Ray Harden has been a dedicated supporter of Iowa's environment for many years. This February, he'll be the speaker for our monthly meeting. He and his wife have traveled the planet observing areas of both beauty and concern. His talk will center on our nearby wilderness, the Boundary Waters.

Ray has also been involved with conservation education and service for a long time. After teaching science in public school for 38 years, he taught environmental science at DMACC, and William Penn University. Ray was elected to serve as a Soil and Water Conservation Commissioner for Dallas County three times. The Dallas County supervisors appointed him for two five-year terms. Ray is a past board member of the Iowa Conservation Education Council and a member of that organization for over 23 years. Being a member of this group allowed him to serve on the

Governor's Environmental Education Policy Committee under Governors Branstad and Vilsack.

Ray received the Governor's Volunteer Award for his many years of teaching Hunter Safety Education to high school students. He has also served as a volunteer youth leader for Iowa 4-H and Dallas County Conservation, taking students on outdoor camping adventures to Idaho, Wyoming, and Minnesota.

Ray currently serves on the Executive Board of the Raccoon River Watershed Association and is a member of the Sierra Club, Des Moines Audubon Society, and Iowa

Natural Heritage Foundation.

He has written an environmental/outdoor column for the Perry Chief, since 2001, and the articles have been printed in the Dallas County Record for the past three years.

Ray and his wife Margaret have traveled to many foreign countries and have done environmental studies in four Central American countries: Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Belize. They have also volunteered for extensive environmental work projects in Arizona, Hawaii, and Iowa.

Ray has lived in Perry for 44 years and has been married to Margaret for 50 years; they have three grown children and three grandchildren.

Words of Praise for Jo Hudson

By Karen Tigges

After many years of volunteering with the Central Iowa Group, Jo Hudson has decided to step down from her formal position with the Group Executive Committee. To honor her service, the Ex Com will present Jo with a Central Iowa Sierra Group Certificate of Appreciation.

The Certificate of Appreciation reads:

Johanna Hudson is recognized by the Central Iowa Sierra Group for her passion and her tireless work in conservation and habitat restoration in central Iowa, and for her service with the Central Iowa Group Executive Committee. In her many years with the Club, Jo has served as Conservation Chair, Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor, and Outings Leader. She is particularly recognized for her efforts in organizing garlic mustard "pulls" in Greenwood and Ashworth Parks, Brown's Woods and Walnut Woods State Park. For her dedication to the environment and engaging others in the cause, Jo Hudson is awarded this Certificate of Appreciation.

When asked for their input, several members came forth with praise for Jo. "I've always admired Jo Hudson for her diligence to garlic mustard removal and her love and appreciation for the great outdoors. I've been on hikes she led. I was amazed at the trips she took alone to explore nature and its splendor. She spent lots of time organizing and sending out notifications. . . . I'm glad you are recognizing her for her dedication." . . . Etta George

"One of my most striking memories of Jo is seeing her do a 6-day, very strenuous backpacking trip in the Wind

River Range of the Wyoming Rockies when she was 69 years old!" . . . Doug Aupperle

"I remember her crawling around the new Neal Smith Preserve to check on the water quality. I won't say how old she was then, but I was impressed with her agility." . . . Phyllis Goodman

Jo is perhaps best known for her dogged determination to rid local forests of invasive garlic mustard. For those efforts, she was given the Iowa Chapter's Grassroots Activist Award in 2002. Here's the nomination text:

A few years ago, Jo Hudson decided that someone needed to take the Garlic Mustard issue on, and take it on she has. For at least three years, Jo has organized Garlic Mustard "pulls". She has organized a number of one-day events with dozens of people attending and she has been willing to make arrangements with individuals to join them at their convenience. Jo recognizes the threat that Garlic Mustard presents for our few forested wild areas in Central Iowa, and she is trying to keep these forests from being lost to the mustard invasion.

The work goes on from May through June, with Jo spending hours and hours filling bags with Garlic Mustard, and running into poison ivy several times a month. Along the way, she has tried to educate city officials and convince them of the true threat of this invasive plant, and of why we should care.

Thanks to Jo's efforts, the woods are blooming with more wildflowers and less garlic mustard.

SC Hikes – Getting Out in the Off Season

By Greg Vitale

Even after five years in the area, I wanted to know more about the public lands along the Skunk River in Story County. Then an Ames area paddler, one of the Skunk River Paddlers, floated by. I thought that this would be a chance for me to get out, get a bit of exercise in the "off season" and explore the Skunk River Greenbelt corridor in another way.

These hikes were modeled after John Washburn's hikes in the Des Moines metro area. John routinely does RAGBRAI, often with challenged youth whom he spends the summer getting into shape. John also paddles. Like many of us, he loves the outdoors and so he set up hikes in his "off season." By 2005, John had been coordinating informal fall and winter hikes in the Des Moines metro area for several years.

This seemed like a great idea, so I finally launched a series of informal off-season hikes in the Ames area. My

timing could have been better, though. We had our first hike on the first weekend in December 2005. It was also the first weekend most deer hunters take to the fields and woods, the youth, bow hunters, and black powder hunters having already had their time there. The director of Story County Conservation, Steve Lekwa, searched me out and asked me to cancel the hike or change the location. We ended up wearing orange vests the county provided us for the first weeks in December.

These winter hikes turned out to be a great way to break cabin fever. Still, after five years, many miles, a new pair of snow shoes, and numerous winter picnics afterwards, I stepped back. Since then, Cindy Barrowcliff and Jeff White have been carrying on these hikes.

Why the name SC Hikes? These hikes take place mostly in Story County. They are also sponsored by Sierra Club. Hence, the moniker "SC" Hikes. If you do join in on one of these winter hikes, be mindful of the potentially challenging conditions and bring a snack to share afterwards.

Ballot Bios for Central Iowa Group's Executive Committee

Donna Balzer

Since I was a small child I have enjoyed nature and the out-of-doors. Over the years I have participated in several outdoor workshops and received my master's degree in outdoor education. The reason I joined the Sierra Club is that I feel that saving the environment is crucial at this point in our history.

Phyllis Goodman

I believe that the Sierra Club does an outstanding job of helping our country's leadership understand the critical state the environment is in. Serving as editor of this newsletter and Ex Com member are small ways to assist efforts to protect the environment.

Debbie Neustadt

I have been on the Ex Com before, and I enjoy keeping the club organized. I want to work with new leaders, activists, and members.

Jackie Porter

As a child I loved wandering the streams, fields, and farmlands where my cousins and friends lived. This love of the outside remains with me today. Being outdoors gives me respite from our everyday harried lives, as well as discovery, connectedness, freedom, and the pure enjoyment of the beauty of nature.

Sandy Simmons

I'm a nurse, I but would have gone into animal ecology if it hadn't been the Reagan years (no jobs). I value habitat protection, green energy production, voluntary simplicity, and environmental legislation and policy. Truly, I believe that environmental protection is the single most important social issue of our times. We have been given a beautiful world (our only home) and future generations of humans, plants, and animals would appreciate having it too.

Karen Tigges

Hello, I'm the current chair of the Central Iowa Group. I'm running for another two year term as a member of the Executive Committee. During the past year, with the help of other Ex Com and group members, I've sought to expand the group's outreach in the area by tabling at local farmers' markets and other events. I'd like to continue this effort next year, reaching out to more and more people, publicizing our conservation efforts, and enlisting more volunteers. I'm working to "build a bigger choir" and I'm asking for your vote. Thank you.

Ballot Instructions:

1. Cut the ballot from the page and mark your votes. Vote for no more than six candidates. Ballots with more than six candidates marked will not be counted. Individual members mark their votes in the left-hand column. For joint memberships, one person must use the lefthand column to vote, and the second person must mark his or her vote in the column marked "joint member."

2. Be sure to write your name and return address in the upper left corner of the envelope. We need your name to check your member identification number and separate individual from joint ballots. The names will then be blacked out before the envelopes are opened.

3. Mail the ballot to:

Central Iowa Sierra Group
ELECTION BALLOT
3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280
Des Moines, IA 50310

Central Iowa Sierra Group Ex-Com Election Ballot

Election Ballot

Vote for no more than six (6) candidates.

	Individual Member	Joint Member
Donna Balzer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phyllis Goodman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Debbie Neustadt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackie Porter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandy Simmons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Tigges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*BALLOT MUST BE RETURNED BY JAN. 5, 2013.

CENTRAL IOWA SIERRA CLUB WINTER 2012/2013 CALENDAR

PLEASE CALL THE OUTING LEADER IF YOU PLAN TO GO ON ANY OUTINGS. This helps the outing leader plan and alert you to possible changes. Everyone, including non-members, is welcome to attend programs and outings. Children are also welcome to attend with their parents or caretakers unless otherwise indicated by the outing leader. In order to participate in an outing, you (or your parent or guardian if under 18) will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630. Carpooling on outings is encouraged. However, it is strictly a private arrangement among participants, and participants assume all risks associated with such travel. All telephone numbers in this listing are area code 515 unless otherwise indicated.

DECEMBER EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8: 7 PM

Sierra Holiday Party

Join us to celebrate the holidays as another year of conservation efforts, learning, and outdoor enjoyment draws to a close. Mark your calendar and plan to bring your favorite holiday treat or beverage to share. Contact Jane at jrlark@radiks.net or 223-5047 for information about the location.

NO PROGRAM IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30: 1:30 PM HIKE

Brookside Park in Ames. Meet at the main parking lot at 1325 6th St near Squaw Creek. All Story County hikes start at 1:30 pm and last about 2 hours. Dress for the weather and trail conditions. Please bring a snack/drink to share after the hikes. You may email the coordinators any time, but please call only on hike days. Cindy Barrowcliff: cindy.barrowcliff@gmail.com 231-1435 (please call only on hike days) or Jeff White. jeff.white613@gmail.com 515-231-7444.

JANUARY EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6: 1:30 PM HIKE

Reactor Woods/Peggy's Trail in Ames. Take Ontario Rd in west Ames to Scholl Rd, cross the RR tracks and take the first right turn after Kingman Road. Go straight on this unpaved road until it dead-ends at a small trailhead. All Story County hikes start at 1:30 pm and last about 2 hours. Dress for the weather and trail conditions. Please bring a snack/drink to share after the hikes. You may email the coordinators any time, but please call only on hike days. Cindy Barrowcliff: cindy.barrowcliff@gmail.com 231-1435 (please call only on hike days) or Jeff White. jeff.white613@gmail.com 515-231-7444.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13: 1:30 PM HIKE

Story County's McFarland Park at 56461 180th St, north of Ames. Meet in the main parking lot. We will hike back trails and along the river. Directions: In east Ames, drive north on Dayton Road north of 13th Street for 4 miles. The road ends at 180th Street; turn right (east) and go ¾ mile to the entrance to the Conservation Center where we will meet.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16: 7 PM

Public Program

Ecological Restoration

at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

By Karen Viste-Sparkman

Karen Viste-Sparkman, Wildlife Biologist at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will be sharing the story of ecological restoration at the Refuge. The Refuge was established in 1991 and was the first large-scale ecological restoration project of its kind. It serves as a model in restoring and reconstructing the tallgrass prairie and oak savanna ecosystems that once dominated Iowa's landscape. Karen's responsibilities include monitoring the Refuge's vegetation and wildlife, planning restoration and reconstruction activities, and providing biological information and recommendations to the refuge staff. Karen has worked at Neal Smith NWR since 2006. She has a B.A. in Biology from Willamette University and an M.S. in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University.

Central Iowa Sierra public programs are held at Northwest Community Center, 51st Street and Franklin Avenue in Des Moines. Contact Jane at 223-5047 or jrlark@radiks.net for more information about the program.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19: 12:30 PM

Cross Country Ski/Hike

Raccoon River Park

Meet at 12:30 p.m. in the parking lot just off to the right of the entrance to Raccoon River Park in West Des Moines. Look for a red van and from there we will go to the ski/hike area. Bring a hot beverage for a warm-up after the hike. Skis are available for rent at Scheels, 515-727-4065, or Polk County Conservation, 515-323-5300. Basic instruction will be given for those new to the sport. If there is no snow, then we'll take a hike on the trail. Call Donna at 285-7787 for more information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20: 1:30 PM HIKE

Peterson Park West at 55310 180th, 1.5 mi east of Hwy 69 north of Ames. Meet at the east end of the parking lot close to the river. Dress for the weather and trail conditions. Please bring a snack/drink to share after the hikes. See January 6 for contact information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27: 1:30 PM HIKE

Peterson Park East 55756 180th, 1.75 east of Hwy 69 north of Ames. Meet in the parking lot. Dress for the weather and trail conditions. Please bring a snack/drink to share after the hikes. See January 6 for contact information.

MAPLELAG SKI TRIP

JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 3, 2013

Minnesota Cross-Country Ski Trip to Maplelag Resort

Go north January 31- February 3, 2013, for a weekend of cross-country skiing on 64 kilometers of groomed trails at this secluded, family-operated resort near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, voted No. 1 in North America. Ski trails of varying length and difficulty (from beginner to advanced) wind through forests, wetlands, and along lake shores. Amenities include the largest hot tub in Minnesota, steam room, saunas, massage therapists, and a library and game room in the main lodge. All-you-can-eat gourmet meals are served family style in the stained-glass-lined dining room. Between meals, refuel from the free beverage bar and bottomless cookie jars. Brush up on your ski skills with a personalized lesson, or enjoy snow shoeing, ice skating, or kick-sledding as well. Our accommodations are in the Northern Pacific Lodge in the spacious, knotty-pine-styled Miles City suite with a living room, 16 beds in 4 sleeping rooms (with accommodations for singles, couples, and small families), 3 bathrooms w/ showers, and a view of the lake.

Two departure options: Leave Thursday morning and arrive at Maplelag in the late afternoon, or leave Thursday evening (with a motel stay in the Twin Cities area Thursday night) and arrive at Maplelag Friday noon. Return home Sunday after lunch and arrive home Sunday evening. Carpooling may be an option. The \$345 fee (\$109-\$199 for children & teens) includes 2 nights lodging and 6 meals (Friday afternoon through Sunday lunch) and is payable to Maplelag at the end of your stay. You can add the additional night Thursday with three additional meals for \$85 more (\$15-\$45 for children & teens). A 10% additional discount applies for families. Cross-country ski and snowshoe rental, ski waxing, ski lessons, and massages available for additional charges.

Space is limited to 16. Contact Doug at 515-277-1263 or [dra427\(at\)mchsi\(dot\)com](mailto:dra427(at)mchsi(dot)com) to find out if space is available and to sign up. Checks for \$100 deposit must be made payable to Maplelag. The deposit is non-refundable but transferable. Skill level: None required. Difficulty level: Easy to strenuous, depending on trails selected. Go to www.maplelag.com for more information.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3: 1:30 PM HIKE

E18 access to Skunk River Greenbelt, 56342 130th, .2 mi west of I35 on E18 (130th Ave) north of Ames. Dress for the weather and trail conditions. Please bring a snack/drink to share after the hikes. See January 6 for contact information.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 12:30 PM

Snowshoe Outing or Hike

Water Works Park, Des Moines

RSVP by February 6

Meet at 12:30 p.m. at the fountain off to the right of the Fleur Drove entrance to Water Works Park. Wear warm clothes and socks and suitable boots. If you have not snow shod before, basic instructions will be given. Bring a hot beverage for an after-hike warm-up. Contact Donna at 285-7787 to RSVP and for questions. If you need to rent snowshoes, please let Donna know by Wednesday, February 6—rental is \$14.00. RSVP is required so we can be sure there are enough snowshoes available for rental. If there is no snow, we'll take a hike in the park.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10: 1:30 PM HIKE

Carr Park in Ames. From 13th Street in east Ames, turn north on Meadowlane Avenue. Go about three blocks and turn right into the pool parking lot. Dress for the weather and trail conditions. Please bring a snack/drink to share after the hikes. See January 6 for contact information.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17: 1:30 PM HIKE

Soper's Mill North at 56501 170th, north of Ames, east of the

Gilbert corner on Hwy 69. Meet on the east side of the river bridge. Dress for the weather and trail conditions. Please bring a snack/drink to share after the hikes. See January 6 for contact information.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20: 7 PM

Public Program

Boundary Waters Canoe Area

By Ray Harden

Ray Harden will present a program on the plants and animals of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and of his camping and fishing experiences in the Boundary Waters. The program is not just about fishing but includes information about the ecosystem and hints for people who want to visit the BWCA. Ray made his first visit to the north woods of Minnesota in 1966 and "fell in love" with the area. He has made return trips almost every year and sometimes two or three trips a year, with two trips most recently in 2012. Ray has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Missouri in Columbia, a Master's Degree in biology from Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Before retiring in 1998 from the Perry Community Schools, Ray taught science for 38 years, 28 of those years in Perry. In 1999 he began teaching Environmental Science for DMACC and William Penn University retired again in 2004 from teaching.

Central Iowa Sierra public programs are held at Northwest Community Center, 51st Street and Franklin Avenue in Des Moines. Contact Jane at 223-5047 or jrlark@radiks.net for more information about the program.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24: 1:30 PM HIKE

McCarthy Lee Park on Ross Road in Ames. Meet at the top shelter house. This will be our end of hike season picnic with hotdogs and all the goodies. From Ontario Street in west Ames, turn south on Scholl Road, into a residential neighborhood. After two blocks Scholl Rd dead-ends at Ross Road; turn left (east) on Ross and go half a block. Turn right (south) into the parking lot at the top of the park. Dress for the weather and trail conditions. See January 6 for contact information

MARCH EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20: 7 PM

Public Program

A Natural Resource Inventory of Des Moines Parks and Open Space

By Tom Rosburg, PhD

Dr. Tom Rosburg will give a presentation on his work on the natural resource inventory of the Des Moines parks and open space system. Dr. Rosburg started the natural resource inventory of the nearly 3,900 acres of land in late April 2011. He inventoried all areas of the park and open space system three times during 2011 and his findings have shown a wide variety of plant communities from wetlands, sedge meadows, prairies and a wide variety of savannas, woodlands and forests. In the past 25 years, Dr. Rosburg has conducted work as an ecologist, naturalist and photographer in all of Iowa's 99 counties. Since 1996, he has served as a Drake University Biology Department professor and, since 2006, as a volunteer representative of the university on the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board's Urban Conservation Advisory Committee.

Central Iowa Sierra public programs are now held at Northwest Community Center, 51st Street and Franklin Avenue in Des Moines. Contact Jane at 223-5047 or jrlark@radiks.net for more information about the program.

APRIL EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 6: 1:30 PM

Clive Greenbelt Hike

Meet at the shelter in Greenbelt Park off the 100th Street entrance. There is usually a lot of wildlife along the trail or through the woods. Call George at 745-7563 for questions.

Efforts Continue to Stop Alaska Oil Drilling

By Karen Tigges

Central Iowa Group members tabled at the Farmers Market in West Des Moines in June to gather signatures on a petition asking the Obama Administration to stop proposed oil drilling by Shell Oil in the Arctic Ocean. The petition was signed by concerned citizens and then sent to President Obama. While the White House didn't act to stop the drilling, Mother Nature did. In September, Shell Oil announced that it was suspending drilling operations in the Arctic until spring, due to an iceberg that threatened the site.

To read more about efforts the Sierra Club is making to protect America's Arctic, go to



<http://sierraclub.org/arctic/>.

Among the Club's specific objectives:

- Permanently protect the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge and the special areas of the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska in the western Arctic, including: Teshekpuk Lake, the Utukok Uplands, the Colville River and Kasegaluk Lagoon;
- Prevent oil development in the Arctic Ocean;
- Work with Alaska Native communities to prevent resource development harmful to subsistence; and
- Advocate for a comprehensive Arctic Conservation Plan.

Ice-P takes a rest after a long summer of fighting against Shell Oil's plans to drill in the Arctic Ocean. His efforts were partially rewarded when, in September, Shell suspended drilling until next spring.