



October 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR: Whether you're looking for new ideas or great presentations, we have something for you! The Leopold Center is sponsoring or co-sponsoring a number of events this fall on topics ranging from climate change and the future of agriculture to biodiversity and hypoxia in the Gulf. Be sure to mark the dates below on your calendar – or check back to see if the presentation has been archived as a podcast. More details about each event are on our Web calendar: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm
We hope to see you there! – *Jerry DeWitt*

OCTOBER 15: The Early Bear Gets the Goose: Polar Bears, Snow Geese and Climate Change; Robert Rockwell, Director of Animal Research, La Pérouse Bay Tundra Biology Station, the primary research site of the collaborative Hudson Bay Project; 7 p.m., Great Hall, Memorial Union, Ames. This is the 45th Annual Paul L. Errington Memorial Lecture at Iowa State.

OCTOBER 20: The Future of American Agriculture, Kathleen Merrigan, USDA Deputy Secretary; 8 p.m., Great Hall, Memorial Union, Ames. Merrigan is former director of the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program at Tufts University. As a staffer on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, she helped shape the 1990 Organic Foods Production Act, which created national standards for organic foods and a federal program to accredit them.

OCTOBER 27: The Environmental Significance of Biodiversity in Managed and Unmanaged Ecosystems: From China to Sub-Saharan Africa, the Great Plains and Iowa; Shahid Naeem, professor and chair of Columbia University's Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology and a member of the Earth Institute; 8 p.m., Great Hall, Memorial Union, Ames. This is the 2009 Pesek Colloquium for Sustainable Agriculture.

NOVEMBER 12: Mississippi River Water Quality: A Landscape Mirror and the Hypoxic Consequences, Eugene Turner, Coastal Ecology Institute and Louisiana State University; 8 p.m., Sun Room, Memorial Union, Ames. This is the 2009 Dennis Keeney Distinguished Lecture at Iowa State.

LOCAL FOOD, LOCAL JOBS: Small changes can bring modest improvements in a regional economy, at least when it comes to local foods. A new economic analysis conducted by ISU economist David Swenson for the Leopold Center showed that increased local food production, processing and consumption in Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Van Buren and Wapello counties could mean 50 to 75 new jobs. Read the report at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/marketing_files/seiowa.html

BEHIND THE SCENES: Leopold Center communications assistant Allison Severson documents a season of local food production with Jan Libbey at One Step at a Time Gardens in Hancock County. See photos taken through the season and listen to Jan's observations: www.leopold.iastate.edu/gallery/onestepatime/index.html

BIG BOOST: Iowa State researchers will look at how organic production affects water quality, thanks to a \$600,000 grant from the USDA-CSREES. The Leopold Center helped set up long-term organic/conventional research plots in 1998, and provides annual support for the ISU Organic Program. Details about the new research project: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2009/091509_organic.html

GRASS-BASED DAIRY: Iowa State University Extension dairy specialist Larry Tranel has been working with the Leopold Center to increase the number of grass-based dairy farms in Iowa, especially beginning farmers and farmers interested in organic production methods. Tranel has created two new multi-media presentations: Best management practices for dairy grazing at: <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/grazing>
Managing dairy farm finances: <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/finances>

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: Brief backgrounders are available about the four candidates for the new Leopold Center director position. The public is invited to a public seminar presented by each candidate, which will be broadcast live via the Web and archived at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/candidates.html