



## Illinois Extension Agricultural Association

### AM/PIC in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Special points of interest:

- Develop scholarship at AM/PIC in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Apply for awards!
- Get involved in Your local and national associations!

Have a GRAND time in GRAND RAPIDS this year for the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC). The 2007 NACAA Conference takes place July 15-19 at the Grand Plaza Hotel on the banks of the Grand River.

This conference has something for everyone.

Over 30 full-day and half-day Professional Improvement tours spotlight Michigan's diverse agriculture, horticulture and field cropping enterprises as well as significant dairy, livestock and poultry industries. Michigan is second only to California in diversity of horticultural crops.

As always, this conference is family friendly. There are programs for spouses, sons & daughters, and life members.

Of course there are also many posters and educational sessions to explore. Attend a committee session and get involved at the national level.

For first timers, there are many incentives to help

you attend. Registration is waived for first timers by NACAA. IEAA provides some travel funds as well for first timers.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, meet new people, and have fun.

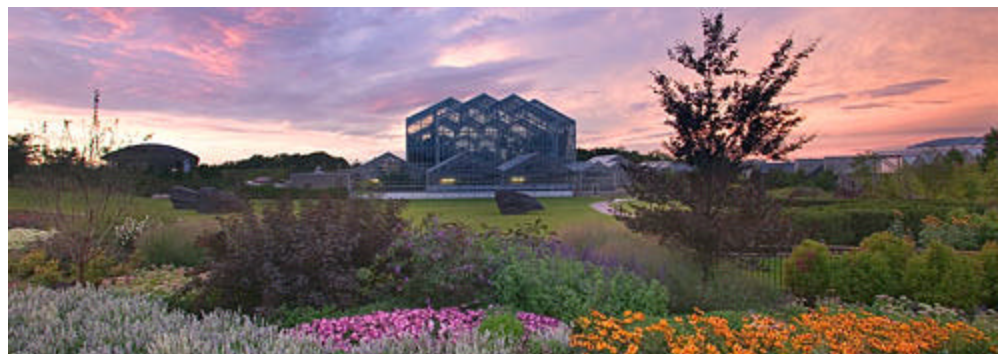
For more information, go to [www.nacaa2007.msu.edu](http://www.nacaa2007.msu.edu)

Online registration will be available in early April.

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Experience  
Great Lakes,  
Great Sights  
& Great Times



Following the Wednesday tours, savor a delicious bar-b-que dinner in the Frederich Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. The park contains beautiful gardens, waterways, floral displays, and outstanding sculptures, including a 24 foot tall brass horse designed by Leonardo da Vinci .

## Iowa/Illinois Monday Night AM/PIC Dinner

Members from both states will band together to host the Monday night meal at AM/PIC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The membership at the spring meeting voted to support this dinner with \$3,500.00 dollars. We will also need help with the serving line. If you are planning to attend please let Ed Billingsley know.

We are also going to order shirts for this event to promote IEAA and Illinois Extension.

Please call Ed Billingsley at 618-687-1727 and let him know you are interested. When you call this is not an order but a way to see how many possible shirts we will need. He will also need your size. Ed will call you back before he orders to get your payment before the order is made. Remember this is to promote our state, so let's look sharp in Grand Rapids.



## National Committees

Currently IEAA only has one member serving on a national committee.

Consider serving your association at the national level. This is a great way to meet colleagues across the nation.

Look in your January 2007 The County Agent magazine for listings of all NACAA committees.

On page 34, note the open committee chair and

vice chair positions for 2007-2009. Applications will be accepted until mid April, according to NACAA President Chuck Otte.

At the recent JCEP regional meeting in St. Louis, Chuck Otte said that "state associations that are doing well have active committees, with state, regional, and national representation."

AM/PIC registration is free for national chairs.

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*"State Associations that are doing well have active memers."*  
**Chuck Otte**

## Scholarships

One of the benefits of IEAA/NACAA membership are the scholarship opportunities. Here are some details.

### NACAA

You need to get your scholarship donation in before June 30 to be eligible to submit a request for NACAA scholarship funds.

Every member with at least a \$40 dollar donation is eligible the following year for scholarship funds. A one time donation is all that is required.

Each member may receive up to \$2,000 dollars from this fund. The funds can be requested for many different things so get your money in now.

Send your donation to Scott Hawbaker , 252 N Park St, Decatur, IL 62523

### IEAA

Criteria for Awarding Scholarship(s):

1. Appropriate Regional Director must approve application.
2. Applicant(s) must be a current member of IEAA.
3. A brief report of what applicant did and learned must be sent to the Scholarship Chair within 30 days after study is completed.
4. Application must be receive (or postmarked) no later than July 1st.
5. The IEAA scholarship funds available are 10% of the 1991 Funds Interest. The committee will decide whether the total amount should be given for one application or divided between several.



## IEAA Fall Annual Meeting Preview

The IEAA West Central District will host the fall meeting. Preliminary plans are to meet in the Quincy area in September. Expect interesting professional development tours. More details coming soon!

## Awards

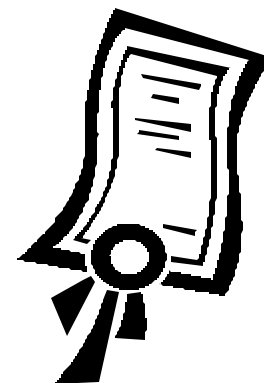
"Too few people apply for awards," says Chuck Otte, NACAA President.

At the regional JCEP meetings in St. Louis, Otte presented that top five reasons that people do not apply for awards.

1. I'm not eligible. All NACAA members are eligible, but the deadline is March 15th. Remember this next year!
2. I don't know how to apply. The application process is really easy. Ask another member for help.

3. It takes too much time. Yes, this does take some time, but consider the benefits. Some NACAA awards include substantial monetary benefits.
4. I didn't get the information on time. You must watch for this yourself. Awards are always listed in the January issue of The County Agent.
5. I don't want to brag. If you don't promote yourself, who will?

If you applied for an award this year—good luck! If you didn't, plan to next year.



## IEAA Membership Bylaw Change

IEAA membership voted to change their bylaws at the spring meeting in Springfield on March 2nd.

By unanimous vote, the following change was approved in ARTICLE II, Section I.

Original Wording: Members may be academic professionals of University of Illinois Extension with educational responsibility to the general public.

Approved new wording: Members may be academic professionals, faculty, or administrators of

University of Illinois Extension with educational responsibility to the general public.

A query of other North Central agricultural associations, found that the majority of other states allow administrators and other faculty as association members.

Help us increase membership by asking an Extension administrator to join IEAA. This includes campus and regional staff, including Associate Regional Directors.

*"IEAA voted to increase it's potential member numbers by allowing administrators and faculty as members."*

## IEAA Retiree News

In the next few months there will be three opportunities for retirees to get together. They will be a good time for retirees to find out what past co-workers are doing and to swap stories about "the good old days"

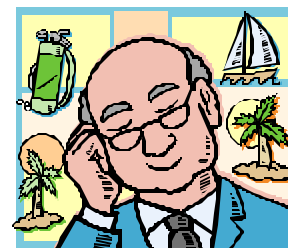
- April 13, 2007 Maxxions Riverside Restaurant Oregon, IL 11:00am. Contact Stan Eden for more information. edensre@msn.com
- August 23, 2007 Maverick Steak House 3165 Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL

11:00am. Contact Larry Casey for more information. caseyljd@psbnewton.com

- October 19, 2007 Giant City Park Lodge 11:30am. Contact Bob Walker for more information. rwalker@wabash.net

Spouses/significant others are welcome. Those thinking about retirement are welcome also. You can see what retired life is like.

We don't limit attendance to IEAA retirees. Other retirees are welcome also.



## IEAA Membership Update

As of March 15th, we have 48 paid members including 5 new members. New members include:

- John Davis, Youth Educator-Grundy Unit
- Earl Allen, County Director-Woodford Unit
- Ryan Hobson, Regional Director-WC
- James Theuri, Crops Educator-Kankakee Unit

- Kelly Basset, Natural Resources Educator-Montgomery Unit

Welcome!

IEAA has 60 Retiree members.

Broken down by region our membership includes:

- 6 from the Northwest,
- 11 from the South,
- 8 from East Central,
- 15 from West Central,
- 7 from Northeast, and
- 1 on Campus.



*Illinois Extension Agricultural Association*

**Officers:**

President - Russ Higgins  
President Elect - Ed Billingsley  
Vice President - Rhonda Ferree  
Secretary - Lynn Weis  
Treasurer - Martha Smith  
Past President - Marion Shier (JCEP Chair)

**District Directors:**

North - Greg Clark  
- Bill Lindenmeier  
West Central - Rick Keim  
- Mike Roegge  
East Central - Brenda Roedl  
-  
Southern - Ruth Hambleton  
- Elizabeth Wahle

**Newsletter Editor** - Rhonda Ferree and Ed Billingsley

## Upcoming Meetings

**NACAA**

- Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) in Grand Rapids, Michigan—July 15-19, 2007
- AM/PIC in Greensboro, North Carolina—July 13-17, 2008
- AM/PIC in Portland, Oregon—September 20-24, 2009
- AM/PIC in Tulsa, Oklahoma—July 11-15, 2010

**IEAA**

- Fall Annual Meeting hosted by West Central District - September 2007 in Quincy area

**OTHER**

- Galaxy Conference in Indianapolis, IN—September 14-18, 2008



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postage

Addressee