

James Pease, Ph.D.

Qualifications

Jim has over 40 years of experience as a front-line interpreter, professor of interpretation, and writer and consultant on many interpretive and environmental education and curriculum projects. He has taught thousands, from youth through senior citizens, in formal and non-formal settings, written dozens of publications for professionals and lay people alike, and communicated by a regular statewide radio program, TV segments, podcasts, and websites. His experience includes teaching interpretation of natural resources to undergraduate and graduate students for 24 years, research on impact of interpretive and education strategies, over two decades as an Extension Wildlife Specialist, and fifteen years in youth development and natural resources.

Pease founded and directed both the Iowa NatureMapping Program and the Iowa Master Conservationist Program, nationally recognized programs that educate the public on biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and wildlife management. In addition, he designed and coordinated the Master River Stewards Program, a program training citizens in river conservation and stewardship. He has taught and conducted projects internationally in Costa Rica, Brazil, Panama, Russia, and Taiwan and leads international wildlife trips for older Iowans for Legacy Tours, interpreting the natural history and culture of Central and South America.

He has held numerous leadership positions, including President of the Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Chair of the Iowa Conservation Education Council, Board member of the Iowa Academy of Science, and Chair of the ISU Outdoor Teaching Laboratories Committee. He is on the founding Board of the Iowa Wildlife Center, has been chair of Story County Conservation Board, and on the Boards of the Friends of Ada Hayden and Ames Izaak Walton League. He serves as Associate Editor of the national Journal of Interpretation Research. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the prestigious Master Interpreter from the National Association for Interpretation and Distinguished Science Teacher Award from the Iowa Academy of Science.

Education

Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology, Iowa State University

M.S. and B.S. in Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Selected Recent Interpretive and Wildlife Projects

Consultant, with E Resources Group, to Scott Co. Conservation Board to research and write an analysis of their environmental education program and facilities and make recommendations.

Consultant, with E Resources Group, to Iowa DNR Rivers Programs to design and write interpretive brochures for 10 water trails in Iowa, 2016-17.

Consultant to Iowa Rivers Revival to design and deliver a Train the Facilitators Workshop for the Master River Stewards Program and mentor the attendees for the subsequent 2 years as they implement the program, 2015-18.

Consultant to Iowa DNR Rivers Programs conducting interpretive and biological surveys on ten Iowa rivers, including paddling some 1800 miles and writing comprehensive reports, 2014 -17.

Co-author, Land Management and Interpretive Signage Plan for Ada Hayden Heritage Park for the City of Ames, 2014.

Consultant to Iowa DNR Rivers Program for public paddles on various Iowa rivers, highlighting “River Critters and Wild Life”, 2013, 2014.

Consultant to Iowa Rivers Revival to design and write the curriculum and direct the program for a new Master River Stewards Program for Iowa. 2011-2012, 2013.

Consultant and leader for Legacy Tours (Fort Dodge, Iowa) of natural history tours to Central and South America, 2012-present.

Consultant to Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources Rivers Program, through E Resources, to research and create interpretive brochures for portions of the Des Moines River Water Trail and assist other water trail advisors to think interpretively for the paddling public. 2012.

Consultant to Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards to create a annotated PowerPoint Presentation entitled, “*The Cedar River: We’re all in this watershed together!*” 2012.

Consultant to National Park Service, through MPR Museum Consultants, to write a comprehensive literature review on parks and underserved audiences. 2011. Revision published in Jour. of Interpretation Research, Vol. 20(1):11-56, 2015.

Consultant to Polk County Conservation Board through Shive-Hattery and E Resources Group, writing interpretive panels for the High Trestle Trail, 2011.

Consultant to Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, through E Resources Group, researching and writing a Master Interpretive Plan for Backbone State Park. 2010-2011.

Consultant to Cedar River Watershed County Conservation Directors, through E Resources Group, researching and writing a communications and interpretive plan for the Cedar River watershed. 2011.

Consultant to Marquette/McGregor Chamber of Commerce, through Shive-Hattery and E Resources Group, researching and writing the master interpretive plan for their proposed Wetlands Visitor Center. 2009-10.

Project consultant to E Resources and Iowa Department of Natural Resources on their potential walk-in hunting program using regional focus groups in Iowa. 2009.

Consultant to Jasper County Conservation Board on criteria for site selection, decision making, and interpretive design as they begin building a nature center. 2008-09.

Consultant to E-Resources and Shive-Hattery Architects and Engineering on West Des Moines Parks' greenway project on Sugar Creek. Provided natural resource inventory and advice on trail layout, interpretive opportunities, and greenway extent for the project. 2008.