

## Iowa Tourism Conference is This Month!

The final touches are being put on the 2007 Iowa Tourism Conference, set for October 22-24 in Dubuque. We hope you're planning on joining us! There's still time to register; simply visit [www.traveliowa.com](http://www.traveliowa.com) to download the registration form. The Web site also includes the conference agenda so you can plan which sessions you'll not want to miss.



## Regional Tourism Marketing Grant Program Public Hearing

A public hearing to receive comments on the administrative rules for the Regional Tourism Marketing Grant program will be held October 8 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Iowa Department of Economic Development Main Conference Room. The program is designed to offer assistance to tourism organizations placing advertising in targeted out-of-state markets. Draft rules can be found in the Travel Industry Information section of [www.traveliowa.com](http://www.traveliowa.com). For more information contact Nancy Landess at [nancy.landess@iowalifechanging.com](mailto:nancy.landess@iowalifechanging.com) or 515.242.4702.

## Congratulations to the Tourism Award Nominees

The following individuals, attractions and communities have been nominated for at least one 2007 Iowa Tourism Award. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, October 24, in a special awards ceremony during the conference.

- America's Hometown July 4th Celebration, Charles City
- Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Atlantic Chamber of Commerce
- Bicycle, Blues & BBQ Festival, Clear Lake
- Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines
- Centerville-Rathbun Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
- Cerro Gordo County
- Clinton Convention and Visitors Bureau
- College Hill Arts Festival, Cedar Falls
- Council Bluffs
- Senator Jeff Danielson
- Des Moines Metro Opera, Indianola
- Senator Bill Dotzler
- Dubuque County
- Dyersville
- Dyersville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Edible Iowa River Valley
- Emmetsburg
- Galleria de Paco, Waterloo
- Ghost Players of Left and Center Field of Dreams, Dyersville
- Greater Burlington Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Grinnell
- Historic Arnolds Park, Arnolds Park
- Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
- The Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville
- Iowa Speedway, Newton

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# STAFF NEWS

## New Deputy Director Named



Vince Lintz has been named Deputy Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). A former vice president of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Lintz has also previously worked at Wells Fargo Mortgage and at IDED in the Community Development Division. For the past eight years he has served on the Iowa Finance Authority Board, the past six years as chairman.

## Jeff Spence Joins Tourism Office



Jeff Spence has joined the Iowa Tourism Office as the new Group, Meetings and Partnership Manager. Jeff was previously with the Hotel Pattee and has 13 years of experience in the tourism industry. He will be promoting Iowa to group tours and meeting planners as well as coordinating partnerships for tourism educational sessions. Contact him at [jeff.spence@iowalifechanging.com](mailto:jeff.spence@iowalifechanging.com) and 515.242.4770.

## Jessica O'Riley Joins Midwest Travel Writers Association

Jessica O'Riley from the Iowa Tourism Office has been accepted into the Midwest Travel Writers Association, an organization comprised of travel professionals, including writers, photographers and travel publicists.

## Tourism Award Nominees – Cont. from Page 1

- Iowa State Fair, Des Moines
- Jackson County
- Keokuk Area Convention and Tourism Bureau
- Linn County Conservation Department
- Marion County
- Mason City Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Matchstick Marvels, Gladbrook
- Representative Mike May
- Merchants National Bank, Grinnell
- Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Marketing and Tourism Bureau
- RAGBRAI XXXV, Dyersville
- Red Rock Area
- Okoboji Tourism
- Okoboji Winter Games
- Old City Hall Art Gallery, Maquoketa
- Ollie Pleggenkuhle
- Pottawattamie County
- Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Reiman Gardens, Ames
- Senator Joe Seng
- Science Center of Iowa, Des Moines
- Scott County
- Senator Roger Stewart
- Storm Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Summer Iowa Games, Ames
- Cindy Thompson
- Villages of Van Buren
- Waterloo
- Western Historic Trails Center, Council Bluffs



## Three projects receive grants at September Vision Iowa Board Meeting

The Vision Iowa Board approved \$4,850,000 in grants to projects located in Coon Rapids plus Boone and Jones Counties at the September board meeting.

The following projects were approved for grants awarded from the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Fund:

### Opening Whiterock: A Public Private Partnership for Rural Tourism – Coon Rapids

Amount Awarded:.....\$1,700,000

This portion of the environmental tourism project includes extensive trail development, interpretive signage, a Visitor Center, streetscaping of the Coon Rapids entryway, public art elements and birder amenities. This award is contingent upon the completion of fundraising by July 1, 2008.

### Central Iowa Expo – Boone County

Amount Awarded:.....\$3,000,000\*

Beginning in August 2008, the 110-acre outdoor Central Iowa Expo will serve as the Iowa biennial host of the Farm Progress Show. \* In addition to a \$2 million grant available immediately, the Vision Iowa Board will match private funding dollar-for-dollar up to \$1 million.

### Maquoketa River Water Trail – Jones County

Amount Awarded:.....\$150,000

This project includes improvements to river access sites, parking facilities, information signage and public gathering points along one of the most heavily used water trails in the state.

*To date, 12 Vision Iowa projects have been awarded a total of \$218,550,000. The CAT program has provided funding to 281 projects, awarding \$93,570,436. For more information, visit [www.visioniowa.org](http://www.visioniowa.org).*



## Two Events Named to ABA's Top 100 List

Congratulations to the Glenn Miller Festival in Clarinda and the Orange City Tulip Festival for being named to the American Bus Association's (ABA) list of the Top 100 Events in North America.

The Glenn Miller Festival, which will run June 12-15, 2008, celebrates the life and music of legendary Big Band musician and Clarinda native Glenn Miller. Orange City's Tulip Fest, set for May 15-17, 2008, honors the city's Dutch heritage.

Events will be listed in an internationally-recognized event directory for bus and tour operators, the travel industry and the general public. All of the Top 100 Events were published as a special section to the September/October issue of Destinations magazine. The list is also available online at [www.buses.org](http://www.buses.org).



## TV Co-op Filming Completed

Location shooting for the Spring 2008 television co-op in Chicago has been completed. Editing is underway and spots should be available for preview at the Tourism Conference. Thank you to Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Dubuque, Okoboji and the Quad Cities for partnering with the Tourism Office to make our television campaign a reality.

# Tourism

## By the Numbers

8  
Corn mazes

43  
Apple growers

50  
Pumpkin patches

55  
Honey producers

176  
Farmer's markets during the 2006  
growing season

Source: Iowa Department of Agriculture

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Iowa Department of  
Economic Development  
200 East Grand  
Des Moines, IA 50309

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## Tourism Conference Partners

The Tourism Conference would not be possible without the continued backing of our partners. When you see representatives from the following companies at the conference, thank them for their support of tourism in Iowa.



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