

## August: Iowa Nature News

### STORIES NEAR YOU



#### New Friends

While pulling invasive sweet clover from a prairie reconstruction in Land of the Swamp White Oak, Annal Beal Intern Carly Small found a beautiful blue racer (Coluber constrictor).

[More on Land of the Swamp White Oak Preserve.](#)



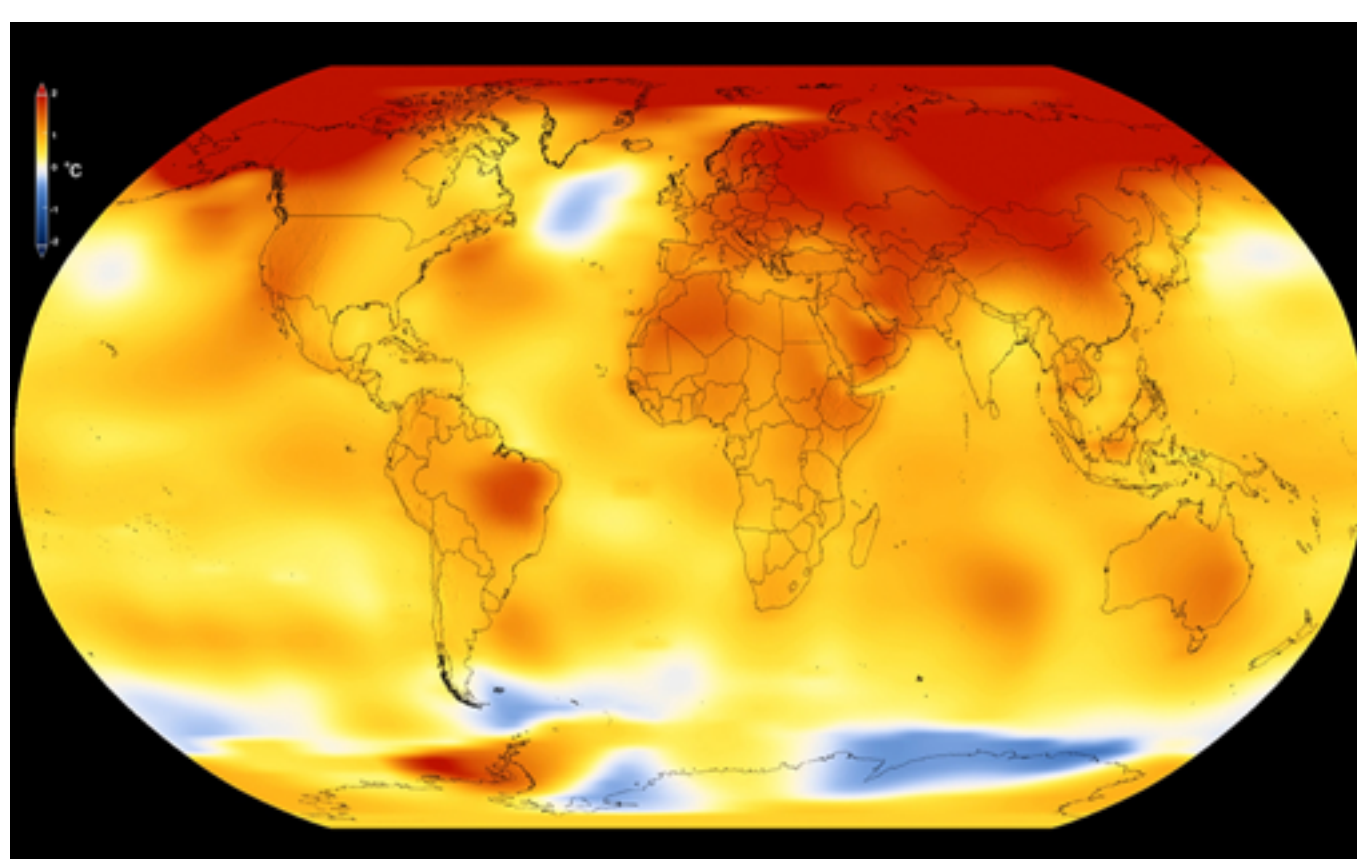
© Harlan Persinger

#### Farmers Seeing Positive Impacts From 4R Plus Practices

ISU's Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll conducted this spring indicates that the 4R Plus program is positively influencing farmers' sustainability efforts.

[The 4R Plus initiative is supported by TNC to improve nutrient management and farm conservation practices for improved water quality and climate resilience across the state.](#)

### STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



© TNC

#### A Historic Opportunity to Address the Climate Crisis

After months of negotiation, Congress is now on the line to pass the single biggest investment to tackle the climate crisis in U.S. history, by far. And we need to make sure it gets across the finish line.

We urge you to send your message to your Senators and Representative now. Call on your elected leaders to support bold funding and policies we need to tackle the climate crisis ASAP.

Now more than ever, we need to put real, concrete action behind U.S. promises to combat the climate crisis.

[Tell Congress: Act Now on Climate](#)



#### The Global Photo Contest is Back!

We're thrilled to announce that the 2022 Global Photo Contest is underway! Now through August 31, 2022, enter your best images for a chance to win some incredible prizes!

This year's categories are Wildlife, People and Nature, Water, Plants and Fungi, Landscape, and Climate.

No professional experience required—every moment captured in nature is special.

[Enter Your Nature Photo Today](#)



#### Restoration Through Tradition in Hawai'i

For a Native Hawaiian scientist, the key to restoring coral is in restoring culture. Working with elders, he's reviving a tradition that uses taro farms and fish ponds to filter water throughout the ecosystem while sustainably growing healthy food.

[Coral Reef Protection Starts on Mountain Ridges](#)



#### Shifting the Tide

A culture of strict gender roles is slowly shifting in the Solomon Islands, where women for the first time have joined the ranks as conservation rangers. The women are collecting data to protect endangered sea turtles, breaking preconceptions one patrol at a time.

[How Rangers Are Protecting Leatherback Sea Turtles](#)



#### Gabon Is Leading the Way

Gabon, determined to protecting 30% of its natural habitats by 2030, is emerging as a conservation leader in Africa and globally. TNC has partnered in Gabon for 9 years and hopes to be a catalyst for durable conservation that benefits people locally.

[Dwarf Crocodiles, Rare Forest Elephants, and Global Ambition](#)

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**FLUTTER SPEED MEETS SHUTTER SPEED** Monarch butterflies fill the air around the mountaintops in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Michoacán, Mexico. © Luz Angela Velazquez /TNC Photo Contest 2021

The migratory monarch butterfly, a subspecies of the monarch butterfly, was recently added to the IUCN's Red List as an endangered species, due to pressures from habitat loss and climate change.

There are only 11-14 mountaintops left in Mexico where these butterflies can find a safe haven to wait out the harsh winters in temperate climates.

[How We're Working to Protect the Monarch Butterfly](#)

### TRENDING NEWS

#### Before You Fire Up the Grill, an Environmental Scientist Wants You To Consider These 6 Eco-Friendly Tips

Joe Fargione, TNC Science Director for North America, shares tips on you grill set-up, ash disposal and meal planning so you can reduce your impact on the environment—but not on flavor.

[Find Out the Tips in \*Wells+Good\*](#)

### HAPPENING NOW



#### Already Planning Some Online Shopping?

**Reminder:** When you shop at smile.amazon.com, AmazonSmile donates to The Nature Conservancy.

[Learn More](#)

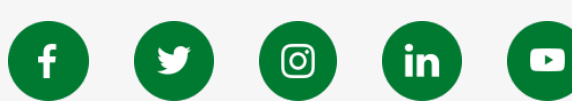


#### Take Action With Us

We all need to work together to solve the climate and biodiversity crises. Get involved by speaking up, volunteering and more.

[How You Can Act Today](#)

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