



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- [Ice-out channel catfish are biting](#)
- [1,750 archers compete at state archery tournament](#)
- [Iowa Sets Goal for Monarch Conservation](#)

Ice-out channel catfish are biting

Channel catfish move close to shore and are eager to bite in many lakes and the large reservoirs across Iowa. After eating light during the winter, channel catfish go on a feeding frenzy in early spring cleaning up small fish that died over the winter.

When the ice goes off, a winter's worth of dead forage fish drift into shallow water for channel catfish to devour. Search for actively feeding fish on the windblown shorelines and points where dead fish are piled up and the shallow water warms quickly. Keep the wind in your face and try different locations until you find actively feeding fish.

Use cut bait or shad sides fished on the bottom. To keep the bait on the hook, try using a 1/0 to 3/0 bait holder hook and enough weight (3/8th to 1/2 ounce) to cast into the wind. Bring along disposable latex gloves to handle the bait and help keep the smell off your hands.

Ice out catfishing can be good in any lake that has an abundant catfish population. Iowa's flood control reservoirs, Rathbun, Red Rock, Coralville and Saylorville usually offer the best action. Try catfishing in Storm Lake, East Okoboji, Clear Lake or Black Hawk Lake in northwest Iowa soon after the ice is gone. Small impoundments in southern Iowa, like Greenfield City Reservoir, Big Creek, Lake Darling, Green Valley or Lake Icaria, also offer good early spring catfishing.

Catfish are one of the most abundant game fish in Iowa and can be found in almost every body of water across the state. Check the [weekly fishing report](#) to find out where the catfish are biting.

Media Contact: Bryan Hayes, Fisheries Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-769-2587.

1,750 archers compete at state archery tournament

1,750 archers from 86 Iowa schools participated in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) state tournament March 10-11, in Des Moines.

Lilly Machart, from Anamosa, won the girls bullseye competition with a score of 297. Cassie Allen, from Holstein Ridge View, won the girls 3D competition with a score of 293. Machart and Allen were each awarded a bow for winning the respective competition.

Jatin Moore, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont, won the boys bullseye competition with a score of 293. Kade Butterwegge, from West Des Moines Stilwell, won the boys 3D competition with a score of 290. Moore and Butterwegge were each awarded a bow for winning the respective competitions.

Scholarships were awarded to the top scoring 12th grade boys and girls in each category.

Senior boys scholarship winners were Eli Kempema, from Sergeant Bluff Luton, who received \$1,000 for highest 3D score and Brandon Lochner, from Mount Vernon, received \$500 scholarship for second highest 3D score among seniors. Tanner Bowman, from Johnston, received \$1,500 for highest score and Jack Waskow, Alburnett, received \$1,000 scholarship for second highest score among seniors in the bullseye competition.

Among senior girls, Brooke Paris, from Ottumwa, received \$1,000 scholarship for highest 3D score and Lauryn Jansen, of Sergeant Bluff Luton, received \$500 for second highest 3D score among seniors. Robyn Stillmunkes, from Bellevue, received \$1,500 scholarship for highest score and Nyla Kahl, from Bellevue, received \$500 scholarship for second highest score in the bullseye competition.

NASP archers who scored highest league scores plus the highest state tournament scores were named All State Archers.

Boys All State Archers

Connor Myers, Mount Vernon

Alex Brittain, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont

Jatin Moore, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont

Owen Lerg, West Des Moines Valley

Adam Larson, Lawton

Collin Hallier, Mount Vernon

Girls All State Archers

Lilly Machart, Anamosa

Makenna Hewitt, Cedar Rapids Prairie Point

Paige Emig, Mount Vernon

Samantha Mellinger, Washington

Breann Holtz, Lawton

Haley Schwenneker, Spencer

High All-Around Champions were named based on their total combined scores from the state 3D and bullseye tournaments. Lilly Machart, from Anamosa, with a total combined score of 588 and Alex Brittain, from Eddyville – Blakesburg – Fremont, with a total combined score of 578.

Nearly 3,600 archers from more than 300 schools participated in Iowa's National Archery in the Schools Program. The NASP season was Dec. 1 to Feb. 24.

3D results are available online at <https://nasptournaments.org/TournamentDetail.aspx?tid=2897>

Bullseye results are available online at <https://nasptournaments.org/TournamentDetail.aspx?tid=2896>

The state tournament was sponsored by the Iowa Bowhunters Association, Whitetails Unlimited, the Iowa State Archery Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Safari Club International.

Media Contact: Megan Wisecup, Hunter Education Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-238-4968.

Iowa Sets Goal for Monarch Conservation



Female monarchs lay eggs exclusively on milkweed plants so national efforts focus on establishment of new milkweed stems for conservation goals. The North Central states in the monarch's northern breeding grounds will collectively establish 1.3 billion new milkweed stems over the next 20 years. Iowa's strategy estimates 127 to 188 million new stems will be established within Iowa.

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium has set a goal of acres devoted to monarch butterfly habitat in the state by 2038.

“The consortium has worked collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan to expand habitat on our agricultural land, urban areas, roadsides, and other public land. We appreciate the many partners that have been involved and are encouraged by the work already underway,” said Mike Naig, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

The updated [Iowa Monarch Conservation Strategy](#) seeks to establish approximately 480,000 to 830,000 acres of monarch habitat by 2038.

The strategy — developed by the consortium members — guides the implementation and documentation of a voluntary, statewide conservation effort based on the best available science. The consortium is a group of 40 organizations, including agricultural and conservation associations, agribusiness and utility companies, universities and county, state and federal agencies.

Iowa's habitat goals are included in the [Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy draft](#), released by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on March 12, 2018. The Mid-America strategy draft describes how the North Central states in the monarch's northern breeding grounds will collectively establish 1.3 billion new milkweed

stems over the next 20 years. Iowa's strategy estimates 127 to 188 million new stems will be established within Iowa.

"Iowa falls entirely within the monarch's northern breeding core. This means that every patch of milkweed habitat added in Iowa counts, and Iowa is perfectly situated to lead the way in conservation efforts for the monarch butterfly," said Chuck Gipp, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "The recovery cannot succeed without Iowa."

Female monarchs lay eggs exclusively on milkweed plants so national efforts focus on establishment of new milkweed stems for conservation goals. However, habitat plantings are expected to include a diverse array of nectar species to provide forage for adult monarchs throughout their life cycle and seasonal migrations.

"Recent research demonstrates that an 'all hands on deck' approach is necessary for successful monarch conservation. The dominance of agriculture within Iowa means that agricultural land must be a part of the solution," said Joe Colletti, interim endowed dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. "This means that consortium members are looking at all options on agricultural and non-agricultural lands for adding habitat including augmenting existing conservation practices, establishing habitat patches in underutilized, grass-dominated areas, and adding habitat in urban locations such as parks, industrial and school properties."

The monarch population has declined by more than 80 percent during the last 20 years in North America. [Surveys of the 2017-2018 overwintering generation](#) of monarchs indicate the numbers are still less than half of the size needed to ensure a sustainable population.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has until June of 2019 to determine whether the monarch should be listed under the Endangered Species Act. The consortium seeks to demonstrate how voluntary efforts can support species recovery and avoid the need to list the monarch.

Information on how to support monarch conservation is available at www.iowamonarchs.info.

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium formed in 2015 in response to monarch population declines. More information about consortium is available at www.iowamonarchs.info.

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Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium members and partners include:

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Iowa State University; Alliant Energy; BASF, Bayer CropScience; Blank Park Zoo; Bur Oak Land Trust; Central College; DuPont Pioneer; Environmental Defense Fund; Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives; Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives; Iowa Cattlemen's Association; Iowa Corn Growers Association; Iowa County Conservation System; Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; Iowa National Guard; Iowa Nature Conservancy; Iowa Pork Producers Association; Iowa Soybean Association; Iowa Renewable Fuels Association; Iowa Turkey Federation; Iowa Wildlife Federation; ITC Midwest; Luther College; Monarch Watch; Monsanto; Muscatine Island Research Farm Association, Fruitland; Northeast Iowa Agricultural Experimental Association, Nashua; North Central Iowa Research Association, Kanawha; Northwest Iowa Experimental Association, Sutherland; Pheasants Forever; Practical Farmers of Iowa; Sand County Foundation; Soil and Water Conservation Society; Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association, Crawfordsville; Syngenta; Trees Forever; Western Iowa Experimental Farm Association, Castana; University of Minnesota Monarch Butterfly Laboratory; University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center; U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research Unit; Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development, Lewis; Whiterock Conservancy; and Women Food & Ag Network. Iowa-based U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service are ex officio partners.