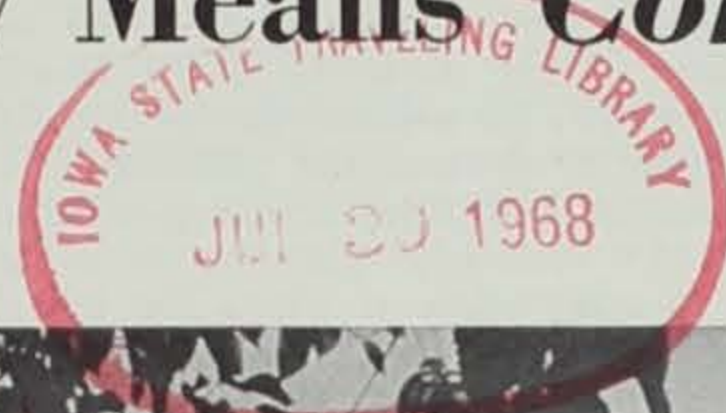


July, 1968

Volume 27

Number 7

Water Safety Means Common Sense



The mid-July morning dawned hot and sticky, promising to be an unusually busy day at the beach and on the lake . . . a weekend where water recreation would be at a maximum.

Checking the lake front and beach area, I was greeted by a few early risers ready to keep cool and have fun going in and out of the water. Past experience made me wonder a bit . . . how many would be badly sunburned? How many might be hurt by foolish water play on the beach or in the boats?

Later, in the early afternoon, I took a few minutes to return to the area, to sit and watch all the people having a good

time. It's enlightening to observe these men, women, and children and their awareness of what is generally called "water safety", but what is more appropriately named "common water sense."

I watched the swimmers first and, surprisingly, one could almost type their personalities by their attitudes toward water recreation. Scanning the beach, I noticed first a group of small children building sand castles and wading in the shallow water. Their parents weren't far away, watching, and warning if the need arose. Nearby, another family was instructing the beginning swimmer in good technique, in "common water sense", in swimming *know-how*,

As in most observation, my mind drifted to personal, first experiences in learning how to swim. The Conservation Commission cooperated with, and still relies heavily on, the Red Cross programs in swimming instruction, and here was my beginning too, like so many others.

I'll always remember a young teacher almost "lecturing" on the necessity of the "buddy system", and the necessity of constant awareness of "personal limitations." Watching these swimmers, one could tell that so many had been taught these same rules.

But then, there were the few that either

(continued on page 52)

COMMISSION MINUTES

State Conservation Commission
Meeting Held in Cresco, Iowa
May 7 & 8, 1968

Authorized the Staff to acquire 9.1 acres of land from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for development and access to the Mississippi River near Bellevue. It is proposed to construct a new Biology Station at the north end of the area and the Lands & Waters Division could share the use of the area by using it as a headquarters for Water Safety Officers and by providing limited recreational facilities.

The following options totaling 567.3 acres on the Badger Creek Watershed were exercised.

- H. Roy Fear—Approx. 43.3 acres
- Alfred H Koch—Approx. 124.0 acres
- Baur Bros.—Approx. 400 acres

Approved the following BOR projects:

Delaware County Conservation Board—Fierstine Acquisition. 55-acre tract of land approximately 3 miles southeast of Manchester on a small spring fed stream flowing out of the Federal Fish Hatchery to provide fishing access and expand an adjacent over-used park area.

Carroll County Conservation Board—Dickson Timber—Acquisition. 55-acre tract of land 4 miles northeast of Glidden. A well wooded tract which will be preserved as much as possible in a natural state with picnicking, primitive camping and nature trails.

Pocahontas County Conservation Board—Little Clear Lake Park—Development. A 16-acre tract of land on the west of Little Clear Lake which would include roads and parking areas, fencing, seeding and planting, one well and hand pump, one toilet, two picnic shelters, picnic equipment and playground equipment.

Jones County Conservation Board—Central Park—Development. A 217-acre park located 8 miles east of Anamosa to provide a ten-unit camping area equipped with sewer lines, electrical outlets and water; install electric lights and hot water in an existing shower and toilet building; level and gravel surface 7 parking areas and grade and gravel approximately 1,400 feet of park road.

City of Ottumwa—Ottumwa Park and Wildwood Park—Development. To develop its large Ottumwa Park located on a lagoon in an abandoned channel of the Des Moines

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CIRCULATION63,667

River by grading and rock surfacing approximately 1.5 miles of roadway, filling and leveling several low lying marshy areas, grading and rock surfacing several parking areas, clearing underbrush, constructing fireplaces for picnicking and camping and establishing a tree nursery for future landscaping.

Crawford County Conservation Board—Amendment to project agreement—Nelson Park. The agreement covering this development project at Nelson Park be amended to increase the total cost and amount of Federal assistance to complete the remainder of their project.

Story County Conservation Board—McFarland Lake—Acquisition. To acquire two parcels of land totaling approximately 40 acres of land and including an existing 7.4 acre lake 7 miles northeast of Ames on the east side of the proposed Ames Reservoir. The area will be utilized for public fishing and nature study and the ultimate development will be held in abeyance pending completion of a recreation plan for Story County and also completion of plans for the Ames Reservoir.

Authorized the expenditure of \$17,500 for further engineering studies on the Little Lake of the Woods Project and accept Little Lake of the Woods as a State Project for investigative purposes.

Hayden Prairie in Howard County was established in the State Preserves System.

The request of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board for approval to acquire 115 acres for creating a green belt on the Cedar River 3 miles northwest of Cedar Falls was approved.

The request of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board for approval to acquire 5 additional acres of land as an addition to their Popp Access Area 1½ miles southwest of Hudson was approved.

The request of the Carroll County Conservation Board for approval to acquire 55 acres of hardwood timber for the purpose of creating a timber preserve and wildlife habitat area 6 miles northeast of Glidden was approved.

The request of the Clinton County Conservation Board for approval to acquire 7 acres of land as a gift for the purpose of developing a small county park and highway safety rest area 3½ miles south of Low Moor was approved.

The request of the Franklin County Conservation Board for approval to acquire 70 acres of additional land at their Mallory Park approximately 6 miles southwest of Hampton was approved.

The request of the Franklin County Conservation Board to acquire 74 acres of land straddling the Iowa River approximately 3 miles southwest of Popejoy was approved.

The request of the Kossuth County Conservation Board for approval to acquire 20.53 additional acres of land at their Michaelsen Marsh Area 3½ miles northwest of Titonka was approved.

The request of the Marion County Conservation Board for approval to acquire 1,535 acres of land under a renewable 25 year lease from the U. S. Corps of Engineers for the purpose of developing a multiple use outdoor recreational area located approximately 6½ miles west of Pella was approved.

The request of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board for approval of the revised development plan and report prepared for their Black Hawk County Park was approved.

The request of the Bremer County Conservation Board for approval of the development plan and report prepared for their Cedar Bend Park Area was approved.

The request of the Buena Vista County Conservation Board for approval of the revised development plan and report prepared

for their Buena Vista County Park was approved.

The request of the Henry County Conservation Board for the approval of the development plan and report prepared for their Oakland Mills County Park was approved.

The request of the Marion County Conservation Board for approval of the development plan and report prepared for their Roberts Creek Park Area was approved.

The request of the Pocahontas County Conservation Board for approval of the development plan and report prepared for their Little Clear Lake County Park was approved.

The request of the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board for approval of the development plan and report prepared for their Missouri River Access Area was approved.

The request of the Sac County Conservation Board for approval of the revised development plan and report prepared for their Reiff Safety Rest and Wildlife Area was approved.

The option offered by John F. Huglin on 41 acres on the Lake Dallas Project in Dallas County was exercised.

The option offered by Jerry Lee Study, Thurman, for 2.4 acres on the east side of the Forney's Lake Area was exercised.

Approved the issuance of a construction permit to the Greene County Board of Supervisors to widen the road at Dunbar Slough.

Approved the offer of the State Highway Commission to purchase 2.6 acres of land in the Reardon Access to Trout Run in Winneshie County.

Contracts were awarded as follows:
Lake Darling State Park, Washington Co., construction of shower and toilet building to Franck Plumbing Co., Guthrie Center.

Pilot Knob State Park, Hancock Co., construction of shower and toilet building to Forest City Improvement Company, Forest City.

Nine Eagles State Park, Decatur Co., water treatment plant and connection to lines to J. & E. Construction Co., Webster City.

Lake of Three Fires State Park, Taylor Co., construction of shower and toilet building to Franck Plumbing Co., Guthrie Center.

Lake Geode State Park, Des Moines & Henry Co., construction of water treatment plant and water lines to Bailey Plumbing and Heating Company, New London.

Lake Geode State Park, Henry Co., construction of sewer lines and sewage stabilization pond to Bailey Plumbing and Heating, New London.

Lake Geode State Park, Henry Co., construction of shower and toilet building to Bailey Plumbing and Heating Co., New London.

Wilson Island Area, Pottawattamie Co., construction of trailer sanitary station, complete sewage system to Paul E. Hoyt, Missouri Valley.

Wilson Island Area, Pottawattamie Co., construction of shower and toilet building to Coen Engineering Company, North Bend, Nebraska.

Viking Lake State Park, Montgomery Co., construction of sewer line, sewage lift station and force main to Buchan Construction Company, Perry.

Viking Lake State Park, Montgomery Co., construction of sewage stabilization pond to Buchan Construction Company, Perry.

Lake Ahquabi State Park, Warren Co., construction of sewage stabilization pond to Wayne Geetings, Pella.

Lake Ahquabi State Park, Warren Co., construction of sewer lines and underground lift station to Buchan Construction Company, Perry.

The option offered by Inez Denning to sell 99 acres in Pikes Peak Park Area was exercised.

An option offered by Mr. and Mrs. Chester Cazeay on 80 acres of land in the Shimek State Forest Area was exercised.

A 3:00 p.m. checkout hour was established in camping areas in State Parks which are operated on a fee basis.

NOTICE

In last month's CONSERVATIONIST, the walleye fishing article by Gary Ackerman mentioned that navigation maps of the Mississippi were available from the Dept. of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Rock Island, Illinois. These are available but for a fee of 10c each which should be included in the request to the department.

EDITORIAL

Summertime is "when the livin' is easy," according to song and story. But summertime can also be "when the livin' is hazardous," especially for the outdoorsman and his family.

So let's have a word of caution about dangers that fishermen may encounter. Fishing isn't considered a really dangerous sport, at least for the angler. But the careless fisherman who isn't prepared for an emergency can ruin an otherwise pleasant trip.

When you come right down to it, anglers are exposed to many hazards. They can be pricked by fish fins, snagged on a wildly-cast lure or nicked by a knife while cleaning fish. In his eagerness to wet a line, the angler may stumble or tumble down a rock covered hillside. A man can wound himself while cutting wood, receive a severe burn at the campfire or get food poisoning. People moving around a fishing camp, especially those barefooted, might step on a fish bone which is highly infectious.

What about prevention and cure. In the first place, most accidents that occur in the field are caused by carelessness . . . and can be prevented by common sense and caution. But, accidents will happen in spite of caution and vigilance. So we must be prepared for them. A first aid kit should be included among the sportsman's equipment. This can be very valuable and could prevent a minor injury from becoming a serious one. Fishermen could also include a small pair of snippers in their tackle box. If someone gets hooked in a fleshy area, the barb can be pushed through and cut off with the snippers.

Two other handy items designed to make life outdoors more comfortable are insect repellent and suntan lotion. Although relatively few people are bitten by rattlesnakes, it's a good idea to have a snake bite kit along. A knowledge of first aid and common sense are two valuable items to have on any outing.

Most of the hazards and preventive measures apply to just about anyone in the outdoors including campers, hikers, picnickers, bird watchers and others. Iowa offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Let's not spoil these with a careless act or lack of preparation.

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AGA Donates Area For Waterfowl Marsh

Black Hawk Marsh, a valuable addition to Iowa's wildlife production and hunting areas, was dedicated on Thursday, May 23.

The American Game Association purchased 103 acres of land and deeded it to the State of Iowa to be managed by the State Conservation Commission. The Commission then purchased another 103 acres to make Black Hawk Marsh which is located about two miles south of Lake View. The marsh will be maintained in perpetuity as a wildfowl nesting area in the spring and summer, and as a public shooting ground during the open seasons for hunting.

Seth Gordon, vice president of the American Game Association, officially presented the area to the state. Commission Chairman Mike F. Zack of Mason City accepted for the state. E. B. Speaker of Des Moines, special projects coordinator for the Commission, served as master of ceremonies. Also present was Commissioner Edward Weinheimer of Greenfield, other Conservation Commission personnel, and newsmen.

The Commission, in accepting the Association's gift, agreed to certain conditions. One stipulation was that the area be maintained for waterfowl. The area will also be open for public hunting when any contiguous territory is open and will be governed by the same regulations. The Commission will provide officer service to enforce all regulations necessary.

A permanent bronze marker naming the American Game Association as donor of the land and the date was erected at the area and will be maintained by the Commission.

The American Game Association is North America's oldest wildlife organization. Chartered in 1911 in New York, it was organized primarily as a central agency through which those interested in wildlife conservation might coordinate their efforts. The Association is dedicated to the perpetuation of shooting and fishing opportunities as essential to our nation.

NOTICE!

Copies of the Index for Volumes 25 and 26 of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST are now available. These volumes cover the years January, 1966, to December, 1967. Readers who have saved their issues will find this compilation to be a ready reference for all issues within those dates.

Single copies of the Index may be obtained free of charge by writing to the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST, State Office Building, 300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Also the Index for Volume 23 and 24, issues from January, 1964, to December, 1965, are still available if you did not receive a copy before.



Part in the dedication of Black Hawk Marsh were (left to right): E. B. Speaker, special projects coordinator for the State Conservation Commission; Commissioner Edward Weinheimer; Seth Gordon, vice president of the American Game Association; and Commission Chairman Mike F. Zack. All stand in back of the bronze plaque that marks the waterfowl area given the State by the American Game Association.

Water Safety . . .

(continued from page 49)

didn't care, or didn't realize the importance of really knowing swim techniques, water safety, and the possible dangers of neglect.

I saw there, a family of four where the parents probably didn't realize that their children must always be watched. One child (I'd guess about four or five) was playing with a duck-shaped life saver, a toy that, as I remember, gave hours of enjoyment in water play. I kept watch and knew that it took only a second or two for a small child to slip under . . . the inner tube still visible but the child gone. The lifeguard, evidently, was watching too, and warned the little girl about this. The parents saw and heard and, I hope, realized then, that vigilance was a most important part of common water sense.

A little later, the guard warned some teenage swimmers about staying within the proper, marked areas, another vital point of water safety. This brought to mind some very unpleasant scenes from the past. Water bodies, whether natural lake areas or man-made, don't have the predictable, even floors as do swimming pools. Swimming areas are marked because of this and stepping beyond these limits can lead to danger and very serious consequences.

This year as in all other years, almost every newspaper has carried a capsulized version of water accidents and drownings. It's so easy to take the "it won't happen to me" attitude and go along without real concern, without much consideration except for the brief and common comment, "Gee, isn't that too bad!"

As most water safety officers will tell you, it only takes *one* first hand, on-the-scene experience to completely realize the sickening seriousness of water recreation fatalities.

Conservation Commission officers most usually assist the county sheriff's office in rescues and dragging procedures. However, when a commission officer is first on the scene, he takes charge until the sheriff's office personnel arrives. In this situation one sees the total tragedy . . . the worry, the immediacy, the problems involved with the rescue process, and most



of all, the needlessness, if only common sense and awareness had been used.

Whether it's an "almost" or "certain" fatality, the operation is unpleasant and the results are not only sickening but eye-opening. It CAN happen to anyone, and a small amount of caution and concern can eliminate the need to call any officer or rescue department.

I left the beach area to check on some boaters nearby, and I continued to observe this type of water recreation from the same viewpoint as before.

A parallel was obvious. There were the show-offs who must be cautioned; there were the skiers engaging in practices where personal and vessel limitations should have been considered; and too, there were the "uninformed" who simply were unaware of the possible dangers.

One thing stood out after listening to the many and varied remarks of the boaters and skiers. Generally they knew the channel markers, the required equipment, the necessity for good repair for their crafts. But so often I heard, "Johnny (or Susie or Jimmy), you *must* wear your life jacket." Johnny did, but Dad or Mom didn't because they're "an experienced swimmer" and "really don't need it." Besides, "how would it look to old Fred" if "I had on my life jacket like the kids."

No matter what "old Fred" thinks, a life jacket or lifesaving device isn't an admittance of little or no skill; *without* this equipment, it's more an admittance of just plain stupidity. The "kids" will learn from example, but more importantly, they will learn that water safety applies even to

"expert" swimmers, for even the experts can cramp, can be subject to an unforeseen mechanical failure of a boat, or from unpredictable and changeable water current.

In fact, from observing even one area, it's the "expert" swimmer and the experienced person in water recreation who uses life jackets and the like. If the "great swimmers" who feel no need for this kind of equipment would observe, as I did, the "sissy" who *is* using the life jackets, they too would see that these people are the really "expert" swimmers who are simply using good common sense and taking precautions against a rather fickle Mother Nature.

As I scanned the boating area a second major factor was apparent. When a water body lends itself to varied types of recreation—swimming, boating, fishing, etc.—it's good judgment and good common sense, again, to know that COURTESY is essential.

In my observations that day, I fortunately didn't see discourtesy between the boater and boat-fisherman, or the boater and swimmer. But usually one does see this in almost every situation where varied water recreation takes place.

As in driving a car, it's awareness, watching out for the other guy, having good manners, and letting the "other guy" enjoy himself as much as you are enjoying your deserved and welcomed free-time.

Perhaps, as with all water safety officers, it's just a strong belief in "common water safety sense."

As I left the area to go on to other spots and other problems, a few special problem areas came to mind. Sportsmen who hunt near marshes, fishermen who wade in streams, water recreation early or late in the day, or early and late in the season, present still more concern for water safety and for the water safety officers.

I left for a stream area where someone had been wading and came *too close* to being a "victim" for rescue units. I don't like to see anyone wading in a stream, even though it's great fun. But, if they must, for the sake of good "common water sense", why can't they wade upstream so the current could carry them back to safety, if they should fall into an unsuspected hole? Why can't early season swimmers and boaters realize that water temperatures add the extra danger of more and



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The Art of Walleye Fishing

By Gary Ackerman
Fisheries Biologist

Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part article on walleye and sauger fishing begun last month in the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST.

Still Fishing

Natural, live bait will always produce a fair share of walleye and sauger. Probably more sauger are taken on live bait than on artificial lures. And live bait is less expensive.

Bait fishing tends to be seasonal and generally parallels jig fishing. In fact, most jig fishermen employ still fishing techniques when things are slow or when the water is cold in early spring. The areas worked by still fishermen are concentrated below the closing dams. Many use the available barge facilities, but most prefer to use a boat to get to their favorite "hot spot".

When you see many fishermen changing to new locations, you can bet the walleye are not hitting. However, when they remain for long periods at a certain location, don't hesitate to join the successful fishermen.

There are two basic requirements for the live bait fishermen—keep the bait moving and keep it on or near the bottom. This requires special rigging.

A three-way walleye rig is preferred by most men. It's simply a three-way swivel that attaches to the main line. A second monofilament line (24 inches long and 10-pound test) is tied to the swivel and to a No. 2 or 4 hook. No leader or spinner is needed, but a small spinner-hook combination may increase the catch. A third monofilament line (6 inches long and 8-pound test) is tied from the three-way swivel to a half-ounce bell sinker. The line going to the sinker is of lighter strength so if the sinker becomes snagged, only the sinker will be lost. Then hook a minnow through its nose and you are ready for business.

Keep the bait moving, don't use a cork, keep a taut line and use a light action rod and you'll be able to feel a walleye a "shewin'!" Then you will know when to set the hook.

There is another method of still fishing sometimes called "dabbling". All you need is a long, light cane pole and an equal length of 15-pound test monofilament. Use live bait or artificials as before. It's used to best advantage when working brush areas, stumps, tree tops, ends of wing dams or similar areas that are hard to fish. Simply anchor the boat and work live minnows, night crawlers or artificials slowly, but thoroughly, around niches and snags that otherwise would be hard to fish with conventional gear. It is effective.

Trolling

The old school walleye fishermen look with scorn and sometimes envy at the troll-

er. They say: "It just isn't sportin' to sit, ride, swill beer and still catch walleye." Or "Their motor disturbs feeding walleye too much." They argue further that too much of the fight is taken out of the walleye when it is pulled through the water after it has hit a lure being trolled.

Some of these arguments may be true, but it is still hard work casting and someone usually has to row the boat. Then too, who can argue with success?

Motor trolling is a legal, relaxing, and very successful method to fish for walleye and sauger. This is more productive during the summer and fall when the water warms and the walleye become more active. Peak fishing usually begins about Memorial Day and extends through Labor Day and on into the fall season. By May 30, walleye and sauger have completed their spawning activities and usually begin an intense feeding period.

Walleye are the most commonly caught species. Bonus species include sauger, northern pike, largemouth bass, white bass, crappies, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and occasionally, a smallmouth bass.

The more productive areas fished by trolling are the sunken wing dams. These dams were created prior to the present lock and dam system by federal agencies. The basic theory of the wing dam was to funnel excess water and current into the navigational channel. It was thought the excess current would create enough of a scouring action to furnish a navigable channel of a uniform depth. They did not prove satisfactory for this purpose, but they certainly created habitat for many species.

Wing dams were constructed by placing alternate layers of rock piled upon willows or other woody material and sunk at approximate right angles to the bank and channel. Much of the woody materials have rotted and all that remains are sunken rock dams, sometimes silted over with mud or sand. Often the rock structures can still be located.

In the tailwaters, wing dams may be visible at the water surface during low stages. When under water, they are indicated by the characteristic ruffle and waves from the current passing over the dam. The better dams are usually covered with five to ten feet of water and in a current.

After locating a wing dam, troll artificial lures directly across the top of the dam and parallel with its length. Lures are trolled quite fast—between two and four miles per hour, so it's advisable to have an outboard motor which can be idled for long periods of time. Many prefer small motors from five to ten horsepower, depending upon what size and type of hull is used.

It's advisable to use deep running artificial lures, or to sink light, floating lures. In fact, a fisherman should be able to feel the lure bump along and over rocks at all

times. This gives him the correct depth and orients the boat on top of the dam.

Trolling is not limited to sunken wing dams. Other areas which frequently produce walleyes and sauger are sunken rip-raps, sand bar reefs, gravel bars, creek confluences that have rubble bottoms, and swift water sloughs that enter into lake-like habitat on the river bottoms.

Bait Casting

Bait casting is an effective method to catch walleye and sauger when they are hitting.

These species are generally thought of as a "schooling" type fish, thus a trolled-caught fish generally means there are more fish to be taken from the same area. Assume a feeding school of fish is located. Anchor the boat just above the wing dam where the fish hit and work the area by bait casting. Cast the lure down and over the wing dam, then retrieve it slowly, up and over the rocks of the dam. Sometimes feeding fish can be observed on the surface as indicated by frightened schools of minnows breaking water or by actually seeing the feeding fish.

If bait casting is preferred instead of trolling a wing dam, it is advisable to maneuver the boat just above and parallel with the wing dam. For this method, an electric trolling motor is excellent. It's quiet (compared to an outboard) and much easier than rowing.

The same artificial lures used by the troller and jig fishermen are also employed by the bait caster. "Leadheads" and sonars are especially effective under the large closing dams, whereas the bait caster who fishes wing dams and other habitat usually prefer deep running artificials that sink and weigh between $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$ ounces.

Darn the Snag

One of the perplexing problems of motor trolling is to become snagged. When this occurs, immediately reverse the motor and try to stop all forward momentum. At the same time, let out extra line to prevent breakage. Have your companions stop fishing and retrieve their lures. Then turn the boat around, in a tight half circle, to get directly behind the point where you became snagged. If you are not able to snap and jerk the lure free, maneuver the boat directly over the snag and use a rock-hook.

This is simply a pole about ten feet long equipped with a three pronged hook. Any welder can make one in a few minutes at a nominal cost. The hooks only need to be two inches long and welded to a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch metal rod about two feet long. Heavy bamboo makes an excellent, light, but strong, pole to attach the rock-hook. Use this, guiding it along side the line, to locate the lure. Then simply start turning over rocks, or hook the lure and pull it free.

There is another lure retriever which can be made easily. Use twenty feet of heavy line (size 36 or 48 nylon). Tie a three or four ounce weight to its end. This weight must have a large snap attached to its underside. Then, on the snap attach a large trebel hook (size 5/0) and several, two inch links of furnace chain. To use this, maneuver the boat over the snag, attach the snap to your line and allow the lure retriever to slide down the line. Then "jig" the lure retriever until it becomes ensnared in the lure. Finally, pull the lure free with the heavy nylon line. It works to retrieve any artificial lure fished in most ways.

The bait caster may have an "edge" over the troller during cold weather conditions. Fish activities are decreased by cold water, so it's necessary to slow down the retrieve when

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The



Great



*Blue
Heron*



Left: High in the cottonwoods this Great Blue Heron sentinel guards its nest in the rookery. Top: Huge wings cushion the graceful descent of a Great Blue Heron to its nest. Far Right: Nests of the heron often are three feet wide and once made, become the permanent home for the migratory birds. Right: The heron can shade its nest by spreading giant wings over it. Below: an alerted heron stretches its neck to better see the intruder approaching.



Photos by Jack Kirstein



Wary and watchful, large and graceful, the Great Blue Heron once again has established a nesting area in Iowa.

The Three Rivers region on the Missouri River, near Little Sioux, Iowa, hosts the heron families as they build their giant nests in sixty-foot cottonwood trees overlooking the river.

More commonly the birds make their homes across the state on Mississippi River shores. But though uncommon to the Missouri area, the bluish-grey birds have been observed and photographed by State Conservation Commission personnel.

These nesting areas, called rookeries or heronries, are found in the more remote, wooded regions along river beds. The nests themselves are bulky, about three feet wide, and once built, become permanent homes for the waterfowl who return yearly to add only a few twigs to restore necessary strength.

Each pair of the huge birds, whose wing span is about six feet, raises between four and six young yearly, and establishes and replenishes the population of the communities.

A migratory species, the Great Blue Heron is protected by both state and federal laws. Additionally, the Missouri region affords the built in protection of nature by a mass of poison ivy growing beneath the heron nests.

Wading in shallow streams and marshes, the herons search for small fish and frogs for food. Telescopic eyesight, a long, pointed beak, and unmatched patience, enables them to provide ample "groceries" for their young. The parents take turns—catching the next meal, or warding off the dangerous predatory hawks and owls.

Because the herons prefer life in warm climates, the cool fall weather eliminates the possibility for Iowans to observe the birds. But the Great Blue Heron during the warmer months provides an almost unique challenge to man as a general observer, a photographer, or as a scientist.

Their habitat, their habits, their appearance, and their "personality" make them one of the finest of nature's sights, and fortunately, one that nature can share with man.

Pretty But POISON!



The cluster of pretty green leaves, somewhat resembling a wildflower leaf, or, with imagination, a poinsettia leaf, is indeed pretty. Usually, these "pretty leaves" grow in large masses beneath trees or near wooded areas, and may be among other weeds and flowers.

Pretty though they may be, they're poison, and can lead to serious infection.

Most *everyone* knows what poison ivy looks like, or they *think* they do. Yet each season brings an uncountable number of sportsmen as well as children who come home from an outing and suddenly begin to itch or break out with a rash. Most of these cases turn out to be some kind of reaction caused by poison ivy; most of these people knew what the weed looked like.

Poison ivy is sneaky. It's unsuspected, often hiding among other more amiable weeds and wildflowers. It's fickle, causing different reactions, ranging from just a slight itch to serious infection.

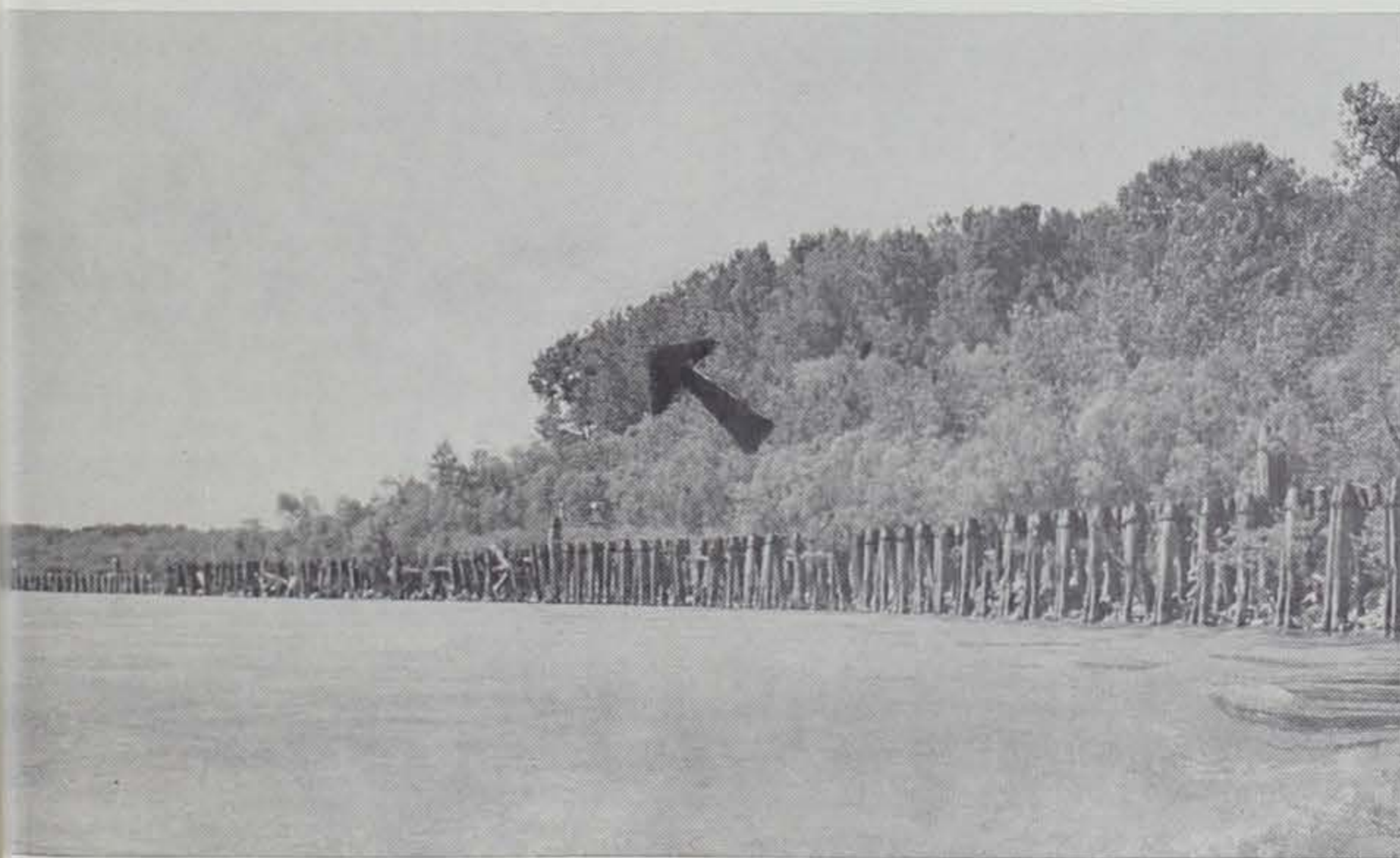
Victims of poison ivy reactions will recommend a variety of cures — from the sure-cures of "old wives tales" to sophisticated salves and ointments prescribed by doctors. All of these may work. Most of them relieve the itching or erase the rash.

But prevention is much easier, less expensive, and less uncomfortable. And, prevention is just simple CAUTION, an awareness of the possibility of poison ivy in an area of outdoor recreation, an awareness and certainty of the *appearance* of poison ivy.

Nature has purposely placed poison ivy (and other plants which are harmful to man) in strategic positions to protect certain species of both plant and animal life from man's intruding ways.

Certainly, man must and has "intruded" on nature for his own survival. But, man must also respect nature and be aware of the inherent dangers in the outdoors, both for his own survival and for the maintenance of the balance between man and nature.

The safest way is just to leave poison ivy and other "pretty leaves" *alone*. Sure, they're pretty, but they're poison.



all cottonwood trees along the Missouri River house the rookery and its Great Blue Heron nests. (Arrow marks the location of the nests.)



Planning a picnic this summer? If so, here is a delightfully quick and easy menu to prepare.

For the main dish a "Rainbow Sandwich" would hit the spot. It's quick to prepare and a treat for everyone. It's also a light meal which is very important for those who plan to swim.

RAINBOW SANDWICHES

Trim all crusts from loaf of bread; cut 4 lengthwise slices. Spread 3 slices with butter or margarine and filling; put together and top with fourth slice. Wrap in waxed paper; chill and when ready to serve, cut slices.

Rainbow sandwiches are made with two or more contrasting fillings and frequently with alternating slices of dark and light bread.

Some suggested fillings for rainbow sandwiches are: pineapple-cream cheese, pimiento cheese with chopped ripe olives, honey and peanut butter, crab meat and mayonnaise, chopped pickled beets and hard cooked eggs, or nearly any filling preferred by your "lunchers".

A perfect ending to this meal which is a treat to young and old alike is "Pudding Cookies."

PUDDING COOKIES

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Bisquick
- 1 pkg. instant pudding (any kind)
- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cooking oil

Roll into balls about the size of a quarter. Press with a fork on a cookie sheet. Bake in oven at 350° for 10 minutes.

This menu makes a perfect meal for anyone who is planning a picnic by a lake or swimming area because it is important for those planning to swim to eat a light, but nourishing meal.

A short rest afterwards is just as important as a good meal, for then, and only then, is a child or adult ready for a fun-filled and *safe* afternoon.

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Erskine Given Merit Award, Six Added to Hall of Fame For Service in Conservation

By Dr. Paul Vohs
Iowa State University

State Senator Alden J. Erskine, Sioux City, Iowa, was awarded the Iowa Conservation Award of Merit by the Iowa Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The presentation was made by chapter president Eugene D. Klomglan at the annual banquet of the Iowa Academy of Science held April 19, on the Wartburg College campus, Waverly, Iowa.

Senator Erskine was selected for his leadership for sound conservation legislation in the Iowa Senate and his efforts on behalf of the public against unsound bills proposed by selfish interests.

He was also cited for his leadership and unselfish devotion in conservation organizations fighting for clean waters, good conservation of soil, preservation of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area, and for his contribution as a member of the Governor's Committee on Conservation of Iowa's Outdoor Resources.

Previous awards were given to Earl Rose, John M. Aikman, Governor Harold Hughes, Galen Smith and Fred T. Schwob.

Honorees added to the Chapter's Iowa Conservation Hall of Fame included Kenneth D. Carlander, Arthur H. Carhart, Margaret J. Black, Ira N. Gabrielson, Bruce F. Stiles and George O. Hendrickson. The Hall of Fame award is made to recognize and honor national and local conservationists who have made outstanding contributions and have lived in Iowa at some time in their career.

Kenneth D. Carlander, Professor of Fisheries Biology at Iowa State University was selected for his contributions to conservation of fisheries on a world-wide basis, for training of fisheries and wildlife biologists at Iowa State University and his leadership in fisheries research and professional societies.

Margaret June Black, recently retired assistant professor at Drake University, Des Moines, was honored for her leadership and influence in outdoor resource conservation education, her enthusiastic teaching and contributions to state and local organizations.

Ira N. Galbrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C., and former Sioux City resident was recognized for his life-long service in conservation organizations as former Director of the Bureau of Biological Survey and for his ability to inspire politicians, conservation administrators, managers and technicians to strive for the management of fish and wildlife on a

sound biological basis.

Arthur H. Carhart, writer and outdoor editor born in Mapleton, Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University, was honored for his leadership in establishing the Conservation Library Center of North America at the Public Library in Denver, Colorado. His other contributions included his ability as a free-lance writer to interpret the intraves of nature to his public and his many public service efforts for conservation.

Bruce F. Stiles, former director of the State Conservation Commission was cited for his progressive and strong leadership with the State Conservation Commission, as president of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners and for his courageous promotion of sound fish and game management.

George O. Hendrickson, former Professor of Wildlife Management at Iowa State University was honored for his hand in training of some of the nation's finest wildlife biologists, for his leadership in professional organizations in Iowa and across the Nation and for his personal contributions to our knowledge concerning wild animals.

Walleye Fishing . . .

(continued from page 53)

fishing. The bait caster can work the bait slowly by varying the speed of his retrieve and he can give the lure added action by jiggging the tip of his rod.

A fine natural live bait for use during cold water conditions is a three-way walleye rig equipped with a small spinner and a river shiner or fathead for bait. This method is most effective by fishing very slowly over wing dams late in the fall. Remember—when a walleye hits a minnow rig, stop the retrieve, keep a taut line, let the fish take the bait until it runs with the bait or until you can feel the weight of the fish, then set the hook HARD.

Your success or failure in fishing the Upper Mississippi River depends entirely on you . . . your abilities, your knowledge of the species and your knowledge of the physical peculiarities of the river.

A contact can keep you informed about daily changes that occur. But, he can't predict exact dates, time, and places where walleye and sauger can be caught by everyone.

The old river is like a woman—always unpredictable and changing in her ways. You have to keep up with her all the time . . . or if you can't, someone else has to do it for you. She is rough and tough, but rewarding if you know and understand her.

Water Safety . . .

(continued from page 52)

severe muscle cramps; that dawn and dusk recreation causes concern for water officers because of lessened ability to see, and without proper lights even normally cautious individuals are threatened?

Driving to the next "problem" or possible problem area I wondered what circumstances or conditions I might find. I would have bet that the problem—if it turned out to be that—was still another, or maybe even the same as these that I had thought about that day. In nearly every instance where a water safety officer is needed it boils down to a situation where there was little or no awareness of, or caution for "common water sense".

Arriving on the scene, it was just that—a disregard of water safety. Those people will be cautious now. Yet, I wondered about the individuals who still believe "it can only happen to the other guy." It's too bad that some of them won't wake up until they become the proverbial "other guy." It takes so little to prevent so much.

summer

brings

a

variety

Summer always brings out an interesting variety of outdoor types in Iowa. How many of the following species can you recognize?

Bald-headed tent pitcher; Ruby throated morning gargler; Red-eyed stake pounder; Tufted sleepy-eye; Common kindling snatcher; Hairy-chested barbecue burner; Greater and lesser water carrier; Stuffed-belly potwatcher;

Fleet-footed milkman catcher; Bumble-fingered garbage dumper; Long-armed table snatcher; Red-shafted match flicker; Shifty-eyed flower puller; Trumpeting early riser; White-faced air mattress puffer; Three-toed axe welder; Grey-crowned lounge; and White-thatched table sitter.

Summer lends itself, also, to over-the-fence neighborhood visits or backyard coffee clatches with friends.

Thus, under the heading of "things I wouldn't know if I didn't have clever friends" comes the following:

There's a new gas that puts a rabbit in your tank—it's for short hops.

That's right—summer brings out a variety, period!