

MARCH 1980

IOIA conservationist



**Coming this Spring
PLANT IOWA PROGRAM**

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST MAGAZINE

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CONTENTS FOR MARCH 1980

2 SHEARING EVERGREENS

4 IT'S MORE THAN
JUST THEIR FIRST
FISHING TRIP

5 CATFISH AFTER ICE OUT

6 1979 BIG FISH

6 IOWA ALL-TIME
RECORD FISH

10 PECANS WHICH GROW IN
THE NORTH

12 WITH TURKEYS, IT
ISN'T THE SHOT
THAT COUNTS

14 WARDEN'S DIARY

14 LOOKIN' BACK

15 CLASSROOM CORNER

15 SKUNK CABBAGE

Cover photo by M. Black.

Thousands of trees will be planted this year in the Plant Iowa Program. Watch for a project in your local area.

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Shearing Evergreens

by Bob Hibbs
DISTRICT FORESTER

LATE JUNE or early July is the correct time for shaping or shearing evergreens, whether you are interested in producing Christmas trees or having a uniform shaped lawn tree.

To understand the correct procedure for shaping evergreens, one must understand their growth characteristics. Evergreens — pines, spruces, firs, cedar and junipers — break dormancy during April and early May. Buds enlarge, followed by stem elongation in May and June. The new growth will be much lighter in color than the old needles. These new shoots are commonly referred to as "candles". After the May to June growth period, neither pines, spruces, nor fir will add any more limb length or tree height. Next year's buds are set in July. Being aware of these growth characteristics, the well-informed grower will complete his shearing prior to mid-July.



New growth (candles) forming on a young white pine.

Unlike pine trees (Scotch pine, red pine, white pine or others), cedar, spruce, juniper and fir do not grow whorls of limbs. These trees have buds and new growth for the entire length of their stems. Because of this, shearing may be done nearly any time of the year. Christmas tree growers usually delay spruce and fir shearing until completion of their pine shearing. Late season shearing has a dwarfing effect that may be desirable for foundation junipers or cedars.

Shearing generally begins the third year after planting, or whenever growth of the terminal (top) leader exceeds 12 to 14



The first step of shearing is to reduce the growth of the terminal (top) leader. Make a 45-degree angle cut not more than 12" above the top whorl of branches.

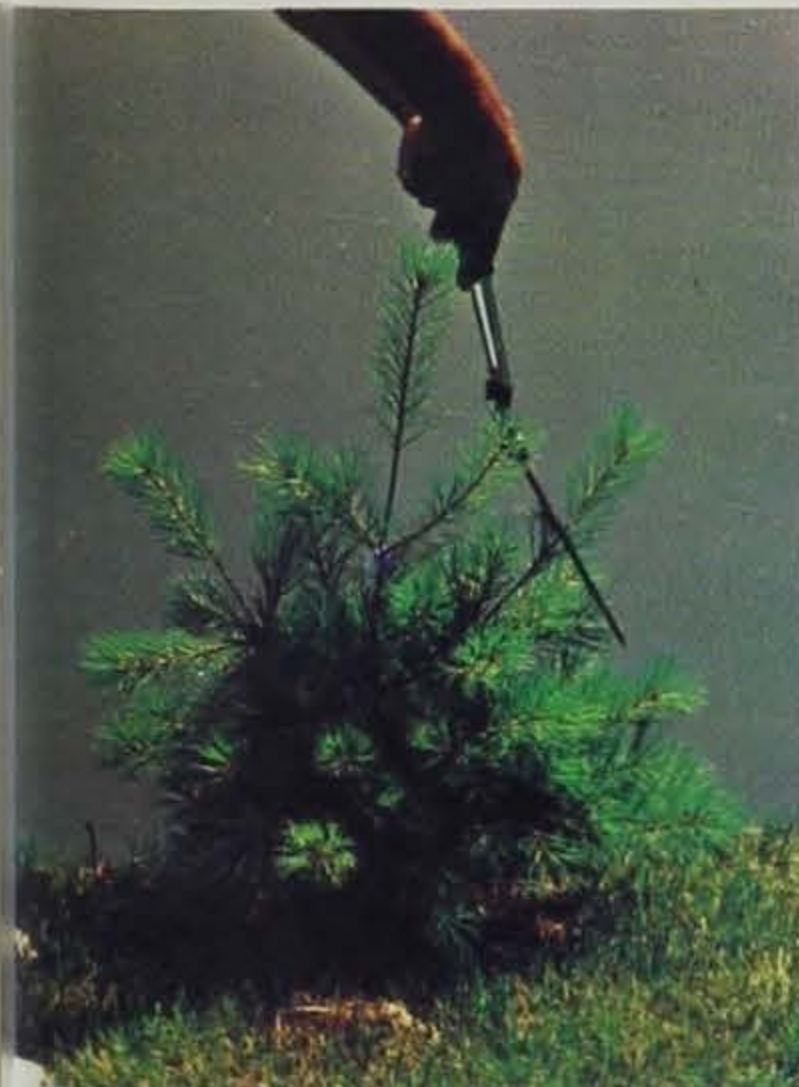
inches. Cutting should be confined to the current season's growth. But if shearing has been neglected, it is possible to cut back into older wood. Cutting into two or three-year-old wood is usually a last resort treatment to salvage a tree that has been uncared for. Cuts into old wood should be made at a crotch or whorl. The remainder of the tree should be sheared to prevent unbalanced growth away from the excessively sheared area. It will take two to three years for a tree to recover from excessive shearing. Cuts should not be made on an area of the stem having no green needles. Care should be taken that no more than one-third of the live crown be removed in any one growing season. Seek qualified advice anytime you have doubts about your own particular situation.

Although you may shear your evergreens to whatever shape you wish, there are general recommendations to obtain a uniform Christmas tree shape: 1. Control height growth by shearing the terminal (top) leader so it does not exceed 12 inches in height. Make this cut at a 45-degree angle 2. Clip the branches of the top whorl so that the total spread of the whorl does not exceed one-half to two-thirds the length of the terminal leader. (A 12" leader should have a

8" spread.) 3. Use the tip of the leader and the tips of the whorl to determine your cutting angle. Cut all side branches in a top-to-bottom manner. Do not cut *into* the tree from



then clip the top whorl of branches so that the total spread of the whorl is one-half to two-thirds the length of the terminal leader.



the tip of the terminal leader and the tips of the first whorl of branches now determine the angle for cutting downward. Cut off all side branches extending beyond this imaginary line.



This newly-sheared white pine will fill out yet for several years prior to becoming a premium Christmas tree.

the side, as this will result in "stairstep" trees. 4. Remove crossed or deformed limbs when the tree is young. And remove the lowest whorl of branches so there will be enough trunk for a Christmas tree stand. This procedure will produce a tree with a height to width ratio of somewhere between 2:1 and 3:2. The 3:2 ratio would be a 6-foot tree with a 4-foot width.



Using a shearing knife to put the finishing touches on a Scotch pine ready for harvest.

By shearing in early July, you will gain the current season's growth and you will obtain buds for next year's growth. If shearing is done after bud set, next year's growth will be delayed as the tree attempts to develop buds.

Equipment for shearing often varies according to the preference of the tree grower. No equipment is necessary if you merely wish to reduce candle growth by hand plucking. A pocket knife would also be sufficient. Most growers find that hedge shears work quite well for trees through a three-foot height. For taller trees, shearing knives are preferred. Hand clippers are the favorite tool for clipping the terminal leader and for removing large branches.



Tools for shearing (left to right): Hedge shears, hand clippers, a shearing knife, sharpening steel and leg guard.

Safety in shearing is extremely important. No one should be within twenty feet of someone using a knife. Keep at least one row of trees between yourself and a man with a shearing knife. If the knife is held in the right hand, shearing should be done in a counter-clockwise direction. This moves the blade down and away from the body rather than across the body. Leg protection should be worn on the right leg. Tools must always be kept sharp and well-maintained.

As you gain proficiency at shearing, there are additional refinements you might consider. Some growers make a point of directing their 45-degree angle cuts of the terminal leader such that the prevailing winds will always push the candle in the desired direction. Other growers have adopted a hand plucking shearing method for the final shearing of long-needled pines. This avoids the "shaved" appearance of some sheared trees. Additional information about Christmas tree production can be obtained from your County Extension Service office, the Iowa Christmas tree growers' association, or your district forester.

It's More Than Just Their First Fishing Trip

Molding your child's future

by Bob Mullen
STATE CONSERVATION OFFICER



HAVE YOU taken the time to take your youngster fishing with you? If you haven't, there's no better time than this spring. You'll find out it's more than just a "fishing trip".

There's no better place for the first fishing trip than a pond that's overstocked with bluegills or sunfish. Children need to have their enthusiasm kept up, and bluegills or sunfish will certainly do that. Size of the fish isn't important to a child, but "catching fish" is. One pole will be enough. You'll be kept busy just helping the little one fish. You will also need to take along generous portions of humor and patience.

Your child will be trying hard to do things right, for they want to please their parents, but they need lots of help. Helping a child put a big wiggly worm on the hook can have its lighter moments, if you bring along your sense of humor.

Catching that first fish is going to take a lot more patience on your part than your youngster. Trying to get the line out to the right spot is hard for the little ones, so you'll need to help. After they get the line out, they will probably want to bring it back in right away to see if the worm is still on the hook. If the fish aren't cooperating fast enough,

children get easily distracted. They quickly find it's fun to throw rocks at the bobber or splash the tip of the pole in the water. Remember your patience! When that first bluegill pulls the bobber under the real fun begins. You might have to help hold the pole or even help reel the fish in because the youngster will get so excited about this big moment. When that first fish is finally on shore, there will be two very proud people. You're so darn proud of that youngster of yours and his or her first fish, but not half as proud as the child. Catching that first fish is a moment that will be treasured forever by both parent and child.

We mustn't expect a young child to be able to even come close to doing things correctly at first. You need to be careful in helping that young angler. You might be fortunate enough to be developing a life time fishing partner. We must realize if we are going to teach our children, we must first give something of ourselves.

Can't you look back on your life and remember that special someone who took the time to teach you the many enjoyable experiences of your youth? That person holds a dear place in our lives. They molded our lives, and taught us right from

wrong. A child's life is patterned after that parent, friend, or neighbor who took time to provide that personal direction which a child desperately needs while growing up.

Probably some of your cherished memories of childhood were fishing trips you took with your Dad. It seemed Dad knew just where to put the bait so you would catch a fish. It was your Dad's concern for you catching that fish that let you know he was really interested in you. You probably will never really know what an impact it has on your youngster when you take them fishing, but 10, 20, or 30 years from now your children will still hold that first fishing trip close in their hearts.

There are so many things going on in our lives that keep us busy. Providing for our family alone makes it hard to spend the time with our children as they are growing up. We fail to realize at times just how much effect we have on molding the footsteps our children will follow. Taking the time now, while our children are small, is a good investment and can prevent problems in later childhood.

There is no better atmosphere for communication between parent and child than a pond bank on a warm

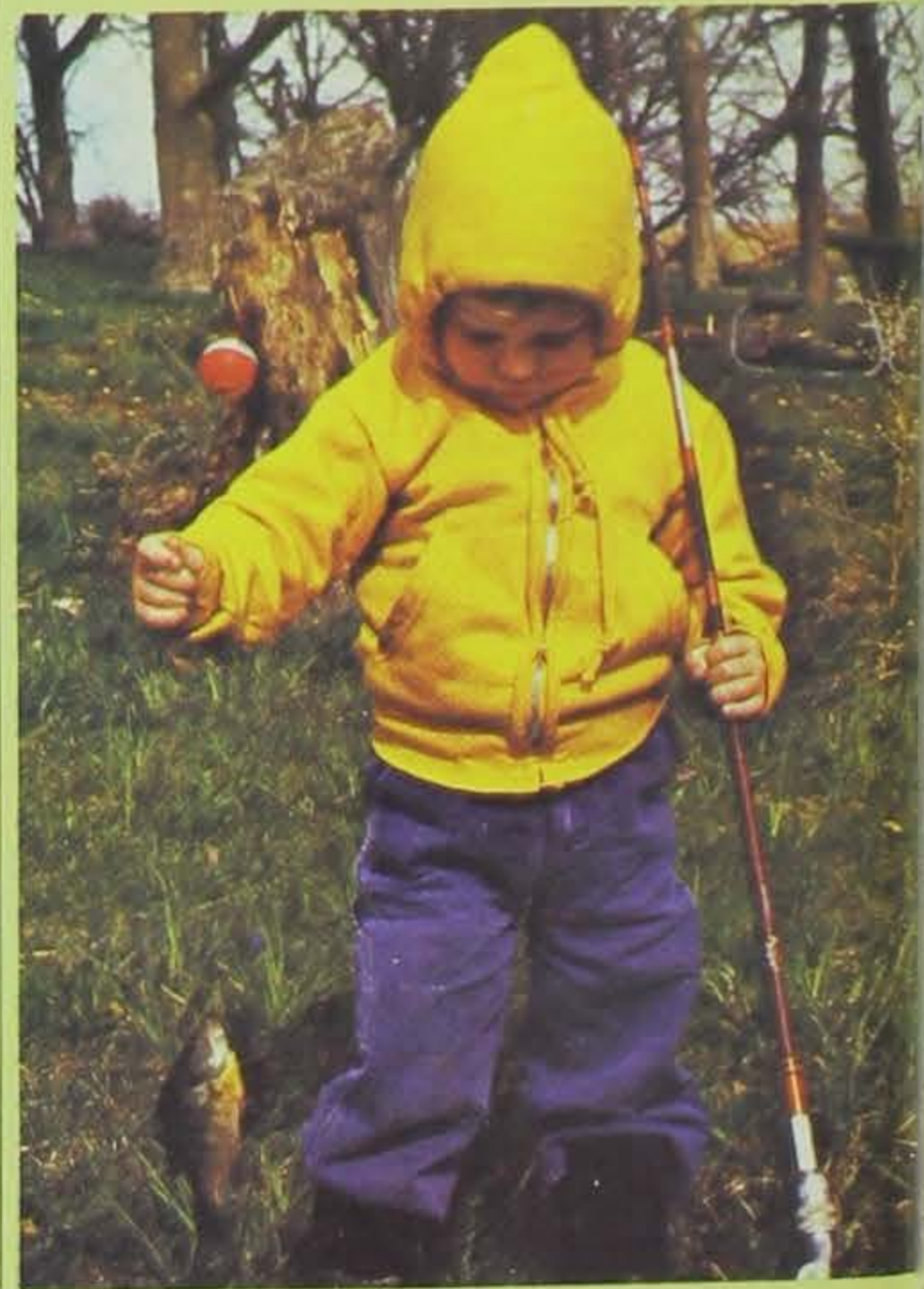
summer day while waiting for the fish to bite.

Perhaps some of the problems today's teenagers have could have been prevented if parents would have spent some time fishing with them in their early years. Today's youth are hungry for affection that was not given to them when they so desperately needed it during their early childhood. A small child doesn't care if he's fishing with a hundred dollar fishing outfit or sitting on the bank with a cane pole.

A youngster is only interested in having the opportunity, and sharing it with a concerned and caring parent. It's out there fishing, not in the classroom where the real values of sportsmanship, and parent/child relationships are developed.

If you can find the time and want to improve your relationship with your children, take them fishing. Better yet, make the time — it will be more than just your child's first fishing trip.

Photos by the Author



IOWA CONSERVATIONIST MARCH 1981



Cut bait is best for spring fishing.

Photos by Roger Sparks

WHEN YOU THINK of fishing for catfish, July and August along with warmer temperatures come to mind for most people. In fact those hot weather months are very productive for old Mr. Fishers. But for the angler who likes catching and eating catfish and hasn't tried for them right after ice out, he or she is missing out on a lot of good bending action.

My favorite areas are where good populations of gizzard shad exist. Shad are very sensitive to water temperature change. Every year after the ice goes out, thousands of shad that didn't survive the winter provide a natural food source for channel catfish. Areas that have healthy shad populations include Red Rock Reservoir (Marion County), Rathbun Reservoir (Appanoose County), Coral Lake Reservoir (Johnson County), Saylorville Reservoir (Polk County), Lake Ahquabi (Warren County), Lake Manawa (Pottawattamie County), Storm Lake (Buena Vista County), and North Twin Lake (Calhoun County).

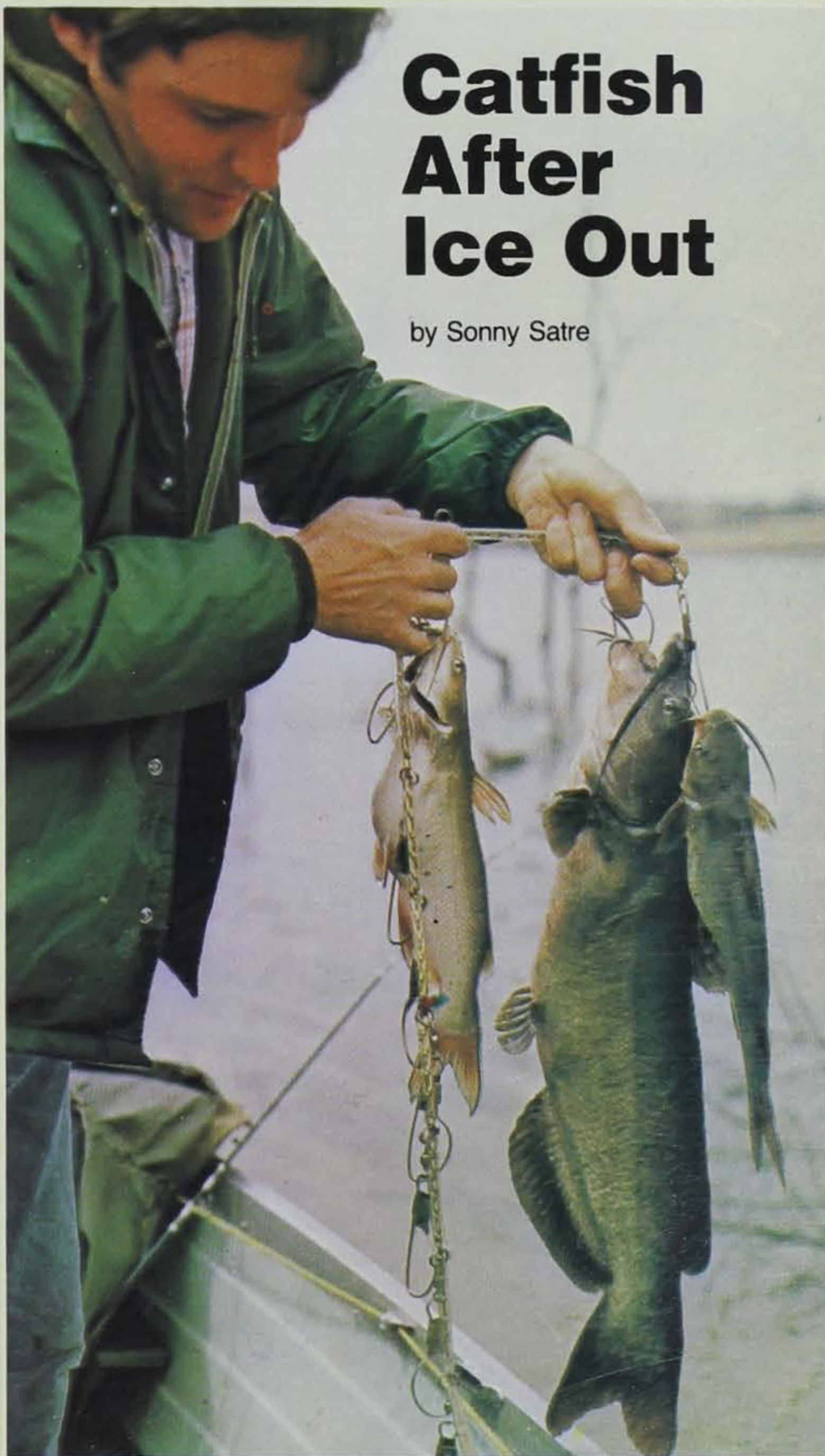
With dead shad floating along the shorelines after ice out, the most logical natural bait is dead fish or cut bait. Cut bait consists of strips or pieces of dead fish such as shad, carp, chubs or whole minnows. The bait doesn't necessarily have to be unbearably rotten or stinky as fresh dead "morsels" work quite well. Cut bait is a reliable catfish bait from ice out to about the first of June according to several informants who supposedly are experts in their field.

For best results, fish on the windward side as the wave

action will drift the natural fish food menu toward you and that is where the hungry catfish should be waiting. Another suggestion is to fish the shallow water in the upper ends of coves. Try depths ranging from two to six feet. Water temperatures are warmer in the shallow water and catfish seem to prefer these areas during the early spring.

The next step after you know what kind of bait to use and where to go is what kind of tackle is the best to rig up. It pays to use heavier line because of snags and the good possibility of hooking a heavy catfish. Catfish over 10 pounds are not uncommon. I prefer at least eight pound test. A stiff bass type rod is preferable to avoid letting the fish play you instead of you being in full control. The sturdier type rod will prevent the hooked fish from wrapping your line around the numerous snags. This isn't the place for ultra-light tackle. A number 2 or 4 short-shanked hook baited with cut bait and weighted with a small split shot is all you need along with some patience. If you don't get a hit within 10 or 15 minutes, move to a new spot. Move around until you locate that lucky hole. Fishing from a boat is the most desirable as it allows you to get to places not easily accessible from shore.

Early spring catfishing provides some tremendous angling opportunities and few people take advantage of it. I know I'm going next spring and you'd better too or else you're going to miss out on some very exciting angling and good eating! Good luck.



Catfish After Ice Out

by Sonny Satre

1979 Big Fish

One Record Broken . . . Two Established

Although only one record was broken, 1979 was another super year for Iowa anglers. Iowa big fish awards were sent to 221 qualifiers. The big fish awards program, now in its 19th year, has established some records which are hard to top although Iowa anglers manage to break one or two each year.

During 1979 the smallmouth bass record was again toppled when Rick Pentland of Estherville hooked a 6 pound 8 ounce monster from Spirit Lake. Pentland's trophy fish nipped the old record by one ounce.

In addition, two new records were established in categories previously unlisted. The two new categories are blue catfish and tiger musky — species on which verification is critical.

The two verified record catches were made by Fred Droizscher of Council Bluffs who caught a 30 pound 8 ounce blue catfish from Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County and Doug Stange of Sibley who took a 20 pound 10 ounce tiger musky from West Okoboji in 1978. Stange's musky was not verified by Commission personnel until this past year.

If you would like to receive a big fish certificate and have your record listed in next year's March magazine, there is one proven formula for success. Go fishing everyday in 1980 or at least as often as possible. Commission research nettings around the state show that there are many tackle busting record fish just waiting for you.

ALL-TIME RECORD FISH

WEIGHT	LENGTH	WHERE CAUGHT	DATE	NAME
BASS (Largemouth) 10 lb. 5 oz.	24 1/4"	Farm Pond Lee County	8-70	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
BASS (Smallmouth) 6 lb. 8 oz.	21 3/8"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	5-79	Rick Pentland Estherville
BASS (Rock) 1 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/2"	Mississippi River Dubuque County	6-73	Jim Driscoll Dubuque
BASS (White) 3 lb. 14 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	5-72	Bill Born Milford
BASS (Yellow) 1 lb. 5 oz.	12 1/2"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo County	5-78	Lowell Washburn Fertile
1 lb. 5 oz.	13"	Sand Pit Black Hawk County	6-78	Timothy Dolan Waterloo
BLUEGILL 2 lb. 5 oz.	11 3/4"	Farm Pond Jasper County	4-76	Mary L. Pool Prairie City
BULLHEAD 4 lb. 8 oz.	17 3/4"	Farm Pond Taylor County	4-66	Dennie Karas Massena
4 lb. 8 oz.	22 1/2"	Boyer River Harrison County	8-71	Ralph Cooney Woodbine
BUFFALO 43 lb. 8 oz.	40"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	4-74	James D. Grim Arnolds Park
CARP 50 lb.	44"	Glenwood Lake Mills County	5-69	Fred Hougland Glenwood
CATFISH (Blue) 30 lb. 8 oz.	40"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie Co.	6-79	Fred Droizscher Council Bluffs
CATFISH (Channel) 30 lb. 4 oz.	39"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	8-74	Glenn Harms Shenandoah
CATFISH (Flathead) 62 lb.	46"	Iowa River Johnson County	7-65	Roger Fairchild Coralville
CRAPPIE 4 lb. 1 oz.	19 1/4"	Farm Pond Tama County	5-69	John Lenhart Tama
MUSKELLUNGE 38 lb.	52 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	9-75	Ed Feldhacker Spencer
TIGER MUSKY 20 lb. 10 oz.	43 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-78	Doug Stange Sibley
NORTHERN PIKE 25 lb. 5 oz.	45"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	2-77	Allen Forsberg Albert City
PADDLEFISH 83 lb.	66 3/4"	DeSoto Bend Harrison County	5-73	Lawrence J. Bonham Missouri Valley

WEIGHT	LENGTH	WHERE CAUGHT	DATE	NAME
PERCH (Yellow) 1 lb. 15 oz.	14 1/4"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	9-74	John Walt Estherville
SAUGER 6 lb. 8 oz.	25"	Missouri River Woodbury County	10-76	Mrs. William Buser Sloan
SHEEPSHEAD 46 lb.	38 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-62	R. F. Farran Clarion
STURGEON (Shovelnose) 12 lb.	33"	Des Moines River Van Buren County	4-74	Randy Hemm Douds
SUCKERS (Misc.) 12 lb. 2 oz.	31"	Iowa River Johnson County	4-78	George A. Paulson Cedar Rapids
SUNFISH (Misc.) 1 lb. 7 oz.	10 9/8"	Farm Pond Des Moines County	6-77	Delbert Cover Mediapolis
TROUT (Brook) 1 lb. 14 oz.	16"	Sny Magill Creek Clayton County	2-75	John Delleman Davenport
1 lb. 14 oz.	16 1/2"	Canoe Creek Winneshiek County	4-78	DuWayne Rude Decorah
TROUT (Brown) 12 lb. 14 1/4 oz.	28"	Elk Creek Delaware County	11-66	Billy Lee Marion
TROUT (Rainbow) 15 lb. 8 oz.	30 1/2"	Turkey River Clayton County	8-77	Chuck Greth West Des Moines
WALLEYE 14 lb. 2 oz.	31 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-68	Herbert Aldridge Spirit Lake

HOW TO ENTER

Any species of fish taken by hook and line and caught in state or boundary waters is eligible. There are, however, minimum qualifying weight limitations as listed below:

Bass, largemouth	7 lbs.	Muskellunge 40" or	15 lbs.
Bass, ocean		Tiger Musky 40" or	15 lbs.
striped	5 lbs.	Northern pike	10 lbs.
Bass, rock	1 lb.	Paddlefish	25 lbs.
Bass,		Perch, yellow	1 lb.
smallmouth	4 lbs.	Sauger	2 1/2 lbs.
Bass, white	2 1/2 lbs.	Sheepshead	15 lbs.
Bass, yellow	1 lb.	Sturgeon,	
Bluegill	1 lb.	shovelnose	3 lbs.
Buffalo	20 lbs.	Sucker (Misc.)	6 lbs.
Bullhead	2 1/2 lbs.	Sunfish (Misc.)	1 lb.
Carp	25 lbs.	Trout, brook	1 lb.
Catfish, blue	20 lbs.	Trout, brown	3 lbs.
Catfish, channel	15 lbs.	Trout, rainbow	3 lbs.
Catfish, flathead	20 lbs.	Walleye	8 lbs.
Crappie	2 lbs.		

Any entry must be weighed to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade. The weighing must be witnessed by two persons.

If there is some doubt in species identification, the angler should contact the nearest Iowa Conservation Commission personnel for verification. *Any new all-time record fish must be examined and verified by Iowa Conservation Commission personnel.*

The Iowa Conservation Commission will offer free taxidermy work for any new all-time record fish. The only stipulation is the fish will be on public display at the Rathbun Fish Hatchery until the record is broken. Then the fish will be returned to the angler.

The angler must fill out an official entry blank or facsimile and send it and a photo or color slide of the angler and the fish to Official Big Fish Records, Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by January 1 (photo will be returned). The entry blank includes the name and address, the species of fish, date caught, body of water, county, total length, bait or lure used, and the witnesses' signatures and addresses. Official entry blanks will be included in the annual Fishing Laws Synopsis brochure which will be available to the public wherever fishing licenses are sold. Any fish that surpasses the official state record will be publicized through the Conservation Commission's weekly news release. All state records and annual awards will be published in the March issue of the *IOWA CONSERVATIONIST*. Iowa Angling Award certificates and shoulder patches will also be sent to qualifying anglers.

NAME
John Wid
Eathervil
William Bush
Sloan
R. F. Fama
Clare
Randy Ham
Dout
George A. Paulsen
Cedar Rapids
Delbert Cove
Mediapolis
John DeLema
Davenport
DuWayne Ruhl
Decorah
Billy Le
Marion
Chuck Green
West Des Moines
Herbert Aldridge
Spirit Lake
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um — Largemouth



Annis — Rock Bass



Delever — White Bass



Casey — Bluegill



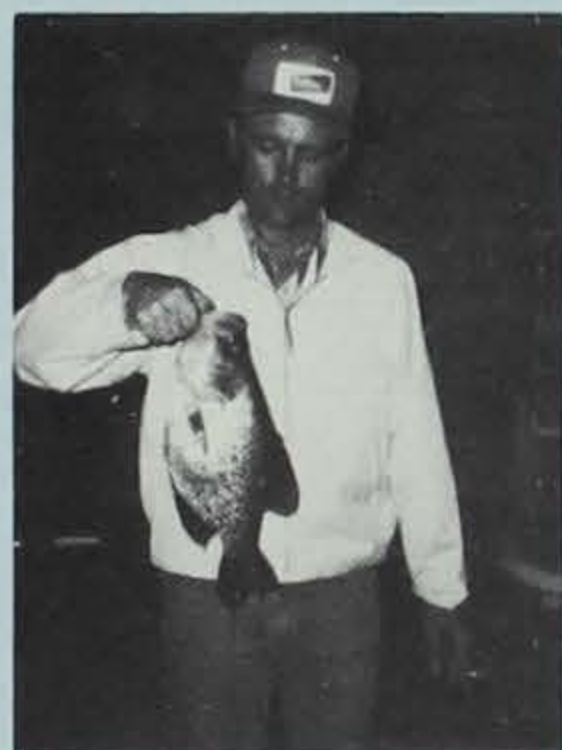
Homan — Carp



— Channel Catfish



Slaman — Flathead



Perkins — Crappie



Huff — Paddlefish



Caggiano — Perch



Downs — Perch



Nettleton — Sauger



Lehman — Sheephead



Ahrens — Sucker



Monaghan — Rainbow



her — Blue Catfish

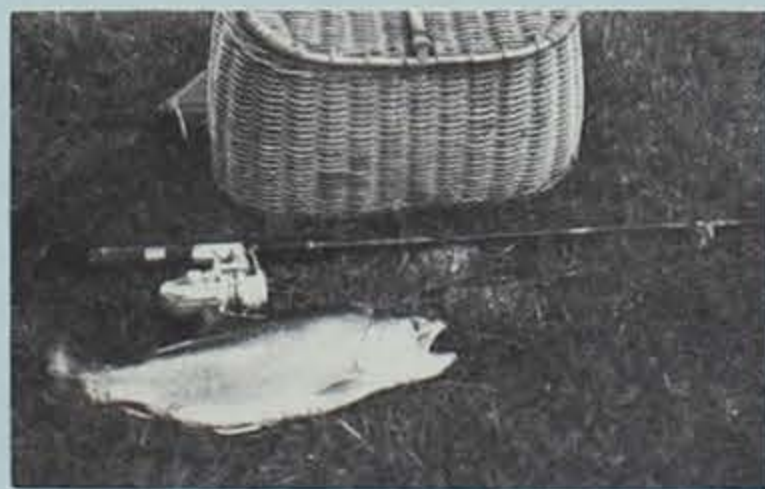
1979 Big Fish Awards



VerMuhl — Buffalo



Lilienthal — Northern Pike

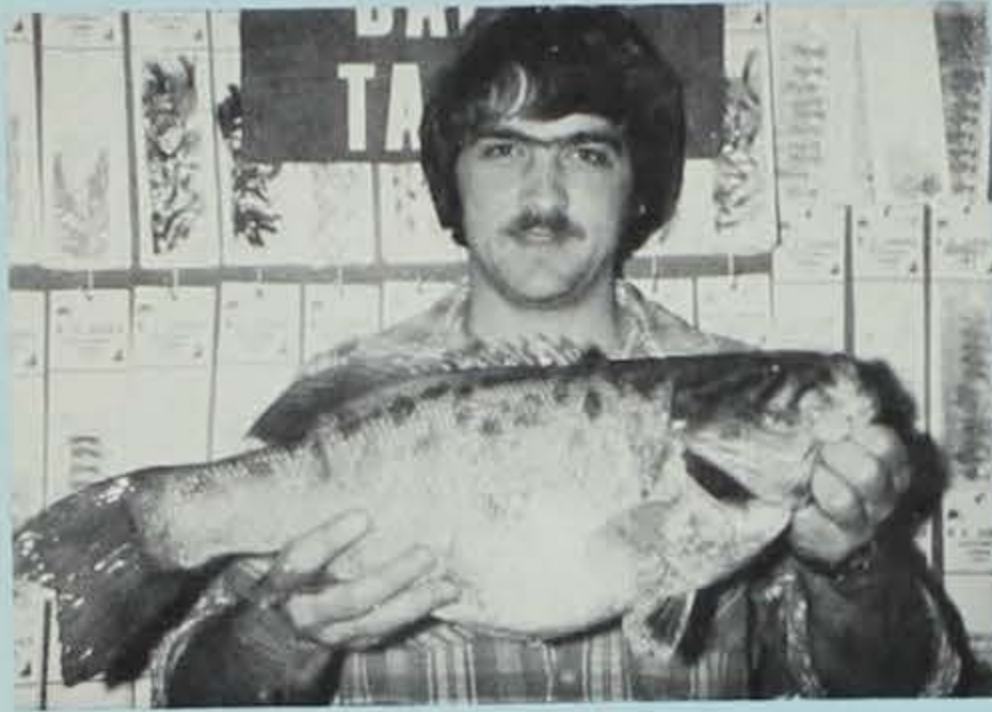


Wilson — Brook Trout



Dengler — Walleye

1979 ENTRIES



Rick Pentland — Smallmouth Bass
New Record at 6 lb. 8 oz.

Weight	Length	Where Caught	Date	Name and Address
BASS (Largemouth)				
9 lb. 4 oz.	23"	Farm Pond Monona County	6-2	Dennis Marcum Moorehead
8 lb.	21½"	Farm Pond Guthrie County	9-8	Weir Carter Menio
7 lb. 13 oz.	25"	Farm Pond Warren County	7-3	Richard D. Vignaroli Des Moines
7 lb. 12 oz.	23"	Farm Pond Taylor County	4-14	Frank J. Haidiak Bedford
7 lb. 12 oz.	23½"	Farm Pond Lucas County	4-22	Joe Keul Des Moines
7 lb. 8 oz.	23½"	Farm Pond Page County	10-8	Leo Mace Clarinda
7 lb. 6 oz.	23¼"	Lake Wapello Davis County	11-8	Denny Burd Burlington
7 lb. 3 oz.	23"	Lake Wapello Davis County	11-8	Denny Burd Burlington
7 lb. 2 oz.	23"	Haller's Pits Sac County	5-28	Larry I. Long Des Moines
7 lb.	23½"	Farm Pond Plymouth County	7-16	Mark Allard Sioux City
7 lb.	21½"	Central Lake Jones County	5-4	Eric Johnson Marion
7 lb.	22"	Lake Iowa Iowa County	4-16	Russell McPhail Waterloo
BASS (OCEAN-STRIPED) BASS (ROCK) No entries				
BASS (SMALLMOUTH)				
*6 lb. 8 oz.	21¾"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	5-15	Rick Pentland Estherville
6 lb. 2 oz.	22"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	5-28	E. L. Jueb Spirit Lake
5 lb. 8 oz.	20"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	4-22	James Rogness Spirit Lake
5 lb.	20½"	Cedar River Floyd County	10-14	Ercyl E. Keeling Charles City
4 lb. 12 oz.	20½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	5-13	Bob Buell Estherville
4 lb. 12 oz.	20"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	5-5	Bob Fitzgerald Milford
4 lb. 11 oz.	20½"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	5-18	Don Hallett Ralston
4 lb. 10 oz.	21"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	8-22	Monty Baker Estherville
4 lb. 8 oz.	20¼"	Little Turkey River Fayette County	9-30	Rick Gardner Sumner
4 lb. 6 oz.	20"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	6-11	Frank Nissen Lakeland, Florida
4 lb. 6 oz.	20"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-10	David P. Smith Cherokee
4 lb. 5 oz.	19"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	6-7	Alice McCullough Vail
4 lb. 4 oz.	19"	Turkey River Howard County	10-3	Marvin P. Brandt Cresco
4 lb. 4 oz.	20"	Big Creek Lake Polk County	4-28	Randy N. Breese Ankeny
4 lb. 4 oz.	19½"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	5-22	Jerry Peschon Worthington, MN
4 lb. 4 oz.	19½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	8-11	Richard Roe Estherville
4 lb. 4 oz.	19½"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	5-4	Joe E. Shuck Arnolds Park
4 lb. 3 oz.	20"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	6-5	Jeff Hansen Sibley
4 lb. 3 oz.	19¼"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	2-14	Jon B. Parks Milford
4 lb. 3 oz.	19¼"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	4-28	Richard Roe Estherville
4 lb. 2 oz.	19½"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	1-9	Dick Alexander Milford
4 lb. 2 oz.	20"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	5-19	Bill Pearson Sibley
4 lb. 1 oz.	18¾"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	5-25	Virg Harrison Cherokee

Weight	Length	Where Caught	Date	Name and Address
4 lb. 1 oz.	18½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	5-16	Dave Matuska Sheldon
4 lb. 1 oz.	19"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	6-10	Mavis Olin Spencer
4 lb. 1 oz.	19"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	8-11	Dean Taylor Sioux City
4 lb.	19¼"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	5-19	Terry Macht Bettendorf
BASS (WHITE)				
3 lb. 8 oz.	17½"	Lake Wapello Davis County	8-8	Donald Delever Calamus
3 lb. 4 oz.	18¾"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	6-1	James L. Jones Spirit Lake
2 lb. 14 oz.	18"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	4-22	Kenneth Bricker Okobojo
2 lb. 12 oz.	17"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	10-13	Don Hansen Milford
BASS (YELLOW) No Entries				
BLUEGILL				
1 lb. 10 oz.	11¼"	Farm Pond Adams County	5-21	Judy Casey Creston
1 lb. 4 oz.	10½"	Farm Pond Davis County	5-29	George White Coralville
1 lb. 3 oz.	10½"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	7-27	Doug Johnson Spirit Lake
1 lb. 1 oz.	10¾"	Farm Pond Woodbury County	12-16	Todd C. Janes Sioux City
1 lb. 1 oz.	9¾"	Lake Icaria Adams County	9-12	Rita M. Wolf Omaha, NE
1 lb.	10"	Farm Pond Marshall County	8-5	Tim Donahue Marshalltown
BUFFALO				
23 lb. 8 oz.	32¾"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	5-5	Dean VerMum Sioux Center
22 lb. 2 oz.	33"	Skunk River Henry County	3-24	John H. Millsbaugh Lockridge
21 lb. 12 oz.	32"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	8-1	Bernie Gronstal Carroll
BULLHEAD				
3 lb. 8 oz.	17½"	Farm Pond Mahaska County	9-5	Leonard "Barney" Ross Oskaloosa
2 lb. 8 oz.	14½"	Lizard Lake Pocahontas County	10-27	Heath Pomeroy Palmer
2 lb. 8 oz.	14½"	Farm Pond Marshall County	5-21	Dale A. Olson Marshalltown
CARP				
38 lb. 8 oz.	40"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	4-9	Mike Homan Estherville
38 lb.	35"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie County	6-27	Archie Rush Council Bluffs
37 lb.	44"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	5-28	Mark Patten Cherokee
35 lb.	37"	Mississippi River Allamakee County	3-27	Edward Helms Aurora
33 lb.	36"	Farm Pond Polk County	5-9	Ben Thompson Des Moines
28 lb. 4 oz.	36"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie County	4-20	Richard R. Rosman Omaha, NE
26 lb. 2 oz.	36"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	6-22	James Mett Hartley
26 lb.	36"	Mississippi River Clayton County	4-15	Milo Lucas Guttenberg
25 lb. 4 oz.	35½"	Indian Lake Van Buren County	5-22	Steve Gevock Ely
CATFISH (BLUE)				
*30 lb. 8 oz.	40"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie County	6-9	Fred Droizscher Council Bluffs
20 lb. 8 oz.	31½"	Saylorville Reservoir Polk County	4-7	Ralph E. Fritchey Des Moines
CATFISH (CHANNEL)				
23 lb.	34"	Prairie Rose Lake Shelby County	7-22	Jerry Ranne Council Bluffs
18 lb. 12 oz.	32"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	6-2	Marilyn McCrary Lake City
18 lb. 8 oz.	33¼"	Sand Pit Polk County	8-10	Frank L. Gustafson West Des Moines
18 lb.	34"	Des Moines River Polk County	7-7	Kenneth R. Davis Des Moines
18 lb.	31¼"	Farm Pond Madison County	8-11	Davis Hughes Winterset
17 lb. 12 oz.	32"	Maffitt Reservoir Polk County	9-3	Dale A. Reeser, Sr. Des Moines
17 lb.	32"	Prairie Rose Lake Shelby County	5-4	Mae Brandt Council Bluffs
16 lb. 13 oz.	29½"	West Okobojo Dickinson County	6-13	Peg Cuttall Spirit Lake
16 lb. 5 oz.	28"	Maffitt Reservoir Polk County	8-10	Stanley M. Simmer Des Moines
16 lb. 4 oz.	29½"	Farm Pond Wapello County	5-29	Rodney G. Skinner Ottumwa
15 lb. 8 oz.	32"	Skunk River Keokuk County	5-31	Warren Lowenberg Hedrick
CATFISH (FLATHEAD)				
53 lb. 4 oz.	42½"	Cedar River Linn County	5-21	Ted Slaman Cedar Rapids
52 lb.	46"	Iowa River Johnson County	5-25	Kenneth D. Alberts Coralville
40 lb. 12 oz.	41"	Cedar River Linn County	3-19	Paul L. Montgomery Walford
31 lb.	40"	Cedar River Linn County	5-30	Robert Null Cedar Rapids
20 lb.	36"	Cedar River Linn County	7-4	David H. Hurt Lisbon
CRAPPIE				
4 lb.	17"	Greencastle Lake Marshall County	5-12	Alan L. Perkins Marshalltown
3 lb. 4 oz.	17¾"	Greencastle Lake Marshall County	5-2	James M. Fordy Cedar Rapids

Weight	Length	Where Caught	Date	Name and Address
3 lb. 4 oz.	17½"			Central
3 lb. 4 oz.	17¾"			Appa
3 lb. 2½ oz.	18¾"			Ma
3 lb. 2 oz.	17¼"			Grw
3 lb. 2 oz.	18½"			Grw
2 lb. 13 oz.	16½"			Ma
2 lb. 12 oz.	17½"			Ma
2 lb. 10 oz.	16½"			Ma
2 lb. 8 oz.	16"			Ma
2 lb. 4 oz.	15¾"			Ma
2 lb. 3 oz.	15"			Ma
2 lb.	15"			Ma
MUSKIE				
29 lb. 12 oz.	45"			Ma
28 lb. 4 oz.	47"			Ma
25 lb. 5 oz.	45"			Ma
20 lb. 9 oz.	42½"			Ma
16 lb. 12 oz.	40"			Ma
TIGER MUSKIE				
*20 lb. 10 oz.	43½"			Ma
NORTHERN PIKE				
15 lb. 10 oz.	42"			Ma
15 lb. 9 oz.	38"			Ma
14 lb. 9 oz.	41"			Ma
14 lb.	40"			Ma
14 lb.	37"			Ma
13 lb. 6 oz.	39½"			Ma
13 lb. 4½ oz.	37½"			Ma
13 lb. 3 oz.	37½"			Ma
12 lb. 12 oz.	40"			Ma
12 lb. 6 oz.	36"			Ma
12 lb. 2 oz.	37"			Ma
12 lb. 1 oz.	37½"			Ma
11 lb. 12 oz.	33"			Ma
11 lb. 12 oz.	36"			Ma
11 lb. 11 oz.	35"			Ma
11 lb. 8 oz.	35½"			Ma
11 lb.	34"			Ma
10 lb. 8 oz.	32½"			Ma
10 lb.	35"			Ma
10 lb.	37"			Ma
PADDLEFISH				
33 lb. 6 oz.	54"			Ma
29 lb. 12 oz.	54¾"			Ma
29 lb.	54"			Ma
26 lb.	54"			Ma
SAND STURGEON No Entries				
SHEEPSHEAD				
19 lb. 8 oz.	34½"			Ma
18 lb. 12 oz.	31"			Ma
15 lb. 2 oz.	34"			Ma
YELLOW PERCH				
1 lb. 6 oz.	13¼"			Ma
1 lb. 6 oz.	13"			Ma
1 lb. 4 oz.	12½"			Ma
1 lb. 2 oz.	12¼"			Ma

Length	Name and Address	Weight	Length	Where Caught	Date	Name and Address	Weight	Length	Where Caught	Date	Name and Address
17 1/2	Raymond Porter Centerville	1 lb. 2 oz.	12 3/4	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	1-4	Bill Berns Spirit Lake	6 lb. 6 oz.	24"	Turtle Creek Mitchell County	5-4	Conklin Hansen Mason City
17 1/2	Richard F. Whitaker Pella	1 lb. 1 oz.	12 3/4	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	7-14	Melvin Jensen Everly	6 lb. 6 oz.	24"	Buck Creek Clayton County	5-12	Gary Campbell Davenport
18 1/2	David Siefkas Marshalltown	1 lb. 1 oz.	12"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	4-10	Dennis A. Roberts Dickens	6 lb. 5 oz.	24 3/4	Sny Magill Clayton County	6-24	Louise Emily Quinn Davenport
17 1/2	Randy Gursaulus Newton	1 lb. 1/2 oz.	12"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	4-10	James Nielsen Arnolds Park	6 lb. 4 oz.	24"	Private Area Allamakee County	12-28	Dick McBride Marshalltown
18 1/2	Dale Hendrickson Wellsburg	1 lb.	13"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	7-4	Sid Gustafson Pringhar	6 lb. 1 oz.	24 1/8	French Creek Allamakee County	4-20	Dick Jelinek Downers Grove, IL
16 1/2	Roger Freidrichsen Schleswig	1 lb.	12"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	4-12	Mark Reynolds Ruthven	5 lb.	23"	French Creek Allamakee County	5-12	Don Bleich Hampton
17 1/2	Thomas W. Reese Harlan	1 lb.	11 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson County	4-1	Dennis A. Roberts Dickens	4 lb. 13 oz.	20 1/2	Spring Creek Mitchell County	5-24	Richard Ross Greene
16 1/2	Judy Thompson Bellevue, NE	1 lb.	12"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	4-1	Dennis A. Roberts Dickens	4 lb. 9 oz.	21"	North Bear Winneshiek County	5-23	Marjorie Jerrell Mason City
18	Don Langford Newton	SAUGER					4 lb. 5 oz.	20"	Coldwater Creek Winneshiek County	4-5	Jeff Ernst New Hampton
15 1/2	David H. Baumbach Red Oak	4 lb.	21 1/2	Mississippi River Clayton County	4-8	Donald Duchene Beaver, Penn.	4 lb. 4 oz.	18 1/2	Waterloo Creek Allamakee County	5-4	Raymond Spauer Dorchester
15	Wayne A. George Marshalltown	3 lb. 8 oz.	21 1/4	Mississippi River Muscatine County	11-5	Harry R. Kardux Muscatine	4 lb. 2 oz.	20 1/2	Big Mill Creek Jackson County	5-28	Dan Hayes Bettendorf
15	Henry Gerhard Dubuque	3 lb. 7 oz.	22 1/8	Mississippi River Jackson County	4-4	Thomas C. Maas Dubuque	3 lb. 8 oz.	20"	Bailey's Ford Delaware County	4-13	Corey D. Holladay Cedar Rapids
45	Ed Suckow Centerville	3 lb. 5 3/4 oz.	21 3/4	Mississippi River Clayton County	8-31	Pete Oberbroeckling Luxemburg	3 lb. 1 oz.	16 1/2	Big Mill Creek Jackson County	5-20	Kim Martin Strunk Bettendorf
47	Doug Stange Sibley	3 lb. 1 oz.	21"	Mississippi River Clayton County	5-20	Ruth Mortland Cedar Rapids	WALLEYE				
45	Jeff Hurdle Spirit Lake	3 lb.	20"	Mississippi River Clayton County	4-13	Chris Rops Cedar Rapids	11 lb. 9 oz.	30 1/2	Cedar River Bremer County	10-6	Willis E. Dengler Denver
42 1/2	Ed Feldhacker Cherokee	2 lb. 12 oz.	19 1/2	Mississippi River Jackson County	11-20	Dave Jensen Mt. Vernon	11 lb. 8 oz.	30 1/2	Cedar River Black Hawk County	4-14	Robert V. Piper Cedar Falls
40	John Hostettler Spirit Lake	2 lb. 12 oz.	20"	Mississippi River Muscatine County	10-12	Harry Kardux Muscatine	11 lb.	29"	East Okoboji Dickinson County	12-23	Dennis Stoltenberg Lake Park
	Doug Stange Sibley	2 lb. 9 oz.	19 3/4	Mississippi River Clayton County	4-8	Chris Rops Cedar Rapids	10 lb. 15 oz.	30"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-27	Doug Stange Sibley
	Carl Lialienthal Spirit Lake	7 lb.	25"	Des Moines River Humboldt County	3-17	Jim Ahrens Clarion	10 lb. 13 oz.	30"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	10-17	Jim Taylor Spencer
	Donald Rogers Fort Dodge	6 lb. 8 oz.	24"	Cedar River Floyd County	4-28	Mike Hebert Charles City	10 lb. 8 oz.	29"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	12-27	Garry Culbertson Estherville
	Carl Lialienthal Spirit Lake	1 lb. 7 oz.	14 1/16	Big Paint Creek Allamakee County	4-29	Ted Wilson Waterloo	10 lb. 2 oz.	30"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-20	Alvin E. Akin Spirit Lake
	Ed DeYoung Des Moines	8 lb. 12 oz.	27"	Buck Creek Clayton County	4-22	Mervin Breimon Guttenberg	10 lb. 2 oz.	29 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson County	11-24	Bob Bendlin Spencer
	Philip Rasmussen Storm Lake	8 lb. 8 oz.	26 1/2	Maquoketa River Clayton County	6-17	Jeff Fontana Cedar Rapids	10 lb. 2 oz.	29 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson County	11-25	Jim Taylor Spencer
	Lois Hostettler Spirit Lake	7 lb. 14 oz.	25"	Turkey River Clayton County	5-8	Larry Johnson Waterloo	9 lb. 12 oz.	29"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	11-2	Alex Thelen Estherville
	Rick Ziegenfuss Cedar Falls	6 lb. 4 oz.	23"	Maquoketa River Delaware County	5-8	Lloyd Thompson, Jr. Boone	9 lb. 10 oz.	29"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	12-29	Joe E. Shuck Arnolds Park
	Darlene Hample Jackson, MN	5 lb. 14 3/4 oz.	23"	Elk Creek Delaware County	4-14	Kenneth Pfile Hiawatha	9 lb. 8 oz.	29"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-24	Alvin E. Akin Spirit Lake
	Dave Brant Terril	5 lb. 9 oz.	22 3/4	Sny Magill Clayton County	5-28	Gene W. Coon, Sr. East Moline, IL	9 lb. 3 oz.	29"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	12-24	Frank Hinshaw Spirit Lake
	Richard Riley Algona	5 lb. 9 oz.	24"	Joy Springs Clayton County	12-26	Mike Kennedy Cedar Rapids	9 lb. 2 oz.	31"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-26	Harvey V. Larson Lone Rock
	Don Ranney Marshalltown	5 lb. 8 oz.	25"	Coldwater Creek Winneshiek County	8-16	Margaret Carter Marshalltown	9 lb. 2 oz.	29"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	5-20	Alan Riemenschneider Spirit Lake
	William Goetsch Spirit Lake	4 lb. 12 oz.	22 1/2	Trout Run Winneshiek County	5-24	Mike Johnson Mason City	9 lb. 1 oz.	28 1/4	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-27	Bob Bendlin Spencer
	Orville Towne Salix	4 lb. 8 1/2 oz.	20"	Spring Branch Delaware County	12-8	Jay Iverson Cedar Rapids	9 lb.	29 1/4	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-22	Alvin E. Akin Spirit Lake
	Mike DeWitt Gladbrook	4 lb. 6 1/2 oz.	21 3/8	Bear Creek Allamakee County	5-5	Mike Crane Cedar Rapids	8 lb. 14 oz.	29 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson County	5-15	Orv Belken Spencer
	Gary Costas Nichols	4 lb. 6 oz.	19 1/2	Schechtman's Branch Delaware County	7-3	Steve Pelley Marion	8 lb. 14 oz.	28"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	10-19	Bob Bendlin Spencer
	Mark McCombs Sioux Rapids	4 lb.	20 1/2	Spring Creek Mitchell County	5-24	William D. Craft Bristow	8 lb. 14 oz.	28"	Mississippi River Dubuque County	10-13	Mary Remakel Dubuque
	Erven Rowland Council Bluffs	3 lb. 12 oz.	19 1/2	Swiss Valley Dubuque County	5-13	Allen L. Bures Dubuque	8 lb. 10 oz.	27"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	5-26	John W. Kuiper Fort Dodge
	Don Drahn Postville	3 lb. 4 oz.	20 3/4	Swiss Valley Dubuque County	4-6	James Lammer Dubuque	8 lb. 10 oz.	27"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	12-21	David Nielsen Arnolds Park
	Paul Cox Marshalltown	3 lb. 2 oz.	19 1/4	Wapsipicon River Mitchell County	5-13	Robert E. Reeder Northwood	8 lb. 8 oz.	28"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	10-29	Don Schoer Sioux Rapids
	Harold W. Anderson Aurelia	3 lb. 2 oz.	18 1/2	Sny Magill Clayton County	4-21	Steve Pelley Marion	8 lb. 8 oz.	27 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson County	11-17	Sue L. Yeakel Story City
	Kathy Wilson Alden	3 lb. 1 oz.	18 1/2	Swiss Valley Dubuque County	3-31	Roger Ruden Dubuque	8 lb. 7 oz.	27 1/2	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-24	Doug Stange Sibley
	Bill Huff Salix	11 lb. 8 oz.	28"	Brush Creek Jackson County	5-17	Robert W. Monaghan Camanche	8 lb. 6 oz.	27 1/2	Appanoose County Spirit Lake	9-1	Floyd Hundley Cedar Falls
	Jim Portz Bellevue	10 lb. 12 oz.	26"	Turkey River Clayton County	9-11	W. C. Fenton Elkader	8 lb. 6 oz.	27 1/2	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	11-25	Roger Hough Algona
	Charles Boyles Cedar Rapids	10 lb. 2 oz.	30 1/2	Coldwater Creek Winneshiek County	5-28	Terry Hulsebus Carroll	8 lb. 5 oz.	28"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	11-8	Don Hasselhoff Cherokee
	Janice M. Boyles Cedar Rapids	9 lb. 1 oz.	28 1/2	Patterson Creek Allamakee County	6-2	Richard H. Jones Decorah	8 lb. 4 oz.	27 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson County	11-15	Jim Nielsen Arnolds Park
	Don Lehman Guttenberg	8 lb. 12 oz.	28 1/2	Big Paint Creek Allamakee County	5-20	Daniel Corrigan Cedar Rapids	8 lb. 4 oz.	28"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	5-18	Doug Stange Sibley
	Mary Ann Landt Monona	8 lb. 8 oz.	24"	Bear Creek Fayette County	5-12	Duane R. Clark Shell Rock	8 lb. 4 oz.	27"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-31	Lloyd Strand Spirit Lake
	Lonnie Haynes Omaha, NE	8 lb.	28 1/2	Lower French Allamakee County	4-27	Larry Gage Lansing	8 lb. 3 oz.	27"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	1-10	Jim Meyerdirk Milford
	George Caggiano Webster City	7 lb. 10 1/2 oz.	26"	Turkey River Clayton County	5-16	Marty Trepp Eagle Grove	8 lb. 3 oz.	28 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson County	5-31	Clarence Bendlin Arnolds Park
	Jim W. Downs Webster City	6 lb. 14 oz.	27"	Fountain Spring Delaware County	4-14	Ray Payne Wyoming	8 lb. 2 oz.	29"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	4-28	Merle Smith Humboldt
	Bill Ferns Spirit Lake	6 lb. 14 oz.	25 1/2	Patterson Creek Allamakee County	4-22	Shawn T. Kelly Charles City	8 lb. 1 oz.	31"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	7-29	Sam Reed W. Covina, CA
	Clarence Bendlin Arnolds Park	6 lb. 6 oz.	26"	Lower Swiss Valley Dubuque County	5-26	Sue Bruse Dubuque	8 lb.	25 1/8	Des Moines River Polk County	11-11	Rick Barach Des Moines
				Hickory Creek Allamakee County	5-26	Jim Kelly Davenport	8 lb.	27"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	11-11	Roger Hough Algona
							8 lb.	27"	Storm Lake Buena Vista County	6-12	Al Jordahl Larrabee

PECANS WHICH GROW IN THE NORTH

by R. Douglas Campbell and John H. Gordon, Jr.



Doug Campbell examines the winter buds of a northern pecan tree at his Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, residence. Pecans have shown good hardiness at this location for the past 8 years.

ALTHOUGH MANY PEOPLE recognize the pecan as a tree of the South, relatively few are aware that it is also a tree of the North. Today an interested explorer can find native stands of pecan along the Missouri River in north-central Missouri and along the Mississippi River near Dubuque, Iowa. The early settlers reported finding pecans along the Ohio River as far north as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Many of these trees have fallen to the lumberman's axe. However, there are still a few scattered trees of native pecan as far north as southern Wisconsin.

The way in which the pecan species became distributed throughout the North American Continent is one of the most fascinating studies of natural history. Examination of fossil remains in the southern States indicates that the pecan probably originated in areas of northern Texas and southern Oklahoma. Prior to the 18th century, the American Indians were primarily responsible for the substantial increase in the growing range of the pecan. In the south-central areas of the U.S.A. the pecan was a

staple component of the Indian diet. The nuts were easy to collect, highly nutritious and could be kept for extended periods of time . . . an important consideration in the pre-refrigerator era. An store of pecans was good insurance against hard during the months of the when other sources of food were scarce. Moreover, the Indians of the South traded the pecans with the North Indians for other goods such as furs, flint, tobacco or a good pipe. It is believed that when the Indians were travelling, they planted pecan nuts in the vicinity of their campsites to provide "grubstakes" for their future descendants. Since the Mississippi and its dozens of tributaries were the canoe-highways of the Indians, the Mighty River provided the inroads for the spread of pecan growing hundreds, possibly thousands of miles of waterway could occasional fleets of dugout canoes, of hastily constructed campsites along the banks the Mighty River, of chattering tribesmen gathered around the dancing flames of



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The Northern Pecan is Born Again

Several members of the Northern Nut Growers Association explored the northern reaches of the Mississippi in October, 1978 to see if any of the original, native pecans still exist in that area. The members investigated the adjacent floodplains of the northern Mississippi by car and the islands by canoe, from Burlington to Dubuque. Their efforts were well rewarded. Although the remaining pecan trees are widely scattered, hundreds of pounds of the extra hardy, northern pecan nuts were harvested . . . from trees capable of surviving temperatures as low as -40°F!

Although these nuts are somewhat smaller in size than the papershell pecans of their southern cousins, there is a major compensation . . . the tasty kernels are some of the *sweetest* known to exist anywhere.

Now that the pecan hunters know where a number of northern pecan groves exist, not only are they assured of finding more nuts but also they can extend their exploratory searches further northward. The native pecan generally is found on the floodplains of rivers not far above the water level. Several promising areas in the State of Wisconsin already have been marked for exploration in the fall of 1979 and future years. Occasional trees of pecan already have been discovered in Wisconsin such as an 80 year old specimen at Mount Hope. These recent discoveries assure that pecans may be grown in most all of the northern States and even the more southern parts of Canada.

The pecan is a uniquely North American tree. Nothing quite like it has been discovered anywhere else in the world. There used to be numerous native groves in the

United States, but the pressures of intensive farming and the flooding caused by the Mississippi River dams came very close to wiping out this hardiest strain of the pecan.

The Northern Nut Growers Association

The Northern Nut Growers Association was formed in 1910 as a non-profit, service organization to promote interest in the growing of nuts and also to promote research in the development of superior kinds of nut trees for the North. The Association currently has over 2100 members in the United States, Canada, Mexico and many countries throughout the world. The Association has identified more than a dozen species and hybrids of nut trees which are of interest for producing quality nuts and/or timber in the northern temperate zone. For information on the association and obtaining northern pecan seeds, contact NNGA PECAN SEED PROGRAM, Mr. John H. Gordon Jr., 1385 Campbell Boulevard, North Tonawanda, New York 14120.



PECAN



Photo by Jerry Leonard

With Turkeys, It Isn't the Shot that Counts

By Lowell Washburn
Courtesy Mason City Globe-Gazette

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CONSERVAT

10:30 at night, things are pretty quiet at the turkey camp, and everyone but me is tucked into the sleeping bags. I pull the charred pot off the campfire and pour one up.

Chip-poor-wills and barred owls call and forth across the steep oak and ridges reminding each other that spring finally has come to the Yellow River Forest here in northeast Iowa. I sip the tea, enjoying the bird music as water trickles peacefully over the rocks in the stream that runs beside the tents.

These days here have been long, starting before 4 a.m. with tea and scrambled eggs. The camp is always empty before 5 a.m. everyone having headed out toward the ridge he wants to hunt.

This morning I followed the winding trout stream for less than a mile and stopped in a clearing to listen. The black sky was studiously lit with white stars that promised a perfect morning was coming.

Now most of the owls had shut up for the night and it was too early for the songbirds to be up. Suddenly the silence was broken by the booming gobble of a tom turkey. He gobbled again, and I could feel goose bumps rising on my skin. The sound came from the top of the ridge on the other side of the trout stream.

I crossed the stream and started picking my way up the ridge. A half hour later, the turkey was still gobbling and I was still climbing. So far I'd been lucky and hadn't broken any twigs to tip him off to my presence. I leaned against a tree to catch my breath. The gobbling was close now, and if I could dig another 50 yards I'd dig in and hide. I'd try to call the tom out of the tree with what I hoped would be seductive whistles.

The plan was great, except that I didn't know there were two toms on that ridge, the one I'd been stalking and the one sitting in a clearing about 60 feet to the left of me. Turkeys don't like to fly before dawn, but this one had just about enough of watching me to come around beneath him. Twigs began to crack and snap as his great wings thrashed. He left the tree. I was too startled to shoot before the turkey was gone, and the other gobbler shut up knowing that someone besides him was in the woods. The jig was up and I started back down the ridge. Now I must admit that the flushing gobbler had startled me a little, but a couple of miles to the south in the same woods, one of

the other camp members was just plain having the wits scared out of him.

He was moving down an old logging trail toward a gobbling tom, and when he came around the bend in the trail he saw three turkeys silhouetted against the sky in a tree about 70 yards down the line. He pulled out his call, eased off the road and started to sit down.

What he didn't know was that he was about to sit on a white-tail doe that was stretched out flat hoping he'd walk on by. The doe, thinking she was about to be eaten, exploded from beneath the hunter. She didn't try to avoid any brush, but plowed through anything in her way, setting up a terrible racket. The deer ran right under the turkeys and spooked them out of the tree. But that was OK because the guy said that by then, he was too scared to operate the box call anyway.

A guy from Spirit Lake, who was camped near us, said he forgot his turkey permit at home. His wife was sending it special delivery to the nearest town, but it wouldn't arrive until the next day. The hunter decided he'd better not take his gun into the woods without his permit, so he just went to look around.

He struck a couple of yelps on his call and a tom gobbled back. In a few moments the turkey appeared in a clearing 60 yards from him and began to display the typical "Thanksgiving" pose. The display stopped and the tom walked up to within 30 feet of the unarmed hunter. When I last talked to the guy, he had received his license, hunted for two days and hadn't seen another turkey.

These experiences are typical of turkey hunting, and it seems that turkey hunting stories are full of the words "if" and "almost."

But all the luck hasn't been with the turkeys this week, and we do have one bird in camp. A guy named Scutt bagged him, and he is rightfully proud of his trophy. He is a skilled hunter and called two gobblers to within 15 yards of where he was hidden at the base of a tree. All that showed of the turkey was his big blue and white wattled head as he cautiously peered over a mossy log, and he never heard the shot that killed him.

Turkey hunting is a solitary sport, one man and one bird. While I enjoy bird hunting and waterfowling with my friends, there is a closeness to nature to be felt when

you're in the woods alone that can't be experienced when you're with a group.

While leaning against a deadfall, camouflaged from head to toe, wildlife can be viewed at close hand in a way you never dreamed possible.

This morning was a good example. A few yards behind me a ruffed grouse drummed from atop a log, while a few feet in front of me a squirrel rummaged through the leaves on the forest floor. A yellow warbler jumped up onto the double-barred shotgun cradled across my knees. He took a couple hops toward me, then hopped back the other way. He pecked at the front shotgun bead and fluttered to the ground.

Everything tensed and stopped moving as the black shadow of a hunting goshawk moved silently across the clearing. The hawk was gone and the birds began to move again. Still, no one knew that I was there, unless maybe the turkeys did.

The forest is alive with wild flowers now. They come in all colors from snow white to deep purple. I thought I knew something about plant and bird identification when I came into the woods. But now I can see that I'll be going through books for a week when I get home trying to put names on what I've seen here.

I throw the last couple of swallows of coffee into the red-orange coals of the dying campfire. The coffee hisses as it turns to steam. I'll be back in the woods again tomorrow morning, looking for that wily bird.

I remember the words of Richard Bishop, a seasoned turkey hunter: "Their hearing is keen, their eyesight extraordinary: And if they could smell, you'd never get one."

Yes, I think the turkey is too crafty for me, and I know that I probably won't fire my gun on this trip. But with turkeys, it's being there that counts.

Photo by Ken Formanek



Warden's Diary

By Rex Emerson.

The light cut through the darkness of the night like a knife and swept across a small field, searching for the reflecting eyes of a deer. A local resident called the county law center. Two game wardens happened to be riding together that night and when they received the call on their radio they proceeded to the area immediately. Fortunately they were only ten minutes away but, except for the farmer calling in, they could have very well missed seeing this poacher at work.

As they topped a hill they caught the glimpse of a spotlight shining from a car on the next hill. The light was out in about one second and they felt sure the spotlifter had been spooked by their headlights. The poachers were not wanting to take a chance that another car out there at 2:00 a.m. might be the law.

The two officers had worked together many times over the year, so each understood how the other worked and thought, and not much conversation was necessary at a time like this. When the spotlight was observed the officer on the passenger side said, "Punch it!" and the driver pressed the accelerator to the floor. For a few seconds they were closing the gap between the cars. The red flashing light was turned on and the officer driving said, "Damn" when it was obvious they were going to "rabbit"! Sure enough the chase was on. Both officers probably thought of their wives and children at home, but didn't mention it out loud. The officer on the passenger side grabbed the radio mike, reported their location and told of their pursuit. A deputy sheriff responded

that he was twelve miles away, but would proceed to the area.

The officer driving, a good pursuit driver, had been on many chases, and hated every one of them. Sooner or later someone is going to get killed on one of these chases. But he knew he had to do it. If you didn't pursue, other poachers would soon find out that all they needed to do when they saw an officer was to run.

The chase this night was on gravel and dirt roads. It was over hills and around sharp corners. The poacher knew the roads very well. Just over the top of one hill was a T-road and the officers almost lost it on that one. The second officer continued reporting their location on the radio. The chase went on for about ten miles, and four stop sign violations. By this time the officers were right on the back bumper of the vehicle they were chasing. The license number of the pursued vehicle was reported on the radio. The poacher knew a square corner was coming up in a quarter of a mile, and he knew what was likely to happen to him when he tried to slow down to make the corner. The officer probably wouldn't have given him a shove, but then maybe he would. We will never know because the pursued vehicle gave it up and stopped.

The officers' problems were not over yet. Their location was quickly reported. The officers then approached the violator's vehicle from both sides with flashlights held in their left hands so their gun hands would be free, and the lights were shined into the eyes of

the three occupants in the pickup truck. You never know what kind of person you are dealing with out there in the middle of the night. Approaching the vehicle and ordering them out only took a few seconds. As the officers opened the doors on each side, one of the occupants came out of each side, fighting.

The deputy sheriff said when he arrived on the scene there was an officer on each side of the pickup with his knee in the middle of the violator's back, putting the handcuffs on him. Before the deputy could assist them, they had already finished with the first two men and were quickly removing the third man from the pickup and putting the handcuffs on him.

In the pickup were a high powered rifle and a pistol, with plenty of ammunition for both, also the hand held spotlight that had started all of this. I never could understand why a hand held spotlight was such a popular Christmas present. The only ones I have ever seen used were in violation of the law.

The three men were taken to jail. It was learned that two of them were convicted felons. One had been in prison half of his life. There will be a charge of hunting at night with an artificial light filed on each one. The driver also received citations for the four stop signs he had ignored, and the loaded high powered rifle. The pistol will be taken to the county attorney and the two felons may get some more prison time for possessing it. Someone will surely be in deep trouble for having that pistol without a permit.

As the two game wardens were ready to split up and go to their individual homes the conversation went like this: "Did you know within five miles of where our chase ended tonight a city officer was shot and killed a few years ago?"

The other officer replied, "Yeah, I know. Say 'hello' to the wife and kids for me."

LOOKIN' BACK

Ten Years Ago



the Iowa Conservationist ran an article on the new Lake Red Rock in Marion County. Although at the time there were approximately 8,900 acres in the conservation pool, the water area and depth were expected to decrease as the reservoir silted in. By 1980 the total area was not much different, but the depth especially in the upper end was much shallower.

Twenty Years Ago



the magazine featured a story on spring migration along the Missouri River bottoms. Although the author saw plenty of waterfowl by the end of the article all he could talk about was the incredible mud in the bottoms which he compared to high-grade molasses.

There was mention of a new invention - a razor blade made of paper which you use once and throw away. We wonder what happened to that new breakthrough.

Thirty Years Ago



the Conservationist presented Iowa's first Teacher's Conservation Camp to be held in Springbrook State Park in

Guthrie County. In years to come, a modern education center would be constructed at Springbrook.

A plan to increase Lake Macbride in Johnson County from 138 acres to 935 was announced with 1953 as a target for completion.

Back cover -

It's very difficult to find pheasants where there is no cover for them.

Classroom Corner

by Bob Rye

ADMINISTRATOR, CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

EMPLOYEES, friends and students complain the loudest March. That long, boring month between winter and spring. March is a restless time of year for all. Tied in the grasp of winter, one looks ahead for the sun and warm weather.

It seems so long to humans because Christmas holidays, hunting seasons and winter sports are over and long gone. Easter break, mushroom picking and spring planting seem like they will never arrive. The weather is unpredictable. If you wear a winter coat it turns warm; spring coat and it chills; raincoat and it doesn't rain — or so it seems.

Even nature complains with raw March storms as it tries to decide whether to keep that white blanket or allow the green one to come forth. In nature, the month demonstrates a similar impatience among animals, plants, birds, and insects who want to begin new growing cycles.

The ice storms come and go, leaving broken limbs and lazied roads behind. The sun shines brightly for a short time, then is covered for the rest of the day. I find nature eating me with this similar come and go feeling.

I use nature to "treat" this boredom. I take a walk outdoors. I am eager to find the "surprises" out there. Take your walk outdoors in a state park or wildlife area, keep your eyes and ears alert noting all the changes in things around you. The first clues to future growth appear and start their changes to spring and summer.

Do you see new items, such as rocks in fields or open places? The earth is also in a time of changing from one way to another. It is freezing and thawing and this

can push rocks, dead stumps or posts from the ground.

The ground is very wet from the rain and melting snow. Springs are flowing with renewed vigor. In Springbrook State Park, near one of these springs, skunk cabbage can be found (see photo) this is one of the earliest bloomers found working its way through the snow and giving off its faint odor.

To the careful observer, thousands of buds covering the otherwise naked limbs are seen. Cattails are changing from their fuzzy look to fresh green shoots. Hepatica, one of the forest's early bloomers, are starting their show.

Furbearers, like the mink, raccoon, and muskrat are vigorously seeking to establish territories and claim mates to restart a reproductive cycle. The fox has already had its young, which are seeking the mother's body heat.

At the top of the dead elm you spot a large nest where a female great horned owl watches you carefully as she sets motionless on the nest. Her young were born earlier in the year as she is the first to nest among the wild animals.

Iowa also has, for the observer, a wealth of waterfowl at this time of year. A variety of ducks can be watched and listened to. Geese are often seen flying high in a wedge-shaped flock, signalling that the forthcoming change of spring is near.

Look in the mud around the ponds and streams; find the tracks and maybe a frog, turtle or salamander. Watch for the robins, cocoons or turkeys.

Even though March is a long month for most of us and we feel many changes are against us, nature is taking advantage of this time to let you know of her presence.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

SKUNK CABBAGE

(*Symplocarpus foetidus*)

by Dean M. Roosa and Sylvan T. Runkel



Photo by Randall Maas

IN EASTERN IOWA during late winter, an annual mystery occurs in the wet woodlands and marshes — a mystery so compelling that a Luther College professor has devoted many hours during the past eight years studying it. The mysterious event is the initiation of the growth of the flower of Skunk Cabbage which occurs when snow is yet on the ground and may occur when snow-covered.

The plant generates its own heat and maintains a nearly constant temperature of 72°F — as much as 63° above the temperature of the surrounding air and soil, and may continue to do so for up to two weeks. It is often found in a small puddle of water — surrounded by frozen earth. The plant is fairly common near Luther College and the professor is Dr. Roger Knudson, who has designed special equipment to measure the plant's temperature and oxygen consumption and has begun to unravel its mysterious life-cycle. He has described* how the roots are contractile and may shorten in unison, pulling the stem into the ground. A mature plant has hundreds of pencil-sized, wrinkled roots which anchor an underground stem which annually sends up two inflorescences and six to eight leaves. Individual plants may be incredibly old, rivaling or exceeding the age of the nearby old oaks.

The flower of this remarkable plant is a horn-shaped maroon spike with an opening on one side which discloses a knobby spadix with bright yellow anthers. The fetid odor, from

which the plant gets its common name, attracts certain species of flies which crawl over the flower, transferring pollen and thus accomplishing fertilization. After the flower decays, leaving a small pile of seeds on the wet ground, the leaves rapidly elongate and achieve a height of two feet by June, when they appear somewhat like cabbage leaves.

In Iowa, the plant is known from Allamakee, Fayette, Linn, Muscatine and Winneshiek counties.

Skunk Cabbage, like others in the Arum or Calla family, contains within its tissues a compound called Calcium oxalate. If eaten or merely tasted, it causes an extremely painful burning sensation and may also cause affected tissues to swell and may lead to other harmful problems. Indians and pioneers used it for medicinal purposes including treatment for headache, asthma, bruises, bleeding from an open wound and even for toothache and other disorders. In spite of the skunky odor and burning taste, it was also used for food by the Indians — but not until it had been specially treated by thorough drying and subsequent thorough cooking. This plant, at some stages in its life cycle, may be confused with the poisonous Indian Poke.

Should your late-winter wanderings take you to the wooded haunts of the Skunk Cabbage, we hope you can appreciate the quiet mystery you are observing.

*Read 'Plants in Heat', by Dr. Knudson, in the March, 1979 Natural History Magazine.

Can you find the pheasant? (Answer page 14)

Photo by Ron Johnson

