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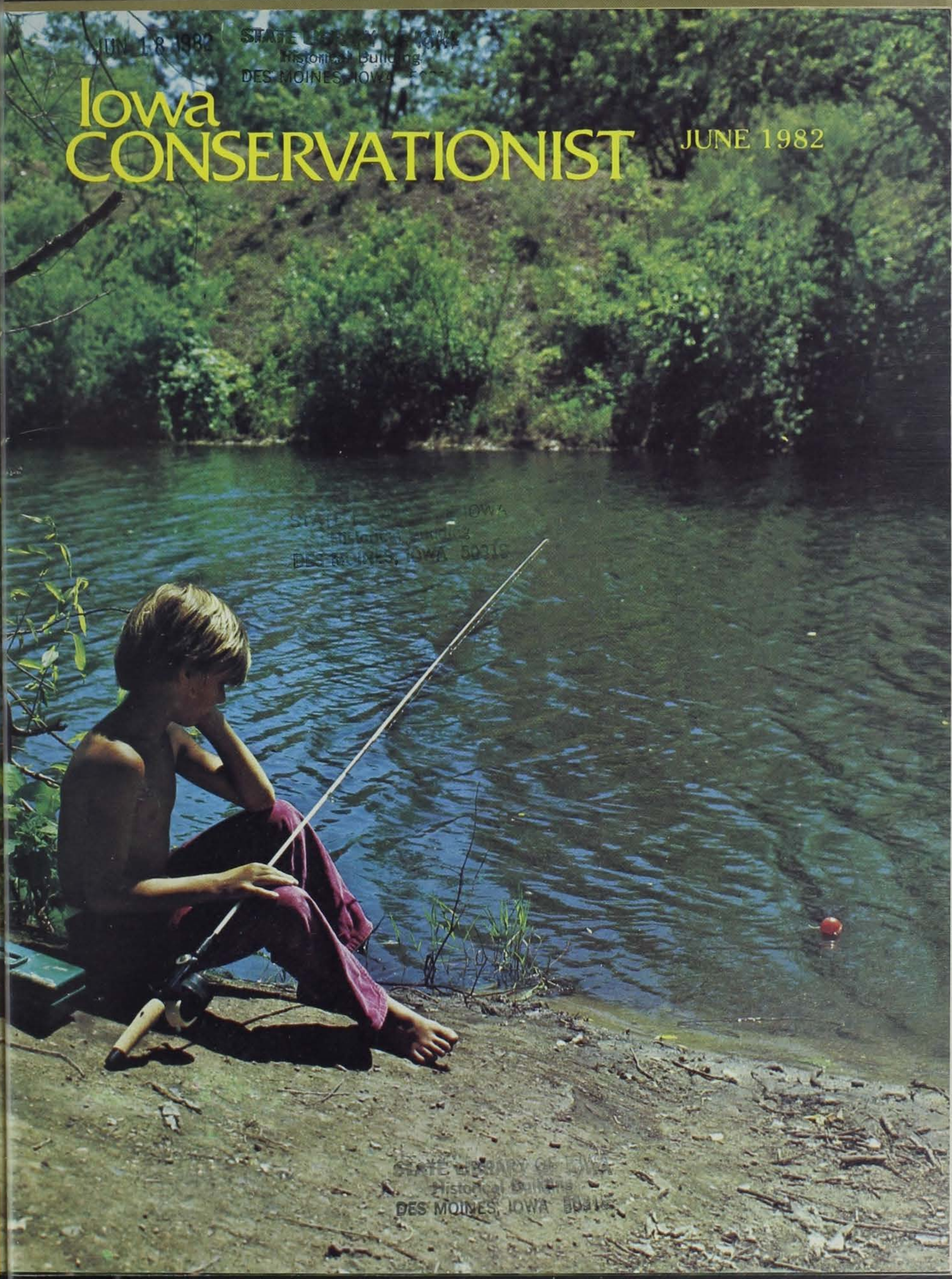
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Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

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Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

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COVER

*Summer day at the ol' fishin' hole.
Commission photo.*

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VOLGA RIVER STATE

*By Gaige Wunder
and
Jerry Reisinger*

Mention going fishing to most northeast Iowans and they'll either grab a trout rod or hop into the flat bottom for a jaunt on the Mississippi. But, when it comes to lake or farm pond fishing, these anglers can be hard pressed to come up with many potential spots. A new lake then becomes a real treat to these stream-raised northeast Iowa anglers.

Frog Hollow Lake is just such a new spot located in the Volga River State Recreation Area between Fayette and West Union, just off Highway 150 in central Fayette County. It contains 135 acres of water and lies at the north end of the area—5,432 acres of rugged public land lying along the Volga River. This location provides a beautiful backdrop for this little lake. The entire area is managed as a multiple use recreation area by various sections of the Iowa Conservation Commission. Parks Section personnel located on the area are in charge of all operations.

Acquisition of property for the area began in the late 1960's and was completed in the mid-1970's. Original plans called for a recreation complex highlighted by several hundred-acre lake. Because of engineering difficulties encountered with soil types and local topography, several of the proposed larger lake sites had to be abandoned in favor of the present smaller lake. Major obstacles still had to be overcome even at this carefully chosen site, including excessive soil porosity and several exposed limestone outcroppings, both of which would allow water to leak through the lake bottom.

Engineers and Commission officials finally concluded that the most cost-effective way to solve both problems and

still provide a lake was to line the bottom with clay to provide a relatively water-tight seal. The material was available locally in the form of a huge clay "knob" just west of the proposed site. The major part of lake construction activity aside from building the dam itself then was to move this material onto the lake bottom and spread it, according to recommendations, four-feet deep at the dam, tapering to about one-foot deep around the entire shoreline. Lake construction finally began in the spring of 1978 and water was impounded in October, 1979. It does hold water.

Facilities at both the lake site and surrounding recreation area are in the developmental stage and will be for several years because of present economic limitations. An excellent double lane boat ramp has been installed on the southeast corner of the lake and has an adjacent hard surface parking lot and convenient restrooms. Some interior roads will be paved next year, but a modern campground and beach facility may not be completed for several years. Camping is located nearby, but is primitive-only. No swimming beach is available nor are concessions such as boats, motors, or bait. And, speaking of motors, they're limited to 10 horsepower maximum or electrics. Hiking, horseback riding and snowmobiling are popular as is canoeing on the Volga River.

A new ranger station has been constructed near the park entrance and visitors are invited to stop in and chat while in the area.

Multi-purpose trails at Volga wander from timbered hills to flat meadows and cropfields. The area is large and diverse

RECREATION AREA

and visitors may wish to leave the wide trails to hike out on their own. A self-guided interpretive trail complete with points of interest and a descriptive brochure is currently nearing completion.

Wildlife management is important at Volga. Crop fields are leased to area farmers with the understanding that the Conservation Commission will determine the crops to be planted, which chemicals can or can't be used, and the amount and location of the crop to be left in the field. The fields are managed under a three-year rotation, then left idle for two consecutive years to maintain quality soil and provide a more natural ground cover for wildlife.

Several stretches of native switchgrass grow along the fields. These were planted to provide food and cover for wildlife, especially upland gamebirds, and ground-nesting songbirds. Since this type of grass continuously reseeds itself, it is very economical after the initial seeding. Switchgrass will easily grow six to seven feet tall and is very thick and durable so it continues to stand in the worst weather possible in Iowa.

Hunting is excellent over the recreation area with deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, and squirrel being the primary species available. The entire area is managed for forest game species by the Commission and contains a good interspersed of timber, meadow, and cropland to provide both food and adequate cover for wildlife. Many individuals combine hunting and fishing trips to the area for double pleasure.

Anglers should be pleased to know the lake was stocked with the bluegill shortly after impoundment in late 1979 and with



Photo by Ken Formanek

largemouth bass and channel catfish early the following summer. A second year-class of largemouth was added in early 1981 to provide better population structure. A fourteen-inch minimum size limit was placed on the bass population to prevent overharvest of these fish and provide better population control of smaller fish, particularly the later year-classes of bluegill. The bluegills are in their third year of growth now with many in the "keeper" category. Some largemouth bass have

Gaige Wunder is a fisheries management biologist stationed at the Decorah Trout Hatchery. He is a graduate of Iowa State University and has been employed with the Commission for over 13 years.

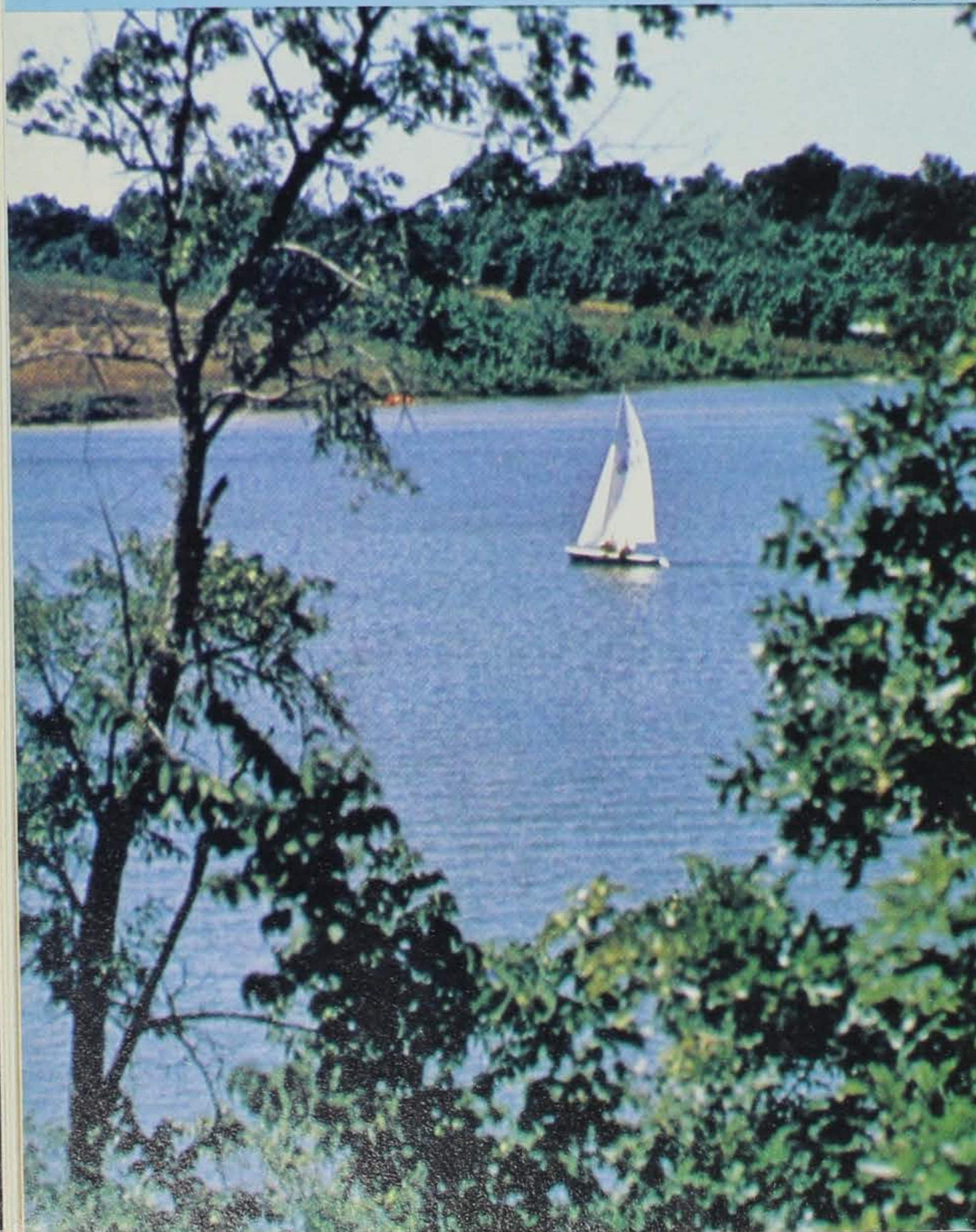
Jerry Reisinger is a park ranger stationed at Volga River State Recreation Area. He attended community colleges in Mason City, Estherville and Council Bluffs before graduating in 1979. He has been employed with the Commission since 1972.

attained the fourteen-inch minimum length. Many catfish now top two pounds. White amur have also been added to the lake to control the anticipated heavy aquatic vegetation in the upper bays.

Because of the bottom sealing process used there and its potential effects on the fish population, Frog Hollow Lake is of special interest to fisheries biologists. Most Iowa lakes have not had such complete clearing of the lake site prior to impoundment, not to mention being "lined"

Continued page 4

Photo by Jerry Reisinger



with several feet of clay. To counteract any negative effects of the sealing process, four types of artificial fish habitat structures have been added during impoundment to replace the "structure" on the lake bottom lost in the clearing operation. These devices include several concrete culverts, brush bundles, oak stake beds, and used-tire triangles. They are grouped at three different sites along the lake shoreline and are marked with white buoys with red fish silhouettes. Anglers will find fish congregated around these sites.

It is possible that, even with the artificial habitat devices, the lack of natural fish habitat in the lake will have some negative influence, particularly on spawning success as the fish populations mature. Fisheries surveys during 1982 and subsequent years will determine just what effect the sealing process has had and any necessary adjustments to the fish management plan for the lake. In the meantime, all fish species appear to be growing normally and are producing quality angling. All species should be of sufficient size for harvest in 1982 to provide visitors to the lake an excellent angling opportunity.

Volga River State Recreation Area is a great place to visit during any season. In October, many of the steep hillsides become aglow with vivid reds, yellows, and oranges as the hard maples and other trees go through their spectacular fall change. After the first snowfall, snowmobiles, snowshoe hikers and cross-country skiers enjoy the scenery. But, there is no time like short-sleeve summer to enjoy the outdoors. And there's no better place than Volga to start.



Panfish Primer

By Sonny Satre

Make fishing a family affair! If your spouse and kids are interested in fishing, don't discourage them. It may be hectic at times, but be patient and teach them the basic things they should know. Teach them a few simple fundamentals, outfit them with proper equipment, and take them to a good panfish lake or pond. Before you know it, they just might out-fish the teacher!

Why panfish you may ask? The answer is simple — panfish are the most plentiful fish in Iowa, accounting for approximately 60% of the total annual catch. Panfish such as bluegill, crappie, perch, and bullhead will hold the attention of the young and old alike because of their cooperativeness at tugging on the line and filling the fish basket. Panfish provide plenty of excitement for the angler, and are the top choice of many for their excellent eating qualities.

Proper Equipment

The most important consideration for the panfish angler is selecting the proper rod, reel, and line. A five-foot ultra-light spinning rod and an open-face, ultra-light spinning reel with four-pound test monofilament line is the ideal setup. The second choice is an ultra-light, good-quality closed-faced spin cast reel-rod combination. Whatever you do, don't buy cheap, plastic closed-faced reels, as they are simply undependable. Such reels are not equipped with drags suitable for light line and tend to cause heavier line to swirl and twist badly. A good rule of thumb is to buy fishing equipment that you would consider using yourself. Heavier rods and reels with eight to fifteen-pound test line may be fine for other types of angling, but will only cause frustration for panfish anglers who will find themselves muttering "Why does that guy with the light tackle catch all the fish?"

When purchasing a rod, buy one with at least stainless steel guides. Carbide or

ceramic guides are even better. Monofilament line cuts grooves into cheaper grades of guides causing the line to fray. This can be disastrous when you hook that big one and your line snaps.

Buy good quality monofilament line such as Trilene XL, Stren, and other comparable brands. The four-pound test line is critical for success as it is nearly invisible to the fish and gives the angler a big advantage. It also casts much easier and further than heavier line and is more sensitive to even the small fish bites. Line should be checked periodically, and normally changed about once a year. Line in closed-faced reels usually needs to be changed more frequently because of line twisting problems.

Setting your reel drag properly is very important. It is better to have your drag set too loose than too tight. Adjust by pulling the line and setting it at a point where a light jerk won't break it.

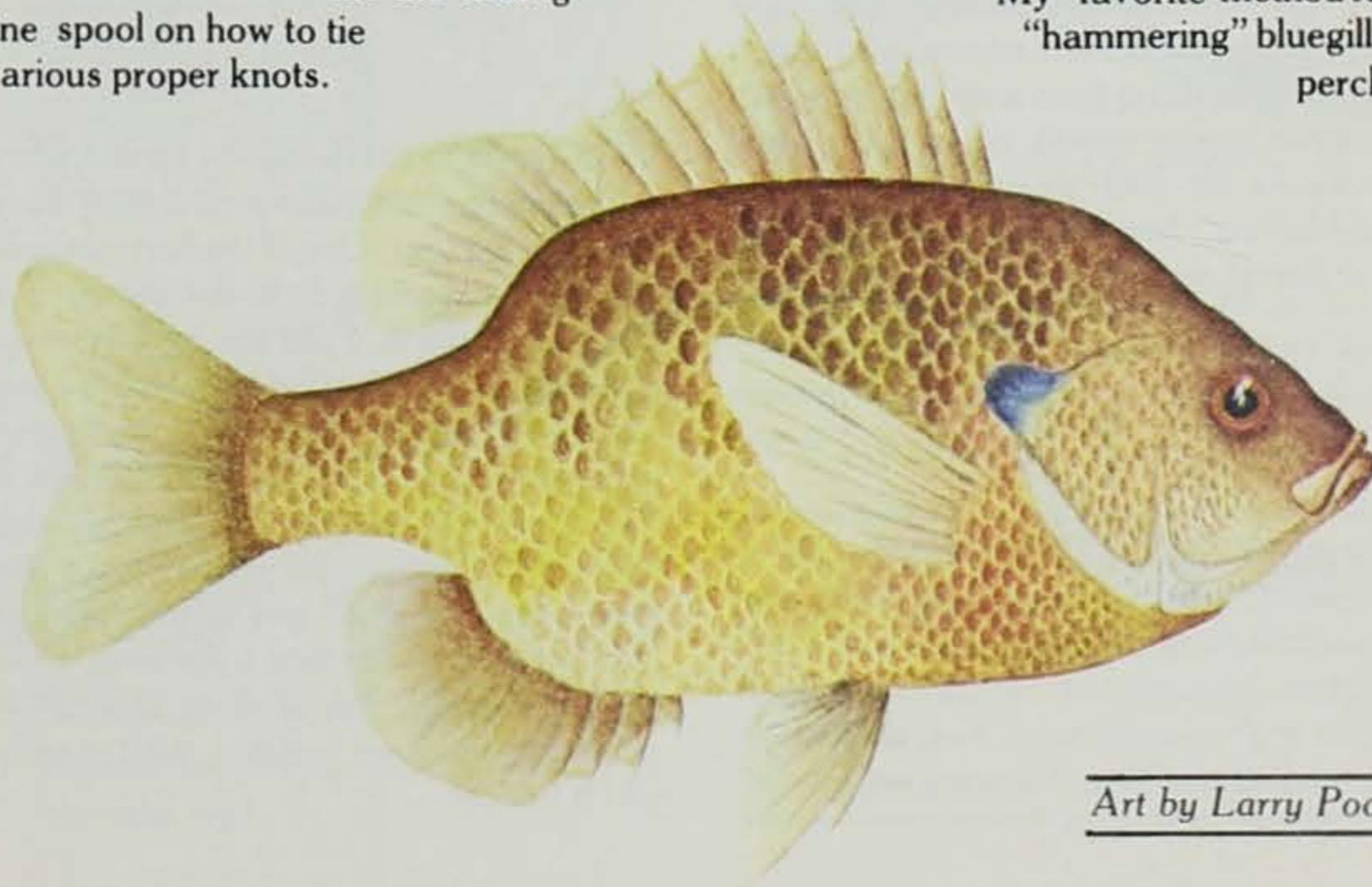
The next important item is a small hook or leadhead-type lure. For bluegill, perch, and crappie, a No. 8 or No. 10 hook is a good choice. The hook should be tied directly to the line. Usually instructions are included with the fishing line spool on how to tie various proper knots.

When panfishing, never use a steel leader, swivels, or other such paraphernalia. Bluegill, crappie, and perch can see all that unneeded tackle on your line which more than likely will signal the fish that something is unnatural about it, and they won't even touch your bait. The only exception to this rule is when fishing for bullheads, as they are not sight feeders. Using a commercial bullhead rig (steel leader setup) is a recommended method as these sandpaper-mouthed fish are hard on line.

Technique Tips

Small quarter-sized bobbers are important for most panfishing techniques. A bobber should generally be set about two to four feet above the hook (depending on water depth), and one or two small split shot should be clinched on the line just below the bobber. Check to make sure the bobber will float, as too heavy a split shot will cause it to sink. Adjust accordingly so the bobber will just barely float. By doing this, the slightest tap by a fish will take it down.

When drift fishing from a boat, bobbers aren't always necessary. My favorite method for "hammering" bluegills, perch,



Art by Larry Pool

and whatever else might be hungry, is to use a 1/32-ounce mini-jig leadhead without the hackle or rubber "skirt" attached. Place about one-third of a nightcrawler on the hook and let out enough line so the bait is about a foot from the bottom. Jig the rod periodically. This method has filled my fish basket several times at West Okoboji. Besides bluegills and perch, you may hook into some nice walleye, catfish, or bass. Even muskies have been known to take these tiny baits.

On breezy days, attach one or two split shot about a foot above the hook and cast out your line. Don't worry about the bottom depth, as the riffling action from the waves will "jig" the bait while you drift, attracting fish.

When putting a piece of nightcrawler on a hook, let at least one end of the worm



dangle. This can mean the difference between success and failure. The dangling worm looks more natural and appetizing in the water than a strung-on worm that has no movement. When using small minnows for bait when bobber fishing (still fishing), hook the minnow just below the dorsal fin (fin on the back). Don't



hook them through the spine, but just above the spine or you will kill the minnow. When drift fishing with minnows, hook them gently through the lips. As you drift, the minnow will appear to be swimming quite naturally which is appealing to fish such as crappie, perch, walleye, or bass.

Leadhead jigs catch more fish than any other artificial bait. There are all kinds, sizes, and colors. Twisters, mini-jigs, feathered hackles, marabou, and other types all work. For crappie, 1/16-ounce and



1/32-ounce sizes are used by most anglers with yellow, white, and pink colors being the most popular. One of the best methods for catching crappies in the spring is a bobber-jig setup. Fish the jig anywhere from one to two feet below a bobber and slowly retrieve it. Best areas to try are around stumps, logs, and other snags. If crappies are in the area, you should catch them. Sometimes you will snag up and lose lures, but don't get discouraged as this happens to the best fishermen. Fishing leadheads while drifting is another good crappie-killer method, with or without a bobber.

For bluegills, the black gnat jig (1/64-ounce) is a sure way to fill a basket with these sporty panfish, especially in late May and early June when the fish are on spawning beds in the shallows. A bobber isn't necessary — just cast near a spawning bed. The odds are you will catch one on almost every cast. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? It is!

These are just a few of the ways panfish can be taken with relative ease. I'm sure some of your angling friends will divulge even more fish-catching tips that will be helpful to the novice angler.

To make a fishing trip a successful outing, take your family to an area that has a reputation for good panfishing. If you need assistance on where to go, contact a state fishery employee or conservation officer in your area for fishing "hot spot" information. You may also call the following Conservation Commission district officers for up-to-date fishing information:

Southwest — 712/769-2587

Southeast — 319/694-2430

Northwest — 712/336-1840

Northeast — 319/927-3276

If your spouse and kids become successful in their newly-found skills, your next problem is teaching them how to clean fish! Good Luck!

To Clean A Fish

Photos by Author

By Bruce C. Adair

So the fish were biting today. You had a great time. Outside of a little sunburn and few unidentifiable insect bites, it was one of those Saturday morning fishing trips when everything seemed to work right for a change. There must be 50 crappie in your basket, plus all those bluegill and that three pound largemouth that somehow failed to break your ultra-thin monofilament.

But now what? You're feeling great, but how about after you butcher all those slimy critters?

Face it. There's no totally pleasant method of cleaning fish. But some are certainly a lot more pleasant than others. I contend the only sensible way to clean a mess of fish like yours is with an electric carving knife. Everybody's got one anyway. You got one for Christmas six years ago, used it a couple times on angel food cake, maybe even carved a turkey or two, but the rest of the time it sits idle. Electric knives were made for filleting fish. Try it.



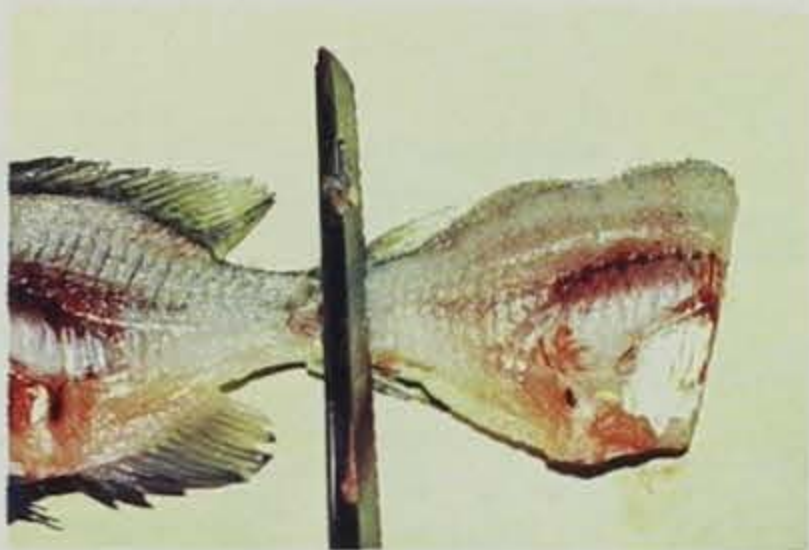
1 Make first cut immediately behind gills. But straight down until you feel resistance. This is the backbone.



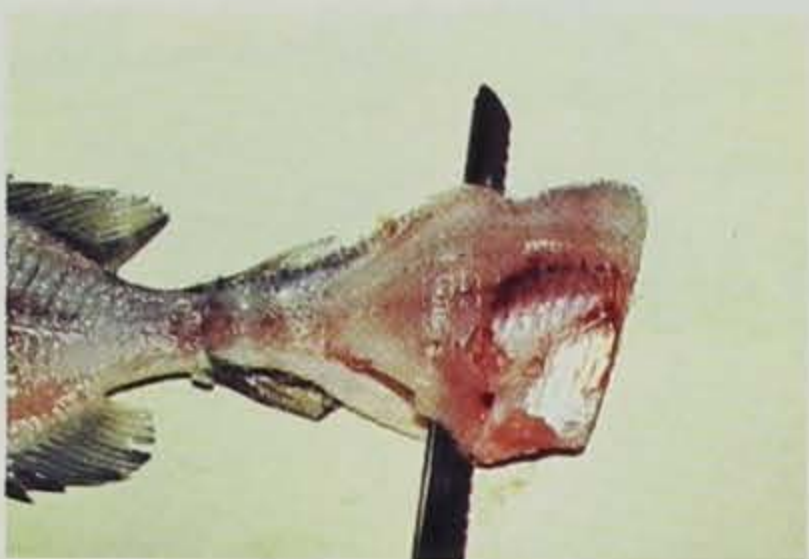
2 Turn the blade nearly parallel to the backbone and continue. The blades will easily slice through the rib section.



3 Stop at the base of the tail. Don't cut clear through.



4 Flip the first fillet over and continue.



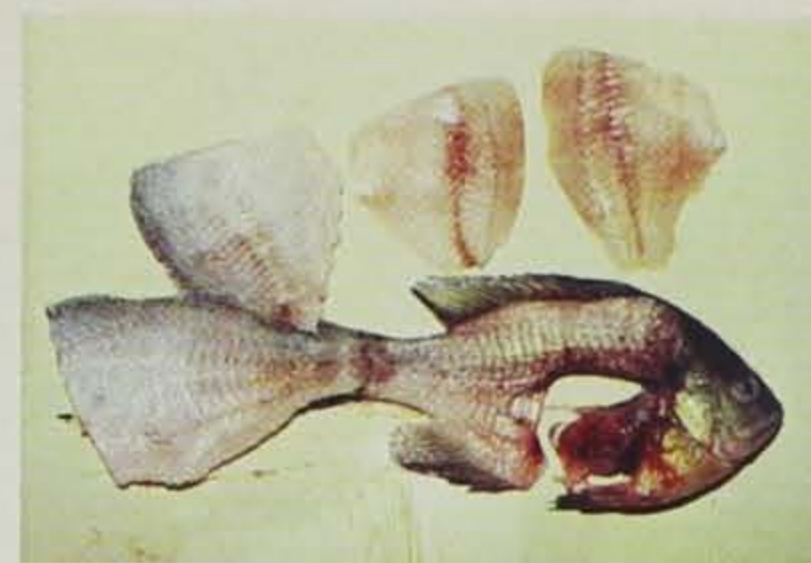
5 Angle the cutting edge down slightly to avoid leaving any meat on the skin.



6 You're half way through.



7 Repeat the same procedure on the opposite side.



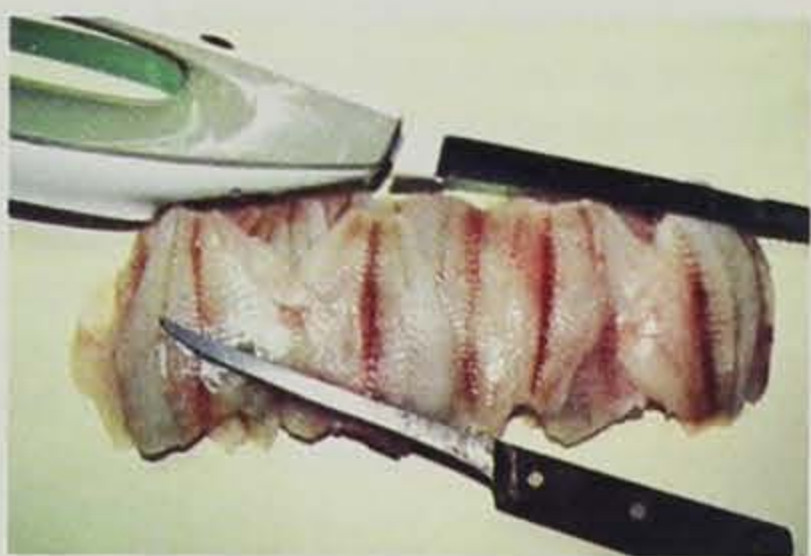
8 Your prize is now in three sections. Plant the carcass in your garden.



9 With a sharp, flexible fillet knife, peel out the rib bones and discard.



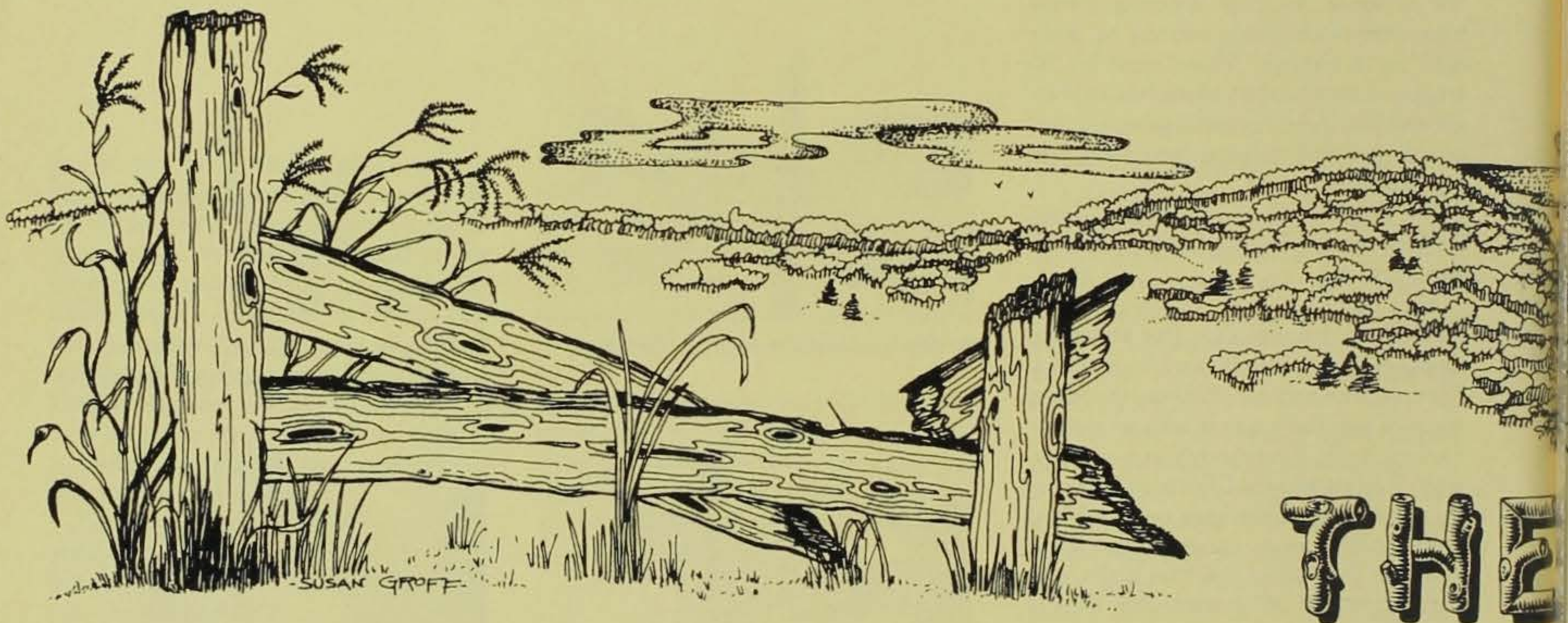
10 Save this part.



11 Here's the finished product. All edible and no bones.

Don't expect immediate success. It takes practice. Obviously the more fish you catch, the more you get to practice. Good luck.

Bruce Adair is a fisheries management biologist stationed at the Southwest Iowa headquarters office at Cold Springs Park near Lewis. He began his employment with the Commission in July 1972. He is a graduate of Iowa State University.



THE

One of the more tragic mistakes we can make is to allow the remnant fragments of high quality natural environments in Iowa to be destroyed. Those natural areas that still exist as miniature strongholds of Iowa's native landscape are very special places — little jewels, like the scraps of native prairie and original marsh, natural creeks and little rivers running undammed and free through greenbelts of bottomland timber, and upland stands of oak and hickory — but they are quietly slipping away.

The economy of recent years certainly has not helped, but there does exist an interesting and satisfying solution to the problem.

Private landowners who hold title to those "jewels" are taking stock of the solution by considering:

- Their unique holdings are of value to society's natural heritage.
- Today's tax, estate, and land transfer laws offer many favorable options to the landowner guaranteeing protection of these holdings.

Whether it is a five-acre swatch of virgin prairie in the north forty, or a natural

marsh in a square-mile of wooded bottomland, there are many public conservation organizations which can turn a landowner's liability into a public asset without great cost or loss to any party.

The Iowa Conservation Commission and the county conservation boards are specifically staffed to protect and manage natural areas. Private conservation organizations, such as the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Nature Conservancy, are fully equipped as go-betweens or mediators and provide invaluable aid in finding parcels, then working out the details of land transfer from the private to the public sector. Between all of these groups, there is an abundance of knowledge on the latest laws, particularly in the areas of donation, bargain sale, and conservation easement.

State and federal financial policies provide significant incentives to those landowners who want their unique areas protected and appreciated for future generations.

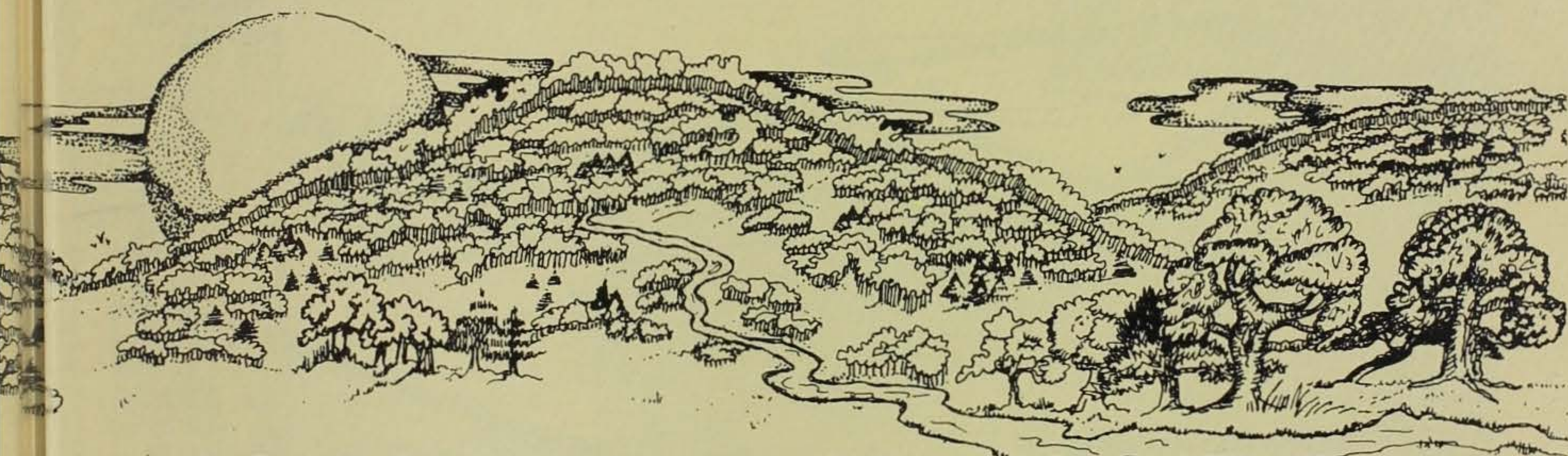
The new booklet, "Landowners Options", prepared by the Natural Heritage Foundation, is a comprehensive guide

for landowners looking for natural area protection. A copy is available from the Conservation Commission, or from the Foundation, with addresses at the end of this article.

Additionally, training is just beginning for the field staff of the Conservation Commission and for some employees of the county conservation boards, but within the next year or so, there will be many more conservation representatives capable of discussing the finer points of these options with landowners throughout the state. Some examples of the options include:

Donation

An outright donation of land is usually the simplest way to arrange transfers of title. No financing or negotiations about price are necessary. The landowner need only obtain approval of the agency to which the land will be given, then deed the land to the recipient. Tax benefits could make this transaction attractive to the landowner. Estate and real estate taxes diminish correspondingly. Also, if a governmental agency or publicly supported private charity receives the gift, the donor



HERITAGE GIFT

Art by Susan Groff

can claim an income tax deduction of the market value of the land as determined by a qualified appraiser. In some cases, the landowner may want to donate the land in installments to maximize the benefit of the deduction or a landowner may wish to donate a parcel, but not give up its use immediately. In this case, two options exist: donation by devise, and donation with a reserve life estate.

Donation By Devise

A gift of land by devise may be made at the time of death simply by making the gift in a will. Discussing the gift with the proposed recipient before writing the will is best to assure the property owner's wishes can be carried out.

Donation With Reserved Life Estate

A landowner may donate land and retain use of all or part of it for his remaining lifetime or the lifetimes of other members of the immediate family. This is accomplished by giving a deed which includes a provision allowing lifetime use of the land by the landowner or others. The donor usually continues to pay real estate taxes, the property value may be

included in the gross estate for federal tax purposes, and the gift may qualify as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes.

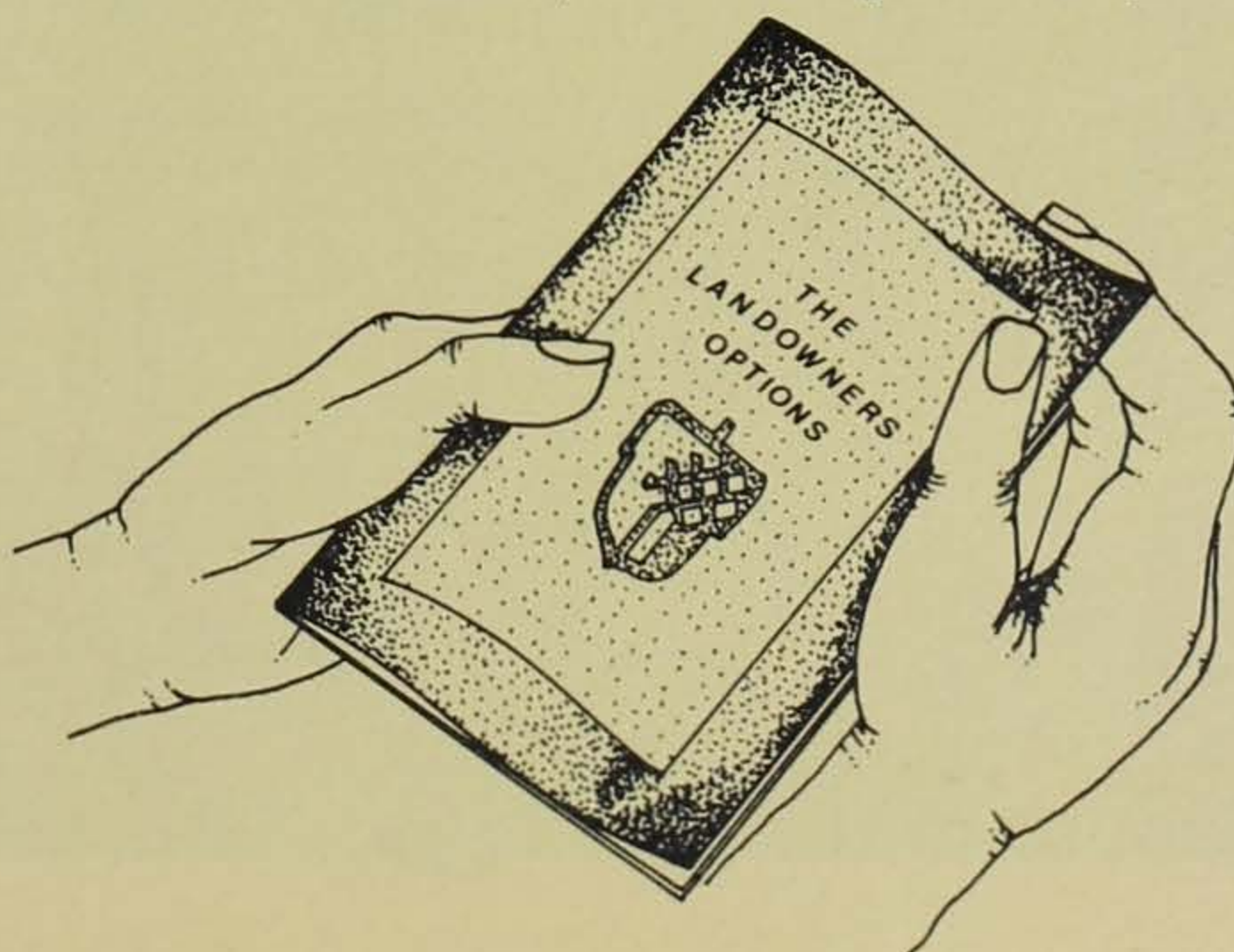
Bargain Sale

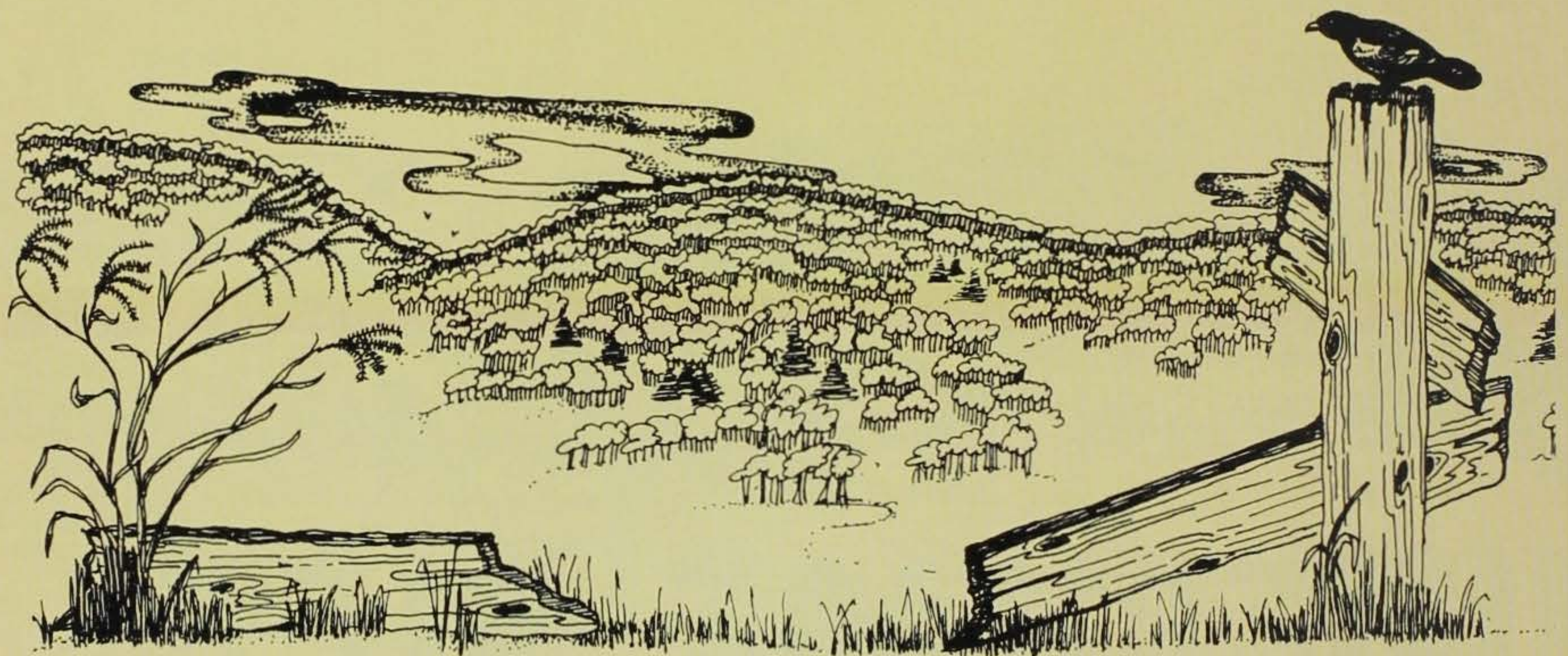
By charging a price significantly less than the fair market value, a landowner is more likely to find a conservation interest able and willing to purchase the land. Federal law allows deduction of, as a

charitable contribution, the difference between the bargain price received and the fair market value. The cash benefit of the deduction can help compensate for the dollars foregone by selling at less than fair market value. Also, by selling for the lower price, capital gain tax is reduced.

Conservation Easement

Because a conservation easement is binding on all subsequent owners of the





land, a landowner may contribute a conservation easement that will regulate all future use of the property. The owner may count any loss in market value due to the easement as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes.

State Preserve Dedication

If approved by the State Advisory Board for Preserves, a landowner could dedicate a unique natural or cultural area as a "state preserve", but still retain ownership. Such a dedication is one of the highest forms of protection available. Not all natural lands will qualify for listing as a

state preserver, however. The Articles of Dedication, filed in the County Recorder's office, remain with the property even though ownership may change. If the dedication reduces the market value of the property, the loss may be considered as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes. Lowered estate and property taxes may also result.

Payment of Inheritance Tax With Property Given To State

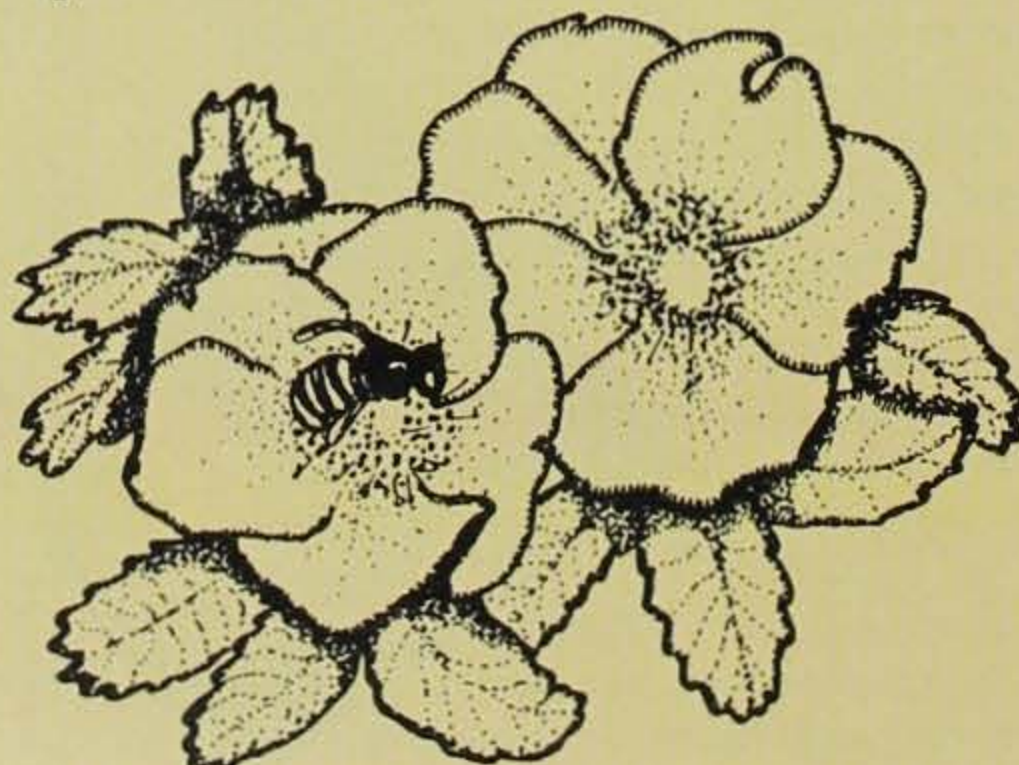
Iowa has a new law which provides that state inheritance taxes may be paid

by transfer of property. The transfer may be made to the state or any of its political subdivisions. The property transferred does not have to be in the estate of the decedent. Because this law is so new, it is not yet fully known whether the transfer of partial interests in property, such as a conservation easement, would qualify.

For any additional information on landowners options for protecting land, contact any of the following:

John Beamer
Iowa Conservation Commission
Wallace Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515-281-5634

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Suite 830
505 Fifth Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-288-1846



Your own county conservation Board address and phone are in the county listings of your phone book.

Dewey's Pasture Complex

By Thomas J. Neal

The entire northwestern one-third of Iowa once consisted of a vast network of marshes, sloughs and shallow lakes. Early explorers described the area as "unfit for human habitation" and "nothing but swampland." Millions of acres were under water all or part of the year and there are records of marsh complexes stretching for 30 miles or more.

All this has changed. With the settlement of the prairies came the drainage ditch and the field tile. Most of the wetlands were remarkably easy to drain and convert to farmland. Perhaps as many as 98% of the wetlands were drained.

Fortunately, a few wetlands have been preserved by public ownership. One of the finest of these is the Dewey's Pasture Complex, a 3,000-acre area in Clay and Palo Alto Counties. This area contains ideal conditions for waterfowl production, with a mixture of large and small wetlands interspersed through rolling uplands. There are about 550 acres of upland, 1,200 acres of open water and 1,250 acres of marsh.

Waterfowl studies have been carried out on Dewey's Pasture for over 40 years, and a great deal of information on the species and numbers of ducks nesting in the area has been accumulated.

Nesting duck populations are closely related to water levels, with few ducks nesting in dry years, and many in wet years. In an "average" year the 400 acres intensively studied will have 66 pairs of blue-winged teal, 7 pairs of mallards, 7 pairs of redheads, 6 pairs of Canada geese, 5 pairs of ruddies, and a few shovellers, ringnecks, gadwalls or pintails. Although Iowa is not normally thought of as a waterfowl production state, these densities of breeding waterfowl are comparable to excellent habitat in the Dakotas or Canada.

Photo by Ken Formanek



Photo by Author



Photo by Jerry Leonard



Numerous other birds, many of which are rare or absent in surrounding farmland, nest in the area: American bitterns, or "thunder pumpers" and their little cousins, the least bitterns are common. So are coots and pied-billed grebes.

Sora and Virginia rails nest in large numbers, and occasionally the much larger king rail. Black terns are often common, building flimsy floating nests in open pools. Yellowthroats, yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds are abundant, and marsh wrens, bobolinks, meadowlarks and pheasants are also found on the area.

Mammals range from the pygmy shrew (this is the only place in the state it has ever been found) to the white-tailed deer. Muskrats, minks, skunks and foxes are common.

An average of about one half of the duck nests hatch, and most of the remainder are destroyed by mammalian predators. Because of re-nesting of ducks whose first nest is destroyed, most hens ultimately succeed in hatching a nest.

It is essential that ducks have both small, isolated potholes for breeding and larger, deeper areas for rearing their young. Dewey's Pasture is admirably suited for both of these functions. It contains an abundance of small potholes, and nearby lakes and large marshes provide excellent brood rearing.

How is it Managed?

Controlled spring burning has been found to be a valuable technique for improving nesting cover for ducks and other birds. Burning encourages the growth of tall prairie plants which in turn provide better cover for nesting birds. At the same time, introduced plants such as bluegrass are gradually eliminated by burning. This results in a grassland community which more nearly resembles the original prairie.

Water levels are controlled as far as possible in order to provide the best

marsh habitat conditions for wildlife. A small amount of land is farmed in order to provide a winter food supply of corn and to establish fields of nesting cover. Small food plots of corn and sorghum are also planted in strategic spots.

Is the Area Open to the Public?

All parts of the area are open to public hunting, except Round Lake, which is a waterfowl refuge, and a small part of Smith's Slough (the former goose pen area) which is also closed to hunting. The entire area is closed to Canada goose hunting.

Duck hunting is usually good early in the season on small potholes, and later in the season on larger bodies of water. Pheasant hunting is excellent, especially after cold weather drives the birds into cover from surrounding farmland. Some hunting is done for deer and fox. The area is available for bird-watching, hiking and photography year around, and these uses are encouraged.

On a recent late May hike through the area, I observed the following wildlife: a red fox, a white-tailed deer, a beaver, numerous blue-winged teal, mallards,

redheads, shovellers, and a pair of green-winged teal, Canada geese, many yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds, coots, grebes, yellowthroats, a pheasant, marsh wrens, swamp sparrows, garter snakes, meadow mice and a jumping mouse. This will give you an idea of the variety of wildlife that inhabits the Dewey's Pasture Complex.

So pay a visit to this area and see what the pothole country was like. Its located on a blacktop road about four miles north of Ruthven. We ask only that you treat the area with the respect a natural remnant of prairie marshes deserves. You'll find a quiet early morning hike will be like taking a trip 100 years into the past.

Thomas Neal is a wildlife management biologist and is responsible for managing the five county Ruthven Wildlife Unit in northwest Iowa. His office is at the SCS Office Bldg., in Cherokee. Neal has been employed with the Commission for over 10 years. He is a graduate of Iowa State University.



Green Valley State Park

By Linda Kittleson

Photo by Ron Johnson

Green Valley State Park provides a variety of recreational opportunities. The park lies 2½ miles northwest of Creston in Union County between Iowa highways 25 and 186. Green Valley sports a completely modern campground with 140 campsites, 50 of which are supplied with electricity. The beach and concessions are to the east of the campground, where swimming and boating are available for a small fee. Fishing is also a big attraction at the park, with catfish and crappie being favorite prizes.

Along with the usual recreational activities; hiking, boating, swimming, fishing and camping—Green Valley also offers water skiing. This is a unique situation because Green Valley is the only artificial

lake under state jurisdiction where water skiing is permitted. A law allowing water skiing at this lake was passed in 1973.

Water skiing is not the only unique characteristic of Green Valley State Park. The origin of the park is a story in itself. Green Valley State park's beginning can be traced back to the drought years of the 1930's. In 1934, Creston's water supply, Summit Lake, dried up. Creston, at that time, was relying on a private water works company that, because of a lack of funds to expand, was unable to meet the crisis. To help alleviate the situation water was brought in by train through a federal relief program.

The city of Creston decided to buy the private water works to alleviate further

problems. They increased the capacity of Summit Lake and obtained rights of usage to McKinley Lake. However, Arthur K. Oleson, the first superintendent, believed strongly in the need for a reserve reservoir north of Summit Lake. The cost of such a project, if undertaken solely by the city, was prohibitive. Therefore the state was contacted.

The Conservation Commission, at that time, had a 25-year plan which provided for a state lake within a traveling distance of 25 miles of every person in Iowa. Since, at that time, there were no facilities available within a short distance to the people in this area, the proposed lake would fit into Iowa's plan. The lake would serve 41 towns and 71,500 people within

Photo by Jerry Leonard



Photo by Author

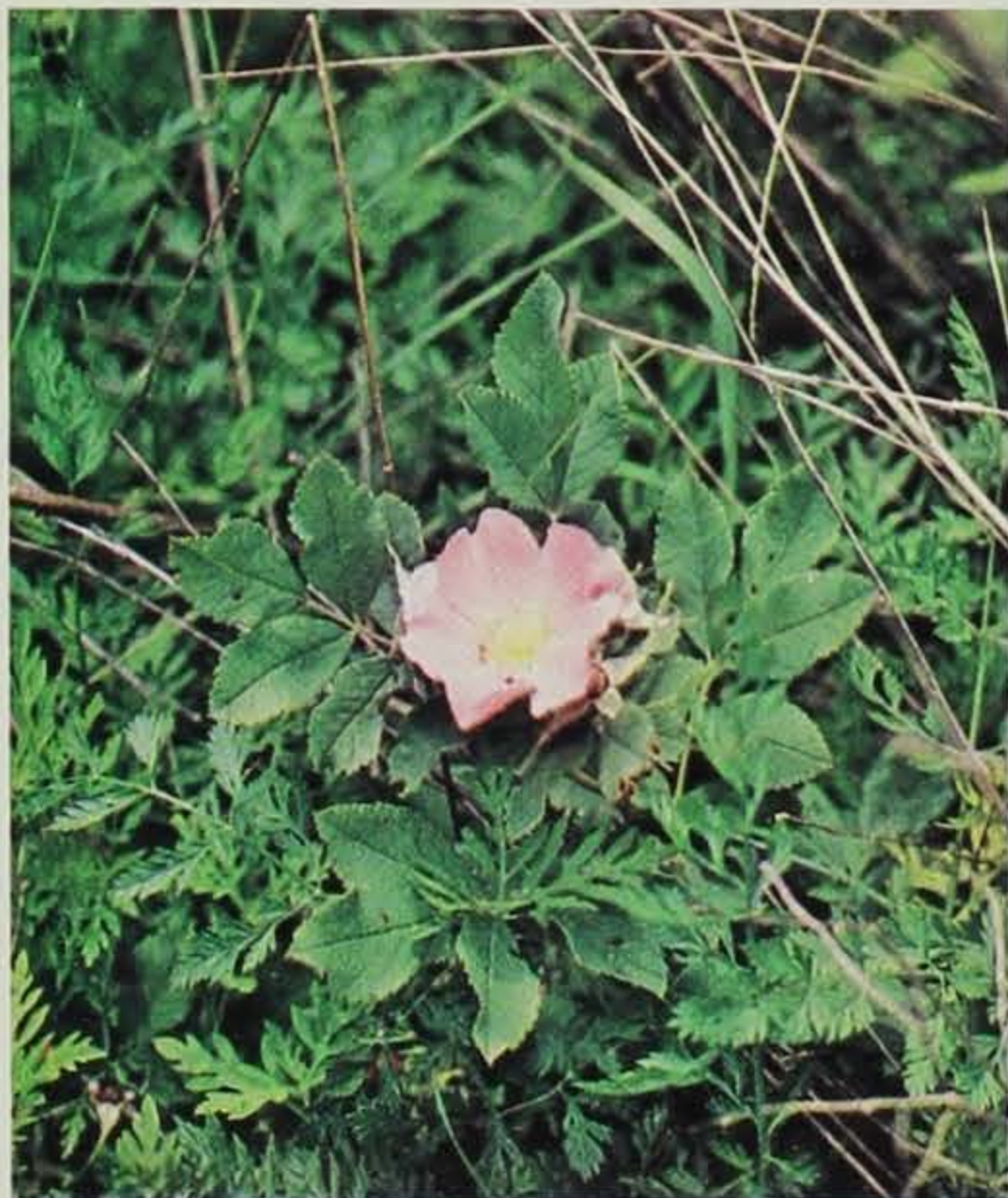


Photo by Jerry Leonard

a 25 mile radius. Construction was estimated at \$500,000 and Creston was willing to supply \$100,000. From this plan Creston would be assured of an emergency source of water.

In 1949 Southwestern Federated Power Company wanted to build a large steam power plant to expand its service to 14 counties. This expansion created a need for a large reservoir of water for cooling purposes. The company had first elected to build its own lake, but the timing coincided with the city's plans. Southwestern Federated Power opted to supply approximately \$125,000 towards a state lake if they would be allowed to withdraw 150 million gallons of water per year. It was determined that this amount of with-

drawal would not be detrimental to either the recreational or fishing use of the lake. After many meetings and much discussion, an agreement was drawn up naming three principals; the state of Iowa, the city of Creston, and Southwestern Federated Power, responsible for the construction of a 400 acre lake northwest of Creston. Construction started early in 1952.

The total cost of construction came to \$526,640, with the city contributing \$100,000, Southwestern Federated \$125,000, and the state \$301,640. Through this joint cooperation the community of Creston, the state of Iowa and a business entity obtained a 400 acre lake with 12 miles of shoreline and 590 acres of land.

The lake was now complete but unnamed, so a contest was held. Tina Simpson, a life-long resident of the area, suggested the name Green Valley which was declared the winner. On September 20, 1953 this new state park was dedicated and the people of Iowa began to enjoy the many types of recreation which are available at Green Valley today.

Linda Kittleson is a park attendant at Green Valley State Park. She began her career with the Commission in 1981. She is a graduate of the University of Iowa.

WARDEN'S DIARY

By Jerry Hoilien

With the nice weather, everyone wants to get out and enjoy the out-of-doors. Fishing is in full swing and all the youngsters (regardless of age) are trying their luck. Some would just as soon watch the pole and hope the fish don't bother them too often. To them, fishing is an excuse to soak up the sun, relax and dream awhile. As an old minister friend of mine told me, "the good Lord doesn't deduct time spent with fish-pole in hand". He is a fisherman too.

Everyone seemed to be having a good time and the boaters were remembering to have a competent observer in the boat to watch their skiers as required by law. I saw several skiers I wouldn't mind observ-

ing for awhile, but back to work now!

I noticed two large houseboats backed onto a nice sandbar with lots of people engaged in quite a beer party. They all appeared to be of legal age. One group had placed a large garbage can on the beach and were putting their cans and bottles in it. The other group just threw them on the sand. This group would bear some attention, so I pulled in under the trees across the channel and began making notes. When the party began to break up to my surprise the first group spread out, gathered up all their litter, put it in a large plastic bag, loaded it all on the back of the houseboat and left. Then the other operator came out, picked up his garbage

can and emptied the contents on the beach, put the empty container on the boat and pulled out. The judge gave him a clean-up job as well as a fine. I guess it takes all sorts of folks, doesn't it?

It's late Sunday afternoon now, and I'm by myself. The last of the noise disappears downstream and once again the river is at peace. She rolls gently between the bluffs, making contented sounds as the birds settle down for the night, nestling in her solitude. The red and gray streaks in the sky promise a perfect day tomorrow. Drifting quietly in the current, basking in the serenity of my world, I wish everyone could see and feel the beauty of this river as I do.

CLASSROOM CORNER

By Bob Rye
Administrator

Conservation Education Center

Classroom Corner, since its origin, has described activities which help present conservation education principles in the school classroom, or in a park or wildlife area. It has also provided background or theoretical information on why we have conservation, or why some conservation principles exist. I would like to add another helpful aid with this article —how to use current information in your instruction.

The **Iowa Conservationist** is a monthly magazine which provides instructors with several articles of current information per issue. How can these articles be used?

Most people become bored if they are forced to listen to someone present fact after fact at a lecture. But, many of these same people have fun trying to unscramble words listed in the daily paper in a scrambled form — ROWSD (Words)? Have you ever watched people working crossword puzzles, or finding words in a letter scramble, or trying to answer multiple guess questions, or matching words to definitions?

We will try several of these activities every-other month in this column for the rest of the year and await your reactions. All answers will be found in the articles throughout the magazine. You can use this as a classroom instructional aid to current conservation information.

STATEMENT

1. A type of panfish
2. Very common artificial bait for panfish
3. General term to explain Dewey's Pasture Complex
4. The mammal that is found in Iowa only in Dewey's Pasture Complex (2 words)
5. A method of management used in Dewey's Pasture Complex
6. The recreational activity which the artificial lake at Green Valley uniquely has (2 words)
7. Three entities joined together to form Green Valley State park and provide a _____ to hold water
8. Volga River State Recreation Area is located in this county
9. The artificial structures placed in Volga Lake are to provide this for the fish
10. Type of fish added to Volga Lake to control vegetation

SCRAMBLED

1. liblugel
2. ehddaale
3. lwadten
4. ypgym wrhes
5. ribnug
6. traew igsink
7. veresroi
8. yaettef
9. tihtaab
10. umra

ANSWER

Wild Flower Of The Month
WILD GERANIUM

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
Historical Building
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

Photo by Randall Maas
Tomma Lou Maas



by Dean M. Roosa and
Mary Jean Huston

(*Geranium maculatum*)

The wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) is a handsome member of the woodland flora of Iowa, fairly common in all except the northwestern part of our state. There are three geraniums growing wild in Iowa, but this month's featured species is the most widespread and common. It often occurs in dense stands in moist, open woodlands. The showy flower, up to an inch and a half across, is an attractive rose-lavender with darker veining on the five petals. Each petal has a tuft of hairs at the base which protects the nectar from drops of water. The leaves are fuzzy, rather fleshy, round in outline but with deep lobing,

and often show brown and white spots.

Flowering begins in late April and continues through July, with individual plants often bearing buds, flowers and seeds at the same time. Cross-pollination is the usual method and is often carried out by bumble bees. Self-pollination is prevented because the pollen-bearing stamens mature before the pistil, or female part. The capsule bears five segments, each with a single seed. These segments, when ripe, split lengthwise and hurl the seeds away from the parent plant and thus spread plants into new environments. As the capsule matures it elongates, reaching a length of up to one and one-half inches. The erect mature capsule bears a fancied resemblance to a bird's beak and both a second common name, "Crane's bill," and the Greek origin of the word "geranium" come from this resemblance.

The perennial rootstock is a thick, knotted rhizome which has been used by early native Americans for a variety of uses, such as treatment of burns, diarrhea, and in the tanning process.

Most Iowa woodlands which have not been heavily grazed, harbour this handsome and interesting plant. Resolve to introduce a friend to this and other woodland flowers this spring.

Dean Roosa is the state ecologist for the State Preserves Advisory Board. Roosa has held this position since 1975.

Mary Jean Huston is data manager for the Iowa Natural Areas Inventory. She began her employment with the Commission assisting the State Ecologist in 1980. She is a graduate of Grinnell College.
