

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004

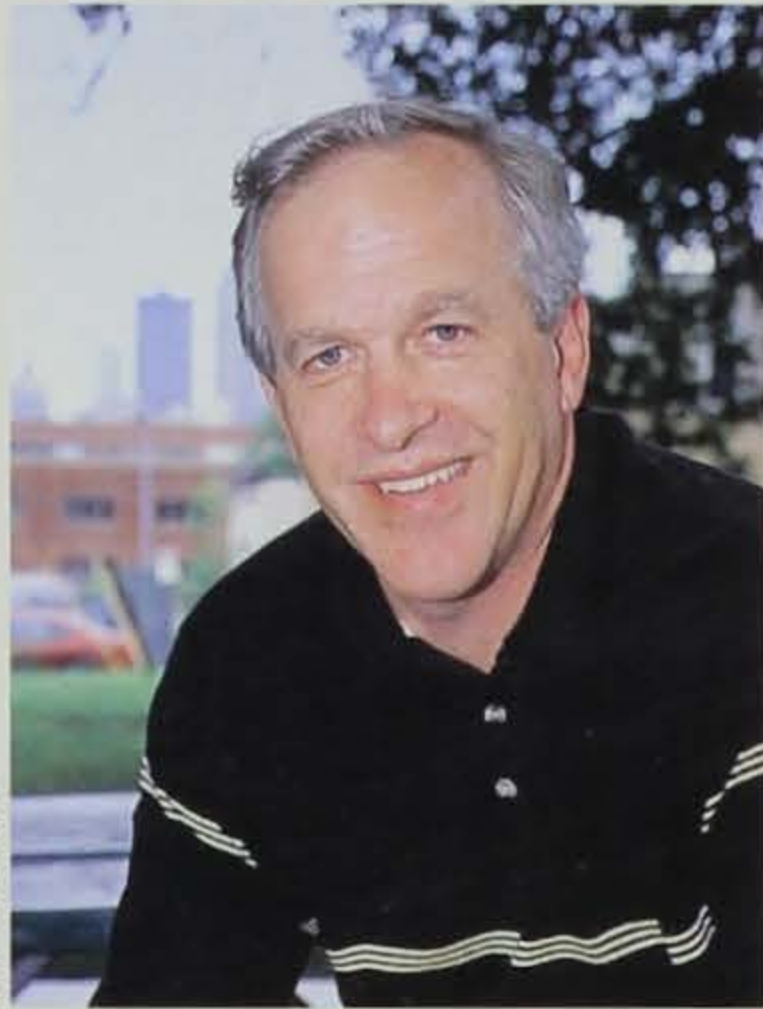
CONSERVATIONIST

IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Bob Castelle

Managing Success

In 1933, noted conservationist and author Aldo Leopold made a very bold, yet disturbing prediction.

The whitetail deer, Leopold predicted, would never again be abundant enough to sustain a hunting season and that sanctuaries should be developed to prevent them from disappearing from the state altogether.

As director of the DNR, I believe I can safely say that, 71 years later, the deer population in Iowa is showing signs of recovery.

I make that statement tongue-in-cheek, of course. Everyone knows that deer populations have made a remarkable recovery in Iowa to the point where deer have gone from once being a rare

sight to one where some view them as a problem. The title of a book published by this department summarizes the deer issue fairly well: *Whitetail, - Treasure, Trophy or Trouble?* The answer to that question, as people in the DNR well know, lies in the eyes of the beholder.

And deer are not alone. Wild turkey and giant Canada geese are two other species that were all but obliterated from the Iowa landscape yet have been successfully re-introduced. By 1910, the Canada goose was all but gone. It was descendants of the original, wild population that had been trapped by farmers in Iowa and Minnesota that were used to re-establish a population today estimated at 40,000 breeding birds and 75,000 Iowa-born geese that join the fall migrations.

Likewise, wild turkeys found in abundant numbers prior to the arrival of European settlers were all but eliminated from Iowa by 1900. Like the deer and geese, uncontrolled hunting and habitat loss lead to the massive declines in numbers. As recently as 1970, a prediction was made by biologists that "turkeys will probably never again be considered numerous in Iowa."

We have thus entered into a new era in terms of wildlife management. Today, we are managing success and the different opportunities and challenges that arise with having

successful management programs.

Managing success is often a bigger challenge for wildlife professionals than restoring a species back to a healthy population. Our biggest challenges today revolve around achieving the balance of adequate populations for outdoor enthusiasts while not creating undue conflicts with society as a whole.

Future hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities depend on our ability to manage success by maintaining significant populations of deer, turkey, geese, pheasants and other species in ways that continue to entice hunters, yet meet a level of acceptance from the rest of society.

These are our bread and butter species that generate the revenue that sustain fish and wildlife departments and consequently other important activities including non-game programs and projects that result in significant improvements to the environment including water quality. We must not be lured by political pressure to decimate these extremely valuable populations. If we cannot maintain major wildlife populations and protect sizeable segments of their current habitat

Director's Message

cont. on page 4

FRONT COVER: ROOSTER PHEASANT BY
TY SMEDES

BACK COVER: BITTERSWEET BY
LOWELL WASHBURN



Roger A. Hill

Departments

54 Parks Profile

58 Conservation Update

62 Warden's Diary

Features

6 IOWA HUNTING 2004

Get the scoop on the 2004-05 hunting season predictions from the biologists who know.

18 FIRST-RATE ROAST GOOSE

by Joe Wilkinson

Canada goose gets a spicy dress-up from Bistro on First in Cedar Rapids.

20 GIS MAPPING: CREATING SOLUTIONS FOR ROCK CREEK LAKE

by Jessie Rolph

Rock Creek Lake, the centerpiece of Rock Creek State Park in Jasper County, is at risk. Can it be saved?

26 RECORD YEAR FOR OSPREY RECOVERY

by Lowell Washburn

Ospreys are catching on at Clear Lake. The summer of 2004 was indeed a record year for the bird.

28 LEGENDS OF THE FALL

by Lowell Washburn

The whitetail rut is what every bowhunter anticipates — no, lives for — every fall. Photographer Lowell Washburn illustrates why.

36 2004 RECORD DEER RACKS

42 HUNTING'S FUTURE? A COMBINATION OF RESOURCE AND ACCESS

by Richard Bishop

The DNR's former wildlife bureau chief feels both wildlife agencies and sports people will need to address critical changes on the horizon if we are to preserve the sport of hunting.

48 TIMBERHILL WINERY

by Jill Cornell

Timberhill Winery near Leon is producing more than just spirits these days. Find out what the winery has done to merit winning a Governor's Environmental Excellence Award.

Director's Message

cont. from page 2

then we will not be successful in maintaining strong programs and public participation. In Iowa the success of our deer program is providing funding for the entire fish and wildlife division. Without revenue that deer hunters bring in, our department would be forced to eliminate a number of our management programs — programs that directly improve the quality of life here, making Iowa an attractive place to live.

Unfortunately, many Iowans have not yet learned to value wildlife and the economic stimulus it creates like Colorado does with elk or South Dakota does with

pheasants. A big part of managing success is helping the public understand the potential of a perceived liability such as abundant wildlife can actually be a very attractive asset for the state both economically and aesthetically.

A major point the non-hunting public often fails to grasp is the economic benefits derived from successful wildlife programs and sustainable wildlife populations. Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching generates about **\$1.5 billion** every year for the Iowa economy.

The successful increase of whitetails in Iowa is an excellent example of hunter numbers increasing with increased deer numbers. When deer numbers in

Iowa were increased by direct management action, licenses issued jumped from 62,000 in 1974 to 265,000 in 2002.

Many young people, women, and ardent bird hunters became deer hunters because success was common.

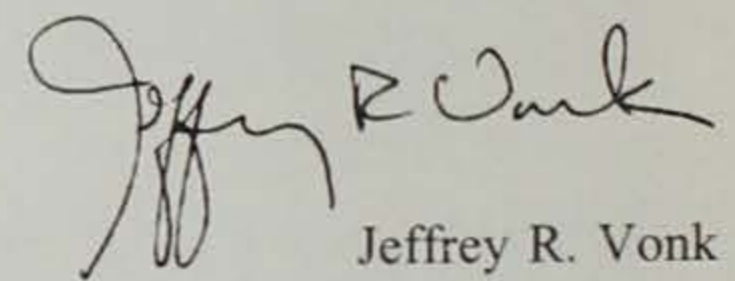
Few people want to encourage a friend or relative to go along on the hunt if conditions are tough and rewards few.

However, if success is high — whether its ducks, deer, pheasants or turkeys — many people are

encouraged to join the hunting ranks.

The challenge to us, therefore, is to find the proactive approaches to wildlife management needed to balance acceptable numbers for sportsmen with the concerns of society as a whole. This is why our biologists have been active in relocating urban geese in recent years and in promoting the harvest of does during our deer seasons. That is why a program like HUSH (Hunters United to Stop Hunger) was wildly successful in its first year. It was an opportunity for sportsmen to share the bounty of our natural resources with less fortunate neighbors.

If we only want to have a few animals to view and enjoy then we do not need major populations. However, if we expect to draw and maintain the interest of large numbers of Iowans and the resulting economic benefits of these activities then wildlife populations must be significant and sustainable.


Jeffrey R. Vonk

Protect your Hearing with Custom Ear Molds

ENT
CLINIC
OF IOWA, P.C.

Reduce the "Blast" effect but allow normal conversation to be heard

- Sound quality is clearer and more natural.
- Fidelity of the original sound is preserved.
- The world doesn't sound muffled.



SHANANN S.
DeLONG,
M.S., CCCA
Audiologist
Licensed Hearing
Aid Specialist

Call us to receive \$25 off!

1455 29th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50266
www.entclinicofiowa.com
515-267-1800 • 1-800-726-8088

All members receive our quarterly newsletter!



Iowa Prairie Network

Join the IPN, only \$10/year!
Write IPN, PO Box 572, Nevada, IA 5020
or see www.iowaprairienetwork.org

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

Magazine Subscriptions

Phone calls 515-281-5918
(MasterCard or Visa)

Or on-line at www.iowadnr.com

Current holiday offer:

\$8 for a one-year subscription

(offer expires Dec. 31, 2004)

Fast Paced Living Getting You Down?

Escape to the magical world of
The Natural Gait.

The place smart people go to get
reacquainted with what matters most.

Luxurious Furnished Cabins
Hiking & Horse Trails
Trout & Bass Fishing
Tubing & Canoeing
Wildflowers & Scenic Views



877-776-2208

www.thenaturalgait.com
ntrlgait@acegroup.cc

CORRECTION:

The article on "Great Iowa Wildlife Viewing Opportunities" in the July/August issue contained erroneous information about the fall birding festival at Lansing. This year's "Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival" will be held November 12-14, and is always the second weekend of November. The correct information phone number is 563-538-4991. We regret any inconvenience caused by these errors.

September/October 2004
Volume 63, Number 5

STAFF

Kevin Baskins, Bureau Chief
Julie Sparks, Editor
Alan Foster, Managing Editor
Lowell Washburn, Writer/Photographer
Clay Smith, Photographer
Circulation, 515/281-3887

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

R. Kim Francisco, Chair, Lucas
Janice Marcantonio, Vice Chair, Council Bluffs
Joan Schneider, Secretary, Okoboji
Carol Kramer, Newton
William Sullivan, Cantril
Paul Christiansen, Mount Vernon
Randy Duncan, Des Moines

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

Darrell Hanson, Chair, Manchester
Jerry Peckum, Vice Chair, Jefferson
Heidi Vittetoe, Secretary, Washington
Kathryn Murphy, LeMars
Lisa Davis Cook, West Des Moines
Donna Buell, Spirit Lake
Lori Glanzman, Mount Pleasant
Francis Thicke, Fairfield
Terrance Townsend, Newton

DIRECTOR

Jeffrey R. Vonk

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Liz Christiansen

DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS

Linda Hanson, Management Services
Michael Brandrup, Conservation and Recreation
Wayne Gieselman, Environmental Services

WEB ADDRESS

www.iowadnr.com

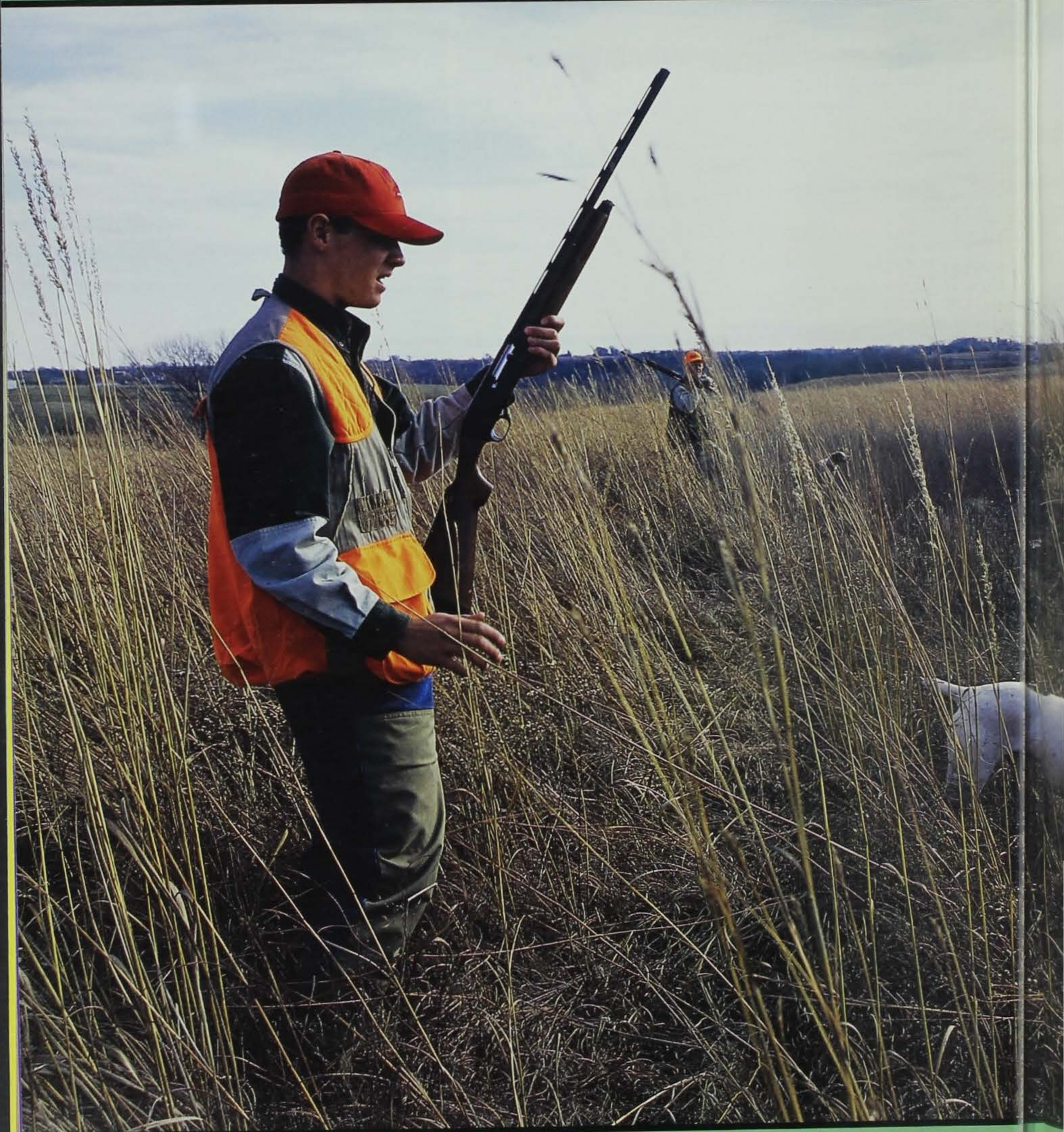
SPECIAL PHONE NUMBERS

Waste Management and Recycling (515) 281-8941
Emergency Spill Response (515) 281-8694
Energy (515) 281-5918
Main Number (515) 281-5918
Turn-In-Poachers (TIP), (800) 532-2020
TTD (515) 242-5967

Iowa Conservationist (ISSN 0021-0471) is published bimonthly by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Periodicals postage paid Des Moines, IA. Subscription rates: \$12 for one year, \$18 for two years and \$24 for three years. Prices subject to change without notice. Include mailing label for renewals and address changes. POSTMASTER: Send changes to the *Iowa Conservationist*, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D. C. 20240







Clay Smith



Iowa Hunting 2004:

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

By Terry Little,
Wildlife Research Supervisor
Photos by Roger Hill

“Mixed bag.” The term can mean lots of things to an Iowa hunter. It could mean a good day of hunting with pheasants and quail, or harvesting several kinds of ducks and geese. Or it could mean the variety of great hunting opportunities available to Iowans. The world-class deer, wild turkey and pheasant hunting we take for granted are the envy of hunters nationwide. Or it could mean a year like this one looks to be – one with some great and some merely good hunting seasons ahead of us.



DEER HUNTING

Last fall's hunting seasons set the bar pretty high. Deer hunters bought more licenses and harvested more deer than at any time in the history of modern deer hunting. For the first time more does were taken than bucks as hunters answered the DNR's call to help reduce the deer herd. Undoubtedly the department's Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program helped. More than 1,600 deer were taken to lockers and processed for food banks by hunters that donated their animals. Deer biologist Willie Suchy explains what that means in terms of deer populations and hunting expectations for this year. Hint: They're great!

PHEASANT HUNTING

Pheasant populations rebounded last year across most of the state to produce one of the best hunting

Another Record Deer Harvest On The Horizon?

by Willie Suchy

The upcoming deer season should be another good one for Iowa hunters. In fact, if everything goes as planned, this fall should produce another record harvest. That's pretty lofty expectations, considering the estimated harvest of 182,856 deer in 2003 was 30 percent higher than the previous record. The main reason for this expectation is that 84,000 antlerless licenses will be available to hunters this fall, an increase of 30,500 over 2003.

However, those antlerless licenses are only good for a specific county and the quota did not increase in every county. In fact, the quotas stayed the same in 29 counties and increased by



anywhere from 50 to 1,200 in other counties. None of the quotas went down.

Why did some quotas go up while others didn't? Although the complete answer requires a detailed explanation of deer biology and an evaluation of population and harvest surveys, the simple answer is it depends on how many does were killed in 2003 and how much the deer population surveys changed. In the counties where the aerial and spotlight counts increased the most, the antlerless quotas were increased the most. In general the largest increases occurred in southern and eastern Iowa. The quotas stayed the same in north central and northwest Iowa.



Although 98 percent of the antlerless licenses available in 2003 were issued, some of the counties that didn't sell out have even more available in 2004. To help hunters use more of these licenses, the number of antlerless licenses that a hunter can obtain was also increased. Prior to Oct. 1, the restrictions stayed the same as last year. However beginning Oct. 1 — the number of antlerless licenses a hunter can obtain is unlimited. Restrictions still exist on which seasons hunters can obtain the antlerless licenses.

Suggestions For This Fall

For archers and hunters during the muzzleloader seasons, I suggest buying both your regular statewide license and an antlerless license for the county where you hunt most often. I would take a doe first and then be picky on the type of antlered deer you take. Pass up those yearling bucks and take another doe late in the season if you can use the meat.

For hunters who hunt during the shotgun seasons in a party I would have several hunters obtain antlerless licenses in addition to their regular statewide license. Again, hunters in the party should try to take some does early and then be selective on the type of antlered deer they kill. It's far more beneficial to fill out on does rather than yearling bucks. Although most hunters during the shotgun seasons hunt in a party, solitary hunters can

obtain an antlerless license just like the archers or muzzleloaders.

The archery and muzzleloader seasons end Jan. 10. Hunters who want to go back out can hunt antlerless deer from Jan. 11-23. All hunters are eligible for the antlerless licenses. Although the

antlerless quotas will be filled in many counties, there will undoubtedly be licenses left in some counties in southern and northeastern Iowa. Some landowners are more likely to let you hunt antlerless deer in these areas during this season. It can be a great time

(depending on the weather) to get out and do some more hunting, and you can help landowners keep deer numbers under control.

If hunters follow this strategy, they will have better (more older) bucks in the future and will keep the deer population in control.

seasons in a decade, and quail numbers were up in southern Iowa. It took just two years of good weather for pheasants to recover from the disastrous winter and spring of 2001. Pheasant hunters responded by taking nearly 1 million cock birds. North-central and northwest Iowa hunters



had some of their best hunting in years. Nonresidents got the word early and came in record numbers. More than 50,000 nonresident hunting licenses were sold in 2003.

For awhile it looked like another great year of upland bird hunting was ahead of us. A third consecutive mild winter and a warm, dry early spring had DNR biologists expecting a great hatch for all ground-nesting birds. But Mother Nature is nothing if not fickle. Beginning in late May she turned on the spigot and for the next month rain and lots of it was common statewide. Heavy rain during the nesting season typically means a reduced hatch of pheasants, quail and wild turkeys and if late summer surveys are an indicator, that is exactly what happened. Upland wildlife biologist Todd Bogenschutz provides the details. Hint: The outlook is average – not as good as last year but with good opportunities out there in some places.

WATERFOWL

The predictions for the waterfowl season are, as usual, a mixed bag. Habitat conditions in the north Iowa pothole region are good because of the summer rains, but habitat in the four Corps of Engineers reservoirs – Saylorville, Red Rock, Rathbun and Coralville – are not good. High water levels early prevented mid-summer

Heavy Spring Rains Dampen Upland Game Forecast; Pheasant, Rabbit Numbers Down

by Todd Bogenschutz

The 2004 August Upland Wildlife Roadside Survey, conducted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, indicates pheasant populations across Iowa declined -34 percent when compared to last year. Combining all routes statewide, DNR staff saw an average of 31 birds per routes in 2004, just below Iowa's 10-year average of 36 birds per route. DNR staff saw an average of 47 birds per route on last year's

survey, the best count Iowa had seen since 1994. The full roadside report can be downloaded from the department's webpage under the upland game section at www.iowadnr.com.

Populations declined 30 percent or more in all regions of the state, except northeast Iowa and the southern third of Iowa where counts were essentially unchanged from last year. Weather was the major factor impacting Iowa's pheasant population in 2004. Iowa had a more "normal" winter this past year; thus hen survival was lower compared to the past several mild winters. Of even greater impact, though, were the tremendous rains that blanketed the state in late May and early June; many regions of Iowa reported rainfall 4 to 11 inches above normal. These ill-timed rains came at the peak of the hatch for Iowa, and it is likely many nests and young died or were washed away. The roadside counts suggest the wet and cool summer had a big impact on reproduction.

This year's statewide population index is very close to the 10-year average. Based on this year's roadside counts, Iowa pheasant hunters should harvest between 800,000 and 900,000 roosters this fall. Parts of the northwest, east central, and southeast regions reported some of the better counts in 2004, but small-localized areas of good pheasant numbers were also reported in most regions. Perhaps the best way to describe Iowa's pheasant population in 2004 is "spotty."



The 2004 pheasant hunting season runs from Oct. 30 through Jan. 10, 2005. Legal shooting hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The daily bag limit is three roosters, with a possession limit of 12. Iowa's youth only pheasant season (resident youth 15 years and younger) is Oct. 23-24, 2004, bag limit is one rooster per day with a possession limit of two. Shooting hours are the same.

Partridge, Quail and Rabbits.

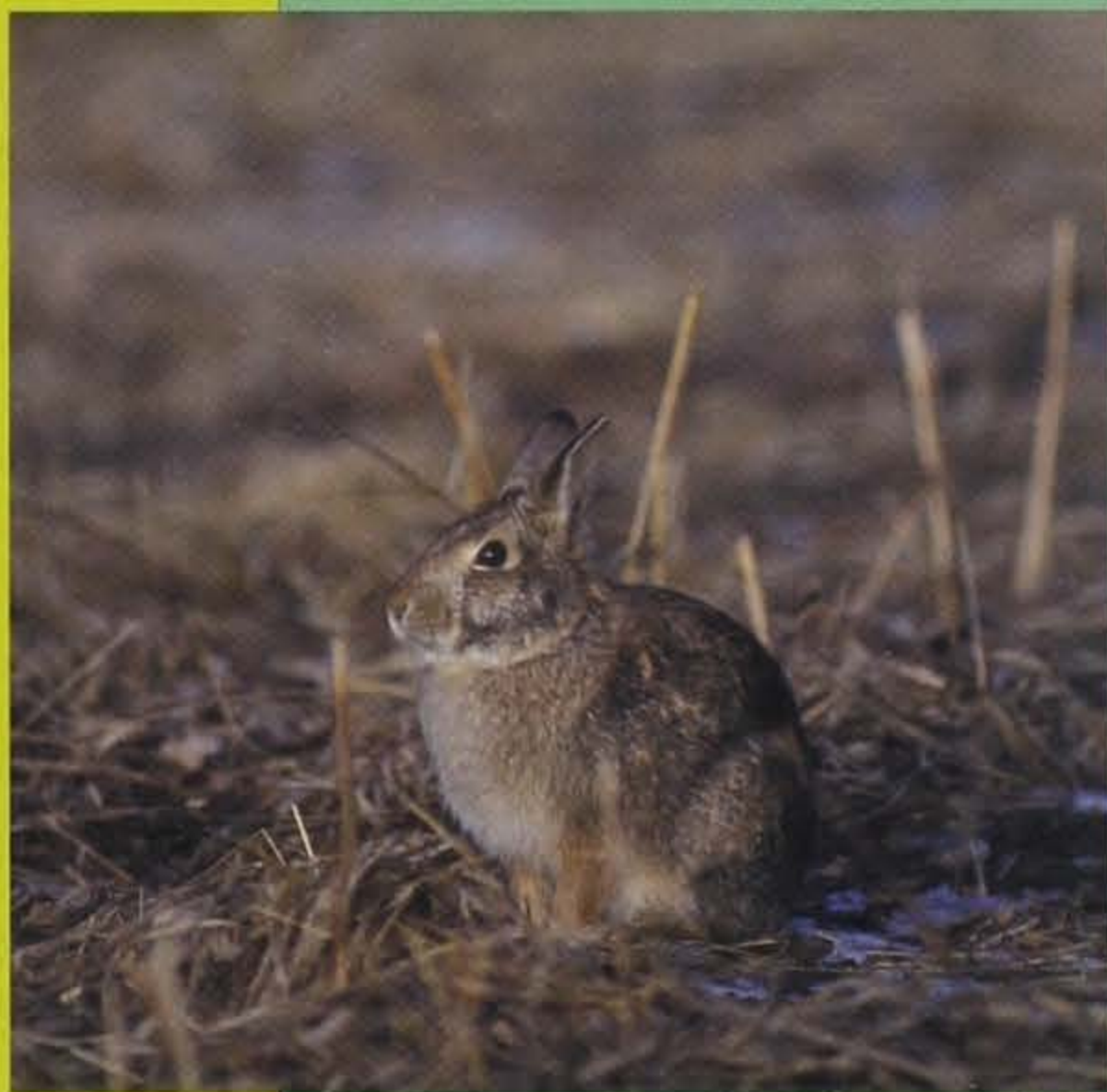
The roadside survey indicates bobwhite quail and gray partridge numbers remain unchanged from 2003, while cottontail numbers declined over most of the state. The best densities for partridge appeared to be northwest and central Iowa, although the counts in the latter are significantly lower than a year ago. Quail populations increased slightly (6 percent) when compared to 2003, but were the highest count Iowa has had since 1995. However, quail numbers still remain well below their long-term average. Quail hunters should find the best quail hunting in parts of southern Iowa along the Missouri border. The 2004-05 partridge season opens Oct. 9, while the quail season opens on Oct. 30. Both seasons close Jan. 31, 2005. The daily bag limit for each species is eight birds of either sex with a possession limit of 16. Shooting hours are 8 am. to 4:30 p.m.

Iowa's cottontail population also declined (7 percent) in response to Iowa's weather this past year, but this year's count still remains the

second highest seen in the last 12 years. Rabbit hunters should find very good populations in parts of south-central and southeast Iowa. Iowa's rabbit season opened Sept. 1, and closes Feb. 28, 2005. The bag limit is 10 daily, with 20 in possession. Shooting hours are from sunrise to sunset.

New Hunter Blaze Orange Requirement

This past year the Iowa Legislature implemented a change that requires those who hunt upland game must wear hunter blaze orange. Upland game is defined as pheasant, quail, cottontail, jackrabbit, ruffed grouse and woodcock. Upland game DOES NOT include rails, snipe, crows, or turkeys. Those hunting upland game as defined above are required to wear at least one external article of blaze orange clothing, of which at least 50 percent of the surface area is solid blaze orange in color. Items that may be worn include hat, cap, coat, vest, jacket, sweatshirt, sweater, shirt or coveralls. Hunters wanting more information on this year's upland survey or hunting seasons should visit the Iowa DNR's website.



planting of millet and smartweed so the food situation will not be good. And late summer drawdowns of the reservoirs as flood water was released have created mud flats where food and vegetation to hide duck boats is absent. Some scouting will be required to find good places to hunt.

As for continental duck populations, they were good enough again to allow a 60-day duck season. Goose populations that nest in Iowa did well, but Arctic nesters had a poor year because of a very late spring. The Canada goose season has been shortened as a result. Early goose seasons in zones around Des

Moines and Cedar Rapids and in the north goose zone should produce some good hunting opportunities. But as usual, the timing and direction of duck and goose migrations will play a major role in success here regardless of habitat conditions. The past two years' unusual migration patterns that took ducks and geese further west led to average or poorer seasons for most of Iowa's waterfowlers. Waterfowl biologist Guy Zenner explains the season outlook and some

2004 Waterfowl Outlook: When Heavy Rains Are A Good Thing

by Guy Zenner

In contrast to 2003, ducks returning to the Prairie Pothole Region of North America found only fair wetland habitat conditions this past spring.

The number of ponds in Prairie Canada and the north-central U.S.

compared to the good wetland conditions the province experienced in 2003. A major snowstorm in late May, however, followed by wetter-than-average weather in June, substantially improved the outlook for duck production on the Canadian Prairies.

Numbers of ducks in the survey area were estimated to be 32.2 million birds this past spring, 11 percent below the 2003 estimate but just 3 percent below the 1955-2003 long-term average. Mallards numbered 7.4 million, similar to last year's estimate of 7.9 million and to the long-term average. Numbers of blue-winged teal dropped to 4.1 million, 26 percent below last year's estimate and 10 percent below their long-term average. With regards to other ducks, only northern shovelers and American wigeon were significantly lower (both 22 percent below) than their 2003 estimates. Gadwall (+56 percent), green-winged teal (+33 percent), and even northern shovelers (+32 percent) remained well above their long-term averages. American wigeon (-25 percent) were below their long-term average while both pintails (-48 percent) and scaup (-27 percent) remained significantly lower than their long-term averages.

In Minnesota, pond numbers were 19 percent lower than in 2003, but mallard and blue-winged teal numbers were higher than they were in 2003 and significantly higher than their long-term averages. Total duck numbers in Minnesota were 40 percent higher than in 2003 and 40



combined was estimated to be 3.9 million, 24 percent lower than last year and 19 percent below the long-term average. Pond numbers were similar to what they were in 2003 in southern Manitoba, but were down 32 percent in the eastern Dakotas. Southern Saskatchewan also saw a 32 percent decline in pond numbers

percent above their long-term averages.

In northern Iowa, duck numbers appeared similar to 2003, with more birds frequenting wetlands in north-central Iowa where habitat conditions were slightly better than in northwest Iowa. Habitat conditions improved substantially in north-central Iowa during the last 10 days of May and the first half of June when thunderstorms dropped up to 10 inches of rain on some areas. Improved wetland habitats encouraged re-nesting and improved duck production prospects in those regions.

The increased numbers of mallards and blue-winged teal in Minnesota, as well as the strong numbers of green-winged teal and gadwalls, bodes well for Iowa waterfowlers as these birds, along with wood ducks, comprise the majority of the ducks harvested in Iowa. The improvements in wetland habitat conditions on the Canadian prairies were generally sustained throughout much of the summer, suggesting that production from this region may be better than anticipated earlier this spring. The fall flight index for mallards is expected to be similar to what it was in 2003.

With the prospect of a fall flight similar to last year's, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service again allowed states in the Mississippi Flyway to have 60-day duck seasons. Seasons and daily bag and possession limits are essentially unchanged from last year. Hunters should note, however,

that there are separate 30-day seasons for pintails and canvasbacks again this year, with one canvasback and one pintail allowed in each hunter's daily bag possession limit for each is two) during those 30-days. The 30-day seasons for canvasbacks and pintails do not run concurrently, so hunters should take note of the season dates in the duck hunting regulations for both the north and south zones before going afield. Duck hunters should also note that the boundary for the duck hunting zones did not change from last year, but the goose hunting boundary did.

Although goose hunting prospects, particularly for Canada geese, have improved substantially over what they were 15 to 20 years ago, this year's prospects may not be on par with recent years. Within Iowa, the local giant Canada goose population showed a modest increase (7 percent) over 2003, but production was variable. Dry conditions early in the spring appeared to dampen goose production in some regions. Improved wetland conditions in late



major changes in waterfowl regulations that will affect many hunters. Hint: The overall outlook is average if everything goes well with migrations.

FALL TURKEY HUNTING

Fall turkey hunting and trapping – two vastly underutilized outdoor activities – will remain good to excellent again this year. Wild turkey reproduction was surely hurt by the wet weather, especially in central and northern Iowa where the rains hit hardest and where turkey habitat is concentrated along rivers. But turkey populations were very high, as evidenced by a record spring harvest



(25,000 gobblers) in 2004. There may be fewer young turkeys to call this fall, but there will be plenty of birds to match wits with in all regions of the state.

Poor habitat conditions in northern Iowa marshes have kept muskrat numbers low, but other furbearer populations, particularly raccoons and coyotes, remain high all across the state. Depressed pelt prices have kept fur hunter and trapper numbers down for more than a decade, but the good news is prices are expected to be better this fall. It has been a decade of little competition and great opportunities for the recreational trapper, but increasing predator numbers have had an impact on nest success of many birds. Perhaps with an improving economic picture more trappers will

May did little, if anything, to improve production prospects. Canada goose numbers also remain below historic levels in some parts of the state, most notably northwest Iowa. In Minnesota, the local giant Canada goose population appeared to be unchanged to slightly lower than 2003.

By the time this article is printed, special Canada goose seasons will have been held in two zones around Des Moines and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and a two-day special season will have been opened in the north goose-hunting zone. The early seasons around Des Moines and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City were initiated to reduce flocks of locally-produced giant Canada geese that have been causing safety hazards around

airports and sanitary problems at urban lakes, parks, golf courses, and business and housing complexes with ponds developed for esthetic purposes. Hunting success during these early seasons is dependent upon local production and the vulnerability of the geese as they use their summer habitats.

By the time the regular Canada goose season opens in the north (Sept. 25) and south (Oct. 2), some migrant Canada geese should be moving into the state. This

year, however, hunters can expect to see fewer of these migrant geese due to the poor nesting conditions that most arctic and sub-arctic nesting geese experienced this past spring. Winter weather persisted very late into the spring around Hudson Bay and goose production from the flocks that breed in this area was substantially suppressed. As a result, this year's Canada goose hunting season will be 10 days shorter than it was last year.

This will be partially offset by the new goose hunting zone boundary and season dates that were implemented this year. The boundary dividing the goose hunting zones is now Highway 20 instead of Interstate 80, putting two-thirds of the state in the south zone. Additionally, the Canada goose season will be split into two segments in the north zone, with the season being closed in the north

zone from Oct. 4 through Oct. 16. Hunters need to take special note of the Canada goose season dates by zone this year and remember that the south goose-hunting zone now includes the south half of the north duck-hunting zone.

Unlike past years, it is now possible to be hunting ducks in the north duck-hunting zone and, simultaneously, be in the south goose-hunting zone where the goose season may be closed. The change in the goose hunting zone boundary, as well as the changes for season dates in the north zone, resulted from numerous requests by hunters for more opportunities to hunt Canada geese later in December in both zones. Unfortunately, the shortened Canada goose season this year will reduce that opportunity to some extent in both zones.

Although this fall's waterfowl season prospects may appear only average on the surface, there still should be ample opportunities for memorable hunts. If the right weather patterns develop and local habitats remain in good conditions, Iowa hunters could see above average numbers of ducks and geese over their decoys this fall.



be motivated to return to the sport. In the meantime this is a great time to introduce a novice trapper to this age-old activity.

Bobcat and otter populations continue to grow and spread across the state. Working with the federal bureaucracies that control our opportunities to have trapping seasons on them is a slow process. Prospects are growing stronger for seasons on both in the near future.

So the outlook for Iowa's hunting and trapping seasons is average to very good. But remember, an average season in Iowa would be the envy of hunters in many states. Get out there and enjoy!

Terry Little is the wildlife research supervisor for the department. Willie Suchy is the DNR's deer biologist stationed in Chariton. Todd Bogenschutz is the upland game biologist headquartered in Boone. Guy Zenner is the waterfowl biologist stationed in Clear Lake.

Iowa 2004-2005 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	SHOOTING HOURS	BAG LIMITS	
			DAILY	POSSESSION
Youth Rooster Pheasant (Residents age 15 or younger)+	Oct. 23-24	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	1	2 (after first day)
Rooster Pheasant	Oct. 30 - Jan. 10, 2005		3	12
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 30 - Jan. 31, 2005		8	16
Gray Partridge	Oct. 9 - Jan. 31, 2005		8	16
Turkey (Combination Gun/Bow)*	Oct. 11 - Dec. 3	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset	One Turkey Per License (maximum of 2)	One Turkey Per License (maximum of 2)
Turkey (Bow Only)*	Oct. 1 - Dec. 3 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 10, 2005	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to One-half Hour After Sunset	One Deer Per License	One Deer Per License
Deer (Bow)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 3 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 10, 2005			
Deer — Early Muzzleloader	Oct. 16-24*			
Deer — Late Muzzleloader	Dec. 20 - Jan. 10, 2005			
Deer -- Youth (age 12-15)* and Severely Disabled	Sept. 18 - Oct. 3			
Deer — Shotgun Season 1	Dec. 4-8			
Deer — Shotgun Season 2	Dec. 11-19			
Deer Special Late Season*	Jan. 11-23, 2005			
Nonresident Holiday Deer Season	Dec. 24 - Jan. 2, 2005			
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 2 - Jan. 31, 2005			
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28, 2005	10	20	
Rabbit (Jack)	Oct. 30 - Dec. 1	2	4	
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, 2005	None	6	12
Groundhog	June. 15 - Oct. 31			
Crow	Oct. 15 - Nov. 30 and Jan. 14 - March 31, 2005			
Pigeon**	Oct. 1 - March 31, 2005			
Coyote	Continuous Open Season			
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 6 - Jan. 31, 2005			
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 6 - Jan. 31, 2005			
		None (Opens 8 a.m. first day only)	None	

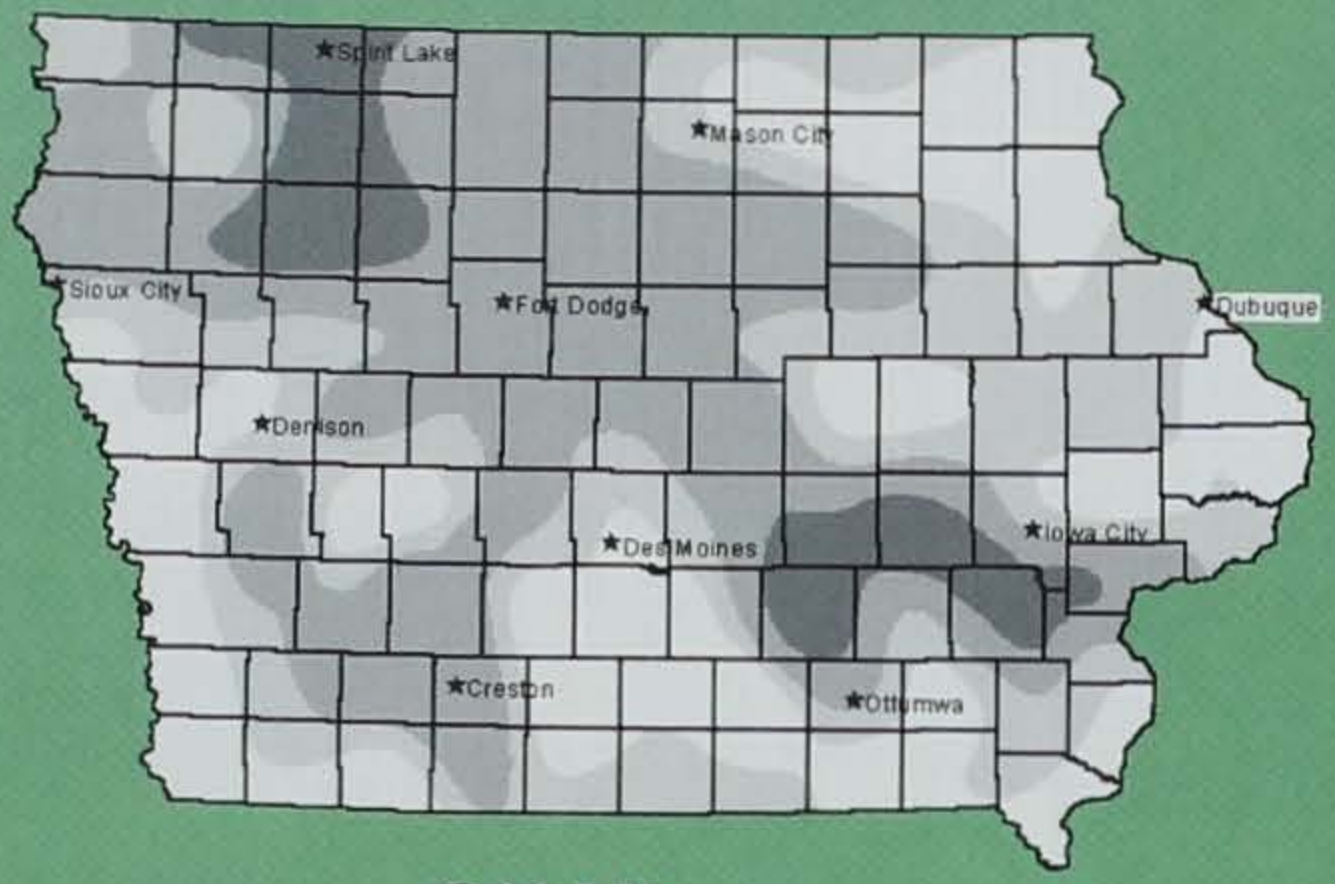
* Residents Only.

** Within 100 yards of buildings and bridges, pigeons may be taken year round.

+ See regulations for complete requirements

2004 GAME DISTRIBUTION

PHEASANT



GRAY PARTRIDGE



QUAIL



COTTONTAIL

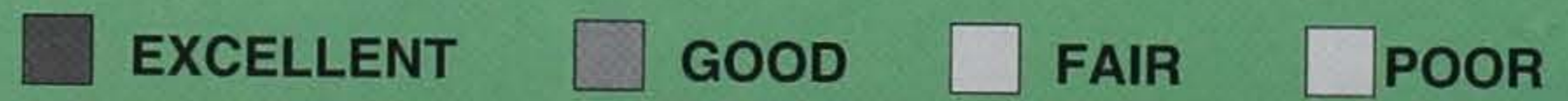
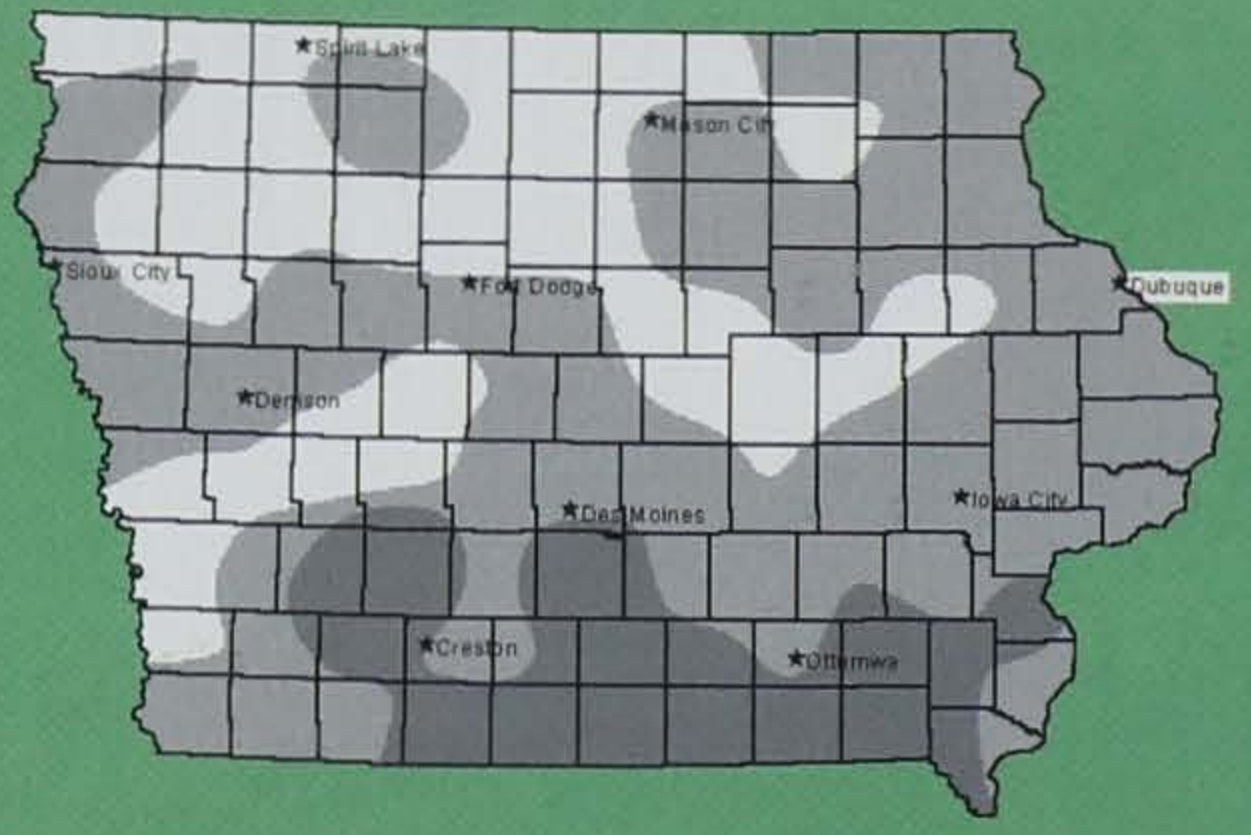


Figure 5. Iowa 2004 small game distribution maps. Counts represent generalized game abundance. There can be areas of low game abundance in regions with "high" counts and vice versa.

Information in this report is also available on the Iowa DNR's website at WWW.IOWADNR.COM.

First-Rate Roast Goose

by Joe Wilkinson
Photos by Clay Smith

With original floors and walls from its days as a 19th-Century carriage factory, Bistro on First shields customers from the 21st-Century traffic and noise beyond the picture windows. Opening in March 2002, Bistro mixes subdued lighting, contemporary art and white tablecloths to attract midday diners. Bistro on First is a couple minutes walk from the heart of downtown Cedar Rapids.

Owners Frank and Abby Bowman opened the Bistro after having success with their Iowa City restaurant, Linn Street Cafe. Chef Mike Barshis points to the Bistro's contemporary American cuisine as its drawing card.

To cook our goose, Barshis came up with a special base in the bright, high-ceilinged kitchen. Melted butter mixed with spices keep the seven-pound Canada goose moist. "Any large cut of meat needs to be basted while it cooks," he stresses. "That helps the finished product." Dark, golden brown, the aroma filled the main dining area as he displayed the platter. Red potatoes, carrots and parsnips; tossed with rosemary and roasted with the bird, accompany it on the plate.



Bistro on First, 401 First Street SE, Suite 100, Cedar Rapids
Open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday
and at 5 p.m. for dinner Monday through Saturday.
319-862-2062, www.bistroonfirst.com

1 whole goose
4 oz melted butter

Spice blend

1 Tbs chopped fresh thyme
1 Tbs ground juniper berry
4 Tbs fresh ground
4-peppercorn blend
1 tsp onion powder
1 tsp garlic powder
2 tsp kosher salt

Vegetables

6 red potatoes halved or
quartered
1 large parsnip peeled,
cut into 1-inch pieces
1 large carrot peeled,
cut into 1-inch pieces
2 cloves garlic, sliced thin
1 shallot, sliced thin
1 Tbs chopped fresh rosemary
1 Tbs chopped Italian parsley
2 Tbs olive oil

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Whisk melted butter with spices, using about half of the butter mixture, baste entire goose, place on roasting rack in large roasting pan in oven. After 45 minutes to 1 hour, or when goose is starting to brown nicely, turn oven down to 350 degrees. Toss red potatoes, parsnip, carrot, garlic and shallot with herbs and oil and arrange around goose in roasting pan. Continue roasting goose for 1 to 2 hours or until internal temperature of 145 degrees is reached, basting every half-hour. Remove the goose, cover with foil and let rest for 15 to 20 minutes before serving. Internal temperature will rise about 10 degrees or so while resting.



rees.
spices,
ter
se,
large
er 45
n
n
350
es,
shallot
ange
pan.
for 1 to
ees is
lf-hour.
r with
0
nternal
ut 10
ng.



GIS Mapping: Creating Solutions for Rock Creek Lake

By Jessie Rolph

Rock Creek Lake is at risk. The centerpiece of Rock Creek State Park in Jasper County, Rock Creek Lake offers visitors a range of recreational opportunities, including the second-busiest campground in Iowa and great fishing.

However, many different factors are threatening the lake.

Action is being taken to improve the lake for today's visitors and to preserve the lake for future generations. GIS mapping is helping to make those improvements possible.



Rock Creek Lake, located in Rock Creek State Park in Jasper County, offers visitors a range of recreational opportunities, including the lake-side campground, which is consistently the second-busiest campground in Iowa. The lake is known for its catfish, bass, bluegill and crappie fishing.

However, many factors are threatening the lake. Projects are being planned and implemented to improve water quality for today's lake users and future generations. GIS mapping is at the center of these projects.

Sediment and nutrients, especially phosphorus, are the largest threats to Rock Creek Lake, placing the lake on Iowa's impaired waters list. High levels of nutrients can result in high levels of algae, which not only cloud the water, but also lead to more serious problems like low oxygen levels, more rough fish like carp, and a greater chance of toxic algae. Sediment fills in the lake, reduces water depth and carries nutrients into the lake.

The Rock Creek Watershed Project was created to improve the lake's water quality, with the main goals of reducing sediment entering the lake by 80 percent and reducing the amount of phosphorus reaching the lake by 70 percent.

To begin working towards these goals, research was necessary to determine areas in the watershed that needed priority projects – mainly areas that contribute the most soil and phosphorus to the lake.

To do this, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based assessment of the watershed was conducted by a team consisting of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA, and the Division of Soil Conservation of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.



Beach-goers enjoy a day at the lake at Rock Creek State Park.

What is GIS?

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) uses graphics and data to create maps that identify problems and evaluate possible solutions. GIS mapping links spatial data – the actual physical location of something – with attribute data, or information about that location. For example, the physical location of a lake is spatial data, while the lake's name and size is attribute data.

GIS works to combine spatial data with different layers of attribute data. In the Rock Creek project, for example, spatial data was combined with information on soil loss, best management practices and land use, among other things.

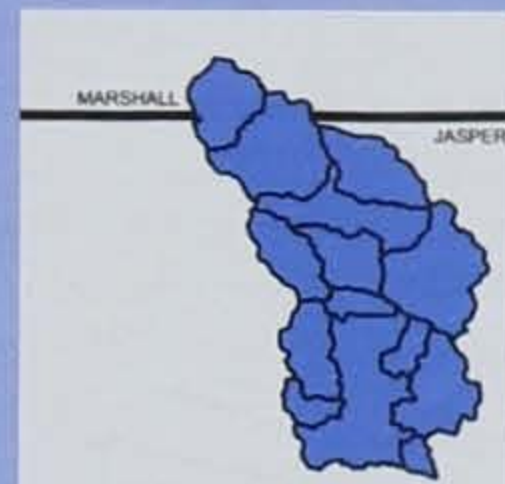
What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains water into the lowest point – a body of water, such as a stream, lake or marsh. Watersheds can be as small as a city block, draining into a creek, or very large.

The Rock Creek Lake watershed covers 26,698 acres in northeast Jasper and southeast Marshall counties. The lake itself is only 491 acres.

During a rainfall, water either travels over the surface or seeps into the ground. Water traveling over the surface or through groundwater may pick up contaminants like sediment, chemicals and waste, and deposit them in a body of water.

This map shows where the Rock Creek watershed lies in Jasper and Marshall counties.



Getting started

In the first step of the GIS-based watershed assessment, staff reviewed aerial photography maps to determine how land is used in the watershed – pastures, corn fields, residential areas, etc.

Next, staff went out into the watershed to collect baseline data over four weeks during a driving windshield survey of the 26,698-acre watershed.

Additional staff members then went out in the field to confirm land cover data and determine soil loss on a field-by-field basis.

Staff in the field also determined the amount of grazed timber and protective vegetative ground cover in pastures, and the location and severity of streambank, shoreline and gully erosion.

Field staff also noted the location of livestock facilities and existing best management practices (BMPs) throughout the watershed. Best management practices address nonpoint pollution problems and work to resolve them.

After information was collected, it was placed on baseline maps by DNR GIS staff. The data was used to create detailed maps showing current



A family fishes along the lake.

land cover, soil loss, sediment delivery, the location of current BMPs and acres of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

These maps helped identify priority areas and BMPs in the watershed, which helped staff consider where to locate permanent conservation easements and land

purchases to ensure long-term water quality benefits.

Identifying priority areas and practices

Once data was gathered and GIS maps were created, staff used the maps to identify existing best management practices (BMPs) and structures, like terraces and ponds.

Maps were used to find priority areas within the Rock Creek Lake watershed, such as fields with the potential for high sediment delivery to the lake and areas near the lake. To help these areas, staff also identified priority BMPs, such as nutrient management education, animal waste management systems and stream corridor protection.

Permanent conservation easements and land purchases are also being used in the watershed to ensure long-term water quality benefits.

Pinpointing priority areas

While GIS is an effective resource for looking at an entire

GIS mapping helps farmer preserve a



Three generations of conservation: Nathan, Todd and Dwight Lenz near one of their ponds.

New technology is allowing Todd Lenz to carry on a family farming tradition.

Lenz, whose family farms land in the north and northwest areas of the Rock Creek Lake watershed, is a believer in using conservation practices. With the help of GIS mapping, the Lenz family is implementing new conservation projects on their land.

"It goes way back, past my dad's generation," Lenz said of conservation. "You're not going to grow anything if there's not soil there."

When the family had an area they wanted to address with a new practice, field staff were brought in to create project maps and give cost estimates.

"If I can see it on paper, it helps me visualize things a lot

Rock Creek: the incredible shrinking lake

Rock Creek Lake was constructed in 1952 as a 641-acre lake with a 24-foot maximum depth. Over the last 50 years, erosion and soil deposition have caused the lake to lose almost 40 percent of its volume and 102 acres of surface area.

Sediment and phosphorus are the two major threats to the



Rock Creek Lake, 1965

lake's water quality, according to a 2000 Iowa State University (ISU) study.

While agricultural practices have improved over the past 50 years, sediment from the surrounding watershed, which is primarily agricultural, continues to be a problem for the lake.

Many farms in the Rock Creek Lake watershed currently practice no-till and minimum till methods, but the water quality of the lake was heavily affected in its early years by intensive row cropping and pasture use.

Today, more than 25,000 tons of soil is still carried into the lake every year. The ISU study suggests that 89 percent of the phosphorus moving through the watershed is attached to this sediment.

A large amount of land drains into the lake – the watershed



Visitors picnic at the lake early in its history.

contains 26,698 acres, which is 54 times larger than the 491-acre lake.

To maintain good water quality, the recommended land-to-lake ratio in a watershed is 20 to 1. If there is more than 20 acres of watershed for every acre of the lake, sediment can become a large problem, much like it has at Rock Creek.

erve a family tradition

better," Lenz said. "(Maps) help sell projects to farmers."

GIS maps detailing soil loss information have been used to help locate and plan a number of pond structures on the family's land.

The ponds, located in priority areas, have helped stabilize erosion, created a recreation area for the family, given a new home to wildlife and allowed native prairie plants to return to pastures.

The Lenz family uses a number of other conservation practices, including terraces, contour farming, waterways, and 90 to 95 percent of the land is farmed as no-till.

"There's not a lot of effort to return your investment," Lenz said. "You can be well-paid by being conservation-minded."

Prairie flowers look out over one of the Lenz's ponds.



Record Year for Osprey Recovery

Articles and photos by Lowell Washburn

The fact that 26 fledglings were successfully released at five separate sites would have been enough to celebrate. Factor in an additional five nesting attempts by wild adult pairs, and there is no denying that it was a watershed summer for the state's osprey recovery effort.

"This was definitely a record year for ospreys in Iowa," said DNR recovery coordinator, Pat Schlarbaum.

"Thanks to the support of raptor and wildlife diversity professionals in Wisconsin and Minnesota, we were able to obtain an extremely robust group of young birds this summer. Once the ospreys arrived in Iowa, our staff of volunteer hack site attendants became very dedicated to the task of caring for the birds and survivorship was excellent at all five locations. From when the birds arrived on site until they gained complete independence and were obtaining fish for themselves, there was only one known mortality. For a group of that size, it's a really remarkable accomplishment."

Schlarbaum noted that volunteer support from the public sector has been a crucial component of Iowa's osprey recovery effort. This summer's first-time release attempt at Clear Lake's Regular Baptist Camp was a good example of how energized



and committed a volunteer force can become. At this site, volunteers raised funds and acquired material donations to erect the huge, tree-house-style hack site needed to temporarily house five young birds. Additional volunteers came forward to provide the \$2,500 needed to locate, obtain and bring the birds to Iowa. Volunteers faithfully provided daily handouts of fresh fish during the two weeks the newly arrived raptors were confined inside the hack box. Once the fledglings were liberated, daily feedings continued for an additional month while the fish hawks honed their hunting skills.

"There's no question that there has been a huge outlay of time and energy on the part of a lot of people on this project," said Nelson Crabb, Clear Lake osprey coordinator.

"But for me and everyone else involved, the success of this effort has been more than gratifying. These ospreys are just a huge and

magnificent raptor and we're hoping to provide future generations with an opportunity to observe this species in its natural setting. They're just an incredible bird and are something that everyone will be able to enjoy. I think this project has made everyone involved feel like a real contributor to something good."

Clear Lake ospreys provided unprecedented regional, as well as statewide viewing opportunities due to the unique donation of an Earth-Cam provided by the

CL Tel Company. As soon as the young ospreys were placed into the hack box, they gained an immediate and wide following as hundreds of northern Iowans viewed the young birds' daily activities on their local TV screens (CL Vision – Channel 2) or by logging onto the CL Tel web site. Once the young birds were on the wing, the Earth Cam was moved to the hack site rooftop where it provided an outside view as the liberated ospreys returned to feed.

"I've had people tell me that they're so hooked on viewing the ospreys, that it's the only thing they watch before going to work in the morning. No news, no weather, nothing – just ospreys," said Crabb.

"This recovery attempt has been very experimental, and so far everything has fallen into place. To be able to see these birds flying free, and coming in with fish they've just caught for themselves makes everyone's efforts seem extremely worthwhile."



After just two weeks on the wing, a fledgling osprey returns to a snag with an adult bullhead. During late September, the young raptor left the Iowa hack site where it learned to fly and fish and embarked on a southward migration that, if successful, will end in South America. Osprey migration is unique among birds in that the young will not return to their home range until the second year of life. While other avian species will head back north next spring, immature ospreys will spend an additional year in South America.



Osprey recovery volunteer Don Christ (left) applies a dab of green paint to a young osprey held by Pastor Dave Callison, assistant director of the Iowa Regular Baptist Camp. Working in conjunction with the DNR, wildlife recovery volunteers released five young osprey at the Baptist Camp.



A group of five nestling ospreys get acquainted with their new surroundings at a hack tower located at the Regular Baptist Camp at Clear Lake. The young birds were obtained from wild nests in Wisconsin's Chippewa Flowage. According to Pat Schlarbaum, DNR osprey coordinator, at least one youngster was left at each nest where birds were taken. An additional 21 young ospreys were released this summer from hack sites in Linn, Polk, Black Hawk and Boone counties.



LEGENDS OF THE FALL

Article and photos by Lowell Washburn

Finally, it has arrived — that all-too-brief period that occurs during each autumn's deer season. Simply known as The Rut, it is the time that Iowa archery hunters live for.

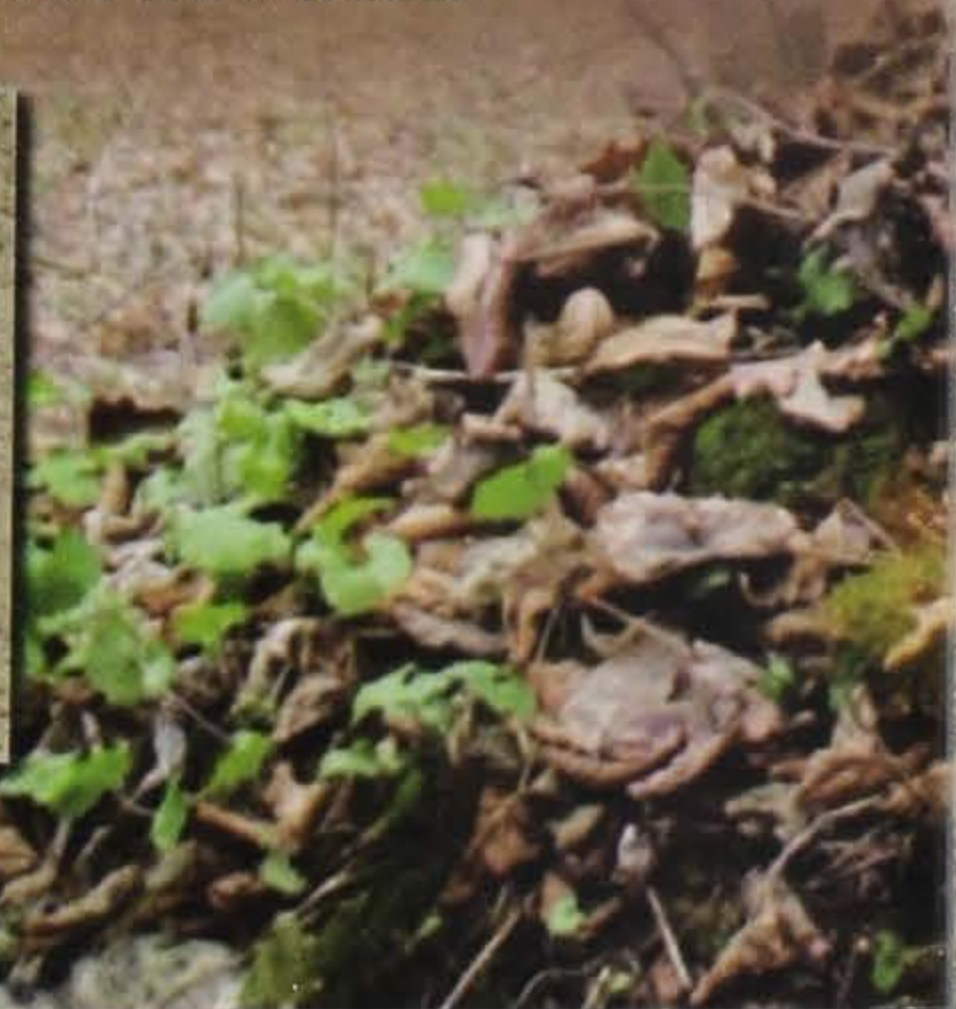


L
shburn
ring
time
e for.




Preliminaries to the rut begin without fanfare in early October. As a first order of business, bucks begin to methodically stake territories in preparation for the annual breeding season. Evidence of things to come can be noted by the sudden appearance of buck rubs, created as deer use saplings to remove dried velvet from this year's growth of antlers. By mid-month or so, these shiny, sap-oozing, perimeter markers are visible along every secluded timber edge, fenceline and river corridor. Rubs can provide human hunters with some valuable information regarding the numbers and quality of the animals they seek. Many archers contend that the diameter of a rubbed tree is often directly proportionate to the age and antler size of the buck doing the damage. "Big trees mean big bucks," is a commonly held belief.

Fall progresses. And as day light hours shorten and hormone levels increase, resident bucks begin using their sharp hooves to fashion scrapes. These highly visible, scented signposts are the whitetail's version of deer bulletin boards. In essence, they tell other deer who's around and what they're doing. For deer hunters, it means the best of the best is at hand.



As a first
ration for
ted by the
dried
shiny, sap-
edge.
n some
imals they
n directly
ge. "Big
evels
scrapes.
er bulletin
re doing.





It is by no mistake that November is called the Hunter's Moon. In most Iowa counties, the fall rut will reach its peak during the first two weeks of the month. By now, most bucks, including the real bruisers, have forsaken their nocturnal lifestyles. The trophy stags that have managed to remain virtually invisible during the other eleven months of the year will appear, suddenly and boldly, in broad daylight. Locked into a perpetual search mode, they relentlessly cruise ridgetops, river bottoms and brushy draws in hopes of finding does.

Sometimes, these wandering bucks find rival males instead. When that happens, the Iowa timbers resound with the sharp clash of dueling antlers. Most fights are brief and nonlethal. The exceptions usually occur when two real monsters accidentally cross trails. For white-tailed deer, the rut is extremely serious business and mature bucks are literally out to kill the competition. In most cases, the loser is driven away — bloody and bruised, perhaps, but able to fight another day. In some cases, the battles become more sinister. If the antlers of the animals are evenly matched and become locked, both contestants may face a bleak future.

As the rut reaches its crescendo,



Roger A. Hill

bow hunting is no longer an hour-after-daybreak or hour-before-sunset proposition. Bucks, and plenty of them, are on the move 24/7. During the Hunter's Moon there is no such thing as a bad time to sit in a tree. Seasoned archers will tell you that noon can be as productive as sunrise.

With the scales now tipped in their favor, hunters employ every trick in the book to arouse the curiosity or anger of mature bucks. Vigorously rattling a set of antlers to create a make believe fight is the bow hunter's staple for attracting a buck. Other tactics include doe (bleat) calls, grunt

tube calls and decoys.

But even now, the big bucks don't come easy. Tagging one still requires ample amounts of scouting, woodsmanship and above all – patience. Tagging a monster generally means passing up numerous six- and eight-pointers. For many hunters the temptation of seeing lesser bucks is just too great.

When the Big Buck does finally arrive, many hunters simply crack under the strain. After drilling the bull's eye on plastic deer targets all summer, a hunter may easily miss the entire animal once the moment of truth arrives. It's called buck fever, and it is the only explanation as to why so many new broadheads end up in the ground or imbedded in tree trunks instead of in deer.



Powerful, wary, and elusive, the white-tailed deer is one of North America's most magnificent species of big game. Iowans are proud of our state's spectacular deer herd – and so they should. Whether you judge them in terms of body size or in inches of antler growth, there is no denying that Iowa bucks grow to monstrous proportions. Legends of the Fall, Iowa's behemoth stags have gained global admiration. There are few places on the entire continent where deer grow bigger or better than they do right here at home. So how big are our deer? To date, Iowa has produced 19 of the all time top bucks ever recorded. That's more top deer than is currently listed by any other state or Canadian province.

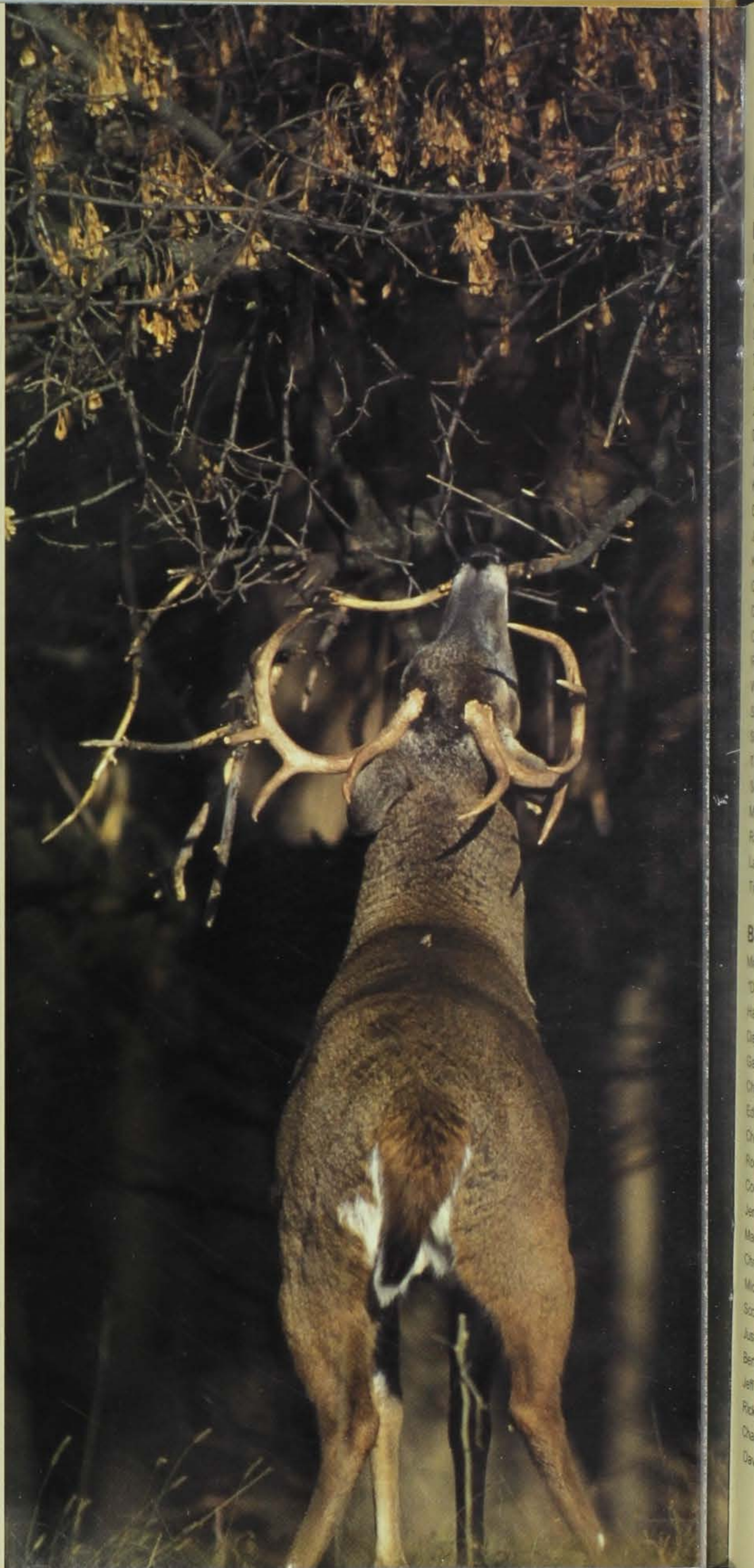




2003 RECORD DEER RACKS

This is a list of the top 25 record deer racks scored in each category between October 2003 and September 2004 for the Iowa trophy deer record program. A complete list of the racks scored during this time period is also available on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/trpdeer.html

* Denotes a new entry into the all-time Top 10 Racks (page 40)



Full Name	City	County Taken	Total Pts	Year Taken
Bow, Nontypical				
Minimum Qualifying Score - 155 pts				
*Brian Andrews	Independence	Buchanan	253 1/8	2003
*Harvey Dirks	Cedar Rapids	Allamakee	233 1/8	2003
Steve Coates	Mediapolis	Des Moines	224 1/8	2003
Travis Hanf	Central City	Linn	222 3/8	2003
Jared Goering	Truro	Madison	219 1/8	2003
Jason J Johnson	Waukon	Allamakee	211 2/8	2003
Donnie Tharp	Bloomfield	Davis	210	1995
John Lamos	Gilbertville	Dubuque	208 6/8	2003
Kevin Scott	Cedar Rapids	Iowa	201 7/8	2003
Dan Enger	Fort Madison	Lee	200 1/8	2003
Jeremiah Grooms	Ottumwa	Wapello	191 6/8	2001
Kelly Grandstaff	Saint Charles	Warren	190 4/8	2003
Chad Johnson	Cedar Rapids	Jackson	188 3/8	2003
Douglas L Ausland	Lake Mills	Winnebago	188	2003
Chuck Allman	Harlan	Shelby	187 3/8	2003
Ryan Egan	Burlington	Des Moines	182 6/8	2003
William A Peebler	Danville	Henry	182	2003
Shawn Bagley	Albia	Monroe	181 6/8	2003
Steve Pierce	Newton	Davis	181	2003
Terry Williams	Melrose	Monroe	180 6/8	2003
Scott Carnes	Thurman	Fremont	178 1/8	2003
Marc Olson	Carlisle	Union	175 1/8	2001
Raymond Showers	Osceola	Clarke	174 2/8	2002
Larry Robertson	Washington	Washington	173	2003
Tim Sanow	Ireton	Plymouth	172 7/8	2003

Bow, Typical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 135 pts

*Dan Enger	Fort Madison	Lee	186 7/8	2003
Harvey Kuhns	Drakesville	Davis	182 1/8	2003
Dave C Hainzinger	Dayton	Webster	181 2/8	2003
Gary Faley	Davenport	Van Buren	180 4/8	2003
Charles Guhl	Des Moines	Warren	177 3/8	2003
Ed Yando	Indianola	Warren	176 1/8	2002
Chris Hasty	Bouton	Dallas	175 5/8	2003
Roger Denly	Farmington	Van Buren	174 3/8	2003
Cory Berry	Muscatine	Muscatine	171 7/8	2003
Jerry B Tokeim	Humboldt	Humboldt	171 4/8	2003
Mark L Stahlberg	Monticello	Jones	170 6/8	2003
Chris Barton	Farragut	Fremont	169 5/8	2002
Michael Henry	Yale	Guthrie	169 3/8	2003
Scott Ingraham	Corydon	Wayne	169 2/8	2003
Justin Davison	Clarinda	Taylor	169	2004
Bert Lynch	Dover	Warren	168 1/8	2004
Jeff De Jong	Milton	Van Buren	168	2003
Rick L Dye	Knoxville	Monroe	167 6/8	2003
Charles R Bries	Elkader	Clayton	167 5/8	2003
David Esaias	Clarinda	Page	167 1/8	2003

Full Name	City	County Taken	Total Pts	Year Taken
Jess Swanson	New London	Jefferson	166 6/8	2003
Cody Brandes	Sioux City	Cherokee	165 3/8	2003
Bill White	Argyle	Lee	165 3/8	2003
Richard Jones	Osceola	Clarke	163 7/8	2003
Andy C Decker	Corydon	Wayne	163 6/8	2003

Pistol, Nontypical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts

*David Miller	Shenandoah	Page	170 4/8	2003
---------------	------------	------	---------	------

Pistol, Typical


Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts

No entries this year.


Muzzleloader, Nontypical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts

*Donald Mason	Albia	Monroe	204 2/8	2003
Dennis Stecklein	Cascade	Jackson	201 6/8	2004
Roger Richardson	Calamus	Clinton	199 2/8	2003
Shannon P Seddon	Mystic	Appanoose	196 3/8	2004
Drew Love	Granger	Madison	192 3/8	2003
Glenn R Gerard	Oxford	Johnson	192 1/8	2003
Marty Scovel	Des Moines	Decatur	182	2003



www.zachwildlifeart.com
Order now for Holidays!



New Release
"Foggy Morning Whitetail"

Visit our new showroom!
641 South Ankeny Blvd
Ankeny, IA 50021
515-964-1570 • Fax 515-964-1976
info@zachwildlifeart.com

Full Name	City	County Taken	Total Pts	Year Taken
Jacob Minkel	Des Moines	Polk	181 1/8	2003
Forrest Gochenour	Missouri Valley	Harrison	177 7/8	2003
Victor Dicks	Council Bluffs		175 3/8	2004
Rick R Baker	Sperry	Des Moines	175	2004

Muzzleloader, Typical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts

*Ronald Cornwell	Waterloo	Hardin	180	2003
*Randy Latcham	Washington	Washington	175 6/8	2003
Lee H Martin	Mount Ayr	Ringgold	175	2004
Doug Sieren	Hedrick	Keokuk	174 4/8	2003
Alec Parrott	Clarinda	Page	167 7/8	2003
Larry VanderLinden	Tracy	Marion	167 3/8	2003
Doug Knoop	Traer	Tama	165 4/8	2004
Robert Martin	Diagonal	Ringgold	163 5/8	2004
Brian Moore	Hamilton	Monroe	163 3/8	2004
Ed Washington	Ankeny	Polk	162 5/8	2003
Edmund Langenberg	Tiffin	Johnson	161 6/8	2003
Don R Walker	Saint Charles	Madison	161 1/8	2004
Leon Lamer	Marshalltown	Marshall	160 7/8	2003
Linda Kenobbie	Greenville	Clay	160 7/8	2003
Brian Bartholomew	Douds	Van Buren	159 3/8	2003
Luke Larsen	Clearfield	Taylor	158 7/8	2003
Todd Newcomb	Washington	Jefferson	158 3/8	2003
Dean R Jacobson	Cedar Rapids	Jones	157 7/8	2004
David Fitsch	Leon	Decatur	157 3/8	2003
Kenny Roethler	Sigourney	Keokuk	156 7/8	2003
Loren Waterman	Center Point	Delaware	156 1/8	2003
Ryan Wyllie	Clarinda	Taylor	154 2/8	1999
Mark A Collins	Swan	Marion	154	1997
Jim Sparks	Des Moines	Madison	154	2003
Gary Johnson	Johnston	Iowa	152 7/8	2003

Shotgun, Nontypical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts

Kevin Halbmaier	Albia	Monroe	218 2/8	2003
Jeromy Dingemon	Pella	Davis	211 1/8	2003
Randy Holland	Perry	Warren	208 5/8	2003
Matt Garvin	Muscatine	Muscatine	207 7/8	2003
Brandon E Williams	Albia	Monroe	205 6/8	2003
Steve Hobson	Urbandale	Wapello	204 7/8	2003
Leo Schinstock	Salem	Lee	202 5/8	2003
John Barnes	Fairfax	Clayton	201 6/8	2003
Steve Snell	Urbandale	Polk	200 5/8	2002
Scott Tierney	Des Moines	Marion	200 2/8	2003
Pat Hammes	Delta	Keokuk	198 3/8	2002
Ryan Buffington	Winfield	Marion	198 2/8	2003
Mark Henbold	Albia	Monroe	196	2003
Kaley Fleig	Fairfield	Van Buren	195 3/8	2003
Jason Loeffler	Brighton	Jefferson	192 5/8	2003

DEER HUNTERS PLEASE, TAKE THE 'EXTRA' STEP.

You have done a great job in donating hundreds of deer to the needy through Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH).

So good, in fact, your help is needed for an extra step.

When you buy your deer permit, please consider donating \$5 to help pay processing costs for that venison. Every \$5 provides 20 meals. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated. Learn more at www.iowahush.com

HUSH
Help Us Stop Hunger

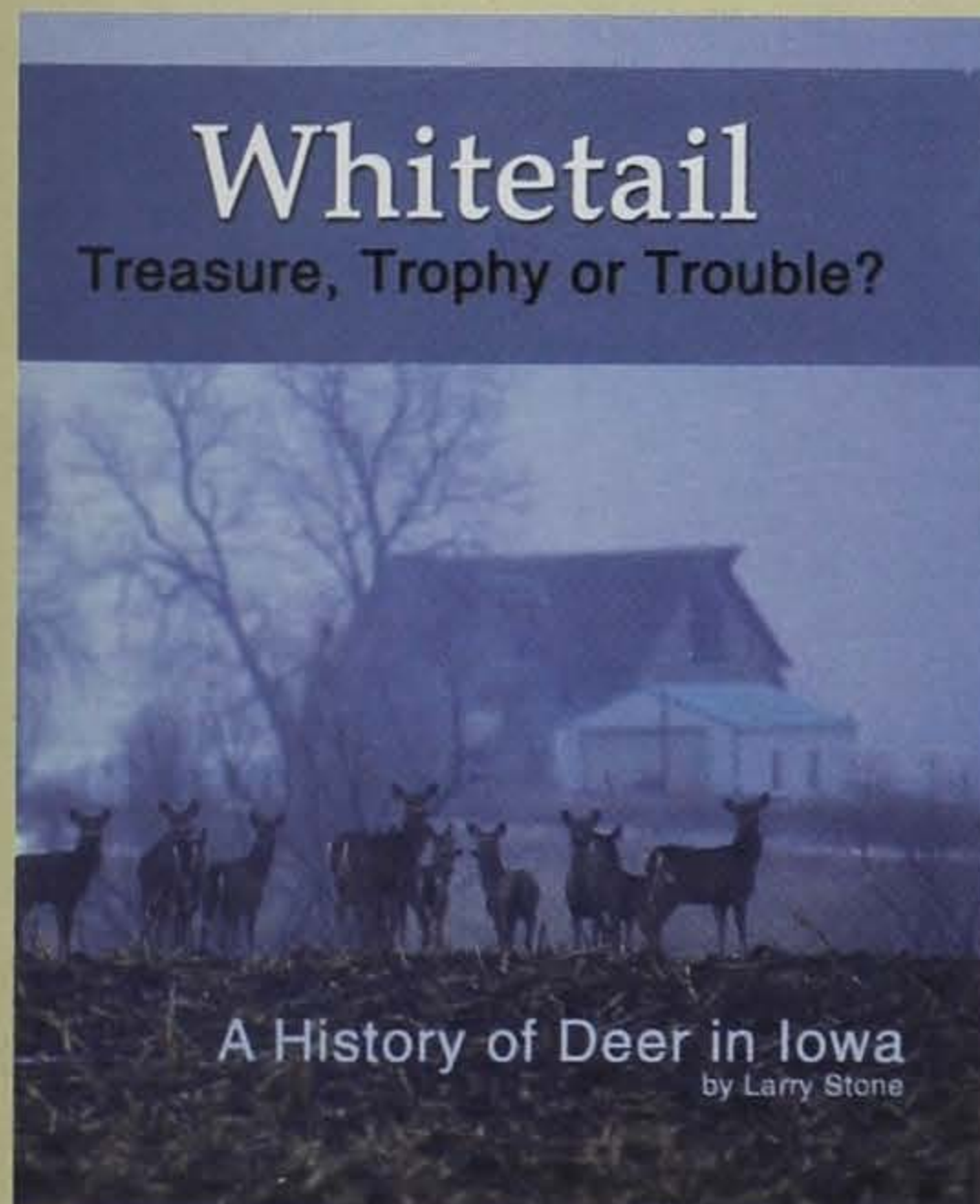
Full Name	City	County Taken	Total Pts	Year Taken
Chris Kosman	Albia	Monroe	192 5/8	2002
Virgil Cassill	Drakesville	Davis	190 1/8	2003
Andrew Miller	Urbandale	Madison	190	2003
Roger D Hurt	Iowa City	Johnson	189 1/8	2003
Mike Vanderflught	Kellerton	Decatur	188 5/8	2003
Clint Poore	Mount Ayr	Ringgold	187 1/8	2002
Duane Reasoner	Ellston	Ringgold	186 6/8	2003
Marty Hammen	Wellman	Washington	186 5/8	2003
Gary Wolfe	Humboldt	Webster	186 1/8	1997
Dave Stice	Unionville	Appanoose	186 1/8	2003

Full Name	City	County Taken	Total Pts	Year Taken
Mark Broth	Marion	Benton	175 1/8	2003
Mike Piper	Chariton	Lucas	174 1/8	2003
Ryan Key	Iowa City	Adams	174 1/8	2002
Craig Deutmeyer	Guttenberg	Clayton	174	2001
Robert Rohwedder	Baldwin	Jackson	173 4/8	2003
Monty Collins	Pleasantville	Marion	172 2/8	2003
Duane Graber	Mount Pleasant	Henry	172 1/8	2003
Luke M Meeker	Muscatine	Cedar	171 5/8	2003
Mark Hunter	Milo	Warren	171 1/8	2003
John Banowetz	Bellevue	Jackson	170 2/8	2003
Joe Tamayo Jr	Cedar Rapids	Delaware	170	2002
Steve Milota	Center Point	Linn	168 6/8	1982
Richard D Nagl	Carroll	Decatur	168 3/8	2000
Donald Vanderflught	Grand River	Decatur	168 2/8	1971
Matthew Brunssen	Atkins	Iowa	167 5/8	2003
Marvin Good	Clinton	Jackson	167	2003
Barry Steinhart	Sigourney	Keokuk	166 5/8	2003
John Hewitt	Birmingham	Van Buren	165 5/8	2003

Shotgun, Typical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts

Mark Liebe	Center Point	Linn	186 4/8	2003
Steve Heim	Lansing	Allamakee	184 1/8	2002
Nick L Soules	Aurora	Fayette	182 3/8	2003
Steven L Lange	New Vienna	Clayton	180	2003
Steven Iversen	Ida Grove	Monona	179 3/8	2003
Chad Soulli	Marquette	Clayton	178 6/8	2003
Mick Culbertson	Dubuque	Dubuque	176	2003



Whitetail

- 80 pages, full-color, soft-bound
- Written by **Larry Stone**, noted outdoor writer
- Photos by premier deer photographer **Roger A. Hill** and others

Contains 20 wonderfully written chapters covering:

- The history of deer and deer hunting in Iowa
- Why do we have so many deer?
How many deer should there be?
- Trophy bucks – Iowa's "best in the nation" status
- Problem deer – In our fields, backyards, and on our roads
- Interviews with Iowans who share their ideas about whitetails
- And much more

Price **\$10** plus tax. Order on-line at www.wildlifelicense.com/ia/
or call **1-800-367-1188** or order **wherever hunting licenses are sold.**

Allow 3 weeks for delivery.

Full Name	City	County Taken	Total Pts	Year Taken
Jacob Minkel	Des Moines	Polk	181 1/8	2003
Forrest Gochenour	Missouri Valley	Harrison	177 7/8	2003
Victor Dicks	Council Bluffs		175 3/8	2004
Rick R Baker	Sperry	Des Moines	175	2004

Muzzleloader, Typical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts

*Ronald Cornwell	Waterloo	Hardin	180	2003
*Randy Latcham	Washington	Washington	175 6/8	2003
Lee H Martin	Mount Ayr	Ringgold	175	2004
Doug Sieren	Hedrick	Keokuk	174 4/8	2003
Alec Parrott	Clarinda	Page	167 7/8	2003
Larry VanderLinden	Tracy	Marion	167 3/8	2003
Doug Knoop	Traer	Tama	165 4/8	2004
Robert Martin	Diagonal	Ringgold	163 5/8	2004
Brian Moore	Hamilton	Monroe	163 3/8	2004
Ed Washington	Ankeny	Polk	162 5/8	2003
Edmund Langenberg	Tiffin	Johnson	161 6/8	2003
Don R Walker	Saint Charles	Madison	161 1/8	2004
Leon Lamer	Marshalltown	Marshall	160 7/8	2003
Linda Kenobbie	Greenville	Clay	160 7/8	2003
Brian Bartholomew	Douds	Van Buren	159 3/8	2003
Luke Larsen	Clearfield	Taylor	158 7/8	2003
Todd Newcomb	Washington	Jefferson	158 3/8	2003
Dean R Jacobson	Cedar Rapids	Jones	157 7/8	2004
David Fitsch	Leon	Decatur	157 3/8	2003
Kenny Roethler	Sigourney	Keokuk	156 7/8	2003
Loren Waterman	Center Point	Delaware	156 1/8	2003
Ryan Wyllie	Clarinda	Taylor	154 2/8	1999
Mark A Collins	Swan	Marion	154	1997
Jim Sparks	Des Moines	Madison	154	2003
Gary Johnson	Johnston	Iowa	152 7/8	2003

Shotgun, Nontypical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts

Kevin Halbmaier	Albia	Monroe	218 2/8	2003
Jeromy Dingemon	Pella	Davis	211 1/8	2003
Randy Holland	Perry	Warren	208 5/8	2003
Matt Garvin	Muscatine	Muscatine	207 7/8	2003
Brandon E Williams	Albia	Monroe	205 6/8	2003
Steve Hobson	Urbandale	Wapello	204 7/8	2003
Leo Schinstock	Salem	Lee	202 5/8	2003
John Barnes	Fairfax	Clayton	201 6/8	2003
Steve Snell	Urbandale	Polk	200 5/8	2002
Scott Tierney	Des Moines	Marion	200 2/8	2003
Pat Hammes	Delta	Keokuk	198 3/8	2002
Ryan Buffington	Winfield	Marion	198 2/8	2003
Mark Henbold	Albia	Monroe	196	2003
Kaley Fleig	Fairfield	Van Buren	195 3/8	2003
Jason Loeffler	Brighton	Jefferson	192 5/8	2003

DEER HUNTERS PLEASE, TAKE THE 'EXTRA' STEP.

You have done a great job in donating hundreds of deer to the needy through Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH).

So good, in fact, your help is needed for an extra step.

When you buy your deer permit, please consider donating \$5 to help pay processing costs for that venison. Every \$5 provides 20 meals. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated. Learn more at www.iowahush.com

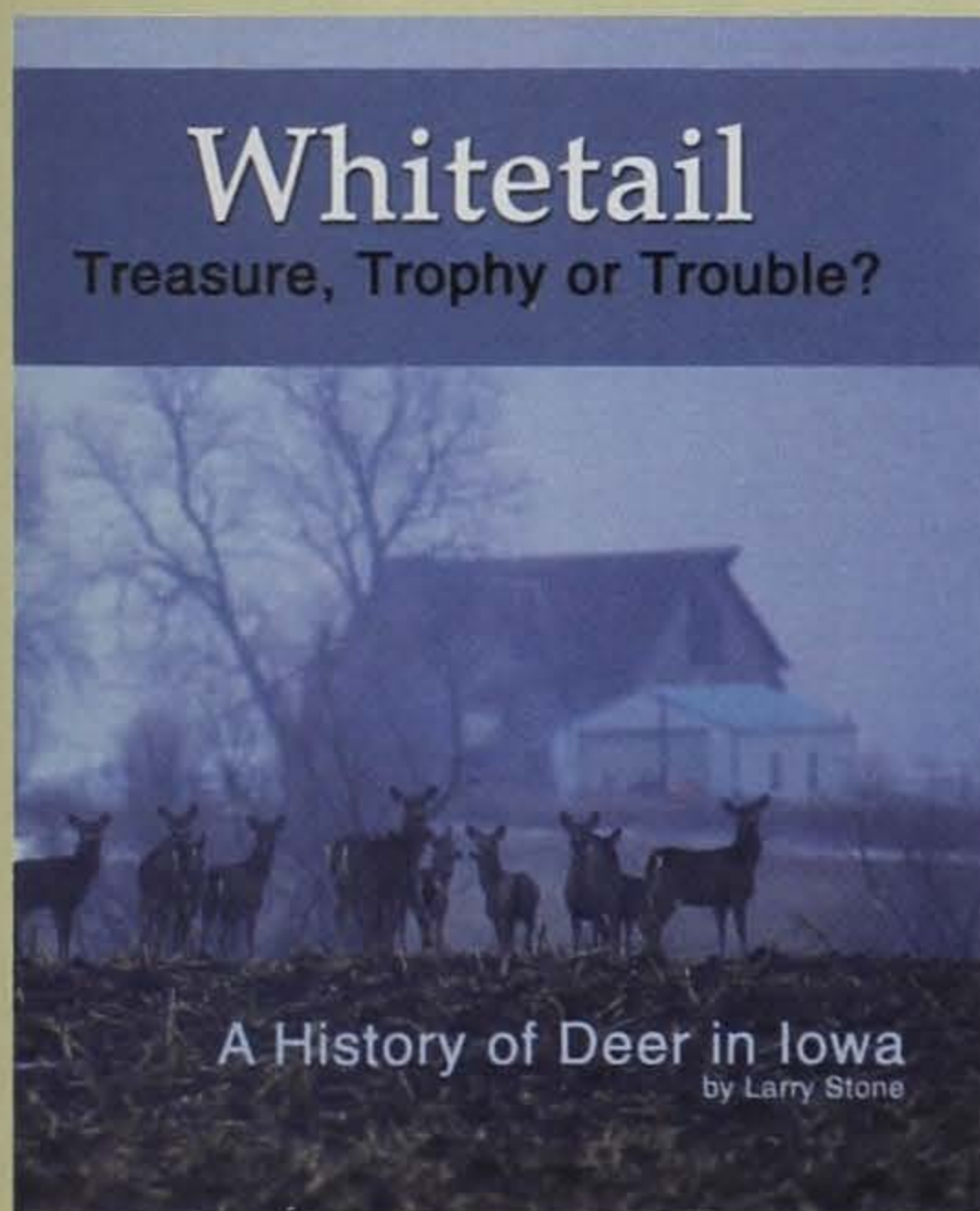
HUSH
Help Us Stop Hunger

Full Name	City	County Taken	Total Pts	Year Taken	Full Name	City	County Taken	Total Pts	Year Taken
Chris Kosman	Albia	Monroe	192 5/8	2002	Mark Broth	Marion	Benton	175 1/8	2003
Virgil Cassill	Drakesville	Davis	190 1/8	2003	Mike Piper	Chariton	Lucas	174 1/8	2003
Andrew Miller	Urbandale	Madison	190	2003	Ryan Key	Iowa City	Adams	174 1/8	2002
Roger D Hurt	Iowa City	Johnson	189 1/8	2003	Craig Deutmeyer	Guttenberg	Clayton	174	2001
Mike Vanderflught	Kellerton	Decatur	188 5/8	2003	Robert Rohwedder	Baldwin	Jackson	173 4/8	2003
Clint Poore	Mount Ayr	Ringgold	187 1/8	2002	Monty Collins	Pleasantville	Marion	172 2/8	2003
Duane Reasoner	Ellston	Ringgold	186 6/8	2003	Duane Graber	Mount Pleasant	Henry	172 1/8	2003
Marty Hammen	Wellman	Washington	186 5/8	2003	Luke M Meeker	Muscatine	Cedar	171 5/8	2003
Gary Wolfe	Humboldt	Webster	186 1/8	1997	Mark Hunter	Milo	Warren	171 1/8	2003
Dave Stice	Unionville	Appanoose	186 1/8	2003	John Banowetz	Bellevue	Jackson	170 2/8	2003
					Joe Tamayo Jr	Cedar Rapids	Delaware	170	2002
					Steve Milota	Center Point	Linn	168 6/8	1982
					Richard D Nagl	Carroll	Decatur	168 3/8	2000
					Donald Vanderflught	Grand River	Decatur	168 2/8	1971
					Matthew Brunssen	Atkins	Iowa	167 5/8	2003
					Marvin Good	Clinton	Jackson	167	2003
					Barry Steinhart	Sigourney	Keokuk	166 5/8	2003
					John Hewitt	Birmingham	Van Buren	165 5/8	2003

Shotgun, Typical

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts

Mark Liebe	Center Point	Linn	186 4/8	2003
Steve Heim	Lansing	Allamakee	184 1/8	2002
Nick L Soules	Aurora	Fayette	182 3/8	2003
Steven L Lange	New Vienna	Clayton	180	2003
Steven Iversen	Ida Grove	Monona	179 3/8	2003
Chad Soulli	Marquette	Clayton	178 6/8	2003
Mick Culbertson	Dubuque	Dubuque	176	2003



Whitetail

- 80 pages, full-color, soft-bound
- Written by **Larry Stone**, noted outdoor writer
- Photos by premier deer photographer **Roger A. Hill** and others

Contains 20 wonderfully written chapters covering:

- The history of deer and deer hunting in Iowa
- Why do we have so many deer? How many deer should there be?
- Trophy bucks – Iowa's "best in the nation" status
- Problem deer – In our fields, backyards, and on our roads
- Interviews with Iowans who share their ideas about whitetails
- And much more

Price **\$10** plus tax. Order on-line at www.wildlifelicense.com/ia/
or call **1-800-367-1188** or order **wherever hunting licenses are sold.**

Allow 3 weeks for delivery.

All-Time

TOP 10 RECORD RACKS

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
SHOTGUN, TYPICAL				
Harold Dickman, Sr.	Woodbine	Harrison	1964	200 2/8
Michael A. Hinzman	Guttenburg	Clayton	2000	200
Wayne A. Bills	Des Moines	Hamilton	1974	199 5/8
Dean Wetzel	Guthrie Center	Guthrie	1998	199 3/8
Kenneth Tilford	Lamoni	Decatur	1985	198 1/8
Michael R. Edle	Danville	Des Moines	1989	196 4/8
George L. Ross	Ottumwa	Wapello	1969	195 1/8
Forest N. Richardson	New Virginia	Warren	1989	194 3/8
W. Eugene Ziegrowsky	Washington	Van Buren	1997	192 7/8
John Chase	Glenwood	Mills	1997	192 2/8

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
MUZZLELOADER, TYPICAL				
Ryan Scott	Ottumwa	Wapello	2000	184 1/8
Marlon Vander Heiden	New Liberty	Clinton	2003	183 7/8
Jerry W. Conover	Sioux City	Monona	1990	182 7/8
*Ronald Cornwell	Waterloo	Hardin	2003	180
Blaine Davis	Waverly	Bremer	2000	179 1/8
Ron Murray	Missouri Valley	Harrison	1998	179 1/8
Clark Corbin	Minneota	Crawford	2000	178 3/8
Nate Ames	Keokuk	Lee	2001	176 4/8
*Randy Latcham	Washington	Washington	2003	175 6/8
Joel Ash	Ann Arbor, MI	Appanoose	2001	173 7/8

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
PISTOL, TYPICAL				
William H. Fahrenkrog	Davenport	Scott	1998	171 4/8
Don Walker	Burlington	Des Moines	1998	167 4/8
Dave Hotz	Cedar Rapids	Louisa	1998	161
George Davis Jr.	Allerton	Wayne	2002	160 4/8
Kendal Pommer	Otho	Webster	2000	159 4/8
Darle Meyers	Lehigh	Webster	2000	157 3/8

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
BOW, TYPICAL				
Lloyd Goad	Knoxville	Monroe	1962	197 6/8
Robert Miller	Wyoming	Jones	1977	194 2/8
Steven E. Tyer	North Liberty	Johnson	1994	194
Roy Allison	Knoxville	Monroe	1995	193 5/8
Jeffery L. Whisker	Clinton	Scott	1993	191
Richard B. Swin	Des Moines	Polk	1981	190 5/8
Alan Bloodgood	Prole	Warren	2000	190 1/8
Randy Petersburg	Waukon	Allamakee	1996	189 1/8
Kevin Peterson	Mediapolis	Des Moines	1989	188 1/8
*Dan Enger	Fort Madison	Lee	2003	186 7/8

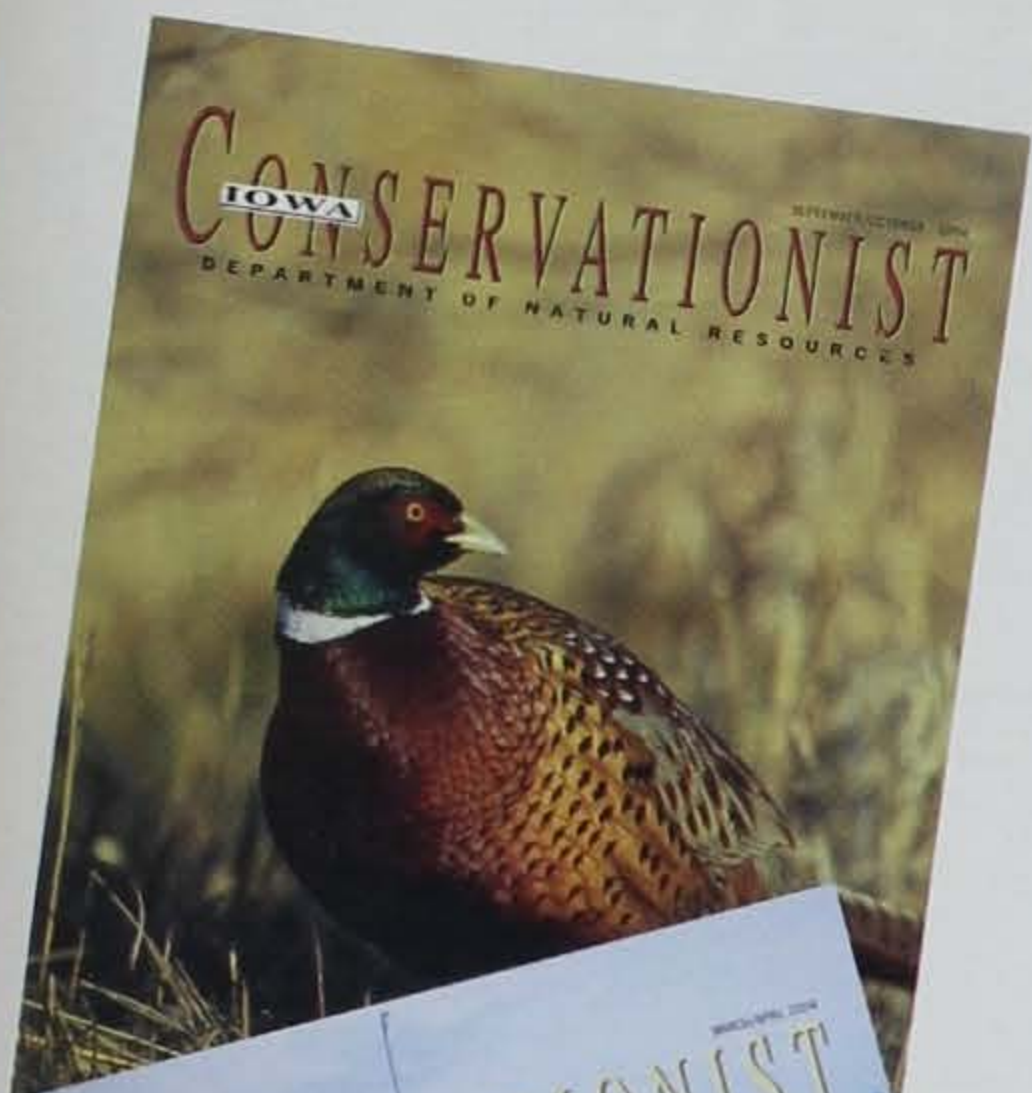
Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
SHOTGUN, NON-TYPICAL				
Larry Raveling	Emmetsburg	Clay	1973	282
Lyle Spitznogle	Wapello	Louisa	1982	258 2/8
David Mandersheid	Welton	Jackson	1977	256 7/8
Carroll Johnson	Moorhead	Monona	1968	256 2/8
Larry J. Caldwell	Des Moines	Warren	1990	248 6/8
Don Boucher	Albian	Marshall	1961	245 3/8
Carl Wenke	Cedar Rapids	Lee	1972	245
Robert Wonderlich	Oskaloosa	Monroe	1970	244 6/8
Donny Grant	Turin	Monona	1996	240
Jack Bell	St. Berlington	Des Moines	2002	237 7/8

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
MUZZLELOADER, NON-TYPICAL				
Richard Muff	Clarinda	Taylor	2000	214 3/8
Mike Moody	Hamburg	Fremont	1990	210 2/8
Alan Funk	Scotch Grove	Van Buren	2000	209 5/8
Vincent P. Jauron	Harlan	Monona	1990	209 1/8
Daniel Kauffman	Wapello	Louisa	1984	205 3/8
Jeff Tussey	Creston	Union	1995	205
*Donald Mason	Albia	Monroe	2003	204 2/8
Travis Baker	Boone	Boone	2000	203 4/8
Jeremy Williams	Clarinda	Page	1998	202 5/8
Denny Baum	Ottumwa	Wapello	1990	202 1/8

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
PISTOL, NON-TYPICAL				
Bob C. Garside	Greenfield	Adair	1998	211 5/8
Bill Fahrenkrog	Davenport	Scott	2000	206 3/8
David A. Arnold	Des Moines	Mahaska	2000	178 7/8
*David Miller	Shenandoah	Page	2003	170 4/8
Jim C. DeFosse	Mediapolis	Des Moines	1999	170 2/8

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
BOW, NON-TYPICAL				
*Brian Andrews	Independence	Buchanan	2003	253 1/8
Dave Gordon	Waukon	Allamakee	2000	240 4/8
Rick L. Dye	Knoxville	Warren	2000	240 2/8
Harlan Swehla	Cedar Rapids	Des Moines	2002	237 6/8
Larry V. Zach	Ankeny	Monroe	2000	237 3/8
Russ Clarken	Desoto	Dallas	1994	236 7/8
*Harvey Dirks	Cedar Rapids	Allamakee	2003	233 1/8
Mike Hobart	Prole	Madison	1993	229 5/8
Terry M. Long	Des Moines	Polk	1995	229 4/8
Jerry L. Wells	Altoona	Madison	2001	227 3/8

Hunting for the Perfect Gift?



**Special Holiday Offer:
One-Year for Just \$8!**

**Renew Your Subscription
Today *and* Give One
as a Gift.**

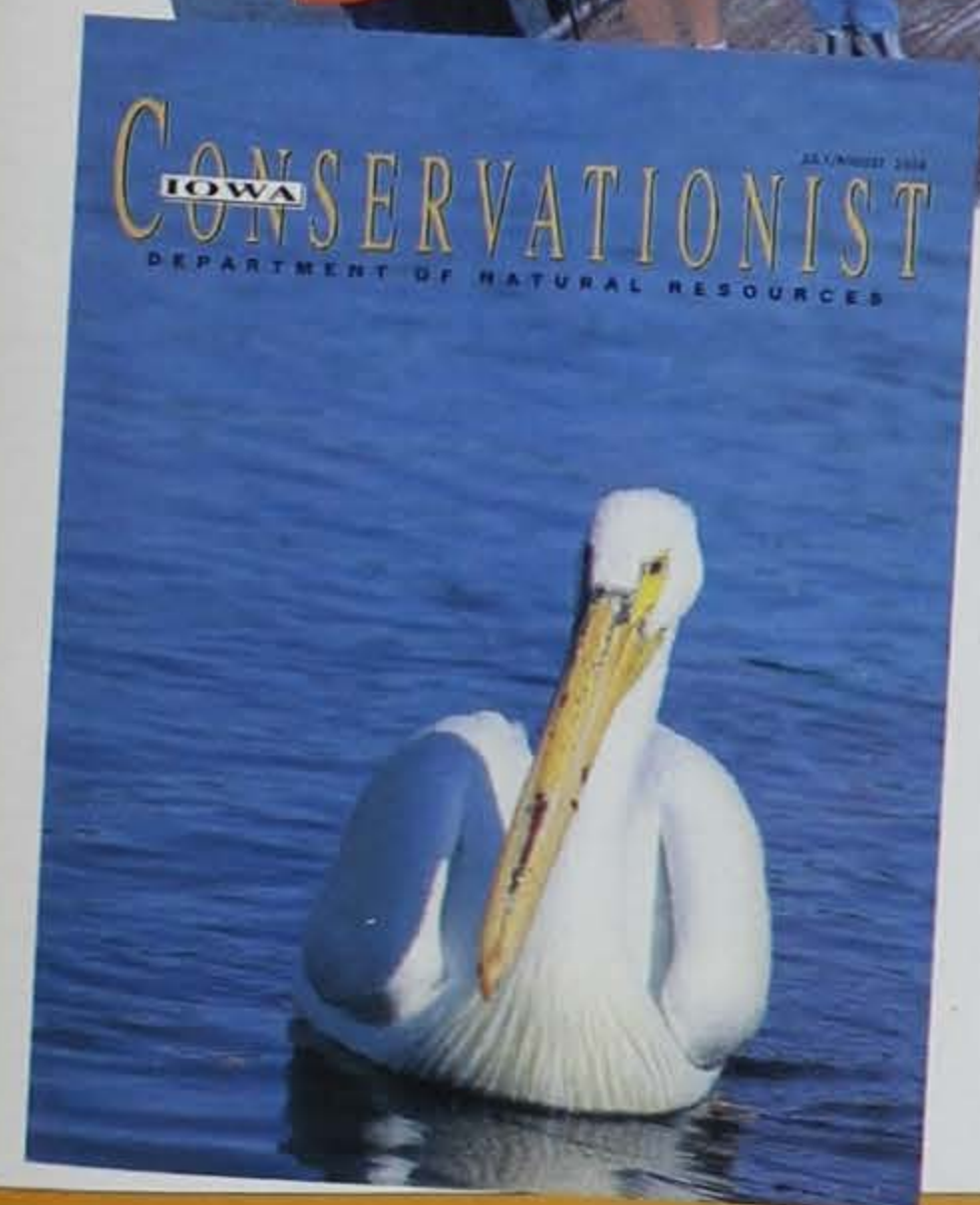
Order as many gifts as you
would like at \$8 each.

Orders received by Dec. 31 will be sent a
2005 Iowa Conservationist calendar FREE!

Two Easy Ways to Subscribe!

1. Call (515) 281-5918
Mastercard and Visa accepted
2. Go to www.iowadnr.com
And subscribe on-line

Good Until Dec. 31, 2004 -- So Hurry!



Say Yes! to the Iowa Conservationist

Total
Score

282
258 2/8
256 7/8
256 2/8
248 6/8
245 3/8
245
244 6/8
240
237 7/8

214 3/8
210 2/8
209 5/8
209 1/8
205 3/8
205
204 2/8
203 4/8
202 5/8
202 1/8

211 5/8
206 3/8
178 7/8
170 4/8
170 2/8

253 1/8
240 4/8
240 2/8
237 6/8
237 3/8
236 7/8
233 1/8
229 5/8
229 4/8
227 3/8

Hunting's Future?

A Combination of Resource and Access



F
fertili
been
perc
agric
E
perc
and
rura
rura
techn
indu
in Io
lived
50 pe
Addi
2000
Iowa
metr
T
poten
mana
Hunt
the-d
Whil
engag
agric

?
ess

From the time early settlers first discovered the fertility of Iowa's rich prairie soils, this has always been an agricultural state. Today, with more than 90 percent of the Iowa's land area being used for agricultural purposes, it is still an agricultural state.

But Iowa is no longer a *rural* state. Only about 39 percent of Iowa's population today lives in rural areas and less than 6 percent are actual farmers. From a rural population high of 95 percent in 1850, the rapid technological advances that transformed the farming industry also changed the *where* and *how* people live in Iowa. By 1900, three out of every four Iowans still lived in rural areas, but by 1960, the ratio fell under 50 percent living outside of incorporated areas. Additional significant changes occurred by the year 2000 when census figures showed a majority of Iowans, 53 percent, now live in a handful of metropolitan areas around the state.

This changing demographic picture has huge potential impacts on the future of hunting and the management of natural resources in our state. Hunting in Iowa has traditionally been a knock-on-the-door-and-ask-for-permission type of proposition. While many Iowans may not have been actively engaged in farming, most were not far removed from agricultural roots and had a contact base to draw from

for hunting opportunities. This scenario is rapidly changing in Iowa along with more interest in purchasing land or hunting rights on some of the best game areas of the state.

Complicating the issue even further is the challenge to manage wildlife in a way that provides enough resources to entice people to participate in the sport of hunting, but will still be acceptable to a society that continues to become more urban. Management of wildlife species such as whitetail deer and Canada geese has been a boon for Iowa hunters, yet has provided additional challenges near urban areas where wildlife can often be viewed as a nuisance.

Access to hunting areas is becoming more of an issue — an issue that lies right at the very heart of the sport's future. Richard Bishop, the recently retired chief of the Iowa DNR's wildlife bureau, has devoted most of his life to providing hunting opportunities in Iowa through both enhancement of wildlife populations and acquisition of public hunting areas. The following is excerpted from a speech given by Bishop last winter at the Hunting Heritage conference in Houston, Texas, providing his insight to the challenges that lie ahead for the sport of hunting in Iowa.

The future of hunting depends on three major factors. The first is a healthy resource base. Second, a cross section of society must be offered the opportunity to participate. Third, we must have an interested citizenry. The first two are paramount to the third. If resource and opportunity are achieved or maintained then we can dwell on maintaining hunter interest and recruitment of new hunters. This is an entirely different science dealing with a host of social issues.

The first two factors are also issues we have some control over. As wildlife biologists and administrators responsible for managing wildlife resources, we must do our job and do it well. If we want a few animals to simply view and enjoy, large populations are not needed. But if we expect to draw and maintain a large hunter base, then wildlife populations

must be significant and sustainable.

Resources and opportunities are essential to the future of the sport and to encourage new hunters to join the ranks. Some of the shining examples of the country's collective success are elk, white-tailed deer, antelope, wild turkey and giant Canada geese. All of these species are habitat-dependent, but require superior management. Success is hard to manage, and as a profession, we have not shown a sterling ability to manage success. Granted, we can manage species under duress and bring them back to healthy populations. Quite frankly, we do that very well. Professional

journals and magazines are full of these comeback stories.

Future hunting depends on our ability to manage success by maintaining significant populations of

Storm clouds are darkening on the horizon for traditional hunting in the upper Midwest. Pressure on habitat from urban sprawl, intense agriculture, recreational land ownership and fewer farms is changing our easy access to local farmland.

elk, deer, antelope, turkey, geese, pheasants, etc. These are our bread-and-butter species generating the

revenue sustaining fish and wildlife departments, and consequently, other programs. We must not be lured by political pressure to decimate these extremely valuable populations. If we can maintain major wildlife populations and protect sizeable segments of their current habitat, we will be successful in maintaining strong hunter participation. Hunters must be encouraged to join forces with state wildlife agencies in support of strong wildlife



Roger A. Hill

populations like deer and giant Canada geese.

In Iowa, the success of our white-tailed deer program is providing funding for the entire fish and wildlife division. Without the revenue deer hunting brings in, our department would be forced to eliminate a number of conservation officer and biologist positions. Presently, we are dealing with intense pressure from the legislature—prompted by farmers, motorists and insurance companies—in terms of reducing certain wildlife populations. Iowans have not learned to value wildlife like Coloradans have with elk or South Dakotans have with pheasants.

Strong resource bases will maintain a dedicated core of hunters that are willing to travel to places of opportunity. Our challenge, however, is to make hunting widely available and attractive to local hunters. We believe if game is plentiful and access is available, local hunters will be recruited by friends and relatives, or simply by sheer opportunity. Programs on hunter retention and recruitment will be successful.

When pheasants are plentiful in the upper Midwest, both local and nonresident hunters come to embrace the sport. In South Dakota, for example, pheasant numbers were estimated at 1.4 million in 1976—a low year for that state. That year, the state sold 8,000 nonresident and 90,000 resident small game hunting licenses. In 2001, with population estimates exceeding 5 million birds, 73,000 nonresident licenses were sold, but only 77,000 resident licenses. George Vandel, South Dakota Game,

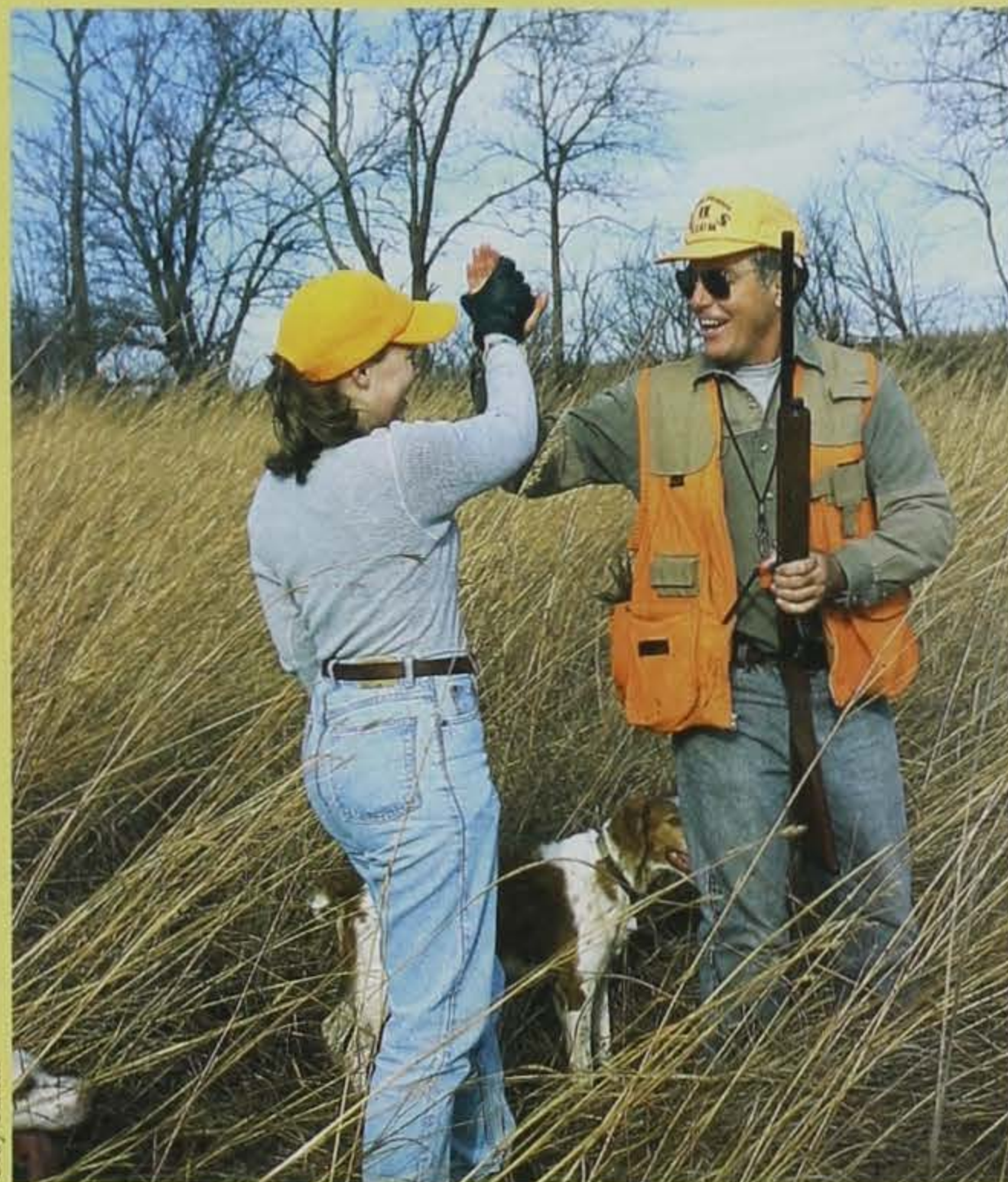
Fish and Parks wildlife chief, attributes part of the drop in resident licenses to an increase in fee hunting and a loss of access for residents.

Iowa pheasant hunters numbered slightly more than 300,000 in the early 1970s when access was easy and bird numbers were good. In the 1990s Iowa averaged more than 50,000 nonresident small game licenses sold. In 2001, when pheasant numbers fell due to loss of grasslands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve and bad winter and spring weather, license numbers fell to 27,888 nonresident and 123,000 resident hunters. Poor bird populations and lack of places to hunt were the reasons for lower hunter numbers.

Elk license sales are a good example of hunter numbers increasing with increased wildlife numbers. Elk hunting is big business in Colorado, with 246,778 hunters participating in 2000. They harvested 60,000 elk. By comparison, in 1970, Colorado hosted 94,788 hunters and harvested only 17,236 elk. Some people have become elk hunters

specifically because the opportunity for success is available.

Whitetails in the Midwest are another very good example of hunter numbers increasing along with the deer herd. When deer numbers in Iowa were increased through direct management action, licenses issued jumped from 62,000 in 1974 to 265,000 in 2002. Many young people, women and ardent bird hunters became deer hunters because success was common. It's difficult to convince a friend or relative to go along on a hunt when conditions are tough and rewards few. But when



success is eminent, whether its ducks, deer or turkeys, many people are encouraged to join the hunting ranks.

The other key ingredient to good hunting is access. Without it, hunter

numbers will dwindle, as evidenced in South Dakota with the increased interest in fee hunting, and in northern Iowa with the loss of CRP grassland.

Storm clouds are darkening on the horizon for traditional hunting in the upper Midwest. Pressure on habitat from urban sprawl, intense agriculture use, recreational land ownership and fewer farms is changing our easy access to local farmland. In the past, small farms dotted the countryside, and a knock on the door and polite request was all it took to get permission to hunt. Hunters in the Midwest are used to this, but times are changing. Farms are getting bigger, with fewer owners, reducing the opportunity for access through social relationships. Iowa once had more than 200,000 farms, but that number now is below 100,000. Fencerows, odd weedy areas and meandering creeks have been eliminated in many areas, thus reducing wildlife habitat and a reason to ask to hunt. The thriving new home construction business the country has experienced is claiming habitat at an alarming rate and closing previously hunted farmland. And recreational land ownership is on the rise. People are buying good hunting land for their personal use. Much of this land is hunted by a few, but closed to the general public. Deer, turkey, pheasant and waterfowl hunting spots are being tied up by those feeling the pressure of reduced access to private land.



In the West, many ranches are being bought for commercial development, ending hunting on these blocks of land. This is only the beginning. It is going to get a lot worse. Other states in the East, South and West have watched open hunting areas disappear to leased and fee hunting. The Midwest has been in a bubble and has just recently

The future of hunting depends on three major factors. The first is a healthy resource base. Secondly, there must be opportunity for a cross section of society to participate. Thirdly, we must have an interested citizenry.

started to feel this stress. As land becomes closed to the general public, local hunter numbers will decline.

Access programs have been very successful in several states, such as Kansas, Montana and South Dakota. Kansas' program has opened roughly 977,000 acres at a cost of \$1.5 million annually, while South Dakota has about 900,000 acres signed up for about \$1 million per year.

Approximately 50 percent of this land is for bird hunting and the rest waterfowl, deer and antelope. Montana's block hunt program has enrolled about 8.8 million acres involving 1,200 landowners at an annual cost of \$3.5 million. Hunters and department personnel alike speak highly of all these programs. As land becomes less available to the average hunter, other states will likely look to access programs such as these.

Another system that could help solve the access problem would be on-line programs that pair landowners willing to allow hunting with hunters. Such a program would most likely require a user fee paid to the

cooperating landowner or owners. This still leads us back to fee hunting. Programs that provide financial rewards for allowing hunting should have a compliment that requires habitat development or enhancement. Currently, private groups like the North American Hunting Club from Minnetonka, Minn., and the Mid-American Hunter Association located in Kansas City are accepting members for a fee, and then leasing land for their members to hunt. These programs will most likely gain strength in the future as access becomes more difficult.

Federal legislation is currently proposed that would make \$50 million available to states annually. Through grants, payments could be made to landowners who agreed to open their land to public access for hunting, fishing, bird watching and other forms of wildlife-based recreation.

Private land programs that encourage habitat development using state or federal funds are valuable in creating more wildlife habitat that could be available for hunting. Continuous CRP, like field borders and buffers, along with the small wetland programs, continue to increase hunting opportunities in many states. We need to continue private lands programs and make sure conservation funding is not deleted from federal agricultural legislation.

It is paramount to the future of hunting to provide more public land and develop good access programs. We can not singly look at one or the other, we must do both. Public hunting areas owned by states or the federal government are extremely

important to maintaining hunter numbers and opportunity. In Iowa, a little more than 2 percent of the land-base is in public ownership. Some eastern states are as public-land-poor as Iowa, but not many. Other midwestern states have far more and the western states are graciously endowed with public land. States like Iowa may never have enough public land to support current hunter numbers, but we can protect a land base that will provide hunting to a percentage of those people who do not have a place to hunt and who are the most easily lost to

other recreational pursuits. Public land is presently not subject to changing agricultural programs or stewardship. Public land is important now and will be much more important in the future. The political system frowns on more public ownership, but public-land-rich western states will one day be looked at as the true gems they really are. We must maintain strong support for future acquisition of public hunting areas.

In the upper Midwest, as well as some other areas of this great nation, we still have free access

to private lands for hunting. This is changing and will continue to change. We must figure out how to positively direct the change. Loss of habitat to development, recreational ownership, leasing and intensive agriculture will continue to displace hunters currently using the land. Public land acquisition, private lands programs, federal farm programs with strong conservation components, and access programs are very important in preserving our hunting heritage.

Resources and opportunity are essential for the future of our sport and to encourage new hunters to join our ranks.



Roger A. Hill

This past February, four Iowa businesses and organizations were recognized for their comprehensive environmental programs. Following is the third in a series featuring the four Governor's Environmental Excellence Award winners.

Timberhill Winery

by Jill Cornell
Photos by Clay Smith

A simple longing to walk freely in the woods is what prompted William and Sibylla Brown of Leon to restore their 200-acre farm to native oak savanna and prairie land. The Browns also own and operate Timberhill Winery as part of their farm.

The Browns began restoring oak savanna on their Decatur County farm in 1994. Since then, they have recovered 140 acres of oak savanna and 55 acres of prairie by clearing invasive, woody understory and establishing a prescribed fire program on their farm to allow proper growth of plants.

Oak savanna was once one of the dominant landscape features of southern Iowa, but it is now recognized as one of the state's most

imperiled ecosystems. Land use changes and eliminating wildfire from the area have greatly reduced the quality and quantity of savanna habitat in the state and Midwest. Many savanna-dependent wildlife species, such as the once common red-headed woodpecker, are now seeing steep population declines because of habitat losses.



Sibylla Brown (above) identifies one of the more than 100 species of mushrooms that have reappeared on her farm. Oak savanna is a transitional ecosystem. It is a combination of woodland/forest area and traditional prairie grasses and forbs. The Browns use almost two acres of their farm as a grape-growing and wine-making operation.

Preliminary invasive tree removal began the restoration process for the Browns. They worked with their district forester to thin the vegetation several acres at a time and worked closely with the fire department to burn the heavily wooded area.

"Sunlight is so important in savanna regeneration," said William Brown. "If you manage the land for restoration, the habitat can come back."

The Browns have witnessed the return of more than 500 species of native plants on their land. Rare and uncommon savanna species including several orchids and more than 100 species of mushrooms have reappeared in their oak savanna woodlands. Nothing has been seeded.

"We have learned a lot since our early efforts," said Sibylla Brown. "I am just amazed watching the habitat come back. The bird population has increased tremendously, and we have seen so many rare species of plants reappear."

The Browns developed a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Decatur County Conservation Board and the Iowa DNR's forestry bureau to restore their land.

As the restoration site continues to improve and expand, additional wildlife and plant species will benefit. The site already serves as a source for seed and plant material for savanna species that were

historically found there.

Along with restoring their land to native habitat, the Browns use almost two acres of the farm as a grape-growing and wine-making operation.

"There has been a renaissance of the grape and wine industry in Iowa over the last few years," said William Brown. "Being involved in alternative sustainable agriculture made sense for us."

The Browns have been eager to share their success with other landowners, government agency staffs and conservation organizations. The potential to restore oak savanna habitat exists beyond the Browns' 200 acres. With the assistance of an Environmental Protection Agency grant, they began the Southern Iowa Oak Savanna Alliance, an organization dedicated to identifying and restoring oak savanna habitat in southern Iowa.

"I wish people knew or could experience how rewarding this restoration is," said Sibylla Brown. "The restoration is not complex – it is very do-able. There are

organizations across the state that can help, and workshops and field trips to give hands-on experience, even if you have no prior knowledge."

Along with receiving a Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, the Browns and



Timberhill Winery were awarded Special Recognition in Habitat Restoration/Development.

Look for the last in this series in the January/February 2005 issue of the Iowa Conservationist.

Jill Cornell is an information specialist with the department in Des Moines.

What is Oak Savanna?

One of the rarest types of naturally occurring forest in Iowa is probably oak savanna. A savanna forms in the midst of prairie and has an open, park-like appearance. The trees are large, wide branching, widely spaced bur or white oaks. The shrub layer is absent and prairie plants cover the ground under the trees.

A savanna develops when a prairie is protected from fire long enough for the oak trees to grow large enough to tolerate a burn. Oak trees, especially bur oaks, have very thick cork-like bark that "fireproofs" the tree. Fire is an important element in maintaining a savanna as it prevents shrubs and smaller trees from growing and keeps prairie plants healthy.

When prairie was turned into crop fields, the fires that swept the plains stopped. Many savannas probably were converted to other land uses or, without the periodic fires that maintained them, grew into other forest types.

Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards

Timberhill
Winery,
Leon,
receives a
2003
Environmental
Excellence
Award from
Governor
Tom Vilsack



Recognizing Leadership and Innovation in Natural Resources

Iowa businesses, organizations and individuals are invited to apply for the 2004 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards. This premier environmental awards program, sponsored by Governor Vilsack and the State of Iowa, recognizes leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's water, land and air.

"Our natural resources are one of our state's greatest treasures," said Jeff Vonk, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "We are honored to recognize those Iowans who work to protect and enhance the environment."

Awards will be given for overall environmental excellence and special recognition in water quality, waste management, energy efficiency/renewable energy, air quality and habitat restoration/development.

Who Can Apply

- ◆ Agriculture (operation, farm or other ag-related business or organization)
- ◆ Community/Local Government
- ◆ Small Business or Industry (up to 200 employees)
- ◆ Large Business or Industry (more than 200 employees)
- ◆ Institution/Public Sector

Facility (hospital, college, school, etc.)

- ◆ Service/Civic/Nonprofit Organization (Kiwanis, Lions Club, Pheasants Forever, etc.)

Deadline

The application deadline is November 5, 2004. Awards will be announced and presented in January 2005.

To Obtain an Application

Visit the DNR web site at www.iowadnr.com/other/ee/index.html, or contact: Jill Cornell, Department of Natural Resources (515) 281-0879; e-mail: Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us.

Sponsored by: Governor's Office ◆ Iowa Department of Natural Resources ◆ Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship ◆ Iowa Department of Economic Development ◆ Iowa Department of Education ◆ Iowa Department of Public Health ◆ Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

Marketplace



Where Every Day is Like Opening Day!

HUNT: Pheasants, Chukar, and Quail. **SHOOT:** Skeet, Trap, 5 Stand and Sporting Clays! **Open Year Round!**

Lodge Available for Overnight Accommodations, Meetings and Parties!

www.chasetheadventure.com
Call 563-382-8012

Moulton Locker
112 S. Main St.
Moulton, IA 52572
641-642-3422



Best Deer Summer Sausage and Jerky Anywhere!

Custom Butchering



• 30,000 Acres privately owned
• Trophy Managed
• Father/Son/Daughter Hunts • January Rut
DEER • TURKEY • BOAR

FULL SERVICE HUNTING FACILITIES
251-843-3168
www.watervalleylodge.com

"To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very property which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed."
Theodore Roosevelt

Visit us on the web at: www.lassoerv.com



LASSO E RV INC.
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

12942 Amber Rd. X44, Anamosa, IA 52205
Ph. 319-462-3258 • 1-800-798-3511



Need Private Places to Hunt?

Iowa Club now forming—Charter Memberships available *Hunt, Fish, Camp on private land.*

Nationwide club, since 1989. Call to hear **FREE recorded message 800-341-3444.**

Managing partner needed. Call Daryl
(816)220-1000



PAINES'S
RV SALES & SERVICE

190 PLAZA DR. • I-380 EXIT 68 • ELK RUN HEIGHTS, IA
Bruce Paine, Owner • Todd Paine, Sales
Bus. 319-234-3039 • 1-800-286-3039
www.painesrv.com

• AWNINGS-ETC.
• MOTOR HOMES
• PARTS-HITCHES
• AIR CONDITIONERS
• TRAILERS & 5TH WHEELS SERVICE & REPAIRS

English Springer Spaniels

- 30 years experience of proven litters
- Mother and father on site
- Ready to go hunting this fall
- Great with family & pheasants
- Field trial lines
- Pedigree w/guarantee available

641-228-4407 or 641-228-2663
Stonewood Hill



"Till now man has been up against Nature, from now on he will be up against his own nature."
Dennis Gabor

For Sale: **Hunting & Recreational Land**

Listing and selling land all over Southern and Eastern Iowa

PAUL L. FOUNTAIN II
Suzanne Fountain Realty
FEATURED PROPERTY
Van Buren County:
1,840 acres, 660 C.R.P., 477 crop, balance is timber and wildlife habitat.
Call for current listing
641-675-3410.

IOWA OUTBACK GETAWAYS
16483 113th Ave. • Plano, Iowa



A Hunting & Recreation Retreat. Join us for a day, a weekend, or a week in the wilderness! Any of our new log cabins will make a wonderful get-a-way for you or your family. Fully equipped with kitchen, bath & 3 queen beds. New beach area, fishing dock, horse-shoes, BB and paddle boats. **Open Year Round**

712-446-2503
www.iowaoutback.com
Rathbun Lake - Southern Iowa's Best Kept Secret

Prime Fishing, Hunting, Vacation

Eliminate Your Heating Bills

CLASSIC
Outdoor Wood Furnace



- Total heat for your home, shop, pool, domestic water and more.
- Unmatched efficiency and backed by the best warranty in the industry.
- Adapts easily to new or existing heating system.

25 YEARS LIMITED WARRANTY

www.centralboiler.com

Glen's Outdoor Hydro-Wood Heat
Swisher, IA
319-857-4010

Dean Meier Wood Heat
Woodward, IA
515-438-2120

Cole's Outdoor Wood Stoves
Plainfield, IA
319-276-3085

WE OFFER FINANCING!

Marketplace

Cascade Forestry Nursery

- Wildlife Trees/Shrubs
- Iowa Grown Seedlings
- Tree Planting, T.S.I
- Forestry Consulting

800-596-9437
FAX 563-852-5004
Cascade, IA 52033

E-mail: cascade@netins.net
www.casecadeforestry.com

Arrowhead Resort and Motel

Visa - Mastercard - Satellite T.V.
Air Conditioned Motel

Nestor Falls, Ontario, Canada POX 1KO

OWNED AND OPERATED BY
Clyde & Decie Mason
Office (807) 484-2132

WINTER HEADQUARTERS:
Box 295, Shellsburg, Iowa 52332
(319) 436-2907

Oakview II Hunting Club
Runnells, IA 50237
Come hunt September 1st through March 31st!



Give us a call at 515-966-2095 or visit us on the web at www.oakview2huntingclub.com

WE LET 'EM HUNT

Osenbaugh Grass and Wildflower Seeds

A variety of Prairie Seeds
1-800-582-2788 • Lucas, Iowa
E-mail: johno@iowatelecom.net
Write or call-Free consult. & literature.
Satisfaction always guaranteed.

Thuls West River Meats


Located in Rutland, IA

Now taking deer for the Hush Program.

We also do beef and pork!

Call 515-332-1314 or call Don Thul at cell #515-368-3022

West Fork



Retrievers
Field trial & Gun dog Training
Brick Hejlik
Box 358
Rockwell, IA 50469
641-892-4298

Wildbird Ridge Hunt Club

Mount Ayr, IA
www.wildbirdridge.us
info@wildbirdridge.us
800 Acres - New Lodge - Great Birds
PHEASANT - CHUKAR - QUAIL
Gloria Meyers
641-464-3648, 877-wldbird
515-681-1577

HUNTING LAND & HUNTING BUSINESSES 4 SALE!


"Helping BUYERS and SELLERS come together!"

Properties in SD, ND, and MN
contact Joel Willette.
Edina Realty - Watertown, SD
Toll Free: 877-RU.HUNT.N
Cell: 685-880-0185
Website: www.LandCentral.us

Henry David Thoreau:
If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen.

JAX

**HUNTING • FISHING • CAMPING
WE'VE GOT YOUR GEAR**



Benelli Shotguns • Hunter Specialties • Mathews Bows
Mossy Oak Apperal • Primos Hunting Calls • Riveredge Treestands
Remington Shotguns • Knight Rifles • Thompson Center Rifles
Nikon Optics • Bushnell Optics • Federal Ammunition

4723 W. Lincoln Way • Ames, IA • 515.292.2267 • M-F 9-6 Sat 9-6 Sun 11-6

BUY A KAWASAKI 4X4 ATV AND GET A WARN® WINCH OR PLOW FOR ONLY \$69



THE LEADING EDGE OF | POWER | PERFORMANCE | EXHILARATION |

Kawasaki
Let the good times roll!™

<p>Tipton Strackbein's Kawasaki 302 West South Street 800-455-0417</p>	<p>Clarinda Whipp Sales & Service Inc. 701 S. 8th Street 800-477-0185</p>
<p>Winterset Country Cycle 800-890-1570</p>	<p>Des Moines Struthers Brothers Kawasaki 5191 NW 2nd Ave. 888-816-FAST</p>

©2004 Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. Offer valid 07/01/04 through 11/30/04 on new, not previously registered Kawasaki 4x4 ATVs. Offer includes winch or plow blade assembly, mounting brackets, manual lift kit for the plow, and all hardware as approved by Kawasaki. Winch/plow kit may not be available for all models at time of sale. Installation not included. Valid only at participating dealers. Kawasaki ATVs with engines of 90cc and above are recommended for use only by persons 16 years of age or older. Kawasaki also recommends that all ATV riders take a training course. For more information, see your dealer, or call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887. **Warning: ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety: Always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Never carry a passenger. Never ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Never ride on public roads or pavement. Avoid excessive speeds and stunt driving. Be extra careful on difficult terrain.**

PWW57

Marketplace

Manufacturers of heavy duty recycled plastic outdoor site furnishings

PLASTIC RECYCLING
Of Iowa Falls, Inc.
A MANUFACTURER OF RECYCLED PLASTIC PRODUCTS

www.plasticrecycling.us
800-338-1438

Building better trails with the future in mind

VIRTUALLY MAINTENANCE FREE • ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY • ADA COMPLIANT

Scharnberg Park Campground
3430 145th Ave Everly, Iowa 51388

New Campground & Camping Cabins
Eight Miles West of Spencer and Just 20 miles from the Iowa Great Lakes Region

ATTENTION HUNTERS
Camp in our campground or rent a cabin in one of the premier pheasant hunting areas in NW Iowa. Kennels provided for your dogs with cabin rental.

NEW! 3 Camping Cabins
Full Baths & Kitchens
Available year around *MC & Visa Accepted*

Clay County Conservation Board
www.co.clay.ia.us • claycodir@ncn.net
(712) 262-2187

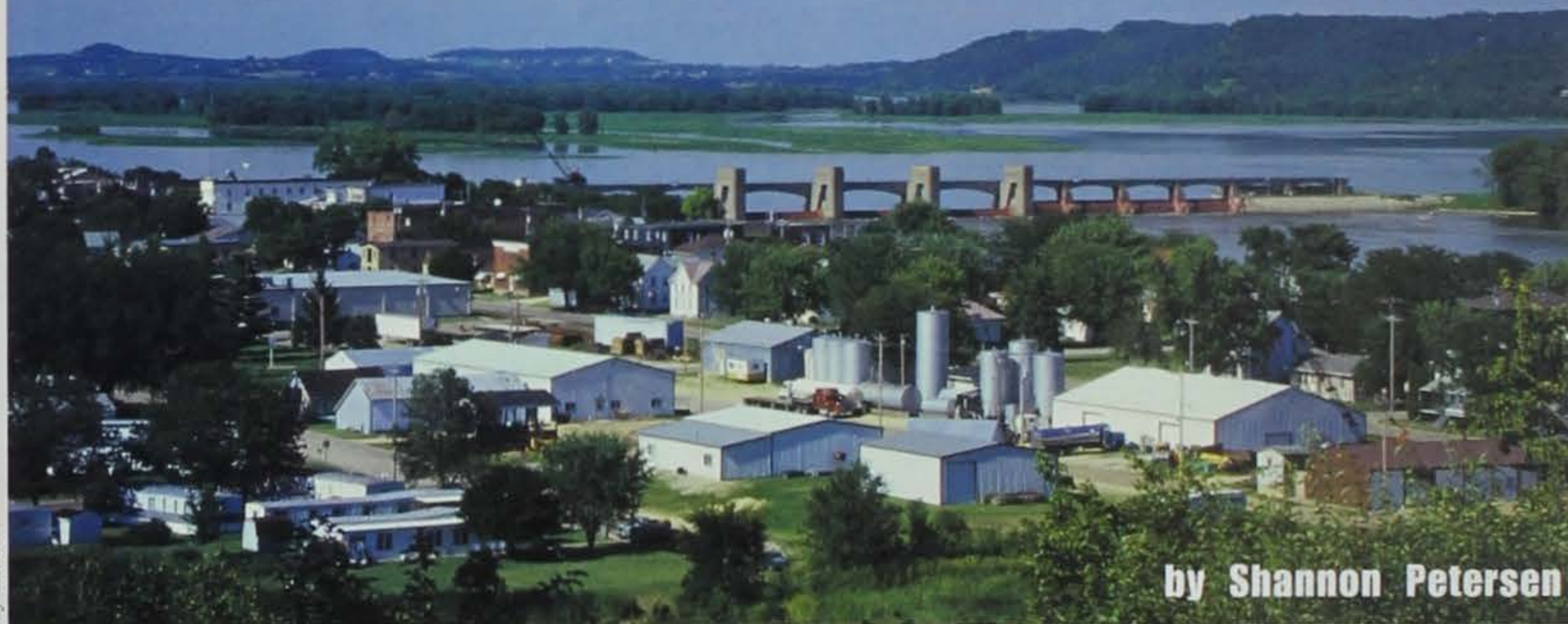
Bob's Marine
Featuring the Xpress Duck Boat!

29088 Hwy 52
Bellevue, IA
563-872-4055

PARKS PROFILE

Bellevue State Park

In the past 150 years, Iowa has undergone drastic changes. Settlement and early agricultural practices claimed 99.9 percent of Iowa's original prairies, 95 percent of our wetlands and almost 70 percent of our native woodlands. These statistics are frightening to think about, but it makes us truly appreciate the rare natural treasures that we still have in our state. Our preserves, state parks, wildlife areas, county areas, and some privately owned lands offer our only glimpse of Iowa the way it was...the land of prairies and waterways.



Ty Smedes

by Shannon Petersen

Bellevue State Park is one of those treasures. Nestled atop the rugged limestone bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, it offers a breathtaking view of the immense river valley and the quaint little river town of Bellevue. Visitors come from all over to watch the barges and old paddle wheel boats travel up and down the river. From the park's main overlook, visitors get a better understanding of the importance of the river valley as a huge natural resource and as a major navigation route.

Not only is the Mississippi River a major route for moving commodities up and down the

United States, it also serves as one of the major flyways for many bird species. That's what makes Bellevue a perfect spot to take in the annual migrations of hawks, ducks, geese, pelicans, eagles and various songbirds. In the winter, hundreds of bald eagles feed in the open waters below the dam and roost in the trees along the bluff. On a warm winter day, the eagles chase each other in flight, and some visitors may be lucky enough to witness a pair as they lock talons and summersault through the air.

The surrounding bluffs are riddled with limestone outcroppings, sinkholes and deep ravines. These rugged lands

made much of the area undesirable for row crop farming. As a result, the bluffs remain heavily wooded and provide excellent habitat for many rare Iowa animals; bobcats, timber rattlesnakes and pileated woodpeckers, to name a few.

Unique to the Iowa state park system, Bellevue is located in two separate tracts. The northern unit is the Nelson Unit and was dedicated in 1928, named after the Rev. Lawrence Nelson, an avid conservationist who served as a commissioner of the Iowa Conservation Commission. The southern unit, the Dyas Unit named after the original owners, was developed in the late 1960s.

Both units are located on wooded bluff-top property, offering grand views of the river valley.

Nelson Unit

Unlike many other parks that used Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers to build facilities and roads, Bellevue had a prison crew. Much of the Nelson Unit was developed in the mid-1920s using a crew of inmates from the Anamosa Reformatory. The crew constructed the park road and a large oak log lodge at the main overlook. Sadly, dry rot plagued the oak lodge and arsonists later burned it down.

A nine-hole golf course was later built on the ridge-top adjacent to the park, and a new park lodge was built in

1972. In the mid-70s, the golf course moved to a more suitable location north of Bellevue. The old clubhouse is now known as the South Bluff Nature Center and houses the park office. The wood floors of the nature center still reveal spike holes from golfers years ago.

The old golf course was slowly converted into wildlife plantings and hiking trails. Only aerial photographs show the telltale signs of the old fairways. Yet golf balls are still occasionally found in the woods.

In 1985, a butterfly garden was constructed, and it changed the park's image forever. An

ambitious volunteer — Judy Pooler — designed the one-acre garden. She spent countless hours working with other volunteers on the 148 different plots in the garden. Each contains a specific plant that caterpillars or butterflies need to survive. A small pond in the middle of the garden provides water for the butterflies and other wildlife.

Every spring and fall, school groups schedule butterfly programs, and many even assist staff with tagging monarchs in September. Ann Burns, Jackson County Conservation Board naturalist, is instrumental in teaching the story of the monarch to adults and children. Every September she hosts a monarch-tagging program at the butterfly garden. Kids race around the garden catching monarchs (and other butterflies that look like monarchs). Burns has had one of her Iowa tags recovered in Mexico. The kids giggle when they think the tag they put on that monarch in Jackson County might be found by somebody thousands of miles away. Knowing the migration patterns and over-wintering spots of the monarch helps preserve these areas to ensure the monarchs' survival.

The Nelson Unit also contains some very significant archaeological sites. Conical Indian Mounds can be found along the unit's cliffedge. Woodland Cultures constructed these mounds



DNR Photo

PARKS PROFILE

between 1000 B.C. and 1300 A.D. Thoughts of other cultures living in the prairies, forests and waterways of the Bellevue area almost 3,000 years ago gives the area a magical feel.

More recently, archaeologists discovered limekiln sites in the park. Limekilns were used before the introduction of

food plots and timbered areas offer hunting opportunities for deer, turkeys, squirrels and furbearers. In conjunction with Pheasants Forever, habitat improvements for upland game were made. This area is also very popular with the locals for hiking, mushroom hunting and berry picking.

camping experience.

As an angler, hunter, private landowner or outdoor enthusiast, we all need to do what we can to preserve the few natural areas that remain in our state. Educating others of these wonderful places helps increase the general appreciation for what we, as Iowans, call home. It is our



Ty Smedes

Portland cement. Limestone and wood were loaded into the top shaft of the kiln. As the intense heat cooked the limestone, it turned into a powder — lime. In the Bellevue area, lime was used for mortar in the early construction of stone structures. The foundation of a limekiln is still visible off the park's Quarry Trail.

The Nelson Unit contains about 225 acres of public hunting land. Tallgrass prairie plantings,

Dyas Unit

The Dyas Unit of the park houses the campground. In the past year, it has seen many major improvements. A new road was completed in early summer of 2003. The 30-year-old shower building underwent interior updates, and park staff constructed a new self-registration kiosk. The electrical system is undergoing an upgrade. Bellevue State Park remains an alternative for a peaceful and not-so-busy

responsibility to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy the meandering trout streams, the remnant hill prairies and the rare flora and fauna that inhabit these rugged blufflands. Make plans to visit this Iowa treasure and rediscover the rare beauties Iowa has to offer.

Shannon Petersen is the park manager at Bellevue State Park.

BELLEVUE STATE PARK AT A GLANCE

LOCATION: The park is split into two tracts. The Nelson Unit is immediately south of Bellevue on U.S. Highway 52, atop a 300-foot limestone bluff. The Dyas Unit is two miles south on U.S. Highway 52. Dubuque is 21 miles north on U.S. Highway 52.

PICKNICKING/FAMILY GATHERINGS: Picknickers are provided scenic views of the Mississippi River. Open picnic shelters may be reserved for a fee through the park manager. There is also a lodge that serves as an ideal location for group events, such as wedding receptions and family reunions. It is available through a reservation system.

CAMPING: The Dyas Unit has 48 camping units (23 with electrical hookups), modern rest rooms, showers and a sanitary dumping station. Camping is not allowed in the Nelson Unit.

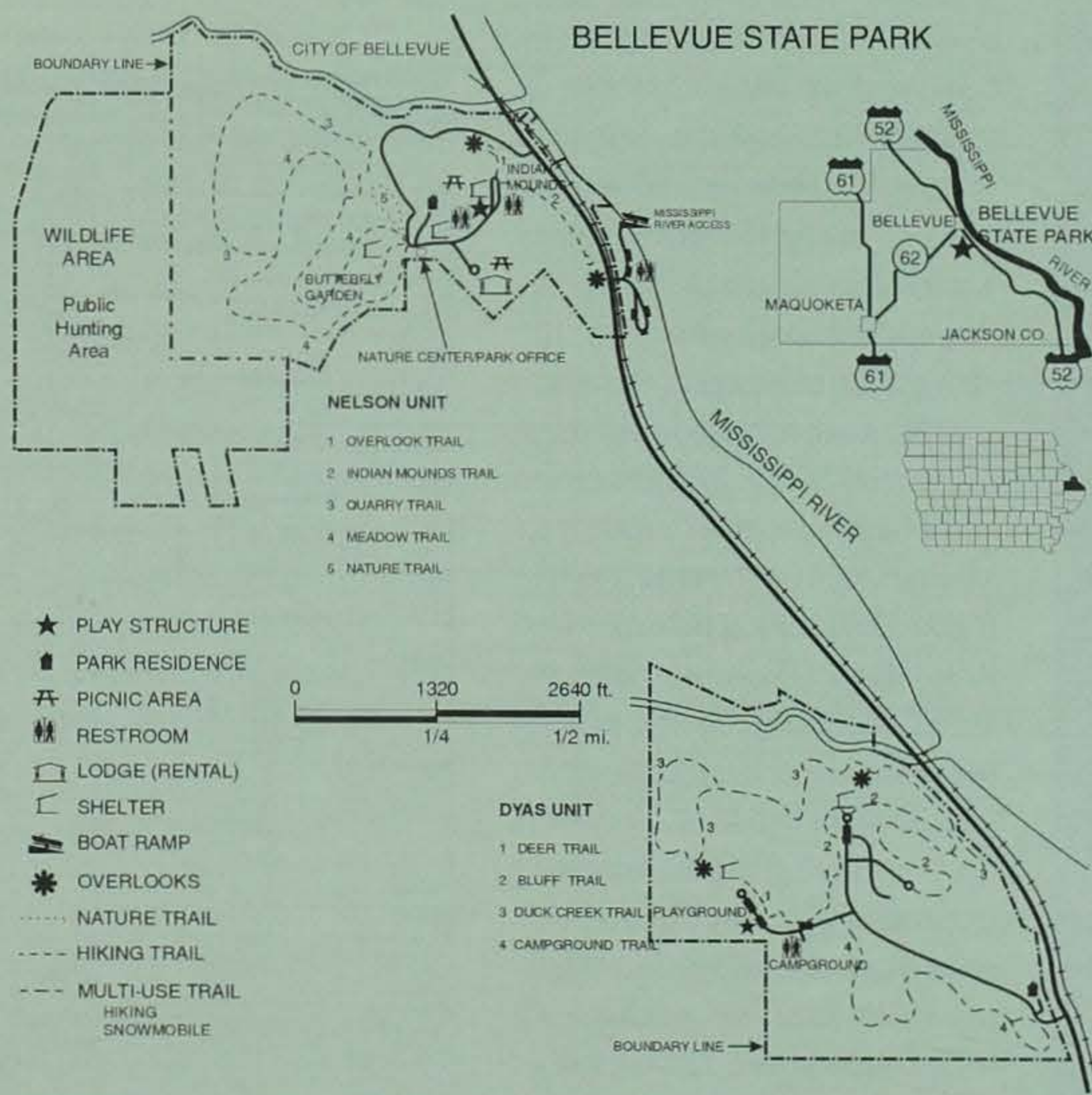
TRAILS: The Nelson Unit has five trails providing a variety of hiking opportunities. One trail leads out to scenic overlook of the Mississippi, one winds past Indian burial mounds, one wanders through a restored prairie and a Garden Sanctuary for Butterflies, one takes you past an old limestone rock quarry and one follows along a woodland interpretive trail. The Dyas Unit encompasses more than five miles of foot trails, scenic overlooks, a self-guided nature trail and a stream with beaver dams, aquatic and other wildlife.

SOUTH BLUFF NATURE CENTER: The South Bluff Nature Center in the Nelson Unit contains a variety of interesting displays on the plants, animals and geology of Bellevue State Park. The center is open seasonally and offers a variety of programs in the summer.

The center is a converted Civilian Conservation Corps barracks, rebuilt with mostly donated labor and supplies. It has been open to park visitors since its dedication in 1984. It is open 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and by appointment.

The Garden Sanctuary for Butterflies is located nearby. This unique area contains more than 100 separate plots, each featuring plants which provide food and habitat for butterflies. A network of pathways allows visitors to walk through the garden and see a wide variety of butterflies as well as enjoy the beautiful array of flowers and the pond in the center. A nearby playground offers fun for the younger visitors. The Garden Sanctuary for Butterflies is unique in the Midwest.

CONTACT: Bellevue State Park,
21466 429th Avenue, Bellevue,
Iowa 52031; (563) 872-4019;
Bellevue@dnr.state.is.us.



CONSERVATION UPDATE



Lowell Washburn

Don't Hang Up Those Rods And Reels Just Yet; Fall Is One Of The Best Times To Catch Fish

Anglers who have given up on fishing until the hard water season gets underway may want to rethink that position. Fall can be one of the best times to fish because many anglers have traded their rods and reels for shotguns and bows, making lakes and streams far less crowded. The fish are also more active as they begin a feeding binge in anticipation of winter.

"Fish actively feed this time of year to prepare for the winter and the spring spawn," said Marion Conover, fisheries chief for the Department of Natural Resources. "The bite is not quite as hot as it is in the spring, but fall is one of the best times of year to catch fish."

Another reason fall fishing is a good bet is, anglers do not need to get up well before dark to catch a fish. The cooler water means the bite shifts to

the main part of the day. Allow the water to warm a little, Conover said, then the fish get more active.

"You could actually combine hunting and fishing in the fall," he said. "Hunt pheasants in the morning when it's cool, then after lunch, go see what's biting."

Some species are just more active in the fall. Yellow perch, muskies, crappies, walleyes, largemouth and smallmouth bass all put on a last minute flurry before winter. For muskies, late fall is the best time to fish.

"Anglers need to alter their approach just a little," Conover said. "I tend to go more with live bait—specifically minnows—use small tackle and fish slowly. That approach seems to work for me."

He said the lakes targeted in the spring, should be the same lakes targeted in the fall.

Iowa's Newest State Park Dedicated

Iowa's newest state park underwent an "extreme make-over" to create a new venue of outdoor family fun from what was once a troubled public wildlife area.

Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park, midway between Des Moines and Indianola, was dedicated Oct. 7, beginning a new era for the depleted coal mine site, previously known as "Banner Pits."

An investment of nearly \$2 million in park facilities and other amenities is expected to draw high use of the park. It will also bring cold weather trout fishing to the doorstep of the state's largest metro area.

Roads through the park have been paved, boat ramps constructed and new restrooms added, along with a concession stand for the bike trail and shooting range. The shooting range has been improved for safety; however, it will not be open until the DNR hire's a concessionaire to operate it.

The 222-acre site was purchased by DNR in 1954 and has operated as a wildlife area, open 24 hours a day, no gates and little enforcement patrol. As a state park, gates will control access for the daily hours of 4 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and there will be regular summer patrols by a park ranger.

Selected Bowhunters Asked To Participate In Deer, Furbearer Population Estimate Survey

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is asking a select group of Iowa bowhunters to count the number of deer and furbearers they see while hunting as part of a survey to help with population estimates and promote better management of the deer herd. About 9,000 bowhunters will be contacted about the survey.

The survey asks bowhunters when and where they hunted, how many hours they hunted and the number of animals they saw. The list of species includes deer, bobcats, coyotes, red and gray foxes, raccoons, opossums, skunks, badgers, house cats and river otters. Bowhunters are asked to record this information for each bow hunting trip.

The survey was sent only to a randomly selected group of bowhunters who have purchased a bow hunting license each year from 2001 to 2003. The survey was mailed out in late September.

"Bowhunters are the most suitable for this type of survey because the methods they use while

hunting are ideal for viewing not only deer, but also furbearers," said Steve Roberts, wildlife biologist with the DNR's Boone Research Station.

Roberts is hopeful the survey data will help fill in the gaps from the 20-year decline in the number of trappers. Other states, such as Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, Missouri and Virginia are using similar surveys to estimate deer and furbearer population trends.

A summary of the 2004 survey and the survey results will be posted on the Iowa DNR's website at www.iowadnr.com.



Lowell Washburn

Online Form Works To Match Landowners With Deer Hunters

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is playing high-tech matchmaker, pairing hunters willing to harvest antlerless deer with landowners who want deer numbers on their property reduced.

Hunters willing to harvest does are encouraged to fill out the electronic form on the DNR's wildlife page. The electronic form can be found by going to www.iowadnr.com and clicking on the wildlife damage link in the left menu bar from any of the wildlife pages. The form debuted Aug. 26.

The form takes a few minutes to complete and asks questions such as where in Iowa do you like to hunt, which season(s) and what type of firearm do you prefer. Landowners review the information and choose a hunter and make the call.

The information is automatically entered in a database. Landowners can review the list as often as they want to look for new entries.

"This is a good opportunity for people looking to expand their deer hunting by either hunting an additional season or in a new part of the state," said Bill Bunger, wildlife depredation biologist for the DNR. "We definitely have the need, now it's up to the hunters."

CONSERVATION UPDATE

State Gets \$570,000 Grant For Renewable Energy And Energy Efficiency Projects

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources announced in August the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will provide \$570,367 to Iowa for five energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

The five projects funded are:

Industrial Technologies (\$149,971) — This project partners the DNR with Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), industry and other stakeholders to design a curriculum for a diploma program in industrial energy efficiency and waste minimization.

Rebuild Iowa (\$130,000) — The DNR will develop a series of sustainability and energy efficiency courses at several small universities and colleges throughout Iowa. These university and college programs will become part of Rebuild Iowa's newest partnerships to identify and implement energy saving improvements in their communities.

Building America (\$100,000) — The DNR will help research and test an affordable model design home with highly advanced energy efficient "whole building" technologies. The goal is to make buying a home both economical and environmentally friendly.

Solar Technology (\$65,400)



Lowell Washburn

A portion of a DOE grant will allow the DNR and Iowa Energy Center to better understand wind characteristics crucial to wind energy development.

— Working with Alliant Energy and the Iowa Renewable Energy Association, the DNR will install a 7,200-watt solar array on a converted former warehouse building in Cedar Rapids. The building is located in a designated brownfield area, which is being redeveloped by the city and private building owners.

State Wind Energy Support - Tall Towers (\$124,996) — In a partnership with the Iowa Energy Center, the DNR proposes to establish a tall tower wind measurement program in Iowa to better understand wind characteristics that are important to wind energy development and operations. The Iowa Energy Center has provided more than \$430,000 for the project.

Smog Hotline Still Hot

Iowans continue to make large numbers of calls to the state's Smoking Tailpipe Reporting Hotline. Since last summer, nearly 3,500 reports have been filed with nearly half voluntarily cleaned up by motorists.

Since one smoking tailpipe can release the emissions of 20 cars, that is the equivalent of removing tens of thousands of vehicles worth of exhaust off the roads.

This summer, airwaves and billboards carried educational messages promoting the repair of vehicles with smoking tailpipes, thus saving fuel and maintaining good air quality.

The campaign promoted the phone number "1-888-END-SMOG," a number citizens can call to report the license numbers of vehicles emitting excessive exhaust. Vehicle owners are then sent educational materials to help identify likely mechanical problems and solutions. Coupons for discount vehicle service and parts from nearly 500 locations statewide are also included. This year, nearly 500 additional locations statewide offered discount rates for service and parts thanks to NAPA Auto Parts Stores and NAPA AutoCare Centers.

The campaign is grant-funded and does not use state general funds. Iowans can either make reports to the 1-888-END SMOG number or online at www.iowacleanair.com.

Iowa Awarded EPA Grant for Clean School Buses

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources was recently awarded a \$250,000 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to help install pollution-control devices on older school buses and fund higher-blend soydiesel usage for bus fleets. The grant was given to just 20 recipients across the nation to help reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust.

The grant was provided to the Bus Emission Education Project (BEEP), a partnership of the School Administrators of Iowa, the Iowa Association of School Boards, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Education and the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association.

"About 230 school buses between model years 1990-94 will be retrofitted with diesel oxidation catalysts, devices that use reactive metals to break down pollutants into less harmful substances," said Brian Button, DNR spokesperson.

Catalysts cut harmful soot output by at least 20 percent, smog forming hydrocarbons by half and carbon monoxide by 40 percent. Newer buses are already equipped with these controls.

The grant will also help fund Iowa-produced soydiesel, with nearly 4,000 gallons of pure soy oil provided by West Central Cooperative in Ralston, which is providing the soy oil at half price. Soydiesel blends cut soot output

by 15 percent, hydrocarbons by 10 percent, sulfur by 20 percent and carbon monoxide by 10 percent.

"This demonstration grant will allow us to analyze new emission reduction technology, while encouraging the use of Iowa-grown soy oil blended with diesel fuel which is not only environmentally cleaner, but renewable," said Danny Thede, with the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association and transportation director of the Indianola Community Schools.

"This is a great project and we're pleased to partner with other organizations in this initiative to help protect the health of children, reduce air pollution, save schools money and support Iowa farmers," said Troyce Fisher, executive director of School Administrators of Iowa.

In April 2003, the U.S. EPA launched the Clean School Bus USA program to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust. Particles in diesel exhaust can penetrate the lungs and pose serious health risks.

"The health and safety of Iowa school children is important to our mission. We are pleased Iowans are being recognized for our school bus emissions reduction initiatives and appreciate this grant opportunity to further cut emissions," said Terry Voy, who directs transportation programs for the Iowa Association of School Boards.

Upcoming NRC and EPC Meetings

The dates and locations have been set for the following meetings of the Natural Resource Commission and Environmental Protection Commission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Agendas are set approximately 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting date. For additional information, contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

Natural Resource Commission:

- October 14
Allamakee County
- November 10
Des Moines
- December 9
Des Moines

Environmental Protection Commission:

- October 18
Ingram Office Building,
Urbandale
- November 15
Ingram Office Building,
Urbandale
- December 20
Ingram Office Building,
Urbandale

WARDEN'S DIARY



Iowa recently lost a pioneer in the field of fish and game law enforcement with the passing of Gerald Hoilien.

"Jerry" was a writer of *Warden's Diary* from June 1981 through April 1989 after taking it over upon the retirement of the column's founder, Rex Emerson.

Jerry was a conservation officer and district supervisor for more than 29 years. His writing helped readers see and feel the outdoors, and to experience the true joy of appreciating its wonders.

Jerry also developed many of the forensic techniques we use today to investigate wildlife crime. He constantly researched and encouraged officers to dig deeper. One time I served a search warrant and obtained several deer parts. I met with Jerry who started to examine and measure them. On further examination, what appeared to be one deer turned out to be three.

Anyone who enjoys the outdoors today owes Jerry a debt of gratitude, and it is fitting his words be printed here again.

— *Chuck Humeston*

Ol' Bum

by G. I. "Jerry" Hoilien

If ever a dog was a gentleman, "Ol' Bum" filled the bill. He always held his head so high and dignified, with his chest puffed out as if he owned the world, whether anyone else knew it or not. He rode with me for many years and his fame grew with each passing season.

I was working the pheasant opening in Chickasaw County with Bruce Parker (now retired after a distinguished record with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). There was a lot of corn standing yet and I eased through the crossroads with cornstalks so high you couldn't see. I did see a car off to the left though. There were several hunters around the open trunk. By the time I stopped, backed up and turned the corner, they were getting into their car and preparing to leave. I turned on the red light and asked if I could check their birds and licenses.

They weren't the friendliest group and when they opened their trunk there was their full limit of birds nicely laid out. I was busy checking their licenses against the number of birds when I felt a nudge on my knee. Looking down, there was Bum, proud as he could be of the rooster pheasant in his mouth. I thanked him and watched him move to the grass beside the car, paw away

some grass and retrieve another rooster. He gave me that one as the hunters began to grumble, and he retrieved still a third bird from the same place. One of the group remarked, "That G—O—D!"

"Don't cuss my dog, mister, you're the guys that are wrong," I told him.

Bum was good at checking duck hunters, too. He almost dug the bottom out of a duck blind to get at the over-limit of ducks hidden underneath. I used to say he was so good I could send him out by himself, but the truth is he was too soft-hearted and wouldn't write a ticket.

One early fall morning I popped over a hill just in time to see a guy throw something over a brush pile. After a short conversation, I asked him what he threw away. He avidly denied throwing anything until I said I'd have to get my dog out. Ol' Bum was watching us through the windshield. (He never got on the seat but he was big enough to sit on the floor and rest his chin on the dash).

"Oh you're the warden with that big red dog! Well, never mind, just as well get it over with," he mumbled as he walked over and retrieved two fresh muskrats. "I guess I started the season a little early, huh."

I didn't have the heart to tell

him that Bum would try to retrieve an elephant if I shot one, but he hated muskrats with a passion and wouldn't touch one.

He was an invaluable partner at times, quietly sitting where he was told, watching intently the goings on as if he understood every word. I believe he did at times. I had arrested a rather irate violator and placed him in the front seat of my car. He had to sit with his legs extended over the laying form of Bum, whose head was resting next to the gear shift. Bum didn't mind, he was used to it, at least until the guy started to cuss that "no good *#@*#@*# game warden" that was taking him to jail. Bum raised his head, looked the guy straight in the eye, peeled back his lips to show some sizable incisors and grumbled a low growl from deep in his chest. There was not one more word said all the way to jail.

Bum was a full-blooded golden retriever who never knew the meaning of cold or fear. He was proud to the end and a

partner you can only be privileged with once in a lifetime. I've seen and owned my share of goldens but he was the best. Strange how life grants us special favors. Last year when I lost Bum's son, Buck, just as fate would have it,

Buck's last litter was just six weeks old. My first look brought back tears to these eyes as the biggest of the litter sat with his head so high—his young chest thrust forward and an oversized front foot pawed my boot. He

was quieter than all the rest and sat looking at me with big bright eyes under two light eyebrows. He knew a partner when he saw one, and so did I!

You're right, young Bum and I are off again, so watch it!

Gerald "Jerry" Hoilien

April 25, 1928 — August 5, 2004

Jerry's love of the outdoors always dominated his life and in 1960 he took a job with the State of Iowa as a state conservation officer. He served as a federal U.S. deputy game warden from 1961-1989 and was the Iowa State Regional Supervisor after 1969, overseeing 27 counties. He was a state firearms instructor, state training officer and taught at the State Police Officers Academy in Des Moines.

During his career, Jerry developed many innovative techniques in wildlife management, identification and forensics that he compiled in a work that became known as the "Blue Books," which are still in practice today and used as a training manual in many states as well as internationally. He served as president of the Iowa Wildlife Officers Association and as chairman of the Forensic Committee for the Midwest Association, traveling extensively throughout the Midwest sharing his knowledge at seminars, fairs and sport shows. He also led a conservation course at Luther College for several years, became an accomplished taxidermist and played a role in the reintroduction of the wild turkey in Iowa. In later years he wrote "The Warden's Diary" and several other articles for the *Iowa Conservationist* magazine and articles for the *International Game Warden* magazine. His achievements were recognized in 1986 when he received the International Game Warden Award from the Midwest Fish & Game Law Enforcement Officers Association.

Jerry retired to rural Harpers Ferry where he lived on a former apple orchard and continued to pursue his love of the outdoors by hunting, fishing and walking the woods and prairies.

EDITORS NOTE:

Reprinted from the October 1984 *Iowa Conservationist*. Although Jerry authored *Warden's Diary* for almost nine years, and he no doubt wrote many columns that touched people in different ways, we felt this was one of Jerry's finer pieces. We believe it illustrates his commitment to his job, his love of the outdoors and his passion for life. We also thought it was kind of funny.

[Blank white rectangular area]

