

March / April 2008

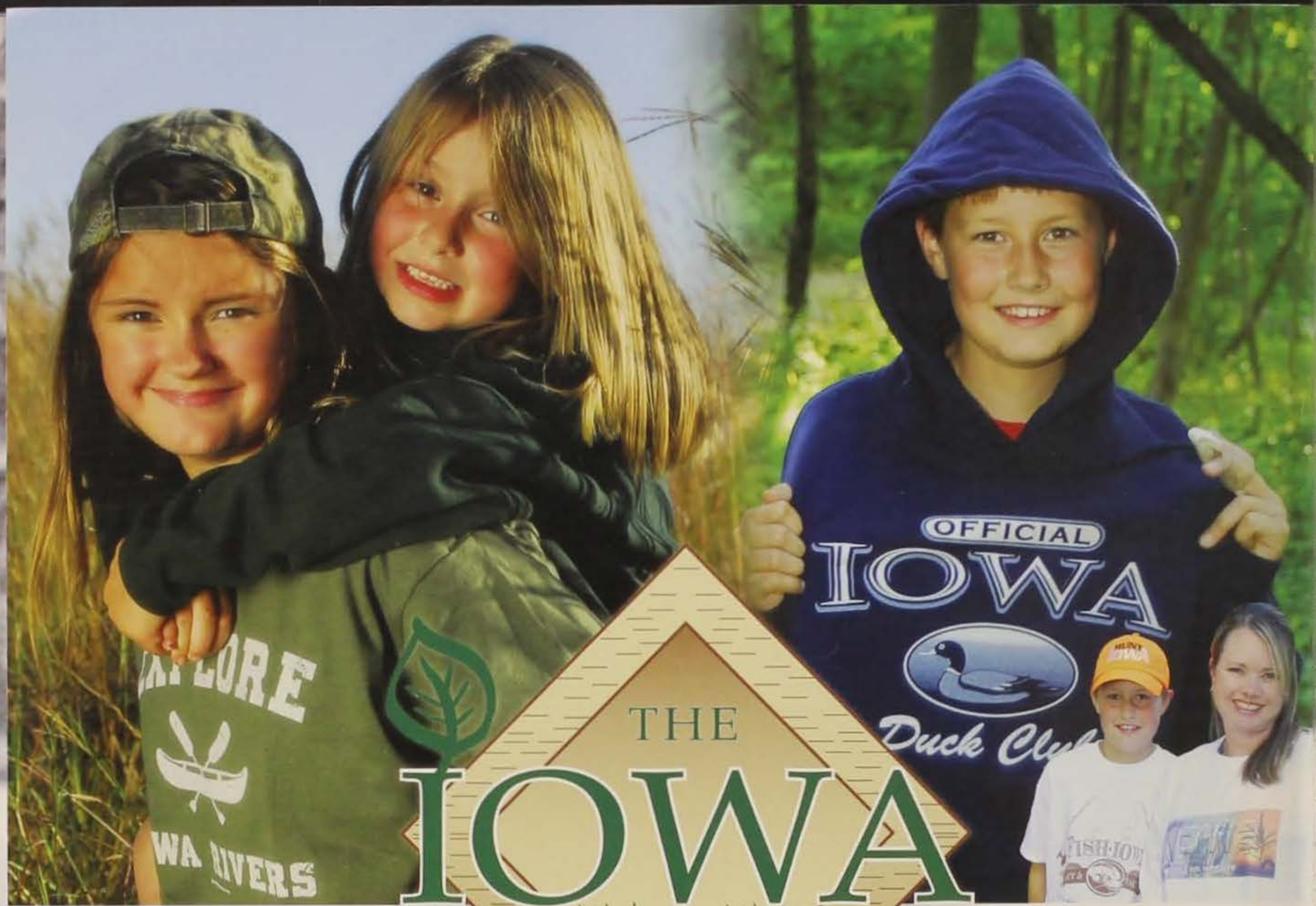
# IOWA OUTDOORS

THE DNR'S MAGAZINE OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

IN THIS ISSUE:

\* WILDFLOWER WONDERS \* SPRING FISHING FORECAST





THE  
**IOWA**

**NATURE STORE**

TM

*Unique Iowa outdoor gear*

*Gifts for all ages*

[www.iowanaturestore.com](http://www.iowanaturestore.com)





# Keokuk

21st Annual

IOWA

Battle of Pea Ridge  
Civil War Reenactment



April 25-27, 2008

Come join us in the excitement at Rand Park!

- Two-Day Battle • Military Ball
- Keokuk National Cemetery Memorial Service
- Period Music • Delicious Food

Contact us for a full list of activities!

Keokuk Area Convention & Tourism Bureau

800-383-1219

www.keokukiowatourism.org

E-mail: keokukia@interl.net

## PAINT CREEK CABINS

OFFERS FOR SALE

Log cabins with sewer, water, electricity.

Various sizes of cabins and lots available. Cabins adjoin Yellow River Forest. Over 8,500 acres to hunt, fish, cross-country ski, snowmobile, hiking, equestrian trails & bird watching. To view model cabin or for more information call 319-360-5617 or 563-380-4394



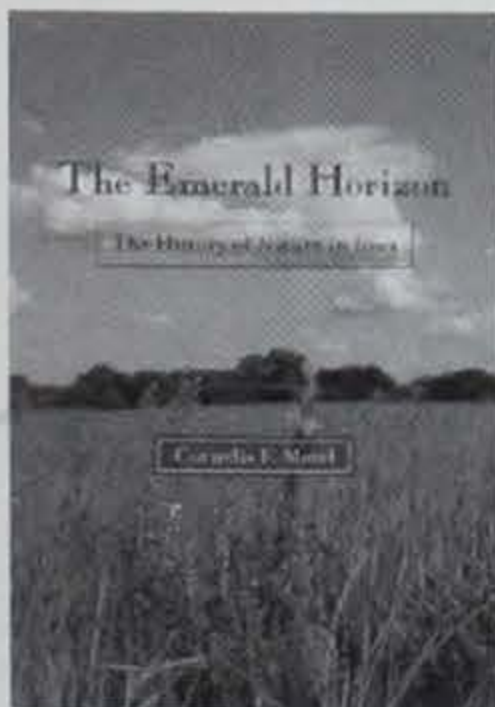
## IOWA OUTDOORS

Would you be interested in reaching more than **30,000** Iowa households and businesses with your advertising?

ADVERTISE IN IOWA OUTDOORS TODAY!

Contact **Dave Larson** at **Larson Enterprises**

515-440-2810 • LARSON6@MCHSI.COM



CORNELIA F. MUTEL

### The Emerald Horizon The History of Nature in Iowa

"Mutel has written a poetic history of our compromised land—and she has a vision for returning diversity and community to the Iowa landscape."—Teresa Opheim, executive director, Practical Farmers of Iowa  
280 PAGES • 26 B&W AND 12 COLOR PHOTOS  
14 DRAWINGS • 6 MAPS • \$27.50 PAPERBACK

IOWA *where great writing begins*

University of Iowa Press • www.uiowapress.org

High Asphalt Costs Ahead

Concrete Price Stability

EXIT HERE



Signs are pointing to concrete as the best choice for roads and parking lots.

With soaring asphalt prices and concrete's "green" benefits, concrete pavements are better in every way.

- Low construction cost
- Low maintenance
- Long life
- "Green"

Iowa Concrete Paving Association  
360 SE Delaware  
Ankeny, IA 50021  
515-963-0606

Count on Concrete



# CONTRIBUTORS



### ERIC ENGBRETSON

Eric began underwater photography in 1993. Using underwater cameras and lights, and scuba gear, he spends seven months a year below

Midwest lakes and rivers to photograph native fish in their natural habitat. He lives in Florence, WI. *Purchase prints at [www.indiancreekart.com](http://www.indiancreekart.com) • 319-377-5739.*



### ANDREW PAULEY

Andrew Pauley is 10 years old and lives in the beautiful Loess Hills along the Missouri River Valley in western Iowa. He is in the 5th

grade at Missouri Valley Elementary School and has amazing writing abilities. He enjoys being outdoors and has learned a lot about nature from his dad, a wildlife artist and conservationist.



### TY SMEDES

A lifelong interest in natural history led Ty to purchase his first camera in 1980. Ty is published by more than 25 magazines including *The Iowan*,

*The Nature Conservancy Magazine*, *Sierra*, *Ducks Unlimited*, *Iowa Natural Heritage*, *Birds & Blooms*, *Outdoor Photographer*, *Pheasants Forever* and *Brown Trout*. This issue he devotes to spring wildflowers. Ty teaches nature photography classes and sells matted prints. He resides in Urbandale. [www.smedesphoto.com](http://www.smedesphoto.com), 515.270.9086



### JENNIFER WILSON

Jennifer Wilson is a travel and features writer who writes for such publications as *Frommers' Budget Travel* and *AAA Living*. She's been eating

morels rolled in crackers and fried in butter since she was old enough to walk, though she has yet to convince her father to reveal where exactly he finds them. [wilsonhoff@msn.com](mailto:wilsonhoff@msn.com)

# IOWA OUTDOORS

MARCH / APRIL 2008 • VOLUME 67 • ISSUE 2

(formerly the *Iowa Conservationist*)

### STAFF

Kevin Baskins - BUREAU CHIEF  
Brian Button - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Alan Foster - MANAGING EDITOR  
Jacob Zweibohmer - ART DIRECTOR  
Lowell Washburn; Joe Wilkinson - WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER  
Clay Smith - PHOTOGRAPHER  
Julie Tack - MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

### STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD

Cynthia Peterson - CHAIR, Cedar Rapids  
Scott Moats, Westfield  
Armando Rosales, Atlantic  
Deborah Lewis, Ames  
Carl Kurtz, St. Anthony  
Liz Christiansen, Des Moines  
Gail Brown, Mason City

### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

Elizabeth Garst - CHAIR, Coon Rapids  
Lennis Moore - VICE CHAIR, Mount Pleasant  
Carol Kramer - SECRETARY, Newton  
R. Kim Francisco, Lucas  
Gregory Drees, Arnolds Park

Janelle Rettig, Iowa City  
William Bird, Lehigh

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

Darrell Hanson - CHAIR, Manchester  
Mary Gail Scott - VICE CHAIR, Cedar Rapids  
Suzanne Morrow - SECRETARY, Storm Lake  
Paul Johnson, Decorah  
Henry Marquard, Muscatine  
David Petty, Eldora  
Charlotte Hubbell, Des Moines  
Ralph Klemme, LeMars  
Susan Heathcote, Des Moines

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES • 800.361.8072

### ADVERTISING OFFICE

Larson Enterprises, Dave Larson at 515-440-2810 or [LARSON6@MCHSI.COM](mailto:LARSON6@MCHSI.COM)

### DNR EXECUTIVE STAFF

Richard Leopold - DIRECTOR • Liz Christiansen - DEPUTY DIRECTOR

### DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS

Linda Hanson - MANAGEMENT SERVICES • Ken Herring - CONSERVATION AND RECREATION  
Wayne Gieselman - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

DNR Central Office, 515.281.5918 • TTY users contact Relay Iowa, 800.735.2942

*Iowa Outdoors* (ISSN 0031-0471) 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 Outdoors*, P.O. Box 8462 Red Oak, IA 51591-1462.

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. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D.C. 20240.

### DNR MISSION

To conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life for Iowans and ensure a legacy for future generations.

### EDITORIAL MISSION

We strive to open the door to the beauty and uniqueness of Iowa's natural resources, inspire people to get outside and experience Iowa and to motivate outdoor-minded citizens to understand and care for our natural resources.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Keepers of the Land program matches volunteers with natural resource service needs statewide. Give back to Iowa's lands, waters and skies. Call 515-281-0878 to match your interests with needs or visit [www.keepersoftheland.org](http://www.keepersoftheland.org).

### HOW TO DONATE

Charitable giving of land, funds, and goods and services greatly enhances Iowa's outdoor living. Contact: Diane Ford-Shivvers at 515-281-6341.

### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

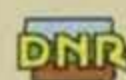
The DNR Nature Store offers apparel and gifts with profits for state parks. Order online at [www.iowanaturestore.com](http://www.iowanaturestore.com).

### SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

To subscribe, or for any subscription issues or questions call 1-800-361-8072 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. or weekends 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For ease in processing, please have an issue with a mailing label available at time of call. To purchase a single copy for \$3.50, call 515-281-5918.

### LEARN MORE

Our webpage, [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), is loaded with information for all ages and needs. Buy licenses, reserve campsites or learn more about our environment online.





## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I was traveling with Gov. Culver to Burlington last summer when we were approached by an elderly gentleman in a bait shop.

*"I suppose you're going to ask me for better fishing,"* Gov. Culver told the man as he extended his hand.

*"No sir,"* the gentleman replied, returning the handshake. *"I'm asking you to improve water quality. If we can do that, the fishing will take care of itself."*

Exactly.

Long-term fishing success is undeniably linked to water quality. We have seen this time and again from the improvements in the trout streams of northeast Iowa to the restoration of constructed lakes in the southwestern part of the state.

This issue of *Iowa Outdoors* marks the beginning of spring and our traditional look at the fishing forecast. We hope this information is useful to hardcore anglers who have supported this sport throughout the years, and inspirational to those who have left their fishing pole leaning in the corner of the garage for far too long.

But this is also a great time to reflect on some of the accomplishments in improving water quality and fishing in Iowa. In the past couple of years, extensive restoration has taken place at Lake of Three Fires, Lake Anita and Lake Icaria resulting in spectacular fishing opportunities. We have only just begun work at Lake Darling and already have noticed fishing improvements, with the promise of even better days ahead. A host of other lakes are in the preparation stages for restoration projects.

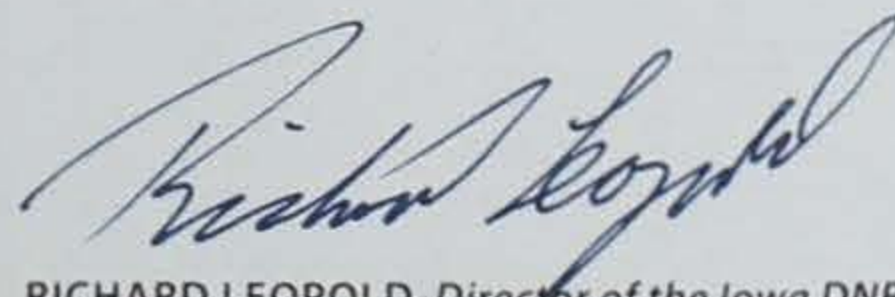
These accomplishments in expanding quality fishing opportunities certainly have roots in the expertise of our DNR fisheries biologists. But even more important is the cooperation we receive from private landowners in watershed projects designed to improve water quality, from Legislators who appropriate funding to do this important work and from the fishing license buyers who support these efforts to the benefit of us all.

One "well kept fishing secret" in Iowa is that we are the leader—and, frankly—the envy of the nation in our intensive walleye culture program. This research and development led to our ability to successfully grow and release 8- to 9-inch walleyes, creating quality fishing that was nonexistent 20 years ago. Other states have visited to learn from us how to mimic the work elsewhere. And our success could not have been accomplished without the support of the license buying public.

It's been said that fishing is optimism experienced.

I'm proud to be considered within the ranks of both fisherman and optimist. I believe our best days of fishing and water quality lie ahead.



  
RICHARD LEOPOLD, Director of the Iowa DNR



# CONTENTS

MARCH / APRIL 2008



## FEATURES

### 24 Planting A New Idea for Fisheries

*Fisheries biologists are stocking plants—as well as fish—to ensure better angling for lowans.*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOE WILKINSON

### 30 Spring Fish Forecast

*See which lakes and rivers are bursting with fish.*

BY MICK KLEMESRUD PHOTOS BY ERIC ENGBRETSON

### 38 Turkey Tales

*Get inspired by two hunters—a young woman and 10-year-old boy—who share the joy of their first hunt.*

STORY BY JOE WILKINSON AND ANDREW PAULEY

### 42 Swiftwater Rescue

*Hop aboard as rescuers train to save lives on gushing spring rivers.*

BY JOE WILKINSON PHOTOS BY CLAY SMITH

### 52 Spring Wildflowers

*Stroll through woods and fields of spring splendor in a photographic essay.*

BY KAREN GRIMES PHOTOS BY TY SMEDES

#### ABOUT THIS PHOTO

"It was awesome to hang out with a bunch of heroes," says DNR staff photographer Clay Smith who captured images of firefighters and law enforcement staff practicing swiftwater rescues. "These guys and gals will be going out to save lives someday." The trainees above motored up to a roaring dam on the Cedar River to practice using a throw bag to save would-be victims held by the current. Read more in our page 42 feature.

#### ABOUT THE COVER

When photographing wildflowers, it's best to avoid mid-morning to mid-afternoon, when the light is harsh and flat, says contributing photographer Ty Smedes. But he came upon this lady slipper during mid-day while traveling to an event. "Since the lighting wasn't ideal, I was forced to improvise. I used a piece of cardboard to block direct sunlight. The soft indirect light lit the flower perfectly, allowing me to capture the image I had envisioned on film," he says. See more of his images in our page 52 spring wildflower feature.



## DEPARTMENTS

### 8 TOGETHER

Take a cold water plunge for charity, dye nature-inspired Easter eggs and make a nest material dispenser for backyard birds.

### 13 MYTH BUSTERS

Learn how to best protect dogs against heartworms and get absorbed in the disposable-versus-cloth diapers debate.

### 14 0UTDOOR SKILLS

Make a fish rod protector, learn to keep minnows hooked with a rubber band and pack a paddler's cold-water dry bag.

### 15 ADMIRATION AND LEGACY

See how a Clayton County family is helping the Volga River, why butterflies adore Bellevue and meet an Anamosa man whose work adds prairie, forest and wetlands to the state.

### 16 LOST IN IOWA

Morels, turkeys, cabins and camping have outdoor lovers flocking to the forests and Villages of Van Buren County.

### 60 MY BACKYARD

Step beyond recycling to rid clutter and save resources by putting a stop to unwanted junk mail.

### 61 WILD CUISINE

Bring wild flavors home with simple morel mushroom spread, hunter's pizza and pheasant in white wine sauce.

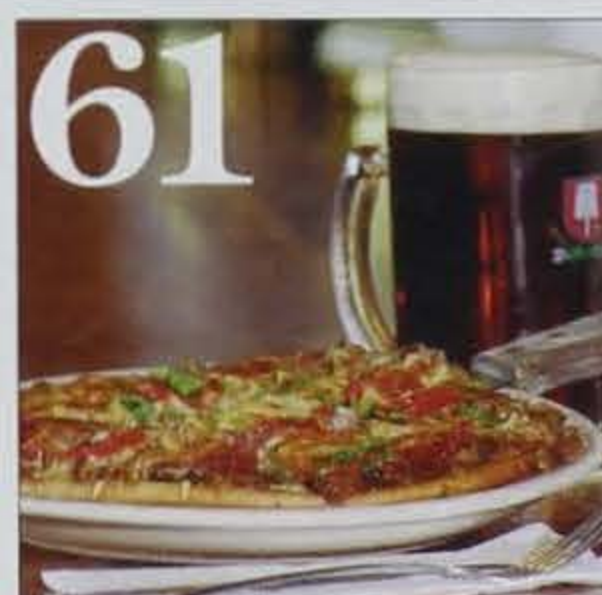
### 64 WARDEN'S DIARY

### 66 FLORA & FAUNA

This 10-legged critter is not only an important meal for fish and animals, but can self-amputate then regrow lost limbs.

### 67 CONSERVATION UPDATE

See what Iowa outdoor enthusiasts say about Climate Change.



10

16

61

66

64

14



ACTIVITIES, TIPS AND EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

# Taking the Plunge for Charity

Crazy team costumes, whooping and laughs surround thousands of wet and wild, giddy Iowans who take to park beaches for annual Polar Plunges, a fundraiser event for Special Olympics of Iowa. A party-like atmosphere, the events are a hoot to watch, but even more fun to take the plunge, says Jeanette Steinfeldt, with the Special Olympics in Grimes. As director of development, she's plunged in them all. Spectators are prone to jump in the next year—it's that thrilling.

"You are leery the first year, not sure what to expect," she says. "Your adrenaline is going. I won't say it isn't chilly, but it's not bad either. You are only in the water for a couple of minutes at most, basically running in and out." Warming tents make pre- and post-plunge conditions

toasty. She says first timers are excited for next year, and always recruit more teams. "It is the most fun fundraising event you can participate in," she adds. Individuals are placed on teams or recruit their own team. Ages 5 to near-70 have taken a dunk.

"The state parks are incredible for us with the nice beaches and staff support," she says. Many teams are made up of law enforcement officials, including DNR law enforcement staff, who also participate in a torch run event that raises \$250,000 for Special Olympics.

The non-profit Special Olympics trains and provides sports competition for more than 13,000 Iowans with intellectual disabilities statewide.



**WHERE TO WATCH OR GET WET.**

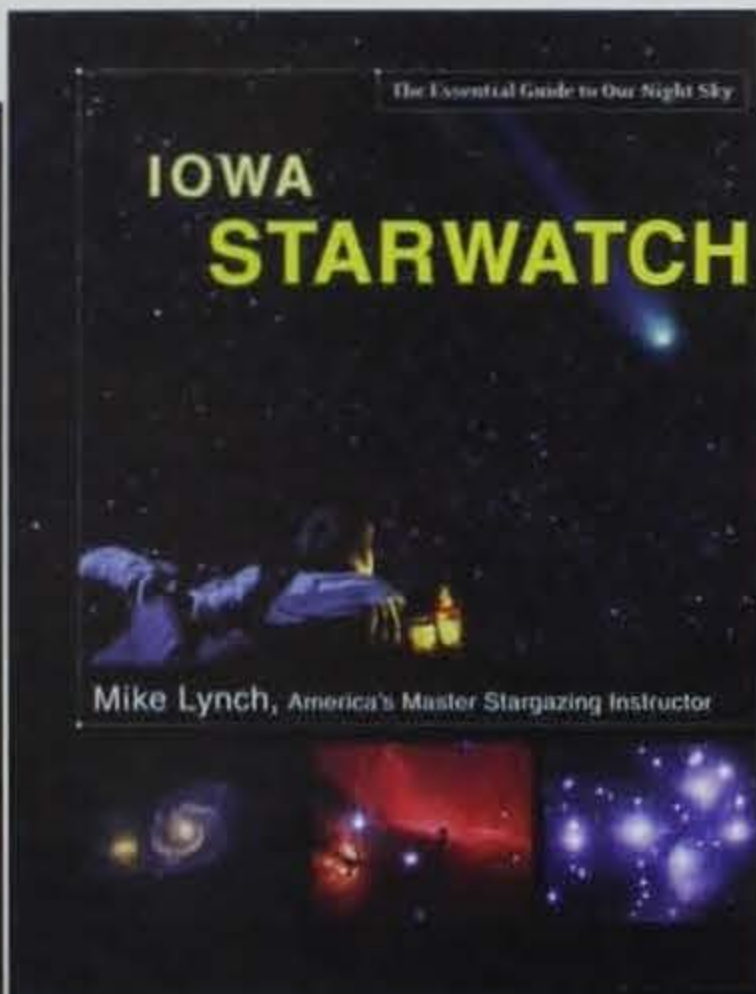
Upcoming plunges in state parks include Lake Ahquabi near Indianola on March 29 and Lake Manawa in Council Bluffs on March 8, both at noon. Ten events occur statewide November through March.

**GET INVOLVED**

Visit [www.soiowa.org](http://www.soiowa.org) to see full listing of events, to donate or join a team. Or call 1-877-267-0134 or 515-986-5520.

John Hook of Cedar Rapids and B.J. Bengard of Waukee, both Simpson College football players, take the plunge at Lake Ahquabi State Park.





# MAKE THE STARS YOUR OLD FRIENDS

Sky-lit wonders above your tent will never look the same after reading *Iowa Starwatch, The Essential Guide to Our Night Sky*.

The 160-page book begins with chapters explaining the stars, nebulae, star clusters and galaxies—and what readers can see from their backyards. Later chapters delve into the moon, solar and lunar eclipses, planets and comets, meteors and the northern lights.

With links to Iowa stargazing clubs and local resources, the book has more than 80 eye-popping telescopic photos of nebula, galaxies and star clusters sure to inspire.

**Hardcover, \$24.95 ISBN 0-7603-2700-9 Order at 1-800-826-6600 or [voyageurpress.com](http://voyageurpress.com). Available at many book stores.**

Recommended for beginner to intermediate stargazers ages 12 and up, adults and children can use it to discover the universe this winter when skies are especially brilliant.

Author Mike Lynch, a Minneapolis radio meteorologist who has taught thousands of stargazing classes since 1973, says “Half of the visible universe is literally above your head. Human nature always wants to explore. A lot of places we can’t get to, but you can journey there with your eyes. If you don’t, I think you are missing a heck of a show. Plus, it’s a great way to clear your mind.”

Filled with easy-to-use monthly star charts specific to Iowa and conveniently spiral-bound to hold heavenward, faint stars were left off to mimic most views obscured by light pollution. Lightly laminated pages help protect against evening dew and moisture.

## STARGAZING TIPS

Lie back on lawn chairs or the ground. Spend 15 to 20 minutes to allow the eyes to fully adjust to the darkness.

To preserve your night vision while using the book, place a red filter, red cloth or red tape over a flashlight.

Use binoculars to see small star clusters, galaxies and spiral shaped clouds of hydrogen gas. Binoculars don’t offer a lot of magnification power, but allow users to see a wider area of the sky.

Use binoculars before you buy a telescope.

## ATTRACT NEST BUILDERS

Build a simple nest material dispenser to encourage birds to nest in your yard.

“I use it to attract birds just like a feeder,” says DNR wildlife specialist and Iowa Audubon president Doug Harr. He began building them more than 10 years ago, an idea hatched from watching birds gather feathers, yarn and grass. “It makes viewing wildlife during the breeding season easier to observe in your yard,” he says.

Varying the materials can attract different birds.

Stock it with feathers for tree swallows and fine grasses and thread for chipping sparrows. Twine fibers, dog or horse hair and fine string or thread attract goldfinches.

### TO BUILD:

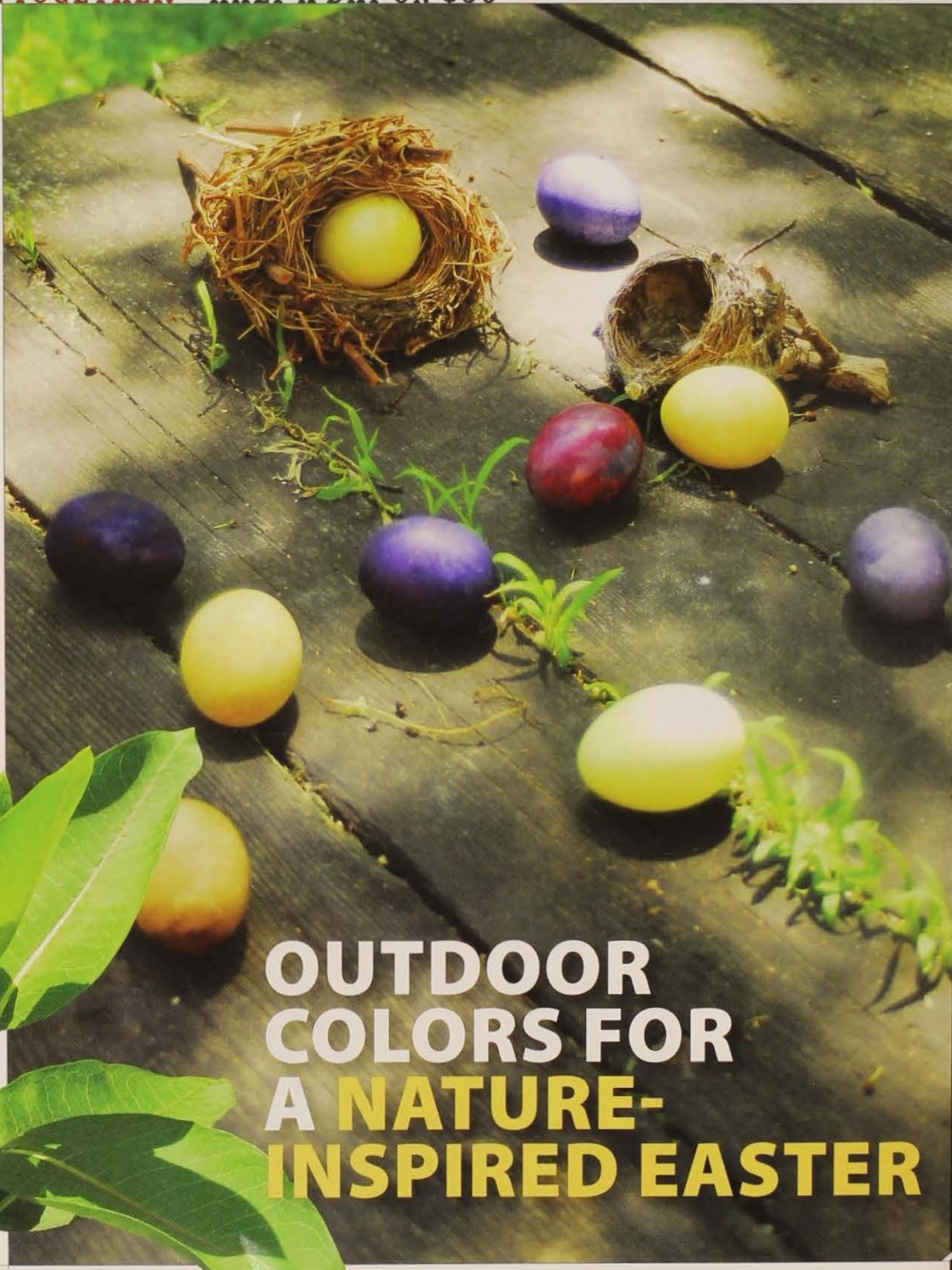
Make a tube shape with quarter-inch wire mesh and attach to wooden disks or use scrap wood and wood screws to build a square holder and affix mesh with hardware staples. A mesh onion bag stuffed with nest material works, too.

Place outside by late April or early May for early nesting birds.





**TOGETHER** ~ HALF A DAY ON \$50



**OUTDOOR  
COLORS FOR  
A NATURE-  
INSPIRED EASTER**



**C**reate super intense Easter eggs that outshine those made with store-bought dyes with these foraged, natural dyes.

Our Sept./Oct. 2007 issue detailed how to gather leaves, nuts, flowers and berries for do-it-yourself dyes. For those that ventured into the woods and fields, get ready to thaw your dyes to color your own eggs.

Larry Reis, a Winneshiek County naturalist is locally renowned for his beautiful hand-made dyes. After steeping black cherry, elderberry and wild grapes, cottonwood leaves and wild sunflower petals, he brews up a riot of colors and places the pigment-loaded tinctures in freezer bags for storage until Easter.



*Reis shares his spring secrets for neat and clean egg dying.*

- 1) Place freezer bags with frozen dyes into a hot water bath.
- 2) When thawed, add a tablespoon of vinegar for each 2-3 cups of dye. The acids in vinegar help open eggshell pores to allow better dye penetration.
- 3) Fill a cooking pot one-third full with water. On a stovetop, bring the pot to a simmer. Place bags of dye in pot.
- 4) To minimize cleanup, place hard-boiled eggs directly in sealable freezer bags to prevent dye from staining pots.
- 5) Experiment with dyeing times. "Elderberry dye produces a steel gray egg with a short steep," says Reis. Wild grape's purple dye needs just a quick dunk for a light red, or steep longer for brick reds. Sunflower petal dye yields pale yellows with a quick dunk, or longer soaks for super-saturated, intense yellows. The browns from walnut, hickory and butternut yield rich color with longer soaking times. "Have fun and play around with the coloring times," says Reis.



After Easter, reuse shells by emptying egg matter and cutting shell in half. Fill half shell with soil and plant a wildflower or garden seed inside. The brilliantly colored little planters can be partially crushed to prevent root balling just before planting, then placed directly in the ground. The shell provides nutrients to the soil to nurture the young plant.

Don't eat the eggs. The natural dyes aren't sterile and walnuts picked from the forest floor may be contaminated with animal droppings, says Reis. "I don't know that it's bad, it's just a general safety precaution," he says.

### GET INVOLVED

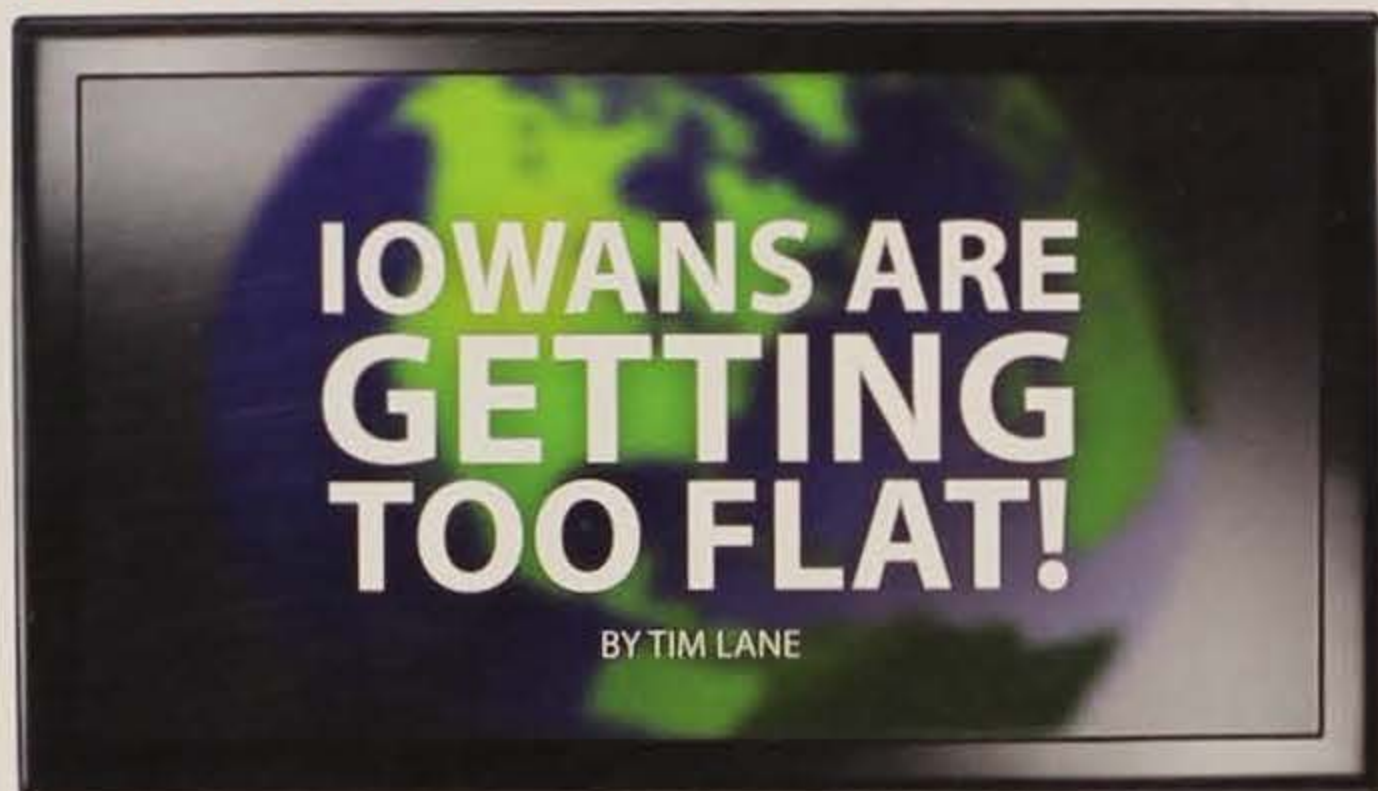
Bring your own hard boiled eggs and attend the annual egg coloring festival with naturalist Larry Reis and the Winneshiek County Conservation Board. **FREE**—March 20, 4:00 p.m. Park headquarters, Lake Meyer. 2546 Lake Meyer Rd, Fort Atkinson, IA 52144. 563-534-7145



See our September/October 2007 issue for steps to forage leaves and berries to brew your own dyes.

Order a back issue for \$3.50 by calling 515-281-5918.





Flat-screen TVs use five times more power than the older sets they are replacing. In recognition of that situation I propose a new word for the English language ... progdegeneration. I know it is a cumbersome word... but so is the condition of progress that comes at such a degenerating cost to our environment. My guess is it will take at least one new coal burning energy plant just to cover the switch from regular to new TVs.

They *are* amazing. I have watched shows just to see how well the images come through. But they also remind me of the observations of Marshall McLuhan on the medium and the message.

In 1964 McLuhan realized that all extensions of technology are accompanied by what he referred to as "amputations" that would modify our culture. In 1967, *The Medium is the Massage* (there was a misprint in the book's cover) suggested that the media of our time will shape the way humans think, act, and ultimately perceive the world around them. In 2008 I would add that our media also shapes *us*...period.

These new TVs provide a more enticing lure to our couch, consume more energy, impact our environment and contribute to what I believe is the issue of the decade... the obvious and hidden costs of inactivity.

The most distressing item I read last year was health care spending continues to rise at the fastest rate in history. In 2005 (the most current data available as I write this), our total national health expenditures rose 6.9 percent—two times the rate of inflation to a total of \$2 TRILLION, or \$6,700 per person. This figure represents 16 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and is expected to reach \$4 TRILLION in 2015.

These trillions, no matter if paid by the federal government, companies or by individuals, is a tax, a tax that could reach \$13,000 per person per year by 2015. I suggest a revolt! This revolt will be directed against the enemy, the same enemy identified by Pogo... Us. (For you younger readers, Pogo was a cartoon possum created by Walt Kelly. One of his most famous lines, "We Have Met The Enemy and He Is Us," was lifted from the comic pages and used on a poster for Earth Day in 1970.)

I am also willing to put my money where my mouth is. I am announcing the Lane Triathlon. (Move over Hy-Vee.) In this competition participants are required to swim in an Iowa lake, bike on an Iowa trail and hike through a state park. You can do these on the same day...but that isn't necessary. What is necessary is for you to e-mail me and let me know that you are doing your part in this effort. Please share your thoughts on your experience. The winner will be announced in the next issue of *Iowa Outdoors*. In the meantime, if you own one of those new TVs...try watching 1/5 of the amount of television you used to. **(Send entries to [tlane@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:tlane@idph.state.ia.us))**

*Tim Lane is the fitness consultant with the Iowa Department of Public Health. He is also a marathoner, former director of the National Ski Patrol, climber, volleyball coach and cyclist. He has cycled across America once and Iowa 25 times. He's a regular participant in RAGBRAI and developed the Ride Right safety program. Tim also helped design and promotes Lighten Up Iowa.*

## But Why?

Helping adults answer children's nature questions

BY A. JAY WINTER

*A. Jay Winter educates up to 20,000 Iowa children each year as the DNR's training specialist at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center.*

### Is it OK to look in a bird nest?

- MEGAN, Age 6

This time of year is very busy outdoors. Birds are in the process of building and rebuilding nests, sitting on eggs or taking care of their young. Explain to your child that birds do not nest at the same time. Some start as early as mid-February, such as great horned owls. And some as late as August, such as the American goldfinch.

Children want to help the bird nesting process, which can be a benefit or a fatal problem for the birds. Have your child help by providing structures for eastern bluebirds, wood ducks, American kestrels and house wrens, to name a few. Houses should be built ahead of the appropriate nesting season, erected in the correct habitat, maintained to serve the birds and allow the child to enjoy their efforts. This can be a great activity to involve someone new to the outdoors. Watching birds is a popular activity. Make a game by having children observe birds and keep a list. In time you may want to assist them with binoculars and a bird identification book such as *Birds of North America*, *a Golden Field Guide* from St. Martin's Press by Chandler Robbins, Bertel Bruun, and Herbert Zim.

Ensure your child understands that disturbing the nesting process creates problems. Explain that checking nests at inappropriate times, handling chicks or allowing pet access to the area is detrimental. It is OK to observe birds from a distance, whether using binoculars or peering at a nest outside your window. Some birds use the same nest each year, so nests should be left alone for reuse.

Get out this spring and watch the birds near your house. Together, you will be amazed at what you see.





## SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH CLOTH DIAPERS?

BY SHELLY CODNER

A lot of absorbing research can be found regarding the negative environmental impacts of cloth versus disposable diapers. A rash of studies funded by cloth diaper services, disposable diaper manufacturers, government and environmental groups generally agree that the total cost difference associated with using either type is negligible.

On the backside, these groups agree that cloth diapers make up virtually zero percent of the waste stream, whereas their disposable counterparts are responsible for just more than 2 percent, or 18 billion diapers, per year going to the landfill. Regardless, there is one issue where these studies butt heads—which option uses more resources cradle-to-grave.

Disposable diapers undisputedly create more municipal solid waste than cloth and create potential pollution problems (a third of all diapers contain fecal matter and all contain pathogens). In regards to wastewater treatment, runoff at a landfill site is collected and subsequently hauled away for treatment—creating transportation emissions.

Cloth diapers also use their share of resources, such as the energy used in growing cotton, which requires large quantities of irrigated water and pesticides. Laundering uses water, which is discharged and must also be treated.

In addition, the detergents used in this process require energy and resources in their production. Diaper service vehicles also release emissions.

According to archeologist and founder of the Garbage Project, William Rathje, “The decision to bring infants into this chaotic world is a momentous one. Deciding what type of diaper to use is not. Use what fits you best. I guess that the question between cloth and disposable diapers is a wash—you do what you need to do. Train well the ones you bear and watch your discards—you and our world will be OK!”

We certainly didn't intend to dampen the issue but we just can't pin this one down.



### ASK THE EXPERT

BY SARAH SEIDMAN

—Should heartworm treatment be given year round? —Tom in Benton County



**HEARTWORMS**, the parasites that grow in a dog's heart chambers, are spread through mosquito bites. All breeds of dogs are susceptible, and even indoor-only pets can be bitten. Any time a dog is bitten by a mosquito, there is risk of infection.

Once transmitted to the dog, heartworm larvae travel through the bloodstream, taking several months to develop into adults, before lodging in the heart. Adult heartworms live primarily on the right side of the heart and can multiply by the hundreds. It may take months for symptoms to occur, which include coughing, weight loss and listlessness. If untreated, the disease can cause liver damage, kidney problems and congestive heart failure.

To prevent heartworms, veterinarians recommend vaccinating dogs monthly all year long, not just in summer months. In fact, some heartworm medications will not guarantee their results unless administered year round. Because mosquitoes can survive in the warm environment of a home or building, they pose a threat of infection even in the coldest winter months. The disease also takes time to develop, which could occur in “off” months if medication is not given regularly.

Most medications only prevent heartworms rather than treating an existing problem. Veterinarians typically recommend periodic blood testing to be safe.

Bottom line, the best way to take care of your pet is through year-long heartworm prevention.

GOT A QUESTION? Send to: [ASKTHEEXPERTS@DNR.IOWA.GOV](mailto:ASKTHEEXPERTS@DNR.IOWA.GOV)



## TIPS, TRICKS, HOW-TO AND MUST-KNOWS TO ENHANCE YOUR OUTDOOR FUN

### ≡≡≡ **FOR EXTRA SAFETY**



For cold water paddling, even when wearing wet or dry suits and spray skirts, stow a well-planned spring dry bag. Pack a complete set of dry clothes, from socks to hat and skivvies, too. Include a spare wicking layer, warmth layer and outer shell. Toss in waterproof matches, emergency food such as energy bars or thermos of hot soup to endure a brief crisis. Pack an extra bottle of water and a way to summon help such as a cell phone or two-way radio—in its own small drybag. Learn more paddling tips at [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org).

**MINNOW SAVER** ≡≡≡ At \$2 to \$4 a scoop, minnows can be a costly part of any fishing trip. Get the most out of your investment with the help of an inexpensive, readily-accessible household rubber band. Cut small squares from a wider rubber band (3 to 5 millimeters). Hook the minnow, and slide a square over the hook tip, just past the barb. The rubber band will keep the minnow in place during casting, and will help make your presentation weedless. Keep extra squares in your tackle box.



### ≡≡≡ **PROTECT IT WITH PVC**

Nothing spoils a fishing trip faster than a broken rod. Protect expensive gear with a homemade rod tube for a fraction of store bought prices. Cut a PVC pipe (4- to 6-inch diameter, schedule 40 PVC works well) to desired length. End caps add about 1 inch to the length, so measure pipe to longest rod. Gather PVC primer and cement, closed endcap, open female-threaded endcap and male threaded end plug. Pre-assemble pieces to determine PVC contact points. Prime those areas only—outside the tube and inside the fittings. Apply the same areas with cement, keeping in mind the glue dries very quickly (don't prime or glue female or male endcaps where they attach.) Install fittings, twisting to ensure even cement coverage. Allow one hour to dry before using. For added carrying convenience, attach metal handle with cement or screws.



## INVESTING IN CONSERVATION

**MATT McQUILLEN, ANAMOSA**

**Pheasant hunter puts up own money to protect natural areas**

Matt McQuillen has a knack for looking at a cornfield and seeing prairie grasses blowing in the wind and pheasants flushing across the field. And he has a talent for making it happen. As part of Pheasants Forever's Twin Rivers Chapter in Jones County, McQuillen helped turn 69 acres of cropland into the Scotch Grove Prairie. He helped purchase and restore the 200-acre Hale Wildlife Area, planting trees, cultivating prairies and stocking fish ponds. And when the DNR lacked funds for a 138-acre parcel nestled up to the Muskrat Slough Wildlife Area, he offered \$250,000 of his own money to protect it. "Land like that may only come up for sale once in a generation," says McQuillen. "Projects like this are not possible without a large group effort and the support of the community." With his chapter and partners, he led fundraising efforts to repay his investment and allow the DNR to purchase the land. The chapter dug in, planting 18 acres of trees, creating a seven-acre wetland and restoring 110 acres of prairie, improving pheasant habitat and water quality. "Putting conservation on the ground in Iowa can be a daunting process," says Dale Garner, head of DNR Wildlife. "Matt and the chapter's efforts have created a lasting legacy." For his work, McQuillen won a Governor's Environmental Excellence Award and Pheasants Forever named him one of its Top 25 Pioneering Volunteers. His chapter was recognized as Field & Stream's 2007 Chapter of the Year and as the 2003 Outstanding Pheasant Forever Chapter by the DNR.



## GIVING A GARDEN FLIGHT

**JUDY POOLER, BELLEVUE**

**Volunteer puts Bellevue on the map with butterfly garden**

Much like the caterpillars it attracts, Judy Pooler's butterfly garden has helped transform Bellevue. In 1985, the Bellevue State Park volunteer saw a pond area perfect for another love, gardening. A book from a friend offered the idea of a butterfly garden, and Pooler saw an opportunity to breathe new life into a town that had fallen on tough economic times. "By putting the garden in a park, it would belong to everyone," Pooler says. "I just had the feeling that what we were doing was right." After a year researching butterflies and perfect plant species, Pooler recruited about 100 volunteer families to plant and maintain the one-acre garden. "I was asking friends, neighbors, walking up to people in the grocery store. Only two people turned me down," she says. Now, 22 years later, many of those volunteers still work their 5-foot by 7-foot plots, although more volunteers are needed. They're making sure that the dill, parsley, cosmos, zinnias and purple coneflowers thrive. Kids learn about butterfly life cycles and tag monarchs to monitor migrations. They learn about nectar plants that attract butterflies and host plants for caterpillars. Tour buses, photographers and visitors from all over come to view the 60-some species of butterflies that fly through. "When people think of Bellevue, they think of the butterfly garden," says Shannon Petersen, park manager. "She's given Bellevue State Park an identity. It's made this park a destination."

## GOING BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

**JIM AND JODY KERNS, EDGEWOOD**

**Family makes improvements to Volga riverbank for students, kids**

Jim and Jody Kerns' belief in conservation education is as deeply rooted as the trees that protect the banks along their Volga River haven. For almost 10 years, their 22 acres in Clayton County, with prairie, pasture and timber, have served as a living classroom and conservation showcase. Conservation is also key at the Kernses' farm 10 miles south. "This property was a perfect learning tool for kids," says Jody. "We feel if we have the good fortune to have this land entrusted to us, we have the responsibility to do good by the land." The classroom took shape when Jim and Jody began planting trees to strengthen a quickly eroding riverbank. They worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create an open demonstration site, the DNR to spread the word and the high school to get kids involved. "The Kernses provide a real world example of practices that protect our natural resources," says Jeff Tisl, who works with DNR watershed projects in northeast Iowa. "There have been numerous plantings along the Volga and Turkey rivers because of what people saw on the Kernses' place." The land is not just for show. When a powerful 1999 flood wiped out a town three miles north and another to the south, the Kernses' riverbank held steady. Students record improvements in water quality and watch aquatic life and wildlife thrive. Education extends to the six Kerns children, for whom working on conservation projects is less of a chore and more of a bonding opportunity. "It's fun to build this legacy for our children with them," says Jody.





# Nature's Spring Trifecta

Spring in southeast Iowa fills the belly and the senses.



ABOVE & 4) At Shimek State Forest, elm trees are felled or girdled to help meet sunlight needs of young oaks. Those dead elms are heaven for mushroom hunters. Elm-studded pine stands make for easy morel picking among pine needles, too. RIGHT: 1) Picnic area in Lick Creek Unit overlooks the meandering creek and pine and hardwood forest. 2) Rue anemone frequents dry, open woodlands. 3) Zadie Wilson, 2, of Des Moines, enjoys Shagbark Lake in Shimek's Donnellson Unit where an east shore mile-long trail is a popular quiet escape along this electric motor only lake. A nearby primitive hike-in campsite offers solitude to backpackers.





**I**t's springtime in Van Buren County. And that means three things:

Turkey, fish and morels.

Each year, this trifecta of outdoor pleasures transforms a tranquil, sparsely populated corner of the state into a giddy bunch of nature bunnies. Should you choose to join them, we're guessing you're going to dig into the earth with similar relish. But while you'll come to southeast Iowa to fill your dinner table, you'll stay for the peace within shady cathedrals of forested hills.

Think of the region in gradual stair steps toward civilization. Shimek State Forest, 9,000 acres of worn-out farm ground coaxed back to wildness in the 1930s. Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, 1,653 nicely groomed acres bordering a horseshoe bend of the Des Moines River, with cabins, 19 ancient burial mounds, a 30-acre lake and a Mormon Trail river crossing.

Further into settled territory, the Villages of Van Buren stoke the local economy with gift shops, small restaurants and antique stores.

"There's a peaceful way of life in Van Buren County

you don't find in other places," says Betty Printy, who runs a pottery shop in Bentonsport. "I had a big plate of mushrooms for dinner last night. Summer is coming—we can eat off the land again. It's a fine time for a visit."

#### STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

May apples and bluebells dapple the green shag floor of Shimek State Forest. But area forester John Byrd isn't looking for flowers. He's hunting around the base of a dead elm tree for mushrooms that look more like brains-on-a-stick than dinner.

"As far as beauty goes, this place'll knock your socks off," he says, rooting around the forest floor. He's slow and deliberate, the kind of big, thoughtful guy you'd want to show up if you called the volunteer fire department.

Byrd has good reason to be proud of this massive contiguous forest that he and his staff tend using controlled burns, plus selective, shelter-wood and clear-cut harvesting where wildfire once did the housekeeping. You'll most likely be alone on its 25 miles of hiking trails and 27 miles of horse and multipurpose trails. Four



## LOST IN IOWA



primitive campgrounds provide shelter during nights alive with primal sound. Four lakes are stocked with bass, bluegill and channel cat (electric motors only). Morning or dusk, a hike past Shagbark or Black Oak rewards you with a perfect shoreline mirror.

"Shimek is a lot less civilized compared to state parks," says Byrd. He saw an albino turkey foraging in a campsite not long ago.

Just seven decades ago, this was tired farm ground until Bohumil Shimek helped establish a state forest divided into five separate units—Keosauqua, Donnellson, Farmington, Croton and Lick Creek. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps began planting the oak-hickory woods patched in with red, white and jack pines that lend an air of magic to the place.

Incidentally, pine groves are nice places to look for dead elms, as the thick cover suppresses sun-loving trees. When searching for 'shrooms, Byrd says, "The tree's roots are as wide as it is tall, so walk around some."

He plucks a few morels, holding up a thumb-sized treat, soon to be fried in butter over a campfire. A hunter

walks by, interested.

Byrd smiles and keeps picking. Word on this spot is out now. "Tomorrow, this place'll be crawling with mushroom hunters."

The word is apparently already out nearby, at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, among Iowa's oldest, where mushroom hunters pick over the forest floor, poking the ground with walking sticks.

In fact, a few of the campsites back to elm trees that have been known to harbor a few morels.

But you didn't hear that from us.

### TESTOSTERONE AND TURKEY

When DNR biologist Kevin Andersen heads to the public hunting grounds of Shimek, he's got an odd job if he wants to bag a turkey.

He's going to seduce a promiscuous male into hitting on him (females can't be harvested).

"In the spring, a male gobbler is just a showboat," says Andersen, who looks a lot like Tom Arnold, but is even funnier. "They puff up. They strut. They want to attract





6



7



8

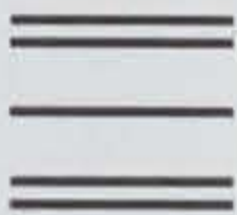


9

1) Outdoorsman Kevin Anderson of Fairfield enjoys turkey hunting in Shimek State Forest where spring explodes with mushrooms and turkeys amidst white, purple and yellow wildflowers. 2-4) Bentonsport's old river bridge now holds a walking trail. The Des Moines River Valley history is varied—from floods to Mormon crossings at Lacey Keosauqua State Park and historic settlements dating to 1839. 5) Equestrian trails in Shimek Forest range from easy to difficult with steep slopes. Riders can protect the forest by staying on trails. 6) Six family cabins are for rent at Lacey Keosauqua State Park along with shady campsites. 7) Sam Wilson, 5, of Des Moines, enjoys primitive family camping at White Oak campground in Shimek Forest. "If you love the outdoors and want to hear some strange nature sounds at night, that's the place to go," says forester John Byrd. 8) Built in 1836, Meek's Grist Mill in Bonaparte burnt down in 1841 and was rebuilt in 1878. It houses the popular Bonaparte Retreat Restaurant with great eagle watching. 9) Hiking trails at Lacey Keosauqua S.P. wind among valleys, burial mounds and cliffs along the river.

# IOWA OUTDOORS

PO Box 8462  
Red Oak, IA 51591-1462



same noise this guy is making right now."

It strikes a person that shooting a lecherous male turkey wouldn't be all that difficult.

A bobwhite quail calls in the distance, and the woods begin to awaken. Canada geese. A warbler. A cacophony of bird chatter.

Andersen used to hunt by "running and gunning," but he says that with the gobblers' testosterone jacked up since March, they've already pinpointed the decoys and the same results come from sitting here.

And what's better than listening to morning sounds, watching stars dissipate to dusty glimmers in a periwinkle sky? Because even as the gobblers fade away—there won't be shots fired this morning—there's more to this than the hunt.

"Taking a life is a serious thing," says Andersen. "I always like to say a little prayer when it's over, whether I've got something or not. God gave us these critters to hang out with, and it's an amazing opportunity."

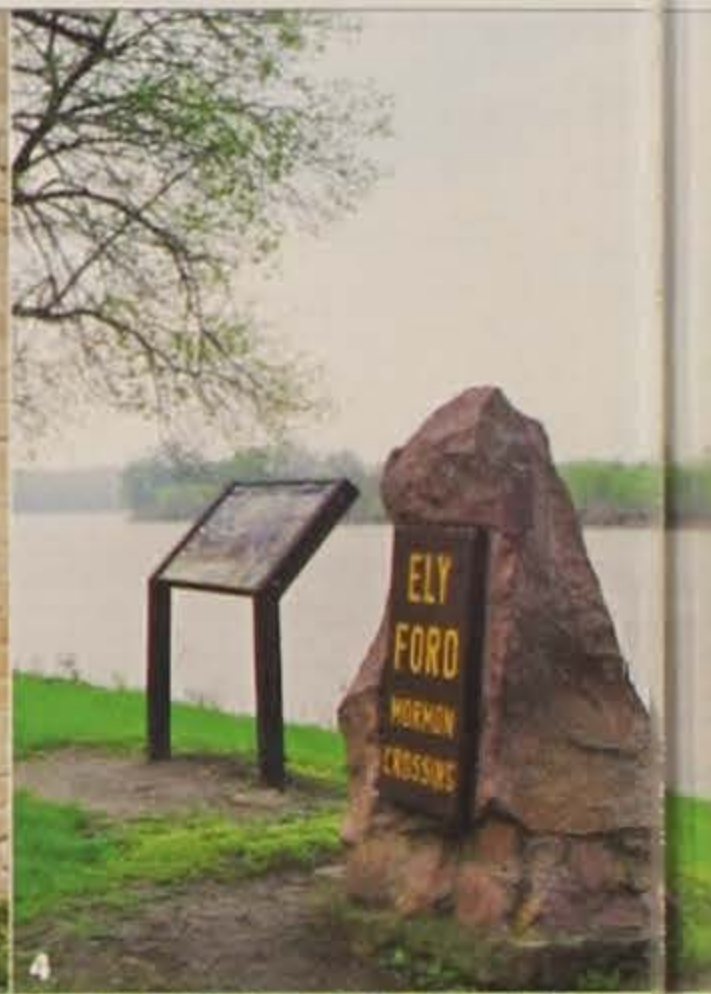
## FISHES AND DISHES

On a hike through Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, the Des

place  
postage  
here



# LOST IN IOWA



primitive campgrounds provide shelter during nights alive with primal sound. Four lakes are stocked with bass, bluegill and channel cat (electric motors only). Morning or dusk, a hike past Shagbark or Black Oak rewards you with a perfect shoreline mirror.

"Shimek is a lot less civilized compared to state parks," says Byrd. He saw an albino turkey foraging in a campsite not long ago.

Just seven decades ago, this was tired farm ground until Bohumil Shimek helped establish a state forest divided into five separate units—Keosauqua, Donnellson, Farmington, Croton and Lick Creek. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps began planting the oak-hickory woods patched in with red, white and jack pines that lend an air of magic to the place.

Incidentally, pine groves are nice places to look for dead elms, as the thick cover suppresses sun-loving trees. When searching for 'shrooms, Byrd says, "The tree's roots are as wide as it is tall, so walk around some."

He plucks a few morels, holding up a thumb-sized treat, soon to be fried in butter over a campfire. A hunter

**SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!**

2 YEARS, ONLY \$18  
 1 YEAR, ONLY \$12

**25% off!**  
 TWO YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

BILL ME LATER  CHECK ENCLOSED  
 OR CALL **1-800-361-8072** TODAY TO SUBSCRIBE  
*please allow 6 - 8 weeks for delivery*

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS / APT.

CITY / STATE / ZIP

6/12

J07AC



**IOWA'S BEST  
 OUTDOOR  
 MAGAZINE**





6



7



8



9

1) Outdoorsman Kevin Anderson of Fairfield enjoys turkey hunting in Shimek State Forest where spring explodes with mushrooms and turkeys amidst white, purple and yellow wildflowers. 2-4) Bentonsport's old river bridge now holds a walking trail. The Des Moines River Valley history is varied—from floods to Mormon crossings at Lacey Keosauqua State Park and historic settlements dating to 1839. 5) Equestrian trails in Shimek Forest range from easy to difficult with steep slopes. Riders can protect the forest by staying on trails. 6) Six family cabins are for rent at Lacey Keosauqua State Park along with shady campsites. 7) Sam Wilson, 5, of Des Moines, enjoys primitive family camping at White Oak campground in Shimek Forest. "If you love the outdoors and want to hear some strange nature sounds at night, that's the place to go," says forester John Byrd. 8) Built in 1836, Meek's Grist Mill in Bonaparte burnt down in 1841 and was rebuilt in 1878. It houses the popular Bonaparte Retreat Restaurant with great eagle watching. 9) Hiking trails at Lacey Keosauqua S.P. wind among valleys, burial mounds and cliffs along the river.

as many girls as they can."

Andersen has been turkey hunting for decades, and he's got a box full of goofy-sounding turkey calls to prove it. This morning, he imitates the cry of the barred owl—which has a bad habit of stealing young poults. He lets loose a loud "Oo OO! Oo OO!" into the cool morning air. With a grin, he holds a hand to his ear. An outraged geffuffle of gobbles fills the air.

Andersen does the owl call a few more times, and then heads toward the noise. He sets up his blind and unfolds his hen decoys like little plastic umbrellas.

"Fortunately, turkeys have a bad sense of smell, or we'd never shoot one," he says, settling into a lawn chair.

Inside the blind feels like Turkey TV, with two decoys out front, and Andersen mouthing a little diaphragm call that erupts with a comical series of yelps, cackles and clucks. If a male gets too close, Andersen will shoot right out the mesh window.

"See, that gobbler is happy with his girls right now, but he's still calling me back," he says. "It's like when you're starving and you drive by a burger joint—you make the

same noise this guy is making right now."

It strikes a person that shooting a lecherous male turkey wouldn't be all that difficult.

A bobwhite quail calls in the distance, and the woods begin to awaken. Canada geese. A warbler. A cacophony of bird chatter.

Andersen used to hunt by "running and gunning," but he says that with the gobblers' testosterone jacked up since March, they've already pinpointed the decoys and the same results come from sitting here.

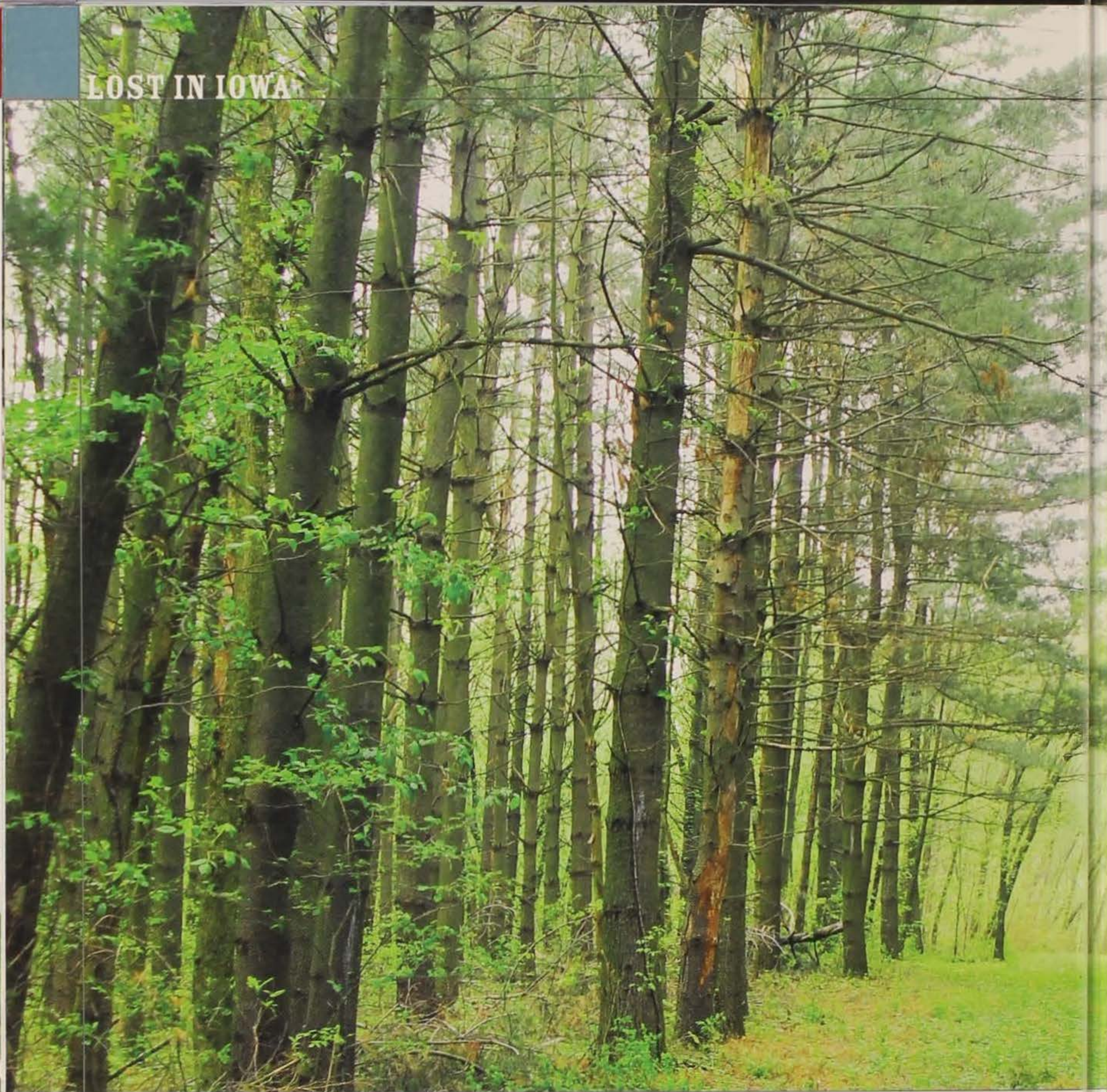
And what's better than listening to morning sounds, watching stars dissipate to dusty glimmers in a periwinkle sky? Because even as the gobbles fade away—there won't be shots fired this morning—there's more to this than the hunt.

"Taking a life is a serious thing," says Andersen. "I always like to say a little prayer when it's over, whether I've got something or not. God gave us these critters to hang out with, and it's an amazing opportunity."

#### FISHES AND DISHES

On a hike through Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, the Des





Moines River is your constant companion. Its muddy expanse is partially to thank for the abundance of birds, ancient Woodland Indian burial mounds and a Mormon Trail crossing at Ely's Ford, where a band of traveling Mormon musicians were invited into Keosauqua for a jam.


Fresh deer tracks pock your hiking path, and you might see a possum, fox or a big ole bullsnake as you wander. A yellow regal fritillary butterfly bumbles and bobs past a little cluster of Dutchman's breeches. You can smell the damp river bottom on a path that turns

occasionally mossy. (There's no one to thank but Mother Nature for all the ticks, which seem to be having a springtime party all their own).

When you're ready for a rest from your walk, fishing a hidden finger of Lake Sugema will do. In spring, the crappies are biting, and the thwup-thwup-thwup of Canadian geese taking wing stills the mind.

Equally restful is a drive through the Villages of Van Buren along scenic County Road J40. Adjacent to the park, Keosauqua is the biggest small town here, and a





Just off Coal Mine Hollow Road, a hiking trail is flanked on the left with dark, smooth-bark white pine and red pine on the right. Planted in the 1930s by CCC workers, the trees remain for their beauty, several of a dozen species from ponderosa to Virginia pine in the forest. Coal Mine Hollow is named for an early 1900s strip mine. "It's a perfect example of how an area will heal with proper land management," says DNR forester John Byrd.

Shimek State Forest

stop at Misty's Malt Shop is tradition. Main Street (or in this case, First Street) pizza and steak joints such as Riverbend and the Louisiana Purchase are popular.

Driving east, bare trees stand out like black veins against weathered hills. The tiny red-brick town of Bentonsport tucks into a curve in the road near an old iron bridge.

This is Betty Printy's town, where she sells her pottery pressed with Queen Anne's Lace at her store Iron & Lace, near an old-time general store and a waterside garden

built from the ruins of a flour mill. Tall, her hair in a bun at her neck, Betty speaks as her wide strong hands sweep the river landscape.

Bentonsport's small local businesses (you won't see chain stores in the Villages) do everything from sell fudge to lodge guests in the Mason House Inn Bed & Breakfast. Betty says this steamboat town once bustled, but when the railroads brought river bridges with them, the steamboats could no longer fit through. "When the train went on west, the people went with it," she says.



## LOST IN IOWA



Betty's blacksmith husband Bill—the “Iron” part of Iron & Lace—chuckles through his white beard. “Horace Greeley said ‘Go west young man,’ and they did,” he says. “Of course, they forgot to come back.”

Betty shakes her head. “But we think our 50 residents here are pretty fine,” she says.

For taking pretty pictures on a spring day, you can't beat the views of this country drive where the fishing, hiking and hunting doesn't get much better. Shops like the Dutchman's Store in Cantril, an old-fashioned general store run by a Mennonite family, draw visitors from miles around. Travelers hit the Bonaparte Retreat in Bonaparte for dinner, where you'll likely not find a better steak.

Lola Hayes rings up customers at Laplanders Junction truck stop, near Lake Sugema, where you can order breakfast items with names like “A Mess” and “Slop.”

“Come to Van Buren County,” she says with a smile. “We have no stoplights, do you know that? We're pretty proud of our little county.” And with good reason.

### TRAVEL NOTES

#### SHIMEK STATE FOREST

Area Forester John Byrd  
319-878-3811  
33653 Route J56  
Farmington, Iowa 52626  
[john.byrd@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:john.byrd@dnr.iowa.gov)

With 55 campsites (one is hike-in on Shagbark Lake), all primitive, some specifically for equestrians.

#### LACEY-KEOSAUQUA STATE PARK

P.O. Box 398  
Keosauqua, IA 52565  
ph. 319-293-3502  
fax 319-293-3329  
[Lacey\\_Keosauqua@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lacey_Keosauqua@dnr.iowa.gov)

Cabins \$50 per night (\$300 weekly) include showers, kitchenette, AC/heat. 113 campsites, some with electrical hook-ups.

### OTHER LODGING

• **HOTEL MANNING**, Keosauqua: T.S. Eliot once lodged in this Gothic-style hotel. Double rooms from \$69 include a full breakfast, or stay next door in the Riverview Inn where you have access to television and river views from \$58. 800-728-2718 or 319-293-3232;

[www.thehotelmanning.com](http://www.thehotelmanning.com)

• **MASON HOUSE INN BED & BREAKFAST**: 319-592-3133 or 800-592-3133; <http://showcase.netins.net/web/bentonsport/>.

### ACTIVITIES

• **VILLAGES OF VAN BUREN COUNTY**: 800-868-7822; [www.800tourvbc.com](http://www.800tourvbc.com)

• **TROUBLESOME CREEK OUTFITTERS**. Canoeing trips and cabins on Lake Sugema. 108 Main St., Keosauqua. 319-759-5818; <http://troublesome-creek.com>.

• Canoeing. Paddlers along the Des Moines River Water Trail can kick off the trip in Ottumwa to the northwest, and spend the night in the Hotel Manning (<http://www.desmoinesriver.org/gazebo/clifvan.html>), a symbol of the town's steamboat era.

### FOOD

• **MISTY'S MALT SHOP**. Keosauqua. 319-293-3815

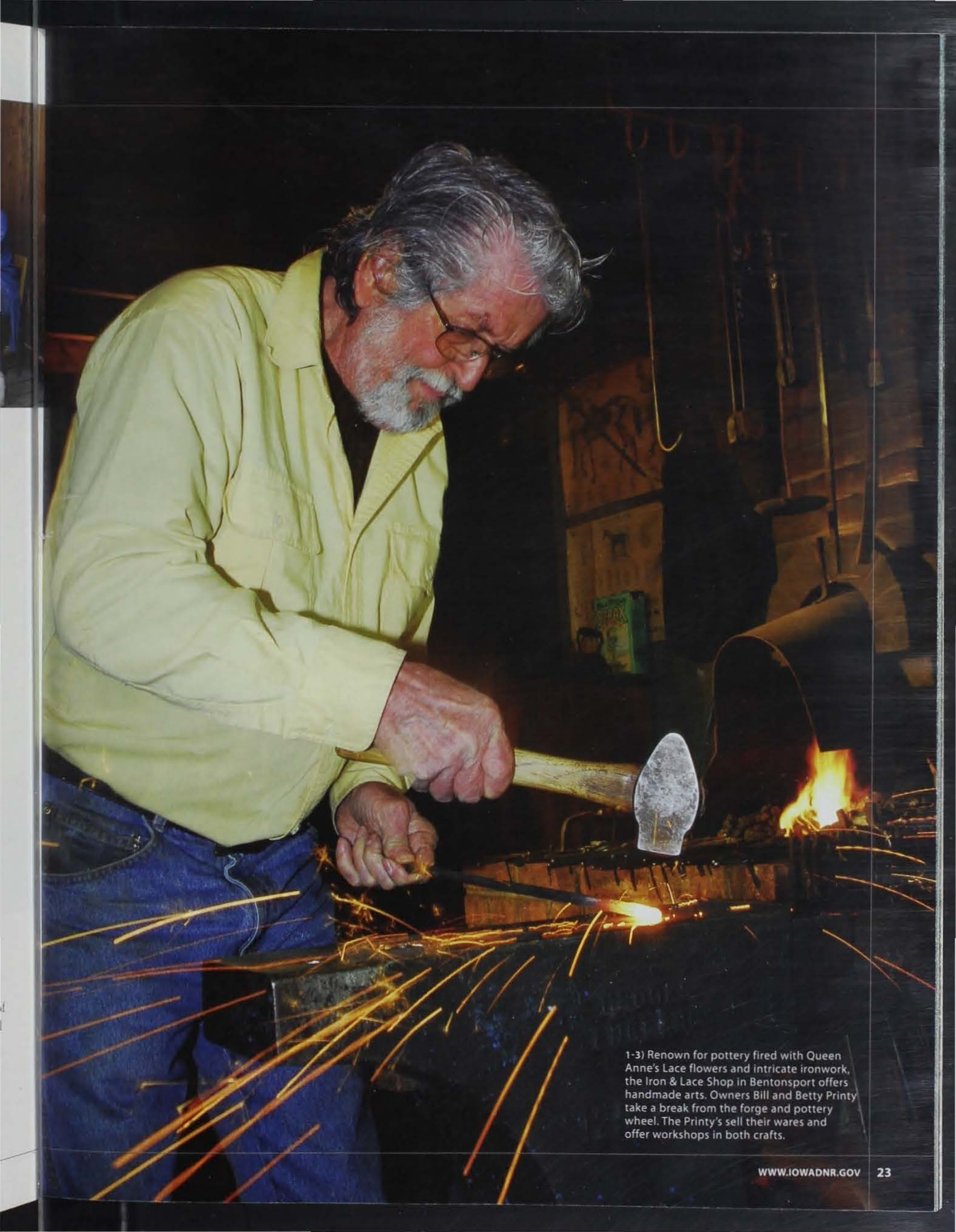
• **THE BONAPARTE RETREAT RESTAURANT**. Bonaparte. 319-592-3339

• **LAPLANDER'S JUNCTION**, Jct. Hwy. 1 & 2, 4 miles south of Keosauqua, located near Lake Sugema. Breakfast served daily. 319-293-6152.

• **RIVERBEND PIZZA & STEAKHOUSE**. Keosauqua. 319-293-9900.


• **LOUISIANA PURCHASE STEAKHOUSE**. Keosauqua. 319-293-3999





1-3) Renown for pottery fired with Queen Anne's Lace flowers and intricate ironwork, the Iron & Lace Shop in Bentonsport offers handmade arts. Owners Bill and Betty Printy take a break from the forge and pottery wheel. The Printy's sell their wares and offer workshops in both crafts.





Reed's canary grass and thick, choking filamentous algae clog this shore section of Lake Icaria in southwest Iowa. Neither species is desirable for fish growth or angling. Biologists are experimenting with various shore and underwater plant species to develop fish-friendly habitat. OPPOSITE: DNR fisheries biologist Darcy Cashatt dips into a wading pool of water clover and sets roots into cups for transport to lakes. The low-growing plant provides habitat for larvae and other invertebrates that attract fish. Biologists hope beneficial plants will replace Reed's canary grass and algae that dominate ponds and lakes.

# PLANTING A NEW IDEA FOR FISHERIES

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOE WILKINSON



**Kneeling over a pungent mass of vegetation floating in a kids' plastic wading pool, Darcy Cashatt untangles a snarl of aquatic plants. Dropping it into a water-filled plastic cup, she turns back for another. In minutes, a dozen cups are filled and set into a cooler. In a few days, they'll be miles away along the shoreline of a southwest Iowa lake. With a little luck—and a lot of research—they'll take root.**

Water lilies, sweet flag, water willow, water iris. A dozen or more aquatic species are coaxed along in small, controlled nursery areas. Fisheries biologists want to establish stocks to transplant to larger lakes. The resulting beds of desirable lake vegetation will become beneficial habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. In the end, anglers will embrace it, too.

"For instance, water willow and sweet flag, like most lake vegetation, promote a good invertebrate population," explains Cashatt, DNR fisheries research biologist based at Cold Springs. "There are going to be some larval species on them. Those invertebrates become a food source for fish and wildlife species. With something like Reed's canarygrass, which we often find along lake shorelines, grows close together, excluding other plants. There just isn't a lot of fish or wildlife value."

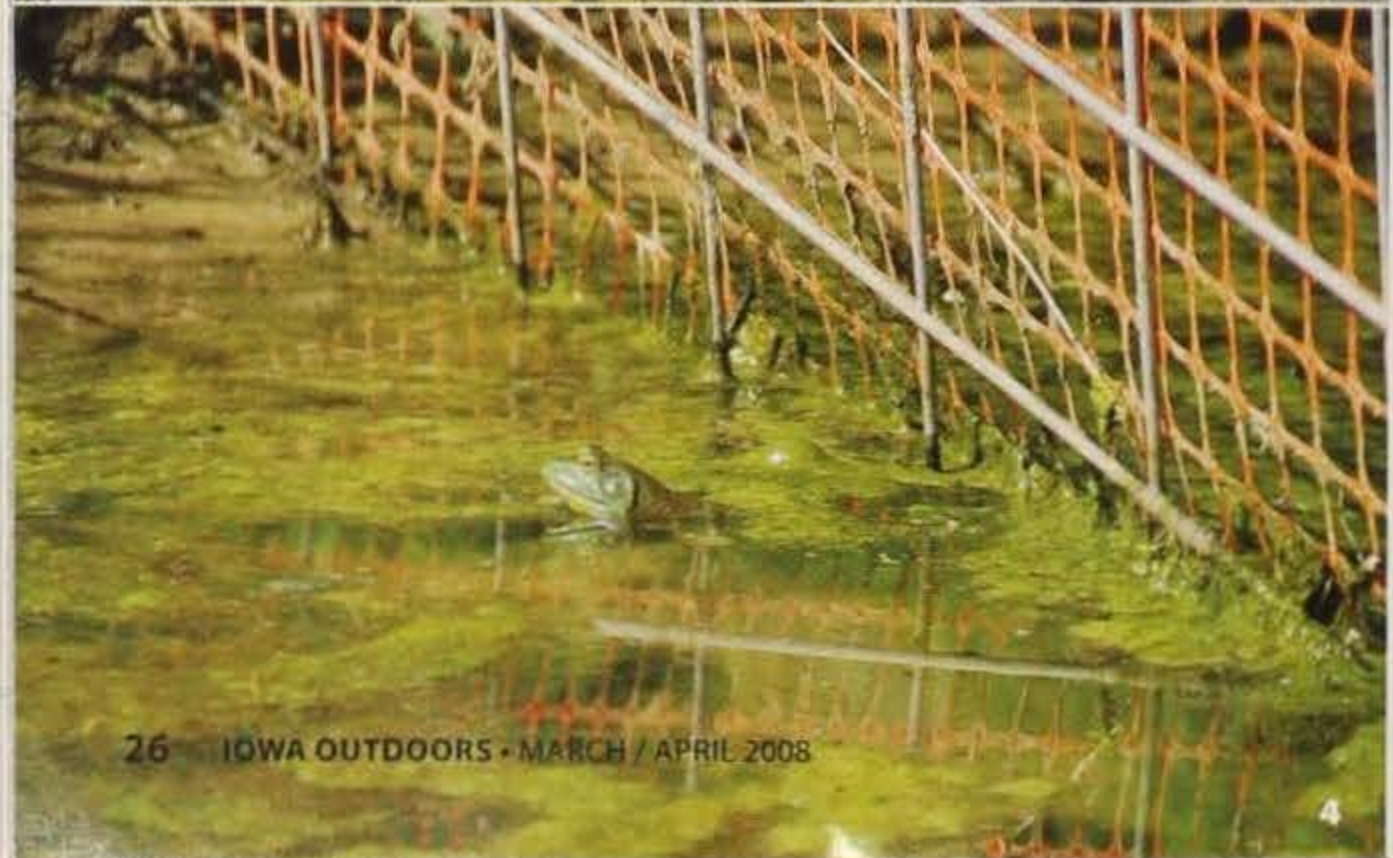
Other underwater plants, such as large-leafed pondweed and wild celery, encourage growth of insect life. Small fish, even game fish, feed on the zooplankton and insects. Just as importantly, good vegetation reduces muddy water created by the feeding habits of carp, that stir up sediment. That cloudy water hides small carp from predators such as bluegill and largemouth bass, allowing carp to survive in larger numbers.

Carp—specifically grass carp—were a catalyst for the plant stocking effort. A few decades ago, grass carp were touted as the best way to manage weed-clogged lakes and ponds. They ate vegetation and cleared away matted, plant-choked surfaces and subsurfaces. That eliminated the annual expense of knocking back vegetation with herbicides. But grass carp were too good at their job. "It was thought that grass carp would live five to seven years," says Bruce, but they live 20-plus years.

They ate all that time, too, denuding shorelines and deeper areas of plants. Ideally, grass carp would leave







30 percent of the vegetation intact.

Those hungry grass eaters led to cloudy, turbid water and algae blooms. Without shoreline vegetation and roots to hold soil at water's edge like a living riprap, runoff increased. Emergent vegetation—plants with roots and some stem underwater—also hold down sediment already in the lake or pond. Cattails, arrowhead, sweet flag and water willow fall in this category.

### PLANTS FOR BETTER FISHING

"The clay washing into most of our lakes carries a negative charge," explains Cashatt. "Organic acids, which form from plant decay, carry a positive charge. The two attract and bond, helping the clay to settle out sooner, making the water clearer." That partly explains why lakes or ponds with little vegetation remain cloudy for days after a rainfall, while one with plants clears sooner.

"We want to know which plant species we can introduce that will benefit fish, but also be angler friendly," stresses Cashatt. "If the shallow end of a lake is taken over by water lotus, that tends to be a barrier to anglers. Tall plants—or those that float in a mass or grow so close together that your bait or lure get tangled—are not angler friendly."

Cashatt says low growing shoreline plants, or underwater plants with space between their stems or which don't reach the surface are angler friendly, too. "It's a tough balancing act. Too much of anything can be a nuisance," she says. "In any case, we'd like to see lakes with a number of plant species, a diverse environment will benefit both fish and all resource users."

### FROM POOLS TO LAKES

From the kiddie pool, the project grows in scale as Cashatt pushes off from shore on Cold Springs Lake in Cass County. Several fence enclosures across the 16-acre lake show where desirable species were planted, secured to the lake bottom to take root and spread through the water column. A couple square enclosures are void of good vegetation. The lake bottom inside is bare. Only filamentous algae floats within. There are no appreciable numbers of insects or small fish.

One, though, holds promise. Horned pondweed grows alongside water willow out from shore to 2 or 3 feet of depth. Looking straight down from the boat, a school of small fish hovers. Two 4-inch crawdads back-shuffle across the bottom. Floating motionlessly atop a mat of algae is a bullfrog. Each is here for the food—small invertebrates attached to stems or leaves and insects attracted to the setting. In turn, larger fish—bluegill or largemouth bass feed on the smaller species.

Across the lake, in a small circular enclosure, sweet flag rises 2 feet out of the water, although the shore side is open where muskrats or geese fed on the plants. The healthy plants a couple of feet from shore, though, demonstrate they can grow there.

Later, on a June day, the experiment goes full scale on the banks of Lake Icaria as DNR fisheries technician Lewis Bruce and seasonal worker Tony Morse kneel over



a 15-foot section of biodegradable mesh netting. Dipping into a cooler, they pull out sprigs of water willow and drape them every few inches along the mesh. Finished, they roll it tight into a giant, aquatic "burrito" and lash it shut with plastic zip ties.

Hoisting it on board, they set out for a shady bay on the southwest corner of the 665-acre impoundment. Finding a good spot, Bruce, Morse and Icaria park ranger Travis Paul from the Adams County Conservation Board work the mesh burrito in place, just off the shore in 2 to 3 inches of water. Securing the mesh underwater with rocks, the small plants will send out root-like rhizomes, anchoring themselves to the shallow bottom. Over time, those rhizomes spread through the lake bottom to create a stand of good vegetation.

### THE REBIRTH OF LAKE ICARIA

Icaria is a good candidate for new plants. A popular fishing and boating spot in southwest Iowa, the lake was renovated in 2004, due to overpopulations of yellow bass and carp and the resulting loss of vegetation, game fish and increased turbidity and shoreline damage. After water levels were dropped by 16 feet and refilled, crews tried to reestablish desirable shoreline plants to push back Reed's canarygrass and Sago pondweed crowding the shallows.

With the water burrito secured, Bruce pulls out his handheld global positioning system unit and points the boat a few dozen yards away. An earlier planting should be close by. "We are in 4 feet of depth right here," declares Bruce. "We should be right over it on this point." He scans the waterline to shore, but sees no emerging heads of the good stuff.

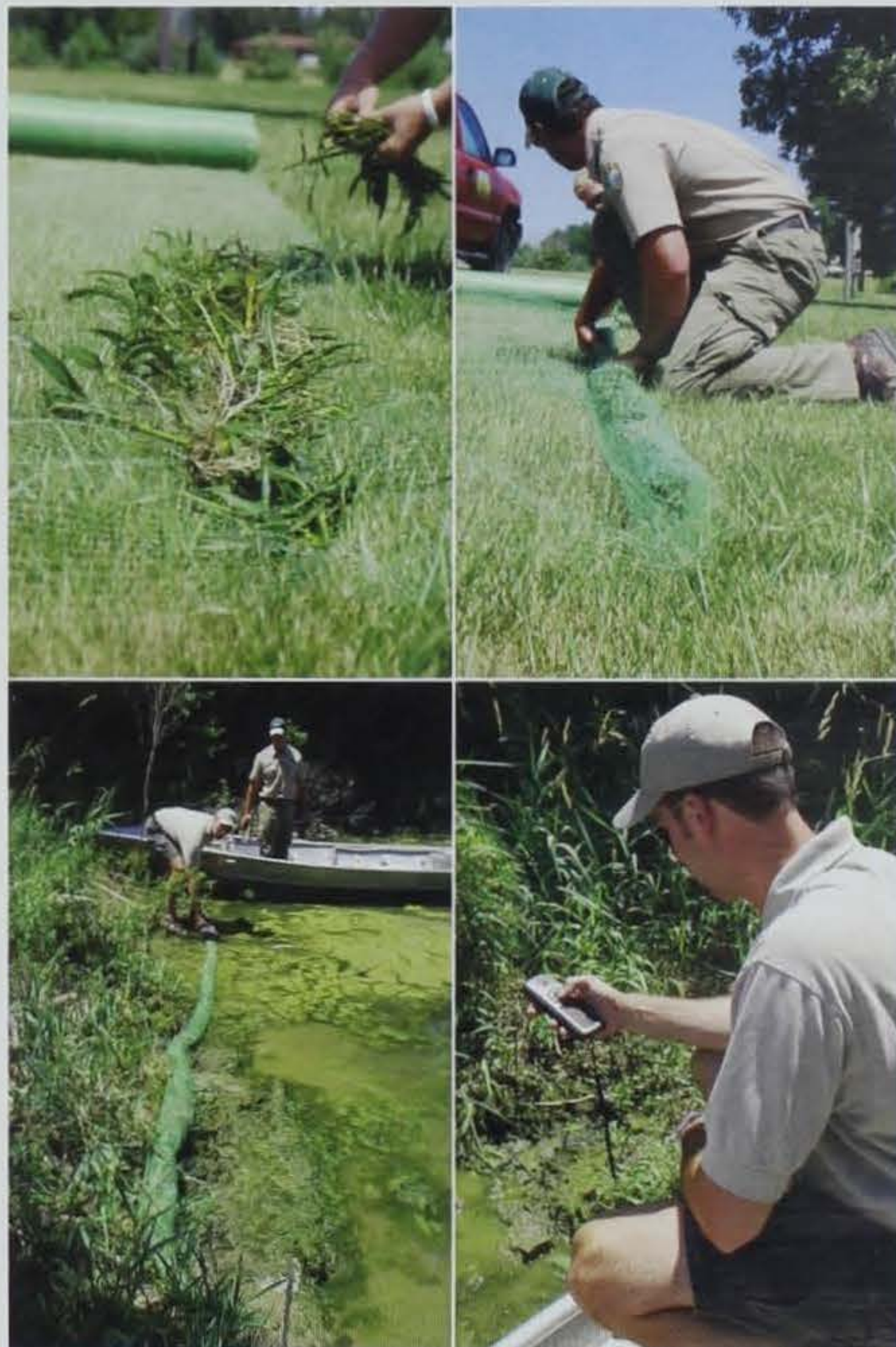
Several other GPS-guided forays come up empty-handed. Late on the tour, though, a single stem turns heads. Zeroing in, they identify a straight line of emergent water willow, anchored down in a burrito the year before. Though they would like to see more, it is encouraging just the same. The "burrito method" did work. Other lines of plants are found at a few more GPS-guided locations too. Before leaving, Bruce and Morse hand plug a couple dozen strands of water willow into a shallow bay.

Returning to Icaria in September, the news is encouraging. That missing stand of water willow is discovered in 4-foot depths. "As an emergent vegetative plant, water willow will grow out that deep, if you physically plant it," explained Bruce. "It does better, though, at the shoreline, barely 'getting its feet wet.' But it was there; the telltale straight line of water willow rising to the surface." On the upper end of the lake, though, the hand-planted water willow was nowhere to be found. Chewed off by muskrats? Perhaps, or it might be that the burrito treatment is more effective than hand planting.

Back at Cold Springs, too, came good news and bad news. "We planted water willow last year, in two locations. One is growing well, though not spreading," recounts Bruce. The other washed up on shore and died. "We planted two more this year. One is still growing. The other was rolled up and

**LEFT:** 1) A strong, healthy stand of water willow is a welcome replacement for algae-choked shallows. This stand, on a Missouri lake, provides cover for small fish as well as good invertebrate populations for food. Missouri began a lake vegetation study, similar to Iowa's, several years ago which shows good results. 2) Looking for food and cover, small fish swim around horned pondweed at Cold Springs in Cass County. 3) Sweet flag grows in an enclosure at Cold Springs. 4) On a mat of filamentous algae, a bullfrog waits for a meal.

**BELOW:** Sprigs of water willow are placed onto netting, and rolled into a "water burrito" by Lake Icaria park ranger Travis Paul (green hat) and DNR fisheries worker Tony Morse. Rolled-up plants are boated to a shady bay and set into place by technician Lewis Bruce, and held in place with rocks. If successful, the transplants will send out rhizomes to take root and overtake non-desirable species that choke shorelines. With GPS unit in hand, Bruce finds water willow plantings from the previous year—not always easy with variations in lake levels.







apparently pulled out of the water."

Cashatt and Lewis will look at other ways to grow water willow, given the mixed success. Water burritos work better on smaller lakes. Maybe the wave action affects them, observes Cashatt. "If they were in the right place, they did well." Still, they realize they are early into the transplant phase of the study, which began in 2006.

Introduced buds of white water lilies from Lake Ahquabi are doing very well. "We planted the buds in plastic cups filled with dirt. Then they went into the wading pool," says Bruce. "After a sizable root mass develops, we transplant them in the lake." A transplant of pink water lilies also grows, though less vigorously. Even growth rates provide clues. "Perhaps that species spreads more slowly," offers Bruce. "It might be better suited for a smaller lake than the white lily." Cashatt notes that other lakes farther south in Iowa show good success with plantings of both pink and white water lily.

Biologists know which aquatic vegetation gives the best bang for their research buck. However, it's not as simple as pulling it out of one lake to plunk into another. "The water clover in the lake here started doing way too well," recalls Cashatt, at Cold Springs. "We determined that it was a European variety. We removed it. We don't want a variety that could become an invasive species in a larger lake."

A number of Iowa lakes have solid stands of desirable aquatic plants. The catch, though, is to transplant "nuisance free" vegetation. "There is one place I would go for water willow," declares Cashatt. "Others might harbor brittle niad seeds or fragments from curlyleaf."


That one place is Missouri, where fisheries researchers are a few years further along in the transplant program and in isolating good stands of vegetation. Iowa would like to do likewise. "We are planting nursery areas (in Iowa) now; spots that are free of invasive species. We hope to develop transplant stocks," says Cashatt.

Southern Iowa is dotted with constructed lakes that provide community water supplies and boating and fishing. As relatively new lakes, they lack the plant variety that Iowa's natural lakes developed over thousands of years. As a result, fast growing species overcrowd desirable vegetation. Several lakes have been "drawn down" or will be in coming years, for renovation. As those lakes are drawn down and shorelines exposed, the prospect of a fresh start for good lake plants looms large.

"Overall, things are looking good. We have learned," assures Cashatt. For instance, she points to early spring plantings usually carried out during clear water conditions. Coming back at midsummer, though, the water is cloudy, making it difficult to pick out species like wild celery growing below the surface.

With two growing seasons behind them, they remain encouraged. "With good growth in those nursery areas, we can stock significant public lakes. As they are renovated, we want diverse plant assemblage," underscores Cashatt. "We want to introduce species that compete for growth. At the same time, they will provide better fishing, too." 🐟





“We want to introduce species that compete for growth with overabundant plants that are barriers to angling and recreation.”

A model for Iowa lakes, nuisance aquatic plants were removed from this Missouri pond which flourishes with cattails and pink water lilies. Iowa researchers are studying growth rates of pink and white lilies to see which are best suited for smaller lakes. OPPOSITE: 1) Mats of curly leaf pondweed inhibit fishing and boating. 2) Dr. Joe Morris of Iowa State University harvests water willow in Missouri, where researchers are several years into aquatic plant restocking. Iowa biologists are collaborating with Missouri staff to establish nursery stocks of aquatic vegetation for use in Iowa. 3) These angler-friendly water lilies create good habitat for small fish and bass. 4) Spike rush harbors insects and offers protection for little fish and holds shoreline soils, too.



# GET READY FOR POLE-BENDING ACTION

BY MICK KLEMESRUD PHOTOS BY ERIC ENGBRETSON

## Spring Fishing Forecast 2008 How and Where to Hook 'em

### CRAPPIES

**HOW TO:** Fish crappies during spawn from late April through early June. Fish southern and small, shallow lakes in April and May; northern lakes and large, deep lakes mid-May to early June. Use a small jig with or without a minnow. Spawning crappies are accessible to shore anglers.

*Big Creek* will be hot this spring with lots of 9- to 10-inch fish. *Roberts Creek* and nearby *Lake Red Rock* are home to 14- and 16-inch fish, respectively. In spring, fish around rock or trees near shore. Find fish in warm, shallow upper bays. *Prairie Rose Lake* has gobs of 8-inch crappies. "Everybody can catch fish at *Prairie Rose* in the spring," said Chris Larson, southwest Iowa fisheries supervisor. Use red and white tube jigs on a 1/64-ounce or 1/32-ounce leadhead along rocks. *Lake Icaria*, *Three Fires*, *Binder* and *Old Corning*

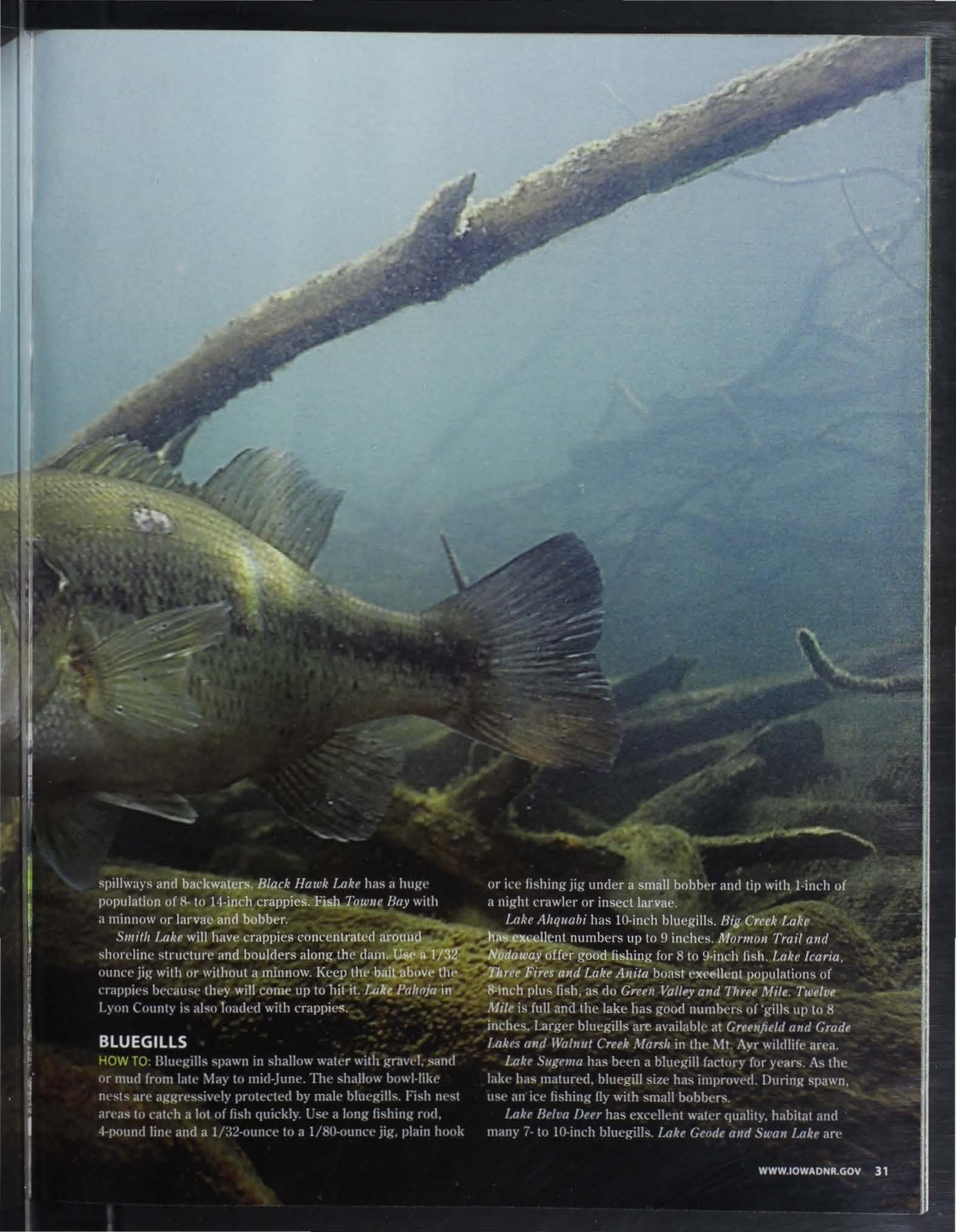
*Reservoir* in Adams and Taylor counties, all renovated in 2004, have loads of 9- to 11-inch crappies. *Wilson* and *Windmill lakes* in Taylor County had excellent crappie fishing in 2007 and will repeat this year.

*Lake Rathbun* does not have huge numbers but does have 11- to 14-inch crappies. "The first part of June can just be electric," said Steve Waters, southeast Iowa fisheries supervisor. Use minnows, jig and minnows or just jigs. Fish coves in *Honey Creek*, *Buck Creek*, *Ham Creek* and above the bridge, out of wind and wave action. If fish are finicky, use a smaller jig.

*Diamond Lake* has loads of 8- to 10-1/2-inch crappies. Fish shallow brush and jetties with small jigs. With good water quality, the lake should remain clear after spring rains.

On the *Mississippi River*, fish below lock and dams in





spillways and backwaters. *Black Hawk Lake* has a huge population of 8- to 14-inch crappies. Fish *Towne Bay* with a minnow or larvae and bobber.

*Smith Lake* will have crappies concentrated around shoreline structure and boulders along the dam. Use a 1/32 ounce jig with or without a minnow. Keep the bait above the crappies because they will come up to hit it. *Lake Pahoja* in Lyon County is also loaded with crappies.

## BLUEGILLS

**HOW TO:** Bluegills spawn in shallow water with gravel, sand or mud from late May to mid-June. The shallow bowl-like nests are aggressively protected by male bluegills. Fish nest areas to catch a lot of fish quickly. Use a long fishing rod, 4-pound line and a 1/32-ounce to a 1/80-ounce jig, plain hook

or ice fishing jig under a small bobber and tip with 1-inch of a night crawler or insect larvae.

*Lake Ahquabi* has 10-inch bluegills. *Big Creek Lake* has excellent numbers up to 9 inches. *Mormon Trail* and *Nodaway* offer good fishing for 8 to 9-inch fish. *Lake Icaria*, *Three Fires* and *Lake Anita* boast excellent populations of 8-inch plus fish, as do *Green Valley* and *Three Mile*. *Twelve Mile* is full and the lake has good numbers of 'gills up to 8 inches. Larger bluegills are available at *Greenfield* and *Grade Lakes* and *Walnut Creek Marsh* in the Mt. Ayr wildlife area.

*Lake Sugema* has been a bluegill factory for years. As the lake has matured, bluegill size has improved. During spawn, use an ice fishing fly with small bobbers.

*Lake Belva Deer* has excellent water quality, habitat and many 7- to 10-inch bluegills. *Lake Geode* and *Swan Lake* are



loaded with 7 to 9-inch bluegills. Fish the lower end of *Geode* along the high banks pre-spawn or post-spawn. An ice jig tipped with a wax worm works well. Swan Lake is kid-friendly with excellent shoreline access.

The *Mississippi River* has excellent bluegill fishing. In Pool 9, fish *Black Hawk Bottoms*; in Pool 10, fish *Bagleys and Jays Lake*; in Pool 11, fish *Sunfish and Bertom lakes*.

Bluegill fishing will be excellent at *Briggs Woods*. Fish over sand or gravel bottoms with a 1/32 ounce or 1/64 ounce black jig tipped with a wax worm, wiggler or other insect larvae. *Hannan Lake* is good, too.

*West Okoboji Lake and Spirit Lake* are excellent for bluegill. After ice out, fish in Anglers Bay or at the *North Grade at Spirit*, then move to the weeds or rock piles as the weather warms. At West Okoboji, fish the canals early in May, then move to *Little Millers and Little Emerson bays* in June.

## LARGEMOUTH BASS

*Big Creek, Rock Creek, Don Williams and Saylorville* all boast largemouth bass weighing over 5 pounds. *Lake Anita* is loaded with 15- to 20-inch bass and lots of structure to fish. *Ahquabi, Three Fires, Icaria and Twelve Mile* will all be good. *Green Valley, Three Mile, West Lake Osceola and Badger Creek* have mature populations of larger bass.

March is when lunkers are caught as fish are feeding after ice-out and larger females are aggressively feeding to prepare to spawn. For cold water, use slower moving crankbaits and a slow retrieve. As water warms, fish top-water baits in the morning and evening and spinner baits during the day. Bass will be active near shore during May and early June either feeding or spawning and shore fishing will be good.

*Lake Miami* is the best bass fishery in southeast Iowa, with 16- to 20-inch fish common. Spring fishing is best. The lake is full and the fishery has improved since the DNR lowered the water level a few years ago. The addition of retention ponds around the lake has improved water quality. Use whatever bass lures you are comfortable with—spinner baits, crankbaits in warmer water, jig-n-pig or rubber worms.

*Lake Macbride* has the hard-fighting Kentucky spotted bass in addition to the largemouth. Rocky habitat favors the Kentucky, while the rest of the lake favors the largemouth. Fish points, woody and rock structure. Kentucky bass are smaller than largemouth, but put up an excellent fight.

*Lake Wapello* has a huge population of 11- to 14-inch bass, with lunkers, too. Use traditional bass lures and fish reefs, pallets and rock structure. Newer silt structures have improved water quality. *Lake Hendricks* in Howard County has nice sized fish.

In *Mississippi River Pool 10*, several years of good vegetation at *Bussey Lake* created a good bass and bluegill fishery. In *Pool 11*, fish the deepened shoreline at the boat ramp in *Mud Lake*.

*Brushy Creek* has 7 pound bass, excellent habitat and good water quality. Cast spinners and plastics around trees.

*West Okoboji Lake* has excellent fishing in the canals early in the year because the water warms more quickly. Use worms, spinners and shallow running crankbaits.

## SMALLMOUTH BASS

The *Wapsipinicon River* in Buchanan and Black Hawk counties and the *Maquoketa* from Delaware to Jones counties have good smallmouth bass populations and good shore fishing access. The "Turkey Foot" area of the *Cedar, Shell Rock and the West Fork of the Cedar* has excellent fishing. Use inline spinners for clear water and leeches or minnows for cloudy water. Smallmouth will bite all day long.

The *Mississippi River* has good fishing in current around rocky points, riprap and rocky areas in side channels. Throw crankbaits or spinners. In the Turkey River, the best fishing is from late spring to early summer using small jigs.

The *North Raccoon River* from Sac City downstream has excellent smallmouth up to 3 pounds. Target deep holes with crankbaits. The *Iowa River* is excellent for smallmouth from June to August using Mepps spinners, twisters or a crawdad-colored crankbait in slack water or eddies.

*Spirit Lake* has great smallmouth populations. Fish after ice out. Use a jig and minnow over shallow rock piles on sunny, calm days. As the water warms, fish deep rock piles and switch to live bait rigs with leeches or diving crankbaits.

## WALLEYE

**HOW TO:** In early spring, fish rocks, rocky shorelines or the face of dams. Spring fishing is mostly on a jig or a jig and minnow. After the spawn, add night crawlers and crankbaits. In June, walleyes are often found in 6 to 10 feet of water. June is second only to the spawn as the best time for walleyes.

The *Des Moines and Raccoon rivers* in the spring produce walleyes up to 10 pounds mostly below low-head dams and near gravel bars. In late March and early April, fish move upstream and gather below dams. Use live bait on heavy 1/4-ounce to 3/8-ounce jigs against the current.

*Lake Icaria* is going like gang-busters with excellent fishing for walleyes up to 18 inches. *Twelve Mile* has a growing population of walleyes up to 16 inches and *Three Mile and Little River* each have good numbers of larger fish. *Lake Manawa* has good numbers of large fish and a lot of younger fish. Fish the south shore for large walleyes.

*Rathbun* is an outstanding late spring walleye fishery, loaded with 13- to 15-inch fish and a good number of lunkers. Troll crankbaits around humps and points to produce fish all day. Using night crawlers on a Lindy rig is good, too.

Walleye and sauger fishing below lock and dams 15 through 19 on the Mississippi River begins in late winter using jiggling spoons and vertical jigs tipped with minnow heads, or a floating jig tipped with a minnow or worm.

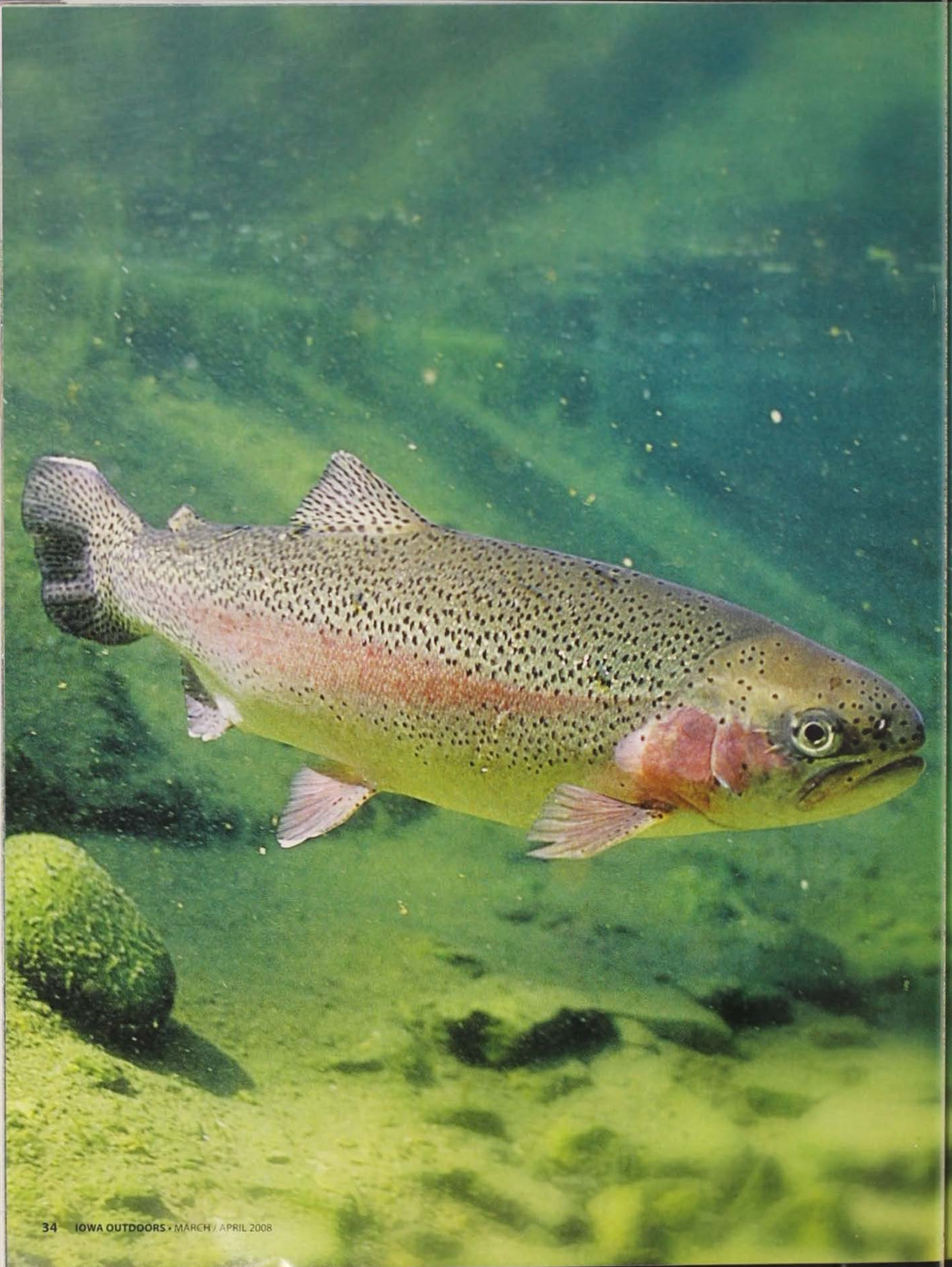
The upper *Mississippi River* has two excellent year classes offering good numbers of 15- to 20-inch walleyes. Fish dams one to two miles downstream all spring. After spawn, fish wing dams and rocks. *Ackerman's Cut and nearby Cassville Slough in Pool 11* is good, target drop-offs in 10 to 25 feet of water. Use a 1/2 to 3/4-ounce vertical jig tipped with a minnow. As the water warms, use a three-way rig with a night crawler.

*Lake Sugema* is a spring walleye fishery. Look for rocky areas. Use a Lindy rig, throw crankbaits off wing dams or











cast a jig and minnow with a slow retrieve.

In the *Cedar River*, in *Mitchell and Floyd counties*, the best fishing is from March until the spring water level rises. Below Nashua are good numbers of 20-inch plus fish. *The Turkey River* is good in deeper holes from El Dorado to Elgin. Use 1/8- to 1/4-ounce jigs, depending upon conditions. Also fish the *West Fork of the Cedar River* in *Black Hawk, Bremer and Butler counties*, and the *Maquoketa River* from *Delaware to Jones County*.

*Storm Lake* will have phenomenal fishing trolling crankbaits or casting jigs in the dredge cut and north shore in May and June. Fishing was hot all summer and fall in 2007. *Spirit Lake* had an excellent walleye harvest and will again in 2008. Fish rocky shorelines and points in May and June. Storm and Spirit have protected slots—any walleye between 17 and 22 inches must be immediately released alive.

Walleye fishing at *Clear Lake* heats up from mid May into June. Drift fish with leeches, night crawlers or minnows in 8 to 14 feet of water, or troll Shad Raps or Wally Divers.

*Silver Lake* (Dickinson Co.) is a consistent producer for 13- to 18-inch walleyes, and larger. April and May is good for wader anglers fishing rocky shores and points with twisters or minnow type crankbaits. Boat anglers can troll the same areas.

## CHANNEL CATFISH

**HOW TO:** After ice out, channel catfish gorge on winter-killed fish. Dead fish are blown to shore, trailed by hungry catfish. Use dead fish—shad, bluegill or chubs—and fish in 5 feet of water or less in bays where wind blows in, for some of the hottest angling of the year.

Iowa waters are loaded with channel catfish and any public lake offers good catfishing.

*Saylorville Lake* has channel cats up to 20 pounds. *Prairie Rose, Lake Manawa and Greenfield* have excellent numbers of big fish. *Green Valley, Three Mile and Little River* all have good fishing.

There are good numbers of 15- to 20-inch, eater-sized fish in *Lake Anita, Lake Icaria, Lake of Three Fires, Binder Reservoir, Twelve Mile Lake, Afton Reservoir, Nine Eagles, Greenfield Lake, Mormon Trail and Lake Nodaway*.

Iowa's rivers are catfish factories and often overlooked. But, anglers may need a little more experience to find fish. *The Des Moines, Raccoon, Cedar and Skunk rivers* have excellent numbers. The Mississippi River will have the best channel cat fishing in Iowa. With great cat numbers up and down river, the best fishing will be in pools 18 and 19. The *East and West Forks of the Des Moines River* have all sizes of catfish. Fish snags, outside bends, below riffles and in deep water with stink baits, chubs and frogs.

*Rathbun and Coralville* are legendary catfish lakes with outstanding fishing.

*Storm Lake* has an excellent population of 2- to 5-pound catfish and fishing is good right after ice out. *Five Island Lake* has excellent channel catfish fishing too.

## FLATHEAD CATFISH

*The Raccoon, Des Moines, Cedar and Skunk rivers* have

good flathead numbers. *The Missouri River*, especially the southern stretch, will be good, including trophy sized fish. *The Mississippi River* has good flathead fishing, especially from May to June, in the lock and dam tailwaters. Patience is the key as well as using live bait, like green sunfish, chubs or bullheads, or a big ball of night crawlers and fish below riffle areas or in pools with big brush piles.

## BULLHEADS

*North Twin, Rice and Silver lakes* (Palo Alto County) have good bullheads. Fish at North Twin reach 14 inches. Use a slip sinker and night crawler on the lake bottom. Fish right after ice out until May on windy shores.

## WHITE BASS AND WIPERS

*Saylorville and Red Rock* have excellent numbers of 16 to 17-inch fish, willing to hit any shad-like spoon. Watch for shad busting the water surface—chances are white bass or wipers are in pursuit. If shad are not jumping, look for humps or structure rising above water as places to hold fish.

*The Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15* will have a banner year for catching 11- to 12-inch white bass. Use any type of minnow-imitating lure in the lock and dam tailwaters.

*Lake Macbride* has many 19-inch wipers and a similar white bass fishery. If shad are not breaking the surface, troll open water with a flashy, shallow running lure, like a Mepps spinner, Kastmaster or crankbait. *Coralville and Lake Rathbun* also have nice white bass populations. Fish humps and points, and use a shallow running lure. If fish drop below the surface, use a diving lure.

*Storm Lake* has 8- to 17-inch white bass, many caught while fishing for walleyes. Cast from jetties or rocky shorelines. East Okoboji has 12- to 18-inch white bass and fishing is best when the spillway is flowing in from *Spirit Lake*. Fish right where it empties into East. Use crankbaits around 2 inches long, or a jig and minnow.

## TROUT

*Bloody Run* has good stream access and supports wild brown trout in the lower end. Recent habitat work holds high densities of wild fish and provides a good return on fingerlings in the county park area. The stream is stocked as well. There are special regulations above the county park on the upper end.

*The North and South Bear, French Creek and Waterloo Creek* has excellent wild brown trout populations. The streams are in the same vicinity and can be fished in a weekend.

*Turtle Creek in Mitchell County* has good access and about one mile of stream in county ownership. It is stocked with catchable sized fish with new bank hides added last year.

*Richmond Springs in Backbone State Park* has excellent access. *Spring Branch at the Manchester Hatchery* has dense numbers of spring-reared browns. Spring Branch has an artificial lure only rule and a 14-inch minimum length limit.

If using a spin casting reel, try a micro jig or small crankbait. If fly fishing, try an elk hair caddis fly, or a bead



head nymph. The best fly fishing is June when insects are emerging and stream levels gently rise. **TIP:** "The best time to catch wild browns is right at sunset because they are much more wary than the hatchery raised fish," says fishery staff.

### MUSKIES

There are numerous 40-inch plus fish in *Three Mile Lake*. Fish along shorelines in spring. The clear water of *Pleasant Creek Lake* is a quality muskie fishery with 40-inch fish.

### DRUM

Drum will provide excellent fishing on the *Mississippi River* from Pools 9 to 15, using a sliding sinker and night crawler in current. Shore fishing is as good as boat fishing.

### FARM PONDS

Get permission, pick up after yourself, and remember to close

gates so others may be granted access. Ponds are excellent spots for bluegills, largemouth bass and, sometimes, crappies. Small ponds warm up quickly in the spring and offer good early fishing.

### NORTHERN PIKE

In early spring, fish backwater vegetation near shore in the *Maquoketa River* and slack water in the *Winnebago River* in *Winnebago, Worth, Hancock and Cerro Gordo counties* with spoons, chubs or artificial lures.

*Little Swan Lake* in Dickinson County is loaded with 4 to 7 pound fish. Use chubs or spoons.

*The announced stocking schedule begins in April and is available at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) or by calling 515-927-5736.*





# FISHING HOLE FINDER

- 1) BIG CREEK
- 2) ROBERTS CREEK
- 3) LAKE RED ROCK
- 4) PRAIRIE ROSE LAKE
- 5) LAKE ICARIA
- 6) LAKE OF THREE FIRES
- 7) BINDER RESERVOIR
- 8) OLD CORNING RESERVOIR
- 9) WILSON LAKE
- 10) WINDMILL LAKE
- 11) LAKE RATHBUN
- 12) DIAMOND LAKE
- 13) LAKE MEYER
- 14) BLACK HAWK LAKE
- 15) SMITH LAKE
- 16) LAKE PAHOJA
- 17) LAKE AQUABI
- 18) MORMON TRAIL
- 19) LAKE NODAWAY
- 20) LAKE ANITA

- 21) GREEN VALLEY LAKE
- 22) THREE MILE LAKE
- 23) TWELVE MILE LAKE
- 24) GREEN FIELD LAKE
- 25) GRADE LAKE
- 26) WALNUT CREEK MARSH
- 27) LAKE SUGEMA
- 28) LAKE BELVA DEER
- 29) LAKE GEODE
- 30) SWAN LAKE
- 31) BRIGGS WOODS
- 32) HANNAN LAKE
- 33) WEST OKOBOJI
- 34) SPIRIT LAKE
- 35) ROCK CREEK
- 36) DON WILLIAMS
- 37) SAYLORVILLE
- 38) WEST LAKE OSCEOLA
- 39) BADGER CREEK
- 40) LAKE MIAMI
- 41) LAKE MACBRIDE
- 42) LAKE WAPELLO
- 43) LAKE HENDRICKS

- 44) BRUSHY CREEK LAKE
- 45) BEEDS LAKE
- 46) LITTLE RIVER
- 47) LAKE MANAWA
- 48) STORM LAKE
- 49) CLEAR LAKE
- 50) SILVER LAKE
- 51) AFTON RESERVOIR
- 52) NINE EAGLES
- 53) CORALVILLE
- 54) NORTH TWIN
- 55) RICE LAKE
- 56) SILVER LAKE
- 57) SILVER LAKE
- 58) EAST OKOBOJI
- 59) LITTLE SWAN LAKE
- 60) PLEASANT CREEK

- RIVERS**
- A) WAPSI—BUCHANAN. & BLACK HAWK CO.  
 B) MAQUOKETA—DELAWARE & JONES CO.  
 C) TURKEY FOOT—WHERE CEDAR, SHELL ROCK AND W. FORK CEDAR MEET

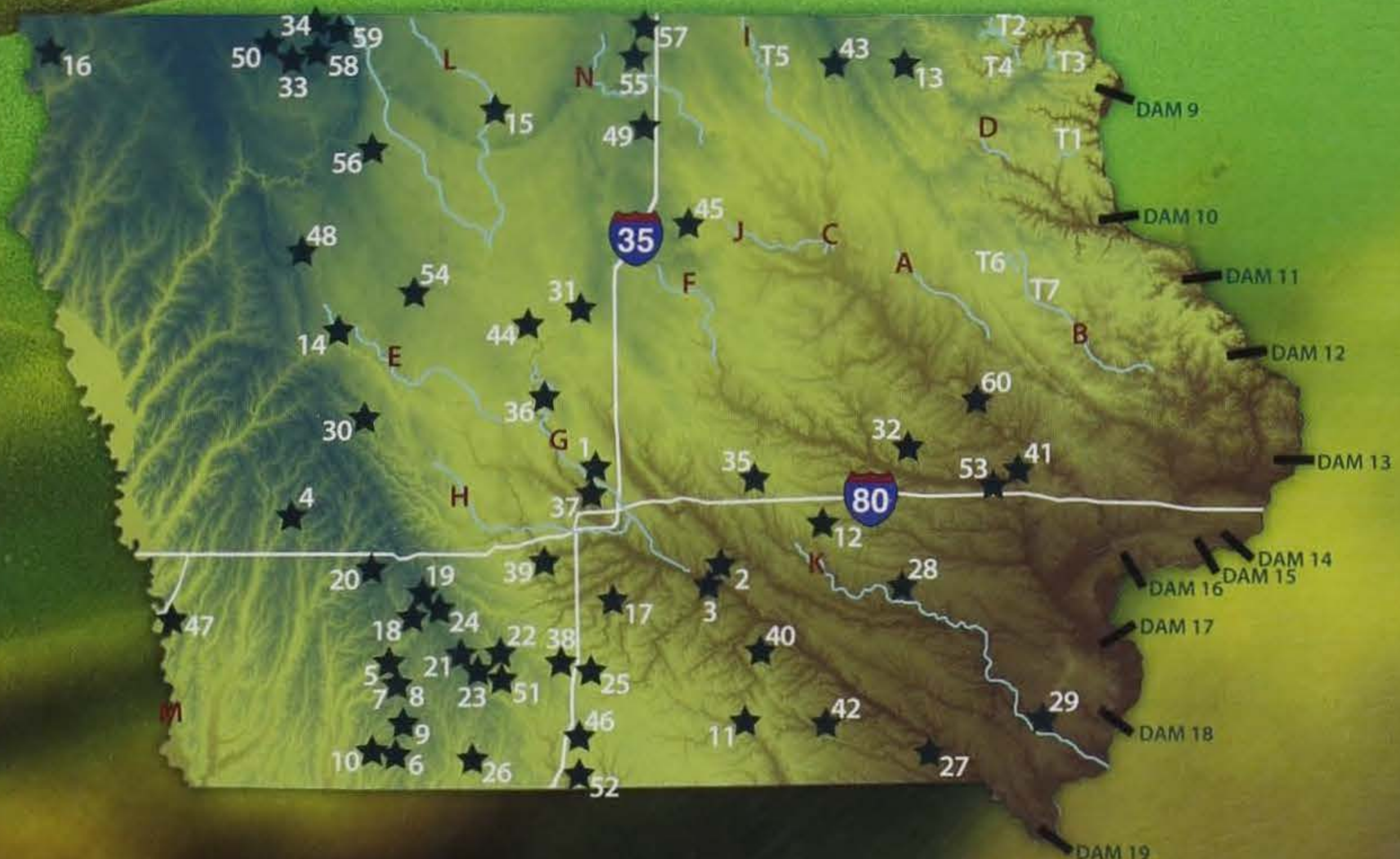
- D) TURKEY RIVER  
 E) N. RACCOON—SAC CO.  
 F) IOWA RIVER—HARDIN CO.  
 G) DES MOINES RIVER  
 H) RACCOON RIVER  
 I) CEDAR - FLOYD & TM  
 J) WEST FORK CEDAR RIVER  
 K) SKUNK  
 L) E. & W. FORK DM  
 M) MISSOURI RIVER  
 N) WINNEBAGO RIVER

- TROUT WATERS**
- T1) BLOODY RUN  
 T2) NORTH & SOUTH BEAR  
 T3) FRENCH CREEK  
 T4) WATERLOO CREEK  
 T5) TURTLE CREEK  
 T6) RICHMOND SPRINGS  
 T7) SPRING BRANCH  
 T8) BIG SPRINGS HATCHERY

- MISSISSIPPI RIVER**  
 LOCK & DAM 9-19  
 POOLS 9, 10, 11



BUY LICENSES ONLINE AT [WWW.IOWADNR.GOV](http://WWW.IOWADNR.GOV)





# TURKEY TALES

*From a kid's perspective to warm the hearts of any parent to a young woman's first hunt, these Turkey Tales will inspire you to hunt, too.*

## Joanna's Turkey

BY JOE WILKINSON

**W**ith her "rookie" turkey hunt under her belt, Joanna Kunkel enters this season with a little more confidence...and a wish list about a mile long. She dropped a 23 ½ pound gobbler last spring, after watching him fan, strut and parade to within 25 yards of her. Some hunters wait for years for such a Technicolor spectacle. Hers came on her first weekend in the turkey woods. "He came out in the clearing. His feathers were all fanned out. He was all puffed up. It looked beautiful," recalls Kunkel, 23, of Solon.

It had been fairly routine up to that point. Kunkel had hunted the Friday morning (second season) opener with boyfriend Seth Bartlett. On Saturday, she and her mom, Connie, had gone out. Sunday morning, Joanna and Seth had seen a couple hens from their blind, east of Solon, but they were done for the day. As Joanna took down the blind, Seth walked out to the truck. He never got there. "He came back and said there were a couple toms strutting in the field just over the hill," recalls Kunkel. "We walked along the fence real slow, crouching, then down on our hands and knees getting closer."

She settled in against a tree and readied her 12-gauge. Seth offered some soft yelps on his mouth call. "They were strutting out in the field, so I built up to some pretty aggressive yelps," remembers Seth. "I saw them coming closer and knew they were committed." He rolled the video camera, as Joanna brought her gun up, targeting the base of the neck of the bigger tom.

A squeeze of the trigger and the gobbler dropped in a heap. "I just started shaking like crazy. I had goose bumps; my eyes started swelling up with tears," admits Joanna. The video shows her standing up, then dropping her hands to her knees to catch herself as she let out a loud sigh. "It was an awesome, awesome experience. Full of joy and excitement."

But that was last year. In '08, she wants to crank it up a notch. "I definitely would like to do the calling myself. I have my Grandpa's old box call. It would be neat to (build) that family tradition. It would be a great experience to be out with my dad, too; kind of a father-daughter moment."

She's also recruiting. "I love sharing the story, especially with my girlfriends. I went back to college after the hunt (she graduated from Central College in Pella last May) and my friends saw my camouflage clothing in the car. They were like, 'Oh my gosh! You hunt?' They thought it was great."

As she waits for the full mount to come back from the taxidermist, Joanna's also making plans. "Just knowing how to sit and where; how to blend in and place the decoys," she says, listing a few tips she picked up in Year One.

"I am definitely looking forward to this season."





Nearly a year later, Joanna Kunkel, of Solon, says the experience of shooting her first turkey is still electric. "I love sharing the story, especially with girlfriends. There are not that many women who hunt turkeys."

**BELOW:** With her tom's tail fanned, Joanna kneels in front of the tree where she shot it in eastern Johnson County. The 23 1/2 pound bird had an 8 1/2 inch beard and spurs measuring 1 1/4 and 1 3/8 inches.





A 10-YEAR OLD RECALLS

# The Day I Shot My First Turkey


BY ANDREW PAULEY



Andrew Pauley, of Honey Creek, shot his first turkey at age seven. Now wiser at age 10, he shares his first turkey tale. His story will have all parents grinning and thinking of their own children. **RIGHT:** Proud father, Pat, and son.







**M**y name is Andrew. I am 10 years old and I am going to tell you a story about my adventure getting my first turkey. I like to go hunting with my dad. It is one of my favorite things to do. When my dad tells me to go to bed early, I know I am going to go hunting in the morning. I get so excited, I can hardly sleep.

One night after supper when I was seven years old, my dad told me to go to bed right now. I knew right away that I had to gather up my hunting stuff for the next morning. Right before I went to bed, my dad checked to see if I had all my hunting things ready. I needed an orange hat, thick boots, two brown long sleeved shirts, a pair of my camouflage pants, my coverall, and a big coat. Sometimes I get really cold sitting and waiting outdoors. I like being warm.

The next morning at 6:30, my dad woke me up and said in a whisper voice, "*Get all your hunting stuff on and meet me upstairs in the kitchen.*" I got dressed fast; my dad was already ready.

"*Are you ready?*" he said.

"*Yes.*"

We got in the Suburban with my gun, my dad, me and a couple other things that we needed. When we got to our hunting place, my dad told me to be quiet. I am always nervous when we go hunting. When you are little, it is fun to see all the animals that come out and walk through the fields or woods.

It was time to go so my dad got quietly out of the car. I did too. He told me to not slam my door. He was going to shut my door for me so I wouldn't scare the animals away. We have to be quiet.

"*Do we have everything?*" he asked.

"*I think so.*"

We walked up a huge dirt hill used for farming. We were almost to our spot. We walked across three corn fields. We were finally there. My dad grabbed the things in my hands like a chair, a pad to sit on and some snacks to munch on. We got into our turkey blind. We sat and sat and sat. My dad pulled out a candy bar and I asked if I could have half of it. He gave me half. I was eating it and it sure was good. I am sure my mom wouldn't let me have a Snickers bar for breakfast.

After a while, dad said in a whisper voice, "*I see something.*" We both thought we saw a turkey behind a big wad of trees about 125 yards away. The turkey walked closer and closer. It stopped and turned around. It walked faster and faster off into the woods. Dad said something must have spooked it. Dad told me to practice looking out to see if I could aim the gun correctly. I tried several times and then put the gun down. We waited and waited. Dad said he thought he saw a head of a turkey just over the hill. We looked through our binoculars and saw one head...then another...then another. There were a whole bunch of them. I am so excited. I can't wait for them to get closer. We watched the group of turkeys and waited but they just wouldn't come over so I could get a shot.

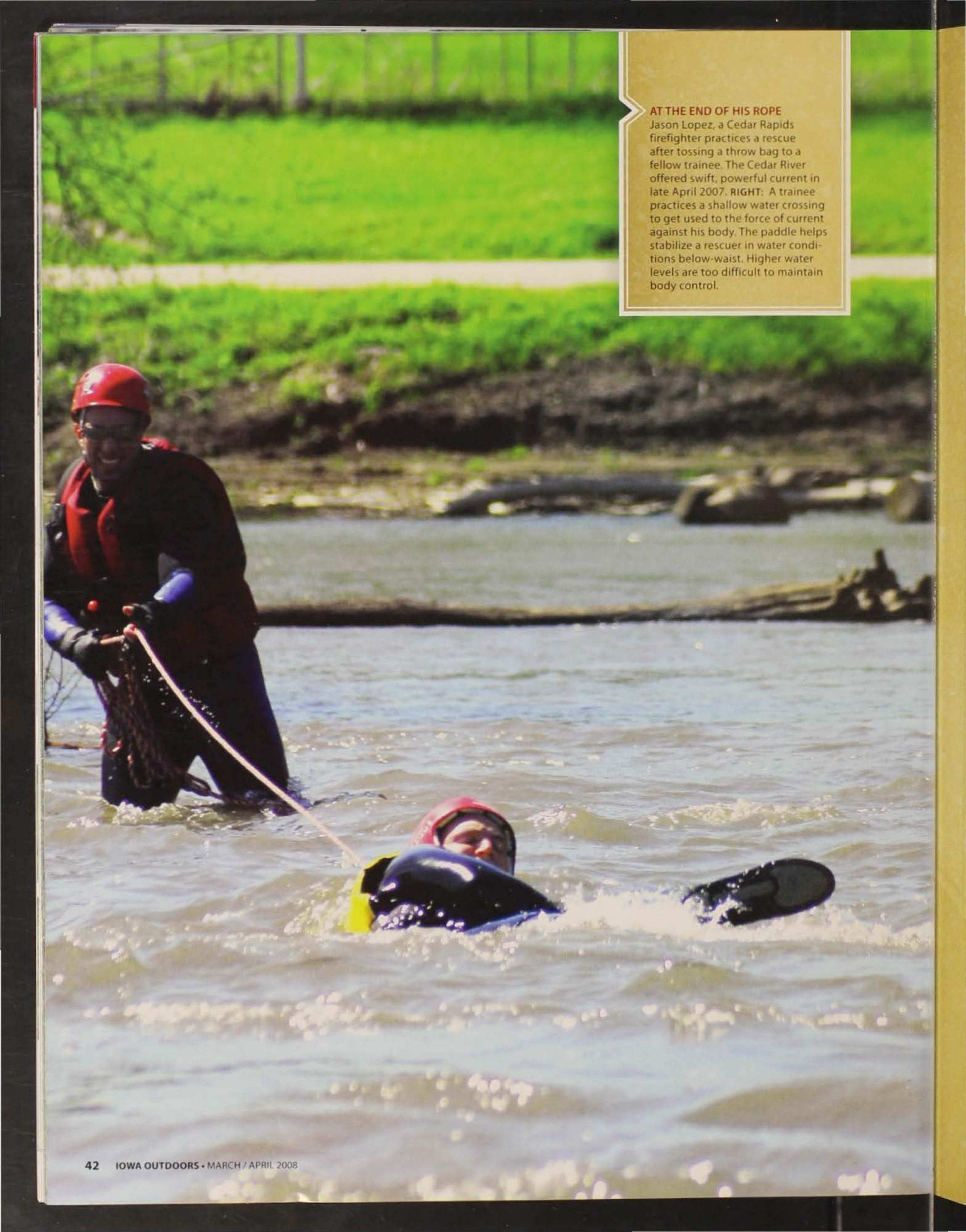
The flock of turkeys finally came over the hill. They were walking away. My dad took something out of a bag. He picked it up and started to make a sound. It was a gobbler box call. He made a turkey hen sound and the flock started to walk towards us. This is my lucky day. Dad told me to get my gun up on a rest. The flock came closer and closer and closer. My gun was ready. The turkeys came closer. They came to a stop about 10 to 15 yards away. Dad took the safety off the gun. The group of turkeys just stood there looking at the decoys. The turkeys were mostly jakes.

In a whisper, dad said, "*When I tell you, you can shoot. OK?*" I was ready. My dad told me I could shoot. A second later, I shot. The gun made a boom and kicked back into my shoulder. I was so excited that it didn't hurt. I hit the turkey. My dad ran out of the blind. The bird stopped kicking. My turkey was dead. "*Yes!*"

Dad was tickled with me. He told me good job and gave me a high five. We called mom, Uncle Danny and grandma and grandpa to tell them. We put the tag on his leg, took pictures and went home and butchered it. I got to pull some feathers to make a quill pen. I kept the 12-inch long beard. It was a great turkey and a great adventure.

I love hunting with my dad even if I don't get to shoot anything. When I do, it's great! And that is my story about me, my dad and my first turkey.





**AT THE END OF HIS ROPE**  
Jason Lopez, a Cedar Rapids firefighter practices a rescue after tossing a throw bag to a fellow trainee. The Cedar River offered swift, powerful current in late April 2007. **RIGHT:** A trainee practices a shallow water crossing to get used to the force of current against his body. The paddle helps stabilize a rescuer in water conditions below-waist. Higher water levels are too difficult to maintain body control.

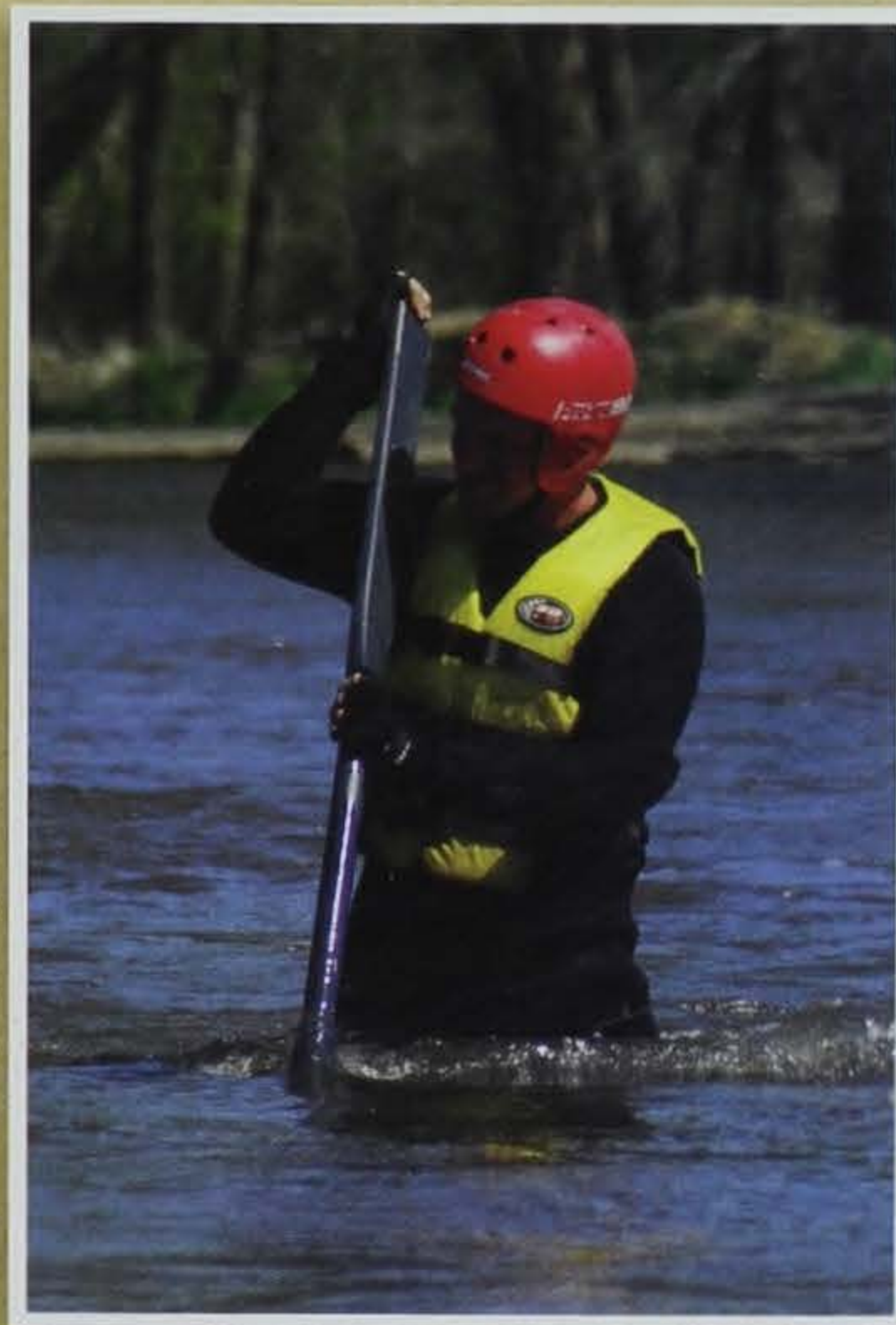


# SWIFTWATER RESCUE

BY JOE WILKINSON PHOTOS BY CLAY SMITH

**M**otoring cautiously upstream, the small inflatable boat pushes through the churning Cedar River. In the bow, Chris Schmid stays low, readying for his throw into the 'boil,' downstream of the dam. "He is simulating a throw to a person inside that boil; trying to get that rope to them so they'll get wrapped up in it and can be pulled out," explains DNR conservation officer and course instructor John Mertz, watching from the command post on shore. "The potential danger would be being pulled into the boil, too," Mertz cautions.

Resembling a giant bobber, the rescue boat edges closer to the rolling water. Schmid heaves a throw bag, arching it into the boil—water that pulls anything in its lethal hold back to the dam. Dead center. From shore, his commander hand signals, "Peel out!" Schmid braces his feet on the boat bottom and locks hands onto the rescue line. A second boat, tethered about 100 feet downstream, guns the motor and turns hard toward shore. "That secondary boat is attached by a rope," points out Mertz. "As he takes off on a 90 degree turn toward shore, it shortens the distance between the boats and pulls the primary boat out away from the dam." The rescue craft and crew were yanked to safety. Mission accomplished.







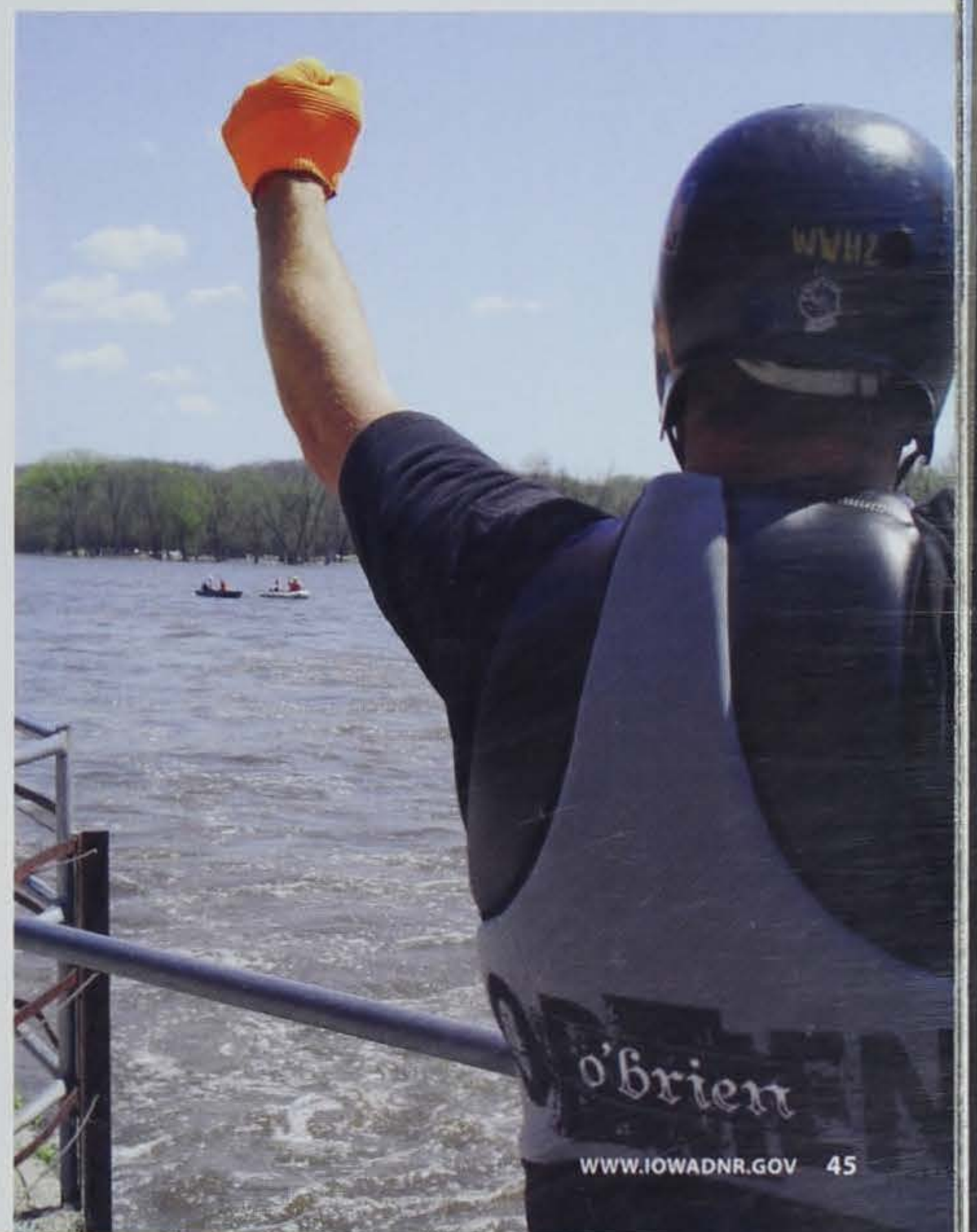
#### IN DEEP WATER

Cedar Rapids firefighter Pete Schmit holds his breath while playing victim as DNR trainer Randy Schnoebelen rolls him upright to demonstrate a victim stabilization technique. A face-down victim with potential spinal injury is rotated over while the neck and spine are held steady, then placed on a backboard. Schnoebelen began on the opposite side before rotating the victim. **BELOW:** Rescuers practice throw bag use. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Below the dam, a hill-shaped boil line of highly aerated water is seen between the students in the red and white helmets. The churning water pulls anything back toward the dam face. **LOWER RIGHT:** An inflatable starts a practice rescue. As the lead boat, it is tethered to a hard-hull boat down river to pull the inflatable out of the boil if needed.

**FAR RIGHT:** In the commander role, trainees practice hand signals to direct rescue craft.











#### FINAL COACHING

DNR swiftwater rescue instructor Randy Schnoebelen goes over final details before a shore-based tag-line rescue. Using ropes tied to a ring buoy and rescuers on both river banks, the buoy can be pulled back and forth to bring a victim to safety. With rescuers on the same shore, they can move a buoy up or down river. "The most overlooked hazard on a river is the current," says Schnoebelen. **RIGHT:** Getting set to haul rescuers across the Cedar River to practice tag-line rescues. The multi-day training uses classrooms, swimming pools, dry land and finally, the river.



No victim to resuscitate on this wild ride, though. It was just training today. Schmid and other firefighters from Cedar Rapids, Muscatine and Lowden were applying what they learned in a four-day swiftwater rescue training program.

And while each training segment is important, this "two-boat tether" operation is most dangerous. A misstep and a rescuer might end up in the water, dangerously close to the boiling mess. The would-be rescuers were reminded repeatedly just how powerful these hydraulic mazes are. And why they are dubbed "killing machines."

Every second, thousands of gallons of water pour over the dam. As it hits bottom, it rolls back to the surface, only to be caught by torrents of water flowing over. These hydraulic properties turn it over and over. A floating object can be trapped in the boil for days. Victims can't swim away. The boil's got you until it decides to spit you out.

As each team finished a two-boat tether rescue attempt, instructors and students reviewed the progress. Actually, Schmid's dead-on throw came on his second attempt. "The first time, we misunderstood the commander and we were too far away and missed the throw," recalls Schmid. "The rope got caught in the propeller. We reorganized, went back up and made a decent throw over the boil. Everything went smooth, like it was supposed to."

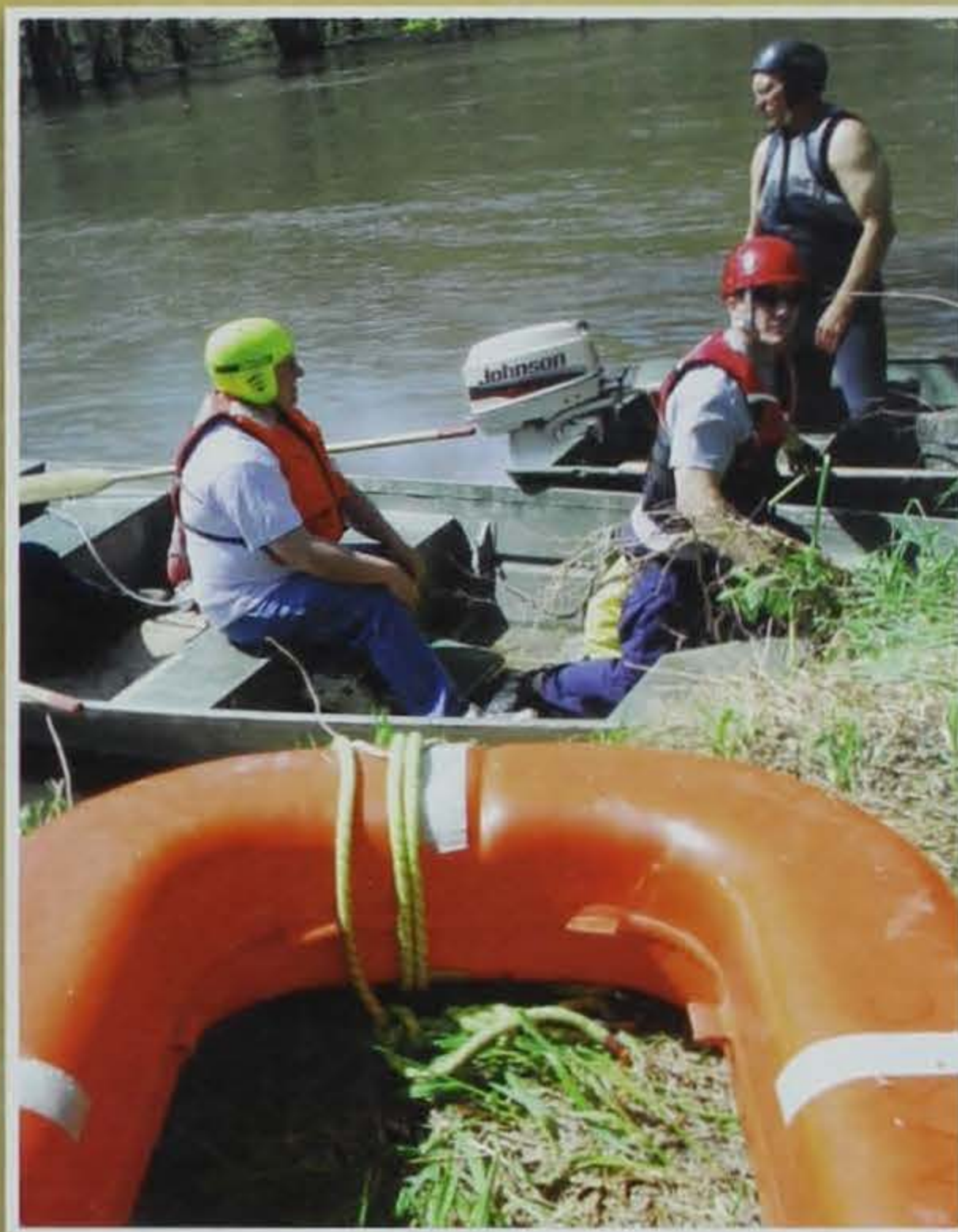
The misfire was an important element. Actual rescue attempts face pitfalls, too. Sometimes, success can be measured by how you react when something goes wrong. "We want you to do it again. We are simulating a rescue. You have problems? You want to do it again," stresses Mertz. "Then, the second time you went in there, you had a really nice throw, right inside the boil," he tells Schmid.

Though the two-boat tether is the most dramatic and risky exercise—one firefighter stood up in the bobbing craft, risking a plunge into the churning water—it isn't the only element. Before receiving certification, these firefighters set up movable control points to reach a victim trapped in a fast-flowing stream. They simulate finding their way through flooded urban streets and strapping injured victims to backboards while in the water.

#### FROM THE CHALKBOARD TO BACKBOARD

Watching one's own backside is a basic tenet in emergency response. "You're trying to save someone who has already done something very careless. Don't compound it by losing your own life," instructor and DNR officer Virginia Ashby bluntly warns in the opening classroom session. "The media is going to be there. People on the banks will be telling you what to do. You have to decide, regardless of what they think."

The training took firefighters from the classroom into the pool, then head-to-head with the lowhead dam and picking their way through low-water flooding on the Cedar



River below Cedar Rapids. That flooding was a nature-thrown curve ball, when several inches of rain fell during the second weekend, pushing the Cedar out of its banks.

In the days ahead, student-rescuers became familiar with terms like "Movable Control Point," "Z-lines," "Primary Boat Operator" and "Rotational Turning Force" from diagrams on a classroom drawing board to real-life procedures first in a swimming pool and eventually on the river itself.

"Dams are the most obvious hazard, because of the danger of that recirculating water," says DNR officer Randy Schnoebelen. "There are also solid obstructions in the river, floating objects, especially following a flash flood." Instructors emphasized the force of the current, in any stream-based rescue. "That's the most overlooked thing out there. People get lulled into a comfort zone. They don't know how fast that current is going," warns Schnoebelen. "Most accidents happen when they think they can overcome that current."

There were tips for operating a boat in the current, knowing that more people on board meant the craft would sit lower, providing more area for the current to push. They learned that a quick turn into the current would restore control in an emergency situation.

Even the water temperature itself came under scrutiny. Instructors reminded students that even after a victim is pulled from the water—especially cold water—the rescue is not over. Water conducts heat many times faster than air. As that water chills a victim, it shunts blood and heat to the vital organs as a survival reaction. The heartbeat slows. "You need to watch for 'after load' with the victim," points









#### APPROACHING THE BOIL

Cedar Rapids firefighter Pat Mick hunkers down as the lead rescue boat approaches the dam during a two-boat tether rescue. During practice, the lead boat holds two rescuers and an instructor. During an actual rescue, a throw bag is thrown across the boil to conscious victims. Shore-based ropes and life rings are the only option to hopefully snag an unconscious victim.

Mick's hard-hull boat, the safety boat, can pull the inflatable from danger should it get drawn into the boil. By turning sideways, the safety boat will tip over and partially fill with water to act as a sea-anchor—harnessing the power of the current. "It acts like a parachute, the current will pull the submerged hard-hull boat downriver and pull the tethered inflatable with it," says DNR trainer Randy Schnoebelen. "Wherever the hard-hull boat goes, the inflatable goes," he says. Other rescue boats then pull aboard the safety boat crew.





out Cedar Rapids firefighter and instructor Pete Schmit. "That victim might say, 'Hey, I'm okay. I just need to walk around.' He needs to lie down instead. His core temperature could actually get colder for a short period" as blood flows back to the extremities. "He risks cardiac shock. He needs to avoid that 'after load' risk."

In the classroom, as the class watches, firefighter Brent Smith, hooked up to a monitor, took a deep breath and dropped his head into a container of ice water. Before immersion, his heart rate was 84 beats per minute. Within five seconds, it had dipped to 75. In 15 seconds, it showed 53 beats. At 30 seconds, the class watched the monitor freefall, Smith's heart had slowed to 26 beats per minute. Schmit tapped Smith, the signal to end the ice bath. "If a person sustains 30 beats per minute, we want to administer drugs," emphasized Schmit. "He can't survive at that rate."

From the classroom, participants moved to the pool at Washington High School. There, they could practice rescues in water, but under heated, controlled conditions. They also learned how to deal with "in-water" injuries; even how to stay warm while waiting for help.

With the basics out of the way, the rescue class was ready for the river. And if the two-boat tether is the most dramatic rescue, then the movable control point is the most complicated. It allows rescuers to safely move across a river or up or downstream to reach a victim

stranded in a midstream snag or fallen tree. Knots, clasps, pulleys and long rescue lines are key.

First, the rescue team secured a static line across the river which is easier said than done. The rushing current made it tough to hold the boat in place, while one member tried to lash a line around a tree trunk. Once, the line dipped into the water and the current dragged it downstream. As it went into place, the team positioned pulleys and clasps to slowly feed out a second line. Now in place, the crew could maneuver their control point and the rescue craft, left or right, up or downstream, to the victim, pull him on board and head for shore.

A victim stranded. A swollen river, a potentially deadly dam. With any luck, these river rescuers will never use the tools they obtained over the two-weekend session. Chances are, though, they will. 🐾

## ONE SURVIVES. TWO DO NOT

It was a hot day with high water in April 2007, as three friends put an old, 17-foot aluminum canoe on the swollen Iowa River in Hardin County. As Jonathon Hill, Drew Goodnight and Levi Wendling approached the low head dam at Alden, they paddled past the traditional "take out" about 100 yards above the dam on the east side of the river. Instead, they aimed for the small, downtown park just above the dam, on the west side.

"They portaged around the dam and walked the canoe down the fish ladder there," recounts DNR conservation officer Mike Bonser, pointing to a spot 40 feet below the dam where the three friends, all in their 20s, put back in. It was way too close. "They put in at the boil line. It drew them back in to the dam and caused them all to be thrown out as the vessel capsized," explains Bonser.

The incident turned to tragedy in moments. The rain-stoked river was rushing over the dam so fast that the boil expanded. Near the point where they were pulled underwater, a gravel and sand bar—visible as a small island during low water—apparently split the current. On shore, witness Melissa Smith saw Wendling come out, face down. Hill, Goodnight and the canoe stayed in the boil as it corkscrewed them over and over. After a minute or so, the rushing current pushed them out of the boil on the east side. Smith helped direct rescuers as they arrived a few moments later. "She did a wonderful job, calling 911 and keeping her wits about her," recalls Bonser. "She kept an eye out...directing rescuers to the (right) spots."

As Wendling floated downstream toward the County Road S-25 bridge, passerby Scott Dillon waded into the swollen river, grabbed him and pulled him to shore to begin resuscitation. Within an hour, Hill and Goodnight were found. It was too late to save them.

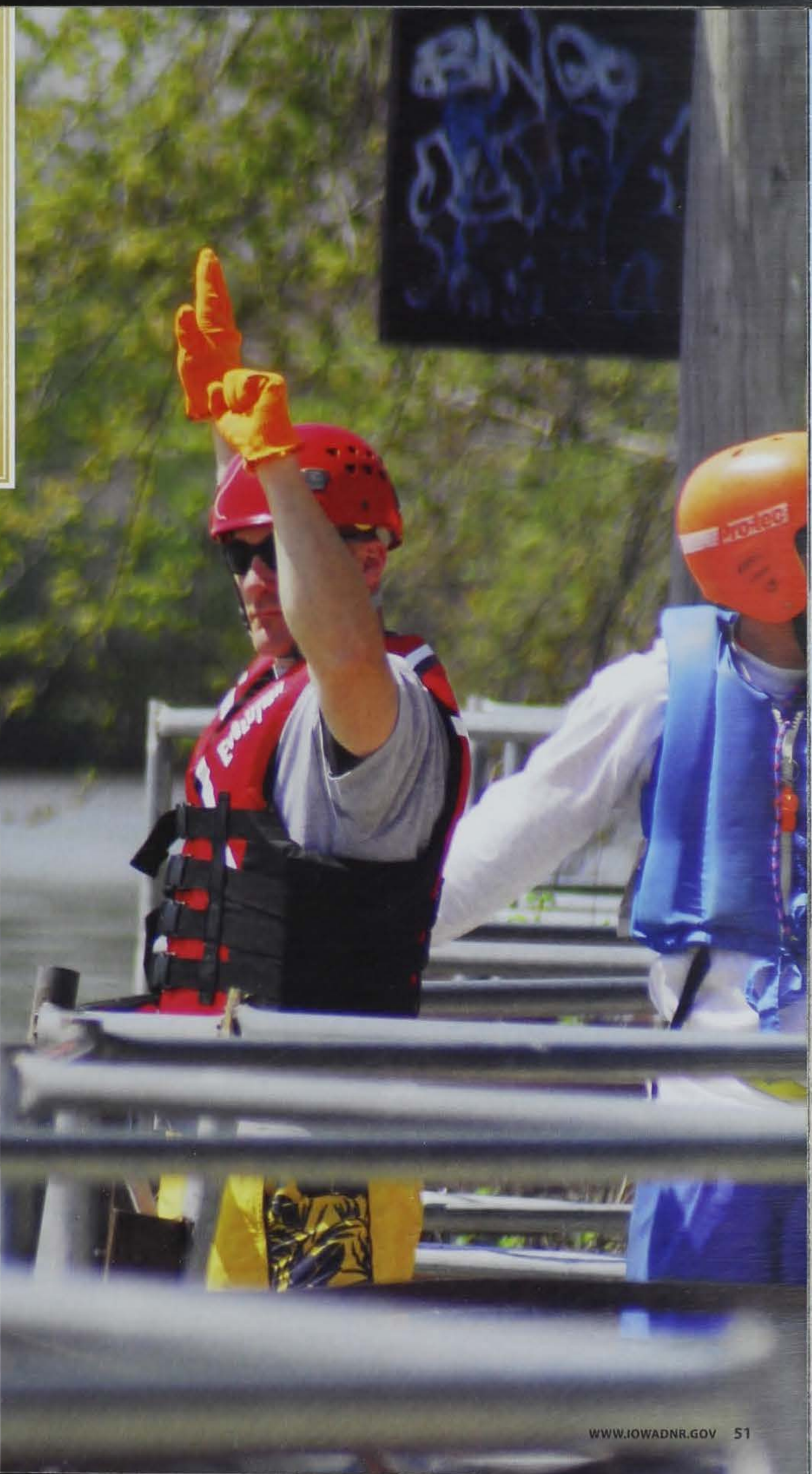
The double drowning underscores the graphic strength of the boil. The sheer volume of water streaming over the dam made it hard to distinguish. However, it was still active, and... with the volume of water rushing downstream...deadly.

Ironically, the fatal accident happened as students in the Cedar Rapids training session, two hours away, headed home.



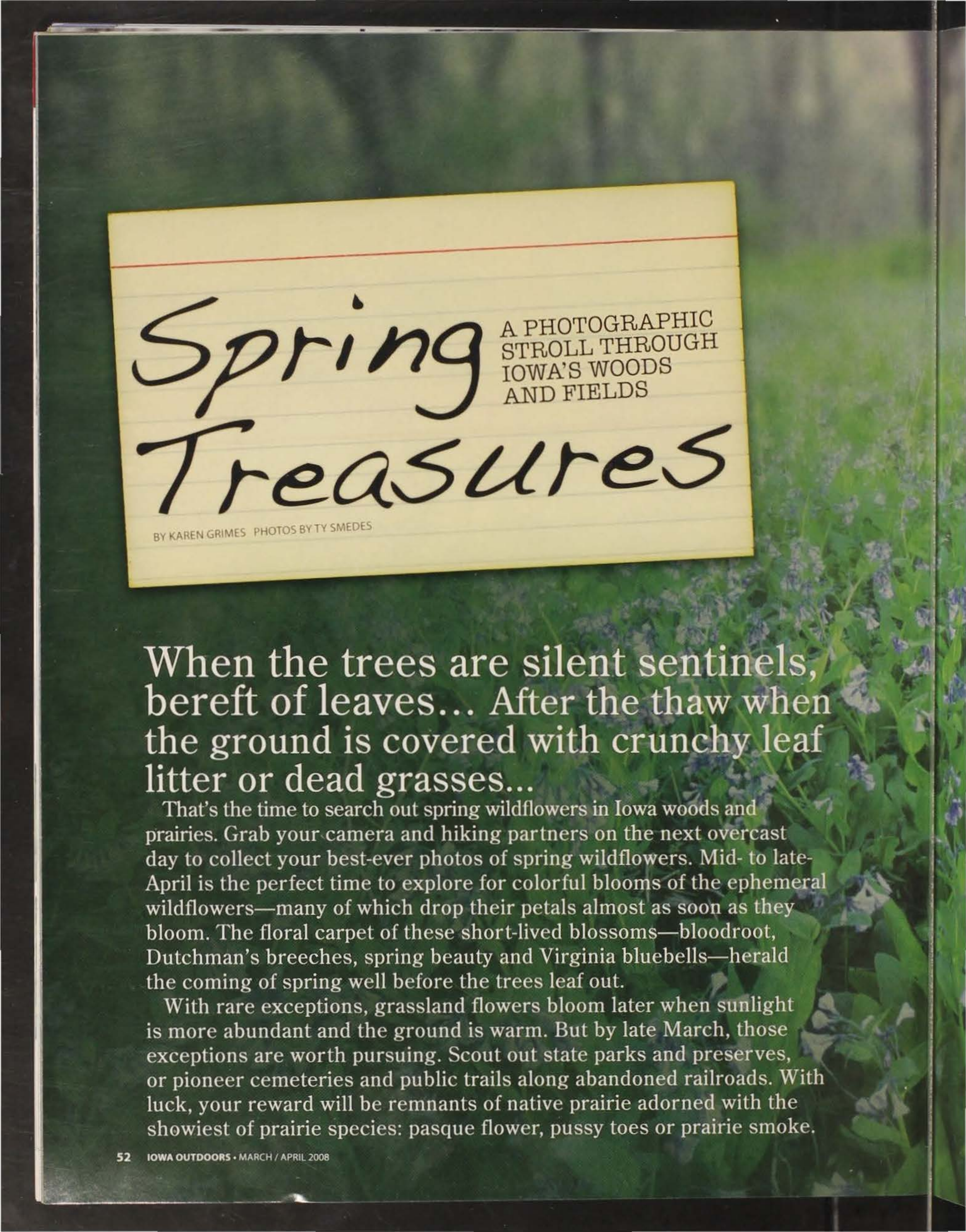
**COMMANDS FROM ABOVE**

Cedar Rapids firefighter Pat Mick stands over the river, providing hand signals. The right hand commands the inflatable raft, the left the hard-hull safety boat. The commander guides boats to victims who can be hard to see over the boil. **LEFT:** An inflatable approaches the boil during late-April training for law enforcement and firefighters. **BELOW:** The same weekend of rescue training, a canoe was put into the Iowa River in Hardin County too close to the boil. One paddler survived the dam at Alden and two did not (see sidebar opposite page.) "The photo shows what happens when a boat is in the boil," says DNR rescue trainer Randy Schnoebelen.



CANOE PHOTO MIKE BONSER; BOTTOM PHOTO JOE WILKINSON





# Spring Treasures

A PHOTOGRAPHIC  
STROLL THROUGH  
IOWA'S WOODS  
AND FIELDS


BY KAREN GRIMES PHOTOS BY TY SMEDES

When the trees are silent sentinels, bereft of leaves... After the thaw when the ground is covered with crunchy leaf litter or dead grasses...

That's the time to search out spring wildflowers in Iowa woods and prairies. Grab your camera and hiking partners on the next overcast day to collect your best-ever photos of spring wildflowers. Mid- to late-April is the perfect time to explore for colorful blooms of the ephemeral wildflowers—many of which drop their petals almost as soon as they bloom. The floral carpet of these short-lived blossoms—bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, spring beauty and Virginia bluebells—herald the coming of spring well before the trees leaf out.

With rare exceptions, grassland flowers bloom later when sunlight is more abundant and the ground is warm. But by late March, those exceptions are worth pursuing. Scout out state parks and preserves, or pioneer cemeteries and public trails along abandoned railroads. With luck, your reward will be remnants of native prairie adorned with the showiest of prairie species: pasque flower, pussy toes or prairie smoke.






*Virginia Bluebells,*  
Walnut Woods State Park, Polk County

## *BLUEBELLS*

### MERTENSIA VIRGINICA

Borage or forget-me-not family. Take to the woodlands of eastern Iowa and you'll find a carpet of bluebells blooming from April to May. Plan your treasure hike along rivers and streams, where you'll find the largest colonies on rich, moist bottomland soils and the adjacent upland forest. Don't be overwhelmed by the expansive display. Get close to examine the five-pleated blossom resembling a bell or flared skirt. These tubular flowers turn from blue to pink as they age. They also make pollination a tough job for short-tongued bees, which may have to puncture the flower to obtain nectar.



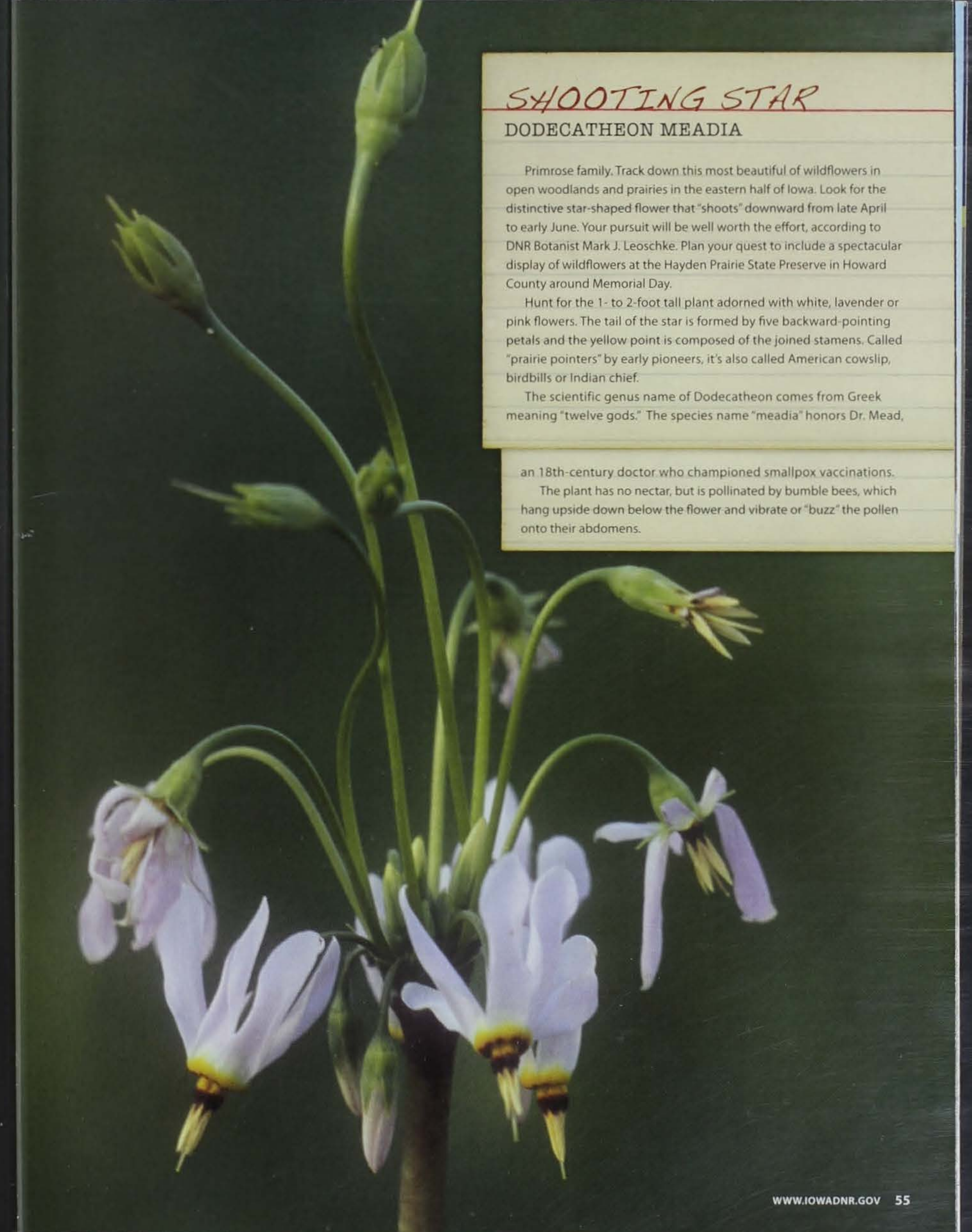


## *BISHOP'S CAP*

### MITELLA DIPHYLLA

Saxifrage family. Take a tour of northeast and central Iowa to find this April to May beauty. Tramp through shady woods, searching for rocky, north-facing slopes with plenty of organic matter. Look for modest plants, up to 18 inches tall. Each upright stem bears five to 20 tiny flowers. The blooms look like snowflakes, measuring a mere quarter inch across. Bring your hand lens, because these dainty flowers need to be seen up close to be appreciated. Each tiny blossom is fringed, resembling a miter, or Bishop's cap.





## SHOOTING STAR

### DODECATHEON MEADIA

Primrose family. Track down this most beautiful of wildflowers in open woodlands and prairies in the eastern half of Iowa. Look for the distinctive star-shaped flower that "shoots" downward from late April to early June. Your pursuit will be well worth the effort, according to DNR Botanist Mark J. Leoschke. Plan your quest to include a spectacular display of wildflowers at the Hayden Prairie State Preserve in Howard County around Memorial Day.

Hunt for the 1- to 2-foot tall plant adorned with white, lavender or pink flowers. The tail of the star is formed by five backward-pointing petals and the yellow point is composed of the joined stamens. Called "prairie pointers" by early pioneers, it's also called American cowslip, birdbills or Indian chief.

The scientific genus name of Dodecatheon comes from Greek meaning "twelve gods." The species name "meadia" honors Dr. Mead,

an 18th-century doctor who championed smallpox vaccinations.

The plant has no nectar, but is pollinated by bumble bees, which hang upside down below the flower and vibrate or "buzz" the pollen onto their abdomens.





## SHOWY ORCHIS

### GALEARIS SPECTABILIS

Orchid family. Unlike the showy lady's slipper, this is one of the more common of Iowa's 31 orchid species. You can discover it in small, dense clusters throughout the state wherever you find rich, damp areas in woodlands. Seek the 10-inch-tall plant from April to May near trails, on slopes and along stream terraces.

Each stem bears three to six flowers with a white "landing base" lip and petals tinged with purple or rose. Unfortunately, its beauty makes it tempting to plant collectors. But don't be tempted. Transplanting usually fails because it is so sensitive to habitat changes. It may also be vulnerable to changes in soil moisture.





## PRAIRIE SMOKE

GEUM TRIFLORUM

Rose family. If you search for prairie smoke, the inconspicuous pink or reddish-brown flowers are hard to detect. You can seek the fern-like leaves and the six to 16-inch tall plants. But, wander through the prairies anytime from late April to early June and you are sure to discover the unusual fruits—reminiscent of smoke plumes.


Also known as old man's whiskers or Johnny smokers, early settlers and Native Americans found many uses for the boiled roots: as a tea to cure colic and to heal the digestive tract; as an eyewash; and to treat coughs, sore throats or chests, and women's diseases.



## FLOWER FRIENDLY VIEWING

*Please collect only photos. Not only are plants protected on public lands, most have very specific habitat requirements and will not survive transplanting.*

*Check Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah ([seedsavers.org](http://seedsavers.org)) or Ion Exchange, Inc. in Harpers Ferry ([ionxchange.com](http://ionxchange.com)) for potted plants or seeds.*



## SHOWY LADY'S SLIPPER

### CYPRIPEDIUM REGINAE

Orchid Family. This pink and white flower lives up to its name. It stands more than 2 feet above the fens, hillside seeps and forest slopes where it is found from early to late June. Wear your rubber boots and search Iowa's preserves to photograph this rare denizen. Its preferred habitat is a fen—a muck-forming wetland high in nutrients. It's also found in northeast Iowa at the foot of bluffs in algific talus slopes, also known as cold-air slopes, where fissures create a cold micro-climate.

You will know this species by the moccasin-shaped pouch that forms its lower lip. The plant can cause a rash similar to poison ivy. Native Americans and pioneers used the orchid as a pain reliever, sedative and tranquilizer.

Plants grow slowly and live for up to 50 years. But reproduction is chancy for this threatened species. It cannot self-pollinate. Because it has no nectar to attract insects, pollination occurs by chance. If successful, one flower can produce 35,000 seeds, but few germinate.



## TOP 10 SPRING WILDFLOWER DESTINATIONS PICKED BY MARK J. LEOSCHKE, DNR BOTANIST

### Woodland

- 1) Wildcat Den State Park, Muscatine County
- 2) Ledges State Park, Boone County
- 3) Palisades-Kepler State Park, Linn County
- 4) Dolliver State Park, Webster County
- 5) Pikes Peak State Park, Clayton County
- 6) Shimek State Forest, Lee and Van Buren Counties

### Prairie

- 7) Hayden Prairie State Preserve, Howard County
- 8) Steele Prairie State Preserve, Cherokee County
- 9) Hoffman Prairie State Preserve, Cerro Gordo County
- 10) Sheeder Prairie State Preserve, Guthrie County



### FOR FURTHER READING

- Peterson, Roger Tory and Margaret McKenny. *A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Northeastern and North-central America*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1968.
- Courtenay, Booth and James H. Zimmerman. *Wildflowers and Weeds*. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1972.
- Runkel, Sylvan T. and Alvin F. Bull. *Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands*. Wallace Homestead Book Company, 1979.
- Runkel, Sylvan T. and Dean M. Roosa. *Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie—the Upper Midwest*. Iowa State University Press, 1989.



## WHITE TROUT LILY

### ERYTHRONIUM ALBIDUM

Lily family. Dogtooth violet, adder's tongue, deer tongue—common names for this early woodland flower deny its beauty. It's worth a search of April and May river valleys and upland forests.

Find the vegetative form in large colonies, with only a small number of blooming plants, in open woods. Look for a nodding white flower no more than 6 inches tall standing amid two wide leaves with purple speckles resembling a trout. The star-like flower appears after the plant is 6 or 7 years old.

Tread carefully—destroying both flower and leaves will kill the plant by depleting food reserves in the bulb. Native Americans ate the bulb raw, roasted or boiled. Its cousin, the yellow trout lily, is a threatened species in Iowa.



## SPRING CLEANING GOES POSTAL

Spring cleaning was never this easy. Save time, reduce waste, save forests and reduce carbon emissions without touching a mop or a broom. Simply *clean your mailbox*.

The average home receives 17 pieces of advertising mail a week, according to U.S. Postal Service studies—that's 62 percent of all household mail. The energy to produce and recycle mailbox clutter equals that of nearly 3 million cars and their greenhouse gas emissions.

So what to do with all that junk mail? Recycling is good, but "there is a cost for collection, processing and shipping," to re-use all that paper, says Brian Tormey, who heads the DNR's waste and energy bureau. "If you use the mail, just recycle it after you are done. If it isn't beneficial mail, stop it," he advises, noting that reducing waste is preferred to recycling.

Scouring that muddled mailbox is becoming easier. Several websites and phone numbers offer do-it-yourself steps to reduce junk mail. Some offer free tips or manage the process for a small fee.

**RESOURCES:** [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org). Endorsed by the National Wildlife Federation and Natural Resources Defense Council, this free, simple-to-use service lets you decline

catalogs of your choice, but doesn't help with other types of junk mail.

**Greendimes.com.** For \$15, register to reduce junk mail by 90 percent and have 10 trees planted through non-profit organizations. Refer a friend and get \$5.

• **41pounds.org.** 1-866-417-4141 Their name refers to the average weight of junk mail received by a household. Reduce mail for five years for \$41. Allows favorite catalogs to continue to be received, but stops unsolicited mailings. A third of the fee is donated to groups ranging from forestry to leukemia at your choice.

• **Stopthejunkmail.com.** Reduces unwanted mail and plants a tree through American Forests for \$19.95. Allows customized lists of mail to stop.

• **Ecocycle.org** and **obviously.com/junkmail** both offer free tips and steps to reduce unwanted mail.

• **The-DMA.org.** The Direct Marketing Association markets lists to retailers. For \$1, you can decrease national advertising mail, but it could include items you desire. You will continue to receive mail from those you do business with and from non-DMA members, plus mail from local merchants, professional and alumni groups, political candidates and mail sent to "resident."





## Spreading Spring's Bounty

Morel mushroom foragers will enjoy this simple delight that starts sweet on the tongue and finishes with the earthy goodness of morels. Bill Ipsen of New Hampton, an avid morel hunter, shares his recipe. Ipsen, who bakes fresh bread every weekend, often brings a still-warm loaf and mushroom paté to share with friends while trekking for morels. A perfect picnic snack, spread it on breads or crackers. Enjoy in a state park, woods, fishing dock or around a campfire.

Mushrooms can be dehydrated and stored to create a paté later in the year, long after the last morel is harvested. Simply soak the dried morels in water until soft before use.

### MOREL MUSHROOM PATÉ

- ¼ lb (one stick) unsalted butter
- 13 oz cleaned fresh morels, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- ¼ cup sherry
- parsley sprigs

Melt half the butter in a heavy nonstick skillet over medium heat. Sauté mushrooms and onion 4-5 minutes or until soft. Stir in sherry and simmer, stirring until liquid has evaporated. Salt and pepper to taste and cool to room temperature. Transfer to food processor or blender. Add remaining butter and purée until smooth. Transfer to a serving bowl and garnish with parsley. Serve on breads or crackers.

*"A paté is made with lots of fat to hold it all together. The fat also provides the creamy texture that paté lovers like," says Bob Wersen of the Tassel Ridge Winery in Leighton, between Pella and Oskaloosa. For those interested in an Iowa wine with their paté, he suggests a high acid, fruity white wine such as Tassel Ridge Winery Candlelight. The citrus and green apple notes in the wine complement the paté, he says. For wine with a little more body, he recommends either the Brett's Blush (a dry rosé) or the 2007 Nouveau, (a dry but fruity red).*

Tasselridge.com • 641-672-WINE







Hunter's Pizza



ABOVE: A row of five, giant beer towers hold 22 German beers on tap that have regular patrons, affectionately called "Hessians," yelling the traditional German toast of "Prost!" To experience this authentic atmosphere of an old-world bier hall, you have to come to the Hessen Haus in Des Moines on the weekend, when regional polka bands create a lively mood. Groups pass glass boots of beer seated at long, narrow tables of rustic hewn wood. "The family-style seating has different groups sitting at tables making friends," says Dan Mossoth, one of seven owners. Brother Andy traveled to Germany for research to create authentic decor and food in the heartland.

Savor these simple-to-make wild game recipes from the Old World  
**IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN DES MOINES, PATRONS POLKA, RUB ELBOWS WITH NEW FRIENDS  
 AND SAVOR GERMANIC CUISINE IN THE MOST AUTHENTIC BEER HALL THIS SIDE OF MUNICH.**

With long tables seating groups of strangers at Des Moines' Hessen Haus, friends are made over mugs of beer with very long names.

Hot potato salad, pickled red cabbage and sauerkraut come in piles along with schnitzels and other heavy-German fare. And if you don't know "The Drinking Song," you will by the time you leave—as patrons burst out in song with weekend polka bands.

For hunters, these tried-and-true recipes from Iowa's most lively beer hall will reconnect your palate with the Old World.

**HUNTER'S PIZZA**

*Golden crust topped with a unique combination of sliced pheasant, duck and*

*wild boar sausage—you can substitute with pork sausage—create a perennial favorite snack at the Hessen Haus since opening in 2004. A quick and easy pizza to assemble, it is a perfect way to help clear a hunter's deep freeze.*

- 1 8-9-inch pre-cooked pizza crust
- 6 ounces alfredo sauce
- 2 ounces pheasant cooked and chopped
- 2 ounces boar sausage cooked and chopped, or use any good pork sausage
- 2 ounces duck breast cooked and chopped
- ¼ cup fresh sliced mushrooms
- 6-8 slices roma tomato
- 2 ounces chopped yellow onion
- 2-3 slices Muenster cheese

Preheat oven to 350°. Spread alfredo sauce evenly over the pizza crust. Add wild boar, pheasant, duck, onion, mushrooms and roma tomato. Top with slices of Muenster cheese, spreading to cover crust. Cook 12-14 minutes.

**PHEASANT IN RIESLING SAUCE**

*Fresh, tender pheasant breast hand-breaded and topped with sauteed mushrooms and a simple, homemade Riesling sauce will have you humming polka tunes after the first creamy bite. It's as easy as eins, zwei, drei.*

- 1 5-7 ounce skinless, boneless pheasant breast
- 2 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon butter





Pheasant in Riesling Sauce



Chef Tom Morris

With hearty brick walls adorned with steins, cuckoo clocks and boars heads, this popular off Court Avenue downtown Des Moines destination is all about fun. Located in a former train depot once destined for the wrecking ball, the sturdy brick and original wood beam structure also holds the Iowa Polka Music Hall of Fame on the wall. Those enshrined on the wall often stroll the hall when the accordians play.



HAVE A GOOD RECIPE OF WILD FOODS TO SHARE? Send to: [WILDCUISINE@DNR.IOWA.GOV](mailto:WILDCUISINE@DNR.IOWA.GOV)

- ½ cup heavy cream
- ½ cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons Riesling wine
- ¼ cup flour

Lightly dredge pheasant breast in flour. Heat vegetable oil in saute pan over medium-high heat. Cook pheasant in oil until breast is half cooked. Add butter, heavy cream, Riesling and mushrooms to pan and continue cooking, stirring often, until sauce is reduced by half and takes on a thick, creamy texture.

Remove breast from pan and put on plate, then slowly pour the sauce over the top of the breast.

Serve with sauteed sweet potatoes and mashed potatoes or substitute your own favorite vegetables as sides.



**Hessen Haus**

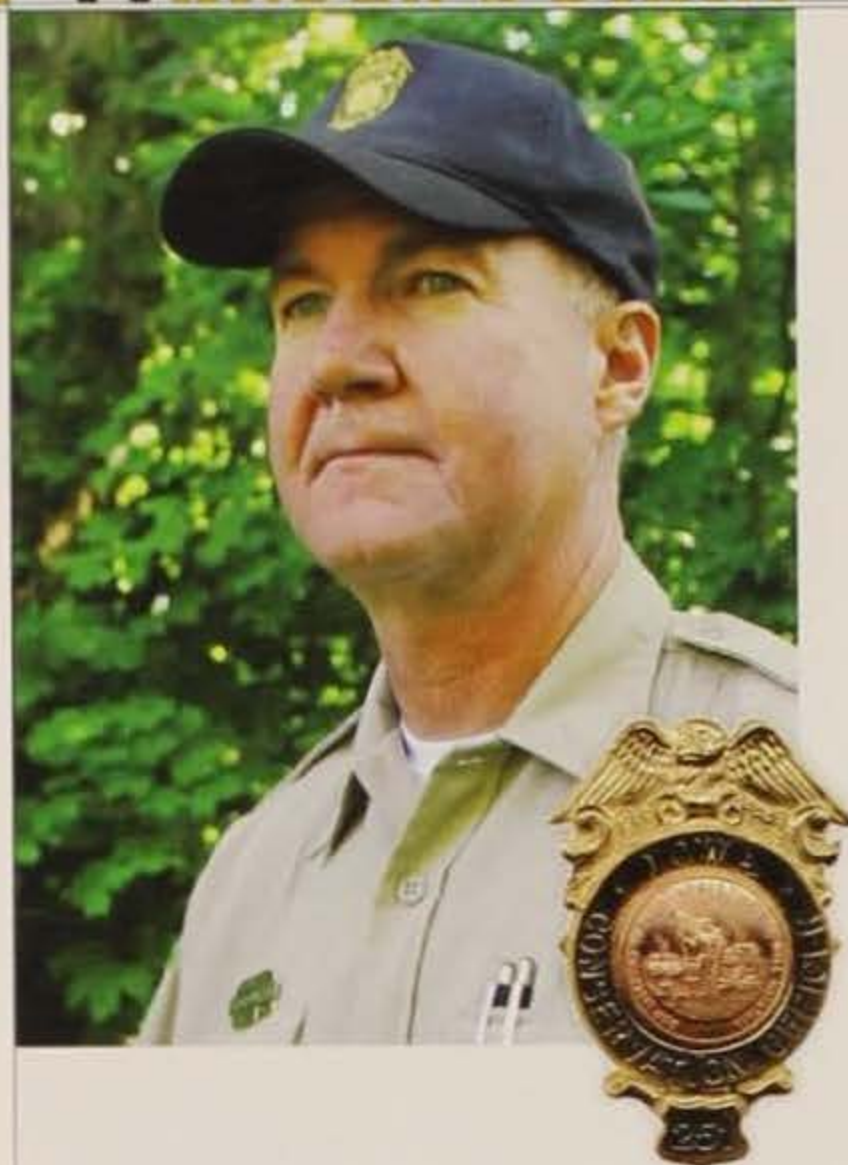
101 4th Street • Des Moines

**HOURS:** Sunday-Tuesday 3 p.m.-10 p.m. kitchen and 3 p.m.-12 a.m. bar; Wednesday-Thursday 3 p.m.-10 p.m. kitchen and 3 p.m.-2 a.m. bar; Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m. kitchen and 11 a.m.-2 a.m. bar

**LIQUOR:** Bar with full beer list.

**SMOKING**  
515-288-2520  
[www.hessenhaus.com](http://www.hessenhaus.com)





## Some You Don't Forget

I was talking to a friend, and the subject of accidents came up. I don't remember why. Anyway, he asked me an interesting question. "Can you look at them clinically?"

"Clinically?" I answered. "You mean like staying detached, and not getting involved in it?"

"Yeah," he continued. "Is that hard to do?"

That was hard to answer. Typically I try to look at it in a detached manner. Not getting too involved is a defense mechanism. Dwelling on everything we see out there would not be good. After all these years, I thought I had the answer down. Last spring, though, I am not so sure.

It started out, like most cases, by picking up on some radio traffic. A deputy was responding to a missing person call. He was searching river accesses. I could almost predict what would happen next, and, on cue, my cell phone rang. The call confirmed two men were missing at the lake. I answered that I was on my way.

It didn't take long to find their pickup and trailer in a parking lot. Unfortunately, the boat was not on the trailer. We started searching the bank, and launched a boat to search the water. You always hope for the best. "They've had some engine problems," I thought. "The fishing's so good they just decided to stay out there." We searched, but found nothing. You try to stay positive. I called dispatch to request a state patrol airplane. "We're going to need more help," I told the other searchers.

You try to stay positive. But the uncertainty builds within you. Positive thoughts are outweighed by what experience tells you. The thought gnaws that the outcome is not going to be good, but you suppress it and get to work.

A searcher on foot found life jackets and cushions in the creek below the

lake. "Oh no," you think to yourself. The arrival of the airplane confirms your worry.

"I see the boat up against the creek," the trooper pilot informs us. He directs as we began to hike to the scene. It had rained extensively, and the area was swampy. There was no choice except to wade through it. We came to a bend in the creek where the boat was jammed under a snag across the creek. The water was high and in a torrent within its banks. We walked to the boat, and our worst fears were confirmed. Two were dead. There was nothing we could do for them.

Clinical? While you wait for help to arrive it's hard not to stand there thinking this is someone's loved one. You know you're going to have to make that devastating call to someone. It's hard not to think about when I got the call telling me my dad was gone. You help remove them from the scene. Respectfully. You think about how you would want your loved one treated.

You try to stay objective because, really, your work is just beginning. The best thing you can do for the family now is to try to find answers for them.

An incident leaves evidence telling a story. As an officer, you try to piece that evidence together and interpret it. I spoke with one of the victims' sons. Like me, he was from a small town in southern Iowa. If there's anything I remembered about growing up there, it was in bad times people would take care of each other.

So, maybe for that reason, this one got to me. I started to live, sleep and breathe the incident daily as I investigated it. Obsessed? I don't think I'd go that far. I was determined to get answers for them.

I had the boat pulled from the water with a crane. I got underneath it. I measured. I shot pictures. I walked the







creek. I crawled up and down the dam. There were no witnesses. There was no one to tell me what happened.

The stacks of photos and paper grew. I ran evidence and theories by other experienced officers. I ran numbers by engineers. I asked questions of medical personnel. It soon became evident I could explain what happened. But, I was going nowhere with *why* it happened.

For almost two months I pored over the documentation. It soon became clear I was at the end of it.

In the meantime, I had been in contact with the son, who was around my age. I asked about his dad to try to get a feel for what he might have been thinking on the water. Talking with him, we found we had much in common. Our dads obviously had loved the outdoors. Our dads had handed down that love to us. We talked

about hunting. We talked about our families.

Finally I had to make the call I dreaded. "I can tell you what happened, but I can't tell you why it happened." The evidence sometimes can only take you so far. He understood.

I wrote "closed" on my report and submitted it. I'll never forget it. I'll never forget those good people I met.

"Can you be clinical?" You can be when you're doing your job, when you're uncovering what has to be uncovered. But, I think part of our job is passing on comfort we've received in the tough times of our lives to others. Central to being a law enforcement officer is being present when people are experiencing one of the worst moments of their life. I hope I never become clinical about that. 🏠



## CRAYFISH

After glaciers receded nearly 13,000 years ago, crayfish moved here from populations in the warmer south and east. Not always able to survive brutal cold, during the harsh winter of 1976-77, many calico crayfish were destroyed and littered pond bottoms after the spring thaw. As important members of the aquatic food chain, Iowa crayfish studies first began in 1852.

### THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A CRAYFISH

Male crayfish usually die after mating in the second year of life; females after their young hatch, also at two years of age. Although some crawdads survive in ponds and lakes, they prefer faster moving, highly oxygenated environments. Crayfish often burrow in softer soils, leaving behind "chimneys" of mud balls on the banks of streams and rivers. Crayfish do not hibernate, but seek out deeper, warmer water or burrow below the frost line.

### CRUSTY CRUSTACEAN

Crayfish are invertebrates, meaning they lack a backbone. Instead of an internal skeleton, they have a hard outer shell (exoskeleton) that offers protection but restricts growth. Thus, they molt (shed their shell) as they grow, often daily when young and weekly or monthly as they age. Their skin is soft the first few days after molting, making them vulnerable to predators. To strengthen new growth, discarded shells are eaten to add needed calcium.

### THAT'S SOME SERIOUS DNA

Humans have 46 chromosomes; crayfish have 200.

### THE NUMBERS GAME

Iowa's eight species can carry 50 to 450 eggs, secured like a berry cluster under the tail by a special glue-like secretion. Upon hatch, offspring clutch the female's tail for protection for weeks. In marshy areas along the Wapsipinicon River, colonies of several hundred burrows were found. The devil crayfish may burrow deeper than 12 feet.

### WHAT'S FOR SUPPER?

As omnivores, crayfish feed on plants and virtually any dead animal, although they are known to catch their own dinner (primarily small fish) if given the chance. Important to the foodchain, crayfish make a meal for fish, wading birds, frogs, turtles, salamanders, snakes, racoons, mink and otter.

### SELF AMPUTATE

If captured, a specialized muscle reflexes along a breaking joint and the leg is cast off to allow escape. Appendages are often lost during infighting as well. Missing limbs are regrown as mini-versions after the next molt, but grow full size over time. During regrowth, specimens with pinchers and limbs of various sizes are often found in the wild.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN IOWA

IOWA ANGLERS, HUNTERS WANT GLOBAL WARMING LEADERSHIP

Three-quarters of Iowa hunters and anglers say we have a strong moral responsibility to act now to curb the worst effects of global warming and protect our children's future. That's according to a statewide poll of hunters and anglers released this fall by the non-partisan National Wildlife Federation.

*"Despite a majority calling themselves conservative politically, Iowa outdoor enthusiasts know climate change is not an issue of left or right, it's a matter of right or wrong,"* said Joe Wilkinson, lifelong Iowa sportsman and Iowa Wildlife Federation president. *"They believe global warming is the top conservation issue facing Iowa."*

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS

- **69 percent** believe global warming is currently occurring
- **Three-quarters** (75 percent) agree the United States should be a world leader in addressing global warming
- **Six out of seven** (84 percent) agree we can improve the environment and strengthen the economy by investing in renewable energy technologies that create jobs while reducing global warming
- **66 percent** of hunters and anglers say conservation is just as important, if not more important, to them as gun rights issues

Complete poll results are available at [www.nwf.org/news](http://www.nwf.org/news) or [www.targetglobalwarming.org/iowa](http://www.targetglobalwarming.org/iowa)

Hunting and angling represent a major economic base in Iowa. In 2006, more than 437,000 anglers spent more than \$362 million in Iowa on their sport. More than 251,000 hunters spent \$299 million in the state, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Warmer average temperatures and changes in precipitation could significantly reduce available wetland habitat, including prairie potholes in northern Iowa and wetlands in the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. These places provide critical breeding and stopover habitat for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds. In addition, the state bird, the American goldfinch, may contract its breeding range to the northern part of the state due to changes in climate.

The National Wildlife Federation commissioned American Viewpoint, Inc. of Alexandria, Va., to conduct the non-partisan survey of 600 self-identified hunters and anglers September 6-11 to obtain their views on global warming. The poll has a sampling error of plus or minus 4.1 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.



PHOTO BY ISTOCKPHOTO.COM  
GLOBE IMAGE BY ISTOCKPHOTO.COM





Shagbark Lake in Shimek State Forest, Van  
Buren County

State Library Of Iowa  
State Documents Center  
Miller Building  
Des Moines, Iowa