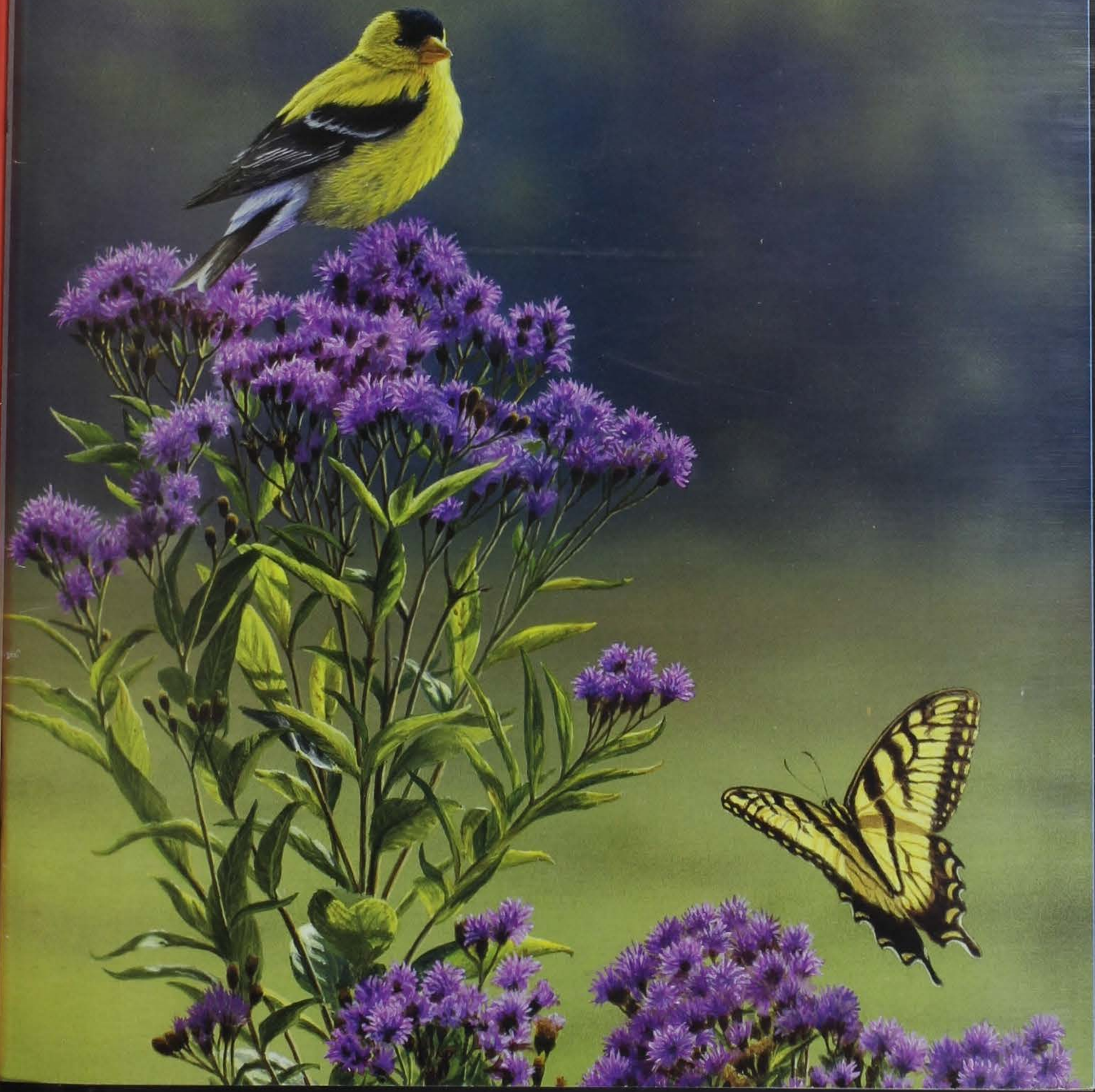


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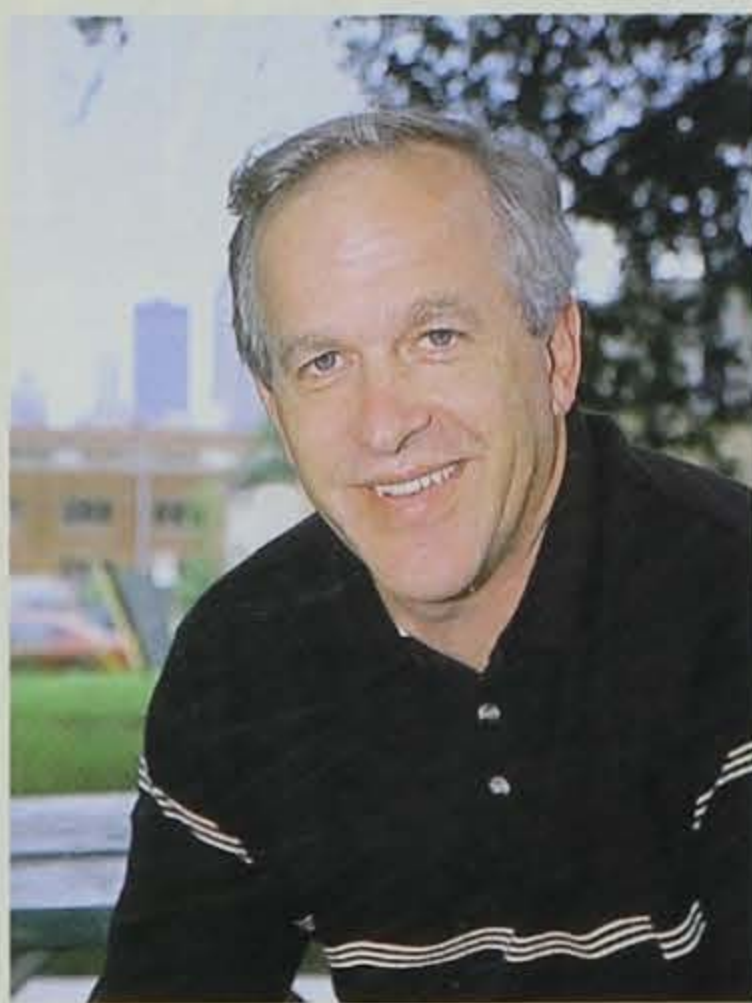
CONSERVATIONIST

IOWA

IOWA'S PREMIER OUTDOOR MAGAZINE



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Bob Castelline

A New Species to Study

As a department, we know a great deal about virtually every creature that slithers, flutters, soars, glides, lopes, hops or swims across our state.

We have come to realize that the one species we need to work harder at understanding in greater detail is *homo sapiens* — in other words, you.

Our focus has traditionally and rightfully been placed on learning as much as possible about our natural resources and the wildlife species that inhabit our state. In recent years, we have stepped up our efforts to learn more about what the citizens of Iowa understand and expect in terms of natural resource management and outdoor recreation.

We have learned a great deal, so much, in fact, that major changes have already been put in place or are underway, not the least of which is the new destination park/resort complex at Honey Creek State Park on Rathbun Lake. Our research has shown that many Iowans are looking for a vacation destination close to water that offers a wide array of outdoor activities with accommodations above the traditional campgrounds in our state parks. The destination park, with construction now scheduled to begin sometime this fall, will offer a lodge, modern cabins, aquatic park, 18-hole golf course and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

Likewise, this year we have successfully launched the state-wide park reservation system allowing people to reserve camping spaces in our state parks. The success of this project is due in large part because of our open dialogue with the public.

What we heard from the public is that with today's more hectic lifestyle, there was a need by many to be able to plan camping trips further in advance and to be able to reserve campsites within vacation time frames. These people told us how difficult it is to plan a family vacation not knowing if a campsite would be available to them with a strictly first-come, first-served system.

We also heard from people still wanting the flexibility to go camping at the spur of the moment. Because of the input

we received from the public, we ended up with a system that allows half of the campsites to be reserved and the other half available on a first-come basis. It is a system that has thus far worked very well.

In the past few years, we have been involved in studies such as the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which gives us a wealth of information on what the people of Iowa are looking for in outdoor recreation. We have been involved in studies of how often Iowans use our public lakes, what their expectations are for water quality and their willingness to pay for improvement. We have been heavily involved in finding out more about anglers in the state, which has led to new efforts by us to help them become more successful at fishing.

And we have taken a close look at the readers of this magazine and those who aren't, but should be. We have learned that both readers and prospective readers of the *Iowa Conservationist* are involved in the outdoors and interested in recreational opportunities. What we also learned is that their interest in the outdoors carries over to wanting to know more about what is happening with our natural resources.

Director's Message

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**FRONT COVER: GOLDFINCH ON IRONWEED
BY LARRY ZACH**
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**BACK COVER: REAP PROJECT, DUBUQUE
RIVERWALK (SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 26)**
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF DUBUQUE.



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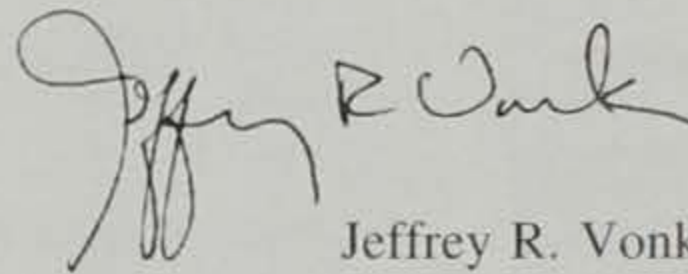
Director's Message

cont. from page 2

Beginning in January, this magazine will have a new look, be broader in scope and boast a new name, but it will continue to be the premier resource for those interested in Iowa's outdoors.

Through our research of the "human dimension," it has become even more evident to us that those of us who are involved in natural resources care about the resources, and the more people care about the natural resources, the more likely they are to become involved.

We know, as a department, that our effectiveness in protecting Iowa's natural resources is dependant on how effectively we communicate and engage you, the citizen, on these issues and, ultimately, how well we understand your needs and expectations.



Jeffrey R. Vonk

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July/August 2006
Volume 65, Number 4

STAFF

Kevin Baskins, Bureau Chief
Julie Sparks, Editor
Alan Foster, Managing Editor
Lowell Washburn, Writer/Photographer
Clay Smith, Photographer
Kati Bainter, Graphic Artist
Circulation, (800) 361-8072

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SPECIAL PHONE NUMBERS

Waste Management and Recycling (515) 281-8941
Emergency Spill Response (515) 281-8694
Energy (515) 281-5918
Main Number (515) 281-5918
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Iowa Conservationist (ISSN 0021-0471) is published bimonthly by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Periodicals postage paid Des Moines, IA. **Subscription rates: \$12 for one year, \$18 for two years and \$24 for three years. Prices subject to change without notice.** Include mailing label for renewals and address changes. **POSTMASTER:** Send changes to the *Iowa Conservationist*, PO Box 8462, Red Oak, IA 51591-1462.

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paving the way for prairies

Roadside prairies provide summer color for Iowa motorists



Story and photographs by
Lowell Washburn

The drive across Iowa is becoming prettier by the day.

It's mid-summer and the tall grass prairie is in full bloom. Many of the spectacular plant forms that once dominated the pre-settlement landscape can now be found inhabiting the rights-of-way along Iowa interstate and primary highway systems. Regardless of whether you pass through Iowa from north to south or east to west, the spectacular kaleidoscope blend of purple, yellow and orange is sure to grab your attention.

"It's a project that has taken some time, but I think our roadsides now contain enough prairie acres that people are really beginning to take notice and enjoy the beauty," says Mark Masteller,

The yellows, purples and oranges of native prairie are springing up along Iowa roadways thanks to the Department of Transportation's roadside vegetation management program.

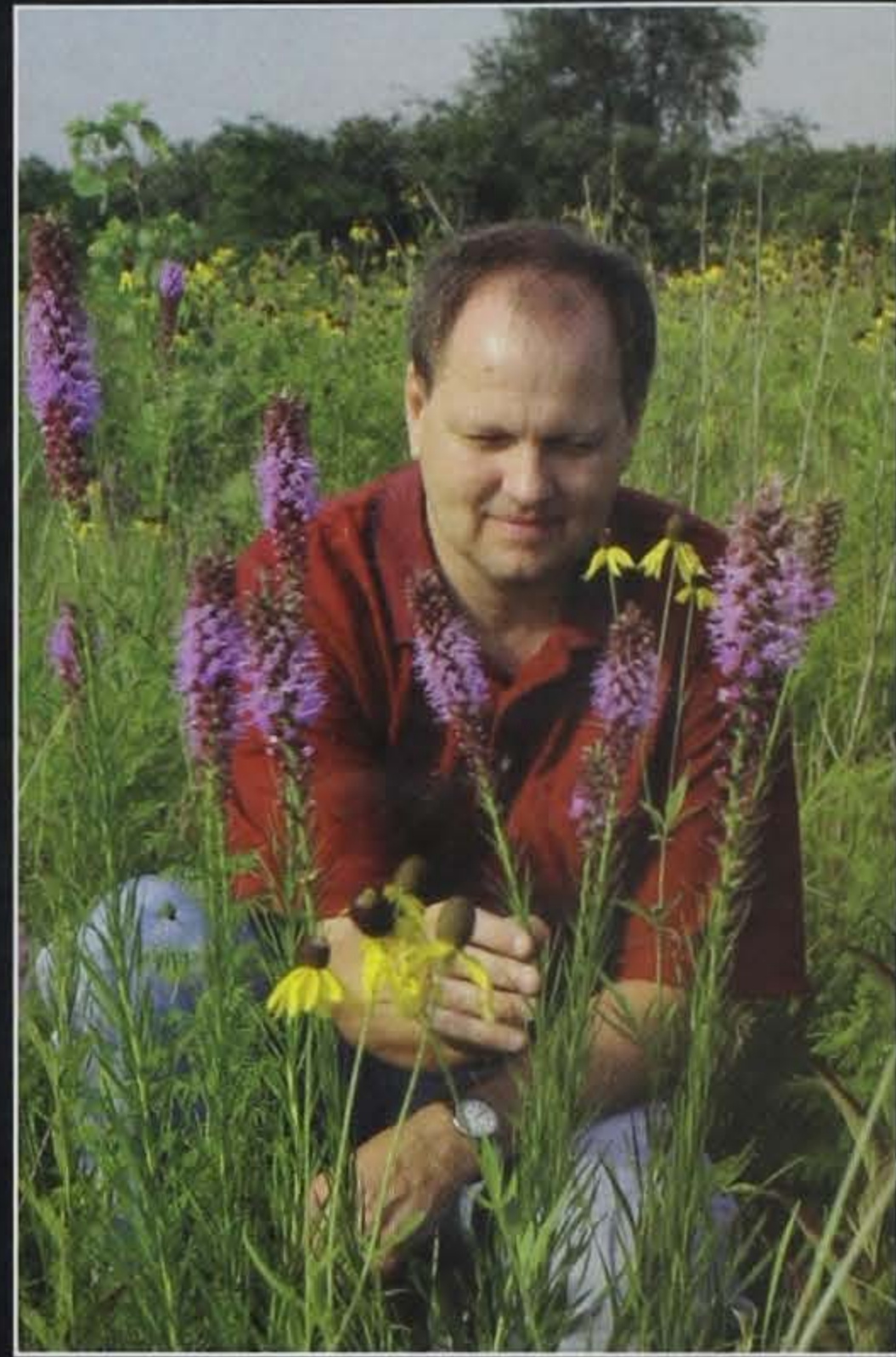


chief landscape architect for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

“We are beginning to receive a lot of positive comments on our roadside prairies, especially from out-of-state travelers who have recently visited or traveled through Iowa.”

According to Masteller, Iowa’s recent road ditch color surge is no accident. During the 1970s’ gas crisis, DOT workers were forced to dramatically curtail maintenance mowings along rural roadways. Limited populations of native grasses and even some forbs began to appear. Before long, road

DOT chief landscape architect, Mark Masteller, examines a prairie planting along Interstate-35 near Ames. Masteller is the DOT's official "man behind the color" for Iowa's roadside management programs. Iowa roadsides contain more than 600,000 acres of grasslands. DOT officials are currently reseeding many of those acres to native prairie plants. In addition to beautifying the state, native forbs and grasses conserve tax revenues, prevent soil erosion and provide habitat for desirable insects — especially many declining species of prairie butterflies.



workers were experimenting with and incorporating native forbs and grasses into construction sites. DOT commissioners liked what they saw, and the program was soon expanded. By the mid-1980s, native grasses were being used to reseed all new rural construction sites statewide. In spite of its popularity with Iowa motorists, the project was not without critics.

"We received calls from a number of people and some of them were pretty angry,"

says Masteller. "The most frequent criticism was people wondering why we (the DOT) were destroying perfectly good grasses to plant prairie."

"At the time, we were annually spending \$3 million on weed control and silt removal. The truth was that those perfectly good grasses weren't so perfect after all. Planting prairie was actually saving money by reducing maintenance costs — things like spraying, mowing and silt removal. The expense of









During a typical year, new projects will be seeded with a combination containing five to 10 species of native grasses and anywhere from 10 to 50 species of forbs. All seed is of Iowa origin and is obtained from more than a dozen different seed dealers.



prairie planting was, and still is, a very small part of our budget.”

In addition to the significant cost savings associated with native grasses, prairie planters soon began to discover additional benefits. During summer drought, prairie plants easily withstood the lack of moisture and extreme heat that caused traditional, non-native seedings to curl up and wither away. Native grasses also proved superior in managing storm water and preventing erosion. During winter, prairie grasses were better able to bear the weight of heavy snowfall,

resulting in less blowing and drifting. Pavement stayed high and dry with fewer days of icy travel and less salt on roadways.

“Right now, I’d say our average project seeds 80 to 100 acres of roadside, which translates into about four and a half miles of interstate,” says Masteller. “On two-lane roads, the average project covers anywhere from five to 10 miles of new seeding.”

During a typical year, new projects will be seeded with a combination containing five to 10 species of native grasses and anywhere from 10 to 50

species of forbs. All seed is of Iowa origin and obtained from more than a dozen different seed dealers.

“Many people are interested to learn that we design a custom seed mix for each new project,” says Masteller. “If an area has a significant thistle problem, we go heavier on the grasses. On some of the more showy areas we may plant up to 50 percent forbs. Most of the time, we try to mimic what occurred here naturally which is a blend of 70 percent grass and 30 percent forbs.”

During the past two years, the DOT has seeded around 8,000 acres of new roadside projects. Additional prairie plantings are underway this summer. The formula is

straightforward. Once existing, unwanted vegetation is killed, native forbs and grasses are drilled into the soil. This no-till approach conserves dollars, minimizes erosion and reduces weeds. Plots are mowed the first two years. After that, the prairie is on its own. As is the case with all prairie plantings, patience is the key.

“When establishing new areas, we often get calls informing us that the seeding has totally failed,” says Masteller. “But in almost every single case, the prairie appears the next year. It all takes time. By and large, you just have to wait it out.”

“Once the prairie begins to show its color, everyone is happy.”

DOT's roadside vegetation program got a big boost in 1989 with the passage of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act which provides 3 percent of its funding to establishing native vegetation along Iowa's roadways. Those REAP dollars have been expanded by innovative DOT staff, matching them with federal and other state dollars. See the article on REAP on pages 26 through 31.



Top, clockwise: butterflyweed, blazing star and purple coneflower.



iowa's youth movement



More and more youths are turning to Iowa's special youth hunting seasons for their first taste of the hunting tradition.



Story and photographs by
Lowell Washburn

In September of 1992, Iowa offered its first ever, youth deer hunting season. The weather was mild and game was plentiful. Some 1,672 young hunters took advantage of the special event, bagging 643 deer.

"We offered that first youth deer season because we felt the existing gun season was very short and that adults were under pressure to get their deer," says retired DNR wildlife research supervisor Terry Little. "That was a hard way for kids to get started. We wanted to find a time when a dad, uncle or other adult could introduce a young person to deer hunting without that pressure. We wanted them to have the realization that there was another way to hunt deer. I think the youth season has been very successful in accomplishing that."

Following its initial success, Iowa's youth deer season has continued to get bigger and better. Today, around 3,000 Iowa youths annually participate in the special deer hunt. Youth seasons have currently been expanded

to include pheasant, turkey and waterfowl.

“The philosophy behind all youth seasons has remained the same,” says Little. “Regardless of species, our goal has been to get kids out in the field and provide the opportunity for quality, hands-on instruction with an adult who is not trying to shoot game. In all cases, we’re promoting a more relaxed atmosphere where mentors have ample time to work one-on-one with youth hunters.”

“When kids are (deer) hunting from a stand they get to see so much more than when a party is pushing deer,” says Little. “Duck hunting is also more relaxed. Young hunters naturally do better when they are the only shooters versus part of a group where everyone is shooting at ducks.”

“When youngsters have the opportunity to enjoy those kinds of hunts they soon realize that it’s not just about killing a deer but about enjoying the entire experience. Sometimes it’s difficult to determine who enjoys the youth seasons the most — the kids or their mentors.”

Clay Smith



“Regardless of species, our goal has been to get kids out in the field and provide the opportunity for quality, hands-on instruction . . . we’re promoting a more relaxed atmosphere where mentors have ample time to work one-on-one with youth hunters.”



Youth Seasons and Regulations

Deer	Sept 16-Oct 1, 2006
Duck	Oct 7-8, 2006
Pheasant	Oct 21-22, 2006
Spring Turkey	April 13-15, 2007

Youth seasons are open to residents only ages 15 years or younger. While hunting, youth hunters must be under the direct supervision of an adult mentor who has a valid hunting license and paid habitat fee, if the adult is normally required to have them to hunt. Only one youth hunter may accompany each adult mentor. Check your *Iowa Hunting and Trapping Regulations* for fees and further details.

North Iowa hunter bags gobbler during first-ever youth turkey season.

For 12-year-old Jason Kozisek, last year's spring turkey hunting season was short and sweet. Kozisek bagged his first gobbler during his first-ever turkey hunt which took place during Iowa's first-ever, three-day special youth hunt.

You probably noticed that there were a lot of firsts in that previous sentence. For Kozisek, it was a red letter day that will never be forgotten.

The hunt took place in a mature oak timber that borders the Winnebago River in extreme northern Iowa. Kozisek, who lives in Garner, was accompanied by Clear Lake police chief Dan Jackson.

"We got out there while it was still dark and the turkeys started gobbling all around," said Kozisek.

"I think we heard about five or six different birds. I didn't see the turkey I shot for a long time. Then I saw something that looked big and black and it was moving. Then I saw his red and white head, and beard. And then I shot. I was pretty excited," said Kozisek.

Chief Jackson appeared to be excited as well.

"It was really something," said Jackson. "We called to that bird for over an hour. He was gobbling like crazy, but we couldn't ever see him. The tom finally got close enough to see



Twelve-year-old Jason Kozisek of Garner (left) and Clear Lake Police Chief Dan Jackson display a 21-pound wild turkey. Kozisek bagged the tom last spring during Iowa's first-ever, three-day youth turkey hunting season.

our decoy. He fanned out and just came strutting in. He was in the sunlight, and the plumage was absolutely gorgeous."

"I was just as pumped as he (Jason) was," said Jackson. "I tried to run the video camera, but couldn't do it. I was just too excited."

With the adult tom turkey strutting at a mere 20 paces, Kozisek squeezed the trigger. One clean shot with the Mossberg 20-gauge was all it took. The gobbler weighed 21 pounds and sported a 10-inch beard.

For youth waterfowl hunter — getting out of bed is the hardest part. Everything else is a piece of cake.



DNR conservation officer Ken Lonneman provides son Derek with some expert advice on decoy placement during Iowa's youth waterfowl season.

As is the case with most 10-year-olds, Derek Lonneman has more than enough activities to fill his free time. During Iowa's youth waterfowl season, however, there is only one place to find him. Nestled among the cattails, Derek will be sitting in the duck blind swapping yarns and comparing notes with his dad, DNR conservation officer Ken Lonneman.

With two seasons already under his belt, Derek says he has decided to hunt ducks for the rest of his life. As is the case with serious waterfowlers everywhere, Lonneman loves the specialized equipment that accompanies his sport.

"One of the things I like best about duck hunting is getting to use the decoys and calls," said Derek.

"I really like the calling. Sometimes I call even if no ducks are flying and I think the practice helps. I think I'm getting better than last year. My favorite part is when you call and the ducks are trying to land in the decoys. That's great."

"My favorite duck is the mallard. They're big and I like all the colors of a greenhead. So far, I've shot blue-winged teal and wood ducks. My dad brings home mallards and I'm hoping to shoot one this year."

When not taking time out to hunt with his son, officer

Lonneman spends the remainder of the youth season visiting nearby wetlands to check the success of other young hunters and their mentors. From the vantage point of his unique, game warden perspective, Lonneman has little doubt that Iowa's special youth seasons are accomplishing their objectives.

"Whether it's ducks, deer or turkey, most of the hunters I check during the youth seasons are very happy with the opportunities those days provide," said Lonneman. "For most of the people I talk to, success is not based on the amount of game harvested. Adults just seem to appreciate the chance for a quality, one-on-one experience with their kids."

"The typical attitude encountered during the youth waterfowl season is a good example," said Lonneman. "Most hunters are happy for the chance to get outdoors, enjoy the weather and throw out some decoys. Anything beyond that is icing on the cake."

"It varies from year to year, but during the youth hunt you usually don't see a lot of ducks

in the bag. Most hunters don't mind. What they want is to see some ducks, do some calling and hopefully get some shots. Getting the limit is rarely the objective. In many cases, it's almost a bonus if they bag a couple of ducks. To me, that's a direct contrast to the mentality we (conservation officers) often see during the regular season. I think that attitude is what helps make the youth seasons so successful."

"I guess I like everything about duck hunting, except getting out of bed when it's still dark," said Derek. "That's the hardest part for me, but I can always count on my dad to wake me up. After that, everything else is really fun."

Youth deer hunt provides fond memories for father/daughter duo.



Susan Cox has deer hunting in her blood. Deer hunting is, in fact, a Cox family tradition. Susan's dad, Steve, is a deer hunter. He learned the art from his dad, who learned it from his dad and so on.

When Susan turned 13 last year, it seemed only natural that she would begin her whitetail career as a participant of Iowa's youth deer season.

"The first thing I had to do was find the right gun," recalled Susan. "I tried shooting dad's 12-gauge with a slug, but that was too much for me. I tried his .50-caliber muzzleloader next and it was perfect. It was more accurate and had a lot less recoil. I also liked the noise and there was lots of smoke," she smiled.

When September's youth deer season finally arrived, the father/daughter duo hit the trail with purpose, conducting five crack-of-dawn, pre-school outings to a nearby, 200-acre public woodland.

"Although our time was pretty limited, we did manage to see deer on about half the outings," noted Steve Cox, who serves as pastor at the Clear Lake Baptist Church.

"It's always a great thing to be in the out-of-doors at first light," he added. "We saw all kinds of neat stuff and were always hearing different kinds

Steve and Susan Cox enjoy the sights and sounds of an Iowa woodland as they wait for deer during last year's youth season. Getting drenched was half the fun.

of birds. One morning we saw some pheasants, and a flock of wild geese flew overhead."

"I think the most fun was just being out in the woods with my dad," said Susan.

"One morning I saw a big hawk fly over and that was really cool," she added.

"There were some funny things too. One day, my dad fell asleep and pretty soon a deer came walking by. I said, 'Dad, wake up — there's a deer!' That deer was only about 20 yards out, I tried to hurry but it got away before I could shoot," she laughed.

"Another time we were walking back to the car when a nice buck stepped out of the woods. He stopped broadside and just stared. The buck was at 50 yards. I had time to shoot but he looked too far away. I just didn't want to take a chance on shooting and wounding the deer,

so I didn't pull the trigger.

"That buck was my best chance at getting a deer last fall," she said. "On the fourth day, it rained pretty hard."

"Oh yea, I remember that morning very well," laughed Steve. "We were way back in the woods and got completely — I mean completely — drenched. We had to pull out of there and go home. After we dried off, we cooked up a big batch of bacon and eggs. We sat there laughing and talking and, in spite of the weather, we both decided it had been a great morning."

When this year's September youth season rolls around again, Susan and her dad will be back in the woods.

"I'm looking forward to going out again," said Susan. "I love venison. I love the steak, the deer sticks and jerky. If I get a deer this fall, that's what we'll do with it."

Youth pheasant hunt offers father/son camaraderie, exciting dog work, and plenty of roosters.

Zach Raney is a card-carrying, three-year-veteran of Iowa's youth pheasant season. It's really no surprise that the 14-year-old is already hooked on roosters. His dad, Tim, is himself a hard-core rooster booster and a long-time treasurer for the Winnebago/Hancock Chapter of Pheasants Forever (PF). Located in the heart of north Iowa pheasant country, this gung-ho group was the second PF chapter in the nation to generate \$1 million for habitat and are rapidly closing in on their second million. The chapter has an aggressive tree and seed program for landowners and has been directly involved in the acquisition of nearly 5,000 acres of pheasant habitat.

"I like all the hunting seasons — ducks, geese, pheasants — but I really enjoy the youth seasons," said Zach.

"I think it gives young people a better chance to hunt. I like it because there's not a lot of people then. Less competition, less pressure. Sometimes my uncle and cousin go with us. Other times it's just us — my dad and the dogs," he added.

The canines Zach refers to are four pedigreed Labrador retrievers. Tim's objective, with his dogs, is to produce highly motivated hunters with high trainability. The effort has paid off with highly efficient gun dogs that are as well-mannered in the house as they are in the field.

"We try to work with the dogs and keep them tuned up most of the year," said Tim. "When the youth pheasant season comes around it provides a great opportunity to get their nose back into the game."

"Giving the dogs a taste of the preseason is good, but what really draws me to the youth pheasant hunt is my son," said Tim. "It's a great experience — very low pressure. The kids are the only ones shooting and they don't feel pushed. The birds haven't been educated yet and it usually doesn't take long to find pheasants and get close shots. That's very good for young hunters."

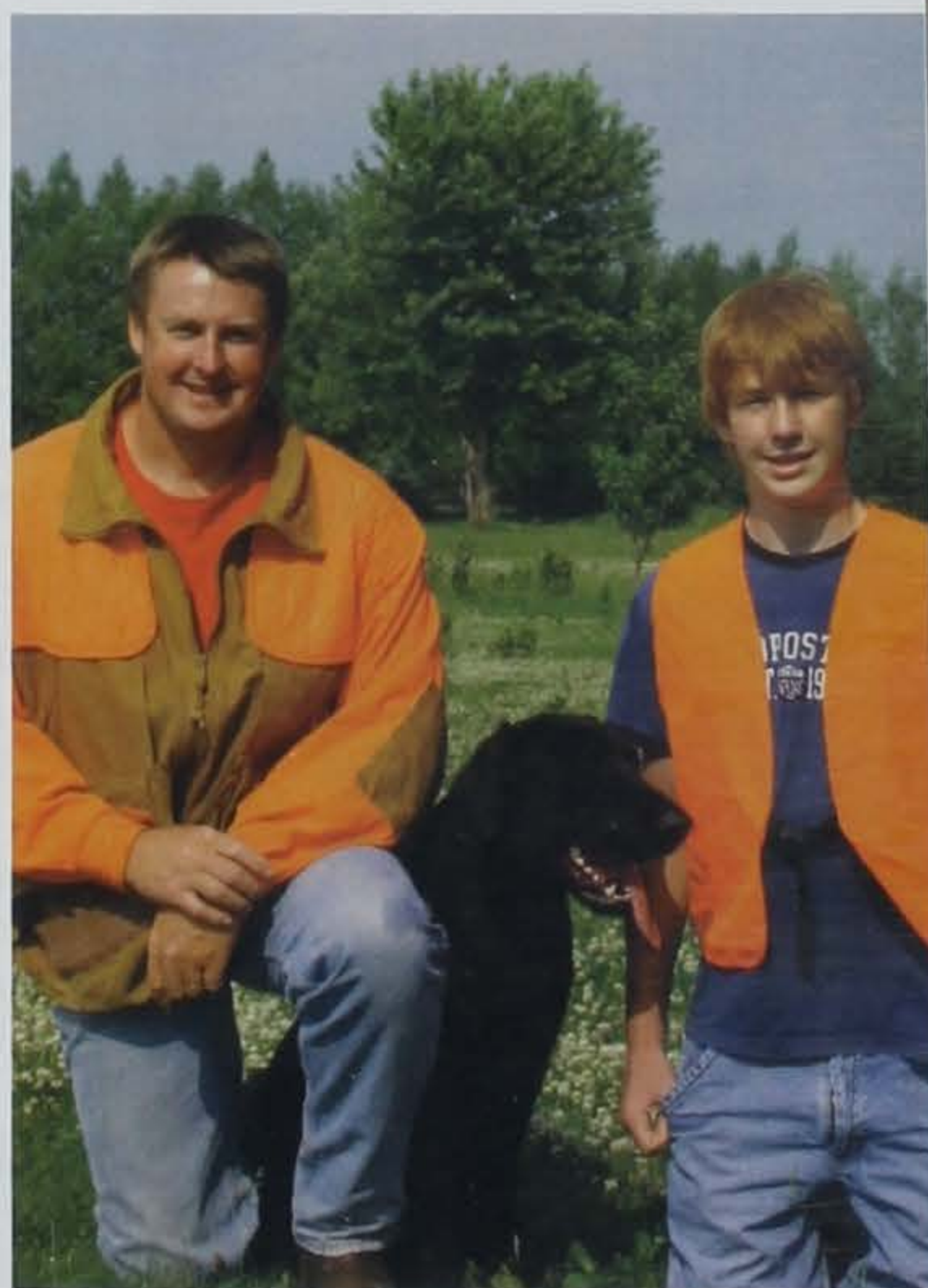
"Another thing I like about the youth hunt is the warmer weather," said Zach. "I hunt in the winter too, and can dress to stay warm. I can take the real cold stuff, but I just enjoy it more when the weather is milder."

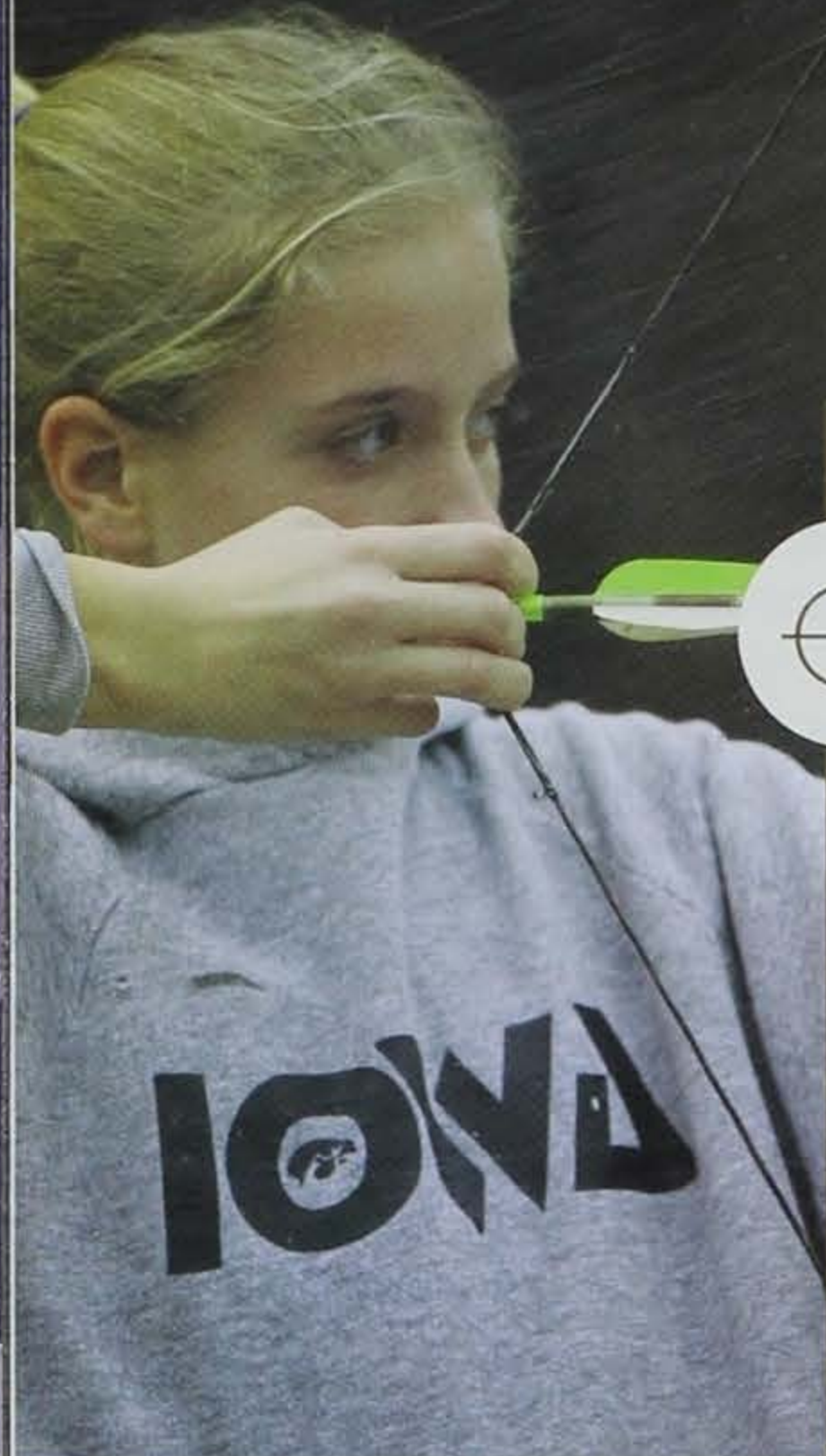
Tim and Zach Raney take a time out during a preseason training session with Deuce, one of their pedigreed Labrador retrievers. "I like to watch the dogs," said Zach. "When they start getting excited, I get excited too. I especially like it when the roosters cackle."

"We mainly hunt open grasslands. Sometimes the pheasants are in corn but we just keep going (in the grass) until we find birds."

"I like to watch the dogs. I've never hunted without them. When they find birds their tails start wagging like crazy and you can tell they're getting excited. Suddenly they will stop moving and you know that something is going to come up. That's when I start getting excited too. I especially like it when the roosters cackle."

Zach Raney turned 15 this summer. In October, he plans to participate in his final youth pheasant hunt.





Young Hunters Have Many Opportunities to Hone Their Skills

by Alan Foster

Hunting and Conservation Camp


(HACC) for boys is a three-day adventure jam packed with information, classes and experiences every budding young hunter has done, would like to try or wants to learn more about. Whether it's honing marksmanship with a .22 caliber rifle, shooting a muzzleloader for the first time, tracking clay pigeons with a shotgun or trying your skills with a bow and arrow, most participants experience a shooting sport they had yet to try. Mixed in with the shooting sports is an ample dose of conservation and hunting technique classwork and outdoor experiences.

Sponsored by the DNR and Pheasants Forever, HACC is held twice per year in the summer. Registration is limited to 75 boys ages 12 through 15 per camp. Registration fee is \$100. In most cases, registration fees are covered by a sponsoring Pheasants Forever chapter.

Outdoor Journey

Similar to HACC, Outdoor Journey for Girls (OJ) is a three-day, two-night workshop designed to introduce outdoor skills to girls in a supportive, learning environment where they have opportunities to try things hands-on. A little more diverse than HACC, Outdoor Journey offers sessions on canoeing and water safety, orienteering, fishing, fish cleaning, shooting sports and camping. One of the cool things about OJ is girls have the opportunity to become certified in Iowa's hunter education program, a requisite to buying a hunting license.

The registration fee for OJ is \$100. Outdoor Journey is sponsored by the DNR, Pheasants Forever and Iowa Women in Natural Resources. In many cases, scholarships to cover registration fees are available.



Iowa Educational Mentored Hunts

What better way to introduce a novice to deer hunting than through one of two Iowa Educational Mentored Deer Hunts. The first hunt, set for Nov. 17-19, is designed specifically for youths ages 12 through 15. The second, which is new this year, is Dec. 15-17 and is open to inexperienced youths and adults.

The three-day hunts are designed to introduce inexperienced youths and adults to the outdoors and the sport of deer hunting in a supervised setting. The hunts combine instructional classroom programs and mentor leadership to provide a safe and enjoyable introduction to the sport. Half of the weekend is spent in a classroom or educational setting, the other half is spent hunting with an experienced mentor inside the state park.

The cost of the program is \$124 plus the license fee of \$27. This covers the total cost for both the hunter and mentor. The program is limited to 24 hunters per session, so register early.

HACC, OJ and the

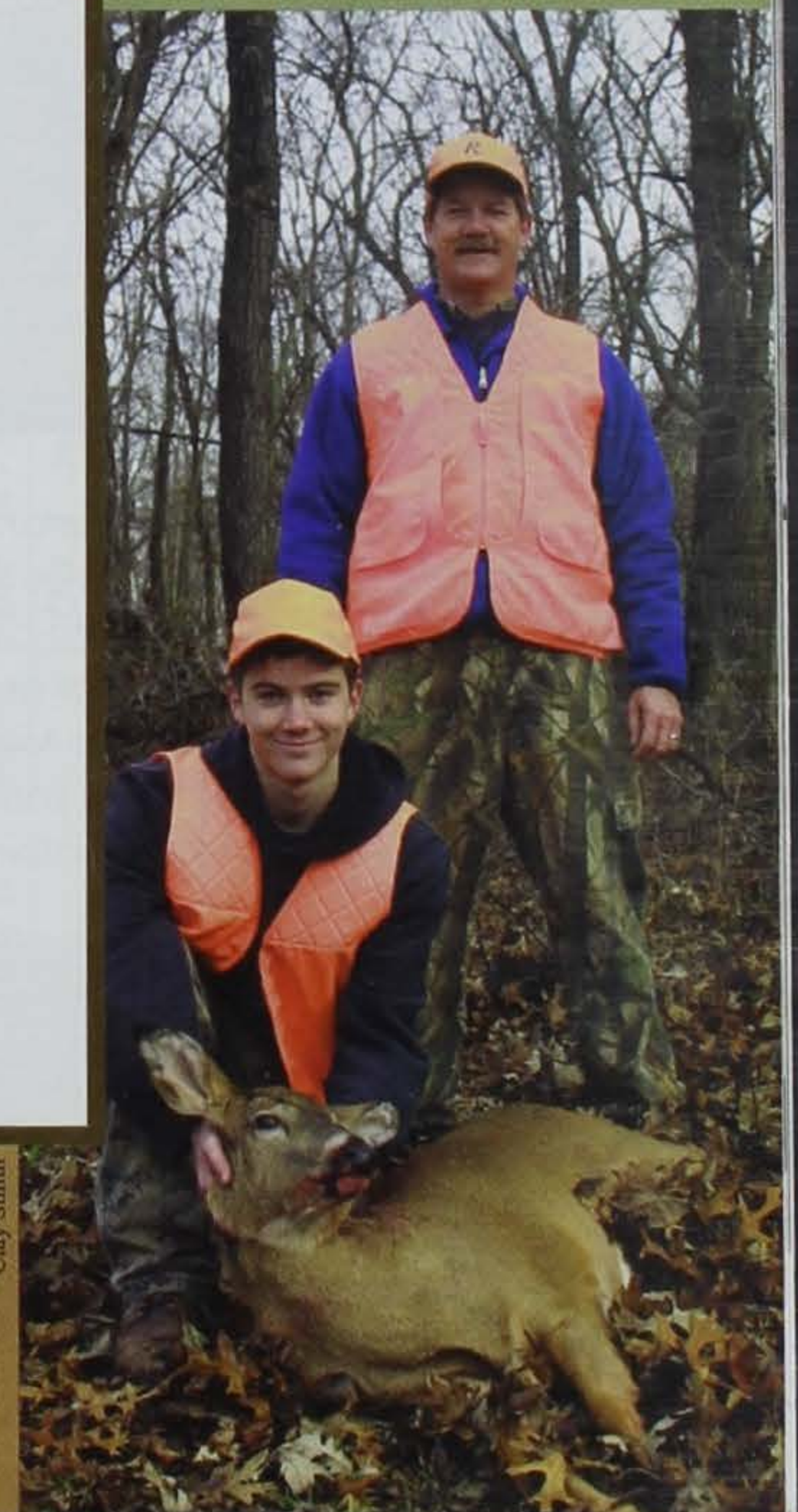
mentored hunts are held at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center, which features climate-controlled dorm room lodging, cafeteria, inside classrooms and the beautiful scenery of Springbrook State Park. All registration fees include lodging, meals, educational material and instruction.

Iowa Youth Hunter Education Challenge

The Iowa Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) is a weekend-long event held each June at the 4H Education and Natural Resources Center in Madrid. Youth from all over Iowa come to compete in eight events, learn about the outdoors, and have fun with other youth and adults that have similar interests. The challenge includes four shooting and four non-shooting events. Most youth compete as part of a team of five from their area, but youth can register as individuals as well.

The competition is open to any Iowa resident ages 12 to 18 who has passed a Hunter Education course.

Clay Smith



Adult volunteer hunter ed instructors can also participate by volunteering their time to help set up and conduct the events, presenting an evening program, coaching a team or donating money to offset the cost for participants.

Iowa High School State Trapshooting Championships

A sport that has been gaining in popularity in recent years is high school

trap shooting, so much so that the number of shooters participating in the Spring Iowa High School State Trapshooting Championships has more than tripled in the last six years.

"High school trapshooting is really catching on," said Dave Swanson, state director of the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). "In 2000, there were 117 shooters at the spring championship in Cedar Falls. It has grown to

330 participants representing 63 teams and nearly 40 high schools." Last year's competition exceeded 400 participants.

The spring championship in Cedar Falls and the SCTP state championship are two of the three events used to determine the Iowa all-state high school trapshooting teams at the end of the season. The third involves an electronic league, designed to further encourage youth shooters to practice. Youths are allowed to shoot rounds on their home ranges and submit the scores to the Stockdale Gun Club, either by fax, phone call or email. Results from all three components determine the first, second and third team all-state trapshooting teams.



Warren County PF Chapter

Warren County is not the only Pheasants Forever chapter conducting organized youth hunts. Numerous other chapters across the state are doing the same. "Pheasants Forever fully understands and embraces the fact that these young people are tomorrow's members," said Rod Slings, DNR recreational safety supervisor. Contact your local chapter for more information.

For more information about HACC and OJ go to www.iowadnr.com and click on "Camps and Workshops."

For more information about the Iowa Educational Mentored Hunts, contact A.Jay Winter at 641-747-8383, or by email at ajay.winter@dnr.state.ia.us.

For more information on YHEC, go to www.iowadnr.com and click on "Law Enforcement" and then Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

To learn more about high school trapshooting in Iowa, visit www.stockdalegunclub.com



Iowa 2006-2007 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	SHOOTING HOURS	BAG LIMITS	
			DAILY	POSSESSION
Youth Rooster Pheasant (Residents age 15 or younger)	Oct. 21-22	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	1	2 (after first day)
Rooster Pheasant	Oct. 28 - Jan. 10, 2007		3	12
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2007		8	16
Gray Partridge	Oct. 14 - Jan. 31, 2007		8	16
Turkey (Combination Gun/Bow)*	Oct. 16 - Dec. 1	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset	One Turkey Of Either Sex Per License	One Turkey Of Either Sex Per License
Turkey (Bow Only)*	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1 and Dec. 18 - Jan. 10, 2007	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to One-half Hour After Sunset		
Deer (Bow)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1 and Dec. 18 - Jan. 10, 2007			
Deer — Early Muzzleloader*	Oct. 14-22*			
Deer — Late Muzzleloader	Dec. 18 - Jan. 10, 2007			
Deer -- Youth* and Severely Disabled	Sept. 16 - Oct. 1			
Deer — November Antlerless*	Nov. 24-26			
Deer — Shotgun Season 1	Dec. 2-6			
Deer — Shotgun Season 2	Dec. 9-17			
Deer — January Antlerless*	Jan. 11-21, 2007			
Nonresident Holiday Deer Season	Dec. 24 - Jan. 2, 2007			
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 7 - Jan. 31, 2007		Sunrise to Sunset	3
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28, 2007	10		20
Rabbit (Jack)	Oct. 28 - Dec. 1	1		2
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, 2007	None	6	12
Groundhog	June. 15 - Oct. 31			
Crow	Oct. 15 - Nov. 30 and Jan. 14 - March 31, 2007			
Pigeon**	Oct. 1 - March 31, 2007			
Coyote	Continuous Open Season			
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 4 - Jan. 31, 2007			
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 4 - Jan. 31, 2007		None (Opens 8 a.m. first day only)	None

* Residents Only. ** Can be taken year round within 100 yards of buildings and bridges

2006-07 Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

NORTH DUCK ZONE*		SOUTH DUCK ZONE*
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	Sept. 23-27 Oct. 14 - Dec. 7	Sept. 23-27 Oct. 21 - Dec. 14
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	Oct. 7-8	Oct. 7-8
NORTH GOOSE ZONE*		SOUTH GOOSE ZONE*
Canada geese and brant	Sept. 30 - Dec. 10 Dec. 16 - Jan. 2, 2007	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8 Oct. 21 - Jan. 9, 2007
SPECIAL SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON		
Canada geese	Sept. 1-15 (Only in designated zones around Des Moines and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City.)	
Canada geese	Sept. 9-10 (statewide)	
STATEWIDE		
White-fronted geese	Sept. 30 - Dec. 10	
Light geese (white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese)	Sept. 30 - Jan. 14, 2007	
Light geese Conservation Order (white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese)	Jan. 15 - April 15, 2007 (Additional Regulations May Apply)	
Woodcock	Oct. 7 - Nov. 20	
Snipe	Sept. 2 - Nov. 26	
Rail (Sora and Virginia)	Sept. 2 - Nov. 10	

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset for all migratory game bird species except woodcock, which is sunrise to sunset.

Daily Bag Limits*:

Ducks: Daily limit is 6, including no more than 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 may be female), 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 1 black duck, and 2 scaup.

Mergansers: Daily limit is 5, including no more than 2 hooded mergansers. **Coots:** Daily limit is 15.

Geese: Daily limit is 2 Canada, 2 white-fronted geese, 1 brant and 20 aggregate light geese (both white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese), **EXCEPT** during the Special September Canada goose season in the Des Moines and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Zones when the daily bag limit is 3 Canada geese.

Woodcock: Daily limit is 3. **Snipe:** Daily limit is 8. **Rail (Sora and Virginia):** Daily limit is 12.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days: Shooting hours and daily bag limits will conform to those set for the regular waterfowl seasons.

***Possession Limit** is twice the daily bag limit, except for light geese for which there is no possession limit.

2006-2007 TRAPPING SEASON

SPECIES	OPENING	CLOSING
Mink, Muskrat*, Raccoon, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Badger, Opossum, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote	Nov. 4, 2006	Jan. 31, 2007
Beaver	Nov. 4, 2006	April 15, 2007
River Otter+	Nov. 4, 2006	Jan. 31, 2007
Groundhog	June 15, 2006	Oct. 31, 2007
Civet Cat (Spotted Skunk), Bobcat, Gray Wolf	Continuous Closed Season	
ALL FURBEARER SEASONS OPEN AT 8 A.M. ON THE OPENING DATE. THERE ARE NO DAILY BAG OR POSSESSION LIMITS		
*SELECTED AREAS MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY FOR MUSKRAT TRAPPING ONLY.		
+ SEASON MAY CLOSE EARLIER IF STATEWIDE QUOTA IS REACHED. SEE 2006-07 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS FOR DETAILS.		

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REAP

Resource Enhancement And Protection

by Ross Harrison



iowa communities
REAPing all the benefits

You Ought to Feel Good About This!

Most of us are only interested in the end product.

In the outdoor business, the end products are quite fetching...clean water, big fish, modern campgrounds, long, smooth, scenic trails through the Iowa countryside.

We're just too busy to concern ourselves about how those end products actually get there. We've barely enough time to bike, float, fish or camp. But give me, please, just 10 minutes to get you behind the scenes. You may be as amazed with one of these government programs and how it works, as you are with its end products.

The Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) program is:

- Big funding for outdoor recreation, natural and cultural resource conservation. (You can't have the end product without the money to produce it.)
- Big benefits to your local community. (The money to make the end product is one benefit. But end product yields much greater benefits than that initial investment.)
- Big chance for YOU to be part of it. (Half of REAP is the leadership that comes from individual Iowans, just like you, and it doesn't take much time to be involved.)
- More clean water, wildlife habitat, city, county and state parks, prairies along your roadsides, trails through the countryside, museums of local history, student knowledge of conservation, and on and on and on.

You may be surprised that REAP, an Iowa-only program, has been around for 17 years. When it



Dubuque County Conservation Board



Larry Gullet, Jones County Conservation Board

Whitewater Canyon: In Dubuque and Jones counties, Whitewater Canyon is heralded as one of REAP's finest projects protecting a unique natural area. With \$290,000 from REAP, another \$700,000 was leveraged from other sources to make the project feasible. Sideoats on Whitewater bluff (opposite page, Larry Gullet, County Conservation Board.)

was 2 years old, REAP was named the nation's best conservation funding program. Lately, most of the money for REAP has come from gambling. Unique to REAP, it also gets most of the money from three special, natural resource license plates (goldfinch/rose, pheasant and eagle); see page 31.



Larry Gullett, Jones County Conservation Board

Big Funding

Some say, not BIG enough. The REAP Act actually authorizes \$20 million per year, but always the victim of state budget balancing, REAP has never been fully funded, averaging a little more than \$11 million per year. Still, over its 17 years, REAP has directed almost \$200 million to more than 6,000 local projects throughout Iowa. And it goes directly to towns and counties to make your community a better place to live, play, compete for new business and jobs, and keep your population.

As significant as \$200 million is, just imagine our outdoor world if a fully funded REAP would have invested \$400 million in twice the number of projects. Or ask if there is frustration among the 300 Iowa towns and the 50 county conservation boards whose projects would have been funded if REAP had all the money it was authorized to spend.

Big Benefits

All by itself, the \$11-plus million per year from REAP to Iowa towns and counties for natural and cultural resource projects is a welcome boost to local economies, just like building roads and schools. And just like roads and schools, the long-term benefits from these projects return much greater economic yields over the years.

Here's an example. All of the money spent by hunters and wildlife watchers pursuing their recreation on public wildlife areas amounts to more than \$400 per acre per year on those public lands. That is according to economists who study the impact of outdoor pursuits. It means that if a 1,000-acre wildlife area is purchased through REAP (from willing sellers only), at \$2,000 per acre, in only five years that original investment is returned to the regional economy. And forever after that five years, the wildlife area is a \$400,000 benefit to the multi-county area it serves. By the way, REAP does pay property tax on all lands purchased, so county governments do not miss the revenue.

One angler generates an average of \$100 per day of fishing to the economy, a camper about \$20. Figures are not yet available for boaters, but you might imagine they are significant as well.

A recent Iowa State University study showed that for Iowa's 82 mostly rural counties, one of the most economically beneficial investments they could make was in natural resource amenities, like trails, parks, lakes and hunting areas.

While most of us do not look at ourselves as helping local economies when our bird dog makes that perfect retrieve or while peddling between parks, we are generally grateful for a great day afield. When the stream is running more clearly, where the birds are more plentiful, we'll come back and do more. Availability of outdoor recreation is one of the many keys in the formula that attracts new business, retains existing employers and keeps people wanting to live in the area. A lack of outdoor recreation is just as strong a motivation to leave.

Your Big Chance

One reason REAP was named best state conservation funding program in 1992 is the public participation side of REAP. It is quite a structure. At the most local level, every county is supposed to have a county resource enhancement committee. Most do, some are still working on it, and others are a little behind on getting their committees active.

At least once a year, those active county committees call together everyone from the county who has received REAP funding. They "show and tell" what they did last year and plan what they want to do in the future. Those committees hold some power because the signature of the chairperson is required on all city and county grant requests that come from the county, otherwise those grants will not be considered.

They hold the power, too, by informing other county residents of the values REAP has brought them. They are most effective when they keep their legislators posted on the REAP developments and benefits to their voters.



Lisa Hein, Iowa National Heritage Foundation

Trail of Future: High Bridge, west of Madrid over the Des Moines River valley, may be Iowa's most scenic if REAP, federal and state DOT can fund the several million dollars it will take.

Hale Bridge: REAP helped bring the historic Hale Bridge back to life spanning the Wapsi River between Anamosa and Wapsipinicon State Park.



Iowa National Guard

On every even numbered year, REAP conducts “assemblies” in 17 areas around the state where anyone with any interest in REAP can learn more about the program, ask questions and help steer REAP in the direction they think it should go. Officials of the four state agencies involved in REAP (DNR, DOT, Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Department of Cultural Affairs) attend the assemblies to report on what has gone on with REAP in the prior two years and to take input for the next two.

At every assembly, Iowans elect five delegates to the one-day REAP Congress, held in the State Capitol later in the year. These delegates, 85 in total, make recommendations to improve REAP. These recommendation go directly to the governor, legislature and the DNR’s Natural Resources Commission. Among the most common

recommendations: more funding for REAP and more information to Iowans about REAP.

If you want to take an active role in REAP, call your county conservation board to find your county REAP committee’s chairperson. Get on their list for the next meeting. In the meantime, you can always buy one of the REAP license plates, learn more by visiting www.iowareap.com and encourage your city to improve its natural areas by applying for a REAP grant.

All about Better Resources for You

Biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, bird watching, nature study, soil erosion control, habitat development, historical preservation—more and better of all these pursuits are what REAP is all about. Led by local citizens, with funding to make projects happen, REAP has had a glorious history. We are hopeful its future will be even better.

The next time you see one of those “Funded by REAP” signs featuring the state goldfinch and wildrose, take a second to feel good that there is a great program behind those end products that mean so much to you. Maybe, if you ponder a little more, you might want to get involved in REAP. It needs you, just like you need the end products.



Larry Gullett, Jones County Conservation Board



Clay Smith

Ross Harrison is the REAP and outreach coordinator with the department in Des Moines.

Walnut Creek Trail: Trails from Des Moines, south, west and north connect with REAP’s financial support, including the just completed Walnut Creek segment.

fish awards 2005

The following list includes the top 10 entries by weight and released of each species taken in 2005.
Current state records are in bold type.

Weight/Length Date Angler, Hometown Location/County

Bass, largemouth (minimum 7 lbs. or 22")

10 lbs 12 oz	5/84	Patricia Zaerr, Davenport	Lake Fisher, Davis
10 lbs		Earl D Nickel, Wever	Farm Pond, Lee
9 lbs 5 oz	5/6	Danny L Williams, Clarinda	Farm Pond, Page
8 lbs 2 oz	4/30	Bradly Graham, Brooklyn	Farm Pond, Poweshiek
8 lbs 2 oz	11/8	Craig Wheeler, Exira	Farm Pond, Audubon
8 lbs	5/28	J.J. Herkenrath, Omaha	Lake Nunya, Shelby
8 lbs		Wallace D Hawker, Manchester	Manchester Pond, Delaware
8 lbs	7/31	Ronald Schwalker, Omaha	Farm Pond, Cass
8 lbs	7/5	Roland Weis, Dunlap	Farm Pond, Harrison
8 lbs	2/7	Ed Kinsinger, Parnell	Farm Pond, Iowa
8 lbs	7/31	Joshua David Young, Omaha	Private Area, Cass
8 lbs	7/31	Joshua Young, Omaha	Farm Pond, Cass

Released

26.5"	10/10	David A. Govig, Clarinda	Farm Pond, Page
25.5"	5/16	Eric D Blunt, Charles City	City Quarry, Linn
24"	7/28	David W Schell, Des Moines	Farm Pond, Madison
24"	5/7	William D Mulligan, Omaha	Private Pond, Adams
23.8"	11/5	Colton Roberts, Bloomfield	Farm Pond, Davis
23.75"	4/10	Jeff Kerr, Des Moines	Farm Pond, Jasper
23.4"	3/5	Mike Augustin, Colo	Farm Pond, Story
23"	10/8	Brian Jensen, Lawton	Farm Pond, Woodbury
23"	10/5	David A. Govig, Clarinda	Windmill Lake, Taylor
23"	2/4	Wayne Walters, Channahon	Farm Pond, Taylor
22.8"	4/8	Ronald Gater, Columbia	Green Valley, Union
22.5"	4/16	Andy Eck, Dakota City	Beeds Lake, Franklin
22.5"	11/28	Richard Saville, Pacific Junction	Farm Pond, Mills
22.5"	7/5	Thayer Brown, Mount Ayr	Quarry, Ringgold
22.5"	3/6	Steven J Walker, Red Oak	Pond, Montgomery
22.3"	5/22	Jordan J Haege, Des Moines	Pond, Clarke
22"	10/29	Daniel Hanley, Knoxville	VA Pond, Marion
22"	6/14	Richard Saville, Pacific Junction	Farm Pond, Mills
7 lbs 6 oz	4/12	Joel Davis, Lamon	Lake Lashane, Decatur
7 lbs	5/7	Joe Railsback, Cedar Rapids	Pleasant Creek, Linn
7 lbs	3/31	Cory Hawk, Garden Grove	Pond, Decatur

Bass, rock (minimum 1 lbs.)

1 lb 8 oz 6/73 **Jim Driscoll, Dubuque** **Mississippi/Dubuque**

NO NEW ENTRIES

Bass, smallmouth (minimum 4 lbs. or 20")

7 lbs 12 oz	9/90	Rick Gray, Dickinson	West Okoboji, Dickinson
7 lbs 5 oz	4/2	Wade Weable, Cedar Rapids	Prairie Creek, Linn
5 lbs 5 oz	6/23	Nick Larsen, Spencer	West Okoboji, Dickinson
5 lbs		Linda Merck, Marion	Mississippi, Allamakee
5 lbs 3 oz	9/4	Michael Merck, Marion	Mississippi, Allamakee
4 lbs 15 oz	9/3	Dana D Dowd, New Hampton	Upper Iowa River, Howard
4 lbs 14 oz	8/21	Bob Bendlin, Spencer	West Okoboji, Dickinson

Weight/Length Date Angler, Hometown Location/County

4 lbs 4 oz	4/9	Ralph Livingston, Guttenberg	Turkey River, Clayton
4 lbs	9/17	Roger D Vargason, Independence	Wapsi, Buchanan
Released			
21.5"	4/27	John Grosvenor, Spirit Lake	West Okoboji, Dickinson
20.5"	8/19	Bob Bendlin, Spencer	West Okoboji, Dickinson
20.5"	9/3	Carl Hein, Epworth	Mississippi, Dubuque
20.5"	9/22	Luke Striegel, Cedar Rapids	Maquoketa, Delaware
20.5"	7/16	Doug Boek, Sioux City	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
20"	9/1	Bryan Schmitz, Cedar Rapids	Maquoketa River, Delaware
5 lbs 8 oz	8/10	Blair Seim, Waterloo	Cedar River, Black Hawk

Bass, spotted (minimum 1 lbs.)

***2 lbs 8 oz** 4/7 **David Hickey, Swisher** **Lake Macbride, Johnson**

Bass, white (minimum 2.5 lbs.)

3 lbs 14 oz	5/72	Bill Born, Milford	West Okoboji, Dickinson
3 lbs 8 oz	11/20	Denny Crook, Knoxville	Des Moines, Marion
3 lbs 4 oz	12/28	Bill Ferns, Spirit Lake	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
3 lbs 2 oz	9/8	David J Mote, Des Moines	Saylorville, Polk
3 lbs	4/19	Marcus Majerczyk, Clear Lake	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo
3 lbs	6/15	Robert D Stevens, Cedar Rapids	Mississippi, Allamakee
2 lbs 12 oz	6/10	Jay Severtsgaard, LaPorte City	Linn, Linn
2 lbs 11 oz	5/25	Richard E Kutsch, Dubuque	Mississippi, Dubuque
2 lbs 10 oz	5/24	Patrick L Kutsch, Dubuque	Mississippi, Dubuque
2 lbs 10 oz	4/23	Joe Railsback, Cedar Rapids	Pleasant Creek, Linn
2 lbs 9 oz	4/23	James A Knutson Jr, Algona	Spirit Lake, Dickinson

Bass, wiper (minimum 4 lbs.)

*19 lbs 10 oz	8/29	Youa Lovan, Des Moines	Saylorville, Polk
11 lbs 8 oz	6/15	Jeremy James Hall, Keokuk	Mississippi, Lee
11 lbs 3 oz	5/29	Jason Odefey, Dubuque	Farm Pond, Dubuque
7 lbs 4 oz	12/31	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock, Marion
6 lbs 10 oz	4/5	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock, Marion
5 lbs 4 oz	2/9	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock, Marion
5 lbs 4 oz	2/13	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock, Marion
5 lbs 4 oz	4/5	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock, Marion
5 lbs 4 oz	11/18	Denny Crook, Knoxville	Des Moines, Marion
4 lbs 6 oz	7/22	Ed Mohler, Polk City	Saylorville, Polk
4 lbs 4 oz	2/12	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock, Marion

Bass, yellow (minimum .75 lbs.)

1 lb 9 oz	4/91	Bill Campbell, Council Bluffs	Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie
1 lb 9 oz	5/00	Michael Grandick, Underwood	Lake Anita, Cass
1 lbs 3 oz	5/16	Eric D Blunt, Charles City	City Quarry, Linn
1 lbs	9/8	Barry J Andersen, Arnolds Park	East Okoboji, Dickinson
14 oz	2/13	Royce Bandy, Manchester	Lake Delhi, Delaware
14 oz	2/20	Duane Conrad, Manchester	Lake Delhi, Delaware
14 oz	3/3	Corey Erps, Arcadia	Black Hawk, Sac

Bluegill (minimum 1 lbs.)

3 lbs 2 oz	7/86	Phil Algreen, Earlham	Farm Pond, Madison
2 lbs oz	5/29	Mike J Larson, Forest City	Farm Pond, Audubon
1 lbs 15 oz	4/20	Adam Wamsler, Des Moines	Farm Pond, Warren
1 lbs 12 oz	12/23	Kent Loonan, Hudson	Farm Pond, Washington
1 lbs 6 oz	8/11	Thomas L Christensen, Spirit Lake	West Okoboji, Dickinson
1 lbs 5 oz	6/3	Tristin Glidden, Garner	East Okoboji, Dickinson
1 lbs 5 oz	6/2	Dyan Balason, Portsmouth	Farm Pond, Adair
1 lbs 4 oz	6/11	Bill Hull, Newton	Izaak Walton Pond, Jasper
1 lbs 4 oz	4/3	Jim Gunning, Ames	Farm Pond, Dallas
1 lbs 4 oz	4/3	Tom Scott, Ames	Farm Pond, Dallas
1 lbs 3 oz	7/20	Bill Schense, Central City	Farm Pond, Jones
1 lbs 3 oz	6/3	Autumn K Glidden, Garner	East Okoboji, Dickinson
1 lbs 3 oz	5/8	Samuel H Clouse, Moravia	Farm Pond, Appanoose

Bowfin/Dogfish (minimum 5 lbs.)

11 lbs 9 oz	5/94	Bill Gretten, Blue Grass	Mississippi, Clayton
6 lbs oz	6/12	Gene A Fischer, Guttenberg	Johnson Slough, Clayton

Buffalo (minimum 20 lbs.)

63 lbs 6 oz	8/99	Jim Winters, Jesup	Mississippi, Allamakee
24 lbs 4 oz	7/10	Katrina Rhoades, Council Bluffs	Missouri, Pottawattamie
21 lbs	2/6	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock, Marion

Bullhead (minimum 2.5 lbs.)

5 lbs 8 oz	1/89	Michael Hurd, Ellsworth	Pond, Hamilton
3 lbs	5/8	Robert W White, Polk City	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
3 lbs	5/7	Andrew M White, Polk City	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
2 lbs 8 oz	7/15	Max Reynolds, Red Oak	Windmill Lake, Taylor

Carp (minimum 25 lbs.)

50 lbs	5/69	Fred Houglund, Glenwood	Glenwood Lake, Mills
30 lbs	5/7	Robert W White, Polk City	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
45 lbs	5/28	Russ Farrell, Des Moines	Farm Pond, Union
27 lbs 9 oz	6/24	Matthew S Lovelace, Coralville	Pleasant Creek, Linn

Carp, bighead (minimum 25 lbs.)

54 lbs	7/03	Randall Moore, Prairie City	Des Moines River, Marion
29 lbs	12/31	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock Dam, Marion

Catfish, blue (minimum 20 lbs. or 35")

101 lbs	6/04	Mike Rush, Bellevue	Missouri, Mills
26 lbs 9 oz	7/14	Doug Swafford, Fort Madison	Mississippi, Lee

Released

53.5"	7/4	Ryan Wassink, Sioux Center	Big Sioux, Sioux
44"	5/18	James J Gardner, Council Bluffs	Missouri, Harrison

Catfish, channel (minimum 15 lbs. or 30")

*38 lbs 2 oz	6/11	Dustin J Curtis, Omaha	Missouri, Pottawattamie
17 lbs 6 oz	7/23	Robert W White, Polk City	Little Sioux, Clay
15 lbs 13 oz	7/6	Eugene Bordoff, Glenwood	Missouri
15 lbs 2 oz	7/15	David A. Govig, Clarinda	Windmill Lake, Taylor

Released

50.5"	9/18	Clyde R John, Des Moines	Des Moines, Polk
38"	6/7	Edwin "Ed" Nelsen, Milford	Lower Gar, Dickinson
34.5"	7/27	Tom Neal, Sioux Rapids	Little Sioux, Buena Vista
33"		Tanner Heintz, Des Moines	Little Wall Lake, Hamilton
33"	6/13	Joe Railsback, Cedar Rapids	Pleasant Creek, Linn
31.5"	8/13	Ronald Gater, Columbia	3 Mile Lake, Union
31"	5/26	Douglas Tieden, Moravia	Lake Rathbun, Appanoose
30.5"	7/16	Daniel Sullivan, Coralville	Farm Pond, Johnson
30.5"	8/19	Carly Walker, Red Oak	Pond, Montgomery
18 lbs 3 oz	9/26	David A. Govig, Clarinda	Pioneer Park, Page
15 lbs 8 oz	7/15	Max Reynolds, Red Oak	Windmill Lake, Taylor

Catfish, flathead (minimum 20 lbs. or 35")

81 lbs	6/58	Joe Baze, Chariton	Lake Ellis, Lucas
67 lbs	6/19	Mark Hirte & Family, Wever	Skunk River, Des Moines
56 lbs	9/18	Debbie Prescher, Sioux Falls	Missouri, Harrison
51 lbs	4/26	Tim Cowles, Madrid	Des Moines, Boone
50 lbs	6/7	Jerry Marrs, New London	Skunk River, Henry
50 lbs	9/8	Brian Slater, Adel	Raccoon River, Dallas
47 lbs 13 oz	6/2	Barbara Smith, Albia	Des Moines, Mahaska
45 lbs	9/20	Bob Feller, Le Claire	Mississippi, Scott
41 lbs 14 oz	6/20	Barbara Smith, Albia	Des Moines, Mahaska
35 lbs 8 oz	8/17	Avery Hollrah, Lanesboro	North Raccoon, Carroll
35 lbs	6/5	Laird Moulds, Sharpsburg	Lakeview, Sac

Released

54"	9/1	Frank Aldridge, Des Moines	Des Moines, Polk
51.5"	7/1	Robert O'Niell, Council Bluffs	Missouri, Pottawattamie
50"	7/8	Bill Monen, Boone	Saylorville, Polk
46"	9/16	Donnie Mick, Des Moines	Des Moines, Polk
38"	8/21	Jeff Nelson, Council Bluffs	Missouri, Pottawattamie
38"	7/20	Doug Swafford, Fort Madison	Mississippi, Lee
38"	8/2	Frank Gustafson, W Des Moines	Des Moines, Polk
37"		Aaron Batchelder, Central City	Mississippi, Clayton
42 lbs	12/23	Gary Wilkening, Monroe	Red Rock Dam, Marion
39 lbs	12/4	Brett K Monteleone, Dallas	Red Rock Dam, Marion

Crappie (minimum 2 lbs.)

4 lbs 9 oz	5/81	Ted Trowbridge, Marshalltown	Green Castle, Marshall
3 lbs 6 oz	4/17	Grant Beck, Lacona	Farm Pond, Warren
3 lbs 2 oz	4/10	Robert Ericsson, Lytton	Black Hawk Pits, Sac
2 lbs 8 oz	1/21	Dave Murguia, Branson	Badger, Madison
2 lbs 7 oz	5/15	Jordan Stangeland, Graettinger	Jim Hall Pit, Palo Alto
2 lbs 6 oz	4/22	Lucy L Govig, Clarinda	Farm Pond, Taylor
2 lbs 5 oz		Teri Conlon Getz, Sioux City	Southwood, Woodbury
2 lbs 5 oz	11/4	Jim Schaaf, Des Moines	Red Rock, Marion
2 lbs 4 oz	8/16	Don Cruikshank, Johnston	Roberts Creek, Marion
2 lbs 3 oz	8/6	Ryan Kirk, Albia	Cottonwood Pit, Monroe
2 lbs 3 oz	3/20	Max Reynolds, Red Oak	Farm Pond, Page

Drum, freshwater (minimum 15 lbs.)

46 lbs	10/62	R.F. Farran, Clarion	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
21 lbs	8/28	Luke D Wohlers, Dyersville	Mississippi, Clayton
20 lbs 7 oz	7/30	Patrick Lemke, Reasnor	Rathbun, Monroe
18 lbs	8/29	Matt Wohlers, Dyersville	Mississippi, Clayton
15 lbs	8/29	Matt Wohlers, Dyersville	Mississippi, Clayton

Gar, longnose (minimum 6 lbs.)

17 lbs 8 oz	9/92	Kevin Riley, Cedar Rapids	Mississippi, Clayton
15 lbs	6/27	Nathan D Flynn, Mason City	Mississippi, Clayton

Gar, shortnose (minimum 2 lbs.)

4 lbs 15 oz	5/04	Eric VanWeelden, Kellogg	Des Moines River, Marion
4 lbs 14 oz	4/22	Harley Wittkopf, Algona	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
3 lbs	8/20	Sarah Smith, Harpers Ferry	Mississippi, Allamakee

Goldeneye/Mooneye (minimum 1.25 lbs.)

2 lbs 15 oz	6/04	Scott Kinkead, Central City	Mississippi, Clayton
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NON-ENTRIES

Muskellunge (minimum 15 lbs. or 40")

50 lbs 6 oz	8/00	Kevin Cardwell, Spirit Lake	Big Spirit, Dickinson
18 lbs oz	8/15	Kirk A Johnson, Clive	Des Moines, Polk
20 lbs oz	4/21	Marcus Majerczyk, Clear Lake	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo

Released

49.5"	6/14	Rodney Blau, Sibley	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
46.5"	11/4	Dennis Gerardy, Maquoketa	Pleasant Creek, Linn

Weight/Length	Date	Angler, Hometown	Location/County
46"	5/24	John L McDonald, Council Bluffs	Minnewashata, Dickinson
45"	4/23	Doug Chafa, Ruthven	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
44.5"	10/14	John Grosvenor, Spirit Lake	West Okoboji, Dickinson
42.5"	5/30	Paul Malm, Merville	Little Sioux, Buena Vista
42"	4/10	Joe Railsback, Cedar Rapids	Pleasant Creek, Linn
41"	7/21	T J Herrick, Algona	West Okoboji, Dickinson
40.25"	5/29	Benny Malm, Kingsley	Little Sioux, Buena Vista
40"	5/22	Larry Hoffman, Clear Lake	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo
40"	6/7	Stephen A O'Hern, Omaha	Minnewashta, Dickinson
15 lbs	10/5	David D Handy, Kellerton	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo

Northern Pike (minimum 10 lbs. or 34")

25 lbs 5 oz	2/77	Allen Forsberg, Albert City	West Okoboji, Dickinson
20 lbs 4 oz	2/5	Terri Palmer, Harpers Ferry	Mississippi, Allamakee
18 lbs	10/8	Rachel H Anderson, Waterloo	Private Pond, Chickasaw
16 lbs	7/15	Brian R Quinn, Quasqueton	Buchanan
15 lbs 10 oz	2/24	Mike Uhlenhopp, Alexander	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo
15 lbs		Carol J DeHart, Garnavillo	Bussey Lake, Clayton
15 lbs	7/10	John W Dillon, Independence	Wapsi, Buchanan
14 lbs	1/19	Bryan Close, Jesup	Wapsi, Buchanan
13 lbs 3 oz	3/29	Ronald Blau, Sibley	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
13 lbs	7/28	Ryan Freiling, Central City	Mississippi, Clayton
13 lbs	7/8	Gary L Junkman, Manson	North Twin Lake, Calhoun

Released

37.5"		Andy Folkers, Alta Vista	Rock Quarry, Cerro Gordo
37"	8/27	Brent Jensen, Omaha	West Okoboji, Dickinson
36.5"	6/3	Andy Geary, Carroll	Black Hawk, Sac
36"	5/1	Austin Bare, Sutherland	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
36"	9/11	Chuck F Tlusty, Plainfield	Cedar River, Bremer
35.5"	7/17	Sean Dewitz, Cedar Falls	Cedar River, Black Hawk
35.3"	6/3	Josh R Nelson, Marion	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo
35"	8/14	Maxwell Simonson, Milford	East Okoboji, Dickinson
35"	5/29	Raymond Stanley, Spirit Lake	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
34.1"	6/6	Scott A Vitzthum, Gilmore City	Farm Pond, Humboldt
34"	7/5	Rickie A Schlie, Mason City	Winnebago, Cerro Gordo

Paddlefish (minimum 25 lbs.)

107 lbs	3/81	Robert Pranschke, Onawa	Missouri, Monona
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NO NEW ENTRIES

Perch, yellow (minimum 1 lbs.)

2 lbs 3 oz	3/94	Daniel Borchart, Mason City	Morse Lake, Wright
2 lbs 3 oz	12/01	Steven Moore, Guttenberg	Bussey Lake, Clayton
*2 lbs 3 oz	1/8	Jerry Kuchenbecker, McGregor	Mississippi, Allamakee
1 lbs 14 oz	1/25	Darrel E Brawner, Estherville	Farm Pond, Emmet
1 lbs 10 oz	3/12	Trenton Plaht, Postville	Mississippi, Allamakee
1 lbs 10 oz	7/9	Paul Thomsen, Linn Grove	Farm Pond, Clay
1 lbs 8 oz	3/13	Trenton Plaht, Postville	Mississippi, Allamakee
1 lbs 8 oz	1/22	David J Bennett, Omaha	Farm Pond, Wayne
1 lbs 7 oz	4/13	Tim Smith, Guttenberg	Mississippi, Clayton
1 lbs 6 oz	1/22	Matthew R Bennett, Omaha	Farm Pond, Wayne
1 lbs 6 oz	3/3	John J Rigby, Spencer	Trumbull, Clay
1 lbs 5 oz	1/22	Mark Bennett, Carroll	Farm Pond, Wayne

Sauger (minimum 2.5 lbs. or 18")

6 lbs 8 oz	10/76	Mrs. W. Buser, Sloan	Missouri, Woodbury
4 lbs oz	11/21	Ron Bermel, Muscatine	Mississippi, Muscatine
3 lbs 4 oz	3/18	Clifford Lawson, Dundee	Mississippi, Clayton
3 lbs 4 oz		Millie Mulvihill, Salix	Missouri, Woodbury
3 lbs 4 oz	12/6	Mike Francois, Masonville	Mississippi, Clayton
3 lbs 4 oz	3/26	Rick Wedewer, Cedar Rapids	Mississippi
3 lbs 3 oz	1/28	Paul A Mangler, Milan	Mississippi, Clinton
3 lbs	6/19	John Powell, Muscatine	Mississippi, Muscatine
3 lbs	3/25	Ed Dvorak, Guttenberg	Mississippi, Clayton

Weight/Length	Date	Angler, Hometown	Location/County
2 lbs 14 oz	11/10	LeRoy P. Ruden, Dyersville	Mississippi, Clayton
2 lbs 10 oz	10/29	Jason Bermel, Muscatine	Mississippi, Muscatine
2 lbs 10 oz	3/23	Dan Unga, Manchester	Mississippi, Clayton
Released			
22"	11/22	Jerry Petersen, Davenport	Mississippi, Muscatine
21.3"	10/28	Jack Machacek, Central City	Mississippi, Clayton
20.8"	2/12	Bob Dupont, Dubuque	Mississippi, Allamakee
20"	3/1	Francis Carlson, Guttenberg	Mississippi, Clayton
20"	1/4	John Kapler, Cedar Rapids	Mississippi, Clayton
19.5"	3/4	Jeff Ortiz, Bettendorf	Mississippi, Scott
19.5"	2/27	Chuck Unga, Manchester	Mississippi, Clayton
18"	3/22	Larry Goranson, Manchester	Mississippi, Clayton

Saugeye (minimum 6 lbs. or 25")

12 lbs 4 oz	3/00	Don Ostergaard, Des Moines	Des Moines River, Polk
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NO NEW ENTRIES

Sturgeon, shovelnose (minimum 3 lbs.)

12 lbs	4/74	Randy Hemm, Douds	Des Moines River, Van Buren
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NO NEW ENTRIES

Sucker (minimum 4 lbs.)

15 lbs 1 oz	9/83	Glen E. Dittman, Onawa	Missouri, Monona
8 lbs	10/11	William Sass, Waterloo	Cedar River, Black Hawk
7 lbs 3 oz	3/6	Teri Conlon Getz, Sioux City	Big Sioux River, Woodbury
5 lbs 14 oz	4/10	Tristan Sheckles, Dubuque	Maquoketa, Jackson
5 lbs	8/25	Bob Hansen, Cedar Falls	Mississippi, Allamakee

Sunfish (minimum 1 lbs.)

2 lbs 1 oz	7/00	Ralph Mayer, Knoxville	Pond, Marion
2 lbs	8/17	Alex Campbell, Clarinda	Viking Lake, Page
1 lbs 3 oz	5/21	Gary D West, Jefferson	Nine Eagles, Decatur
1 lbs	6/10	Bob Bellmer, Wayland	Crawford Pond, Washington
1 lbs	6/5	Alan Bowles, Norwalk	Hooper, Warren

Trout, brook (minimum 1.5 lbs. or 15")

7 lbs	7/96	Doug Kovarik, Marion	Fountain Springs, Delaware
3 lbs 8 oz	1/1	Mark Clark, Davenport	Brush Creek, Jackson
3 lbs 2 oz	5/24	Georgiana Herr, Davenport	Paint Creek, Allamakee
3 lbs 1 oz	8/7	Randall L Tekippe, Waterloo	Grannis Circle, Fayette
2 lbs 11 oz	4/8	Jim Schiffer, Maquoketa	Mill Creek, Jackson
2 lbs 6 oz	4/10	Corey Meyer, Calmar	Bohemian Creek, Winneshiek
2 lbs	5/24	Norman Gulick, Allison	Trout Run, Winneshiek
1 lbs 10 oz	5/15	James M Howard, Dubuque	Swiss Valley, Dubuque

Trout, brown (minimum 3 lbs. or 18")

15 lbs 6 oz	6/95	Gerold Lewis, Gladbrook	North Prairie, Blackhawk
13 lbs 9 oz	6/4	John Jennerjohn, Strawberry Point Spring Branch, Delaware	
13 lbs 9 oz	6/3	John Jennerjohn, Strawberry Point Spring Branch, Delaware	
8 lbs	7/8	Michael W Callan, Westgate	Granis, Fayette
7 lbs 6 oz	5/7	Dana D Dowd, New Hampton	Wexford, Allamakee
6 lbs 4 oz	3/31	Jim Schiffer, Maquoketa	Brush Creek, Jackson
6 lbs	6/3	Jim Schiffer, Maquoketa	Big Mill Creek, Jackson
5 lbs 13 oz	5/10	Curt Saland, Lansing	Joy Springs, Clayton
5 lbs 11 oz	5/9	Ralph Livingston, Guttenberg	Buck, Clayton
5 lbs 11 oz	6/7	James C. Womeldorf, Decorah	Trout Run, Winneshiek
5 lbs 4 oz	4/28	Randy Grover, Kalona	Sny Magill, Clayton

Released

24"	9/3	Jordan Irwin, Cedar Rapids	Bloody Run, Allamakee
23"	6/4	Eric D Blunt, Charles City	Burr Oak, Mitchell
22"	10/23	Mike Amundson, Waterloo	Bailey's Ford, Delaware
21.3"	4/15	Corey Meyer, Calmar	Trout Run, Winneshiek

Trout, rainbow (minimum 3 lbs. or 18")

19 lbs 8 oz	7/84	Jack Renner, Waterloo	French Creek, Allamakee
10 lbs 5 oz	10/16	John Jennerjohn, Strawberry Point	Grannis Creek, Clayton
10 lbs 4 oz	7/8	Michael W. Callan, Westgate	Granis Creek, Fayette
10 lbs	6/8	Douglas M. Oberfoell, Dubuque	Swiss Valley, Dubuque
9 lbs 12 oz	10/16	John Jennerjohn, Strawberry Point	Grannis Creek, Clayton
9 lbs 4 oz	2/20	Steven W. Aswegan, Calmar	Trout Run, Winneshiek
8 lbs 5 oz	6/22	Mike Amundson, Waterloo	Joy Springs, Clayton
8 lbs 2 oz	5/3	Curt Saland, Lansing	Otter, Fayette
8 lbs	5/24	Steven J. Burgess, Dubuque	Swiss Valley, Dubuque
8 lbs		Denny Dougherty, Marengo	Baily's Ford, Delaware
8 lbs	6/18	William G. Hoffman, Solon	Fountain Springs, Delaware

Released

24.1"	6/2	Dennis E. Laugesen, Dubuque	Catfish Creek, Dubuque
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Walleye (minimum 8 lbs. or 28")

14 lbs 8 oz	9/86	Gloria Eoriatti, Ankeny	Des Moines, Polk
12 lbs 8 oz	9/27	Jon Thompson, Plover	W. Des Moines, Pocahontas
11 lbs 4 oz	3/6	Rich Olsson, Jr., Cedar Falls	Cedar River, Black Hawk
11 lbs	3/16	Jeff Hartwig, Boone	Des Moines, Boone
11 lbs	11/19	Randy Cerwick, Fort Dodge	Des Moines, Humboldt
10 lbs 12 oz	11/28	Blake Perkins, Anthon	Little Sioux, Woodbury
10 lbs 11 oz	8/20	Jason Dean Miller, Cresco	Mississippi, Allamakee
10 lbs 4 oz	11/28	Michael D. Severtsgaard, Vinton	Cedar River, Benton

10 lbs 4 oz	2/17	Bob Wolfram, Ventura	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo
10 lbs 2 oz	12/25	Jim Burgeson, Arnolds Park	West Okoboji, Dickinson
10 lbs	8/7	John Barnhart, Mechanicsville	Wapsipinicon, Buchanan
10 lbs	5/17	Dan Duolos, Dubuque	Mississippi, Dubuque

Released

31"	6/4	James B. Oberfoell, Sherrill	Mississippi, Dubuque
30.25"	3/26	Brian Bristow, Algona	E. Des Moines, Kossuth
30"	10/10	Robert L. Conrad, Washburn	Cedar River, Black Hawk
30"		Dennis Gatewood, Manson	Des Moines, Webster
30"	3/23	John R. Havlicek, Cedar Rapids	Wapsipinicon, Linn
29.3"	3/6	Chuck Unga, Manchester	Mississippi, Allamakee
29"	5/25	Ryan Blau, Spencer	East Okoboji, Dickinson
28.5"	8/4	Pat Phillips, Manchester	Maquoketa, Delaware
28.3"	11/1	Galen Peters, Teeds Grove	Mississippi, Jackson
28"	11/22	Glen R. Hansen, Waterloo	Cedar River, Black Hawk
28"	9/19	Todd Jeffery, Wyoming	Wapsipinicon, Jones
28"	4/29	James P. Wilson, Waterloo	Ponderosa, Poweshiek

White Amur (minimum 25 lbs.)

64 lb	5/03	Vaughn Wassink, Hull	Winterfield Pit, Sioux
50 lbs oz	8/4	Joe Railsback, Cedar Rapids	Pleasant Creek, Linn
33 lbs 6 oz		Matthew S. Lovelace, Coralville	Pleasant Creek, Linn
25 lbs oz	9/2	James P. Wilson, Waterloo	Ponderosa, Poweshiek

*new state record

fish awards 2006

•If you catch a fish eligible for submission for a big fish award, please fill out this entry blank. For many of the predator species, you may release the fish and still receive the big fish award by meeting the listed length limitations. One witness must attest to the weight of the fish to the nearest ounce, or to the length, which is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (total length). If there is some doubt in species identification, the angler should contact the nearest DNR personnel in the area for verification.

--Potential state record fish must be weighed to the nearest ounce on a scale legal for trade. New all-time record fish must be examined and verified (according to weight and species) by DNR personnel.

•The entry blank should be filled out and mailed with a photo or color slide of the angler and fish to: Fish Records, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines IA 50319-0034. Photo will be returned to angler. Large fish will be recognized for each year as well as all-time records over a period of years. An angling award certificate and shoulder patch will be sent to the angler for each qualifying entry. The top 10 record fish by weight and released of each species are listed each year in the *Iowa Conservationist*.

**ENTRY BLANK FOR IOWA RECORD FISH
(One entry per species, per year. Please print.)**

Name _____

Street/RFD _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Species _____

Date _____

Name of Lake/Stream _____

County where caught _____

Length _____

Weight _____

Bait or lure used _____

Was this fish released? (circle one) Yes No

Witness _____

Name _____

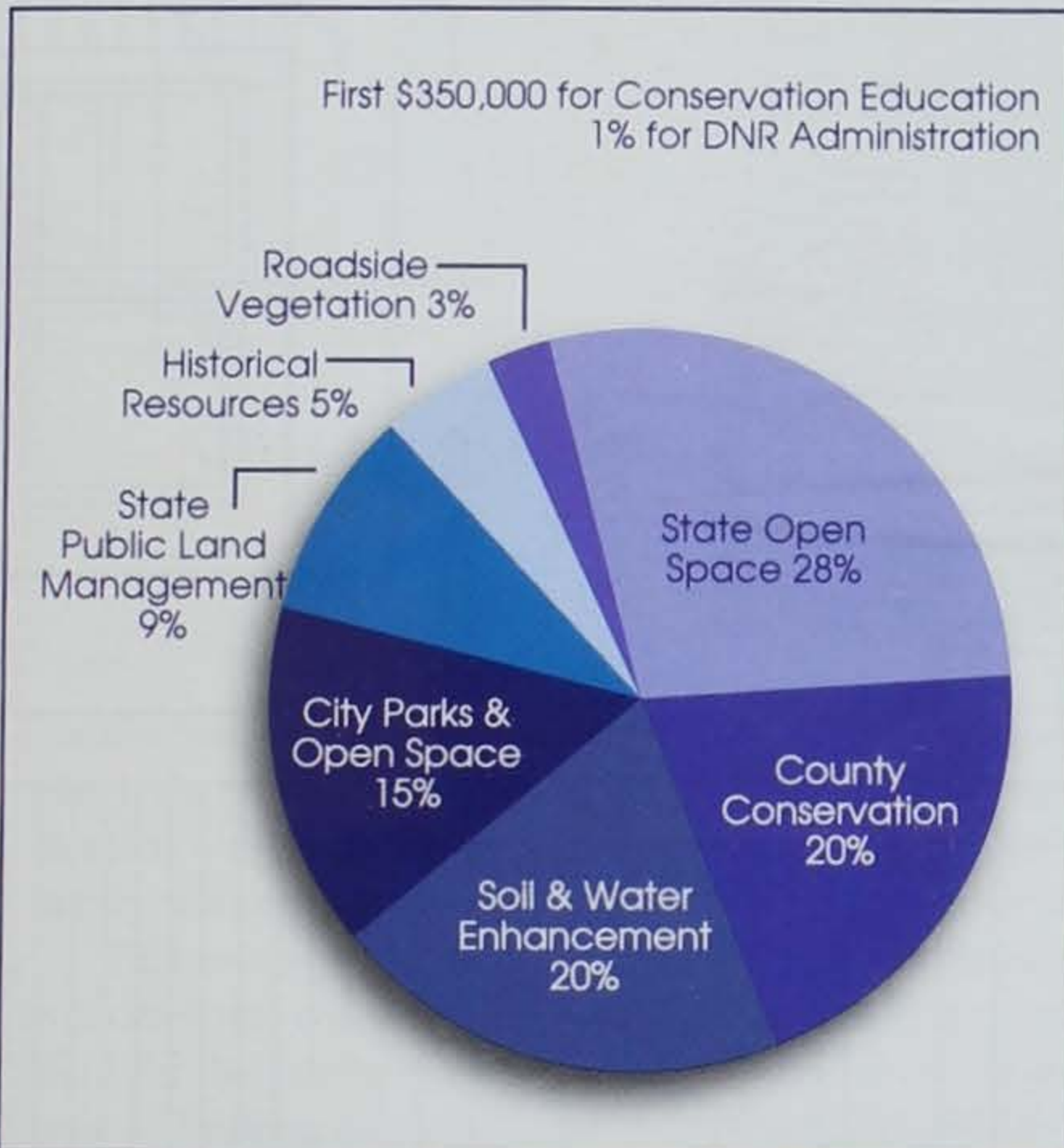
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Entries of fish caught during the current year must be sent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources by January 15 of the following year.)

REAP at a glance

Support REAP with one of three license plates

Find out more at www.iowareap.com and see what REAP has done in your county by clicking on "Expenditures."



Where does REAP money go?

REAP is authorized at \$20 million per year, but has never been fully funded.

The last 4 years, \$11 million per year has come from gambling revenue and \$500,000 more from license plates.



REAP license plates are available for \$45 from your county treasurers office.





a super-efficient home

One north-central Iowa couple has gone above and beyond the average do-it-yourselfer to make their home energy efficient.



Story by **Brian Button**
Photographs by **Clay Smith**

The Eells' spacious, custom home helps them live like modern Earth-minded folks: super-efficient without living like a Spartan; they are energy pros, after all, which explains how they cool their home for just \$8 a year.

Chad specializes in testing homes for efficiency, Jean is a county conservationist, and the couple lives their ethos in one of Iowa's most airtight dwellings, a comfortable, energy-miser ranch home with an attached geodesic dome. The self-built home, awaiting final touches, proves mega efficiency has merits.

"The first couple of years we didn't even have the hot water heater wired," says Jean, laughing while explaining they had more than enough 150-degree, scalding water. By recouping waste heat from their



Bubble light tubes bathe the kitchen and a stairwell/closet with light. According to Jean Eels, they make good night lights during full moons.



geothermal heat pump and solar panel, the water heater's electric element was passé. (Even with a luxury whirlpool tub.)

This south-of-Webster City wonder-home recently needed \$972 for the year's utility bills — heating, hot water, summer cooling and electrical — a bargain for any house, but especially since Jean often works from home and Chad's home-based custom cabinetry business requires an extensive power tool collection in his spacious shop. Their bills, about half the Iowa average utility costs, are made more impressive as the Eells don't spend winters in Arizona or live in the dark; they have above-normal electrical needs, like electric pumps for the well and sump, and all the electric tools.

"In our old home, I needed \$1,500 saved before the winter

to spend on LP gas," says Jean, beaming about "guilt-free warmth and comfort."

Her summer secret . . . "I like to keep the house very cool."

Hardly the typical mantra for the environmental crowd, but if it's mostly free — not stripping the land of finite resources and emission-free — then live richly, without the bills.

From the exterior, a rooftop Dish Network seems Average Joe enough, but what sets the north end of the ranch home apart is a vast, 1,000-square-foot geodesic dome, capped 26 feet high with windows. That's where the "tree house" hangs, a platform suspended from the ceiling, a great retreat for sunrise and sunset views with a cup of java (and where Chad likes to watch thunderbolts from dark, anvil-shaped clouds pierce the table-top

flat horizon.). His workshop dome will eventually include vertical structures for lumber storage and stairs to the tree house, replacing the not-for-the-faint ladder climb. Off the cavernous dome is the main ranch, spacious with 2,000 square feet (not including a sprawling 3,000-square-foot basement.) On the roof, a small solar cell array faces west and a bubble light tube bathes a kitchen corner below in warm, glorious sunlight, or gives flickering light during electrical storms. "It makes a good nightlight during full moons," adds Jean. A second tube illuminates an otherwise dark closet and stairwell.

Proceeding down wide stairs to the basement, Chad explains that living comfortably with minimal bills requires good design

and planning. The secrets here are a super-airtight structure and ultra-efficient heating and cooling. For starters, the Eells' basement foundation is wood, not the typical concrete block. Treated 2x8 studs and plywood are protected with a vapor barrier.

"I am absolutely sold on wood foundations," says Chad. "The key is 3 inches of crushed glass all around it, offering a cocoon to channel soil moisture down to a drainage sump," says Chad, pointing to a viewing portal used to educate visitors with through-the-walls views of buried glass. (A marble sized chunk still has its

Corona beer markings.) In all, two truckloads of crushed glass were reused to backfill the underground walls.

"Moisture moves through crushed glass faster than anything else," says Chad, noting that even pea gravel can

Probably one of the more "radical" parts of the Eells' home is its wood foundation. According to Chad, the secret to its success is the 3 inches of crushed glass around it.





Fresh air, in a house this tight, is an important consideration. An air exchanger (top left) provides the answer.

Copper coils reclaim waste heat from the shower drain.



absorb moisture. Thick walls allow extra insulation and are 20 to 30 times better insulators than their cold, concrete block counterparts. "It's dead tight for air and moisture," says Chad.

This house is one of the tightest in Iowa. If you add up all the cracks, holes, spaces and gaps of most homes, you'd find an area 2-foot-square or larger with conditioned air whooshing out. The Eells' home? An index card size hole. Airtight living not only seals out moisture, but prevents energy loss. Vapor barriers wrap the home, and outlets and switches are sealed and insulated in special plastic electrical boxes to smother drafts where older homes bleed air.

Walking through the basement, which is filled with energy-saving fluorescent lighting like the rest of the home, Jean points to plumbing below the master bath where coils of copper reclaim waste heat from the shower drain. The Eells aren't ones to get soaked by high energy costs — the device washes away 15 percent of energy needs by pre-warming cold water, allowing bathers to use less hot water.

Continuing through the basement, the Eells explain the real secret to energy savings — couple a tightly sealed home with geothermal



Geothermal heating takes advantage of the Earth's constant temperature by pumping glycol through a field of tubing buried outside the home to dissipate or gather heat depending upon the season.



heating and cooling. Mechanically simple, it takes advantage of the Earth's constant below-ground temperatures by pumping glycol through a field of tubing buried outside to dissipate or gather heat depending upon the season. Waste heat from the unit provides free hot water.

Because the home is nearly airtight, fresh air is a must, says Chad, pointing to an air exchanger that hangs near the ceiling, coupled to the ducts. Before venting stale air outside, about 80 percent of the heat or coolness is transferred to incoming fresh air, which is filtered to remove pollen and dust then sent through the ducts. In their home, humidity, temperature and comfort are a constant year long. "I never expected to be in a house without the need to open windows," says Jean.

Major efficiencies aside, the home has other environmental pluses new and old. A fuel sipping Toyota Prius hybrid sits in the garage. That's new-school environmental thinking — better, efficient living with less pollution. Reusing building materials is old-school, literally, as the sink in the half bath is reclaimed from an elementary building Jean attended. It features not only a small drinking fountain,

but childhood memories for Jean. The fountain doubles as an eye wash station for Chad. The tub and toilets are reclaimed from



Jean shows off the master bath's recovered slate blackboard "tile" and glass block.

Brian Button

a local architectural salvage business. The master bath reuses a school slate blackboard for bath tiles in the shower, framed by glass block reused from a demolished Ames bank. A salvaged Art Deco mirror hangs above the sink. The use of older fixtures creates a unique, personal style while reducing waste and avoiding the emissions and energy used to create new materials.



The Eells' home is one of the tightest in Iowa. If you add up all the cracks, holes, spaces and gaps of most homes, you'd find an area two-foot-square or larger with conditioned air whooshing out. You would probably find comparable to a 3-x-5-inch hole in the Eells' house.





Chad's workshop is a geodesic addition to the home, complete with a viewing platform which hangs from the ceiling.

Brian Button

Jean doesn't have to leave the laundry room to take advantage of air-drying a load.

Other features, too, make the house unique to fit their lifestyles. A low wall vent behind the refrigerator not only kicks waste heat to an entry off the garage, but keeps the coils cool. The laundry room features cabinet pulls shaped like leaping frogs and super efficient, Energy Star-rated washers and dryers. A laundry room window opens to a clothes line on pulleys, allowing a full load to air-dry without using energy or even leaving the house to hang the wash. The back deck is made from attractive, maintenance-free recycled plastic planks.

"Living in it as we built it allowed us to adapt. It gave us time to design," says Jean. "It allows you to think about how you live in a space."

Brian Button is an information specialist with the department in Des Moines.



Baby Steps and Big Steps to Home Energy Savings

There is no better time to become more efficient. Energy prices are high and federal tax credits are available for many home energy improvements — everything from adding insulation and replacement windows, to high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment and even solar cells. This tax credit applies to improvements made from Jan. 1, 2006 through Dec. 31, 2007. Learn more at www.energystar.gov.

Baby Steps

Here are some easy ways to improve your energy efficiency and live comfortably.

1. Replace incandescent lighting with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs to use 66 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs. Although more costly to purchase, they last up to 10 times longer. Replacing a 100-watt incandescent with a 32-watt CFL can save you at least \$30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb.
2. Install and use programmable set-back thermostats to cut utility bills and save up to \$100 per year. Less energy use also reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Seal ductwork with approved sealant to increase heating and cooling efficiency to save 7-12 percent of heating and cooling energy.

4. Turn off unused appliances and lights. (Make it a rule.)
5. Seal behind outlets and switches, and all cracks, gaps and holes in the home.
6. Caulk windows.
7. Install a hot water heater jacket.
8. Have your home professionally pressure-tested for air tightness. The cost is recouped by energy savings.
9. Call your energy provider for a free home energy audit. These free services will not only offer home-specific advice for saving energy, but they often provide some freebies, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, hot water heater jacket, and coupons or rebates for major improvements.
10. Landscape your home with windbreaks on the north and shade-giving deciduous trees elsewhere to save 15-50 percent in heating and cooling costs. Trees also clean the air and provide habitat.

Big Steps

1. Add insulation to attics, walls and basements for winter warmth and cooler summers. Be sure to check with your energy provider for rebates and look for federal tax credits.
2. Replace inefficient furnaces and air conditioners with a geothermal heating and cooling unit or high-efficiency systems and recoup the costs within years.
3. Replace older appliances with Energy Star-rated models and save \$80 annually in electrical bills.

Learn More about Home Energy Savings

The Home Series booklets are filled with everyday energy-saving tips to help Iowans make a positive impact on family budgets, and are available free from the Iowa Energy Center. Two booklets are available, "Home Tightening, Insulation and Ventilation" and "Home Heating and Cooling." Download at www.energy.iastate.edu/ or call 515-294-8819 for a copy.

Surf to EnergyStar.Gov

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sleeves, side vents.



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what's wrong with this picture?

Mutant genes are behind the various color irregularities that occasionally occur in wild animals, fish and even plants.

Story by **Michael Dhar**
Photographs by **Ty Smedes**

Like a drop of milk in an inkpot, it's impossible to miss. When one member of a flock of blackbirds sports pearly white feathers, it gets noticed. The rare sight can even prompt a call to wildlife authorities.

A few times every year, wildlife biologists with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) get calls about strangely colored animals. Pale blackbirds. Jet-black squirrels. A ghostly white deer. Casual nature observers will spot the creatures and call with questions.

"People want to know what it is, what it's doing here," said

DNR wildlife biologist Todd Gosselink. "They think they've found a new species."

They haven't. That bleached-out bird belongs to the same species as its inkier flockmates. Technically still a "blackbird," this "white bird" simply lacks the pigment characteristic of its kind. It's an albino.

That bird does, however, differ from the other members of its species in an important way: it has two mutant genes that have rendered it incapable of producing pigment. The result is a bird with white feathers and pink eyes. Similar mutations underlie all other albino creatures.

And any species is capable of it. Even plants sometimes possess albino genes. (Lacking the green pigment necessary for photosynthesis, however, they die immediately.) Animals develop pink or red eyes because, in the absence pigment, blood vessels beneath the eyes become visible.

The opposite condition from albinism, known as "melanism," also stems from genetic mutations. In this case, however, the altered genes turn fur, feathers, skin and eyes black.

Both conditions occur very rarely, albinism even more so, said Dr. Bonnie Bowen, an adjunct faculty member in Iowa

State University's Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology.

The chances of either condition appearing vary with species and location, she said. Moreover, since the conditions are so rare, scientists have collected little reliable data about frequencies. Still, all estimates place the numbers fairly low.

"The best estimate I've ever seen is one in every 100,000 to be pure albino," said Iowa DNR wildlife biologist Willie Suchy, speaking about white-tailed deer.

That these animals are "normal," save for one or several mutations, in no way diminishes

their fascination. People react in unexpected ways to albino or melanistic animals, sometimes going out of the way to discover, protect and even revere them.

Of all wild animals, squirrels probably interact with humans most frequently. They live in our backyards, watch us from power lines, beg us for food at parks and tempt fate on our highways (usually unsuccessfully). Not surprisingly, then, albino and melanistic squirrels have garnered a fair amount of fame.

Several towns in the Midwest have based entire tourism industries on the color of their squirrels. At least two American cities call themselves the





Color variations range from albinism (white) to melanism (black) and anywhere in between. The squirrel at the top of the page would be referred to as a blonde squirrel, not a true albino. The squirrel on the opposite page and above are melanistic squirrels.

“Home of the White Squirrels,” and several others claim large populations.

Black or melanistic squirrels appear comparatively frequently, especially in the Midwest and in northern regions: the animals show up a lot in Minnesota and Canada. Possibly an adaptive feature, the melanistic squirrels’ darker coloring may help them absorb more heat in those colder northern climates, said Doug Harr, wildlife diversity coordinator with the Iowa DNR.

Still, the dark squirrels have come to prominence in several places south of Minnesota, including a few Iowa towns. Council Bluffs uses a black squirrel on its parks’ department seal and the squirrels act as an

“unofficial mascot.” The city even has a law banning people from “harassing” the animals. At least one person, to date, has been ticketed under the statute.

“At least locally, we’re known for them,” said John Batt, assistant director of the Council Bluffs parks and recreation department.

Even farther south, squirrel enthusiasts will find the “Home of the Black Squirrels” in Marysville, Kan. The town hosts an annual “Black Squirrel Day,” and a 1973 city ordinance bars anyone from “harassing or contributing to the demise” of the animals.

Town lore dates the black squirrels’ presence in Marysville to the early 1900s. According to one legend, the animals originally came through town in a traveling carnival, set free by a mischievous local boy.

Similar legends, and even more fervor, surround the white squirrel towns. In the past, some residents of Marionville, Mo. have even gone so far as to trap normal gray squirrels and deposit them outside city limits. The town competes with Olney, Ill. for the title of “Home of the White Squirrels.”

Marionville resident Jim Smart has long cared for the pale animals on his property, providing housing and food. Smart estimates that 200 to 300 of the creatures call Marionville home.

Olney residents have taken a slightly more scientific approach to estimating their white

squirrel population, conducting a survey every October. Last year, volunteers counted 749 gray squirrels and 129 albinos. Generally, trends have shown steady or diminishing albino squirrel numbers, but proliferating grays, said Olney City Clerk Belinda Henton, who helps run the survey.

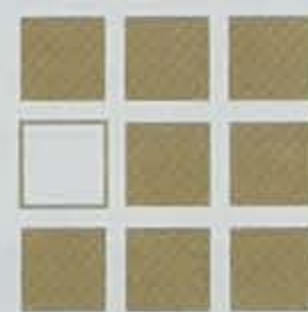
Former Olney Central College biology professor John Stencel began the counts 27 years ago. Now retired and living in Iowa, Stencel once predicted the animals would disappear by 2020. Town efforts to feed, protect and preserve the squirrels, however, will likely delay their disappearance, Stencel said.

The professor cautions, however, against attempts to remove the “competition.”

“Some people say to get rid of the grays, but then you lose those hardy gray squirrels from the gene pool,” he said. “You have to be careful messing with Mother Nature.”

Both Olney and Marionville have laws protecting their mascots. The towns also host celebrations and offer white squirrel merchandise. Smart estimates that Marionville has sold more than \$40,000 worth of caps, mugs, t-shirts and other paraphernalia. (All proceeds go to the Missouri eye tissue clinic.)

“It’s just a thing that’s part of our city,” said Dan Hovey, maintenance foreman for the Olney Parks Department. “We take pride in them. People from every state in the union come on vacation wanting to see them.”



Legends about the white squirrels’ origins abound, too. In Marionville, one story circulates that a local man bred plants and animals in his spare time, eventually producing the white squirrels. Some people, as with Marysville’s black squirrels, claim a traveling circus first brought them into town.

Though no one knows for



On top of this, melanism can often help an organism. It can, as mentioned earlier, provide warmth in cold climates. The condition can also improve camouflage. A black squirrel will blend into the bark and dirt of a forest much better than a white one.

While melanistic populations

the doe and pushed for a law safeguarding such animals.

"We kept an eye on her, and anyone who came to hunt her was politely told to leave the county," said Gerald Beaver, one of the first people to see the white deer. "We knew she was rare and we wanted to protect her."

St. Ansgar's white deer

normal pigmentation genes to pass on. This is what happens in Olney and Marionville, where residents' preferential treatment of white squirrels leads to more frequent interbreeding among albinos.

In the wild, albinos would appear infrequently, die off more easily and very rarely mate with each other, Bowen said. Without human interference, albinism usually requires the random coming together of two carriers — a very unlikely occurrence.

Melanism, on the other hand, is a "dominant" trait. This helps make it more widespread. The gene in question produces an overabundance of pigmentation. So, whatever the second pigmentation gene is doing, if an animal has at least one gene for melanism, it will appear jet-black.

sprout up relatively frequently, and a few scattered pockets of albino squirrel colonies exist, the appearance of just one albino deer is extremely rare. When it happens, the event can cause quite a stir.

"An albino deer will always get reported," Harr said. "It usually makes the local paper."

Three years ago, residents in southeast Iowa spotted a powdery-white deer roaming through southern Johnson County. Another albino deer, spotted more than 25 years ago near St. Ansgar, first prompted Iowa's law against shooting "predominately white white-tailed deer."

Several local hunters, farmers and landowners took responsibility for protecting

died in 1988, at 8 years old an elderly albino, according to the veterinarian who treated her, Beaver said. The town's residents obtained permission to have the animal mounted and displayed. It now stands in a glass case in St. Ansgar's "White Deer Park."

The ghostly image of a pure-white deer can cause such emotional attachments — a stately, gleaming-white animal may appear otherworldly amidst the dark canopy of a forest. The sight of an even rarer white animal, on the other hand, can create a spiritual experience for many people.

White buffalo — sacred animals to the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Sioux tribes — appear exceedingly rarely, and arouse religious devotion among

many Native Americans.

Technically speaking, the White Buffalo of Sioux legend is not an albino. "True" white buffalo change their hue: born with natural coloration, they turn white over time. They also lack the pink eyes characteristic of albinos. Still, some albino buffalo have been granted sacred status by Native American tribes.

In 1996, a buffalo born in North Dakota, was given the Sioux name "Ma-hi-ya-sqa," or "White Cloud." The animal is a pure albino, the last such animal on record since the Montana-born "Big Reed" died in 1959.

The phenomenon occurs extremely rarely. Some estimates place the frequency of albino buffalo at one in 6,000,000, said Felicia Sargeant, director of Ma-hi-ya-sqa's home, the National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown, N. D.

In recent years, several "true" white buffalo have also made appearances on American soil. The Spirit Mountain Ranch in Flagstaff, Ariz. hosts all living examples. Seven of the animals call the ranch home.

"All of them were born red," said Dena Riley, one of the buffalo's caretakers. "They shed their red and gold coverings and became white."

The animals have received much attention from tourists and Native American tribes, Riley said. Tribal leaders conduct religious ceremonies around prayer poles near the animals' living areas. In addition, many Native Americans leave gifts, including medicine bags and

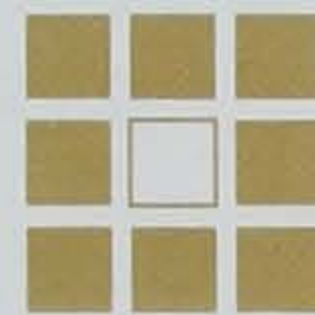
feathers, on fences surrounding the buffalo's land. Last year, roughly 33,000 people visited the sacred animals.

"People are amazed," Riley said. "Some get very emotional and can't keep the tears back. Some people say they get good feelings, they get goose bumps."

In contrast to albinism, scientist do not fully understand the genetic basis for "true"

white buffalo, Bowen said. Genes dealing with coat color, as opposed to more basic pigmentation genes, are probably involved, but such a rare phenomenon doesn't yield itself well to study, she said.

The cause of the white buffalo phenomenon — like the experience of seeing any ghostly white animal — remains at least somewhat mysterious.



"True" albino specimens, such as the mink below, are completely devoid of pigmentation, including their eyes. The coot at left and the mallards on the opposite page are not true albinos.



Lowell Washburn

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governor's environmental excellence awards

Story by Michael Dhar
Photographs by I-Renew

Given the right information, every Iowan can have a positive effect on the environment. That's the philosophy underlying the Iowa Renewable Energy Association, or "I-Renew."

Since 1992, this nonprofit group has used education as a potent environmental force, bringing renewable energy concepts to thousands of Iowans.

I-Renew features educational workshops, an annual Energy Expo and the "Solar Traveler" mobile solar array. Through these offerings, the group works to increase Iowans' understanding and use of solar, wind, biomass and other renewable energy sources. I-Renew also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Energy Matters*, and pushes conservation-related policy initiatives.

"Our long-term goal is to impact the use of energy in Iowa and to make it more sustainable," said I-Renew President Kara Beauchamp. "To accomplish that, we focus on educating people, so they can implement renewable energy in their own lives."

In addition, I-Renew helps various organizations adopt renewable energy concepts and technologies.



The "Solar Traveler" creates awareness about renewable energy options.



I-Renew hosts hands-on educational workshops throughout the year.

Last year, the group completed its most ambitious effort to date, the \$80,000 "New Bohemia" solar project in Cedar Rapids. I-Renew helped organize the construction of this 7200-watt solar array by serving as the project's nonprofit group, finding subcontractors and conducting workshops during installation. The array provides clean, low-cost energy to Alliant Energy's Second Nature customers.

"That was a major project," said Vice President Carrie La Seur. "It was bigger than anything we've done in the past."

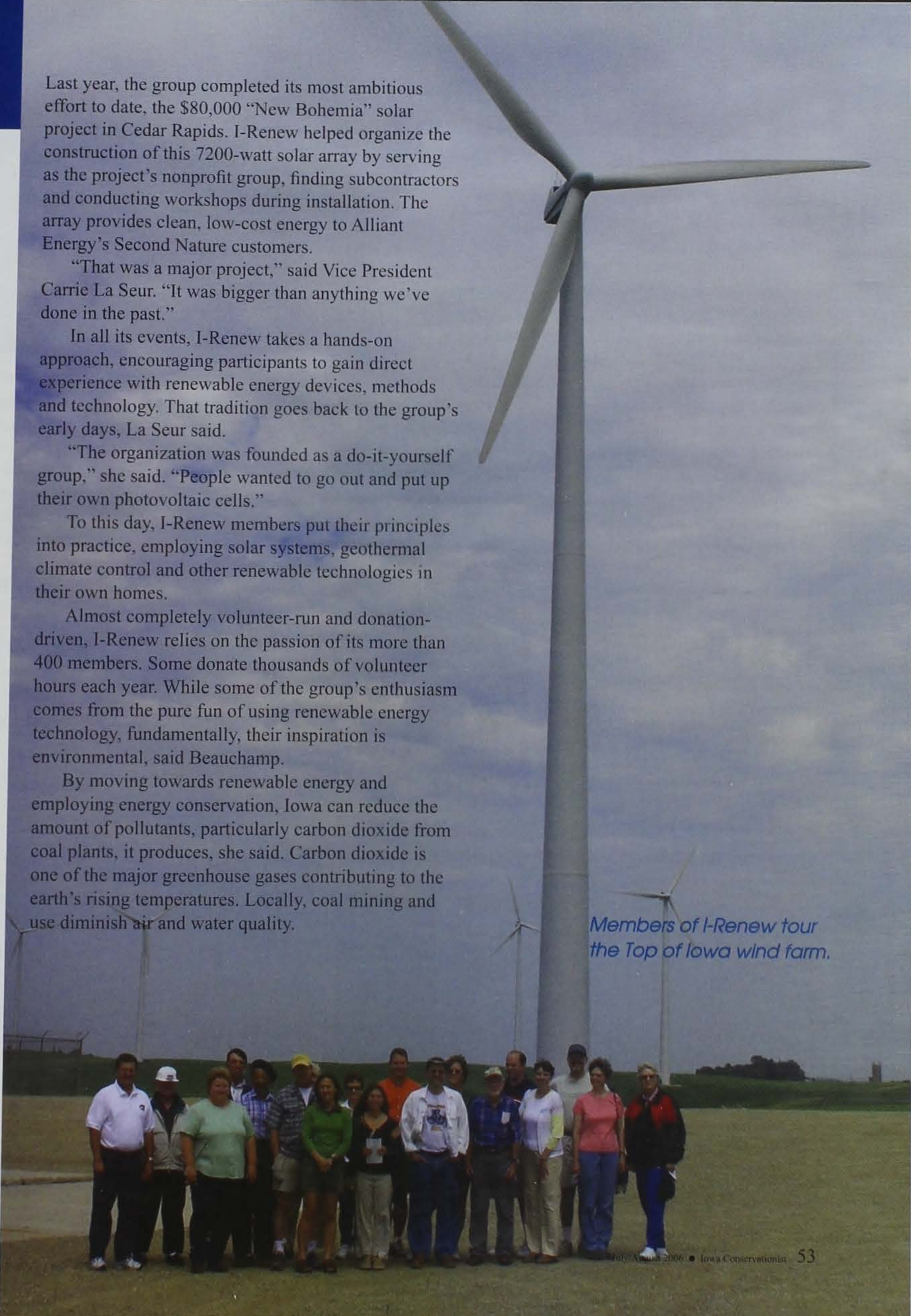
In all its events, I-Renew takes a hands-on approach, encouraging participants to gain direct experience with renewable energy devices, methods and technology. That tradition goes back to the group's early days, La Seur said.

"The organization was founded as a do-it-yourself group," she said. "People wanted to go out and put up their own photovoltaic cells."

To this day, I-Renew members put their principles into practice, employing solar systems, geothermal climate control and other renewable technologies in their own homes.

Almost completely volunteer-run and donation-driven, I-Renew relies on the passion of its more than 400 members. Some donate thousands of volunteer hours each year. While some of the group's enthusiasm comes from the pure fun of using renewable energy technology, fundamentally, their inspiration is environmental, said Beauchamp.

By moving towards renewable energy and employing energy conservation, Iowa can reduce the amount of pollutants, particularly carbon dioxide from coal plants, it produces, she said. Carbon dioxide is one of the major greenhouse gases contributing to the earth's rising temperatures. Locally, coal mining and use diminish air and water quality.



Members of I-Renew tour the Top of Iowa wind farm.

"The main reason for doing this work is global warming," Beauchamp said. "In Iowa, 80 percent of our electricity comes from coal plants, which release the most carbon dioxide of any fuel. So, we need to look at alternative energy."

One of I-Renew's largest efforts comes every September during their annual Energy Expo, a combination state fair and trade show for renewable energy. The event attracted 2,000 visitors last year, who enjoyed more than 60 workshops, speakers and demonstrations. Participants can tour strawbale-insulated buildings or see wind and domestic hot water facilities. The Expo also offers electric car displays and demonstrations, vendor exhibits, entertainment, children's activities and food.

"I think the Energy Expo is really wonderful," Beauchamp said. "It's a lot of fun, and there's a lot of good information."

In addition to the Expo, I-

Renew members offer smaller workshops throughout the year. Past topics have included passive solar house design, wind turbine installation and photovoltaic systems.

I-Renew takes its renewable energy demonstration on the road with one of its more popular features, the unique Solar Traveler. This "traveling display" contains 24 silicon solar photovoltaic panels along with associated solar energy equipment. I-Renew volunteers pilot the Solar Traveler to schools, festivals, fairs and public events throughout the state, providing clean energy and educational outreach.

Clay Smith



I-Renew members helped organize and install the "New Bohemia" solar project in Cedar Rapids.

I-Renew members hope to keep their group's focus on do-it-yourself environmentalism, and so don't foresee taking on significantly larger projects. They do hope, however, to expand their reach by establishing student charter groups and developing a presence in central and western Iowa.

Michael Dhar is a communications specialist with the department's volunteer program in Des Moines.



Members assist with a solar hot water system installation at a workshop.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

"Interpreters" Revive 60-year-old Tradition

by Michael Dhar

Before 2000, the last time young people roamed Iowa state parks teaching about nature, a man named Roosevelt was president.

Six years ago, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources revived a long-neglected public education effort — state park “interpretation.” When the department called on AmeriCorps members to conduct “edutainment” programs for park visitors, the young volunteers took up a tradition that had been dormant for 60 years.

Interpreters, the term used for professionals who conduct these educational programs, had last served in Iowa parks as part of Depression-era public-works projects — programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Projects Administration (WPA). When those programs faded during the World War II, Iowa parks interpreters disappeared, too.

A push to revive the practice, however, began in the 1980s, and led to a full-fledged return in 2000. Funding for the new interpreters came both from the DNR, in the form of natural resource aide positions, and from the AmeriCorps national service program.

AmeriCorps, described as a domestic Peace Corps, serves as a natural successor to Roosevelt's

CCC and WPA programs. Like its predecessors, AmeriCorps gives young people vital work experience while providing a valuable service to the public.

In Iowa, AmeriCorps members serve in 25 different programs, including Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross and others. The DNR calls on the services of 47 members, who work in state parks, wildlife units, trail crews and more.

Last year, 12 of those members

important things you can have.”

Interpretive programs can include guided nature hikes, presentations on animal tracks, fishing clinics and much more. Interpreters also engage in “roving interpretation,” which involves wandering park grounds providing informal instruction.

The programs are a great success with park visitors, especially families, said Steve Bell, a park ranger at Dolliver State Park.

“People enjoy the programs, and appreciate being able to bring their kids to them,” said Bell, who has worked with both AmeriCorps and natural resource aide interpreters.

Interpretation is destined to get even better in Iowa state parks. The DNR has developed a new system of “interpretive plans” identifying the resources, both natural and historical, that each park has to offer. Interpreters and park staff can use that guide to develop a set of coherent, relevant programs, said parks bureau chief Kevin Szcodronski. In the long run, the DNR is committed to improving and expanding public education in Iowa parks, he said.



DNR photo

Former AmeriCorps interpreter Trevor Rhines

served as interpreters in 13 different state parks, conducting hundreds of successful programs. Four natural resource aides also worked as interpreters.

Ryan Lensing served in 2005 as an AmeriCorps interpreter at George Wyth State Park. The 23-year-old aspiring science teacher collected valuable experience for a future educator, he said.

“It really forced me to make everything I talked about meaningful for any audience,” he said. “As a teacher, that’s one of the most

Volunteer Activities

* Learn more about AmeriCorps opportunities with the DNR at: www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/ameriCorps/

* Find more information, including our events calendar at: www.keepersoftheland.org

Shore Lunch Iowa Style

Story by Mick Klemesrud
Photographs by Clay Smith

Just a note of caution for anyone new to cooking a shore lunch meal: you will not be dining alone...

Shore lunch is a great way to end a fishing trip and can be done anywhere, not just during the annual trek nort a da boarder, eh? Any seasoned angler knows the key to shore lunch is simplicity. One skillet and hot coals is all you need to begin. The rest is up to the chef.

Our version was done using a standard park grill, charcoal and a large, deep-sided cast iron skillet. We started by adding two pounds of chopped bacon to the preheated skillet for our grease, then added diced potatoes and onion and cooked until nearly tender, about 15 minutes or so. Keep an eye on the potatoes, and stir often to prevent burning. The

cooking time depends on the heat from the fire so these times are only what we found in preparing our version.

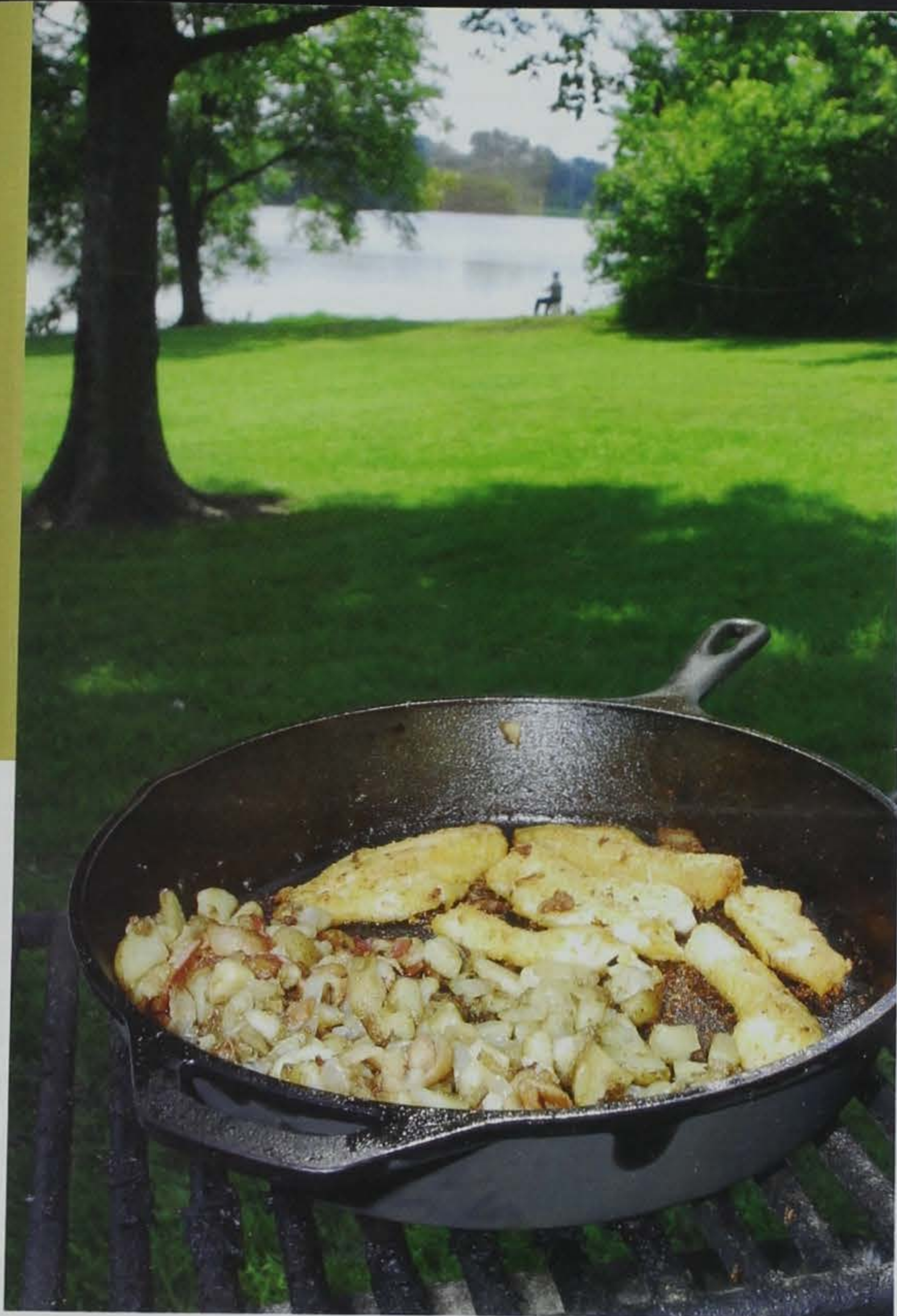
While the potatoes are cooking, prepare the fish filets in whatever breading you choose. In our case, we chose a breading from a local supermarket for convenience, but homemade recipes will also work.

When the potatoes are nearly finished cooking, remove to a paper plate and set aside. Add the fish, yellow perch in our case, to the hot skillet.

Fry the fish in the remaining bacon grease until nearly done, about 4 to 5 minutes per side. Keep in mind that the cooking time depends on the heat. Add the potatoes and onions back to the skillet for a few minutes at the end to finish the cooking.

Enjoy.





Ingredients

1 pound fish filets
2 pounds potatoes
1 large onion
Salt
2 Pounds bacon
Fish breading
Salt and Pepper to taste

Supplies

Skillet
Hot Pads
Charcoal or firewood
Lighter
Newspaper or fire starter
Plates
Forks



CONSERVATION UPDATE

Endangered Whooping Cranes Pay Iowa A Rare, Exciting Visit

Whooping cranes, among the world's most endangered birds, paid a rare visit to Iowa this May.

Two flocks were discovered, the first by a northern Winnebago County farm family in their yard one morning. Robert Schwartz, Winnebago County Conservation Board Director, kept watch on the group of five and filed reports with state and federal conservation authorities. Iowa DNR officials recorded leg band color combinations and photographed the magnificent white birds.

A second flock of eight cranes was later discovered in northeastern Iowa. By early June all had left Iowa and returned to their home at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin.

It is thought the rare birds



Greg Hanson

Biologists were thrilled this spring by the rare visit of endangered whooping cranes to Iowa. The majestic birds spent some time on restored wetlands in north-central Iowa before returning to their home at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin.

were attracted to restored wetlands in northern Iowa, where related sandhill cranes have taken up nesting in recent years. North-central Iowa is considered to have been one of North

America's most important nesting areas for whooping cranes prior to European settlement. As of 2005, there were only 336 whoopers in the wild and 135 in captivity.

Landowners, Tenants Must Register To Receive LOT Deer And Turkey Tags

New rules enacted by the Department of Natural Resources will help ensure that only those who legitimately qualify receive free or reduced fee landowner/tenant (LOT) deer or turkey licenses. Beginning Sept. 1, landowners, tenants and their family members must register with the DNR before obtaining LOT tags.

The DNR has mailed registration information to the 55,000-plus deer hunters who received LOT tags in the past. Before a

tag can be issued, landowners and tenants must register either online at www.iowadnr.com, or return the registration by mail. The process is quick and easy and once accepted, it is good for three years.

Online registration is highly encouraged because it provides the quickest, easiest and most reliable form of registration. After online registration is complete, tags may be obtained immediately at any ELSI vendor. Those who have not obtained a

hunting, fishing or trapping license in the past five years must first call the DNR to establish a customer record before they can register online.

Mail registration is also available, but up to 10 business days are required for processing a form.

Those who do not receive notice in the mail may register online, or obtain a registration form and instructions from any ELSI license vendor, or by calling the DNR at 515-281-5918.

Zebra Mussels Show Up At Lake Delhi; Boaters Reminded To Check Boats For Aquatic Hitchhikers

Zebra mussels — an aquatic nuisance species that can wreak havoc in a water body — have been found in Lake Delhi, an on-stream impoundment of the Maquoketa River in Delaware County.

DNR biologists plan to continue monitoring Lake Delhi to determine the distribution of zebra mussels in the lake and in the Maquoketa River below the dam. In the case of large infestations, zebra mussels may interfere with aquatic food chains, kill native mussels, clog water intakes, increase algae blooms and cover beaches with dead shells. There is no getting rid of them once they are in a lake or river.

To eliminate the potential spread of zebra mussels and other unwanted aquatic invaders, boaters should:

- ◆ Inspect their boat, trailer and equipment, and remove visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, other animals and mud before leaving the area.

- ◆ Drain water from bait buckets, live wells, bilges, transoms and motors before leaving.

- ◆ Dispose of unwanted live bait and worms in the trash. Never release plants, fish or animals into a water body unless they came out of that water body.

- ◆ Spray/wash your boat, trailer and equipment with high pressure or hot water before going to other waters, or dry everything for at least five days before going to other waters.

Anyone finding zebra mussels at Lake Delhi are asked to note the location and contact local fisheries management biologist Bryan Hayes at 563-927-3276.

Dewey's Pature Dedicated As Iowa's Newest Bird Sanctuary

Iowa's newest Bird Conservation Area (BCA) — Dewey's Pasture Wetland Complex — was officially dedicated in August.

Dewey's Pasture already is recognized as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service, and is part of Iowa's largest and probably most important remaining wetland complex.

"Designating Dewey's Pasture as a Bird Conservation Area will add to its national recognition by indicating its importance for nesting and migratory grassland and wetland birds," Ehresman said. "This area provides important nesting habitat for declining grassland birds, such as the northern harrier, bobolink and sedge wren; for declining wetland species like the American bittern, king rail and black tern, plus it provides nesting and migration stopover habitat for many other bird species suffering nationwide declines."

It is hoped this new BCA will attract bird watchers from throughout the region. Bird watching and wildlife watching, in general, is a \$188 million industry in Iowa. This increased activity by birders should promote growth of the local tourism economy and encourage investment in local bird conservation.



Kim Bogenschutz

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Fire Destroys Viking Lake Concession Building, Restaurant

A concession building at a southern Iowa park that housed a popular restaurant was destroyed after fire engulfed the building in July. Iowa State Fire Marshal's officials ruled the July 18 early morning fire at Viking Lake State Park unintentional.

The fire began sometime after midnight after the concessionaire had left for the night. When he returned at 7 a.m., the fire had nearly consumed the building. The blaze started in an area housing the mechanical system for the furnace, which sits between the bait room and the kitchen.

"This is one of our nicer concession buildings in our parks, and one of a few that included a



Mark Johnson

restaurant," said Bob Schierbaum, DNR supervisor for state parks in southwest Iowa. The building was built in 2002 for about \$460,000. Damage will exceed \$500,000. The DNR plans to replace the building.



Mark Johnson

Tree And Shrub Seedling Orders Being Accepted For Fall, Spring Planting

Tree and shrub seedling orders for fall and spring planting are currently being accepted through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' State Forest Nursery in Ames.

The nursery sells bareroot conservation tree and shrub seedlings for reforestation, soil erosion control, water quality protection and establishing wildlife habitat. More than 45 tree and shrub species are available for Iowa landowners to purchase, from \$25 per 100 plants for evergreen species such as pine and spruce to \$37 to \$45 per 100

plants for hardwood trees and shrubs such as oak, walnut and hazelnut. Plants are sold in lots of 100 with a minimum order of 500, which covers about one acre of land. Home delivery is available for \$5 per 100 plants ordered.

For smaller conservation plantings under an acre, landowners may want to consider a wildlife-packet of 200 trees and shrubs. Packets have been designed in cooperation with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever and the Iowa DNR's wildlife bureau. There is also a create-your-own packet

that allows a landowner to pick four species of 50 plants each. These "wildlife" packets sell for \$90. Home delivery is available for \$10.

For backyard plantings, there is a 20 tree and shrub songbird packet of oak, pine, plum, chokecherry, dogwood and serviceberry designed in cooperation with Iowa Audubon for \$20, which includes shipping.

For more information or to order conservation trees and shrubs, call 1-800-865-2477 or go to www.iowadnr.com/forestry/ to order online.

Record Amount Of Trash Collected Along Iowa, English Rivers During Annual Project Aware

Hundreds of trash-collecting volunteers reached the Mississippi June 24 as the fourth annual Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) came to a close.

This year, the week-long river cleanup took participants to the Iowa and English rivers in southeast Iowa. Beginning near Iowa City on June 17, the expedition reached the mouth of the Iowa River on the following Saturday.

Along the way, the more than 150 volunteers collected a record amount of garbage, pulling an estimated 24 tons of tires, appliances, pop cans, glass bottles, car parts, bicycles, discarded clothes and other items from the rivers. Roughly 85 percent of that garbage was recycled.

Low water levels and a more populous surrounding area helped volunteers find much more trash

than in previous years. On the first day of Project AWARE 2006, volunteers found more garbage than they collected during last year's entire event, which covered the Little Sioux River. All told, this year's haul tripled the amount found in 2005.

As in previous years, volunteers removed all garbage by hand, heading out in canoes and kayaks to scour the water and riverbanks for trash. Volunteers could join the expedition for as little as a day or as long as the entire week. The project also provided free canoes and camping, low-cost meals and evening "infotainment" programs about natural resources topics.

Some of the estimated 12-tons of scrap metal collected during this year's AWARE will end up in a work of art. As in previous years, Ogden artist David Williamson will help volunteers mold AWARE-collected metal into a sculpture.

Upcoming NRC and EPC Meetings

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

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

Natural Resource Commission:

- September 14
Loess Hills
- October 12
Dubuque
- November 9
Des Moines
- December 14
Des Moines

Environmental Protection Commission:

- September 19
Urbandale
- October 3 (tentative)
Urbandale
- November 7
Urbandale
- December 5
Urbandale



Clay Smith

WARDEN'S DIARY



It was June, and time for the “orphan” calls to come in. By that I mean the calls that start, “I found an ‘orphan’ (insert wildlife of your choice).”

Usually I answer “What leads you to believe this (insert wildlife of your choice) is orphaned.”

Typically I hear “I don’t see the mother. What should I do?”

My first question is always, “Have you picked it up?” If the answer is no, then I tell the caller, “Then leave it there and stay away from it.” If the answer is yes, then I tell the caller, “Then put it back where you found it, and stay away from it.”

Either way, the caller is usually horrified at my “callousness.” Well, I’ve been accused of worse, but the truth is, in the majority of cases the alleged orphan is not an orphan at all. Particularly in the case of deer it’s natural for the doe to stay away from the fawn as nature’s defense mechanism.

I’m not trying to make fun of

The Great Houdini

by Chuck Humeston

anyone here. I appreciate each caller’s concern. And sometimes, something has happened to the mother. But, not often.

So when the police department left a message concerning a fawn caught in a fence with the mother assumed dead, I thought it was routine. Little did I know.

I called the dispatcher back and told her to tell the officer to remove the fawn from the fence, and if it was uninjured to leave it alone as the doe was most likely in the area. I assumed it was a deer with a leg caught in a fence, which happens a lot. It turned out to be the wrong assumption.

So, I went on with my day, until the phone rang again. This time it was a plant manager. “There’s a fawn in a fence, is anyone going to remove it?”

I told him about the earlier message and my assumption it had been removed as I didn’t hear anything more. “How bad is it caught in the fence?”

“No,” he said, “it’s INSIDE the fence. It’s inside a fence around a cell phone tower here.”

Now it was starting to come together. “Uh oh,” I thought. I told him I was on my way.

I drove to a cell phone tower

at the edge of town. The tower was surrounded by an 8-foot chain link fence with three strands of barbed wire angling away from the top. It had a gate in the front, held securely by two padlocks. I peered inside. No fawn.

I called the dispatcher again who told me an officer had been there, did not see a fawn, and left the padlock open in case we had to get in. I walked back to the padlock. Locked. “I guess I could get in if I was Houdini,” I thought.

I started to walk around the fence. I didn’t see any fawn. I was about to call it case closed when I saw movement under a control panel box behind the cell phone tower. I walked around and looked underneath from outside the fence. Big eyes, big ears and brown with white spots looked back at me. “Uh oh,” I thought again. It was probably just a few days old.

“Well, you’re in a fine mess. How the heck did you get in there?” I walked around looking for an opening thinking, “Great, now I’m talking to deer.” All I could see was the small opening between the gates. And, it was really small.



Chuck Humeston



I looked at the chain and considered bolt cutters. Bad idea, I thought. I thought about climbing over the fence. Bad idea number two.

There was a phone number on the gate for the combination to the padlock. Yes! I punched the number on the cell phone. The recording told me, "Thank you for calling, our regular business hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m." I looked at my watch. 5:30. Just great!

Just then someone came out of the nearby plant.

"I was wondering when someone was going to get here," he said. "I've been seeing the mother around in that tree line." He pointed to the area behind an adjoining field. First good news I had heard so far.

I had an idea. "Do you have a ladder?"

"Sure," he said, and went back to the plant. My grand plan was to back my pickup up to the

fence. Put the ladder in the box, then climb the ladder over the barbed wire and drop to the other side. I hadn't figured out getting out yet, but I was working on it.

Then the guy returned with two ladders and two more men, one driving an end loader. The driver said, "Get in the bucket. I'll lift you over the fence, and you can put the ladder down the other side."

I looked at him. I didn't know him, and I wondered if he was someone I had ever given a ticket to. I hoped not.

He lifted me over the fence and I dropped the ladder down. I climbed down and walked up to the fawn. It stood up. I stretched out my hand and it sniffed my finger. I reached for it and it jumped. I grabbed its back legs and the fight was on.

After a brief struggle, I cradling it under my arm, climbed back up the ladder and gingerly

stepped over the barbed wire. I sat down in the bucket with the fawn bleating like an air horn the whole time.

The driver started to lower the bucket, and I heard a sharp snap. Sure enough, the bucket had caught on the barbed wire breaking the top strand. "Acceptable losses," I yelled, and he continued to lower away.

I reached the ground, took the fawn to the edge of the field, and set it down. It started to head for the tree line. "Go home to your mother," I said.

"Let's get out of here and let mama do her thing," I told the other three. I looked one more time at the gates, the space between them and the locked padlocks.

How did it get in there? I don't know, but so much for assumptions. Regardless, I'll forever refer to that fawn as "Houdini."

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

