



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DNR Conservation Officers make three BWI arrests on Coralville Reservoir

CORALVILLE, Iowa – The unofficial first boating weekend of the summer is in the books and boaters at the Coralville Reservoir kept DNR Conservation Officers busy with Boating While Intoxicated arrests.

The Coralville Reservoir levels were high and many boat ramps were closed, but despite that, DNR Conservation Officers made three arrests.

On May 25, at approximately 7:45pm, a boat was dropping passengers off at a boat dock when a DNR Conservation Officer noticed a large number of passengers on the boat. While checking the passenger capacity of the vessel, the officer noticed signs of impairment with the male operator. The officer administered field sobriety tests and arrested him for boating while intoxicated.

On May 26, at approximately 6:30pm, DNR Conservation Officers stopped a black motorboat for displaying expired registration stickers near Mehaffey Bridge. The female operator of the boat admitted to consuming alcohol. After undergoing field sobriety tests, she was found to be under the influence of alcohol over the legal limit and arrested for Boating While Intoxicated.

On May 26, at approximately 9:45pm, a man left Bobber's Grill operating a pontoon boat and was stopped by DNR Conservation Officers because the docking lights were interfering with the visibility of the navigation lights. The man admitted to drinking alcohol and after undergoing a field sobriety test was arrested for Boating While Intoxicated.

The DNR reminds boaters to celebrate responsibly while on the waters this summer. Do not operate a boat while over the .08 legal limit. Boaters should have a designated sober operator or avoid consuming alcohol while driving the boat. Be sure all safety features and equipment are on-board and functioning properly. DNR Conservation Officers will continue to patrol Iowa waterways to ensure a safe boating and recreational season.

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Fawning season is here, deer are on the move

The calls have been coming in to field offices and conservation officers for the past few weeks and will only increase as the calendar flips to June - the peak fawning season is right around the corner.

Callers report finding an “abandoned” fawn in an unusual place, like a flowerbed or small patch of cover. Rest assured this is normal deer behavior.

“The doe searches out an isolated location where she feels safe and on occasion those places are not what we may think of as ideal. She chose that location because it made sense to her,” said Jim Coffey, forest wildlife research biologist with the Iowa DNR. “The worst thing someone can do is to ‘rescue’ the fawn. Mom is likely nearby and watching you. Leave it be or if you did handle the fawn, return it to where you found it and walk away.”

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will not be rehabbing or co-mingling fawns with other deer to avoid the potential of spreading chronic wasting disease – or other disease - to new areas.

The spindly legged newborn fawn is designed with a few survival tools built in – it is born without scent to avoid predators and its spots are cryptic camouflage that emulates the sunlight spots on the leaf litter in the timber. It will lay motionless to avoid detection and may remain in the area for up to two weeks all while under the care of the doe.

After the fawns are born, the doe will return to fairly normal behavior – sleeping, feeding – but returning to nurse and care for the fawn.

The fawning season also coincides with an increase in deer vehicle collisions.

“There is a lot of movement this time of year that is part of the social structure of deer. The doe is on the move looking for the safe isolated place to have the fawns. In addition last year’s fawns – teenagers now – are starting to venture out to find new space. These yearlings have to make their own decisions for the first time, encounter other adult deer and build new social structures,” Coffey said. “This movement behavior can occur during all times of the day. Once it settles out, the active time will return to dawn and dusk.”

Drivers are reminded to drive defensively, avoid distractions, and slow down and not to veer for deer. If they hit a deer, drivers can get a salvage tag by calling either the local conservation officer or local law enforcement. There is no fee for a salvage tag it does require that the entire deer is taken.

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