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FRONT COVER: Photo by Ron Johnson.

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The Iowa Conservation Commission offers equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against, please contact us.

THE LANDOWNER'S OPTIONS

By Jerry Gibson

Mine is one of the more unique jobs with the Conservation Commission. I've been called everything from a game warden to a biologist, and from saint to Satan. But, I am none of these. I'm just a Crawford county boy who combs the state seeking out some pretty special people.

The people I look for are those who share an important belief with us in the natural resource conservation business: "Iowa is losing its wild areas faster than we can replace them." But what makes the people I deal with "special" is that they are often in a position to do something about our losses...they are donors, land donors in particular.

As I am able to visit with landowners and inform them of the lengthy list of benefits associated with donating anything from a five-acre swatch of virgin prairie to a full section of wooded bottomland, many have concluded that a donation is definitely in their best interest. Of course, most folks who have come to such a conclusion have concerns for far more than just their own immediate profit. That's what makes them special!

Usually the first consideration of someone who donates a piece of property to us is that they want guarantees

that the area's natural values will be preserved. The Conservation Commission is in the best possible position to fulfill those guarantees, and to provide many more services as well. First, the commission employs experts who have considerable experience in all types of real estate transactions, including surveying, title search, appraisal, relocation, negotiation, closing, and liaison with the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

Not only is the commission fully equipped to aid in the property transaction, but it also has a staff of land managers who are dedicated to looking after, and improving if possible, the property once under commission control. Biologists, foresters, conservation officers, park rangers are all available to help plan for the donated area and assure the stipulations of the transaction agreements are met.

Other considerations of land donors are the numerous tax benefits and options available to transfer land. Following are some examples of the landowner's options.

Direct Donation

A donation of land in "fee-simple" is the least complex and most common

form of giving land to the commission for protection in perpetuity. If the landowner does not have an abstract, the commission will pay for a new one, as well as obtaining a title opinion by the Attorney General's Office, and paying for preparation of the warranty deed, recording fees, abstract continuation, and property tax liability for the remainder of the fiscal year. In addition, the commission's appraiser will prepare an appraisal based on market sales of comparable property. The appraisal may be used as documentation of the donor's charitable gift, and the full market value may be deducted on the individual's income tax return, subject to the following limitations:

Thirty percent deduction — when donating land to a governmental agency, the donors may deduct the property's full market value up to 30 percent of their adjusted gross income. Any remaining balance may be deducted over the succeeding five-year period, subject to the 30 percent limitation period.

Fifty percent deduction — the donors may elect to donate up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income if they reduce the full market value of the gift by 40 percent of the potential gain realized had the property been sold. Any amount exceeding 50 percent of the adjusted gross income may be deducted over the succeeding five years.

Burk's Lost Creek run in Lee County is a good example of an outright donation. Bill and Marguerite Burk donated 56 acres adjacent to Lost Creek for wildlife enhancement and public enjoyment. Bill said it was his wish that this gift of land generate others in the community. Bill wanted not only hunters, but all of nature enthusiasts to experience the environment. Bill died one and one-half years after the donation was made.

Other examples of outright donations include wetlands adjacent to the Little Sioux River and Cory Marsh in Dickinson County donated by Alice and Ruth Hull, and Edward Purdy; a boat ramp adjacent to the Cedar River in Nashua donated by Iowa Public Service; and a marsh adjacent to East Okoboji Slough donated by Jim Smith.



Photos by Cathy Meddin-Robinson



Cathy Medlin-Robinson

Donation with Reservations

Individuals may donate land in fee-simple title to the commission for recreation or preservation, and may include restrictions in the deed to ensure management practices desired by the donor. The commission has received several donations of land with stipulations and reservations. One example is 130 acres of mature timber north of Interstate 80 and east of Des Moines. The donor stipulated "no hunting or trapping" except when damage to the flora occurs from over population, and "no timber harvest", just to mention a few.

Donation with Reserved Life Use

Landowners may wish to guarantee the protection of their land and preservation of its natural features by donating the land to the Conservation Commission, but retain possession, use, living privileges, income from crops or livestock, and control for their lifetime or the lifetime of family or designated friends. This arrangement is called a "life use" or "life estate." An income tax deduction is allowed for the fair market value of the land at the time of conveyance minus a variable dictated by the age of the designated life tenant. The landowner's property tax liability is eliminated at the time of conveyance.

Donations with reserved life use continue to be a very popular option with Iowa landowners. The commission has received several life use donations, such as a donation by Edward Van Velkinburg of approximately 175 acres adjacent to the Cedar River in Johnson County, and an urban acreage donation from Edward and Grace Anderson in Woodward. The commission is currently negotiating donations with reserve life use in Tama, Palo Alto, Cerro Gordo, Buchanan, Jones, Clay, and Dallas counties totaling approximately 3,000 acres.

Donations by Devise

A gift of land by devise is land left to the commission in an individual's will. A donation by devise does not enable the donor to receive an income tax deduction; however, the value of the donation is deductible in determining the donor's taxable estate. We can be helpful in consulting with the donor's attorney at the time the will is drafted to make certain the terminology used in the will is in harmony with his wish of future management by the commission. The commission has recently received several donations of land by devise. These donations cannot be discussed in depth, because we always honor the donor's right to privacy.

Land Donation in Lieu of Inheritance Tax

Iowa Code allows the heirs of an estate to donate land (not necessarily part of the estate) to the state of Iowa or any political subdivision of the state in lieu of the cash payment for inheritance tax liability. The proposed donation must be: accepted by the commission, the value set by the Department of Revenue, and submitted to the Executive Council for acceptance, and then the value applied toward the inheritance tax liability. The transfer is coordinated by this office and the Department of Revenue.

Gifts of Conservation Easement

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between the commission and the landowner. The landowner voluntarily designates all or a portion of the subject tract to be used for specified purposes. The landowner conveys the easement to the commission with the stipulation that the commission assume responsibility for the enforcement of the easement.

The conservation easement is conveyed with the land from owner to owner. Subsequent owners may maintain the status quo, sell, or lease land under the easement as specified by the easement's creator. Conservation easements may restrict development of any type, protect natural areas, preserve the flora and fauna, and may or may not permit public access.

Gifts of Cash

Some notable examples of cash donations to the commission were made by John Kraft of Omaha and Stan Warner of Blakesburg. These cash donations enabled the Commission to pursue projects that have been on hold for years due to lack of funds. Cash, of course, is a charitable donation and can be deducted on income tax returns.

If you have an interest in "The Landowner's Options," please call me at 515/281-4934 or write me at the Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

Jerry Gibson is a land acquisition agent for the commission. He holds a B.S. from Iowa State University and has been with the commission since 1982.

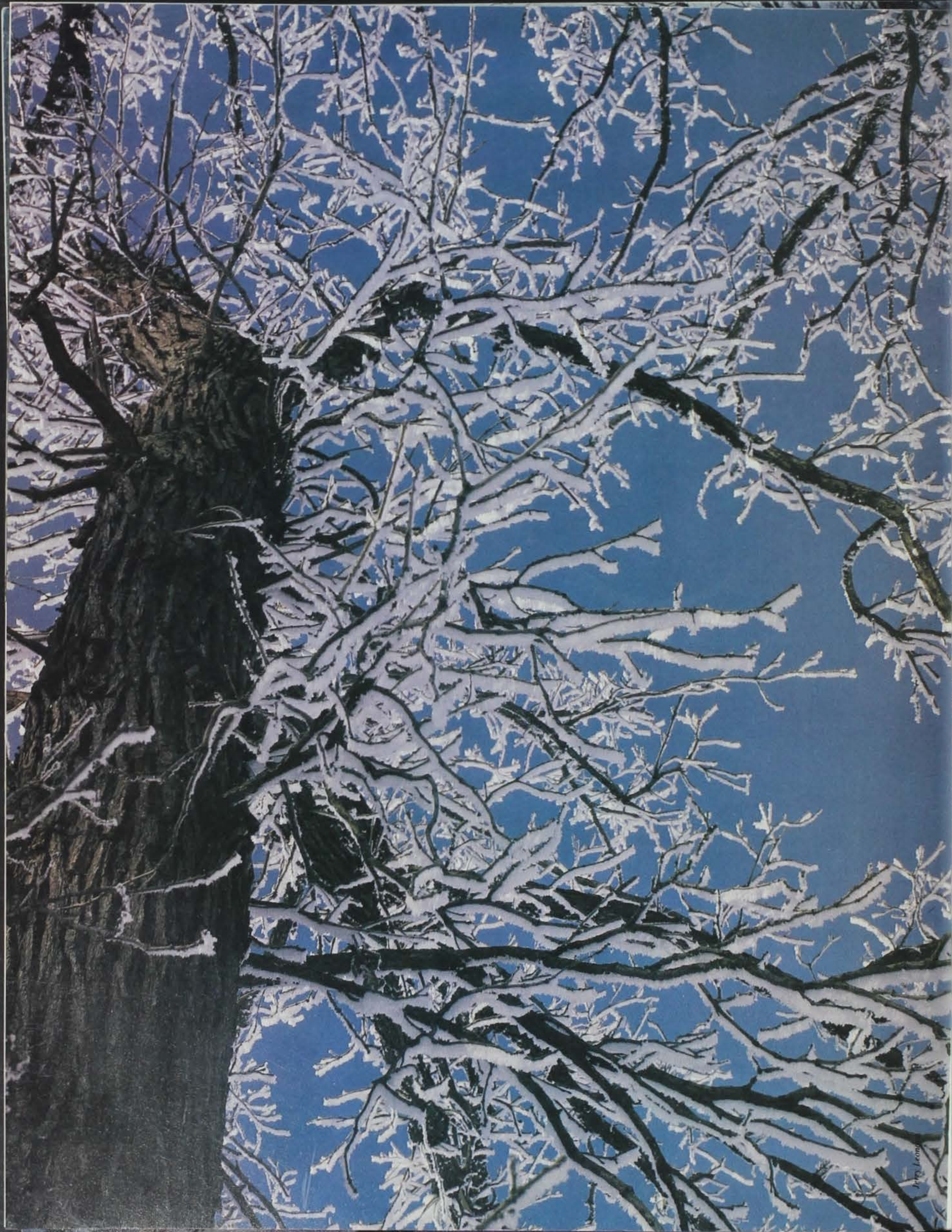


Ron Johnson



WINTER

From within the harshness of Iowa winters, beauty may be found. For some, the pleasant, sunny days following snowstorms are for sledding and ice fishing. For others, cameras capture the serenity of the long, quiet season.



John Kelly

John Kelly

John Kelly

Ron Johnson



John Kelly





Ken Formanek



Ron Johnson



WILD TURKEY CONVENTION IN DES MOINES

The ninth annual convention of the National Wild Turkey Federation will be held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines in downtown Des Moines, Feb. 22 and 23.

On Friday morning displays featuring hunting gear, art and crafts will open. Afternoon seminars will include Iowa's turkey program, building turkey calls and the preliminary round of the calling contest. A wildlife art auction will be held Friday evening.

Saturday morning seminars include spring hunting techniques, archery, photography and hunter safety. The afternoon will be devoted to junior and senior division national wild turkey calling championships. A banquet will be held that night.

For advance registration contact Cindy Ballard at 515/279-7094. Registration fees are \$33 for federation members, \$38 for non-members.

MORE STUDENTS CAN WIN PRIZES IN 1985 NHF DAY POSTER CONTEST

To give more students the opportunity to win in the National Hunting and Fishing Day Poster Contest, NHF Day Headquarters has increased the number of national awards. The 1985 National Hunting and Fishing Day Poster Contest will feature 67 prizes totaling over \$6,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds.

The deadline for entries in the national contest will be April 19, 1985.

National prizes, including a grand prize of a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond, will be awarded to students who best illustrate the 1985 contest theme, "Why Wildlife Needs America's Sportsmen."

The 1985 National Hunting and Fishing Day poster contest is open to all students in grades 5-12. So that youngsters can compete on a more equal basis, there is a Junior Division for grades 5-8 and a Senior Division for grades 9-12.

In addition to the grand prize of the \$1,000 savings bond, national prizes include \$500 savings bonds for first place, \$250 in bonds for second place and \$100 bonds for third. First, second and third

prizes will be awarded in both the junior and senior divisions. Both the junior and senior divisions will share a total of 15 honorable mention prizes of \$75 savings bonds and 45 merit awards of \$50 savings bonds.

In order to be considered for national awards, posters must first be winners in a locally sponsored National Hunting and Fishing Day Poster Contest.

On the local level, contests can be organized by schools, sportsmen's clubs, conservation or civic groups, newspapers, etc. To give youngsters time to research and prepare their posters, it is preferable that contests be organized as soon as possible.

Prizes for local winners may be awarded by the sponsoring organization. Winning posters should then be sent to NHF Day Headquarters for national judging by April 19, 1985.

For information on how to sponsor or participate in a local National Hunting and Fishing Day Poster Contest, please write: NHF Day Poster Contest, P.O. Box 1075, Riverside, CT 06878.

LITTLE BIRD GIVEN LOTS OF HELP

A piping plover may lack the elegance of a bald eagle, or the popularity of the ring-necked pheasant, but this rare, seven-inch shorebird has recently captured the interest of the Iowa Conservation Commission, Iowa Power and Light Company, Iowa Public Service Company, and The Nature Conservancy.

Piping plovers have been discovered frequenting areas along the Missouri River in western Iowa. Their nesting activities in these areas have prompted considerable interest because the bird has become a candidate for the federal listing of threatened species. As such, the conservation agencies are cautious not to divulge precise locations of the birds, but they have said

the birds are associated with utility company areas.

A license agreement, renewable annually, between The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Commission, and the utility companies will help preserve nesting habitat for the piping plover. The agreement will allow only agency officials to observe and monitor the bird's activities. Otherwise, harassment may result in abandoned nests. There is no cost or financial loss to any party of the agreement.

Once relatively plentiful, piping plovers have been reduced to about 3,000 pairs, worldwide, mostly due to habitat loss. Prior to 1983, the last nesting pair observed in Iowa was in 1973.

Nongame photo by Washburn

The 1985 nongame support certificate features a beautiful photograph of an American kestrel by Lowell Washburn, not Ken Formanek as it appeared in the January issue. Both work for the commission and are fine photographers, but this picture was taken by Washburn, field information specialist at Clear Lake.



IOWA CONSERVATIONIST PHOTO CONTEST

The third annual *Iowa Conservationist* Photo Contest will be held later this year. In the past two years, entries were accepted at about this time, however, the staff has decided to accept entries in the fall. So dust off those cameras, get busy shooting and watch the *Conservationist* for entry dates and rules.

Deer lock antlers, die



These bucks' last fight ended in death when they got their antlers locked together. Note how the horns are entwined at the left, and how the curve of the left buck's one antler is wedged around the back of the right buck's neck. The deer could not free themselves and died.

Two trophy-size whitetail deer died in a branch of Bear Creek in western Linn County when they got their antlers locked together and couldn't get free. The deer probably had been fighting when they accidentally became entangled.

Ron Beatty, Route 1, Fairfax, found the dead bucks in a branch of Bear Creek on his farm north of Palo on Saturday, Dec. 1. Beatty was deer hunting on the opening day of the shotgun season, but didn't expect to find two trophy-class bucks locked together, dead.

Al Farris, chief of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Iowa Conservation Commission, said this was the second case of locked antlers he'd heard of this fall. The other case was in western Iowa, where the deer also were found dead.

"It is infrequent," he said. "These are the first reports I've heard for five to six years."

Farris said often one of the bucks breaks its neck in the fight and dies soon. The other then usually starves or dies from the lack of water because it can't move around.

After a long winter, 50 degrees feels warm. But imagine a summertime high of minus-25 degrees. That's what it's like in Central Antarctica. The average year-round temperature is minus-90 degrees.

According to the aluminum industry, more than half the aluminum cans produced in the United States are eventually recycled. Recycling is said to be so efficient that a can coming out of a store is back on the shelf within six weeks.



RECORD SPRING TURKEY HARVEST

Results from the 1984 spring turkey hunting season indicate Iowa hunters set a record for numbers of gobblers harvested for the eleventh straight year. An estimated harvest of 2,221 gobblers was achieved last spring, an increase of 22 percent from the 1983 record of 1,729. Increased license quotas and increased numbers of licenses issued due to the addition of a fourth season were responsible for the increased harvest.

There were 11,126 licenses issued, an increase of 31 percent from the previous year. The statewide hunter success rate declined for the third straight year to 23 percent. This is just slightly below the ten-year average success rate of 25 percent. This decline in success rate is attributed to very poor reproduction and poult survival in 1981 and 1982. This resulted in few adult gobblers (2+ years old) coming into the population in recent years. However, most states that allow spring turkey hunting seldom achieve success rates of 15 percent, so Iowa turkey hunters still have some of the best turkey hunt-

ing in North America available to them.

There continues to be a problem with hunters concentrating on public areas. This tendency has not changed significantly during the 11 years of spring hunting and has resulted in lower numbers of gobbling turkeys available to hunters on these areas. As a result, in 1984, Yellow River Forest, Stephens Forest and Shimek Forest were zoned separately to reduce hunter numbers in those zones. Success rates in those zones were significantly lower than most of the other zones (16, 14, and 23 percent, respectively). These areas will probably continue to be zoned separately to improve hunting quality and increase the gobbler population.

The addition of a fourth season in 1984 did not seem to affect hunting quality. Success rates were higher for the third season and lowest in the second and fourth. These differences are probably due more to weather than anything else.

The attached table summarizes the results of the 1984 spring season by zone and season.

1984 spring wild turkey harvest estimates. Success rates (% of active hunters that bagged a turkey) are in parentheses.

Zone	Season 1	Season 2	Season 3	Season 4	Zone Total
1	257 (25)	202 (18)	389 (57)	186 (19)	1,034 (25)
2	40 (18)	65 (30)	45 (25)	57 (26)	207 (25)
3	27 (27)	22 (18)	24 (24)	20 (15)	93 (22)
4	19 (23)	15 (14)	6 (7)	10 (10)	50 (14)
5	50 (25)	41 (19)	37 (19)	53 (25)	181 (22)
6	125 (29)	113 (21)	137 (30)	91 (17)	466 (23)
7	19 (34)	13 (18)	2 (3)	6 (11)	40 (16)
8	1 (6)	1 (7)	0 (0)	2 (40)	4 (11)
9	2 (17)	4 (31)	1 (7)	3 (25)	10 (20)
10	9 (30)	3 (12)	4 (12)	5 (13)	21 (18)
11	15 (25)	6 (12)	6 (10)	5 (10)	32 (14)
12	23 (29)	12 (17)	17 (25)	21 (19)	83 (23)
All Zones	587 (25)	497 (19)	678 (29)	459 (19)	2,221 (23)

LEADERS IN CONSERVATION

DONATIONS

J.E. Tobey III, Davenport	\$250 for law enforcement
Brenco Auto- motive, Des Moines	\$100 for wildlife
Eunice Field, Harpers Ferry	\$200 memorial to Harry "Doc" Field for fish and wildlife
Lynn Herbold, Newton	\$100 for fish and wildlife
Friends and family of Al Schmelzer Somner	\$100 memorial to Al Schmelzer for fish and wildlife
Friends of Gorda Gill, Manchester	\$282 memorial to Gorda Gill for fish and wildlife
Mary Brochmeyer, Guttenberg	\$51 for fish and wildlife

The following are contributions to
McIntosh Woods State Park for
playground construction:

Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake	Material valued at \$400
Basic Materials, Fertile	32 tons of sand valued at \$320

The following are contributions to Lake
Manawa State Park:

Richman	57 trees and shrubs valued at \$882
Gordman, Council Bluffs	
Fraternal Order of Eagles, Council Bluffs	\$60 for movie screen construction

The following are contributions for
installation of security lights for the
pontoon boat docking area at Viking Lake.

Nishna Valley Bassmasters	\$65
Gary Jacobson, Stanton	\$20
Gordon Perkins, Red Oak	\$30
John Crawford, Shenandoah	\$25
Elmer Jenkins, Stanton	\$20
Irvin Palm, Red Oak	\$50
Beb'n Hair, Clarinda	\$100
Dodd Farm Account, Red Oak	\$40
Bernard Bills, Red Oak	\$20
Richard Price, Red Oak	\$20
Randy's Body Shop, Red Oak	\$35
H. R. Cosad, Red Oak	\$35
Roy Hagglund, Red Oak	\$50
R. M. Torrence, Red Oak	\$25
Philip Mellott, Red Oak	\$50
Honette Realty, Stanton	\$10
Oakview Construction Co., Red Oak	\$100
James Dunfee, Red Oak	\$10
Larry Homan, Omaha, Nebraska	\$20
Walter Black, Red Oak	\$10
Virgil Johnson, Red Oak	\$10
Arthur Lantz, Emerson	\$20
Lane and Carolene Morse, Emerson	\$50



Courtesy of Oskaloosa Herald

Mrs. Catherine Johnson

Mrs. Catherine Johnson of
R.R. 2 Oskaloosa is known
throughout Mahaska County
as a dedicated conservation-
ist. Mrs. Johnson was born in
Eddyville in September 1904
and has lived in Southwest
Mahaska County all her life.

In 1936, Mrs. Johnson and
her husband purchased 12
acres of land in the "Sand
Hills" region of Mahaska
County and still resides on
that farmstead. During her
work years, Mrs. Johnson
taught biology and other sci-
ence courses in local schools.
As she has said, "The farm
was the ideal place to imple-
ment the conservation prac-
tices I taught in the class-
room."

After the death of her hus-
band in 1963, Mrs. Johnson
started a tree farm operation
by planting 8,000 white
pines. Her primary reason for
initiating the project stemmed
from a desire to protect the

fragile, sandy soil from ero-
sion, and to provide habitat
for wildlife. Today, the John-
son tree farm encompasses
approximately 120 acres, and
an estimated 50,000 seedlings
have been planted over the
twenty-one-year period. Each
winter controlled harvesting
of Christmas trees is allowed
by Mrs. Johnson to generate
revenue for additional plant-
ings and to improve growing
conditions for remaining
trees. In addition to tree plant-
ing, Mrs. Johnson enjoys
feeding birds, studying wild-
life and assisting in bird band-
ing projects.

In a time when trees are
commonly bulldozed to make
room for crops, it is refreshing
to find a person like Catherine
Johnson. Her attitude and ac-
tions exemplify the conserva-
tion ethic to others in her lo-
cale. She is a conservation
leader in the truest sense.

Iowa Fur Takers of America

Fur Takers of America is a
national organization of trap-
pers and fur harvesters, made
up of 95 chapters and affiliates
across the United States.

The major Fur Taker goal is
to teach ethical and responsi-
ble trapping to the trappers of
Iowa, young and old. Fur Tak-
er members have assisted with
the Iowa Conservation Com-
mission trapping schools at
Springbrook and at Clear
Lake. Chapters have spon-
sored trapper education
courses in counties near their
headquarters and have sent
members to speak in public
schools about trapping and its
relationship to wildlife man-
agement. East Central Iowa
Ch. 16 will be sponsoring its
second "Outlook" teacher in
1985 and feel that teacher ed-
ucation on environmental is-
sues is important.

All three Fur Taker chapters
hold fur auctions, so that the
fur harvesters may have the
opportunity to receive the
highest possible price for their
furs. Normally 10 to 15 buy-
ers attend these auctions and
prices usually run above state
averages. The auctions also
give the buyers an opportunity
to look at a lot of well handled
fur at one place. The chapters
also hold fall meets, where a
variety of set demonstrations
for different furbearers are
given. Also dealers display
their wares for trappers and
hunters, often at discount
prices.

Owen Hall, of Central City,
is state organizer for Fur Tak-
ers in Iowa. Dues are \$10 per
year and each member re-
ceives the monthly Fur Taker
paper. The Iowa Chapter of
Fur Takers is a responsible
organization of people who
want to maintain their rights
to trap and to teach ethical
trapping.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY - APRIL, 1985

February 1-28	Iowa's Vanishing Wetlands	E.B. Lyons Nature Center Dubuque County 319/556-0620	February 11	Building Bird Homes	Kalona Elem. School Washington County 319/653-7765
February 1-28	Iowa's Wild Places	Public Library Oelwein	February 11	Conservation Film Night 7:30-8:45 p.m.	Izaak Walton League Building Across from Smith Lake Kossuth County 515/295-2138
February 2	Ground Hog Day Hike	Brinton Timber Washington County 319/653-7765	February 12	Conservation Film Night 7:30-8:45 p.m.	Iowa Lakes Comm. Coll. Aud. Emmetsburg Palo Alto County 712/837-4866
February 3	Cross-Country Skiing basic instruction and practice	Lake Meyer Nature Center Winneshiek County 319/534-7145	February 14	Armchair Adventures	Lime Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
February 3	"Winter Dendrology" — Hike to Identify Trees, Discuss Winter Survival & Wildlife	Swiss Valley Nature Preserve Dubuque County 319/556-6745	February 16	Birdhouse Building	Lake Cornelia Park Wright County 515/532-3185
February 3	Winter Walk 1:00 p.m.	Robison's Acres Story County 515/232-2516	February 16	Owl Calling 7:00 p.m.	Hickory Grove Park Story County 515/232-2516
February 4	Osceola County Cons. League Banquet (open to general public)	Sibley High School Osceola County 712/754-4107	February 16	What are Furbearers Fur? Mark Wager, naturalist 10:30 a.m.-12 noon	Fisher Community Center Marshalltown Marshall County 515/752-3150
February 7	Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Clinic pre-registration required 7-9 p.m.	Burt Lake Shelter House Kossuth County 1-800-242-5100/ 712-424-3177	February 17	Birdhouse Making	Lake Meyer Nature Center Winneshiek County 319/534-7145
February 7	Nature Movie Night	Monona County Arboretum Monona County 712/423-2400	February 17	"Cabin Fever" Shoot Black Powder and Rifle 12 Noon	Big Creek Shooting Range Polk County 515/964-7895
February 7	Nature Movie Night 7:00 p.m.	Onawa Arboretum Monona County 712/423-2400	February 19	Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Clinic pre-registration required 7-9 p.m.	A.A. Call State Park Algona Kossuth County 1-800-242-5100/ 712-424-3177
February 8	Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Clinic pre-registration required 7-9 p.m.	Basswood Recreation Area Palo Alto County 1-800-242-5100/ 712-424-3177	February 20	Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Clinic pre-registration required 7-9 p.m.	Lost Island Conser. Office Palo Alto County 1-800-242-5100/ 712-424-3177
February 9	Groundhog Census 1:30 p.m.	Yellow Banks Park Polk County 515/999-2557	February 22 & 23	Star Watch — Overnight Astronomy Program	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614
February 9	Natural Bird Feeders	Marr Park Washington County 319/653-7765	February 23	Birdhouse Building Workshop 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Warren Co. Cons. Office Indianola Warren County 515/961-6169
February 10	Rare and Unique Plants and Animals of Cerro Gordo County	Lime Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309	February 23	Building Bird Homes	Wellman Elem. School Washington County 319/653-7765
February 10	Snowshoeing basic instruction and practice	Lake Meyer Nature Center Winneshiek County 319/534-7145	February 23	Owl Prowl and Other Nightly Goodies 7:00 p.m.	Hickory Hills Park Warren County 515/961-6169
February 10	"Swiss Valley Stream Walk," Catfish Creek	Swiss Valley Nature Preserve Dubuque County 319/556-6745	February 23	The Seasons of a Marsh pre-register 2-4 p.m.	Lost Island Conser. Office Palo Alto County 712/837-4866
February 10	Winter Fun Day	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614	February 23	Uncle Ike's Nature Program Grades 1-6 10:30 a.m.-Noon	Izaak Walton League Grounds Marshalltown Marshall County 515/752-3150
			February 23	Winter Fun Day 1-5 p.m.	Hickory Grove Park Story County 515/232-2516

February 24	Maple Sugaring Film/Demonstration	Lake Meyer Nature Center Winneshiek County 319/534-7145	March 23	Trip to Minnesota Zoo pre-registration required	Bus leaving Emmetsburg Courthouse at 7:30 a.m. arrive back approx. 9:30 p.m. Palo Alto County 712/837-4866
February 24	The Seasons of Union Slough pre-register 2-4 p.m.	Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge Office Kossuth County 515/295-2138			Bus Leaving from Algona Courthouse at 8:15 a.m. arriving back approx. 9:00 p.m. Kossuth County 515/295-2138
February (Date to be Determined)	Our Gems of Blue Bluebird Show	Monona Co. Cons. Board Monona County 712/423-2400			
March 1-31	Iowa's Vanishing Wetlands	Ocheyedan Public Library Ocheyedan	March 24	Hike to Hanging Bog	Swiss Valley Nature Preserve Dubuque County 319/556-6745
March 1-31	Iowa's Vanishing Wetlands	United Federal Savings Bank Osceola			
March 1-31	Iowa's Wild Places	Iowa Farm Bureau Des Moines	March 25	Conservation Film Night 7:30-8:45 p.m.	Iowa Lakes Comm. Coll. Aud. Emmetsburg Palo Alto County 712/837-4866
March 2	Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Indian Creek Nature Center Cedar Rapids 319/362-0664			
March 2	Maple Syruping 10 a.m.	McFarland Park Story County 515/232-2516	March 25	Looking into Birdhouses Birds in Iowa 4:00 p.m.	Franklin Ave. Library Des Moines Polk County 515/999-2557
March 7	Nature Movie Night 7:30 p.m.	Onawa Arboretum Monona County 712/423-2400	March 26	Conservation Film Night 7:30-8:45 p.m.	Izaak Walton League Bldg. Algona Kossuth County 515/295-2138
March 9	Bird House Building Seminar 10 a.m.-Noon	Lost Island Conser. Office Kossuth and Palo Alto Counties 515/295-2138 712/837-4866	March 30	Kite Flying Day 10 a.m.	McFarland Park Story County 515/232-2516
March 9	Owl Prowl 9 p.m.	McFarland Park Story County 515/232-2516	April 1-30	Iowa's Vanishing Wetlands	Central State Bank State Center
March 10	Birdhouse Workshop 2:00 p.m.	Onawa Arboretum Monona County 712/423-2400	April 1-30	Iowa's Wild Places	Public Library Conrad
March 10	Building Bird Homes	Marr Park Washington County 319/653-7765	April 6	Full Moon/Program 9 p.m.	McFarland Park Story County 515/232-2516
March 10	Conservation Films	Dows School Gymnasium Wright County 515/532-3185	April 6	The Seasons of a Marsh 2-4 p.m.	Lost Island Conser. Office Palo Alto County 712/837-4866
March 10	How to Start a Bluebird Trail 3:00 p.m.	Chichaqua Wildlife Area Polk County 515/999-2557	April 7	The Seasons of Union Slough 2-4 p.m.	Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge Office Kossuth County 515/295-2138
March 10	Owl Lookout —	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614	April 13	Wildflower Walk 1:00 p.m.	Onawa Arboretum Monona County 712/423-2400
March 17	Grundy County Museum's 6th Anniversary 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Grundy County Museum Morrison Grundy County 319/345-2688	April 14	Hiking Varieties	Boone River Greenbelt Middleton Access Wright County 515/532-3185
March 17-23	Wildlife Week Shows	Monona Co. Cons. Board Monona County 712/882-2707			
March 23	Creating a Wildlife Haven in Your Backyard Doug Reeves, urban biologist 10:30-12 Noon	Fisher Community Center Marshalltown Marshall County 515/752-3150	April 15	Conservation Film Night 7:30-8:45 p.m.	Iowa Lakes Comm. Coll. Aud. Emmetsburg Palo Alto County 712/837-4866
March 23	Soils Program	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614			Izaak Walton League Algona Kossuth County 515/295-2138



Artwork by Rex Heer

Nature Tale for Kids

Mephie, Keg Valley, and an Unfinished Story

By Dean M. Roosa

The striped skunk goes by the scientific name *Mephitis mephitis* and is fairly common in the farm country of Iowa. It has learned to coexist with humans, and, though not highly popular, is highly respected. It seems like a lot of them get hit with cars — and that is where our story begins.

Keg Valley is broad and sandy, mostly grown up to a briar patch, occupied by multiflora rose, a pine plantation, young oaks, rabbits, skunks, and a few farms whose owners put privacy above prosperity, nature above neighbors, and who hold to long established traditions in the face of advancing technology. A blacktop road cuts through the valley and every animal family in the valley has lost a member to the speeding cars. One misty night in spring a mother skunk, trailing five kitten-sized youngsters, made a final desperate effort to guard her precious followers against the oncoming headlights. She succeeded, but her silent, unmoving form on the blacktop told that she made the greatest sacrifice. Her

young, seeing that the lifeless form would not move or give them comfort, scattered to the countryside.

History doesn't record what happened to four of them, but the fifth, Mephie, the smallest of the litter and nearly black except for two narrow white stripes down his back, was drawn to a farmstead where he promptly got locked in the toolshed. The next morning, a teenager, coming after a hoe, was surprised to see this small black and white creature in the corner. The young man first started to raise the hoe threateningly, but compassion and fear of a stench prevailed and he left the door open and hurried away. Mephie, properly mortified, hid under the barn all day, but the next morning was catching crickets and beetles. He made good his escape that night and found an abandoned barn with lots of goodies — mice, a pigeon nest, a sparrow nest, beetles of all kinds, and no doors that slam shut. He stayed there two weeks, growing, eating, loafing, generally enjoying life. The blacktop, with its blinding headlights and roaring objects, were far away and only a dim memory.

His pleasure came to an end abruptly, when the barn owner filled the barn with fresh bales of hay. Mephie could not

stand all that noise and dust, so he left and returned to Keg Valley. The fact that Keg Valley, with its sandy terraces and poor soil, is an agricultural wasteland makes it a biological treasure. The sandy terraces were a fine place for turtles to lay eggs, and it did not take long for Mephie to find these terraces and to become a genuine nuisance to the turtles. He learned to locate their eggs on the sandy terraces that overlooked Keg Creek, and the sand permitted easy digging. Few eggs escaped his sizeable appetite. Soon the eggs were gone, the turtles mad, and Mephie, his appetite on edge, was again on the prowl.

Lower Keg Valley was his destination, with its farm buildings, hen houses, and maybe even some more delicious turtle egg omelettes. But this would mean crossing the blacktop to get there. He no longer remembered why, but something told him to give it wide berth. For two days he tried to muster courage, wandering up and down the roadside, and finally found a culvert going under the road. The perfect solution! Now he crossed under the road often and became known to farmers at both ends of Keg Hollow. He was better known to their dogs, however, who gradually learned

the same feelings for Mephie as Mephie had for the blacktop.

Mephie found an abandoned barn which he used as his home for a month. In a dusty retreat was a long-forgotten trap that Mephie stepped in when looking for a new hunting area. He felt the ground give way and jerked his foot, but not fast enough to prevent a toe from being caught. It didn't really hurt, but he just couldn't get free. He nibbled at the trap and his toe; he jerked and whimpered, all to no avail. Just then the biggest dog on record entered the barn and trotted toward the trapped young skunk. It was the biggest dog in the valley, but also the gentlest and most curious. He sniffed at the trapped youngster and got a squirt of the most awful, the most wicked, smell in the world. Mephie, sure he was going to be eaten, lurched and jerked and pulled, and pop!, he was free. The dog was rubbing his face in the grass, and Mephie was skimming across the hillside. Mephie's toe soon stopped bleeding. A few grubs and turtle eggs later the trap was forgotten. The big dog spent the next two weeks tied outside far from the house and no one used the barn for a year!

Mephie, while digging eggs one night, bumped into another striped skunk doing the same. Soon they were inseparable, raiding hen houses and bird nests together. Later, there were six in the family. Mephie was very protective, never letting his family near the blacktop road, but he couldn't stop one from being carried away by a great horned owl, one of the few animals that seem unperturbed by the characteristic odor associated with skunks.

The den of the new family, located on a sand terrace, was spacious and had two entrances, or exists, as may be the case when all five had to vacate to avoid a badger digging in the soft sand, with an easy dinner on his mind. The family headed very fast down Keg Valley, straight for the blacktop.

Let me pause here, dear young reader, and allow you a chance to compose the ending. Did Mephie head off his precious family in time, before they crossed the blacktop? Or, were there the dreaded oncoming headlights? I shall not tell. This much I will tell, however — I travelled the Keg Valley blacktop just a few weeks ago. There, crossing under the roadway, through the culvert, was a mostly black skunk with two narrow white stripes down his back. I think it looked suspiciously like Mephie, the Keg Valley skunk.

CLASSROOM CORNER

By Robert Rye



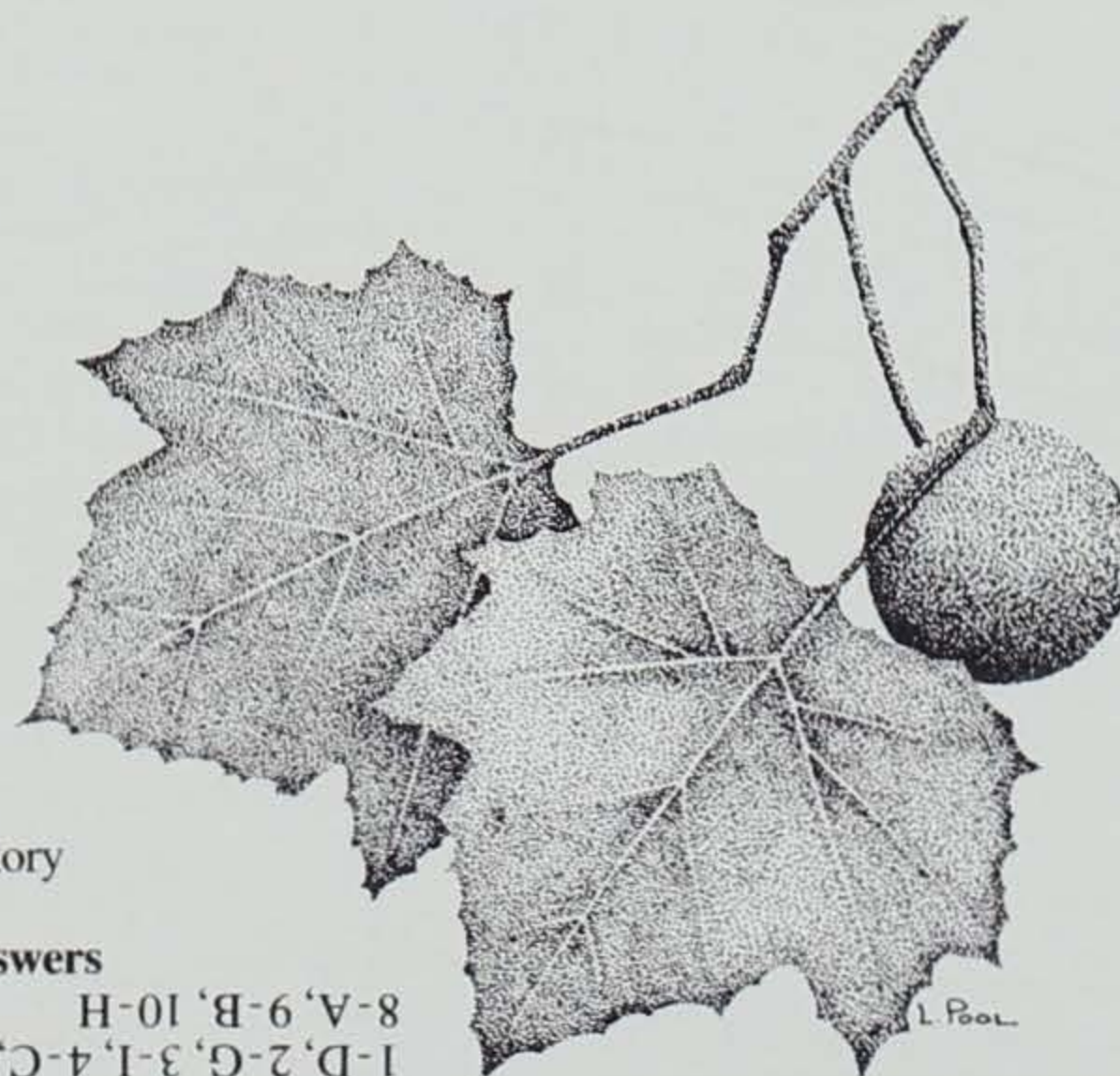
Iowa's rich and varied landscape supports a large number of trees. Here is a test to determine how well you can identify ten common Iowa trees. Just match the descriptions with the trees.

1. A large, water-loving tree with simple leaves, patchy trunk and a ball-shaped fruit.
2. The only maple with compound leaves.
3. A large tree with thick, dark bark. It has compound leaves and edible rough nuts.
4. A large tree with gray bark and large, heart-shaped leaves. The soft, fine-grained wood is used for carving.
5. A large tree with bark that hangs in strips. It has compound leaves and edible nuts.
6. A medium-sized tree with long, pointed leaves and edible fruit. The bark on young trees is reddish with horizontal markings; on older trees the bark has small, scaly plates.
7. A large tree with a nut half covered with a fringed cup. The simple leaves have rounded lobes and deeply cut sinuses.
8. This tree has compound leaves, sharp, branching spines, pale flowers and long pods.
9. A large tree having long, narrow, alternate leaves with finely toothed edges and flowers borne in erect catkins. It is often found along rivers.
10. A large tree with furrowed bark and compound, opposite leaves. Flowers appear after the leaves. The fruit is single-winged.

- A. Honeylocust
- B. Willow
- C. Basswood
- D. Sycamore
- E. Bur Oak
- F. Wild Cherry
- G. Boxelder
- H. Green Ash
- I. Black Walnut
- J. Shagbark Hickory

Answers

1-D, 2-G, 3-I, 4-C, 5-J, 6-F, 7-E, 8-A, 9-B, 10-H



WARDEN'S DIARY



Marlowe Ray

By Jerry Hoilien

Western Iowa sunsets are different than any others I've seen. I've always thought it must be because of the moisture rising out of the wide Missouri River Valley. That ol' red ball seems redder and bigger and always has the most interesting clouds to reflect upon. There are rich colors — deep purples with golden salmons, bright pink edges and deep gray haze. A man can lose himself in those sunsets, looking past those Loess Hills to a place farther than his eyes can see. His imagination takes over.

I wonder if Lewis & Clark noticed this? Marlowe Ray did. He and I used to talk about it. He's been gone for several years now, but no one will ever forget that warden from Guthrie Center — certainly no one who ever knew him and most certainly not one of the many kids who attended the McMann-Ray Boys Camp. It was put on at Springbrook camp each year for over twenty years by Marlowe and the other wardens around there. Some of them came back year after year to listen and learn about fishing, hunting, hunter safety, boating and nature. They're grown men now, some with sons of their own, and they still talk about Marlowe Ray. He would put so much of himself into those camps that he would have to be hospitalized afterwards. Marlowe had rheumatoid arthritis

for years and it was killing him. He knew it but that never bothered him. "Everyone has to go sometime," he would laugh. But his greatest fear, he confided to me, was that he wouldn't be able to do *his job!*

He loved being a game warden, a conservation officer. His whole life was dedicated to that end. He was one of the best, without a doubt, one of the finest men to walk the out-of-doors.

Someone asked me once if Marlowe could still "cut it" as a warden during his last years. After all, with his condition, could he still wade through the marsh and catch those violators like a young man could? I looked that person straight in the eye and said, "He may not be able to wade the deep mud in Taylors Slough like he used to. But when that violator struggles and sneaks out on the other side of the slough, I'll bet my life Marlowe Ray will be standing there waiting for him."

Marlowe was a man, a man to look up to and to stand with. I would have trusted him with my life and have. Knowing that he always gave full measure, nothing less.

The sky's turned gray now — rest easy Marlowe in the comfort of those clouds. You've suffered enough, old friend and deserve the good rest. From all of us, for all your efforts, "Thanks!"

Iowa's

By Ross Harrison

Ross is the commission's superintendent of information and education. He is an advisor to the Iowa Wildlife in Art steering committee.

"The talent displayed in this room is overwhelming and would certainly surprise many Iowans," was the summary impression of Dan Krumm, chief executive officer of Maytag, when he stepped into the first Iowa Wildlife in Art Show last spring.

Krumm's comment echoed those of 12,000 other visitors who oooed and awwwed their way through the biggest and best show of its kind in the state's history. Sponsors of the event, the Conservation Commission and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, agree, but they both promise that this year's show — April 20-21 at the new Des Moines Convention Center, will be even better.

Scheduled as the first event at the Convention Center, Fifth and Grand, some of the final touches to this spectacular building may not even complete by show time. But the roominess, convenient location, and style of Des Moines' newest structure makes it ideal for the show. Last year's crowds at the Des Moines Hyatt, though a pleasure for the sponsors, could not be a problem this year for those desiring a more leisure stroll through the exhibits.

Of the 46 Iowa artists in this April's show, 33 return from last year and 13 are new. Again, one of the show's main objectives will be apparent...blending the diverse art media of the traditional wildlife artist with those of the "fine art" community who are turning to wildlife subjects just for this show. Dr. Sam Grabarski, past director of the Iowa Arts Council and member of the show's steering committee, was one of the Iowa's premier art authorities before moving to Minnesota to become their art director. After a thorough exposure to the talents in wildlife art, he dismissed those high-brow critics who have referred to wildlife art as merely illustrative. His knowledge, fine taste and enthusiasm have enticed new artists and appreciators into this unique artistic field.

As it was last year, all of the art on

Finest Wildlife Artwork

Second Annual Iowa Wildlife in Art Show April 20-21, Des Moines Convention Center

display will be original works. Each artist will have a minimum of three pieces that will not have appeared in any other show, to date. All works will be for sale, with artists contributing 20 percent of the sale price to the show sponsors. Show profits are all earmarked for natural resource education efforts in Iowa. Last year's show proceeds resulted in 75 Iowa teachers receiving \$150 each (\$11,250 total) which they matched with \$75 to obtain training in Project OUTLOOK, an environmental education program for Iowa schools.

The featured artist for the 1985 show is Norman Neal Deaton of Newton, internationally known for his work on natural history museum design and for his creations of flora and fauna through the medium of his *amaranth*, Greek for "flowers that never fade." With his special techniques and modern materials, Deaton produces dimensional art so lifelike it excites the sense of smell. It has no appearance of porcelain, silk, or

plastic...just life. Deaton is creating "Woodland Beauties", his largest piece ever, just for the show and will donate the entire auctioned price of it to the show. Smaller renditions of "Woodland Beauties" will be available for order at and shortly after the show.

Perhaps the most exciting element of the show is the premiere Heritage Night, April 19, sponsored by the Natural Heritage Foundation and limited to the first 450 persons who purchase the \$50 tickets. The Governor's auction of Deaton's work and numerous other exclusive items is the focal point. However, ticket holders will also have the opportunity of first purchase of other artworks and more personal visitations with the artists. Other features include a gourmet's delight of hors d'oeuvres, a free show catalogue and poster. (For tickets, contact Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Insurance Exchange Bldg., Suite 830, 505 Fifth Ave., Des Moines 50309.)

The show opens its doors to the public, admission \$1, at 10 a.m. April 20 and runs through 5 p.m. April 21. In addition to the hundreds of original artworks available for viewing and buying, many other exhibits, demonstrations, and activities will be occurring. From the Iowa Woodcarvers Association actively at work, to a panel on how to buy art; from antique gunsmithing, to a display of world famous Cybis porcelain, visitors will want several hours to absorb all the show has to offer.

Buyers will find wildlife originals in ivory and on canvas, in wood and on pottery, and in marble and on, of all things, exquisitely carved front doors. Prices from \$30 to \$3,000 predominate, but there will be some for less, some for more.

Don't miss the second annual Iowa Wildlife in Art Show. It will have to be something to beat last year's. The only show that could beat it will be the third annual in 1986.

Neal Deaton, featured artist at the Second Annual Iowa Wildlife in Art Show, creates "Woodland Beauties."



THE IOWA CONSERVATIONIST MAGAZINE'S

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY CODE

PRESENTING 10 IMPORTANT
SAFETY RULES FOR OUTDOOR
WINTER SPORTSPEOPLE.

CARTOONS BY NEWTON BURCH



1 Be sure your snowmobile is in top notch mechanical condition at the beginning of the winter season and throughout the following months.



5 Avoid wearing long scarves — they may get in the moving part of the snowmobile.



6 Always use the buddy system. Never ride off alone or unaccompanied.



7 Know the terrain you are going to ride. If unfamiliar to you, ask someone who has traveled over it before.



2 Familiarize yourself with the snowmobile you are driving by reading the manual accompanying the snowmobile.



3 Wear sensible protective clothing designed for snowmobiling.



4 Use a full-size helmet, goggles or a visor to prevent injuries from twigs, stones, ice chips and flying debris.



8 Know the weather forecast and especially ice and snow conditions in the area. Carry survival equipment.



9 Do not pursue domestic or wild animals. If you see a violation of this rule, report it to the nearest law enforcement officer.



10 Do not drive on thin ice. Ice must be solid and at least five inches thick to support a snowmobile and rider. When not familiar with ice conditions, stay off the ice.

THE PARK USER FEE

A Second Chance for Iowa's Recreational Areas

By Lowell Washburn

Lowell Washburn recently joined the commission as an information specialist located in Clear Lake. He has worked as a naturalist for two Iowa counties and as an outdoor writer for the Mason City Globe Gazette.

Most states (33), including all of our neighbors except Illinois and Missouri have already gone to some type of user fee. And, although there are a variety of ways to administer the system, the most popular approach involves the use of a vehicle sticker which is offered on either an annual or daily basis.

Perhaps the biggest and most obvious advantage of implementing a user fee system is that it would generate a reliable source of income with which to repair or replace deteriorating park facilities. For example, the commission has estimated that a \$10 annual and \$2 daily user fee would raise up to \$1.5 million annually.

It is believed that the user fee could also cultivate a greater sense of pride among park users, while at the same time increasing the sense of awareness and appreciation for public areas. In some states this awareness has become so great, in fact, that state parks have experienced a marked reduction in vandalism and other forms of inappropriate behavior after user fees were initiated. It stands to reason that once individuals are made to feel more a part of the financial care of an area, they will be more apt to respect that property and treat it as their own.

But the user fee system could also bring its disadvantages, and while certain administrative and enforcement considerations would have to be ironed out, it is likely that these obstacles would not prove exceedingly difficult to overcome. There is, however, a more serious threat on the horizon should Iowa initiate the park user fee system. That concern is that once the fee system is implemented, there could be a direct and corresponding reduction in the annual appropriations from the legislature.

Since all of the user fee revenues are needed just to rebuild or replace existing facilities, such a reduction in other ap-

propriations could prove cataclysmic, putting the entire restoration effort back to square one.

One of the most important questions concerning the user fee issue is exactly how palatable would the system prove for those individuals who would pick up the tab? During a recent public survey the commission learned that 61 percent of the state's adult population visit parks each year, with 30 percent of these users making 10 or more visits annually. When looking at the age of park users, it was found that those 18-34 years old were the predominant users, with 76 percent of this group saying they had visited a park last year.

When questioned about user fees, a total of 67 percent of all park users said they approved the concept. When further polled, 75 percent indicated they felt the fees should be used to "keep existing parks open and well managed." (The survey was conducted by IMR Opinion Research of Des Moines.) Considering this overwhelming level of support among the people who would pay the fee, it would indeed seem reasonable that the commission should adopt such a system as soon as possible. The commission has tried, for the past ten years without success, to have the legislature pass the bill creating the Park User Fee.

As Iowans, our roots into the great out-of-doors run deep — dating back to our rugged pioneer forebearers who literally carved a livelihood from the wilderness. Even today, many still feel the undeniable urge to be close to and to understand nature.

Currently our system of parks and preserves still allows our citizens the opportunity to fulfill that desire. But that very system we so treasure is rapidly disintegrating before our eyes. As park users, we each bear a responsibility to maintain the integrity of our recreational system for the enjoyment of generations yet to come. The park user fee could help us meet that commitment, and give Iowa's state parks the second chance they deserve.

The commission has placed the park user fee bill at the top of its legislative priorities this year. Let your legislator know how you feel about it.

In 1917 the State Board of Conservation, forerunner of today's Conservation Commission, was created for the pur-

pose of establishing parks and preserves. Later that same year, the board made its first acquisition near Strawberry Point, and Backbone State Park became the cornerstone of recreational lands in Iowa.

Since that initial purchase, Iowa's park system has fledged into a network of more than 100 preserves, parks, and recreational areas. Their lands encompass over 74,000 acres of natural beauty representing every geographical area of the state. As diverse as they are magnificent, Iowa parks offer points of interest that range from the breathtaking, beautiful backdrop of Pike's Peak to the historic significance of Fort Atkinson.

Many of the permanent improvements which exist in our parks, such as shelters, lodges, roadways, and trails, were developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the troubled days that accompanied the Great Depression of the 1930's. Constructed largely from rough-hewn timbers and massive fieldstone, these fixtures represent a part of our Iowa heritage.

Iowa parks and preserves allow our citizens to explore the world of nature through a variety of pastimes that include camping, birding, mushroom hunting, and photography. For the sports minded, our recreational areas present the unique opportunity to hike, ski, or snowmobile amidst scenic surroundings. For a lot of us, no summer could possibly seem complete without packing a picnic basket to escape to the solitude of a nearby state park.

But lately it seems as if Iowa's state parks have fallen on hard times. Eroded by the forces of time, nature and public use, the once-great timbers which supported shelter and lodge facilities now lean and sag in various stages of decay. Roadways crumble and many trails have eroded to unsafe conditions. Overuse has created bare ground campsites while on some areas, shower and toilet buildings have deteriorated into health hazards.

While this sort of damage is rather apparent to the park visitor, other symptoms of decline may be more subtle. Although such things as rotting underground sewer and water lines are less visible to the public, they too threaten the future quality of our recreational system. Today, when all of the maladies currently

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Ron Johnson



Many state parks have beautiful old shelters and other facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930's. These rustic, eye-catching symbols of the state parks system are rugged but not invincible. Time and weather have taken their toll and repairs, both superficial and structural, are needed.

afflicting our recreational areas are carefully analyzed, some officials speculate that unless corrective measures are taken, and taken soon, that the state's once great parks system may well slip beyond the point of no return.

For many of us, the first question coming to mind is why have park managers allowed these facilities to decline. The answer can be summed up in that single word — money — or more appropriately, the lack of it.

Currently, the commission relies upon legislative appropriations for the base-line maintenance of our public areas. Many badly needed major renovations

have found a permanent place on the back burner as state General Fund appropriations have either been frozen or reduced.

After considering a number of ways to raise additional revenue, the commission has determined one way is to implement a special Park User Fee. As the term implies, a fee would be paid by those individuals who use the parks. Within our parks, users are already charged for highly developed or specialized facilities such as campgrounds, lodges, and cabins. But recent statistics have indicated that the amount charged for these items does not pay for the

facility, nor does it defray the direct costs of maintenance and operation.

Other groups of Iowans which pay special user fees include hunters and fishermen, who support their forms of recreation through the purchase of licenses and stamps. For these sportsmen, the equity of user fees is evident when considering the success of the management programs involving trout, Canada geese, wild turkeys, and others. For the park user, it should be easy to envision the possibilities of implementing a fee system that would parallel the support currently given to our state's fish and game programs.



Iowa's Shooting Preserves

By Charles "Butch" Olofson

The term "shooting preserve" was first used by Henry VIII of England in 1536, when he decreed an area closed to the hunting of pheasants, herons, and partridges. In those days, the game belonged to the king, and it is said there were those who lost their heads for poaching the king's deer.

Today, we define a "shooting preserve" as an area owned or leased privately for the purpose of pen-rearing waterfowl and upland game birds. Game is hunted under license and regulations of a state fish and wildlife department. Basically, today's shooting preserves provide a form of fee hunting.

Hunting on a shooting preserve is permitted from September 1 through March 31 of each year. A resident hunting license or a special, five-dollar non-resident shooting preserve license is required to hunt on an area. Any pen-reared bird taken by hunting on these areas must have a transportation tag affixed to it before it can be removed from the area.

Only 80 percent of the quail and pheasant released for hunting may be harvested by the hunter. One-hundred

percent of the pen-reared mallards and chukar partridge may be harvested by hunting. Only full-plumaged, healthy, pen-reared birds more than 16 weeks old may be released on the area.

Why hunt on a shooting preserve? One of the biggest advantages is that the hunter will always get some shooting, without the hassle of asking landowners for a place to hunt. Hunting can be done over the shooting preserve operator's well-trained dogs. Many operators can also kennel and train dogs. The birds can be exchanged for dressed ones at the end of the day. Some preserves are even set up to serve meals.

Firearm safety is very important to the operator and his client. He will require the hunter to wear a "hunter orange" vest or cap. The action of each shotgun is left open at all times, except when the hunter is in a blind or on the hunting area.

Most shooting preserves have a trap shooting area to improve the client's shooting skills. Thus, preserves are excellent places to train young shooters. Some shooting preserves sponsor hunter education classes and fishing clinics. Shotguns are often furnished to guests by

the operator, and he furnishes a gun that suits each client.

For those interested in this type of activity, Iowa's shooting preserves are listed here.

Preserve Directory Available

The 1984-85 "Directory of Hunting Preserves" is now available to interested sportsmen, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The commercial resorts listed offer hunting for a variety of species.

The primary game species offered include ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quail, chukar partridge, wild turkey and mallard ducks.

The directory lists only preserves that cater to the public or have memberships available. It may be obtained from John M. Mullin, North American Gamebird Association, R. #1, Box 28, Goose Lake, IA 52750 for \$1.

Butch Olofson is a hunter safety coordinator for the commission. He holds a B.S. from Buena Vista College and has been with the commission since 1949.

COUNTY	SHOOTING PRESERVE NAME	OWNER OR MANAGER	NEAREST TOWN	SPECIES AVAILABLE*
1. Clinton	Arrowhead Hunting Club Box 28, Goose Lake, IA 52750	John Mullin Owner (319) 577-2267	3½ miles SW of Goose Lake, Iowa	P-Q-C-M
2. Lee	Wingover Ranch Airport Road Keokuk, Iowa 52632	John Broughton Manager (319) 524-5757 Ext. 334	5 miles North of Keokuk, Iowa	P-Q-C-M
3. Jasper	Oak View Game Farm Rt. 1, Prairie City, IA 50228	Ron DeBruin Owner (515) 994-2094	7 miles SW of Prairie City, Iowa	P-Q-C-M
4. Tama	North Star Shooting Preserve RFD, Montour, IA 50173	Larry Hinegardner Owner (515) 492-6159	3 miles NE of Montour, Iowa	P-Q-BG
5. Clay	Outdoorsmen Hunting Club RFD, Webb, IA 51366	Larry Buettner Owner (712) 838-4890	4 miles West of Webb, Iowa	P-Q-C
6. Allamakee	Wilkes Shooting Preserve Rt. 1, Dorchester, IA 52140	Lyle Wilkes Owner (319) 492-5347	3½ miles NW of Dorchester, Iowa	P-Q
7. Taylor	Finn Wing Shooting Club Box 104, Gravity, IA 50848	Bill Cruth Owner (712) 537-2576	4 miles NW of Gravity, Iowa	P-Q-C

P — Pheasant Q — Quail C — Chukar M — Mallard BG — Big Game



Photos by Ron Johnson

Pheasant hunting can be enjoyed throughout the winter at a shooting preserve. Licensed preserves, like the Arrowhead Hunting Club pictured here are open until March 31.

Profile of an Endangered Species

TWINLEAF

(*Jeffersonia diphylla*)

By Dean M. Roosa and Bill Pusateri

The barberry family, Berberidaceae, contains some interesting plants. In Iowa, the May apple and blue cohosh, a couple of favorites of wildflower enthusiasts, are both members of this family. But, also included in this family is a flower most flower admirers and many botanists have not seen. They have not seen this plant, called twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) for several reasons — it is somewhat inconspicuous, the flower looks very much like that of another unrelated species, and it is very rare in Iowa. In fact, until recently, we knew of only one location where it grew. In recent years, several new locations have been discovered, but it is still among our rarest plants.

Its common name, twinleaf, comes from each leaf being composed of two identical leaflets, making it appear as though it has twin leaves. The flower is white, about an inch in diameter, and may grow to height of ten inches. Blooming time in Iowa is usually the last week of April.

It grows from New York and southern Ontario to Wisconsin and northeast Iowa, south to Alabama. It prefers moist woodlands, rather undisturbed by grazing. In Iowa, it seems to grow in greatest abundance in Fayette County. Should your travels cross paths with this spring wildflower, named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, we would like to know the location.

Photo by Dean Roosa