

AUG 16

# Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

AUGUST 1985

th

spike  
of the  
rotrud-

leaves  
species  
a treat-  
a.

t Iowa  
ar you

ormand



# Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

Volume 44 No. 8 • August 1985

## STAFF

Roger Sparks, *Editor*  
Julie Holmes, *Assistant Editor*  
Ron Johnson, *Photographer*  
Kenneth Formanek, *Photographer*  
Larry Pool, *Graphic Artist*

## CONTENTS

- 2 Return to the Shell Rock
- 4 Iowa Muskies
- 6 Music and Memories at  
Hopeville
- 7 Bass Fishing
- 10 Conservation Update
  - Editorial
  - Leaders in Conservation
  - Conservation —  
Winners and Losers
- 12 Calendar of Events
- 13 Destructive Gypsy Moth  
Found in Iowa
- 14 Classroom Corner
- 14 Nature Tale
- 16 Warden's Diary
- 16 TIP for Iowa
- 18 Forestry Field Days
- 22 Corporate Haven
- 23 Saylorsville Bike Trail

**FRONT COVER:** *Floating the Shell Rock River.*  
*Photo by Ron Johnson.*

## THE IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Baxter Freese, *Wellman*; John D. Field, *Hamburg*;  
Marian Pike, *Whiting*; F. Richard Thornton, *Des  
Moines*; William B. Ridout, *Estherville*; Thomas E.  
Spahn, *Dubuque*; and Sam Kennedy, *Clear Lake*.

**DIRECTOR:** Larry J. Wilson.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR:** Robert Fagerland.

**DIVISION CHIEFS:** Allen Farris, *Fish and Wildlife*;  
Stanley C. Kuhn, *Division of Administration*; Michael  
Carrier, *Lands and Waters*.

**SECTION SUPERINTENDENTS:** Tom Albright,  
*Engineering*; Doyle Adams, *Parks*; Richard Bishop,  
*Wildlife*; James Mayhew, *Fisheries*; Roy Downing,  
*Waters*; Lester Fleming, *Grants-in-Aid*; Gene Hertel,  
*State Forester*; Rick McGeough, *Law Enforcement*;  
Gene Geissinger, *Accounting*; Arnie Sohn, *Planning*;  
John Beamer, *Land Acquisition*; Judy Pawell,  
*License*; Ross Harrison, *Information and Education*;  
Robert Walker, *County Conservation Activities*.

\*\*\*

**IOWA CONSERVATIONIST** (USPS 268-780), is  
published monthly by the Iowa Conservation Commis-  
sion, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa  
50319. Second class postage paid in Des Moines,  
Iowa, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:**  
Send changes of address to the Iowa Conservationist,  
Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa  
50319.

Send subscriptions — one year: \$5.00, two years:  
\$8.00, or 3 years: \$10.00 — to the address above.

The Iowa Conservation Commission offers equal op-  
portunity regardless of race, color, creed, national  
origin, or handicap. If you feel you have been dis-  
criminated against, please contact us.



# Return Shell





# n to the ell Rock

Ron Johnson

By Gaige Wunder

*Gaige Wunder is a fisheries biologist located at the State Fish Hatchery in Decorah. He earned a B.S. degree from Iowa State University and has been with the Iowa Conservation Commission since 1969.*

The Shell Rock River is a pleasant little stream that rises just above the Minnesota border and crosses into north-central Iowa. It meanders on south through five counties before joining the west fork of the Cedar River near Finchford in Black Hawk County. Until recently, the river had been severely polluted from both industrial and municipal effluents, which had caused a significant reduction in the river's fish population, particularly in its upper reaches. Considerable cleanup efforts on these offending pollution sources have made steady improvements in the water quality of this river, and the fish population is responding very well. A short trip down the Shell Rock from Nora Springs to Greene will provide the proof.

This stretch would make a hectic one-day trip or a very comfortable weekend outing. Alternate access points are listed to allow variation in trip length. These access points may require some scouting, so allow additional time for getting lost. Water levels above Rockford in late July and August may not be adequate for enjoyable canoeing so some local inquiry is advisable before planning a trip. Most of the river bank and bottom are private property so be sure to obtain permission before using these areas. Float times are for steady travel, so you may want to double these figures to allow time for serious fishing.

The put-in point at Nora Springs is just below the old dam, along Highway 18 west of town. For the first hour or so the river bank varies from limestone outcrops to low, vegetated field borders. The stream bottom is rocky with long shallow pools interspersed with short riffles. There are good holes and some brush piles in this stretch where northern pike, channel catfish, and smallmouth bass can be taken. This section contains two county road bridges, one, about an hour from the point of entry and another a half hour later.

The river between the second bridge and the town of Rockford slows down somewhat and the limestone outcrops give way to lower banks along pasture or crop fields. The bottom is still rocky

but because of the slower current and poorer fish habitat, angling is mostly for channel catfish and bullheads.

At Rockford there is a good canoe access at George Wyatt Park. A dam requires a short portage around the west side. Floating to the first bridge takes about an hour and a half and offers some of the best fishing of the trip. The stream bottom is rocky and the banks are lined with trees. The pools are deep and the river widens as several small creeks and one major stream join the Shell Rock. Fishing is good along this varied stretch for northern pike, walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish. The current is slow in some spots and there are many brush piles that provide excellent cover for fish. Special attention should be paid to the mouths of Beaver and Beemis Creeks and the Winnebago River. These spots are well-known for producing nice catches of smallmouth, northern, and walleye.

Marble Rock is almost four hours of steady paddling below Rockford and has yet another dam across the Shell Rock. There is access to the river on both sides above the dam for portaging. The river is deeper here and has slower current. The bottom is rock and sand and the stream bank is low and mostly wooded. Catfish and walleye are often taken in the deep water just below the dam and in the many holes throughout this section. Smallmouth are also a good probability. There is a bridge an hour below Marble Rock and the river current picks up slightly from there into Greene. There are many cabins along this segment and use is high. Angling is best for catfish and some walleyes are taken. The take-out point in Greene is in the city park on the east side of the Shell Rock.

Canoeing and fishing the Shell Rock is once again enjoyable. Expect great things from this river — it's on its way back.

## Points of Interest

Section	Item	Time
Nora Springs to Rockford	Bridge	2:35
	Bridge	
Rockford to Marble Rock	Bridge	3:40
	Winnebago River	
	Rock-Beaver Creek	
Marble Rock to Greene	Beemis Creek	2:05
	Bridge	



# Iowa Muskies

**With the proper techniques and tackle, Iowa anglers are finding top-notch fishing for this exciting trophy.**

*By Ed Thelen*

There's another one. A picture in the local paper of a happy angler holding a huge muskie. As you look at the picture you can visualize the muskie mounted above your fireplace. You decide it's time to give muskie fishing a try.

Thanks to an aggressive stocking program by the Iowa Conservation Commission in 1978 the chances and thrill of catching a muskie right here in Iowa are very good. In addition to Spirit Lake, West Okoboji and Clear Lake, which have established populations of purebred muskies, a number of southern Iowa lakes and reservoirs are starting to produce legal catches of tiger muskies.

*Spirit, West Okoboji and other lakes provide some of the best musky fishing to be found*



*Ron Johnson*



hybrid fish produced by crossing northern pike with muskies. Perseverance, long hours and overall angling skill, not to mention a little luck, can help put the odds in your favor for catching a muskie.

Try to plan your trip to the lake when it is hot or "turned on." Oftentimes a lake will be hot for a week or two. During this time, the muskie is no longer a temperamental fish or elusive trophy. Knowing where and when muskies have been caught in the past are keys to increasing your chances. Consulting the April, 1985 issue of the *Iowa Conservationist* will give you the total number of Big Fish awards for the previous year and will tell you where and when they were caught. You can then plan your trip accordingly. For example, if you decide to fish the Iowa Great Lakes area, notably Spirit Lake, the best muskie fishing traditionally occurs during late summer and fall.

Specialized tackle is necessary to handle the larger lures used in muskie fishing. A top-quality, ball-bearing casting reel with a good drag system is preferred by many anglers for casting the heavy, cumbersome lures. A sturdy graphite rod is recommended as it allows casting the large lures with minimum of effort and less arm strain. This outfit is also excellent for trolling, an effective method for taking muskies.

There are three commonly used types of lures — diving crankbaits, jerkbaits and bucktail spinners. The number one choice for most fishermen is the crankbait whether used for casting or trolling. A metal or plastic lip on the lure causes it to dive and wiggle as you retrieve it. Some of the more successful patterns are

firebelly red in the summer months and silver or metallic in the fall. Shad color and brown with orange belly also get the nod by many anglers. Jerkbait are large wooden lures that are cast and "jerked" or swept forward in short pulls of the rod. This causes the lure to glide forward in an erratic fish-appealing manner. Normally a jerkbait will dive only a few feet below the surface of the water, whereas crankbaits typically dive to 10 feet or deeper. Bucktail spinners are simply cast out and reeled in with little action given by the angler. Successful colors for jerkbaits and bucktails are black, brown and yellow.

Line varies from 15-pound test monofilament for clear, shallow water conditions to thin-gauge wire line for deep-water trolling. For most situations 20- to 30-pound test monofilament or braided dacron are adequate. Braided dacron provides little stretch and is excellent for working large jerkbaits. Steel leaders 8 to 12 inches in length are the preferred choice for casting, while 12- to 24-inch leaders are the standard when trolling. Add to all this a large landing net and a pair of pliers for removing hooks, and you're ready to go fishing.

A topographic map will be a valuable aid in your search for submergent vegetation, dropoffs and other muskie-preferred habitat. A depth finder is very helpful in trolling along the outside edge of the weedline. Maintaining this "edge-of-the-veg" trolling pattern is a very productive technique. As you follow the weedline your depth finder shows an inside turn of the weedline as it forms a pocket. Since the muskie, at times, feeds by hiding in submergent vegetation and

striking prey that swims nearby, you should stop and cast this area thoroughly. Areas such as these, when located near adjacent deep water, are doubly good for muskies.

A pair of polarized sunglasses that cuts glare will enable you to spot a muskie that may follow your lure. The muskie has a frustrating habit of following a lure to the boat, and then disappearing to the depths as you pick the lure out of the water. This can often be countered by doing a maneuver called the "figure-eight." If you see a fish following your lure, gradually accelerate your retrieve and, just before the lure reaches the boat, plunge your rod into the water and continue reeling until the lure is about two feet from the tip of the rod. Then, keep your lure in motion by moving the rod tip and the lure in the form of the number eight. If the fish is aroused he may strike. Veteran muskie anglers figure-eight after each cast knowing that a large percentage of strikes occur at boat-side. The beginning angler should be aware of this technique and practice it.

Another technique when using crankbaits is to "rip" your lure upward very quickly toward the end of a retrieve. This sometimes triggers a strike from a following muskie.

Given the unpredictability of the muskie, its passion for following a lure, its large size and fighting ability make the fish a trophy indeed. For this reason many veteran muskie anglers routinely release the muskies they catch below a personal length limit they've set for themselves. One person's trophy for the wall may be another person's release. It's up to the individual which choice to make. However, a 30-inch length limit is an Iowa law which requires that any muskie caught below 30 inches be released back into the water unharmed.

After several hours of casting and trolling with nothing to show for it but a sunburn and a sore back you decide to call it a day. At that moment a sudden bucking of your rod signifies a hard strike and you've got action. After a heart-stopping battle you slip a net under a 45-inch muskie. Congratulations! You fought the odds and won — a trophy on the first day.

---

*Ed Thelen is a fisheries research technician located at Spirit Lake. He holds a B.S. degree in fisheries and wildlife biology from Iowa State University.*

---

*One reason for the trophy fishery is the promotion of catch-and-release fishing.*



Tom Gengerke



# Music and Memories at Hopeville

By John Klein

What can be done when your county conservation board has a small but fully developed park that only a few people know about?

That was the situation in Clarke County in 1979 with Hopeville Square County Park. Settled in 1850, Hopeville was the first town in Clarke County. It once boasted of 332 people, but that was before the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, now the Burlington Northern, laid tracks seven miles to the north in 1868. Osceola was named county seat and Murray sprang up on the new railroad. That left Hopeville with no promise of good transportation or commerce. The years took their toll: In 1890, the population was 160, in 1965 the population was 36, and today Hopeville has less than 30 people.

In 1975, the remaining residents of Hopeville asked the Clarke County Conservation Board to help them preserve their town square park as a place for meetings, picnics, family reunions, and the annual Hopeville Old Settlers Picnic each August.

The board consented and a redevelopment of Hopeville Park was the major event of that decade for Hopeville. A shelter was built and new picnic tables and restrooms were added. Playground equipment went in. Horseshoe courts were developed.

This still left the park virtually unknown by most people 10 miles away. Many people in Osceola had never heard of the former town. Few people had any

cause to go to Hopeville, so few people did.

Hopeville has no paved roads going to it. The main road is gravel and very curvy. A straighter road is a dirt "roller coaster." The nearest paved road is a county blacktop going south of Murray, and it stops three miles from town. In short, Hopeville never got connected to the new world.

The conservation board felt the park should have higher use. They developed a plan to utilize Hopeville's major assets. Those assets are the ghost town atmosphere of the town and the rural culture of the Hopeville people.

The culture Hopeville uniquely has is music, specifically rural music. Fiddle, guitar and banjo music with a lot of honky-tonk piano.

There are many older musicians in the Hopeville area and neighboring towns of Thayer, Grand River, Murray, Ellston, and Lacelle. They had stayed in touch with each other at the Old Settlers' Picnic at Hopeville.

In early 1979, the conservation board decided to hold a musical day at Hopeville on the first Sunday after Labor Day, using volunteer musicians.

The talk of holding a music event at Hopeville caused the skeptics to shake their heads in disbelief. After all, who, besides maybe some locals, would take the time to listen to music that was long out of style?

But Hopeville, as its name implies, has always had supporters, too. The word spread among the old fiddlers and

their former bands. Help came from other sources, too. The Clarke Area Arts Council donated the design and printing of posters for the event. A sound system was obtained from a Grand River family musical group. A hay wagon served as the stage.

With press coverage and talent combined, the Rural Music Reunion had to be a success, and it was! Some 1,500 people showed up on September 9, 1979. That was three times the anticipated crowd. Musicians played, regrouped, jammed off to the side and came back and played with other friends. The original plans were to have four hours of music. But, due to the response of the numerous musicians and the audience, it began at 12:30 p.m. and lasted until dark at 7:30 p.m.

There was no alcohol allowed and that left only two problems. The first was a constant line to use the restrooms. The second problem was parking. Some people had to walk in from half mile away. The Ladies Aid of Hopeville's only church provided lunch and soon sold out.

With a little experience and ever increasing cooperation, the conservation board planned the 1980 Second Hopeville Rural Music Reunion. The only changes were a bigger sound system, two flatbed trucks for a stage, more portable restrooms, free organized parking with the help of the mounted Clarke County Sheriff's Possee, and a lot more pie baking by the Hopeville Ladies Aid.

Good weather held and this time the crowd was over 3,000. By 1984, more than 4,000 visitors enjoyed the event.

At Hopeville music reunions, everyone has had a good time and there have been no problems at all, except the Hopeville Ladies Aid still occasionally sells out.

No major changes are planned this year; just a Sunday afternoon in early fall, September 8, with a lot of old-time music.

There is no charge for the event. Parking and music are donated by the residents of Hopeville and the fine musicians of south-central Iowa.

---

*John Klein is the executive director for the Clarke County Conservation Board. He holds a B.S. degree in fisheries and wildlife biology from Iowa State University.*

---



John Klein



ille

ame from  
e Area Arts  
nd printing  
nd system  
iver family  
a served as

alent com-  
union had  
as! Some  
September  
s the anti-  
played, re-  
e side and  
her friends  
have four  
e response  
d the audi-  
and lasted

lowed and  
The first  
restrooms  
ing. Some  
half mile  
Hopeville's  
and soon

nd ever in-  
onservation  
ond Hope-  
The only  
nd system  
age, more  
nized park-  
ated Clarke  
a lot more  
adies Aid  
is time the  
984, more  
e event.

ons, every-  
there have  
except the  
occasionally

anned this  
on in early  
of old-time

the event.  
ted by the  
e fine mu-

ve director  
onservation  
degree in  
from Iowa



## BACK TO THE BASICS OF BASS FISHING

By Marv Brandt

In spite of everything that's been written about bass fishing, pages of information on the sport continue to educate, simplify, and, at times, even confuse us. A whole new language has been adapted to suit the needs of bass fishermen when speaking to one another. Words like, hawg, bucketmouth, Ol' Mossback and greensides are terms used to describe the largemouth bass. Words like, rip, chunk, doodle-sock, flippin' and counting down are all terms used to describe the methods we use to catch a bass. Bass fishing is big business and has indeed, "come of age" in the last decade.

The technological gains made in the improvement of fishing gear from lures to electronics have surely made better fishermen of us. But, with the advent of these "new developments" have we as fishermen come to rely more and more on the capability of our *equipment*? In this article we'll explore a few things that science is unable to invent. They are attitudes — fishing factors that really can improve our fishing.

Continued on page 8



## CONFIDENCE

The first attitude is confidence. Confidence begins when your alarm clock goes off, your feet hit the floor, and the weatherman says to expect rain. You have to adapt yourself to whatever conditions you'll be forced to fish under. And sometimes those conditions will be tough. In any event, assuming a confident attitude early could be the key ingredient to a successful day on the water. Confidence however, doesn't stop there.

Last year I was fishing a bass club tournament with Greg Hansen, a fellow club member. The weather was very windy, so windy in fact, that an attempt to run the channel was almost impossible. Because of the wind we were forced to fish the calmest areas we could find in the ends of coves. As we drifted into a particular cove, we both spotted a good piece of structure worth a few casts. After several tosses into and near the brush, I finally caught one. Yeah, I snagged a branch. We literally had to stand over the brush to retrieve the lure. I told Greg that the area had been "burned" — another of those bass fishing terms — meaning that the area for all practical purposes wouldn't yield any bass for all the racket we had created. My partner told me to relax, that he was "positive" there was a bass in there. He was right. Ten minutes later a two pound bass was placed in the livewell. That's the best example of confidence that I can give you.

## VERSATILITY

Another point to consider in bass fishing, and one that might at first seem to contradict confidence, is versatility. If you are to become an accomplished and successful bass fisherman, you *must* learn to become versatile in the use of

lures. It's necessary to use at least three different types of lures, in my opinion — top water, such as a buzz bait, mid-depth, such as a crank bait, and a bottom bumping lure such as a plastic worm or a leadhead jig. Many lures will perform equally well in a variety of water depths, but there is no one individual lure made to work under all fishing conditions.

## DETAILS

Another point which is often overlooked but very important is paying attention to detail. Many times we are so busy casting that we are not concentrating on subtle differences in the makeup of a particular body of water or of what is going on around us. As bass fishermen and women we are often too eager to get the next cast in. Be alert to the changes, no matter how subtle they may seem at the time. Don't bypass that single stick-up you see all by itself. Make a cast to the fish "boil" ... sure, it could've been a carp, but it could also have been a bass.

Do you gauge your strikes? In other words, when you catch a bass are you aware of the depth of your lure at the time of the strike? Are you like many bass fishermen and move from the area immediately after catching that bass? Or do you realize that bass, the size most fishermen catch, are school fish and that where you find one, you are likely to find more? Too many of us simply would rather play the odds, believing that a percentage of our casts will catch a bass. Actually, that percentage can be greatly increased by slowing down our rhythm and paying attention to details.

## CONCENTRATION

Another bass fishing attitude to look at and one you don't hear too much about is concentration. Failure to concentrate while on the water is a sure way to let

adverse conditions get the best of you. Too many times we tend to think about what happened yesterday rather than what is happening at the present time. Don't let your mind wander if you are really serious about becoming a bass angler.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

Perhaps most importantly, we must be sportsmen. Catch-and-release bass fishing is slowly but surely catching on. Bass fishermen are finally beginning to realize that any given lake only has a certain amount of bass per acre within its boundaries. Much more catch-and-release by bass fishermen must be done however, to ensure the quality of bass fishing within the state, and the entire country for that matter. Gone forever are the days of catching and keeping bass by the boatload. Professional bass fishing organizations as well as many bass fishing clubs incorporate a catch-and-release program and encourage folks not to kill their catch. If catch and release is practiced by a greater portion of the fishing population, and if other factors such as pollution of our lakes, rivers and streams are kept in check, we can all look forward to real quality bass fishing in the years ahead.

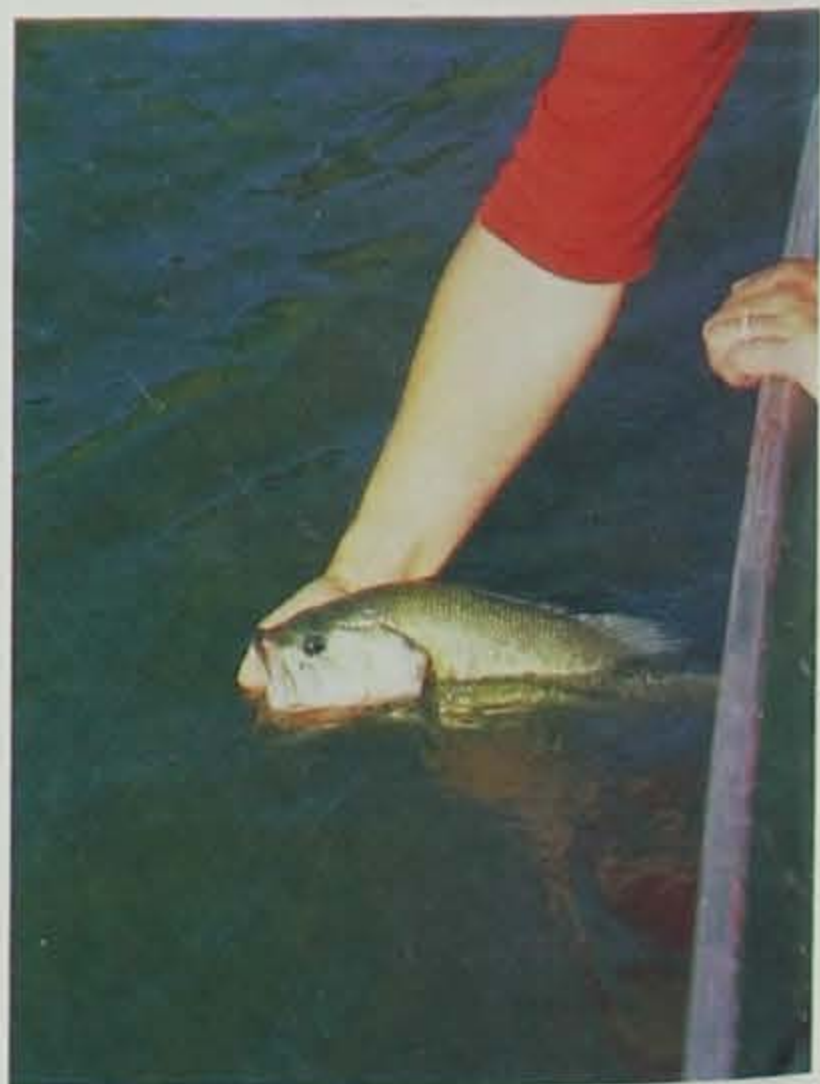
## FISHING TECHNIQUES

Here are some bass fishing techniques you might employ in turning a bass-less day into a bassin' day.

Control of your fishing platform is essential for optimum casting accuracy. Wind conditions affect boat maneuverability. In the case of a strong wind, it would make more sense to operate your boat much closer to the structure or

*Only a few lures are needed, such as spinner baits, crank baits and jigs to reach all depths. Released bass lives to fight again.*

*Photos by Ron Johnson*





shoreline that you are fishing. The less distance required to make your cast, the better, particularly when you are fishing with or against the wind. Let me interject a point about wind direction and wave action. When at all possible, you should try to bring your lure to the boat in the same direction as the wind or waves are running. Bass will generally be facing into the wind or waves. A bait coming behind a bass (approaching a bass from its blind side), is unnatural. Baitfish for example, find a difficult time swimming against waves and their natural tendency is to be pushed to the shoreline by the wave action.

It's sometimes surprising to see the lengths at which some boats will go. By that I mean, I wonder why so many bass fishermen make themselves cast so far to the shoreline or other structure. Is it necessary to stay so far from shore? I think not, at least in the majority of instances. Much has been written on the effects of a boat's profile and the angler's shadow on a sunny day. I agree that the shadow is there. I will question the structure being fished though, since it's been my experience on a sunny day, in clear water, bass are in deep water far below any shadow that may be cast from above. The bottom line is get closer to your work. Your casting will be more accurate and your sense of the lure strike or pick up will be much easier to detect, because there will be a lesser amount of line between you and the lure. Less line out also makes the setting of the hook more certain.

## LURES AND HOW TO USE THEM

The spinner bait is a lure that looks nothing like what a bass would label "food." But, as any spinner bait fisherman would attest, the lure has really made a splash in taking bass. The spinner bait is not hard to master and it's possibly for that reason that so many bass fishermen begin and end the day with this lure. There are dozens of colors of spinner bait skirts to choose from. I am not convinced that a certain color is the reason for success of a bass-catching lure. I believe that the spinner bait's success is because of its enticing profile in the water, the vibration of a single or tandem blade and the "come here" motion of the skirt.

I fish the spinner bait a lot and I never set the hook immediately. I generally wait a full second after feeling the strike before setting the hook. Within this second, I will drop the rod slightly for

leverage and then I strike back. Some bass fishermen will attach a "stinger hook" to the original when bass are striking short. I don't. If bass are striking short, I attach a ripple rind (pork bait) to the existing hook. It's my opinion that the bass will take a ripple rind and hold on a little longer, thinking the bait is edible.

You may fish the spinner bait in many ways. If bass seem to be way up, you can employ buzzing the spinner bait just under the surface and dropping the bait as it nears some visible structure. Or you may buzz the bait all the way back.

Top-water lures are probably the most fun to use. The fisherman actually "sees" rather than just feels, the bass hit the lure. All of the minnow-type top-water lures are worked in basically the same fashion. Let the lure lie motionless for a few seconds after it hits the water. You then have the option of twitching it, or swimming it a short distance, stopping it and twitching it again, or swimming or twitching it back to you. These lures have been designed to look like and act like a minnow. So, for best success make the lure "come to life" in your presentation to the bass. I don't set the hook immediately. I wait a split second, then set hard.

The buzz bait is designed to be worked on top of the water, although the bait can be run under the water as well. The buzz bait is extremely effective when bass are active, generally in the summer months when the lake water is very warm. Many bass are missed with the buzz bait because the lure is pulled away from the strike too quickly. Don't be too quick to set the hook with this lure. Again, wait until you feel the fish on. And hold on, big bass like this lure.

The Moss Boss is designed to work where no other lure can be effectively presented. The lure rides on its back, therefore the hooks have a hard time getting fouled in the mass of weeds the lure rides over.

Most bass fishermen find that by merely tossing the bait out and reeling it back in, the bait does a fine job of "live-welling" its share of bass. This lure is bouyant and after the retrieve is stopped at mid-depth, the crank bait will begin a slow ascent to the surface. The depth of retrieve can be varied by maintaining a particular retrieve rate. Here again, waiting is the watchword when a bass strikes. Treat your strike as in the spinner bait strike referred to earlier. Slowing down your retrieve will also help in

some cases. Bass will strike this lure repeatedly.

The all-weather plastic worm makes up the majority of plastic baits used by today's bass fisherman. There are a smorgasbord of colors to choose from. As with spinner bait skirts, I prefer to stick with the basic colors of black, purple, motor oil and grape. I choose colors that I may fish under a wide number of water color conditions. I prefer darker colors for murky or stained water, and brighter colors for clear water.

Is there one tried and true method of fishing the plastic worm? Some worm fishermen strike a bass as soon as the pick up is felt. Others tend to wait a number of seconds before setting the hook. Let the bass tell you when to set the hook. If a bass is picking the worm up and then dropping it almost immediately, common sense dictates that the hook must be set almost immediately. Watch your line and let your sense of feel tell you when to set the hook.

The "jig 'n pig" combination has been responsible for catching a great many bass. I know of one very good bass fisherman who devotes 80 percent of his bass fishing day to the jig and pork frog. I, quite frankly, have not used this combination enough. Like many fisherman, I've had so much success with other lures, that I've failed to investigate the bait. I plan to, though. I've seen the results this lure combination brings.

There are probably as many lures and techniques of using those lures as there are bass fishermen. Each lure design has its own purpose in the scheme of things. As a serious bass fisherman, I've tried to master the techniques of at least three types of lures — the top-water lure, the mid-depth lure, and a lure that can be used to search the bottom structure for bass. I'm certainly not an expert in using every lure described herein, but perhaps by persistence and patience, I can fine tune my bass catching techniques and maybe you can too.

Bass fishing is a sport for everyone, and the more you learn about bass fishing, the more you enjoy it. Good luck to you, and save one for me.

---

*Marv Brandt, of Des Moines, is an active member of the Hawkeye Bass Anglers fishing club.*





## Conservation Reserve Great for Fish and Wildlife

Whatever the actual and primary intent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new soil conservation program, if Congress eventually approves anything close to what is being proposed, mark my words: "It will be the best program for wildlife, soil, and water conservation in Iowa since the Soil Bank days of 30 years ago."

About a month ago in Des Moines, Agriculture Secretary John Block announced the 20 million acre, \$11 billion, new conservation reserve program, citing the need as, "we have been compelled to work with farm programs which encouraged production on land that should never have seen the blade of a plow." Basically, the plan would pay farmers \$40 to \$50 an acre to take erodible land out of production, and provide additional payments to establish grasses or woodlands on those acres. Almost 16 percent of the entire land area of Iowa would qualify, or about 20 percent of our cropland acres.

On a national basis, taking 20 million acres out of crop production will help reduce the troublesome surpluses that have held crop prices so low, helping create the economic disaster facing our farmers. But, nonfarmers who pay the taxes which will support this program should not feel their money is going to a special interest group as an economic bail out. If this new program would have been designed as others we have seen in the past 20 years, we would have been very right to complain. This program is different. We all benefit and we should all support it with more enthusiasm than any natural resource legislation we have seen in a long time. The reasons are simple.

1. It targets soil erosion — Iowa's leading natural resource problem. Soil erosion control not only benefits long-term economic viability of our land, it will enhance surface and ground water quality. Obviously, fishing and boating will benefit.

2. It is a 10-year contractual commitment with landowners, not the one-year, on-again-off-again effort as we have had which has prohibited long-term protection.

3. The economic incentives are substantially compelling. There should be a high rate of participation.

4. Wildlife populations, and those who enjoy wildlife, are major beneficiaries. The leading problem that has faced Iowa wildlife has been the disappearance of permanent cover. This program proposes to reestablish that very habitat we have lost since the Soil Bank days, and to prohibit haying and grazing on these areas.

Whether you believe the intent of the conservation reserve is to control production and boost prices or to control soil erosion, or both, is immaterial. The potential for benefiting fish and wildlife and other natural resources is so large — if the program remains intact — it deserves a tremendous show of support from all of us in the natural resource field. If you have never done it before, or if you have been waiting for a good cause, now's the time: **WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN. VOICE YOUR SUPPORT.** You will actually be able to witness a change in Iowa's landscape, and definite improvements in our natural resources. And, you can say you helped.

Larry Wilson, director

## CONSERVATION Winners & Losers



Photos by Lowell Washburn



Streams in Iowa take on different appearances, depending on the type of land-use bordering them. Banks of the clear, meandering stream (left) are well protected by vegetation, which in turn provides shelter for wildlife. The channelized stream compounds flooding downstream, contributes to erosion and siltation problems and does little for wildlife.

### License Changes

There are several hunting license requirement changes this year. The first is a change in the license required for hunting coyote or groundhog.

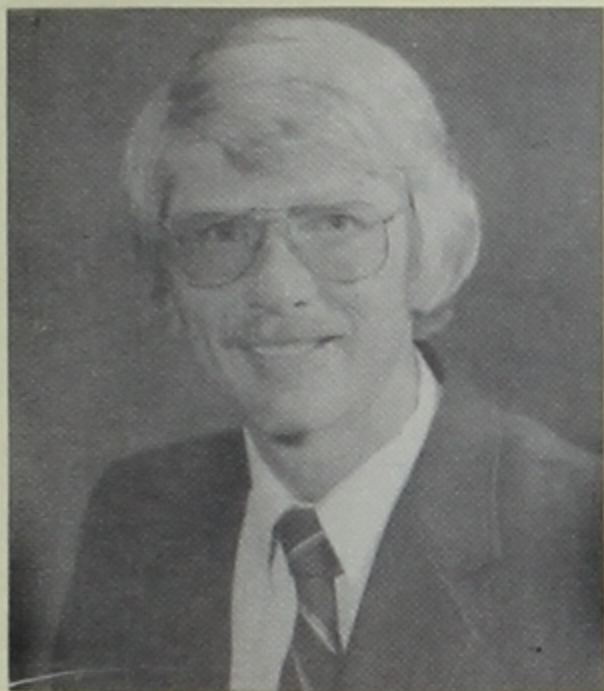
Effective immediately, coyote and groundhog may be hunted with *either* a hunting or a fur harvester license.

A person having a valid hunting license may now train a bird dog on game birds, or a dog on coyote or groundhog. A person having a valid fur harvester license may train a coonhound, foxhound or trailing dog on any fur-bearing animal.

Also, a person is no longer required to have a hunting license or fur harvester license to participate in a licensed field trial or to train on the field trial area during the twenty-four hours immediately before the trial.



## KENNEDY IS NEW COMMISSIONER



Sam Kennedy, 34, a Clear Lake area agri-businessman, has been appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate to fill one of the two vacancies on the commission after the terms expired for Don Knudsen, of Eagle

Grove, and John Field, of Hamburg. Field has been re-appointed to another six-year term.

Kennedy is single and self employed. He graduated with a B.S. in Horticulture and Animal Science from Iowa State University, and has been involved in many different organizations including: Boy Scouts of America, Farm Bureau, Iowa and National Wild Turkey Federation, DU, NRA, National Swine Improvement Federation, Pork Producers, Ventura Gun Club, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, American Society of Animal Science, North Iowa Shrine, and more.

## Leaders in Conservation

By Brian DeVore



**David Roslien**

Educating people on the importance of our natural resources has been the unending crusade of David Roslien for the past 20 years. But this distinguished biologist has done more than talk about conservation as he has taken direct action both academically and privately to protect the environment.

The Lake Mills native began the academic side of his conservation career in 1959 when he received a biology degree from Luther College in Decorah. He then went on to receive a master of science degree in wildlife management and a doctorate in wildlife biology through the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Re-

search Unit at Iowa State University.

This proved to be the beginning of a brilliant scientific career highlighted by research and papers on subjects ranging from diseases in wild birds such as pheasants and turkeys to distribution and population studies of the timber rattlesnake. Roslien has also been involved in environmental impact studies of various projects throughout the years.

Possessing vast amounts of knowledge on any subject — especially conservation — is best utilized when it is shared with others and David Roslien has not been lacking in this respect.

In 1965 he returned to Luther and began teaching biology. Roslien taught such diverse subjects as invertebrate zoology, natural history and field biology, microbiology and animal behavior. In addition, he was instrumental in starting and teaching an environmental conservation course at Luther — the first of its kind at that college.

Roslien has always been an advocate of "hands on" environmental education and has co-directed ecology field



## Rise in State Park Camping Fees

As of July 1, camping and additional vehicle fees in Iowa's state parks increased 25 cents. The increase will avoid a loss of revenue as a result of legislative action that added camping to the list of items that are taxable.

The new fees are as follows:

	Fee
Senior citizen	
handicapped	
or blind	2.25
Nonmodern	
areas	4.25
Modern areas	5.25
Additional	
vehicle	4.25

Parks officials say the increase will, based on last year's level of use, result in a

minor increase in revenue to the Iowa Conservation Commission. They also note, however, that it will only begin to offset the \$300 thousand budget cut the parks division received from the Iowa Legislature in next year's budget.



trips to such diverse bioms as the Hawaiian Islands and northern Minnesota. He has also provided facilities and student workers in the analysis of waterfowl gizzards for examination of lead/steel shot. This busy man's other contributions to environmental education include involvement in outdoor education workshops and summer seminars for high school students.

But Roslien, who is now the vice president for college advancement at Luther, has not ended his involvement in conservation at the classroom door.

He has served in various capacities on several state and national organizations dealing with different aspects of the environment including Iowa Academy of Science, Midwest Pheasant Council, Iowa Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Iowa Conservation Education Council, Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation and Save Our American Resources (Boy Scouts of America).

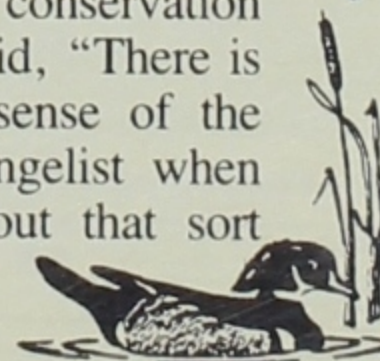
But perhaps it is on the local level that Roslien has had the greatest impact in recent years. He was instrumental in getting an Izaak Walton League chapter started in

Winneshiek County and has been very active on both the Winneshiek County Conservation Board and in the local Soil Conservation Service District. Through these organizations he has helped teach waterfowl identification courses and has set up experimental conservation tillage plots for demonstration purposes.

In general, whenever an issue involving the environment in some way — whether it be wildlife, soil, or water — has come up in the area, Roslien has been the first to use his expertise to address the issue.

Despite his busy public and private life, Roslien has found time to get married and have two children and he presently resides in Decorah with his wife Joy.

There are many other things that could be mentioned when describing David Roslien's contributions to conservation in Iowa. Perhaps one fellow faculty member at Luther summed up Roslien's attitude towards conservation best when he said, "There is a little of the sense of the minister or evangelist when he's talking about that sort of thing."





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## August - October, 1985

April 15 - December 24	Handcrafts, Antiques Sale and Simmerman Museum Display 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Bentonsport Riverside Park VanBuren County 319/293-3589
August 1 - September 30	Free Camping 14 days maximum	Chichaqua Wildlife Area Polk County 515/967-2596
August 2	Halley's Comet 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864
August 3-4	Artist in the Park	Lake Cornelia Park Wright County 515/532-3185
August 3 & 11	Canoe Trip (reservations only)	Indian Creek Nature Center Cedar Rapids 319/362-0664
August 3	Fishing Clinic 10:00 a.m. - Noon	Upper Pine Lake 515/858-5832
August 3	Oskaloosa Community High School Touring Troupe	Honey Creek State Park 515/724-3739
August 4	How to Deal With Problem Wildlife 2:00 p.m.	Line Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
August 4	Tallgrass Prairie in Iowa 1:00 p.m.	Rolling Thunder Prairie Warren County 515/961-6169
August 4, 11 September 15, 22, 29 October 6, 13	Films	Lake Meyer Nature Center Winnebago County 319/534-7145
August 4, 18 September 1	Wagamon Mill Tour 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Lynnville Jasper County 515/792-9780
August 5-11	Treasure Hunt Clues Given Daily	Lake Anita State Park Cass County 712/762-3564
August 7	CCC Reunion (Company 1755)	Upper Pine Lake Hardin County 515/858-5832
August 7-11	Sidney Rodeo Week Special Events at Waubesa State Park	Waubesa State Park Fremont County 712/382-2786
August 7	CCC Reunion	Pine Lake State Park Hardin County 515/858-5832
August 7	Wednesday Heritage Evening Explorations (W.H.E.E.) Skunk River	Hamilton County 515/832-1994
August 9-11	National Regatta	Clear Lake State Park Cerro Gordo County 515/357-4212
August 9, 16, 23 & 30	Slide Talks 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864
August 9	Catch a Falling Star 9:00 p.m.	Indian Creek Nature Center Cedar Rapids 319/362-0664
August 9	Iowa's Small Mammals 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864
August 10 September 14 October 12	Star Party 9:00 p.m.	McFarland Park Observatory Story County 515/377-2229
August 10	Pine Lake Men's Amateur Golf Tournament	Pine Lake Country Club Hardin County 515/858-5832
August 10-11	Iowa Bowhunters Association Annual Fall Festival	Pine Lake Wildlife Club Hardin County 515/858-5832
August 10-11	Oskaloosa Community High School Touring Troupe	Backbone State Park Delaware County 319/924-2527
August 10-11	Carp Days 10 Tagged Carp \$1000/each	Black Hawk State Park Sac County 712/657-8712
August 11	Canoe Float on Middle Raccoon River, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614
August 11	Middle Raccoon River Canoe Float 1 - 5:00 p.m.	Coon Rapids Carroll County 712/792-4614
August 11	Stargazing 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Eden Valley Refuge Clinton County 319/847-7202
August 11, 25	Guided Walk	Elk Rock State Park Marion County 515/627-5434
August 15-24	State Fair Displays in Conservation Building	
August 15	Iowa's Natural Heritage 7:00 p.m.	Line Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
August 15 & 23	Polk County Conservation Board's 9th Annual Frog Calling Contests 5:30 p.m.	Iowa State Fairgrounds 515/999-2557
August 16	The Page County Natural History Survey, 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864
August 17	Wild Fungus Walk 10:00 a.m.	Doolittle Prairie Story County 515/232-2516
August 17	Triathlon	Big Creek State Park 515/984-6473
August 17	Stalking the Wild — Fungus 10:00 a.m.	Robison Acres Story County 515/377-2229
August 18	Indian Pottery Making and Indian History	Bellevue State Park 319/872-3243
August 21	Wednesday Heritage Evening Explorations (W.H.E.E.) Ant Mounds Trip	Webster City Meet at Tunnel Mill Park Hamilton County 515/832-1994
August 22	Prairie Walk 7:00 p.m.	Doolittle Prairie Story County 515/377-2229
August 23	The Falcons 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864
August 23-25	5th Annual Iowa Great Lakes Muskie Tournament	Iowa Great Lakes Dickinson County 712/337-3211
August 24	Cross Country Races	Pine Lake State Park Hardin County 515/858-5832
August 24	"Reach the Beach" End-of-The-Season Beach Bash	George Wyth State Park Black Hawk County 319-232-5505
August 24	Greenwing Field Day	Hartman Reserve Nature Center Black Hawk County 319/277-2187
August 24	Uncle Ike's Water Safety	Little Wall Lake, Jewell Hamilton County 515/832-1994
August 25	Canoeing for Beginners	Lake Meyer Nature Center Winnebago County 319/534-7145
August 26	Armchair Adventures for Children 7:00 p.m.	Line Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
August 30	Full Moon Black Lightning 10:00 p.m.	Prairie Rail Trail Story County 515/377-2229
August 30	The North American Biomes 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712-542-3864
August 31	Moonbeam Walk - Evening Hike at Dusk	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614
September 1	Labor Day Concert 1:00 p.m.	Hickory Grove Park Story County 515/377-2229
September 1	Life of the Prairie - Prairie Program with Tour 1-4:00 p.m.	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614
September 1	Movie Night Dusk	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614
September 7 - 14	Clay County Fair	Spencer Clay County 712/262-2187
September 7	Trapping Clinic	Hamilton County 515/832-1994
September 7	Prairie Seed Collection	Wright County 515/532-3185
September 7	Prairie Appreciation Tour	Black Hawk Park Black Hawk County 319/277-6813
September 8	Prairie Caravan - Driving Tour of County's Prairie Areas 1-5:00 p.m.	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614
September 8	Pioneer Craft Fair	Morrison Grundy County 319/345-2688
September 8	Hopeville Rural Music Reunion	Hopeville Square County Park Clarke County 515/342-3960
September 8	Duck Hunting	Lake Meyer Nature Center Winnebago County 319/534-7145
September 14	Monarch Tagging Demonstration 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. hourly	Chichaqua Wildlife Area Polk County 515/967-2596
September 15 October 6	Prairie Seed Harvest 2:00 p.m.	Doolittle Prairie Story County 515/377-2229
September 15	6th Annual Hickory Hills Hoedown noon - dark	Hickory Hills Park Warren County 515/961-6169
September 21	Harvest Moon Day 2:00 p.m.	Soper's Mill Story County 515/377-2229
September 21	"Ologies" on the PAHA	Hickory Hills Park Black Hawk County 319/277-2187
September 21	Uncle Ike's Butterfly Tagging 10:00 a.m. - noon	Brewer Creek Webster City Hamilton County 515/832-1994
September 22	Loess Hills Hike 2:00 p.m.	Five Ridge Prairie Plymouth County 712/947-4270
September 22	Puffball Rally — Fall Hike Looking for Puffballs, Mushrooms and Fall Colors. 1-4:30 p.m.	Middle Raccoon Access Area Carroll County 712/792-4614
September 28 October 5, 12, 19 & 26	Observing Space Through Telescopes One-half hour after sunset	Ashton Wildwood Park Jasper County 515/792-9780
October 1	3rd Annual Clarence Pickard Memorial Bike Ride 8:00 a.m.	Pickard Recreation Area Warren County 515/961-6169
October 5	Fall Cinder Path Bicycle Ride 8:30 a.m.	Courthouse in Osceola Clarke County 515/342-3960
October 5	Heritage Day at Hartman	Hartman Reserve Nature Center Black Hawk County 319/277-2187
October 6	Denny Olson 2:00 p.m.	Line Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
October 6, 13 & 20	Sipping Cider	Hartman Reserve Nature Center Black Hawk County 319/277-2187
October 8	Timber Management Day	Hartman Reserve Nature Center Black Hawk County 319/266-6813
October 12	Fall Fungus Foray Edible Fall Mushroom Search and Sample	Briggs Woods Webster City Hamilton County 515/832-1994
October 12	Hawk Watch 10:00 a.m.	Five Ridge Prairie Plymouth County 712/947-4270
October 12	Raccoon River Canoe Trip	Raccoon River Warren County 515/961-6169
October 13	Fourth Annual Family Volskmarch	Hartman Reserve Nature Center Black Hawk County 319/277-2187
October 13	Autumn Ramble: A Hike Through the Woods 1:00 p.m.	Woodland Mounds Preserve Park Warren County 515/961-6169
October 13	Russell White Nature Trail Hike 1-4:30 p.m.	Lanesboro Carroll County 712/792-4614



# Destructive Gypsy Moth Found in Iowa

By Roy G. Hatcher

*Roy Hatcher is the commission's protection forester located at the state nursery in Ames. He holds a B.S. degree in forestry from Iowa State University and has been with the commission since 1960.*

The gypsy moth has been a serious pest of forest, fruit, and shade trees in the eastern United States since it was introduced from Europe to Massachusetts in 1869. It was originally brought from France as a possible silk source. It escaped shortly thereafter and during the next 12 years, heavy stripping of leaves in a number of tree species was noticed.

For many years the gypsy moth was confined to the New England area, but quarantines and control attempts ultimately failed to contain it. At the present time it has spread throughout the Northeast and is now being found in the South, Midwest, and western states.

The gypsy moth has not yet become established in Iowa. However, Iowa has enough favorable host trees that damage could be severe should it infest the state.

Although the gypsy moth is somewhat selective in what it eats, preferring oaks, basswood, willows, and birch, nearly all trees can be attacked, including pines and spruces. Since the oaks make up a major portion of our upland timber, the loss of this forest resource could be devastating.

Since the gypsy moth depends upon people for its mobility, the insect spread west as the mobility of people increased. Egg masses and sometimes cocoons attach to automobiles, camping equipment, or outdoor furniture. Natural spread of the gypsy moth only occurs over short distances and is done by crawling to adjacent plants or being blown by the wind.

The gypsy moth has always been a "people problem". It not only defoliates the forest areas, but can devastate an urban planting. The insects can become so massive in numbers that you cannot walk without stepping on them. The hairs of the caterpillar contains an irritant that causes a rash on the skin.

There are four life stages of the gypsy moth — egg, caterpillar, pupa, and moth. The destructive stage is the caterpillar who is a voracious eater. The eggs are laid from mid-July to mid-August.

The eggs overwinter and hatch during April and May of the following year. The young caterpillars are 1/4" long at hatching and grow to almost 3 inches in length. The caterpillar stops feeding in late June or early July and spins its cocoon. The adult moth emerges two weeks later. The male moth can fly, the female cannot. After mating the female lays her eggs and dies. Each female will lay from 75 to 1,000 eggs.

In order to determine if gypsy moths are present, a trap is used with a sex attractant to draw the male moths. The traps are placed in areas such as parks, campgrounds, roadside parks, and anywhere there is people activity in the out-of-doors.

Iowa started trapping for the gypsy moth in the late 1960's. In 1970 two egg masses were found on a mobile home in Grand Junction. Since that first find male moths have been trapped every year except for 1971, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, and 1979. The number of traps put out has increased from 200 in the late 1960's to 3,600 in 1984. Ten male moths were caught in 1984. They were found in Scott, Clinton, Muscatine, Linn, Winneshiek, Cerro Gordo, and Polk County. The most moths found in any one year was in 1983 when 14 moths were recovered, 9 of which were found in one trap in Mount Pleasant. None were found in that area in 1984. Whenever moths are trapped a follow-up survey in the fall for egg masses is done. To date, no infestation has been established. It is necessary to find at least two life stages to declare an infestation.

The trapping program is headed by Carl Carlsen, state entomologist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture. He is assisted by his personnel and those from other agencies and organizations.

Nationally, in 1984 the defoliation by gypsy moths was down, slightly less than one million acres as compared with 8.1 million acres in 1983 and 13 million acres in 1982. A cool, wet spring and other environmental factors were credited with the decline. However, isolated outbreaks in Virginia, Tennessee, and Oregon indicate that there may be an upsurge of the gypsy moth in 1985.

It is inevitable that the gypsy moth will become established in Iowa; infestations are already in Minneapolis, Chicago, Peoria, and Lincoln, Nebraska.

The important question today is how can the Iowans delay the establishment of this pest in Iowa? Since the most likely means of introduction in Iowa is the movement of outdoor furniture, mobile homes, and recreational vehicles, owners of these should check them for gypsy moths if they are coming from infested areas. Returning vacationers can check to see if any egg masses are attached to their vehicles.

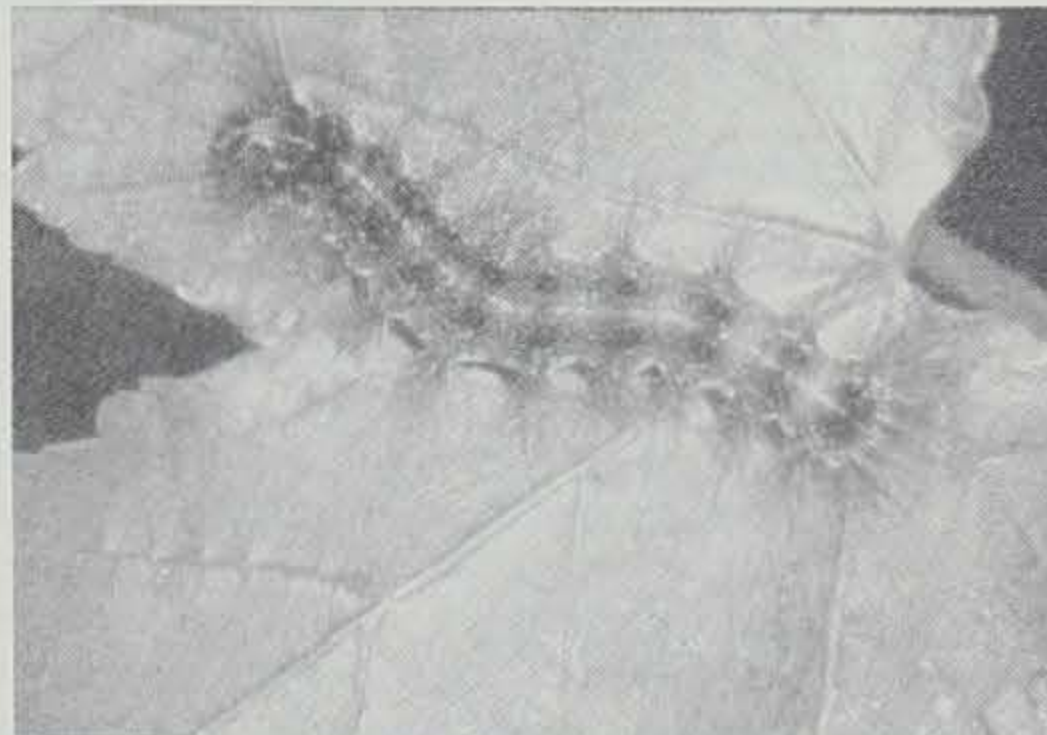
When the gypsy moth does become established it is likely there will only be limited help from federal or state agencies. The bulk of the responsibility will be on the cities and landowners to control this pest.

Several different types of chemical, biological, and mechanical controls are available, but costly. Prevention is the best weapon. Iowans should be alert for the pest and keep trees in a healthy condition. Surveillance will continue by the agencies involved.

For additional information contact the state entomologist, extension entomologist, or the forestry section, Iowa Conservation Commission.



**Trap used to monitor gypsy moth occurrence.**



**Caterpillar stage of the gypsy moth does the damage.**



# Classroom Corner

By Robert Rye

Did you realize that three-fourths of all living animal species are insects? These "bugs" are found throughout the world in all kinds of habitats and in this country they range in size from less than a millimeter to six inches in length. Most people only see these diverse creatures as noxious pests that bite and sting them and destroy their crops. But there is another, very beneficial side to the insect world that involves pollination, providing food for other animals and bringing more diversity to this planet.

The following questions can be answered with a yes or no. Test your knowledge on these common members of a very interesting group.

## QUIZ

1. Do insects have bones? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do insects have a heart? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do insects have lungs? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do big ants come from little ants? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do big flies come from little flies? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are spiders insects? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do cockroaches have antennae? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do all insects have three main body parts? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do all insects come from eggs? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do all insects have six legs? \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWERS:

1. No, they have a hardened exoskeleton. 2. Yes, it is a tube located in the abdomen. 3. No, they have a system of tubes that open externally at the spiracles. 4. No, they hatch from eggs. 5. No, they go through a larval stage called a maggot. 6. No, spiders are not insects. They belong to a class called arachnids. 7. Yes, the head, thorax and abdomen. 9. Yes. 10. Yes.

# Nature Tale For Kids

## CASSIE, THE ORPHANED BEAVER

By Dean M. Roosa

The beaver, *Castor canadensis*, is widespread in Iowa, probably occurring in every county. Beaver dams are a fairly common scene, especially on small woodland streams. This large rodent disappeared from Iowa early this century, but reintroduction and good management has made it once again a common and interesting member of our state's fauna.

Our story begins on a small wooded stream called Squaw Creek in central Iowa with a frustrated, angry, hungry whimper that only a tiny beaver can make. The little beaver, Cassie, had lost his father early in the spring to a trapper, and, just two days earlier, had lost his mother to a car speeding along the blacktop that ran along the stream. So, wet, cold, scared and lonely, Cassie left the lodge and his cries were heard along the stream and in the nearby woods. He splashed and whimpered his way down the stream until his cries were heard by the family of beavers that had just finished a dam on Squaw Creek, a pleasant little stream that ran through agricultural fields, a housing development and several towns. The mother beaver knew, as all mothers know, the distress call of one of her kind. She hurried from her den and herded Cassie into the warm, friendly lodge where four other young beavers lay snoozing. Cassie hesitated. This wasn't home with his brothers and sisters and his mother, but it sure beat the lonely and frightening feeling he had. So he nibbled at some green twigs in the lodge and snuggled up to his new family. Peace returned to Cassie's world.

\* \* \* \* \*

The dam where Cassie had met his new family was in an agricultural area just upstream from a town, and the farmers took a dim view of the flooding caused by the dam and the corn eaten by the beavers. The entire family was startled one morning by a thunderous explosion — the farmer's exasperation had resulted in several sticks of dynamite removing the dam. The beaver family started to repair the damage, but met

such stiff opposition from nearby landowners that they finally moved downstream into the city limits of a pleasant, medium-sized town which had a TV station and a university. Poplars and cottonwoods lined the stream. There was a conspicuous absence of dogs and farm fields, and Squaw Creek was just right for the construction of a dam, which began immediately.

At first, the beavers were welcomed by the local residents — the television station featured them several times, university students studied the family, and people boasted of their beavers. People would walk down each morning to see the newly-fallen trees and marvel at these industrious rodents. After about 40 trees had been cut and the dam completed, unrest began in the town. People were divided in their enthusiasm — some wanted the dam removed and the beavers chased out, while others felt the community was enriched by their presence. Meetings were held and tempers flared. It became obvious the beaver family was losing. So, once again in his short life, Cassie was subjected to human wants and, with his family, was forced to find a new homesite.

By now Cassie was nearly full grown and could travel and swim with ease. The family went upstream to Sleepy Hollow, where they were unmolested by farmers or townspeople. Here they leisurely built a beautiful dam and spent the summer and fall feeding, mending the dam and enjoying life. Cassie never forgot the first tree he gnawed down. Late that summer something told him to begin gnawing on a young cottonwood. He gnawed away for two nights. On the third night, just as he was about to give up, a sudden creak, followed by a crashing roar made him scurry panic-stricken to his den, remembering the dynamited dam of his early life. But he had felled his first tree — so what if it fell away from the river?

He considered himself an adult now, and antagonism was growing between him and his foster family. Finally, when Cassie was about two years old, he was





driven from the comfortable lodge by the dam in Sleepy Hollow. He was big now, weighing over 40 pounds, and possessed the most beautiful pelt known in the beaver world. Cassie, completely on his own, started upstream.

At the mouth of Keg Valley, Cassie established a residence. He made a slide on the bank below a cornfield and dragged many stalks of corn to his den in the bank, instinctively preparing for a long winter. One day he was nibbling on corn at the base of the slide when another beaver came down the slide and crashed into him. Well! He gnashed at the intruder and gave chase, but before long he realized the interloper was the prettiest little female beaver in Iowa. They became constant companions, cutting corn, felling poplars, even trying to build a small dam across Keg Creek. The first attempt was a disaster, but the second

was much better. It even held water! They built a lodge, raised a family and became well-known to all the residents of Keg Valley.

\* \* \* \* \*

Cassie and his family have lived in this remote part of Keg Valley for seven years. They have given a hundred fishermen a start by their loud "ker-thunk" caused by hitting the water with their broad, flat tails. They have also raised seven families and have given naturalists innumerable hours of pleasure.

And so, should you walk through Keg Valley, look for a high beaver dam across Keg Creek. It belongs to Cassie, who started out as a tiny, whimpering, hungry, baby beaver so many years ago in Squaw Valley. If you are quiet and patient, maybe he will swim out and give you a "ker-thunk" salute.

---

*Dean M. Roosa has worked as state ecologist for the conservation commission and State Preserves Board since 1975. He has a Ph.D. in botany from Iowa State University.*

---



# WARDEN'S DIARY

## Rivers

By Jerry Hoilien

Iowa's almost surrounded by rivers. Working the border rivers has always been interesting and rather complex at times. As a warden, you not only have to be completely knowledgeable of your own state's laws but also those of the adjoining states because, not only the fish and game, but the fishermen and the hunters often travel back and forth across that invisible state line. I know the critters don't give a darn about the state line and there are times I'm not too sure if the others do either.

I remember one particular individual who always questioned my authority on the Mississippi river. He was a commercial fisherman out of Keokuk. I had taken him into court several times and he always lost. One day I attempted to check his fish as he was leaving the river. This led to a chase ending at his house and culminating with him in jail and me in the hospital (after he tried to split me with a piece of well-pipe). Good thing Norwegians have a hard head, or he might have gotten the job done!

It gets humorous at times. There was a meeting at Omaha a few years back, with Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service. We decided to tour Carter Lake (a controversial chunk of Iowa real estate on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River). Walking along the lake, explaining how it was once a bend in the river, then an oxbow lake formed, and how the river moved away from it, we came upon a couple of gentlemen, enjoying the day by fishing. The Nebraska warden winked at us and stepped forward, asking the men for their fishing licenses. One turned around, looked at the Nebraska uniform and said, "Get away from me, boy, you got no authority here!" With that he looked at my Iowa uniform and said, "And I'm not too sure *you* got any either! You boys sure must have had to dig pretty deep to come up with all this authority!"

With this the plainclothes Federal Warden reached in his pocket and produced his federal badge. "Man," the fisherman gasped, "you didn't need to dig *that* deep!"

IT'S 2 A.M. and you're awakened with a start by the sound of gunshots from across the road. You get up and peek out the window just in time to spot someone throwing what looks like a small animal carcass into the back of a pickup and drive off. You can't make out the license plates but you don't need to see them to know it's your neighbor down the road. You've always known he spotlighted raccoon and an occasional deer, but this is the first time you've actually witnessed anything.

You don't like seeing anyone get away with poaching but what do you do? Do you play it safe and mind your own business or do you turn him in and take the chance of making an enemy out of a neighbor? After all, you do have to live next to the guy if he's busted. Is getting involved worth the hassle? Anyway, how would you go about turning in a poacher?

"We've got a habit in this country of not wanting to get involved," says Bob Oden, associate superintendent of law enforcement for the Iowa Conservation Commission. Nowhere is this truer than in the area of wildlife violations such as poaching—a serious problem that some states estimate accounts for the killing of almost half as many animals as are legally harvested.

But now, Iowans have some incentives to "get involved" when it comes to reporting poaching violations in this state. The incentives come in the form of the cash rewards and total anonymity that are a part of a new program sponsored by the commission in conjunction with a private corporation made up of sportsmen's groups from throughout the state.

Although the implementation of a poacher hotline in Iowa is just getting off the ground, members of the corporation—Turn in Poachers of Iowa, Inc. (TIP)—and the commission are optimistic the service will help curb and make people more aware of an ever-increasing problem in the state.

Laverne Woock, president of TIP, says the idea of a poacher hotline was being seriously discussed by several sportsmen's groups last year. The Iowa Wildlife Federation was also looking into such a program at about the same time so finally the commission, which had been kicking around the idea of a hotline for several years, suggested all

interested parties get together and concentrate their efforts. Since that time, supporters of the program have been busy forming committees, organizing the mechanics of the program and raising funds for the cash rewards.

The TIP program, which will be financed totally by donations and will use no state funds, centers around a toll free number (1-800-532-2020). This is the same number used for the Crime Stoppers program and is being provided by the Department of Public Safety. Calls will be answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Callers can report poaching incidents with information that will be taken down on a special form which asks certain important questions like location, license numbers, etc. Commission officials will then review and screen the information and act on it accordingly. If an arrest is made or a citation written, that particular case will be submitted to the TIP rewards committee. The committee then reviews the case and decides how much money should be paid out based on certain criteria.

Rewards range from \$250 to \$1,000 for deer, turkey or rare and endangered species violations. A maximum of \$1,000 can also be paid out for information about major violations, repeat offenders and commercial poachers. A minimum of \$100 will be offered for offenses involving small game, furbearers etc.

Confidential arrangements will be made between the tipster and a commission official so the reward money can be paid in secret. Throughout the process, assigned code numbers will be used to ensure the caller's anonymity. In addition, a caller is eligible for the reward as soon as an arrest is made or citation written. Payment of the money will not be delayed by having to wait for the actual conviction.

Oden, who has been working closely with the corporation in setting up TIP, says the whole idea of the hotline must emphasize the anonymity of the callers. He says not identifying tipsters is crucial in nabbing violators who normally are not caught.

Woock agrees the secrecy involved is one of the most important aspects of this program.

"In the past, if the violators were turned in, they had an idea who turned them in," he says. Now a sense of





## turn in poachers

By Brian DeVore

"paranoia" will develop among poachers as a result of this program because they will not know who to trust, Woock adds.

Although this may be the first time a concerted effort has been made in Iowa to provide a poacher hotline with cash rewards, this type of program is nothing new in other parts of the country. More than a dozen states have poacher hotline programs with most of them based on the very successful service started by the New Mexico Department of Natural Resources in 1977.

In the Midwest, poacher hotlines seem to be meeting with success also. A poacher hotline implemented in Nebraska in 1982 has resulted in a total of 109 arrests related to wildlife violations in that state.

Dave Carpenter, enforcement training coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, says a Turn Poacher program started there in 1981 resulted in an average of 1,650 calls a year that have led to an average of 279 arrests. Minnesota's TIP has paid out an average of almost \$18,000 in rewards each year since its implementation.

Carpenter says the hotline has not only resulted in more arrests connected with wildlife violations but has resulted in "better" arrests that are more likely to lead to convictions. He also notes that violations related to deer and fish are by far the most reported incidents.

Missouri has also enjoyed success with their version of the poacher hotline called Operation Game Thief (OGT). Al Christiansen, coordinator of OGT and field operations supervisor for the Missouri Department of Conservation, says more than 500 arrests and \$37,000 in paid out rewards have resulted during two and one-half years of OGT.

Christiansen reports cases of — as Oden predicts will happen in Iowa — wives turning in husbands and hunters turning in their partners.

"We've received information through this program we would have never gotten any other way," he says. "Citizens have accepted it completely."

Oden says acceptance of such a program and getting people accustomed to turning in useful information on possible violations are the main ingredients to reducing poaching here in Iowa. Presently, the commission gets very few calls tipping them on possible violations, he says. In fact, in a study conducted by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in 1975, a hired "poacher" was observed breaking wildlife laws 43 times and was only reported once, and that was by a rancher who thought the fake poacher had killed a calf.

But getting more calls in is not enough since many times people provide information — such as a general location or a partial name — that is incomplete, according to Oden.

"That's the kind of information that puts knots in your stomach," he says. "We can't do anything about it. You have to have reasonable grounds for a search warrant."

Hopefully, the use of a standardized questionnaire and a 24 hour toll free number will make it easier to call in good information, Oden says.

But making sure the mechanics of the program run smoothly depends on something that overshadows everything else — money.

Woock estimated it will take \$25,000 per year to keep the hotline going and he hopes to have approximately \$15,000 in the coffers by the time the first calls start rolling in. The corporation is now work-

ing to reach their goal by collecting money from a wide range of sporting and nonsporting groups interested in the conservation of wildlife.

TIP is set up so that a group can become a voting member with a \$250 yearly fee. Groups can become supporting members of TIP with a less than \$250 donation but will not be able to vote. Individuals can donate \$5 or more and receive a window sticker saying they are a supporter of TIP. The corporation is also seeking financial help from private companies. All donations to TIP are tax deductible.

Although the TIP program is far from its financial goal, Woock says he is optimistic the hotline will be successful.

"By hook or by crook, this thing is going to go," he says.

Jamie Beyer, secretary of the corporation, says the success of similar programs in other states bodes good for the TIP hotline in Iowa.

"By example they showed us the way," he says. "The reason we're kind of excited about it in Iowa is because we know it works."

### TIP REWARD SCHEDULE

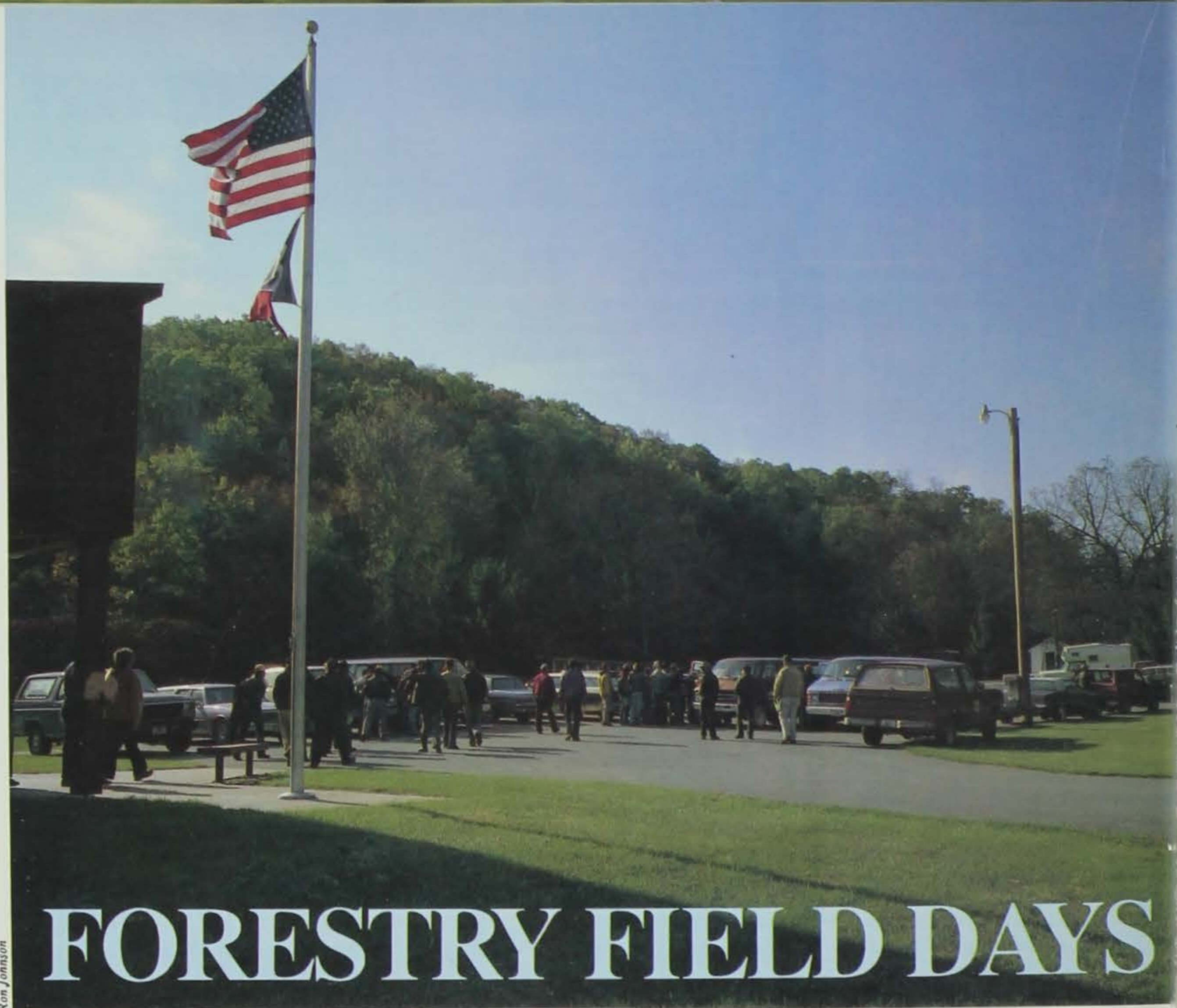
- \$100 - Small game, birds, fishing and trapping offenses.
- \$150 - Wild turkey and raptors.
- \$250 - Deer, elk, moose and black bear.
- Up to \$1000 - For threatened or endangered species and/or commercial offenses.

---

*Brian DeVore is from Ames and has written outdoor articles for Fur-Fish-Game, The Trapper, Iowa Agriculturist and the Iowa State Daily.*

---





Ron Johnson

# FORESTRY FIELD DAYS

*By Dean R. Prestemon*

Teaching forestry topics at organized field days has been very successful during the past 10 years. In October, 1976, forestry field days programs were first offered to the public at Shimek State Forest and at Yellow River State Forest. The forestry extension at Iowa State University and the forestry section of the Iowa Conservation Commission sponsored these events. Forestry field days have been held at these sites each year since, without any decline in attendance or interest.

This program has grown dramatically since 1976. At least one forestry field day has been held at 34 different locations in Iowa over the past decade. Most field days have drawn people from several counties. Forestry field days have been made an annual event at several locations; they are scheduled every other year at other sites.

Timing and teaching sites for these

field days have expanded. While most of the events are still held in September and October, an increasing number are also being requested for April or May. Forestry field day programs may involve the entire day or be an afternoon session. County conservation boards and county extension offices have become active co-sponsors of these events. The wildlife section of the commission, and the Soil Conservation Service have contributed to teaching various topics at the field days. Private landowners have hosted events in several locations.

Demonstrations, outdoor laboratories, woodland tours and other techniques have been used to tell the forestry story in Iowa. The basic mission of the programs is to improve and expand tree resources in the state. Instructors want to make landowners more aware of the importance and utility of woodland resources and promote very positive attitudes. They also aim to increase partici-

pants' knowledge of basic management skills and cultural techniques.

Topics considered in these programs cover a broad range. Every subject from tree identification to proper processing and use of native lumber has been discussed. Both establishment of new tree plantations and the culture of existing woodlands have been stressed. Weed control, thinning, pruning, pest management, tree measurements, harvesting and marketing have been considered. The variety of benefits and products from woodlands has been highlighted including wildlife, erosion control, Christmas trees, firewood, veneer and lumber logs.

Forestry field days obviously represented an idea whose time had come. The interest continues to be very strong and continued expansion is only limited by resources. A large number of forestry field days have been scheduled this fall. Many of these will be in new sites.





Ron Johnson

*Dean Prestemon is a professor of forestry and extension forester located at Iowa State University. He holds a B.S., M.S. and PhD. from Iowa State, University of Minnesota and University of California respectively. He has been with Iowa State since 1965.*



Roger Sparks

Forestry field days, like the one shown here at Yellow River Forest in Allamakee County are held throughout the state. Woodland owners and others gather to learn from foresters about subjects like identifying and marking trees for fuelwood harvest and storage.



Roger Sparks

## Schedule

Forestry field days are fun and educational. For those interested in an enjoyable, educational outdoor experience, the following schedule has been developed:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME PERIOD
Sept. 10	Howard Co. (Vernon Springs Park)	all day
Sept. 12	E. Pottawattamie Co. (Camp Wakonda)	afternoon
Sept. 18	Johnson Co. (Kent Park)	afternoon
Sept. 19	Boone Co. (Holst Forest)	afternoon
Sept. 25	Lee Co. (Shimek Forest)	all day
Sept. 27	Marshall Co. (Grimes Tree Farm)	afternoon
Oct. 1	Allamakee Co. (Yellow River Forest)	all day
Oct. 2	Delaware Co. (Brayton Forest)	afternoon
Oct. 8	Black Hawk Co. (Black Hawk Park)	all day
Oct. 10	Lucas Co. (Stephens Forest)	all day
Oct. 15	Hardin Co. (Headquarters Segment)	afternoon
Oct. 16	Clarke Co. (Garnett Tree Farm)	afternoon
Oct. 17	Union Co. (Seeley Tree Farm)	afternoon
Oct. 21	Benton Co. (Wildcat Bluff Park)	afternoon



*Timber stand improvements are demonstrated at field day events. Here, Paul Wray, extension forester at Iowa State University, shows how pruning a young walnut tree can help eventually produce a log like the one at right worth thousands of dollars.*



Ron Johnson

*The how-to's of Christmas tree planting and production are often explained.*



Ron Johnson



Iowa Conservation Commission photo



Julie Holmes





*Discussions at field days cover ways timber harvest and managing a woods for wildlife can be compatible. Cutting mature logs provides clearings for new growth of saplings, profiting timber wildlife and woodland owner.*



*Farm Bureau welcomes visitors to tour their grounds at 5400 University, West Des Moines, just west of I-80. With 20 acres of reestablished native prairie and 65 species of trees, the business provides food and cover for wildlife and a relief from the monotony of the workday.*



Farm Bureau photo

*"Wilderness is the raw material out of which man has hammered the artifact called civilization. No living man will see again the long-grass prairie, where a sea of prairie flowers lapped at the stirrups of the pioneer. There were a hundred such plants, many of exceptional beauty. Most of them are quite unknown to those who have inherited their domain."*

Aldo Leopold, *Sand County Almanac*.

*By Laura Spess Jackson*

Iowa was once part of that rich sea of grasses that stretched from Indiana to the Rocky Mountains. Where buffalo, antelope and elk grazed. Where grasses grew taller than a man stood and had roots reaching 13 feet into the earth. Now less than one percent of Iowa's prairie remains. We who have inherited it are largely ignorant of its history, plants and beauty.

Nevertheless some prairie remnants are being preserved and yet other prairies are being replanted. Interestingly, one such prairie was planted just outside of Des Moines by a corporation, on the business grounds of the Iowa Farm Bureau.

Don Groves, past chairman of the building committee and retired treasurer of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation said, "We wanted to grab onto the roots of the past, to keep ahold of a piece of prairie, so present and future generations

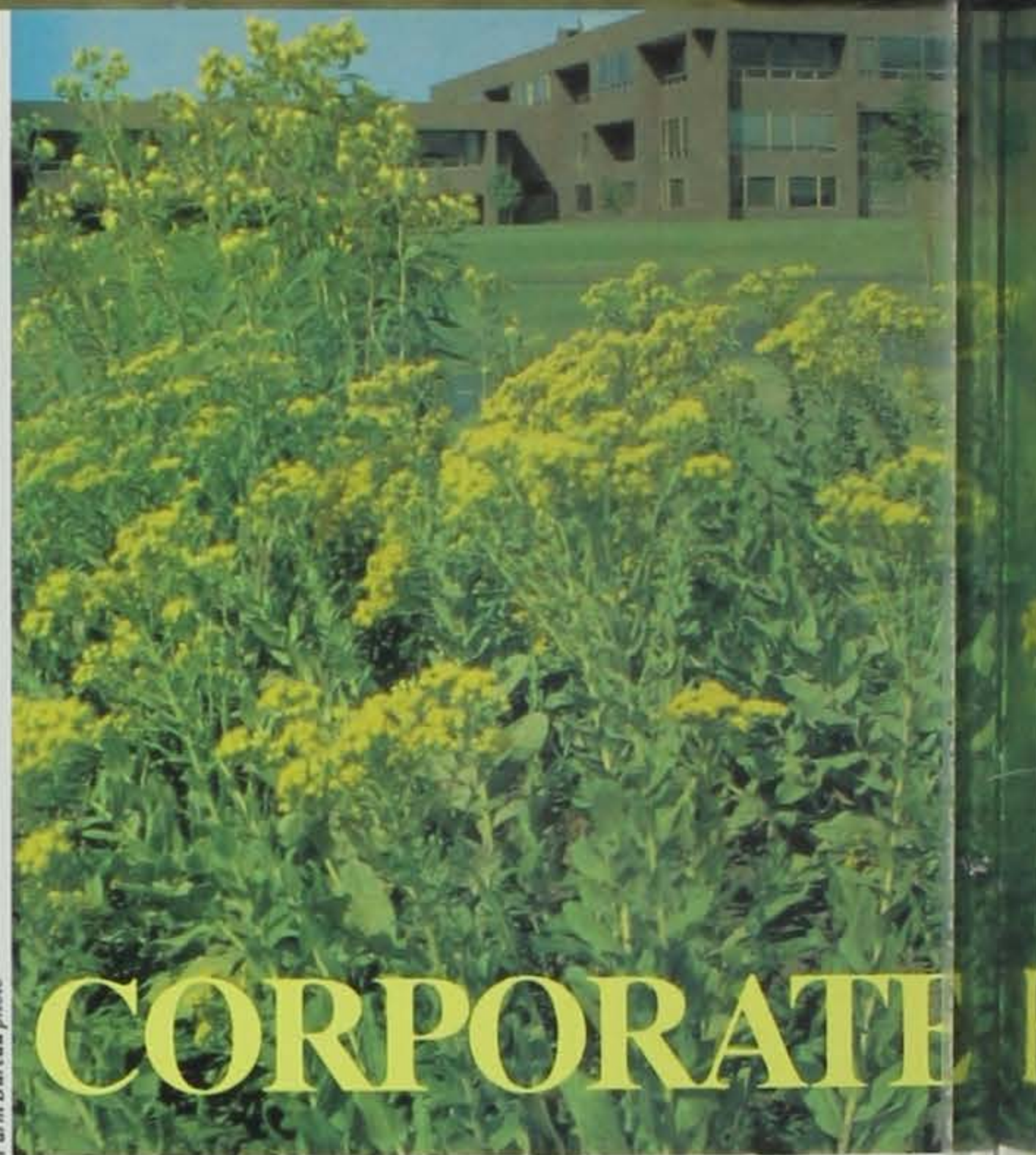
won't lose touch of what was here when their great grandad was alive."

Consequently, amidst a business complex that has over 500 employees at its office, the Farm Bureau has planted 20 acres of native prairie grasses along the perimeter of their property. The 55-acre area also has over 600 trees, representing 65 species. The area provides food, cover and undisturbed nesting sites, and has attracted more than 30 species of birds as well as an occasional deer.

The Farm Bureau grounds are a haven for humans, too. Said Groves, "We wanted to create a beautiful and restful atmosphere for employees." Employees use the pathways for walking and jogging. And unlike many new business buildings, windows provide a relaxing glimpse at the outdoor world.

The Farm Bureau also welcomes the public. Along the pathway and parking lot, many of the trees have been labeled so people touring the area can identify the different types of trees. They also have a prairie plot where 20 different prairie flowers and the major prairie grasses have been planted and labeled. During business hours, visitors may go into the building and pick-up a brochure which explains the history of the prairie, and the various flowers, grasses and trees.

According to Kurt Larsen, assistant building and grounds superintendent, many local schools have brought their classes out to the area to teach them about prairie plants and ecology. The



Farm Bureau photo

## CORPORATE

area is good for bird watching, too. The resident mute swans are guaranteed entertainment and the more observant will see grassland birds from meadow lark and eastern kingbirds to pheasants. During the spring and fall migration period warblers and waterfowl such as northern shovellers, pintails, teal and Canada geese stop over.

The employees annually watch for the cedar waxwings to arrive and devour the crabapple fruits. Then during the summer nests are observed and monitored. Larsen said, "You'd be surprised at the number of people who take notice."

So as if it wasn't enough for the area to provide a pleasant work atmosphere habitat for wildlife and an educational demonstration area, why else would business decide to plant a prairie? "It also means 20 less acres we have to mow every week," noted Groves.

Larsen explained that every year about half the area is mowed and baled to retain the vigor of the prairie plants. The other half is left for wildlife cover. Thus the majority of the maintenance cost is on the Kentucky bluegrass lawn.

However, things don't just happen overnight. Other businesses and individuals wishing to establish a prairie should remember that it'll probably take three years before the beauty of the area flourishes. The Farm Bureau planted a mix of bluestem, side-oats grama, wheatgrass, buffalo grass and Indian grass to get the prairie established where construction had greatly altered the soils.



# THE HAVEN

They also sprayed for weeds the first few years until the prairie grasses were sufficiently established to outcompete weeds. Once the grasses were settled, they began planting some of the prairie flowers.

Now they have year-round beauty — from the wildlife that lives or migrates through their grounds, to the delicate frost on a tall prairie grass, to the waving sea of green or the flowers that bloom from May through September.

Was it worth the first few years of work? Groves said, "It more than pays off every day."

The Farm Bureau is just one example of what businesses, shopping centers, cities and individuals can do for wildlife and themselves. Beautiful areas for people and habitat for wildlife can be established in areas ranging from the size of a flower bed to a city park or business ground. Wildlife needs food, cover and water — and perhaps more than we realize it, we need wildlife to lift us from the mundane.

For more information on enhancing an area for wildlife, contact: Laura Jackson, Urban Wildlife Biologist, Wallace Bldg., Des Moines. 515-281-4815.

**Laura Spess Jackson recently joined the commission as an urban wildlife biologist. She holds a B.S. degree in wildlife biology from Michigan State University and an M.S. degree from Colorado State University.**



Jane Messenger

By Jane Messenger

I have been bike riding in many areas of Des Moines, but the most relaxing place I have found is the new Saylorville Corridor Bike Trail.

This is no ordinary trail. It begins at McHenry Park and ends at the Saylorville Dam. Not only does it run adjacent to the Des Moines River, but it offers outdoor enthusiasts of all ages a chance to enjoy peaceful surroundings.

There are no bumpy streets, barking dogs, or children playing ball along this trail, it is just you and the peaceful sounds of nature. Stretches of the trail are naturally landscaped with clusters of trees hanging over the asphalt pathway. I often see a variety of songbirds, rabbits and squirrels along these areas. Other spots are open and not yet landscaped, but offer a pleasant vista and a chance for a sunbathe.

The trail and the river nearly join in several stretches, and I enjoy looking at the many fishermen and boaters.

For me, the ride is a break from the fast-paced life of civilization and lets me enjoy the natural beauty of Iowa's countryside, even though part of the trail lies within the city. Although the trail runs under the Euclid bridge and alongside Interstate 80 for a short distance, I hardly notice the traffic.

Not only do bikers use the trail, but it is shared with joggers, walkers and rollerskaters. On the weekends especially, outdoor lovers of all ages are out. It's fun to see people from toddlers to senior citizens enjoying themselves.

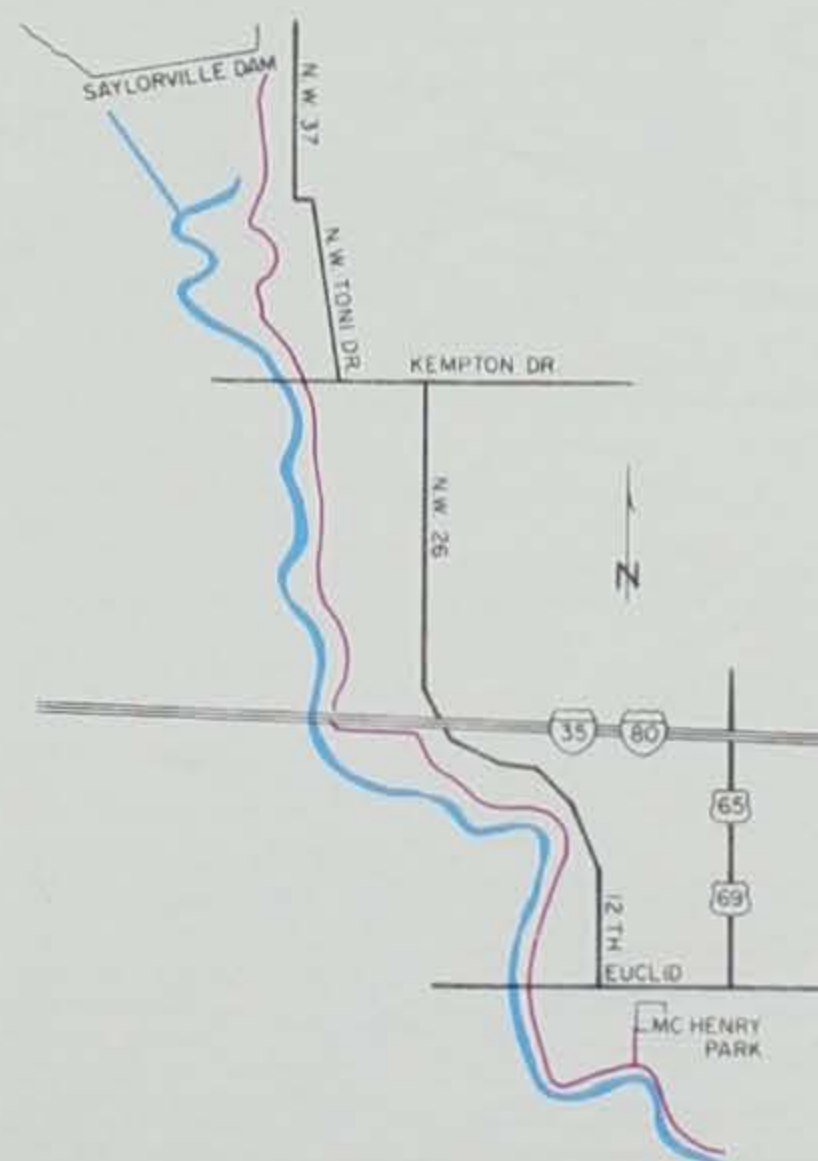
To make the ride easier, the trail is fairly flat, yet has a lot of curves. This

way, there is not much hard riding and everyone moves along at a safe rate of speed.

The trail was built as a combined effort between the Iowa Conservation Commission, Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Des Moines.

If you want a relaxing ride through Des Moines without the hassles of city traffic, the Saylorville Corridor Bike Trail is perfect. Amidst a busy community, it's a surprisingly quiet place.

**Jane Messenger is a student at Iowa State University majoring in agricultural journalism and fisheries and wildlife biology.**







Wayne Lanning

# Wildflower

## of the month

By Dean M. Roosa

### Wild Rose

The wild rose, chosen as the state flower of Iowa by the legislature in 1897, grows in a variety of habitats, ranging from roadsides to woodlands to native prairies. There are at least six 'wild roses' in Iowa — one so rare most botanists have never seen it, some which are so alike in appearance that they are very difficult to separate, and one, an introduced species, which has become a real pest. The one many have seen growing is the meadow rose, *Rosa blanda*, which is widespread in Iowa, especially the northern half.

The native wild roses are mostly shrubs about four feet tall, normally with leaves with 5-7 pairs of leaflets. The large, showy flowers are about two inches across, have five petals with numerous bright yellow stamens in the center. The bases of the flowers mature into red fruits called rose hips, about a half inch in diameter. These hips are important as wildlife food and are high in vitamin C. Many human uses have been found for rose hips, ranging from a source of vitamins, to a syrup, to a cure for stomach problems.

In heavily farmed parts of Iowa, the wild rose persists along railroads and roadsides, but blanket-spraying policies in some counties have been very damaging to this exquisite member of our flora.

The wild rose blooms most of the summer — why not make it a point to become a little better acquainted with our state flower?