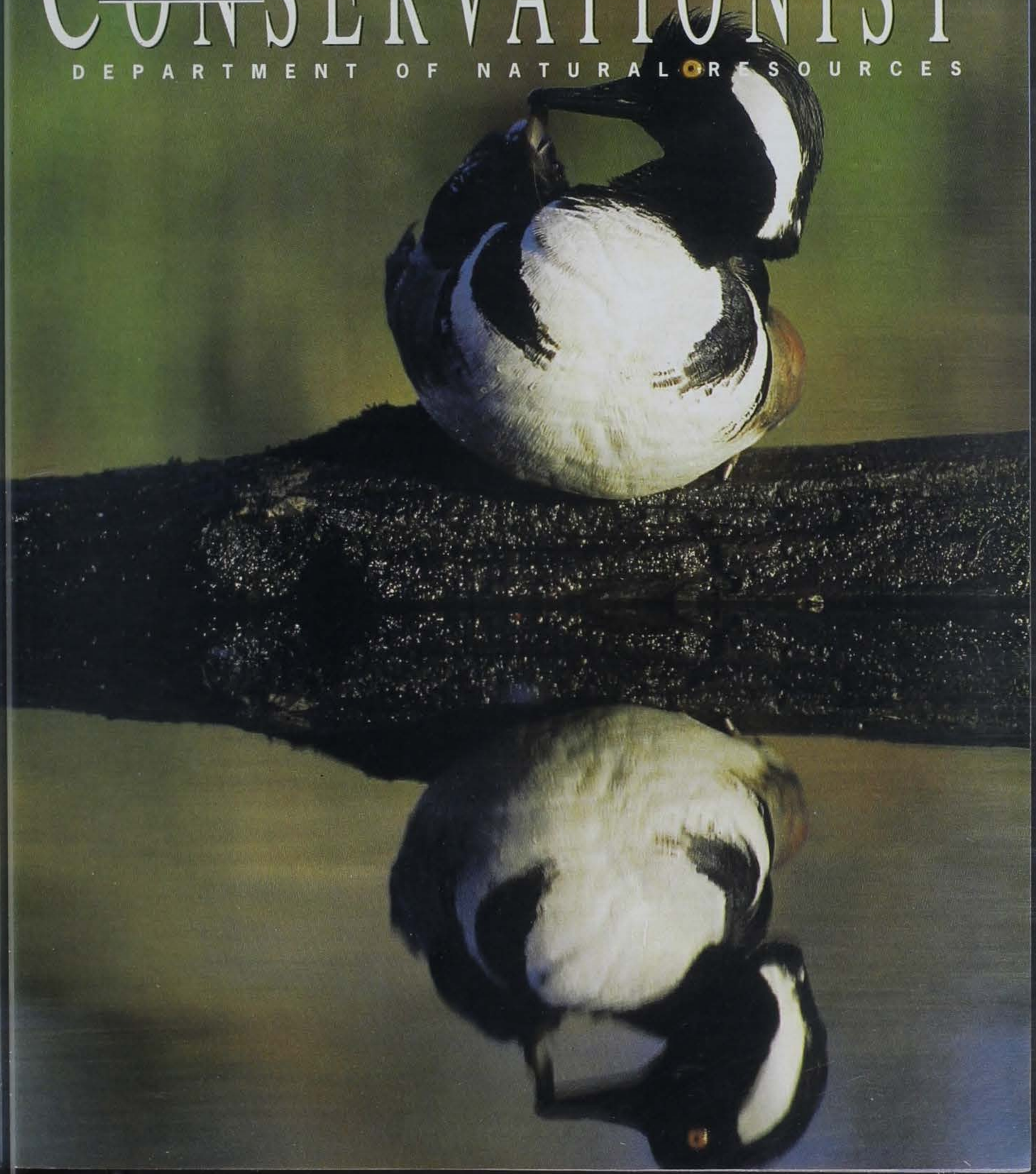
MARCH/APRIL 2001

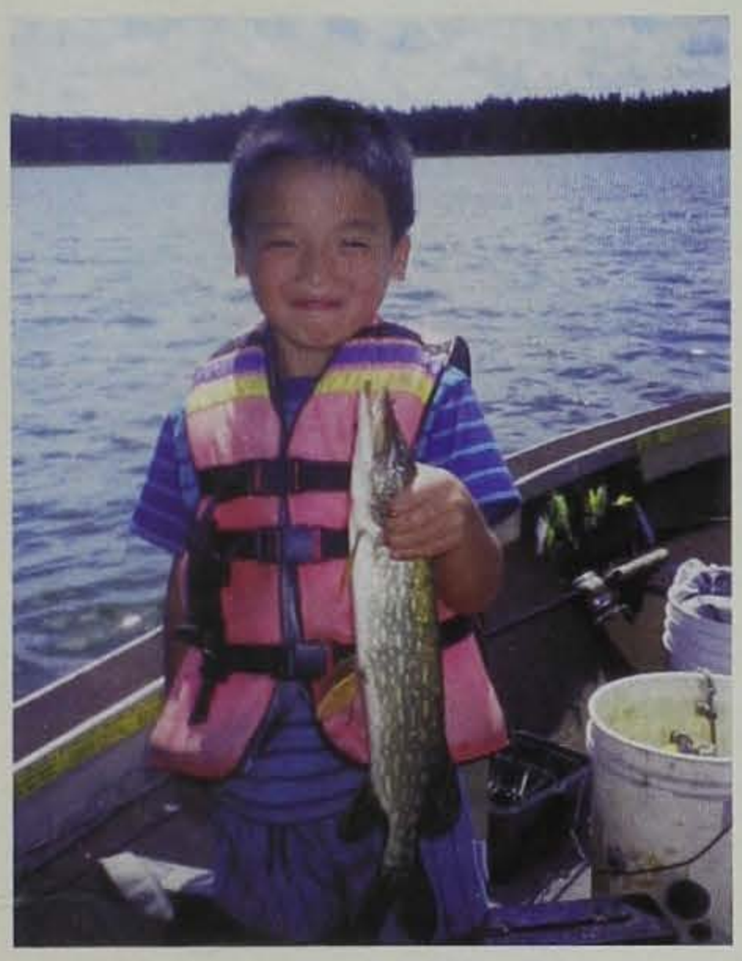
IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

FRONT COVER: HOODED MERGANSER BY TY SMEDES
INSIDE FRONT COVER: FISHING BIG MILL CREEK BY CLAY SMITH
BACK COVER: REDBUDS BY KEN FORMANEK



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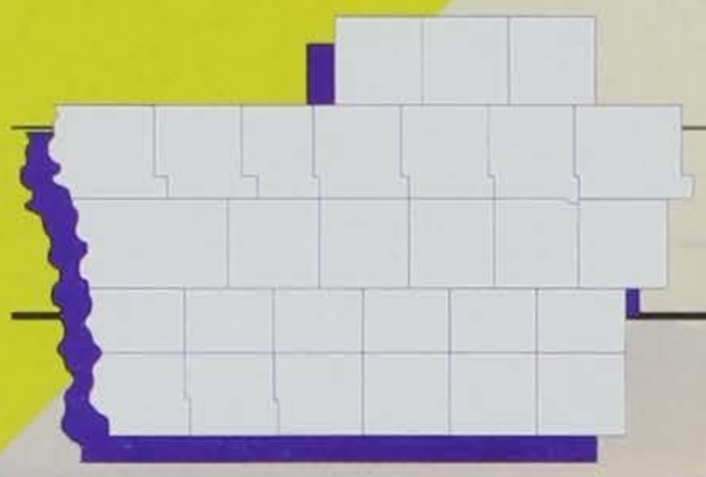
Fishing Forecast 2001



SOUTHWEST IOWA

By Joe Schwartz, regional fisheries supervisor

If you love to fish but don't like the crowds, maybe it's time to search out one of southwest Iowa's "hidden treasures."

Although most southwest Iowa anglers concentrate on the popular, highly used public lakes, each year I receive several requests for information on secluded places to fish. These people are looking for under-used areas where they can wet a line in solitude. They still want to catch fish, just not in front of a crowd.

Southwest Iowa has many areas that fit that description and receive little attention. Most of these lakes and ponds have little or poor access, and most don't have docks, boat ramps or rest rooms. If you insist on using your big boat or require the amenities, forget these hidden treasures. These areas are best suited for wading or small boats, and you must be willing to walk.

Some of these areas are listed in the *Iowa Fishing Guide*, but many are not. Most have only one or two species worth fishing for, and if you are not interested in catching those species, don't bother.

Thayer Lake, for example, was drained, the dam repaired and restocked four years ago. The lake has not been surveyed due to the difficulty in getting a boat to it, but it should be excellent for 6- to 8-inch bluegill and catch-and-release bass. Afton City Reservoir, in the past, has been good for a few big bass and an occasional jumbo crappie.

Binder, another city reservoir near Corning, has good access and can be red-hot in the spring for 8-inch crappie. It is one of the few lakes in southwest Iowa with a large yellow perch population. The lake has been good at times for both largemouth and yellow bass. Old Corning Reservoir is difficult to find and has terrible boat access, but it also boasts a strong population of nice crappies and good bass fishing. It is best fished with a very small boat or from the dam.

Blockton Reservoir, located in Taylor County, is a newer lake that never developed a good panfish fishery like most new lakes do. A large watershed and frequently turbid water have resulted in a disappointing fishery for most species. The exception, however, is largemouth bass. This shallow lake can be very good for bass if the water is clear. It also has a few flathead catfish.

Slip Bluff, a small county lake near Davis City, is often overlooked because of its proximity to Little River and Nine Eagles. It has lots of 8-inch crappie, with some as large as 11. Like many of southwest Iowa's small lakes, it has a good population of channel catfish.

Grade Lake in Osceola is a good place to catch nice bluegills and crappies. Access is best from the dam or the east side of the lake.

West Lake near Osceola is popular among anglers, but few try East Lake. Located on the east edge of town, the 14-acre lake is good for crappie and a few big bass. Talmadge Hill Pond is another lake few people know about. It's located east of Afton in Talmadge Hill Park. The pond is above the marsh and requires a good hike to sample its abundant bass and bluegill.

Along I-29 in western Iowa there

are about a dozen borrow pits created during construction of the highway. The pits have been stocked with fish and several provide fair to good fishing. Fulsom is the best of the bunch and has good crappie and bass fishing. Bartlett, Percival and McPaul are good for catfish, bullhead or bass.

Finally, two ponds on the Anderson Conservation Area in Montgomery County are often over-looked by anglers. The large pond below the nature center has good catfish fishing, and the smaller south pond is good for bass and crappie.

If you are tired of the crowds at Big Creek, Three Mile, Viking or any of the other high-traffic public lakes, consider one of the little known areas. You will probably have the place to yourself and a quality trip as well.

The following table gives the best places to fish in southwest Iowa this year, and if you are interested in a good trip, consider one of those listed. You will be glad you did.

DNR photo

SPECIES LAKE/STREAM, COUNTY	COMMENTS
BLUEGILL	
Ahquabi, *Warren*	Good redear sunfish population. Good for 6- to 8-inch bluegill.
Anita, *Cass*	Consistently large fish. Try fishing around structure.
Badger Creek, *Madison*	Good for large numbers of 7- to 8-inch fish.
Beaver, *Dallas*	Good for 7- to 8-inch fish.
Big Creek, *Polk*	Moderate number of 5- to 7-inch fish. Try points, sandy areas and tree reefs.
Fogle, *Ringgold*	Seven- to 8-1/2-inch fish are common. Redear up to10 inches.
Hickory Grove, *Story*	Seven- to 9-inch fish. Try pallets and woody shoreline structure.
Hooper, *Warren*	Redear fishing is good. Bluegills average 6-1/2 to 8 inches.
Little River, *Decatur*	Seven- to 8-inch fish are common. Good bluegill fishing.
Meadow, *Adair*	Good 6- to 8-inch fish. Redears are dandies.
Nine Eagles, *Decatur*	Good redears are present. Little fishing pressure.
Nodaway, *Adair*	Good for 7-inch fish.
Three Mile, *Union*	Tremendous number of 7- to 8-1/2-inch fish with some up to 9. Redear up to 11 inches.
Twelve Mile, *Union*	Fish 7 to 8 inches are common. Try around flooded trees.
Viking, *Montgomery*	Six- to 8-inch fish common. Best in spring and early summer.
West Lake Osceola, *Clarke*	Seven and one-half- to 8-1/2-inch fish. Fish flooded timber edges.

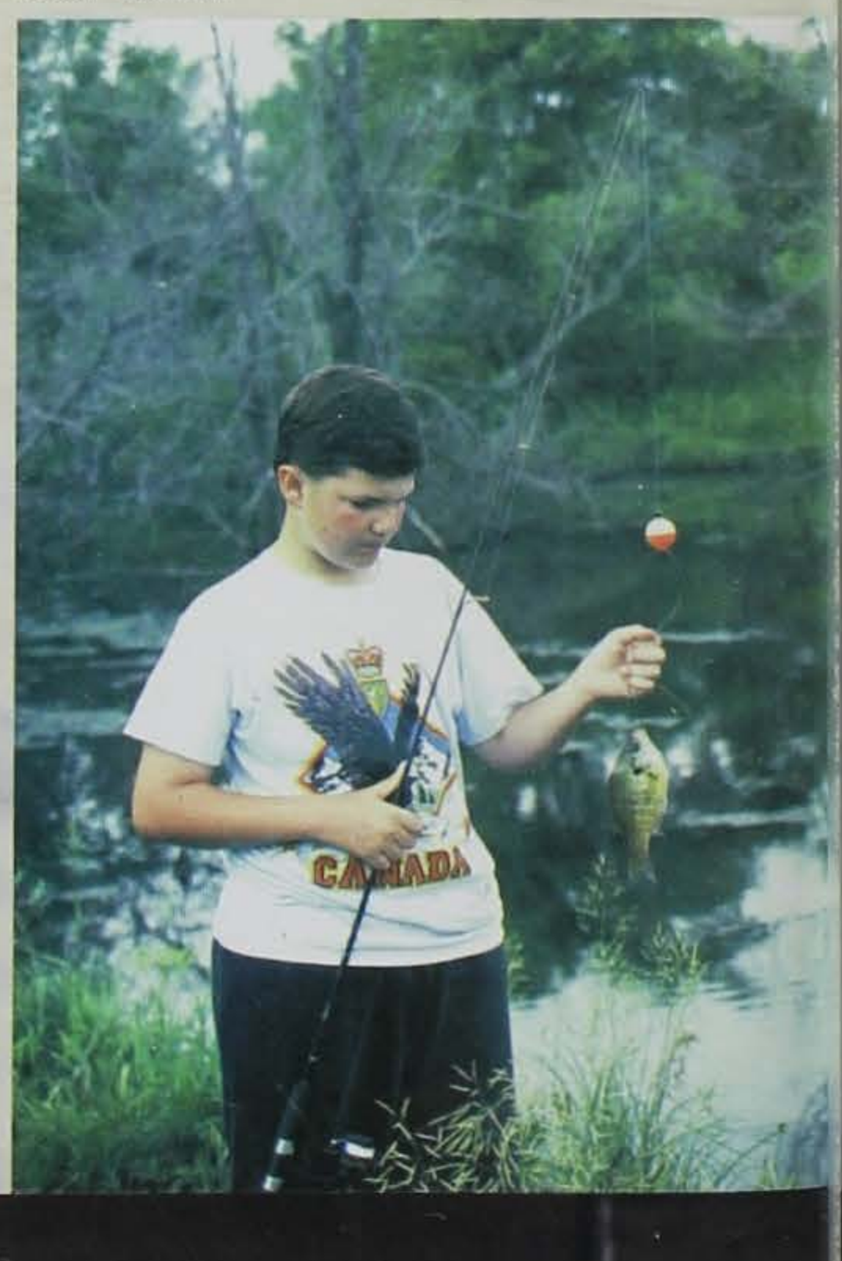
CRAPPIE

Ahquabi, *Warrren*	Nice 8-inch-plus fish.
Anita,*Cass*	Very healthy 8-to 10-inch fish with some up to 13. Tough to catch.
Badger Creek, *Madison*	Nice 8- to 9-inch fish.
Beaver, *Dallas*	Dandy 9- to 11-inch fish.
Big Creek, *Polk*	Most fish will be 7 to 10 inches. Fish the new structure or the jetties.
DeSoto Bend, *Harrison*	Good for 8- to 13-inch crappie. Best in early spring along structure.
Easter, *Polk*	Seven- to 9-inch fish common, with a few up to 11.
Green Valley, *Union*	Seven and one-half- to 9-inch fish common, with some up to 13. Water levels may be low due to spillway repairs.
Greenfield, *Adair*	Eight- to 10-inch fish.
Icaria, *Adams*	Try fishing riprapped areas. Lots of 8- to 8-1/2-inch fish.
Littlefield, *Audubon*	Nice 8- to 10-inch fish. Should be good this spring. Try face of the dam.
Little River, *Decatur*	Try around flooded trees. Lots of 8- to 9-inch fish. Some 12 inchers.
Manawa, *Pottawattamie*	Good early fishing in lagoons and near the fishing pier.
Mariposa, *Jasper*	Lots of 7-inch crappies.
Orient, *Adair*	Always turbid water, but still good fishing for 8- to 9-inch crappies.
Prairie Rose, *Shelby*	Fish average 8 to 10 inches. Good all summer but best in spring.
Red Rock, *Marion*	Fish when water is clear; try feeder stream embayments. Good numbers of 7- to 10-inch fish.
Rock Creek, *Jasper*	Seven- to 8-1/2-inch crappie. Try in bays and around points.
Saylorville, *Polk*	Eight- to 11-inch fish mostly. Fish around marina and Mile Long Bridge.
Slip Bluff, *Decatur*	Eight- to 9-inch fish. Few people fish this lake.
Three Mile, *Union*	Tremendous numbers of 8-1/2- to 10-1/2-inch fish with fair numbers of 11- to 13-inchers.
Twelve Mile, *Union*	Fish average 7 to 9 inches; good numbers.
Viking, *Montgomery*	Good numbers of 7- to 9-inch crappie.
West Lake Osceola, *Clarke*	Impressive numbers of 9- to 10-1/2-inch fish with some up to 12.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

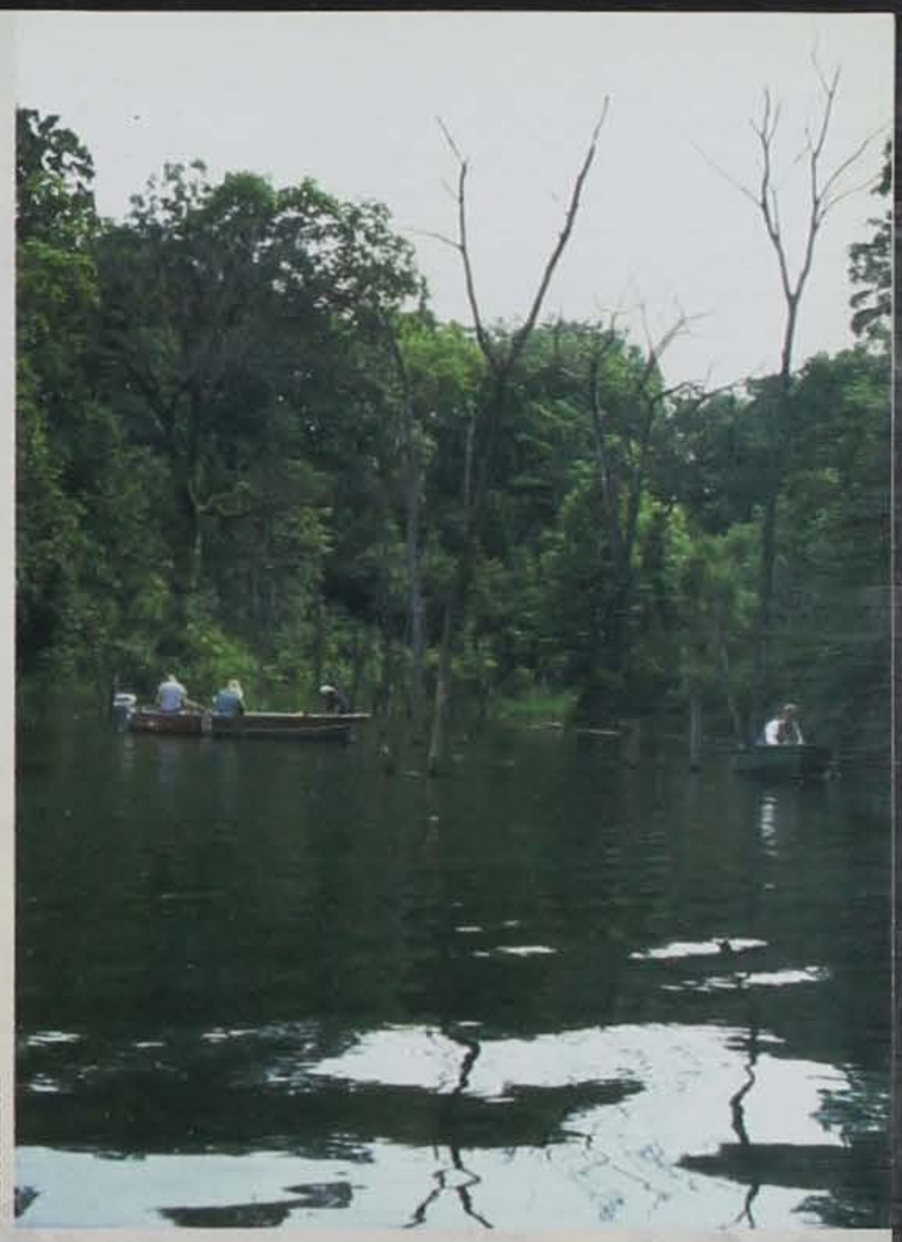
Ahquabi, *Warren*	Excellent catch-and-release fishing. Eighteen-inch length limit on bass.
Anita, *Cass*	Perennial favorite. Bass up to 6 pounds. Fish the structure.
Badger Creek, *Madison*	Lots of 12- to 15-inch bass with an occasional lunker.
Beaver, *Dallas*	Good catch-and-release fishery for bass under 15 inches.
Big Creek, *Polk*	Fish around new structure, face of dam, new silt dikes and jetties. Early spring try woody structure along the shoreline and in coves.
Don Williams, *Boone*	Most fish are 13 to 17 inches; some lunker fish. Try points and woody structure in coves and northern portion of lake.

Lowell Washburn



LARGEMOUTH BASS, *continued*

Easter, *Polk*	Fish up to 5 pounds; most 10 to 14
Farm Ponds	Many private ponds in southwest Iowa have good bass numbers.
Green Valley, *Union*	A 22-inch length limit. Any keeper will be a real trophy.
Hooper, *Warren*	Excellent catch-and-release fishery. Eighteen-inch length limit on bass.
Hickory Grove, *Story*	Good catch-and-release lake.
Little River, *Decatur*	Fish submerged brush and trees. Good numbers of 2- to 3-1/2-pound fish.
Mariposa, *Jasper*	Good catch-and-release fishery.
Meadow, *Adair*	Good for fish up to 5 pounds.
Nine Eagles, *Decatur*	Good numbers of small fish, an occasional large fish.
Prairie Rose, *Shelby*	Fish the stake beds and brush piles.
Red Rock, *Marion*	Best from mid-May to mid-July.
Saylorville, *Polk*	Lots of 10- to 13-inch fish, few legals. Fish face of dam, Big Creek outlet or any rocky area. Fall is best time.
Three Fires, *Taylor*	Can be good for bass up to 5 pounds if the water is clear. This lake can be muddy.
Three Mile, *Union*	Tremendous fishing for 11- to 15-inch fish with good numbers of 16- to 19-inch fish.
Twelve Mile, *Union*	Good for 12- to 18-inch fish. Our most popular tournament lake.
Viking, *Montgomery*	Good population of 12- to 15-inch fish. Fish the structure.
West Lake Osceola, *Clarke*	Good summer bass fishing.



Ron Johnson

WALLEYE/SAUGEYE

Big Creek, *Polk*	Moderate number of 16- to 22-inch fish; few in the 25-inch-plus range.
Des Moines River *Polk and Boone*	Fish below Corps dams, low-head dams and gravel riffles. Scott Street dam is good in the spring.
DeSoto, *Harrison*	Best in spring. Fair numbers of 14- to 17-inch fish.
Little River, *Decatur*	Fish average 14 to 18 inches, up to 11 pounds. Excellent population.
Manawa, *Pottawattamie*	Should be good in 2001. Mostly 14- to 16-inch fish. Fish up to 8 pounds.
Saylorville, *Polk*	Fish sandy points, old river channel and old roadbeds.
Three Mile, *Union*	Try the flooded roadbeds and humps for 15- to 26-inch fish.
Twelve Mile, *Union*	Fish artificial reefs. Fish are 13 to 24 inches, up to 10 pounds. Best walleye lake for numbers in southwest Iowa.

BULLHEADS

Beaver Lake, *Dallas*	Fish are 11 inches-plus, numbers down.
Big Creek, *Polk*	Medium-sized, 8 to 10 inches.
Manawa, *Pottawattamie*	Nice size fish. Average 1 pound.
Rock Creek, *Jasper*	Fish are definitely keepers but not as many as in the past.
Springbrook, *Guthrie*	Medium-sized, not as many as in past years.
Three Mile, *Union*	Nice 10- to 13-inch fish.

CHANNEL CATFISH

Ahquabi, *Warren*	Nice fish, 19 to 23 inches.
Big Creek, *Polk*	Really nice fish, lots of them and not many catfish anglers.
Cedar, *Madison*	Four- to 6-pounders, but sorting through abundant small ones required.

CHANNEL CATFISH, *continued*

Easter, *Polk*	Excellent for 12- to 20-inch fish.
Fogle, *Ringgold*	Great numbers of 1- to 3-pound fish.
Green Valley, *Union*	Good numbers of 14- to 18-inch fish, with some up to 8 pounds.
Icaria, *Adams*	All sizes up to 5 pounds. May have to sort out smaller fish.
Little River, *Decatur*	Fish small bays in midsummer. Many 2- to 8-pounders.
Littlefield, *Audubon*	Fish north shore on strong south wind. Fish average 3 to 6 pounds.
Manawa, *Pottawattamie*	Good numbers, most 2 to 6 pounds with some up to 12.
Marion County Board Lake, *Marion*	Good numbers in 1- to 3-pound range.
Meadow, *Adair*	Fish average 2 to 6 pounds.
Mormon Trail, *Adair*	Good numbers.
Nine Eagles, *Decatur*	One- to 4-pound cats are abundant and underused by anglers.
Nodaway, *Adair*	Best early. Fair during summer months. Vegetation not a problem.
Orient, *Adair*	Stocked every year. Fish the camping area on strong south wind.
Prairie Rose, *Shelby*	Good numbers of 2 to 6 pound fish. Some flatheads present.
Red Rock, *Marion*	Twelve to 20 inches. Best from Mile Long bridge and towards dam.
Rock Creek, *Jasper*	Shallow, fertile lake with good numbers of large catfish.
Saylorville, *Polk*	Excellent fishing. Lots of 2- to 4-pound fish.
Summit Lake, *Union*	One- to 3-pounders common.
Southwest Iowa rivers	Catfish are abundant in all of our rivers.
Three Mile, *Union*	Good numbers of 1- to 4-pound fish.
Twelve Mile, *Union*	Two- to 6-pound fish common; few 10-pounders. Good early on cut shad.
Viking, *Montgomery*	All sizes up to 6 pounds. A few big ones.
West Lake Osceola, *Clarke*	Two- to 4-pounders with a few 12-pounders.

MUSKY

Three Mile, *Union*	Fish up to 41 inches (20 to 22 pounds) and growing rapidly.

Lowell Washburn

YELLOW BASS

Carter Lake, *Pottawattamie*	Lots of small fish.
Icaria, *Adams*	Average 6 to 9 inches. Hard hitters, lots of fish.
Manawa, *Pottawattamie*	Lots of small fish, with an occasional pounder.
Twelve Mile, *Union*	Large numbers of 7- to 9-inch fish.
Viking, *Montgomery*	Moderate amount of 8- to 12-inch fish. Best in early spring and late fall.

WHITE BASS/WIPERS

Red Rock, *Marion*	Fish mid-summer, off the dam towards the beach or marina. Good in Des Moines River up to Scott Street Dam in spring.
Saylorville, *Polk*	Good in reservoir and below dam. Try below spillway from Big Creek Lake. White bass are 8 to 13 inches.

SOUTHEAST

By Stephen J. Waters, regional fisheries supervisor

If you are like me you have had enough of winter and are eagerly waiting for warmer weather and great fishing. So, it is time to dust off the fishing pole, replace the line, oil the reel and get to work.

On your way out the door don't forget to include the family. Family fishing is one of the most rewarding activities you can do. Fishing puts people outdoors and in touch with nature, it can provide an activity as challenging as you wish and can develop into a lifetime sport.

It is a tradition at our house to start the warm-weather fishing season looking for channel catfish. This can be a great family outing since the fishing is generally done from shore. This allows young people some great outdoor options if the fishing slows or if they are ready for another activity. Incorporate a shore lunch with smores and the gang will be begging to go again.

Most of our lakes and rivers are excellent catfish holes and will often produce excellent catches. However, the Mississippi River is still the best "catfish hole" because catfish can be caught in nearly all parts of the river on a variety of baits.

Still, walleye and sauger are the main attraction on the river. Late winter, early spring and late fall typically produce some of the best fishing around the locks and dams. In the summer, try backtrolling crankbaits or three-way night crawler rigs on the upstream side of the wingdams. Keep in mind, there is a 15-inch minimum length limit for walleye on the river.

When hot weather slows walleye angling in the rivers and small lakes, think Lake Rathbun. Rathbun is home to some fabulous walleye fishing at a time when most people wouldn't think of fishing for walleye. It is one of the few walleye lakes I know of that actually gets better June through August.

The Mississippi River also has good populations of white bass, drum, carp, crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass. Look for white bass where you normally find walleye. Crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass can be found in the backwaters near habitat. Remember, there is a 14-inch length limit on largemouth bass.

Southern Iowa, however, is synonimous with farm ponds, which provide some of the earliest and the best bluegill and bass fishing around. Because of their size, they are the first to warm up in the spring. They are also the best producers of lunker bluegill and bass. Most ponds are on private property, however, and require the owners' permission to fish.

You can spend all the time you want reading outdoor magazines and watching fishing programs, but it won't put fish on the stringer. If you want some of the best fishing of the year, now is the time to get out. Just make sure to include the family in your plans.

SPECIES LAKE/STREAM, COUNTY	COMMENTS
BLUEGILL	
Mississippi, Pool 16	Fish Andalusia backwaters, Credit Island Slough, Wyoming Island Slough.
Pool 17	Try Big Timber, Cleveland Slough, Hidden Acres, Bogus Island, Blanchard Slough, Eagle Fill.
Pool 18	Fish Huron Island, Burnt Pocket, Johnson Slough, Dasher Chute.
Pool 19	Concentrate on Burlington Island, Turkey Chute, Blackhawk Bottoms, Lead Island Chute, Niota weedbeds, Rabbit Island riprap, Devils Creek weedbed and Gray's Bay.
Farm Ponds	Exceptional angling — best chance for a trophy.
Pleasant Creek, *Linn*	Good quality, many 7- to 9-inch fish.
Geode, *Henry*	Average harvest size 7 to 8 inches-plus. Trophy fish available.
Hannen, *Benton*	Good numbers, 6 to 8 inches, with 10-inch fish reported.

BLUEGILL, *continued*	
Hawthorn, *Mahaska*	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish.
Iowa, *Iowa*	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish.
Kent, *Johnson*	All sizes, easy shoreline access.
Keomah, *Mahaska*	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish.
Miami, *Monroe*	Good numbers of 7-to 8-inch fish.
Wapello, *Davis*	Excellent numbers of 8- to 10-inch fish. Fish submerged timber and rock piles.
White Oak, *Mahaska*	Good numbers of 7- to 8-inch fish.
Diamond, *Poweshiek*	Average harvest size 6 to 8 inches.
Union Grove, *Tama*	Good quality with fish exceeding 9 inches.
Sugema, Van *Buren*	Tremendous numbers of 7- to 8-inch fish; a bluegill angler's dream.
Indian, Van *Buren*	Dense population of 8- and 9-inch fish.
CRAPPIE	
Rathbun, *Appanoose*	Superb crappie lake. Average size 9 to 12 inches; trophy fish available.
Mississippi River	See bluegill section.
Coralville, *Johnson*	Excellent numbers of 8- to 12-inch fish, 13- to 15-inchers available.
Odessa, *Louisa*	Average size 8 to 10 inches; good numbers.
Iowa, *Iowa*	Good numbers of 8- to 10-inchers.
Darling, *Washington*	Two sizes available; 7 to 8 and 10 to 12 inches; good numbers.
Hawthorn, *Mahaska*	Excellent numbers of 8- to 11-inch fish.
Miami, *Monroe*	Excellent population of 8- to 11-inch fish.
Diamond, *Poweshiek*	Good numbers of 9- to 11-inch fish.
Macbride, *Johnson*	Excellent for 8- to 10-inch fish; 11- to 13-inch fish common.
Sugema, *Van Buren*	Good angling; 9- to 10-inch fish most common.
Pleasant Creek, *Linn*	Good in spring for 9- to 11-inch fish.
Keomah, *Mahaska*	Outstanding crappie fishery for 9- to 12-inch fish.
Indian, *Van Buren*	Very dense crappie population with lots of 9- and 11-inchers.
LARGEMOUTH BASS	
Mississippi River	Comments similar to bluegill section.
Farm Ponds	Best chance for a trophy.
Miami, *Monroe*	Excellent numbers, various sizes.
Pleasant Creek, *Linn*	Excellent catch-and-release lake (18-inch size limit) with fish up to 8 pounds.
Iowa, *Iowa*	Good numbers, various sizes.
Geode, *Henry*	Good catch-and-release fishery. Some trophies.
Macbride, *Johnson*	Good numbers of 2- to 4-pound fish; all sizes.
Sugema, *Van Buren*	New 12- to 18-inch slot length limit. Excellent catch-and-release for 12- to 17-inch fish.

Ron Johnson


Ron Johnson

LARGEMOUTH BASS, *continued*	
Diamond, *Poweshiek*	Good numbers of 2- to 4-pound fish with trophy sizes present.
Wapello, *Davis*	No-kill regulation. Great numbers of 12- to 17-inch fish.
Hawthorn, *Mahaska*	Tremendous numbers of 12- to 16-inch fish.
	Excellent numbers of 16- to 22-inch fish.
Keomah, *Mahaska*	Excellent numbers of 13- to 18-inch fish.
CHANNEL CATFISH	
Mississippi River	All pools excellent; recruitment is good.
Inland Rivers	Good to excellent; catfish factories!
Corydon, *Wayne*	Good numbers and variety of sizes. Fish up to 29 inches collected in surveys.
Rathbun, *Appanoose*	Excellent fishery, all sizes. Post ice-out period exceptional.
Coralville, *Johnson*	Exceptional fishery, all sizes. Post ice-out period excellent.
Kent, *Johnson*	Excellent fishery, average 12 to 16 inches.
Miami, *Monroe*	Excellent number of all sizes of fish.
Macbride, *Johnson*	Excellent for all sizes.
Darling, *Washington*	Good for a variety of sizes.
Geode, *Henry*	Good for a variety of sizes.
Iowa, *Iowa*	Good numbers of 2- to 4-pound fish.
Keomah, *Mahaska*	Good for a variety of sizes.
Hawthorn, *Mahaska*	Excellent fishery; fish up to 25 inches.
Bob White, *Wayne*	Excellent fishery; all sizes available.
Wapello, *Davis*	Good numbers of fish; most less than 22 inches.
FLATHEAD CATFISH	
Mississippi River	Best below locks and dams, wingdams and side channels.
Skunk, lower Iowa, Des Moines, Wapsipinicon and Cedar rivers	Big fish in deep holes during summer and around bridge pilings and drift piles. Good numbers of 5- to 30-pound fish.
Coralville, *Johnson*	Good numbers of 10- to 30-pound fish.
Rathbun, *Appanoose*	Fair numbers of 2- to 20-pound fish. Concentrate on riprap in Bridgeview area in late spring to early summer.
BULLHEAD	
Wapello, *Davis*	Ten- to 14-inch fish available.
Keomah, *Mahaska*	Ten- to 12-inch fish available.
Macbride, *Johnson*	Best east of causeway in May for 8- to 10-inch fish.
Hawthorn, *Mahaska*	Ten- to 12-inch fish available.
WALLEYE	
Mississippi River	Seek locks and dams and wingdams. Excellent for sauger, too.
Rathbun, *Appanoose*	Excellent fishery. Large numbers of 15- to 21-inch fish.
Macbride, *Johnson*	Good numbers of 15- to 20- inch fish with trophy sizes available.

WALLEYE, *continued*

Des Moines River, *Wapello*	Quality angling below the Ottumwa hydropower dam; trophy fish available. Late winter/early spring best times.
Coralville, *Johnson*	Good in spring and late fall in upper end and around I-380 bridge.

SAUGEYE

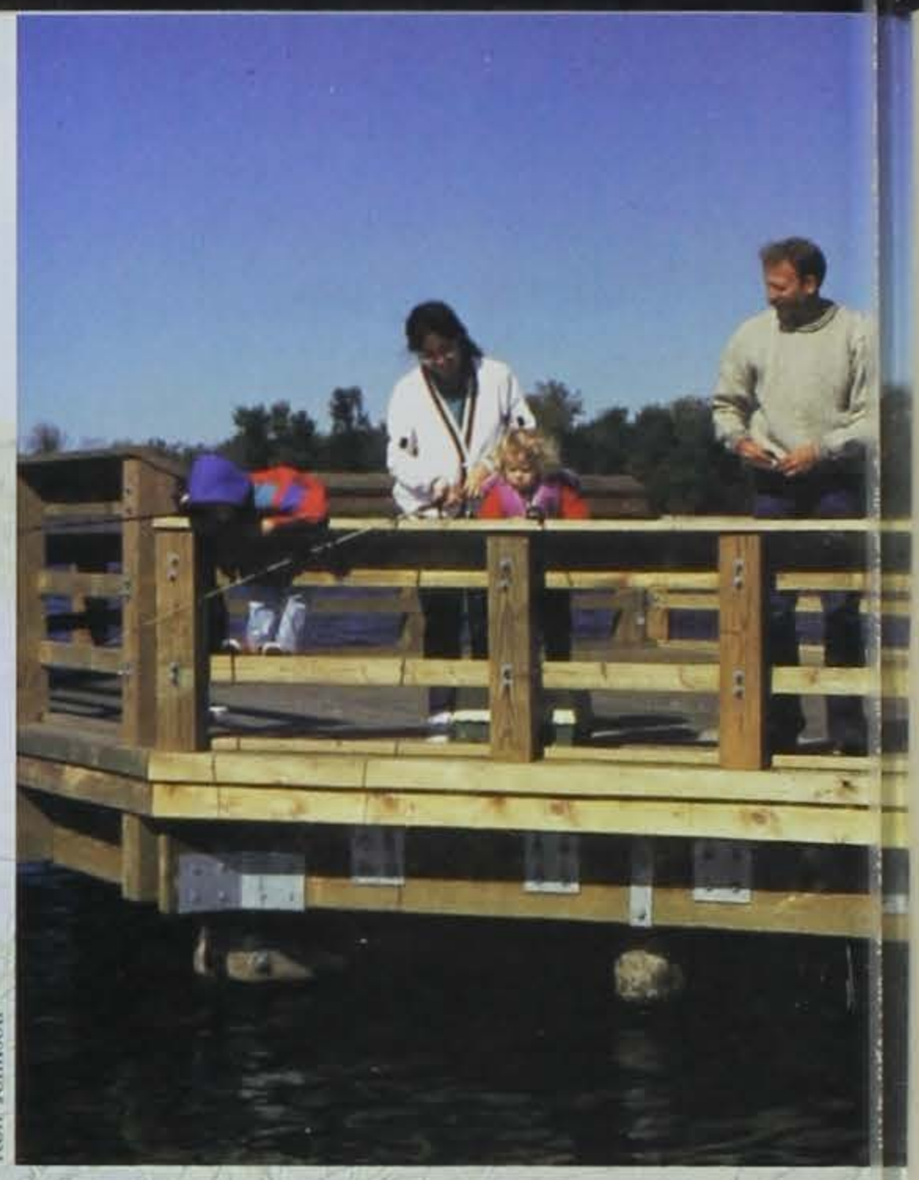
Iowa River, *Johnson*	Exceptional fishery; lots of 2- to 4-pound fish with 10-pound fish available.
Coralville, *Johnson*	Best in early spring and late fall around I-380 bridge; good numbers of 2- to 3-pound fish.
Union Grove, *Tama*	High numbers of 14- to 18-inch fish with some up to 6 pounds.

WHITE BASS

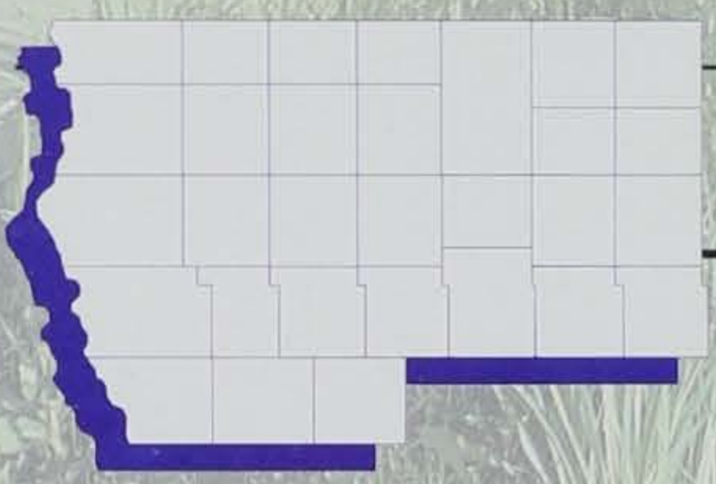
Mississippi River	Seek locks and dams and wingdams.
Rathbun, *Appanoose*	Excellent numbers of 10- to 15-inch fish; target humps and points.
Coralville, *Johnson*	Lots of 12- to 14-inch fish. Best in late summer on shad-colored crankbaits.
Macbride, *Johnson*	Fair numbers of 12- to 14-inch fish; best angling in late summer.
Pleasant Creek, *Linn*	Excellent for summer topwater action.

REDEAR SUNFISH

Hawthorn, *Mahaska*	Average harvest size 8 inches-plus.
Keomah, *Mahaska*	Good numbers of 8- to 11-inch fish.
Miami, *Monroe*	Good numbers of 8-inch-plus fish.
Geode, *Henry*	Good numbers of 8- to 11-inch fish.



Ron Johnson



NORTHWEST/NORTH-CENTRAL IOWA

By Thomas W. Gengerke, regional fisheries supervisor

Knowledge, opportunity and time – some are limiting, others are not. The natural lakes, rich prairie streams and border rivers of northwestern and north-central Iowa offer excellent and diverse opportunities for all anglers. From the Big Sioux River Days in Hawarden to Octoberfest at Clear Lake, from the Lake View Summer Water Carnival to the Great Walleye Weekend at Spirit Lake and the Okobojis – the opportunities are out there waiting for you.

Walleyes, smallmouth bass, pike and yellow perch hold the interest of many anglers, but I encourage you to also think of alternative species, such as channel catfish (it may be our state's "official" fish by the time you read this), bluegills and yellow bass.

Lakes such as Storm, Pahoja, Clear and Browns have lots of channel catfish available and I guarantee these lakes hold big fish. June, July and August are prime months to fish for catfish. Nightcrawlers, leeches, prepared baits, crayfish and livers are preferred baits. Try shad entrails right after ice out or drift skinned chubs in the summer for an exciting alternative. Rivers, such as the Iowa River

in Hardin County and the Des Moines River in Kossuth and Humboldt counties, hold plenty of fish and are the traditional destinations of ardent catfish anglers.

Bluegills are another species worthy of special attention. Many of these fish are 8 inches or larger and the opportunity for 9- to 10-inch fish are not unreasonable. Little Wall, Crystal, Brushy Creek, Nelson, West Okoboji and Lake Pahoja all hold lots of fish. Small hooks, waxworms, a piece of crawler or a 1/16-ounce dark colored jig are time-tested baits.

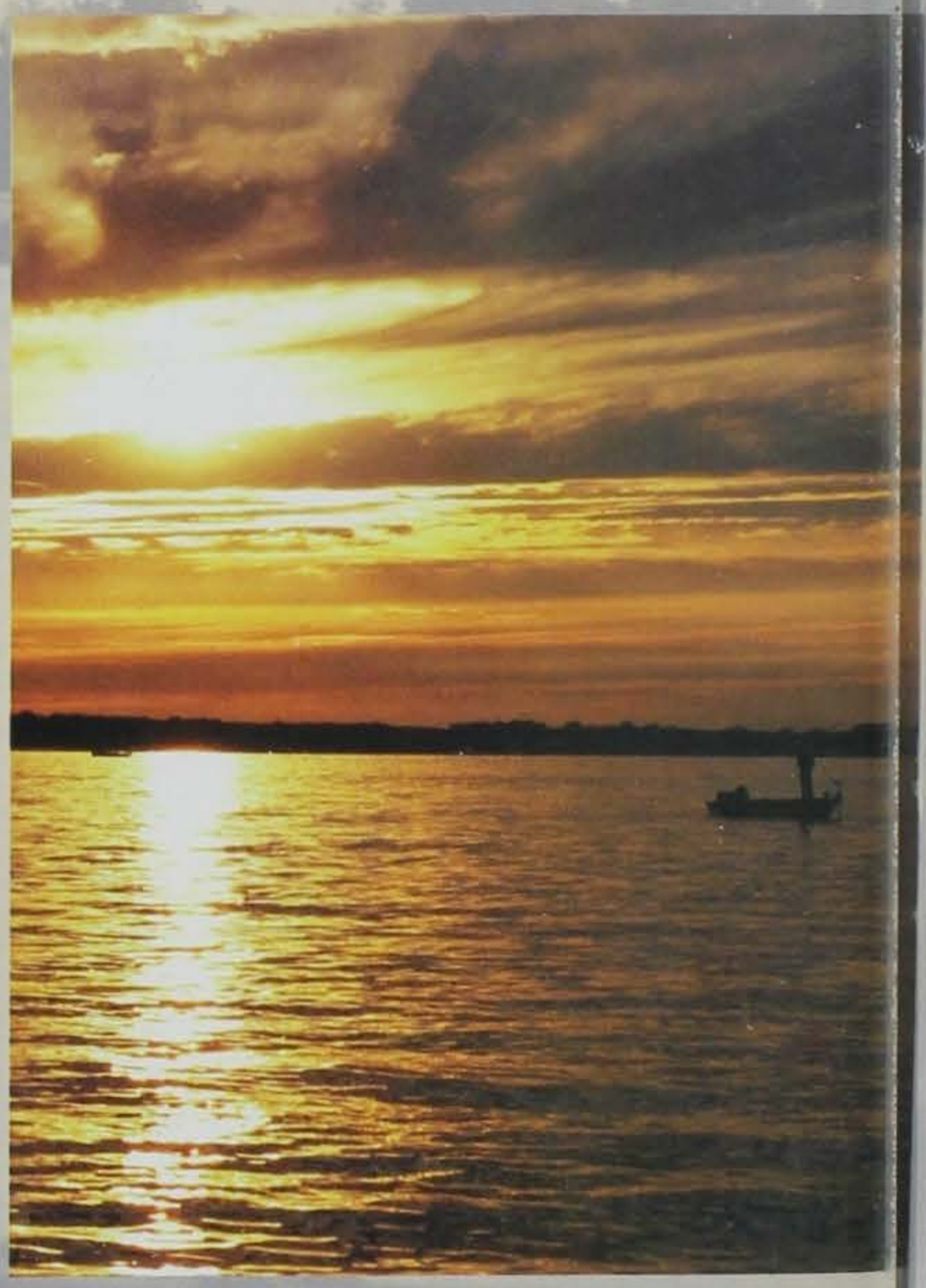
The range of yellow bass in northwestern and northcentral Iowa is fairly limited. They can be found in Arrowhead Lake (Sac County) and Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo County). My preference is Clear Lake. An estimated 10,000 yellow bass were harvested last year. They're abundant, scrappy fighters and great table fare as well. Most of the fish run 8 to 10 inches. Work the rocky shorelines in the spring (May) and deeper waters in the fall (September). Yellows readily take nightcrawlers or small yellow or white leadheads fished near the bottom, over gravel bars or around stakebeds.

Clay Smith

Give these species a try – take a kid fishing – relax and enjoy the many outdoor recreational opportunities available to you in northwestern and north-central Iowa.

SPECIES LAKE/STREAM, COUNTY	COMMENTS
WALLEYE	
Clear Lake, *Cerro Gordo*	Open-water creel survey revealed 4,000 walleye exceeding 14 inches harvested in 2000. Good numbers of 15- to 18-inch fish available.
Iowa River, *Hardin*	Population has grown from Alden to the county line due to consistent fingerling stockings; a variety of sizes, with a few exceeding 8 pounds.
Ingham Lake, *Emmet*	Fishery surveys indicate good numbers of 17- to 20-inch fish.
High Lake, *Emmet*	Commercial anglers report good numbers of fish larger than 20 inches. Try different techniques — planer boards or drifting a chub.
Five Island, *Palo Alto*	Consistent producer during previous three years. Fishery is improving.
Lost Island, *Palo Alto*	April and May offer the best fishing.
Spirit Lake, *Dickinson*	Strong 1995 and 1996 year classes.
West Okoboji, *Dickinson*	Consistent producer.
Silver Lake, *Dickinson*	Good numbers.
Brushy Creek, *Webster*	Stocked with 6-inch fingerlings in the fall of 1998; anglers were catching 15- to 18-inch fish in 2000.
Storm Lake, *Buena Vista*	Anglers harvested almost 3,000 fish averaging 17 inches in 2000.

YELLOW PERCH	
Little Wall, *Hamilton*	Dense population but sorting required. Persistence will yield fish 8 inches or larger.
Lake Cornelia, *Wright*	Most fish are 1/4- to 1/3-pound. Best fishing is in the spring.
East Okoboji, *Dickinson*	Population of 10-inch fish improving. Early spring may be the best.
Trumbull Lake, *Clay*	Good size structure. Anglers may have to change location frequently.
BLACK BULLHEAD	
Clear Lake, *Cerro Gordo*	High density of fish that weigh nearly a 1/2-pound – underused.
Rice Lake, *Winnebago*	Half-pound bullheads are common.
Lake Cornelia, *Wright*	Excellent numbers of 9-inch fish.
Black Hawk, *Sac*	Huge population of 6- to 8-inch fish. Try the inlet area in the spring.
High Lake, *Emmet*	Underused population of 8-inch fish.
Ingham Lake, *Emmet*	Large population of 9-inch fish.
Silver Lake, *Palo Alto*	Large numbers.
Center Lake, *Dickinson*	Ten- to 12-inch fish available.
East Okoboji, *Dickinson*	Large fish are readily available.
Five Island, *Palo Alto*	Good numbers of 9-inch fish.
Silver Lake, *Dickinson*	Good numbers of large fish.
Lost Island, *Palo Alto*	Traditional producer of 8-inch fish.
CHANNEL CATFISH	
Lake Pahoja, *Lyon*	Consistent producer. Cage fish program. Large numbers.
Mill Creek, *O'Brien*	Cage fish program. Large fish.
High Lake, *Emmet*	Large number of smaller fish.
Clear Lake, *Cerro Gordo*	Good shoreline access. Fish early mornings and evenings on windy shorelines.
Des Moines River, *Kossuth and Humboldt*	Excellent fishing!
Iowa River, *Hardin*	Tremendous public access.
Browns Lake, *Woodbury*	Large population of 16- to 20-inch fish. June, July and August are the best months to fish.
Storm Lake, *Buena Vista*	Anglers harvested 2,700 fish in 2000. Average size 2 pounds.



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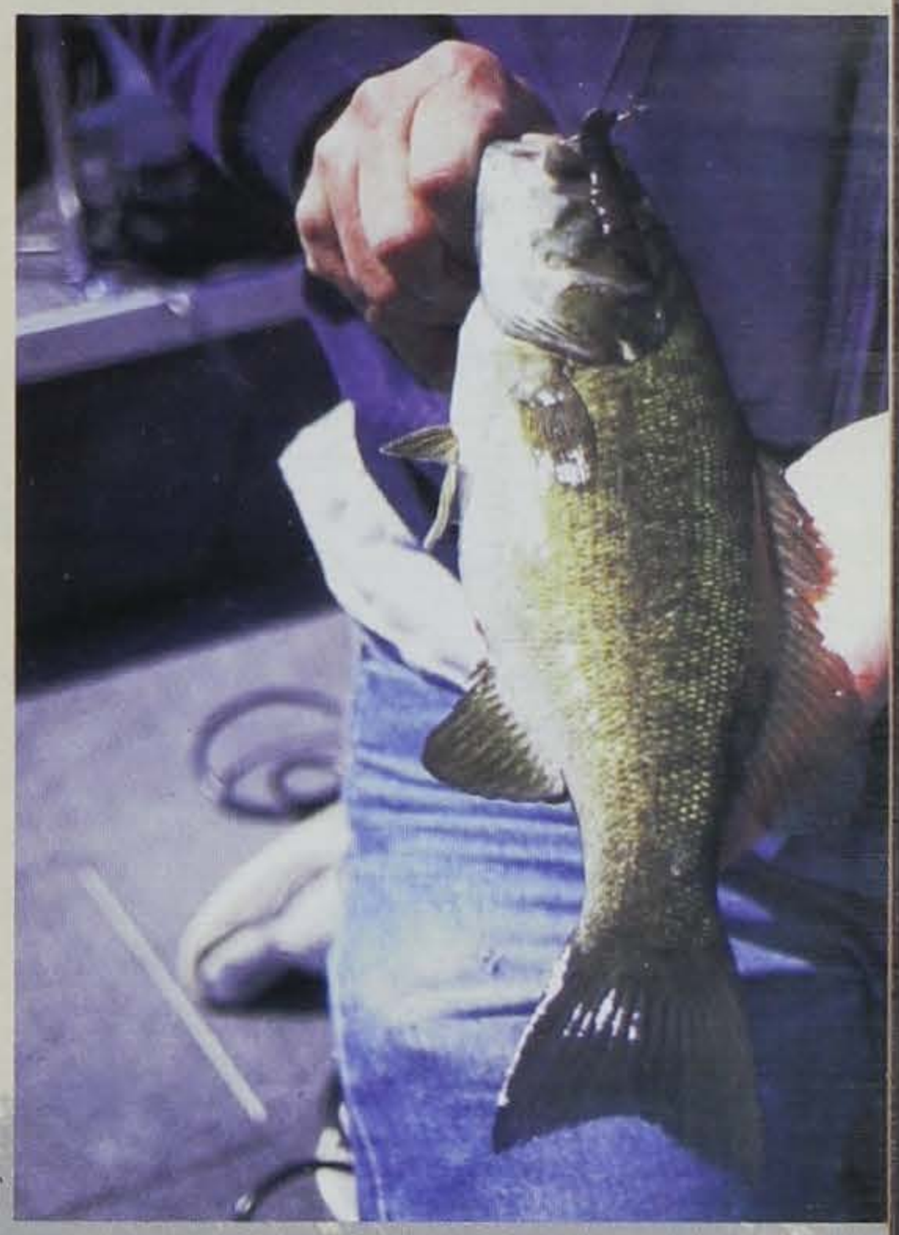
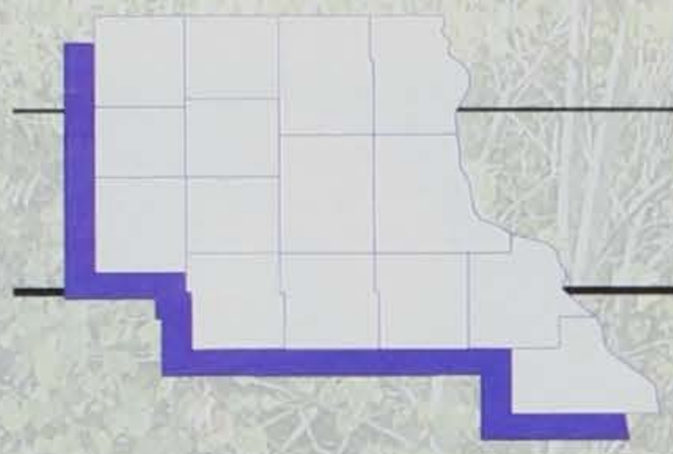

Clay Smith

MUSKY	
Clear Lake, *Cerro Gordo*	Substantial increase in numbers. Most were under 30 inches, but 48-inchers were caught.
West Okoboji, *Dickinson*	Consistent producer; improving.
Spirit Lake, *Dickinson*	New state record caught in 2000 — 50 pounds, 6 ounces. Excellent population of fish under 40 inches.
BLUEGILL	
Little Wall, *Hamilton*	Quality size (8 to 9 inches). June is the best month.
Crystal Lake, *Hancock*	Abundant number of 7-inch fish weighing 1/3 of a pound.
Brushy Creek, *Webster*	Impounded in the fall of 1998; fish reached 8 inches last year.
Nelson Park, *Crawford*	Good population of 8- to 9-inch fish. May and June are the best months.
West Okoboji, *Dickinson*	Abundant population of 6- to 8-inch fish.
Lake Pahoja, *Lyon*	Good numbers of 7-inch fish.
LARGEMOUTH BASS	
Mill Creek, *O'Brien*	Good numbers of large and sublegal fish.
West Okoboji, *Dickinson*	Strong year classes of 2- to 4-year-old fish.
Lower Pine, *Hardin*	Excellent population of 3- to 5-pound fish.
Little Wall, *Hamilton*	Twelve- to 15-inch fish are abundant (18-inch length limit).
Briggs Wood, *Hamilton*	High density. Weed edges are productive.
Brushy Creek, *Webster*	Growth is phenomenal. Fish exceeding 15 inches were caught in 2000.
Beeds Lake, *Franklin*	Excellent fishery for 9-inch fish during 2000 season.
Upper and Lower Pine, *Hardin*	Eight-inch fish are common. Lower Pine has the largest population.
Badger Lake, *Webster*	Large population of 8-inch fish.
Browns Lake, *Woodbury*	Large population of 10- to 12-inch fish. Fish the east and north shorelines.
Ingham Lake, *Emmet*	Catch will be dominated by 10-inch fish.
High Lake, *Emmet*	White crappies exceed 9 inches.
Center Lake, *Dickinson*	Fishery for 10-inch fish is improving.
Iowa Lake, *Emmet*	Good numbers of 9-inch fish.
NORTHERN PIKE	
Crystal Lake, *Hancock*	Three- to 5-pound fish common; 10-pounders present. Early spring is best.
Beeds Lake, *Franklin*	Fish the weedline and below the dam.
Tuttle Lake, *Emmet*	Good numbers.
High Lake, *Emmet*	Good numbers of large fish.
Iowa Lake, *Emmet*	Good numbers, large fish.
SMALLMOUTH BASS	
Spirit Lake, *Dickinson*	Excellent fishery. Good numbers of 19- inch and larger fish.
West Okoboji, *Dickinson*	Strong 1994 and 1995 year classes (15-inch and larger fish).
Iowa River, *Hardin*	Alden to Eldora has excellent numbers. Most are 12 to 17 inches.



NORTHEAST

By Dave Moeller, regional fisheries supervisor

Finally, the open-water season is here after a long, cold and snowy winter. It's time to start curing cabin fever by getting out on the water and pursuing some denizens of the deep.

You probably have your reels all lubed and re-spooled, organized your tackle box, acquired a few new lures you are anxious to try and discovered how quick and convenient it was to purchase your 2001 electronic fishing license. Anticipation is running high and you just can't wait any longer. So get out there and hit the water.

So far, you have learned where the region's fisheries biologists expect fishing to be good in southern, north-west and north-central Iowa. Now it's time to discover what beautiful northeast Iowa has to offer.

For most of us, the best time to go fishing is anytime we can. However, coinciding outings with certain key periods and conditions will greatly enhance success. So let's take a look at when to concentrate angling efforts for each target species.

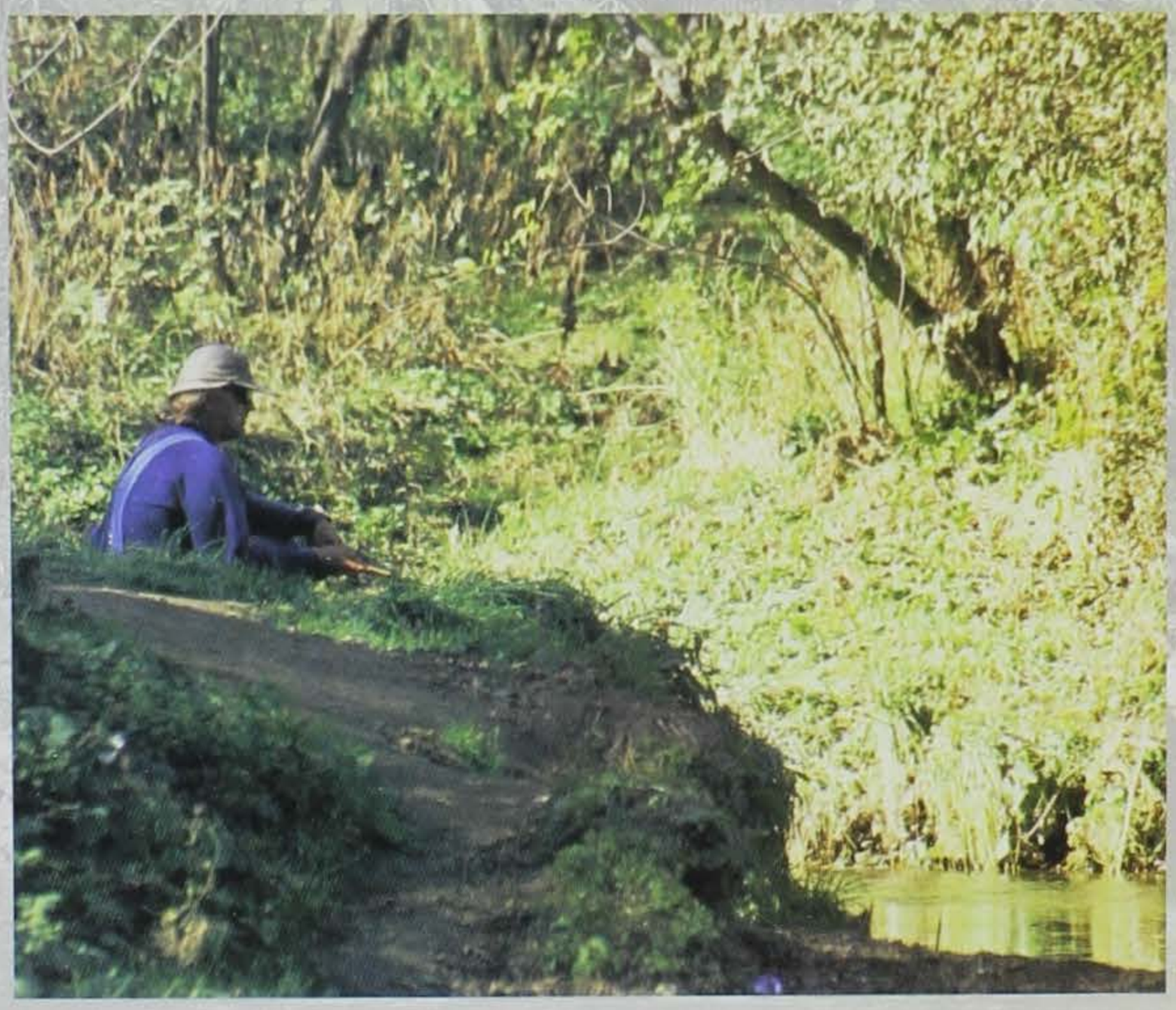
As soon as the ice goes out in the spring, channel catfish binge-feed on winterkilled fish, so cut-bait or dead minnows are effective. Catfishing is often very good on a rising river following a rainy period. Low and stable river flows during the summer and early fall months are also good times to fish.

The pre-spawn period from just after ice-out to when the water temperature reaches about 45 degrees F is an excellent time to fish for walleyes below the navigation dams on the Mississippi River and the low-head dams on our larger, interior rivers. Chances of catching a real trophy are best at this time. Late spring, summer and early fall often find them on the wingdams and along riprap areas on the Mississippi when the river flows are low and stable. Late fall and winter again find them in the dam tailwater areas on the Mississippi and in the deepest pools on the interior rivers.

The sauger, a close cousin of the walleye, is found primarily in the Mississippi River and is plentiful. The tailwaters below the navigation dams are often loaded with saugers from the late fall months of October and November through the winter into April, just before they spawn. They can be a challenge to locate from late spring to early fall, but concentrate on the wingdams and the borders of the main channel.

The catchable trout streams are generally good throughout the April-through-November stocking season. The fall months are particularly good because angling pressure and stream-side disturbances are reduced.

An excellent time to fish the more wary stream-reared trout populations found in the special regulation and put-and-grow streams is just after a moderate rain when the normally crystal-clear water is slightly discolored. During this brief period, the angler has a distinct advantage. This is when the biggest and the most trout



Clay Smith

are caught.

By far the best time to catch largemouth bass is the pre-spawn, normally in May, when the water temperature ranges from 55 to 62 degrees F and the fish are actively feeding in shallow water. The fall months from mid-September to when the water cools to about 50 degrees are also good when the bass are again stocking up on forage in the shallows for the winter months.

The best time to catch bluegills is the weeks just before and after the spawn, when the water temperature is around 75 degrees F. The males are aggressively guarding nests in shallow water and will attack any small bait or lure that comes near. Mid-summer months are also productive, but in deeper water near brush, trees or other structure. During the lowest summer flow conditions, the Mississippi River wingdams frequently produce lots of big bluegills. The first few weeks after ice-up is another peak time for some of the biggest bluegills of the year.

Like their cousin the bluegill, male crappie become very aggressive during the pre-spawn and spawning period (58 to 68 degrees F), normally in May. Fall can also be very good near underwater structure.

When the streams and rivers are clear enough, the pre-spawn period from late April through May, when water temperatures are between 50 to 60 degrees F, is an excellent time for smallmouth bass. The clear and stable water conditions of summer and fall also result in good success for smallmouths, often with good action continuing into November.

Immediately after ice-out in the spring is a great time to cast lures along the Mississippi River backwater shorelines for big northern pike. The hot months of July and August, however, are often the best. Bigbobber fishing with a live chub in the deeper backwater areas is very effective. Also during these hot months, seek out areas where cooler tributaries or a trout stream flows into larger, pike-holding waters. These cooler waters are a magnet for pike.

Having been armed with where the best fishing holes are in the northeast and when the best fishing is, the only thing left is the fun part – the doing.

SPECIES LAKE/STREAM, COUNTY	COMMENTS
BLUEGILL	
Casey Lake, *Tama*	Abundant 7- to 8-inchers with some up to 9. Concentrate on the shallow waters in May and June. Fish around the brushpiles in July and August.
Kounty Pond, *Buchanan*	Good numbers of 7-inch fish. Fish near structure in May and June.
Lake Delhi, *Delaware*	Fish up to 7 inches. Fish the early spring and late fall to avoid heavy boating traffic.
Lake Hendricks, *Howard*	Numerous 6- to 8-inch fish. Fish the pockets in the weed beds during the spawn and the deeper habitat in late summer.
Lake Meyer, *Winneshiek*	Abundant 6- to 7-inch fish.
Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 15	Bluegill populations have rebounded the past few years due to good vegetation and mild winters. Expect numerous fish up to 7 inches.
Sweet Marsh Segment B (Marten's Lake), *Bremer*	Abundant 6- to 7-inchers. Concentrate along shorelines in May and June.
Volga Lake, *Fayette*	A reliable producer of 6- to 8-inch-plus fish. Try along shoreline habitat early and the deeper habitats later in the season.
CHANNEL CATFISH	
Lake Delhi, *Delaware*	Good population of all sizes of catfish. Fish early in the morning or late evening during mid-summer to avoid high recreational boat traffic.
Cedar River, *Black Hawk, Bremer Chickasaw and Floyd*	Abundant 1- to 2-pound fish from Mitchell downstream. Fish the shallow riffle areas in late summer and fall.
Maquoketa River, *Delaware,* Jones and Jackson	Good populations from Manchester downstream to its confluence with the Mississippi. Many fish exceeding 5 pounds sampled in Jones County in 1998.

CHANNEL CATFISH, *continued*

Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 15	Population and average size continue to be very good. Early harvest generally begins in April-May drifting shad baits along main channel border riprap. As water temperatures warm in June-August, prepared baits and chicken liver are very effective near wingdams and running side channels.
Shell Rock River, *Butler*	Good numbers of 14- to 20-inch fish throughout the entire county. Try the shallow riffle areas in the fall.
Saints Lake, *Bremer*	Two- to 3-pounders abundant in this lake west of Waverly.
South Prairie Lake, *Black Hawk*	Abundant 15- to 18-inch cats for the taking.
Turkey River, *Clayton*	Good population of all sizes. Occasional flathead caught.
Upper Iowa River, *Allamakee*	Abundant from the mouth upstream to the Lower Dam.
Volga Lake, *Fayette*	Good numbers of fish up to 9 pounds. Especially good during July and August along the dam.
Wapsipinicon River, *Buchanan*	Good population of large fish below Littleton. Fish the backwaters after ice out, and tree and brush piles on the main river during the summer.

CRAPPIE

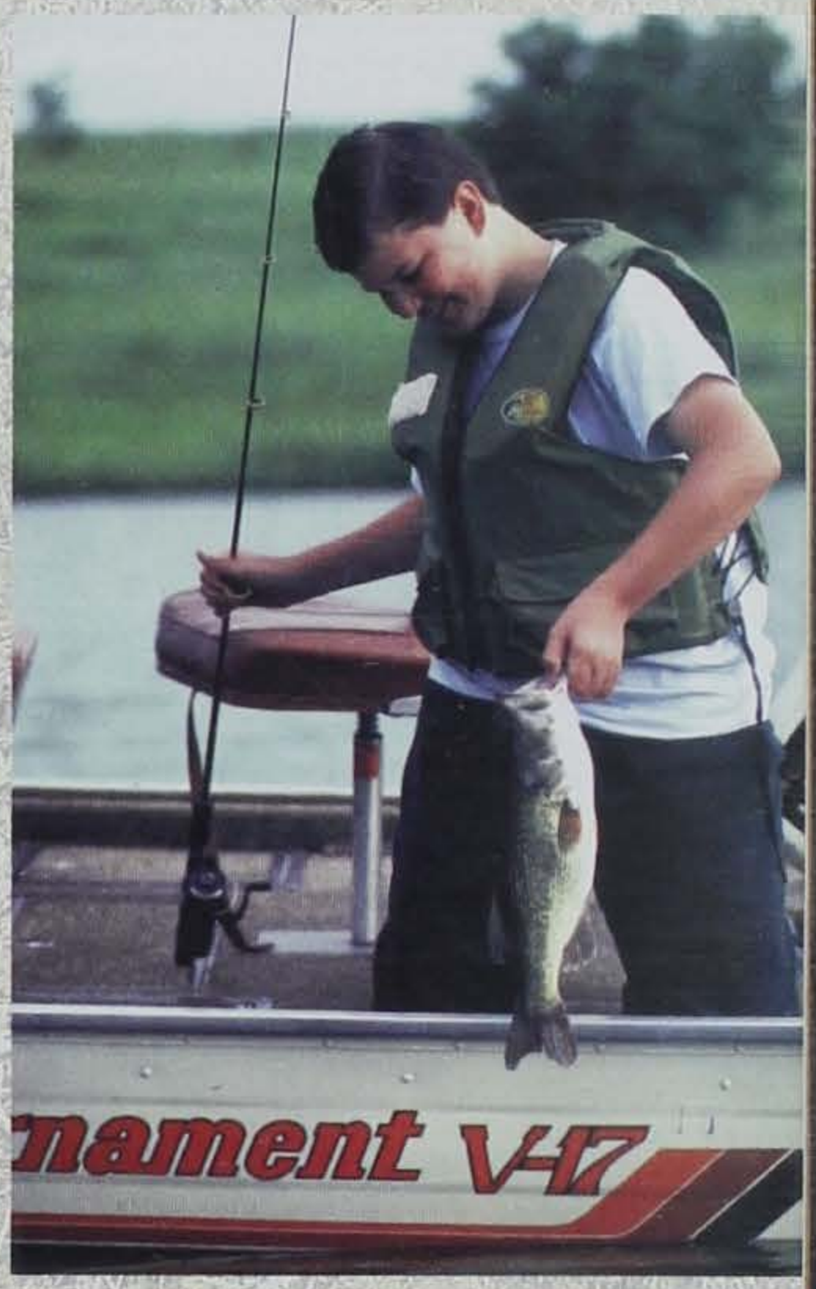
Backbone Lake, *Delaware*	Eight- to 9-inch fish available.
Casey Lake, *Tama*	Mostly 8-inch fish; concentrate on the shallow areas during the spawn.
George Wyth Lake, *Black Hawk*	Good number of 7- to 8-inchers. Three fishing jetties built in 1999.
Kounty Pond, *Buchanan*	Some 10- and 11-inch black crappies sampled during fall 2000 survey.
Lake Delhi, *Delaware*	Average size fish abundant. Fish around fallen trees and woody structure in spring and fall.
Lake Meyer, *Winneshiek*	High numbers of 8- to 10-inch fish with abundant shoreline habitat.
Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 15	Netting surveys continue to indicate black crappie populations are strong. Lots of 8- to 9-inch fish with quite a few from 10 to 13.
Sweet Marsh Segment B (Marten's Lake), *Bremer*	Good numbers of 8- to 9-inchers.
Volga Lake, *Fayette*	Fish the dam and shoreline for 9- to 11-inch fish during the spawn.
Wapsipinicon River, *Buchanan*	Fish in and around the brushpiles from spring through fall.

DNR photo

FRESHWATER DRUM (SHEEPSHEAD)

Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 19	More drum are caught on the Mississippi River than any other species. Strong fighters, run in schools. Mostly caught along the main channel borders on night crawlers or crayfish fished on the bottom. Good eating but best from fish less than 2 pounds.

LARGEMOUTH BASS	
Casey Lake, *Tama*	Eighteen-inch minimum size limit has produced an excellent population with numerous 5-pound-plus bass. Fish along the dam and around woody structure, including the stake beds.
George Wyth Lake, *Black Hawk*	Largemouths concentrate on the abundant sunken tree piles, pallet-bed structures, rocky areas and around the new jetties.
Greenbelt Lake, *Black Hawk*	Good numbers of quality-size fish.
Kounty Pond, *Buchanan*	Good numbers of 11- to 13-inch fish available for catch-and-release angling.
Lake Delhi, *Delaware*	Good population along the undeveloped rocky shorelines and woody structure.
Lake Hendricks, *Howard*	The 18-inch minimum size limit is starting to produce some quality bass fishing.
Lake Meyer, *Winneshiek*	Good numbers of fish up to 5 pounds. Fish congregate along the deep-water ledges.
Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 15	Excellent numbers, but most are under 5 pounds. Fish the backwater lakes and running sloughs near woody structure. As water levels drop during the summer, move out to the mouths of the backwater lakes or find slack water along the main channel border. On the lower, big-lake portion of the pools with abundant vegetation, fish the small pockets in the dense vegetation with a spinnerbait or plastic worm.
South Prairie Lake, *Black Hawk*	Newer 22-acre lake just south of Cedar Falls. Abundant 12- to 17-inch bass, 18-inch minimum size limit. Be sure to check your boat and trailer for possible presence of Eurasian water milfoil.
Sweet Marsh Segment B (Marten's Lake), *Bremer*	High numbers of quality-size bass. Be sure to check your boat and trailer for possible presence of Eurasian water milfoil.
NORTHERN PIKE	
Cedar River, *Black Hawk and Bremer*	Moderate population of all sizes of pike can be found in the shallow backwater habitats.
Lake Meyer, *Winneshiek*	Fish in the 4- to 5-pound range; some up to 36 inches.
Maquoketa River, *Delaware*	Thirteen years of fingerling stockings have resulted in a quality northern pike population, with occasional fish exceeding 10 pounds.
Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 15	Most fish from 5 to 8 pounds with some up to 15. Fish the backwater shorelines on Pools 9 and 10 immediately after ice-out. In the summer and fall months fish large, live baitfish in the backwaters; fish near the mouths of coldwater tributary streams during the hottest summer periods. Inside portions of wingdams can produce some good pike.
Sweet Marsh Segment B (Marten's Lake), *Bremer*	Good population of all sizes of fish.
Wapsipinicon River, *Buchanan, Black Hawk and Bremer*	Best fishing from Independence upstream. Fish the abundant deadfalls and connected shallow backwaters. Excellent numbers of all sizes of pike.



Ron Johnson

SAUGER

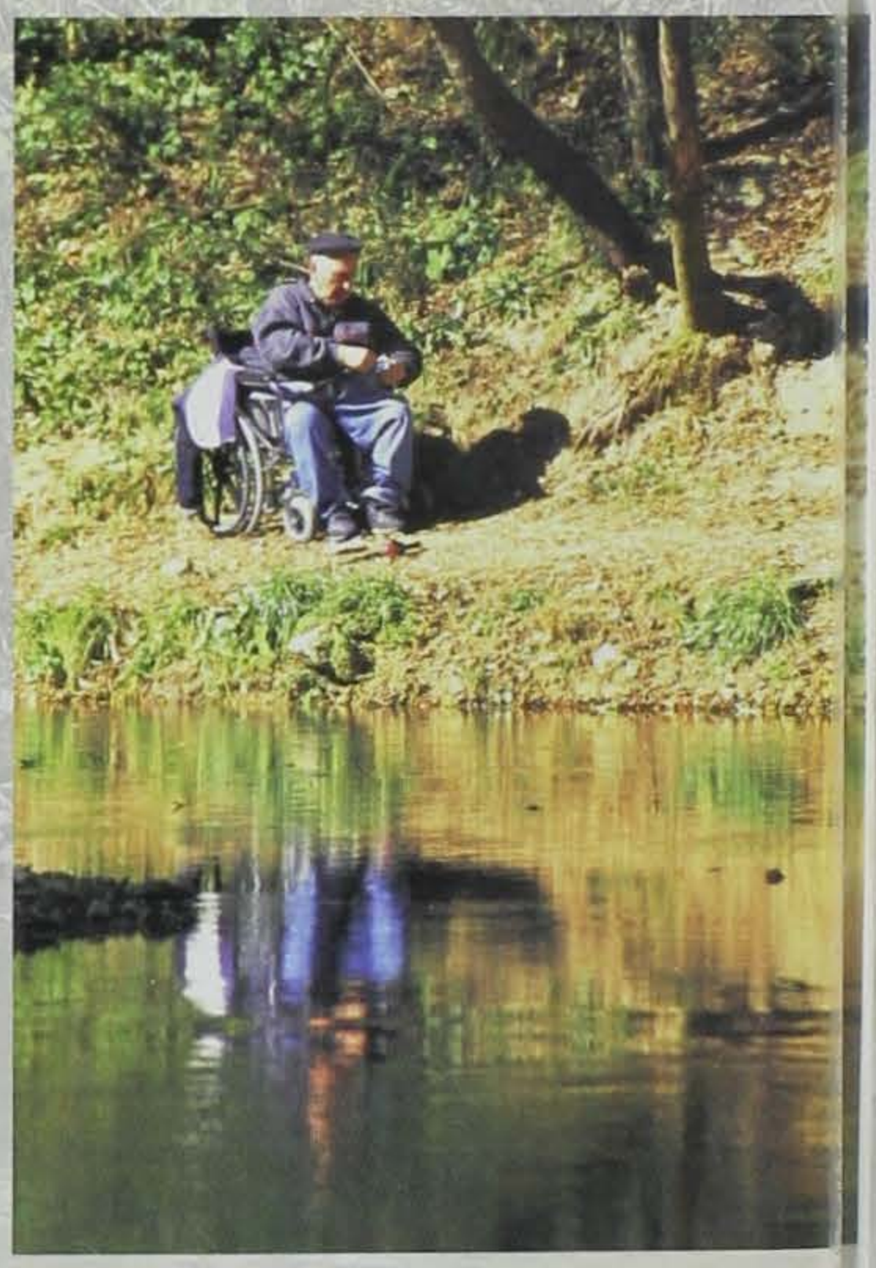
Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 15	Several strong recent year classes have resulted in a very strong population, and fishing in the early spring in the navigation dam tailwaters has been great.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Cedar River, *Black Hawk and Bremer*	Best habitat and bass numbers are downstream from Waverly and Waterloo. Fish up to 18 inches sampled in 2000.
Cedar River, *Mitchell and Floyd*	Excellent population throughout both counties. Catch-and-release area from Otranto to St. Ansgar.
Maquoketa River, *Delaware*	In the catch-and-release area below the Lake Delhi dam, the smallmouth population remains high. Best success in September and October.
Maquoketa River, *Jones and Jackson*	Great habitat and excellent numbers below Monticello and Canton. Many fish exceeding 15 inches sampled in 1998.
Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 15	Fish rock structure in the current with live or artificial baits. Fair numbers in the 15- to 18-inch range. Ten- to 12-inchers coming on.
Shell Rock River, *Butler and Bremer*	Good smallmouth populations from Greene downstream to the confluence with the Cedar River.
Shell Rock River, *Floyd*	Good numbers, but few trophy fish.
Turkey River, *Clayton, Fayette, Winneshiek and Howard*	Good numbers of quality fish in this entire stretch. Even though the upper portion is a relatively small river, it holds numerous big fish.
Upper Iowa River, *Allamakee,*	Fish in the 18- to 19-inch range not uncommon. Catch-and-release area from Decorah downstream to the Upper Dam.
Volga River, *Fayette*	This small river holds lots of smaller bass.
Wapsipinicon River, *Buchanan*	Littleton to Quasqueton has the best habitat. Good numbers of fish exceeding 12 inches with a few exceeding 18 inches.

TROUT

Bailey's Ford, *Delaware*	Stocked three times each week with catchable rainbow and brook trout.
Bigalk Creek, *Howard*	One of the most popular catchable trout streams. Brook and rainbow trout stocked weekly. Watershed and habitat improvements have resulted in a moderate population of naturally reproducing, rainbow trout.
Ensign Hollow, *Clayton*	Abundant 12- to 17-inch brown trout with some larger. Rainbow population increasing due to fingerling stockings. Catch-and-release and artificial lure only.
Fountain Springs, *Delaware*	Stocked with catchable rainbow and brook trout twice a week from April through August, once a week in September and October.



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French Creek, *Allamakee*	Increasing catch-and-release population of wild brown trout. Good numbers of fish up to 18 inches. Artificial lures only.
Maquoketa River, *Clayton and Delaware*	Catchable brown and brook trout and fingerling brown and rainbow trout stocked. Fish the woody structure for a chance at a larger brown.
North Bear, *Winneshiek*	Stocked weekly with rainbow and brook trout. A thriving wild brown trout population is also present.
Sny Magill, *Clayton*	Stocked twice weekly with all three trout species.
South Fork Big Mill, *Jackson*	Habitat project completed in 1999 has increased the number of quality-size brown trout. Located in the Big Mill Fish and Wildlife Area.
South Pine, *Winneshiek*	The 3/4-mile walk to the stream is worth it for the chance at a wild, naturally reproducing brook trout. Catch-and-release and artificial lure only.
Spring Branch, *Delaware*	The number of brown trout exceeding 14 inches is at an all-time high. Fourteen-inch size limit on brown, rainbow and brook trout and artificial lures only. A high-quality trout stream with easy walk-in access.
Trout River, *Winneshiek*	Recent habitat improvements completed. Stocked weekly with mostly brook and some brown trout.
Trout Run, *Winneshiek*	Stocked twice a week with all three trout species. A favorite of anglers.
Waterloo Creek, *Allamakee*	High numbers of brown trout up to 14 inches, and some up to 20 inches. Try fishing along the bankhides. Downstream of the Highway 76 bridge is catch-and-release and artificial lure only. Stocked weekly with catchable rainbow and brook trout upstream (west) of Dorchester.

Ron Johnson

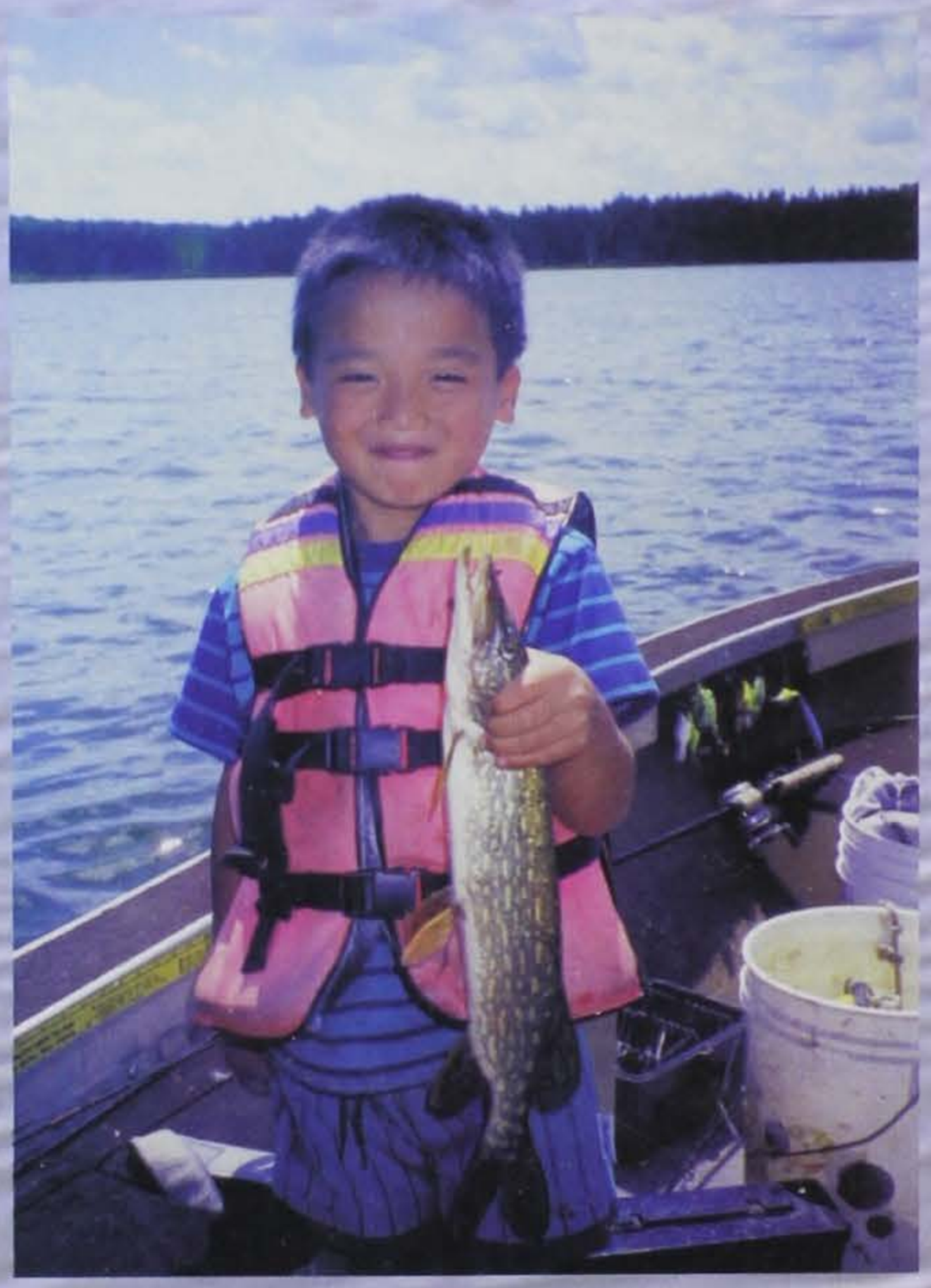
WALLEYE

Cedar River, Bremer, *Floyd, Black Hawk, Chickasaw and Mitchell*	Fingerling stockings have made for good populations of quality fish throughout this major river system.
Maquoketa River, *Delaware*	Good population of 14- to 20-inch walleyes below Manchester and the Lake Delhi dam.
Mississippi River, Pools 9 through 15	The catch of walleyes is down slightly from previous years, however, it is still the major producer of walleyes in Iowa. Fish the tailwaters in March and April and late fall. Work the wingdams in post-spawn and summer and again in early fall with crawlers and crankbaits. Use crankbaits during the summer in the deeper, flowing sloughs such as Lansing Big Slough (Pool 9), Harpers and Wyalusing Sloughs (Pool 10) and Cassville Slough (Pool 11).
Shell Rock River, *Butler*	Good numbers of quality-size fish all through Butler County.
Wapsipinicon River, *Buchanan*	Excellent numbers from Littleton downstream. Abundant 14- to 18-inch fish. Ten-pounders caught every year. Fish the deeper pools in late fall and winter using a jig tipped with a minnow or a nitecrawler.

Northern Pike Fishing

in Iowa's Shallow-Water Lakes

Article by Bert Noll
Photos by Ed Thelen



Northern pike fishing in Iowa's shallow lakes is an activity that can be enjoyed by anglers of all ages.

Perhaps no single species has inspired more lies than northern pike – the "water wolf of the weeds." The larger the lie, the more often it's repeated. Surely such an awesome predator, which stalks the waters of Minnesota and Canada, could not be found in Iowa. Or could it?

Excellent populations of northern pike lay undiscovered and underused in numerous shallow-water lakes – lakes easily accessible by both shore anglers and boaters. Recent surveys conducted by the DNR in the northwest region of Iowa on Little Swan, High, Tuttle, Silver (Palo Alto County) and Trumbull lakes have identified several different age groups and sizes of northern pike. Several fish, larger than 10 pounds, were observed in the surveys.

Northern pike are referred to as "cool-water" fish, meaning they prefer lower temperatures than warm-water fish such as largemouth bass but higher than cold-water fish such as trout. Large pike (30 inches-plus) could almost be classified as "cold-water" fish since they prefer 50- to 55-degree F water temperatures. Small pike, however, prefer water in the 62- to 72-degree F temperature range.

Water temperature is the driving force behind pike activity. Northern pike are more active during the cooler periods of the year. They are particularly active following ice-out through the early spring period (April-June). With the arrival of summer and increasing water temperatures, pike activity slows. Legend has it that this inactive period is due to pike losing their teeth, a tale which has long since been refuted.

With the coming of fall and the accompanying drop in water temperatures, pike activity once again picks up. The increased activity lasts into, and throughout, the winter ice fishing season.

Unlike the muskellunge, which also belongs to the pike family, northerns are not particularly selective feeders. Northern pike face a high degree of competition from other pike and eat whatever and whenever they can, making them highly susceptible to angling.

Both early spring and fall fishing offer some of the best opportunities to catch pike, although in early spring, fish are

The "water wolf of the weeds" is a cool water fish, lurking in in Iowa's lakes during the cooler periods of the year.

more concentrated. Pike are spring spawners and as ice-out begins and water temperatures rise, pre-spawn activity intensifies. During this ice-to-open-water transition, typically in early April, pike begin to seek out spawning areas. At this time, pike slowly cruise the marshes or bays of lakes choosing spawning sites. Vegetated bays and feeder creeks are the best places to fish during pre-spawn.

Although many shallow lakes are devoid of vegetation, pike generally prefer shallow, soft-bottomed bays with slightly colored water. Very clear water is usually not productive. Also, during the pre-spawn period, the most intense activity occurs during the afternoon, after the water has warmed.

Excellent fishing begins early near the shore, when ice still covers the majority of the lake. Big pike may actually lie under the protective ice cover in bays or at the edge of open water. Because of the partial ice cover, boat access is limited and consequently, this is an excellent opportunity for shore anglers. Some cast onto the ice shelf and let their bait fall to entice a strike. Fast action will continue until the water temperature reaches 40 to 52 degrees F, at which time pike begin to spawn and virtually quit feeding.

Fishing improves again during post-spawn and throughout early summer, although it doesn't match the early spring period.

As summer begins to wane, falling water temperature again draws pike into the shallows to forage. Shallow lakes are the first to cool and offer good pike fishing. When surface water temperature falls to 65 degrees F and lower, pike begin to actively feed. Although they are not as concentrated as in the spring, pike continue to cruise the shorelines and shallow bays on a feeding binge that continues for several weeks.

Pike continue to feed throughout the winter. Anglers often take some

NORTHWEST
State Fish Hatchery
712/336-1840
Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Sioux

Black Hawk Area Office
712/657-2638
Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas, Sac, Webster, Woodbury

Fish and Wildlife Stat.
641/357-3517
Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Humboldt, Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Wright

NORTHEAST
319/252-1156
Mississippi River
Pools 9,10,11

Research Station
319/872-4976
Mississippi River
Pools 12,13,14,15

State Fish Hatchery
319/927-3276
Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson

State Fish Hatchery
319/382-8324
Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell, Winneshiek

SOUTHWEST
Cold Springs State Park
712/769-2587
Adair, Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Pottawattamie, Shelby

State Fish Hatchery
641/464-3108
Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Page, Ringgold, Taylor, Union

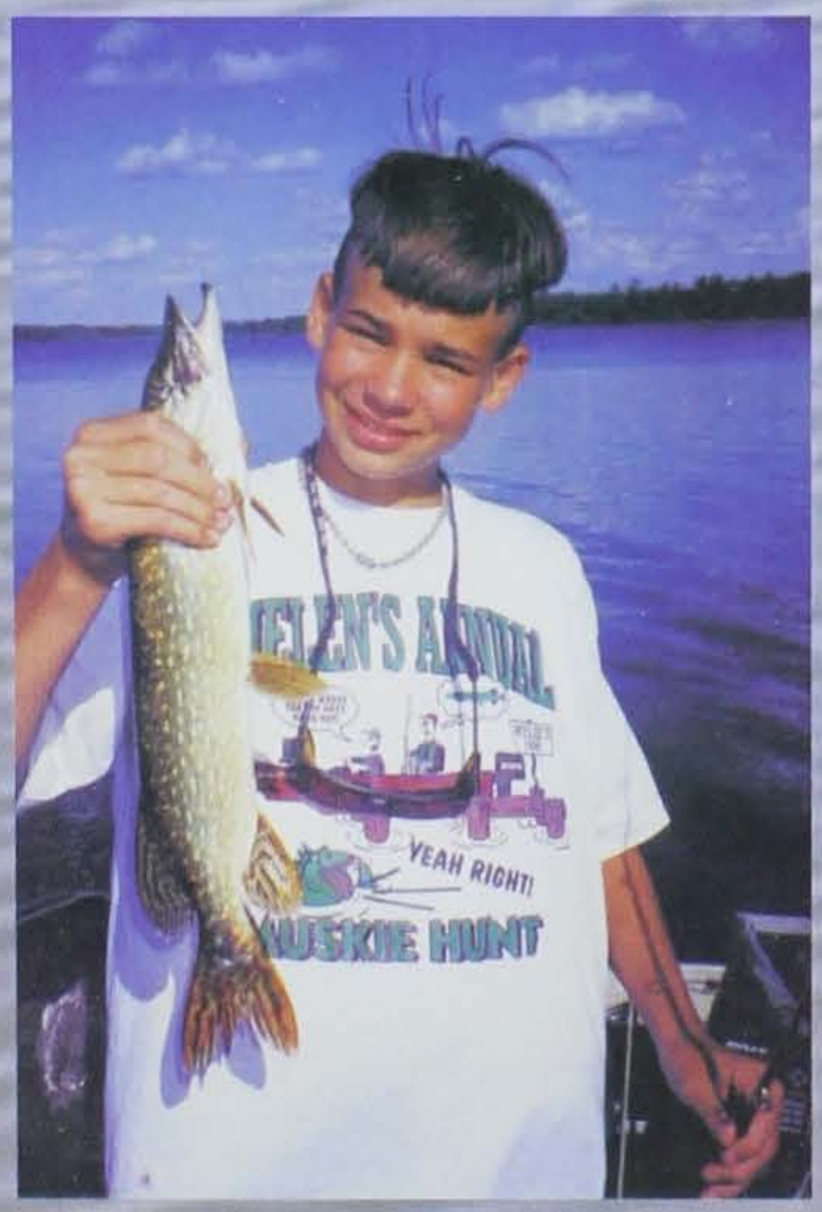
Research Station
515/432-2823
Boone, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, Warren

SOUTHEAST
State Fish Hatchery
641/647-2406
Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, Mahaska, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne

Lake Darling Station
319/694-2430
Clinton, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Scott, Washington

State Fish Hatchery
319/263-5063
Mississippi River
Pools 16,17,18, 19

Macbride Station
319/644-3615
Benton, Cedar, Grundy, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Marshall, Poweshiek, Tama



of the biggest pike of the year through the ice.

Pike eat virtually any food item they encounter. Large pike forage on dead but not decaying fish. This behavior maximizes the food value associated with feeding. Therefore, the most economical and simple approach is to use bait – live or dead. The baitfish method will often out-produce artificials.

Many anglers argue live baitfishing is tedious, and the more rapid casting approach allows anglers to cover more productive water and increases the odds for landing big fish. However, during the spring, pike cruise the shallow spawning areas barely inching along. Where a quickly retrieved lure may prove unproductive, the fish just might snap up a piece of easily acquired "natural" bait.

Baitfishing doesn't have to be tossing out a sucker and nodding off for a few hours. Baitfish can be fished aggressively. A proven technique involves suspending the bait about halfway down the water column and "prodding" it from time to time. These vibrations often attract pike. Changing locations also helps.

The most popular baitfish are suckers, large shiners and chubs because of their availability. Oily baitfish, such as ciscoes and smelt, are popular because their oil acts as an attractant. As a general rule, the baitfish should be one-fourth to one-third of the desired pike's length to generate much interest. Simply, large baits frequently attract large pike.

There are various ways to hook a baitfish, the most common being through the snout or just behind the dorsal fin. Use a hook large enough to

set securely into the baitfish. A common mistake made by bait anglers is using hooks that are too small. Another effective method is to use a quick strike rig, composed of a dual hook arrangement that increases your chances when hook setting. Insert the trailing hook near the pectoral fin and the leading hook between the dorsal fin and the tail. Quick strike rigs can be purchased at tackle stores.

Ideally, a 6-1/2- to 7-1/2-foot medium-heavy fast action bait casting rod with a high-speed reel is best during the open-water season. Spinning reels are fine but a baitcasting reel with a clicker signals a bite and offers little resistance so the fish can easily take line. A long rod makes it easier to lob casts so the bait doesn't snap off. Baitcasting also makes it easier to pick up slack and set the hook. Reels should be spooled with 20-pound line tipped with a braided wire leader. One drawback to dead baitfishing is pike will usually swallow the hook. Therefore, it is necessary to carry long-nosed pliers or a hook out.

For ice fishing, select a fairly stiff jigging rod about 3-1/2 feet long with a spinning or baitcasting reel spooled with 8- to 12-pound line. Many ice anglers use a jigging Rapala or Kastmaster, or dead baitfish with a quick-strike rig. Another interesting ice fishing technique is jigging with cutbait or strips of baitfish on a treble hook. The enticing jigging motion of the bait, combined with its natural smell, is effective.

Tip-up fishing often accounts for a vast majority of pike taken through the ice. Tip-ups are stationary mechanisms, set nearby, which allows the angler to fish more than one hole. When a fish strikes, a flag signals a fish may be on. Sometimes pike prefer stationary bait, while other times they need to be enticed by movement. Using a tip-up baited with a baitfish while jigging with an artificial lure allows the angler multiple presentations.

Northern pike offer exciting fishing, whether it is spring, fall or winter. An exciting outdoor experience with "the water wolf of the weeds" may not be far from your own home.

To locate lakes with pike populations in your area, contact the fisheries station nearest you (see the locations and phone numbers on page 26) or write the DNR at 502 E. 9th St., Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 for a free *Iowa Fishing Guide*.

Northern pike continue to feed throughout the winter months. Anglers may take some of the largest pike of the year while ice fishing.

Bert Noll is a natural resource aide at the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery.

Iowa EarthYear 2000

Passes Baton to

Keepers of the Land

By Diane Ford-Shivvers

Clay Smith

Governor Vilsack talks with school children at the November 16, 1999 press conference proclaiming 2000 as the "Year of the Environment" in Iowa, and announcing the Iowa EarthYear 2000 campaign.

Iowa EarthYear 2000, a statewide campaign to encourage conservation and environmental projects in communities across the state, is winding down. With support from the Iowa EarthYear 2000 program, thousands of volunteers completed more than 950 projects across the state in Iowa's "Year of the Environment." More than 100 communities received grants to supplement their projects.

Iowa EarthYear 2000 was a cooperative effort with individuals, businesses and agencies as partners. Donors that helped ensure the success of this campaign included Alliant Energy, Rockwell Collins, MidAmerican Energy, Brenton Banks, Townsend Engineering, Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company, Dr. Willard Boyd and the DNR.

"We have the momentum going with a solid base of committed Iowans to phase EarthYear 2000 into 'Keepers of the Land,' a long-term, natural resources volunteer program that will ensure the spirit continues," said Stefanie Forret, Iowa EarthYear 2000 coordinator.

The Iowa EarthYear 2000 finale, Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards and the kickoff for Keepers of the Land took place on December 14, 2000. Governor Vilsack, Lt. Governor Sally Pederson, Michele Eginoire, USDA/NRCS National Volunteer Coordinator for Earth Team, and Dan Gable, former head wrestling coach at the University of Iowa, spoke at the event.

Keepers of the Land Builds on Iowa EarthYear 2000

The Keepers of the Land volunteer program will build on the EarthYear 2000 projects, as well as the existing volunteer efforts in the DNR.

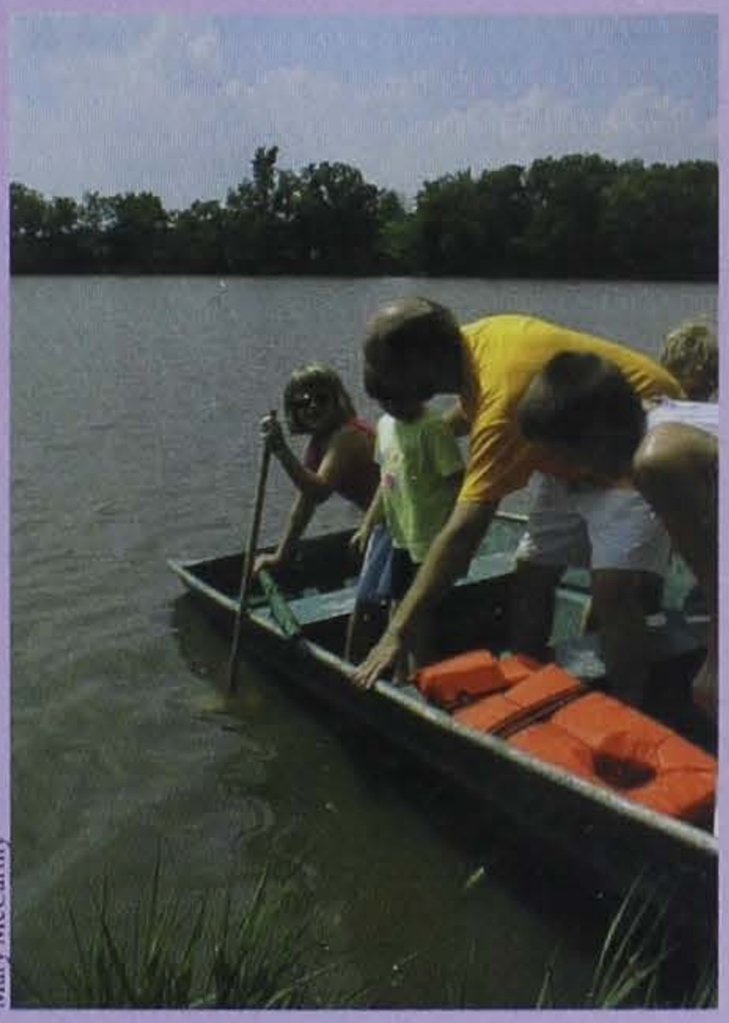
Volunteers have always played a big role in the department. Staff reported 26,230 volunteers donated more than 93,223 hours to the DNR in 2000. Volunteers work in a wide variety of areas. They have cleaned up parks, completed renovation projects, improved trails, monitored our waters, conducted hunter and other safety courses, served as camp-

ground hosts, and taught our children about our natural areas. The goal of the Keepers of the Land program is to make it easy for Iowans to volunteer and become involved.

Expansion Of DNR AmeriCorps Program Strengthens Volunteer Efforts

The expansion of the DNR Keepers of the Land/AmeriCorps program will also help build and strengthen natural resources volunteering. AmeriCorps, often referred to as the "Peace Corps in the United States," is a national service program helping to meet the nation's critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, human needs and the environment. The DNR program was awarded a $517,000 federal grant to recruit 22 full-time, 2 part-time and 20 seasonal members across the state who will help plan local volunteer projects to improve our natural resources. "The

Clay Smith



Mary McCarthy

Clay Smith

TOP: Alliant Energy Corporation Environmental Officer Joseph Shefchek presented a $75,000 check to Iowa EarthYear 2000 Chair Lt. Governor Sally Pederson in April 2000. Alliant Energy provided the money for many of the EarthYear 2000 community project grants across the state.

LEFT: Iowa EarthYear 2000 volunteers at Bob White State Park near Allerton conduct a water clarity test at the lake.

RIGHT: Lt. Governor Sally Pederson, Iowa EarthYear 2000 Chair, helps out on Earth Day 2000, participating in the Loess Hills Prairie Rescue. Twenty sites are identified for volunteer efforts for Earth Day 2001, to help clear our rare prairie remnants.

A DNR AmeriCorps crew carries on the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and 40s by restoring a trail in Dolliver Memorial State Park.

Mark Edwards

Volunteers conduct a fish sampling in an Iowa stream.

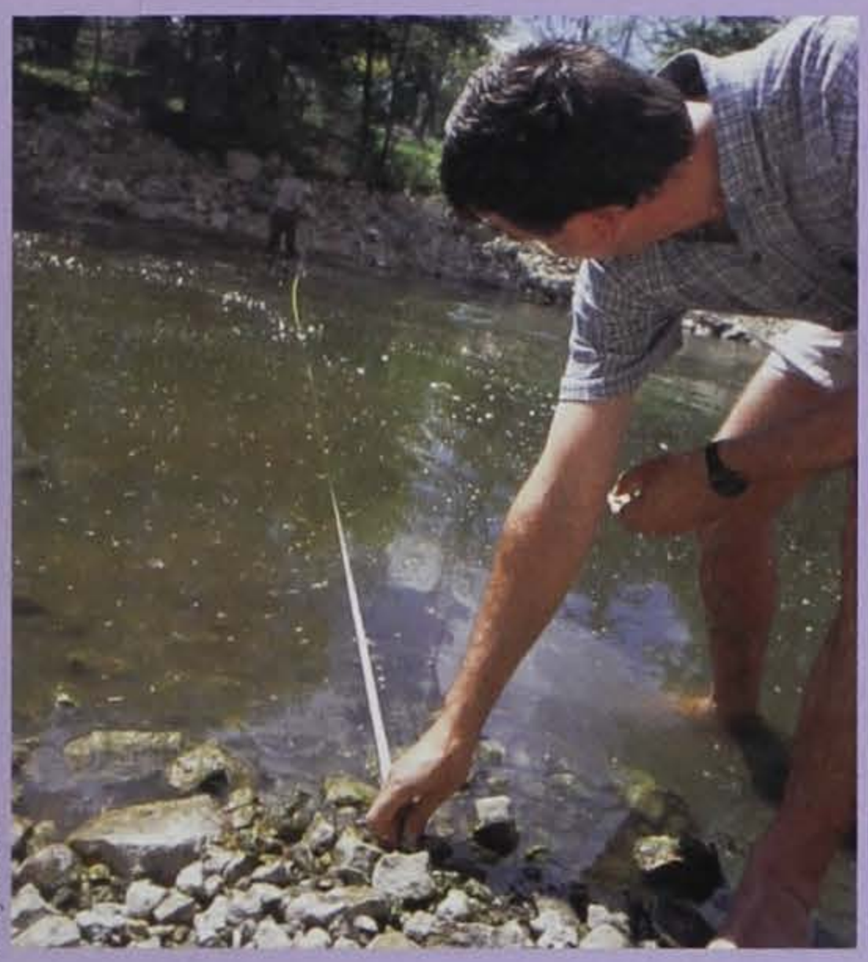
passion of the AmeriCorps members provides hope, while their hard work and dedication repairs the natural communities supporting us all," said Mark Edwards, AmeriCorps Program Director.

Building Connections

The value of volunteers goes way beyond the work performed. Volunteers gain a deeper understanding, knowledge and appreciation of our natural resources. They help the DNR forge more and stronger partnerships with individuals and groups. Volunteers become informed activists and ambassadors for the DNR, and our links to their communities. Young volunteers connect to Iowa — to this beautiful land between two rivers — and that may keep them in this state after graduation. Some volunteers may become the major funders of our programs. Volunteers can say what needs to be said and wield the power of constituents.

We Can't Do It Without You

For more information about the Keepers of the Land/AmeriCorps Program or Volunteer Program, contact Mark Edwards, AmeriCorps Program Director, Mark.Edwards@dnr.state.ia.us, or Diane Ford-Shivvers, Keepers of the Land Volunteer Coordinator,



Clay Smith

Mark Edwards

Todd Fritz

TOP LEFT: Water resources are of premier importance to Iowans. Through the IOWATER program, volunteers help monitor Iowa's water quality.

TOP RIGHT: AmeriCorps member V Pierce conducts a bird watching hike at Waubonsie State Park.

volunteer@dnr.state.ia.us, or write the Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. For more information about both programs, visit the DNR web site at www.state.ia.us/dnr.

Diane Ford-Shivvers is the Keepers of the Land Volunteer Coordinator for the department in Des Moines.

Friends of Lacey-Keosaqua State Park volunteers, park staff and a DNR AmeriCorps crew worked together to construct a playground funded by the Friends group.

▶ The money from natural resources license plates goes to the Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund—REAP. Created in 1989, REAP has received the highest national award for conservation programs. So far, it has generated $70 million and rising. To buy a set of the $35 plates, take your current plates and registration to your county treasurer and request the natural resource plates.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

REAP In Action

fish awards 2000

The following list includes the top 10 entries and released of each species taken in 2000. Current state records are in bold type. An (*) indicates a new record this year.

Weight/Length	Date	Angler, Hometown	Location/County
Bass, largemouth (minimum 7 lbs. or 22")			
10lbs 12oz	**5/84**	**Patricia Zaerr, Davenport**	**Lake Fisher, Davis**
10lbs 8oz	7/3	Jack Riney, Ames	Gravel Pit, Hamilton
8lbs 10oz	4/23	David Duede, Anita	Farm Pond, Cass
8lbs 10oz	1/31	Joe Panther, Cedar Falls	Private Pit, Black Hawk
8lbs 8oz	4/2	Brian W. Buhrman, Omaha	Farm Pond, Mills
8lbs 8oz	4/29	Edna Mitchell, Humeston	Farm Pond, Lucas
8lbs 7oz	10/20	Arlie VanderHoek, Pella	Lake Diamond, Poweshiek
8lbs 5oz	3/19	Steve Philby, Red Oak	Farm Pond, Montgomery
8lbs 1oz	4/8	Mike Haines, Davenport	Monroe
8lbs 1oz	8/31	Dick Suntken, Lake View	Gravel Pit, Sac
8lbs	3/28	Timothy E. Lane, Sioux City	Farm Pond, Woodbury
Released			
24.25"	7/15	Lucy L. Govig, Clarinda	Pioneer Park, Page
24.5"	3/26	John Myers, Prairie City	Sundown Lake, Appanoose
23.5"	6/18	B. J. Franson, Grant	Pilot Grove Park, Montgomery
23.5"	8/21	Brian G. Petersen, Harlan	Prairie Rose Lake, Shelby
23.5"	8/21	Brian Kurt Peterson, W. Des Moines	Prairie Rose Lake, Shelby
23"	9/1	Forrest Jones, Centerville	Rathbun Lake, Appanoose
22.5"	6/4	Greg Franson, Grant	Farm Pond, Montgomery
22.5"	6/15	Jeanie Govig, Saint Joseph	Windmill Lake, Taylor
22"	6/17	James Buck, Cherokee	Farm Pond, Cherokee
22"	7/16	Mark Farley, Donahue	Lake of Three Fires, Taylor
22"	6/6	Kyle Franson, Grant	Farm Pond, Montgomery
22"	7/23	Dennis Govig, Saint Joseph	Pioneer Park, Page
22"	3/6	Steven J. Walker, Red Oak	Farm Pond, Montgomery

Weight/Length	*Date*	*Angler, Hometown*	*Location/County*

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

7lbs 12oz	**9/90**	**Rick Gray, Dickinson**	**West Okoboji, Dickinson**
5lbs 8oz	6/7	Michael Sabers, Iowa City	West Okoboji, Dickinson
4lbs 14oz	9/9	Derrick Dowd, Waterloo	Upper Iowa River, Howard
4lbs 10oz	8/13	Dana D. Dowd, New Hampton	Upper Iowa River, Howard
4lbs 7oz	5/28	Roger G. Beukland, Emmetsburg	West Okoboji, Dickinson
4lbs 5oz	5/6	Paul DeMuth, Milford	West Okoboji, Dickinson
4lbs 5oz	5/6	James Sangl, Milford	West Okoboji, Dickinson
4lbs 4oz	5/6	Andy Elsbecker, Spencer	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
4lbs 2oz	6/20	Brunhilde Petersen, Harlan	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
4lbs 1oz	6/15	Steve Steinert, Fort Collins	West Okoboji, Dickinson

Released

20.75"	12/28	Mike Salzmann, Granville	West Okoboji, Dickinson
20.5"	8/29	Merlyn Scheller, Spirit Lake	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
20.25"	8/18	Zachary Damon Shelton, Sioux Rapids	West Okaboji Lake, Dickinson
20"	8/6	Chris Davis, Spirit Lake	Spirit Lake, Dickinson

Bass, white (minimum 2.5 lbs.)

3lbs 14oz	**5/72**	**Bill Born, Milford**	**West Okoboji, Dickinson**
3lbs 6oz	7/2	Dale Pretzer, Newton	Red Rock, Marion
3lbs	4/2	Jeffrey Lindaman, Iowa City	Iowa River, Johnson
2lbs 14oz		Bill Ferns, Spirit Lake	East Lake, Dickinson
2lbs 12oz	10/24	Dwight Durfey, Cedar Rapids	Mississippi River, Allamakee
2lbs 12oz	8/3	Rick Dye, Knoxville	Red Rock Lake, Marion
2lbs 11oz	5/16	Matthew S. Lovelace, Coralville	Iowa River, Johnson

Bass, wiper (minimum 4 lbs.)

18lbs 15oz	**9/97**	**Don Ostergaard, Des Moines**	**Des Moines River, Polk**
14lbs 12oz	4/1	Brad Oliver, Coon Rapids	Saylorville Spillway, Polk
14lbs 1oz	8/13	Gary W. Thomas, Marshalltown	Lake Red Rock, Marion
12lbs	4/22	Kenneth Houseman, Des Moines	Des Moines River, Polk
10lbs	3/3	Jason Storm, Chariton	Des Moines River, Marion
10lbs	4/5	John Zaspal, Cedar Rapids	Iowa River, Johnson
9lbs 15oz	10/21	Roger Benge, West Liberty	Des Moines River, Wapello
4lbs 1oz	7/3	Mark D. Mohler, Urbandale	Saylorville, Polk

Bass, yellow (minimum .75 lbs.)

1lbs 9oz	**4/91**	**Bill Campbell, Council Bluffs**	**Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie**
1lbs 9oz		Michael Grandick, Underwood	Lake Anita, Cass
1lbs 1oz	8/31	Joe Schwartz, Griswold	Lake Anita, Cass
1lbs	8/10	Bobby G. Gosier, Omaha	Arrowhead Lake, Sac
1lbs	2/5	Steve Kolb, Pocahontas	Arrowhead Lake, Sac
15oz	4/21	Jason Mooney, Wall Lake	Arrowhead, Sac
14oz	5/22	William C. Clausen, Lake View	Arrowhead, Sac

Weight/Length	*Date*	*Angler, Hometown*	*Location/County*
14oz	10/21	Ted Love, Council Bluffs	Viking Lake, Montgomery
13oz	10/1	Deborah Gray, Pomeroy	Arrowhead Lake, Sac
12oz	5/18	Cliff E. Hendrix, Council Bluffs	Manawa Lake, Pottawattamie

Bluegill (minimum 1 lbs.)

3lbs 2oz	**7/86**	**Phil Algreen, Earlham**	**Farm Pond, Madison**
2lbs 6oz		Daniel Gaffey, Iowa City	Farm Pond, Johnson
2lbs 6oz	5/25	Justin Starr, Bloomfield	Farm Pond, Davis
2lbs	5/23	Ann Weikert, Muscatine	Lake Wappello, Davis
1lbs 13oz	7/29	Alice A. Horsley, Sioux City	Farm Pond, Woodbury
1lbs 12oz	5/28	Michael Hall, Massena	Cass
1lbs 8oz	7/3	William T. Cleveland, Lake View	County Pit, Sac
1lbs 8oz	5/29	Rodney Stites, Chariton	Farm Pond, Lucas
1lbs 6oz	8/3	Michael Schettler, Le Mars	LeMars Sandpit, Plymouth
1lbs 4oz	2/2	Edward D. Divis, Sioux City	Farm Pond, Plymouth
1lbs 4oz	5/22	David Stevens, Dyersville	Sand Pit, Delaware

Bowfin/Dogfish (minimum 5 lbs.)

11lbs 9oz	**5/94**	**Bill Gretten, Blue Grass**	**Mississippi River, Clayton**
5lbs 8oz		Gary L. Huffman, Washington	Cone Lake, Muscatine

Buffalo (minimum 20 lbs.)

63lbs 6oz	**8/99**	**Jim Winters, Jesup**	**Mississippi River, Allamakee**
32lbs 7oz	4/25	William O. Sass, Waterloo	Cedar River, Black Hawk

Carp (minimum 25 lbs.)

50lbs	**5/69**	**Fred Hougland, Glenwood**	**Glenwood Lake, Mills**
42lbs		Gordon Allen, Council Bluffs	Pony Creek, Mills
25lbs 12oz	5/24	Tosten Langholz, Spencer	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
25lbs	6/15	Travis Lansing, Fort Dodge	Spirit Lake, Dickinson

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

74lbs 8oz	**8/99**	**Pat Lutz, Panora**	**Missouri River, Pottawattamie**
68lbs	9/24	Pat Lutz, Panora	Missouri River, Pottawattamie
20lbs 5oz	7/11	Darrell DeJong, Oskaloosa	Des Moines River, Marion
41"	7/12	Jason M. Rhea, Tabor	Missouri River, Fremont

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

36lbs 8oz	**8/93**	**Ron Goodwin, Earlham**	**Mid. Raccoon River, Dallas**
21lbs 9oz	7/3	Will Williams, Tipton	Cedar River, Cedar
19lbs 15oz	9/28	Jean Harris, Omaha	West Okojobi Lake, Dickinson
19lbs 10oz	5/29	Scott Echelberger, Otho	Pond, Webster
17lbs 6oz	5/22	Edward Tomka, Carroll	Farm Pond, Carroll
17lbs 5oz	8/12	Stephan Graham, Spencer	Spirit Lake, Dickinson

Weight/Length	*Date*	*Angler, Hometown*	*Location/County*
17lbs	5/28	Daniel L. Gray, Clarinda	Farm Pond, Fremont
17lbs	7/24	John Lucky, Red Oak	Farm Pond, Montgomery
17lbs	7/12	Tyler Secor, Spirit Lake	West Okoboji, Dickinson
16lbs 8oz	7/25	Randall R. Eilderts, Atlantic	Nishnabotna, Cass
16lbs	6/30	Stewart Edie, Council Bluffs	Glenwood Lake, Mills
Released			
21lbs 8oz	9/17	Kevin J. Bley, Waterloo	Pleasant Creek Lake, Linn
32.25"	9/11	Donald Buswell, Carroll	Farm Pond, Carroll
32"		Joe Buckley, Omaha	Quarry Pond, Webster
31"	4/23	Jess Swanson, New London	Skunk River, Henry
30.5"	11/15	Matthew S. Lovelace, Coralville	Wapsipinicon River, Jones

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

81lbs	**6/58**	**Joe Baze, Chariton**	**Lake Ellis, Lucas**
60lbs	5/18	John R. Kelly, Davenport	Mississippi River, Scott
52lbs	2/24	Ron Cardwell, Sioux City	Big Sioux River, Woodbury
50lbs	8/17	John Weiser Jr. Ankeny	Des Moines River, Polk
49lbs	7/29	Jason Vanden Linden, Lone Tree	Iowa River, Johnson
49lbs	7/29	Brandon Wieland, Lone Tree	Iowa River, Johnson
47lbs	10/31	Pat Lutz, Panora	Missouri River, Pottawattamie
45lbs 6oz	9/15	David L. Anderson, Boone	Des Moines River, Boone
43 lbs	6/18	Dustin Douthart, Fairfield	Skunk River, Keokuk
43 lbs	5/5	Jeremy Musland, Schleswig	Big Sioux River, Plymouth
40lbs	4/21	Robert E. Coil, Jefferson	Raccoon River, Greene
Released			
33lbs 5oz	8/4	Jason Toms, Cedar Rapids	Iowa River, Johnson
22lbs 12oz		Patrick A. Hulett, Davis City	Grand River, Decatur
38.5"	8/15	Chris Mosman, Carroll	North Racoon, Carroll
37"	8/17	Charles Spahn, Dubuque	Dubuque

Crappie (minimum 2 lbs.)

4lbs 9oz	**5/81**	**Ted Trowbridge, Marshalltown**	**Green Castle Lake, Marshall**
3lbs 8oz	4/9	Troy Utzinger, Washington	Coralville Reservoir, Johnson
3lbs 5oz	4/28	Erik Bowden, Otley	Red Rock, Marion
3lbs	1/30	Greg Benson, Gowrie	Farm Pond, Wright
3lbs	1/30	Kirk A. Benson, Clare	Farm Pond, Wright
3lbs	4/25	Larry Williams, Toddville	Backwater, Linn
3lbs	4/28	Dave Zellinger, Newton	Red Rock Lake, Marion
2lbs 12oz	5/6	Jon Erickson, Postville	Hoth's Farm Pond, Winneshiek
2lbs 10oz		Kevan Paul, Forest City	Farm Pond, Winnebago
2lbs 10oz	4/8	Damian Rothmeyer, Carter Lake	Carter Lake, Pottawattamie
2lbs 8oz	2/13	Jacob Lueck, Osceola	West Lake, Clarke

Drum, freshwater (minimum 15 lbs.)

46 lbs	**10/62**	**R.F. Farran, Clarion**	**Spirit Lake, Dickinson**
15lbs 8oz	6/9	Stewart Edie, Council Bluffs	West Okoboji, Dickinson

Weight/Length	*Date*	*Angler, Hometown*	*Location/County*

Goldeneye/Mooneye (minimum 1.25 lbs.)

2lbs 4oz	**6/92**	**Mark Ikle, Farmington**	**Des Moines River, VanBuren**
1lbs 5oz	8/4	Michael Oberbroeckling, New Vienna	Mississippi River, Clayton
1lbs 4oz	2/21	Matthew S. Lovelace, Coralville	Iowa River, Johnson

Green sunfish (minimum 1 lbs.)

***2lbs 1oz**	**7/00**	**Ralph Mayer, Knoxville**	**Farm Pond, Marion**
1lbs 3oz	7/8	Timothy A. Shinkle, Atlantic	Farm Pond, Adams

Muskellunge (minimum 15 lbs. or 40")

***50lbs 6oz**	**8/00**	**Kevin Cardwell, Spirit Lake**	**Big Spirit, Dickinson**
36lbs 2oz	7/29	Dennis Heidebrink, Worthington	West Okoboji, Dickinson
36lbs	7/13	Edward D. Kline, Mason City	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo
28lbs 5oz		Greg Beckett, Polk City	Saylorville, Polk
27lbs 1oz	9/3	Curtis Leuck, Silver Lake	West Okoboji, Dickinson
24lbs 15oz	7/12	Jeremy Sawyer, Marshalltown	East Okoboji, Dickinson
21lbs 12oz	1/2	Travis Alan Roberts, Spencer	West Lake Okoboji, Dickinson
20lbs 14oz	1/6	Christopher Jon Furman, Arnolds Park	West Okoboji, Dickinson
17lbs 14oz	8/22	Tosten Langholz, Spencer	West Okoboji, Dickinson
17lbs 14oz	5/22	Jamie Wilson, Storm Lake	West Okoboji, Dickinson
Released			
47"	8/7	Shannon Green, Spencer	West Okoboji, Dickinson

Northern pike (minimum 10 lbs. or 34")

25lbs 5oz	**2/77**	**Allen Forsberg, Albert City**	**West Okoboji, Dickinson**
23lbs 6oz	8/5	Jeff Ralston, Monticello	Private Trout Pond, Jackson
19lbs	5/14	Bill Glienke, Webb	Clay
18lbs 13oz	3/5	Richard Philp, Havelock	Trumbull, Clay
18lbs		Brody Fisher, Garwin	Union Grove Lake, Tama
15lbs 8oz	1/16	Gene Traeger, Dyersville	Bussey Lake, Clayton
15lbs	4/4	Ryan Whiteland, Nevada	Farm Pond, Story
14lbs 4oz	3/26	Ron Lopata, Walker	Wapsipinicon River, Buchanan
14lbs 3oz		Gary Venz, Manly	Shell Rock River, Worth
14lbs	6/10	Russ Slaman, Cedar Rapids	Rock Quarry, Linn
14lbs	3/26	Richard Taylor, Rowan	Iowa River, Wright
Released			
39"	5/13	Mark Cottrell, Kensett	Shellrock River, Worth
37"		Bob Schroeder, Postville	Village Creek Boat Landing, Allamakee
36"	10/3	Andrew H. Nowasell, Iowa Falls	Iowa River, Hardin
34"	11/18	Jeff Lindaman, Iowa City	Cedar River, Blackhawk

Paddlefish (minimum 25 lbs.)

107lbs	**3/81**	**Robert Pranschke, Onawa**	**Missouri River, Monona**
30lbs 13oz	2/22	Robert Valleroy, Stockton	Mississippi, Jackson

Weight/Length	*Date*	*Angler, Hometown*	*Location/County*

Perch, yellow (minimum 1 lbs.)

2lbs 3oz	**3/94**	**Daniel Borchardt, Mason City**	**Morse Lake, Wright**
1lbs 6oz	2/15	Kenneth M. Hanson, Lansing	Mississippi River, Allamakee
1lbs 4oz		Darrell Ahlers, Laurens	Pickeral, Buena Vista

Sauger (minimum 2.5 lbs. or 18")

6lbs 8oz	**10/76**	**Mrs. W. Buser, Sloan**	**Missouri River, Woodbury**
5lbs 4oz	6/16	Wes Mahan, Sioux City	Missouri River, Woodbury
4lbs 12oz	3/25	Kent K. Kruger, Ionia	Mississippi River, Allamakee
4lbs 2oz	10/9	Daniel J. Wohlert, Sioux City	Missouri River, Woodbury
4lbs	3/26	Don Christoffer, Evansdale	Mississippi River, Clayton
3lbs 11oz	12/2	Louis K. Fisher, Blue Grass	Mississippi River
3lbs 8oz	3/29	Mark L. Bentley, Iowa City	Mississippi River, Muscatine
3lbs 8oz	8/12	Marcia D. Davis, Sioux City	Missouri River, Woodbury
3lbs 4oz	10/25	Ed Fox, Silvis	Mississippi River, Scott
2lbs 13oz	9/28	Kevin Drees, Dyersville	Mississippi River, Clayton
2lbs 11oz		Danny D. Ford Jr., Eddyville	Des Moines River, Wapello
2lbs 10oz	1/28	Craig A. Deutmeyer, Dyersville	Mississippi River, Clayton
Released			
19.5"	11/4	Tedd Knobloch, Durant	Mississippi River, Muscatine

Saugeye (minimum 6 lbs. or 25")

***12lbs 4oz**	**3/00**	**Don Ostergaard, Des Moines**	**Des Moines River, Polk**
9lbs 10oz	3/19	Dan VanGundy, Ankeny	Des Moines River, Polk
8lbs 4oz	2/24	Dennis Goodrich, Stanton	Twelve Mile Lake, Union
8lbs 3oz	3/26	Hunter Driscoll, Clarinda	Twelve Mile, Union

Sturgeon, shovelnose (minimum 3 lbs.)

12lbs	**4/74**	**Randy Hemm, Douds**	**Des Moines River, Van Buren**
3lbs 5oz	2/27	Matthew S. Lovelace, Coralville	Iowa River, Johnson

Sucker (minimum 4 lbs.)

15lbs 1oz	**9/83**	**Glen E. Dittman, Onawa**	**Missouri River, Monona**
9lbs	6/5	Mark Andrew McKenna, Salix	Missouri River, Woodbury

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

7lbs	**7/96**	**David Kovarik, Marion**	**Fountain Springs, Delaware**
6lbs 8oz	1/3	Matthew Wohlers, Dyersville	Bailey's Ford, Delaware
4lbs	10/11	Merle L .Kaesser, Waverly	Joy Springs, Clayton
3lbs 14oz	10/3	Jack Markussen, Waterloo	Joy Springs, Clayton
3lbs 8oz	10/6	Marty Murphy, Knoxville	Big Mill, Jackson
3lbs 2oz	10/25	Connor Quinby, Bettendorf	Bailey's Ford, Delaware
3lbs 2oz	10/25	Keegan Quinby, Bettendorf	Bailey's Ford, Delaware
2lbs 13oz	11/3	Bruce A. Smith, Vinton	Spring Branch, Delaware

Weight/Length	*Date*	*Angler, Hometown*	*Location/County*
2lbs 8oz	3/18	Christopher M. Merck, Marion	Trout Run, Winneshiek
2lbs 4oz	11/4	Thomas Osterkamp, Cedar Rapids	Spring Branch, Delaware
1lbs 8oz	6/22	Linda Merck, Marion	Sny Magill, Clayton
1lbs 8oz	10/13	Michael E. Merck, Marion	Little Paint Creek, Allamakee

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

15lbs 6oz	**6/95**	**Gerold Lewis, Gladbrook**	**North Prairie Lake, Blackhawk**
11lbs		Jeff Powers, North Liberty	Trout Run, Winneshiek
7lbs 10oz	7/2	David Pendroy, Monroe	South Bear, Winneshiek
6lbs 4oz	4/23	Jerry Steffen, Orchard	Burr Oak, Mitchell
5lbs 1oz	12/4	Bruce A. Smith, Vinton	Spring Branch, Delaware
5lbs 5oz	3/2	Patrick L. Kutsch, Dubuque	Maquoketa River, Delaware
5lbs 3oz	4/29	Wayne Pfannkuch, Williamsburg	Maquoketa River, Delaware
4lbs 8oz	4/25	Donald A. Hulsing, Denver	Maquoketa River, Clayton
4lbs 2oz	10/11	Bill Sholes, Dorchester	Waterloo, Allamakee
3lbs 12oz	7/3	Larry E. Carter, Cedar Falls	Trout Run, Winneshiek
3lbs 8oz	1/4	Nick Jordan, Boone	Turkey River, Clayton

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

19lbs. 8oz.	**7/84**	**Jack Renner, Waterloo**	**French Creek, Allamakee**
15lbs 14oz	6/9	Cletus Victor, Bellevue	Big Mill, Jackson
15lbs	5/5	Ken Kalvelage, Cresco	Coldwater, Winneshiek
10lbs 15oz	5/26	Mike Amundson, Waterloo	South Bear Creek, Winnishiek
10lbs 8oz	5/27	Josh Beyer, Waverly	Trout River, Wineshiek
10lbs		Jason Diers, Colesburg	Elk Creek-Twin Bridges, Delaware
10lbs	5/20	Jamie Forsythe, Cedar Falls	Richmond Springs, Delaware
9lbs 8oz	5/26	Tommy Stock, Greene	North Bear, Winneshiek
9lbs 5oz	4/3	Gary DeWayne Schmelzer, Muscatine	Bailey's Ford, Delaware
9lbs 4oz	3/18	Michael E. Merck, Marion	Trout Run, Winneshiek
8lbs 13oz	4/13	Randy L. Kunert, Nora Springs	South Bear, Winneshiek

Walleye (minimum 8 lbs. or 28")

14lbs 8oz	**9/86**	**Gloria Eoriatti, Ankeny**	**Des Moines River, Polk**
12lbs		Scott Grapp, Waterloo	Mississippi River, Allamakee
12lbs	3/26	Randy J. Ludwig, Dyersville	Mississippi River, Clayton
11lbs 11oz	3/12	Matthew S. Lovelace, Coralville	Coralville Reservoir, Johnson
11lbs 8oz	3/23	Cory Swearngin, Des Moines	Des Moines River, Polk
11lbs 5oz	10/23	William Senne, Aplington	Beeds Lake, Franklin
11lbs	6/11	Brian Heater, Kellogg	Ratburn Lake, Appanoose
10lbs 11oz	7/29	Rick Twedt, Marion	Wapsipinicon River, Buchanan
10lbs 7oz	11/5	Melvin L. Ellis, Cedar Rapids	Wapsipinicon River, Linn
10lbs 2oz	1/18	Francis Daly, Okoboji	West Okoboji, Dickinson
10lbs 2oz	2/24	Troy Adkisson, Stanton	Twelve Mile Lake, Union
Released			
31"	10/22	Kenneth Brokaw, Fort Dodge	
29"	10/13	Darcy Scott Johnson, Spencer	Big Spirit, Dickinson

Weight/Length	*Date*	*Angler, Hometown*	*Location/County*
29"	3/24	Brian McKean, Waterloo	Mississippi River, Allamakee
28.5"	6/23	Claire Dirks, Sioux City	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
28"	10/20	Darcy Scott Johnson, Spencer	Spirit Lake, Dickinson
28"	4/3	Larry O'Connell, Charles City	
28"	6/10	Joe Olmstead, Cedar Rapids	Five Island, Palo Alto
28"	8/23	John Toussaint, Milford	West Okoboji, Dickinson

White amur (minimum 25 lbs.)

61lbs 8oz	**5/98**	**Tyler Warner, Greenfield**	**Lake Greenfield, Adair**
52lbs.	4/30	Kevin E Bryie, Ottumwa	Farm Pond, Wapello
34lbs.	9/11	Max W. Gould, Clinton	Farm Pond, Marion

fish awards 2000

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

--New all time record fish must be examined and verified by DNR personnel.

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

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

Name _____

Street/RFD _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Species _____

Date _____

Name of Lake/Stream _____

County where caught _____

Length _____

Weight _____

Bait or lure used _____

Was this fish released? (circle one) Yes No

Witness

Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards

Twenty-three Iowa organizations, businesses and individuals were honored with environmental excellence awards from Governor Tom Vilsack at a ceremony Dec. 14 in Des Moines. The recognition is part of a new program honoring Iowans for their leadership and innovation in protecting Iowa's natural resources.

The awards program recognized comprehensive environmental programs by organizations, along with special project awards in water quality, waste management and energy efficiency/renewable energy. A leadership award for individuals, and a special youth environmental citizenship award, also were given. Here are descriptions of the 23 award winners and their projects.

Cedar Rapids Student-Built House

The Cedar Rapids Student-Built House is a long-standing program in which students build a single-family residence. Sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Community School District and

Cedar Rapids Area Board of Realtors, in 1998 the program became the first of its kind in Iowa to build an "Eco House." Project leaders and students constructed a home with limited impacts on the environment and relies on materials offering a healthy living environment. Students in the program: recycled construction materials; used high-rated insulation and other energy efficient techniques; used recycled and nontoxic materials including recycled carpet, decking, siding and roofing; and installed sustainable landscape designs. Students have created a web site and curriculum supplement regarding the Eco House for other districts to follow.

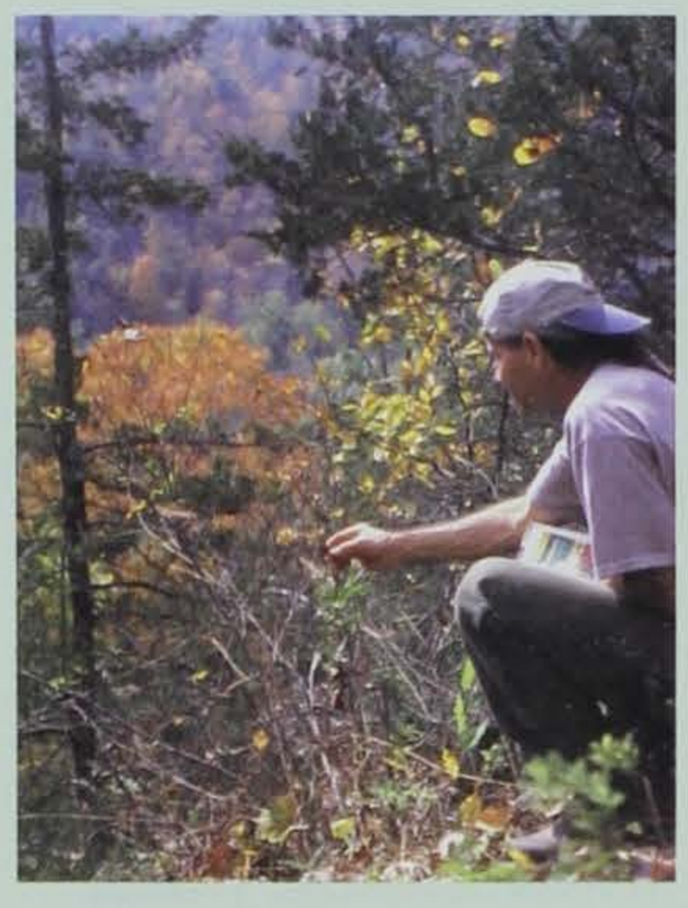
Glenwood Resource Center, Glenwood

Glenwood Resource Center in southwest Iowa is home to 400 adults and children with special needs. The campus is located on 1,200 acres in the Loess Hills. In 1995, the state facility established Project Renaissance, an innovative land management plan including prairie and wetland restoration, park enhancement areas, forest planning, energy efficiency and recycling. So far, the facility has restored 562 acres of prairie, planted more than 5,000 trees, reduced fossil fuel use for mowing by 50 percent,

saved $90,000 per year through energy efficiency efforts, and employs about 100 residents in its recycling program. Residents take an active role in appreciating natural resources.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) is a member-supported nonprofit organization that protects Iowa's land, water and wildlife "for those who follow." Since its founding in 1979, INHF has protected 55,000 acres of Iowa – more than any other private conservation organization – including wetlands, prairies, woodlands, rivers, greenbelts and trails. INHF has been involved in about 500 natural



resource projects during the last two decades. Some important examples include helping found Clean Water Alliances to improve water quality in several sensitive areas, working to establish hundreds of miles of trails in the state, and providing educational resources to landowners about best land management practices. It also has created several publications on Iowa's natural resources, including curriculum materials for K-12 students. The foundation's success is built on its ability to develop relationships with public and private citizens that create direct returns for the environment.

Motorola, Inc., Mt. Pleasant

Motorola, Inc. of Mt. Pleasant is a radio communications equipment and accessories manufacturer. Motorola has committed to conducting all business activities in a responsible manner, respecting the environment and fostering the sustainable use of the Earth's resources. One of its innovative programs is Teaming for Excellence (TFE) — all employees spend an hour each week tackling environmental and productivity issues. Through this and other efforts, Motorola has reduced landfill waste per unit shipped by 90 percent, increased plastics recycling 500 percent and reduced air emissions per 1,000 units shipped by almost 80 percent. In 1993, a TFE team developed a bulk-pack shipping system that saves $68,000 in packaging material costs and more than $142,000 in annual labor costs. Along with numerous environmental projects in their community, Motorola, Inc. uses a portion of its financial savings from environmental programs to fund community projects. The company sets the standard for environmental ethics in Iowa businesses.

Motorola's annual report details the environmental commitment of the international business leader.

Waverly Light & Power

Waverly Light & Power, a municipal utility in northeast Iowa serving 4,300 customers, has long been an environmental leader and innovator in Iowa. About 4 percent of the municipal utility's power comes from wind energy, one of the highest percentages in the country. In 1993, Waverly Light & Power became the first municipal utility in the Midwest to own and operate a wind turbine. It continues to provide leadership for the wind industry, and installed two additional 750 kW turbines near Alta in 1999. Overall, Waverly Light & Power can document nearly $143,000 in annual energy cost savings for its customers and average annual emissions reductions of 15 percent through programs including customer efficiency programs; energy-efficient, municipally owned lights and transformers; the largest per capita urban forestry program in Iowa; and patented soy-based lubricants for utility lines.

The northeast Iowa municipal utility is a state and national leader in wind power development.

Individual Leadership Awards

William Desmarais, Cedar Rapids teacher

William Desmarais, science teacher at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, exemplifies a career dedicated to the conservation of Iowa's natural resources. In addition to his work at Linn County nature centers and Iowa state parks, Desmarais has invested much of his career encouraging students to be concerned for their environment, both by lecture and by example. He re-established native prairie at Washington High School, raised $2,000 for the peregrine falcon reintroduction fund through IES Utilities, started a continuing natural history speaker series for local school districts, and initiated an Advanced Placement Environmental Science course — the first of its kind in Iowa — at Washington High School. With his extensive environmental education experience, he has been a presenter at more than 25 National Wildlife Federation conservation summit meetings. Desmarais has invested 30 years in the classroom and community, providing education and leadership to thousands of students and to Iowa's environment.

Hector Ibarra, West Branch teacher

Hector Ibarra, science teacher at West Branch Middle School, has inspired environmental awareness in students and colleagues through a number of conservation and energy projects. From innovative forestry research programs, to national awards for his science curriculum, Ibarra brings environmental education to a higher level. He began a solar racing program in 1994 that continues today, with an average of 100 solar cars entered in the race from across Iowa. He directed students at West Branch Middle School to research, persuade officials, and install highly efficient lighting systems throughout the district, saving thousands of dollars. Ibarra has taken his students to Washington DC, St. Louis and even Toyko to discuss their projects on energy efficiency and renewable energy. His efforts have influenced hundreds of Iowans, giving them a strong understanding of the environmental and economic benefits of protecting natural resources.

Special Recognition in Water Quality

Howard Soil and Water Conservation District

Howard Soil and Water Conservation District, based out of Cresco in northeast Iowa, assists landowners with resource management concerns. From 1995 to 1998 the district spearheaded the Bigalk Creek Water Quality Project to solve surface water problems on private lands through a voluntary approach. In the process, they created one of the most effective examples of improved water quality in the state and nation. The goal of the project was to reduce sediment delivery and improve the management of nutrients, pesticides and manure into the Bigalk Creek watershed, a cold water trout stream.

Because of the efforts among district employees, local farmers and other partners, Bigalk Creek went from a very low-quality water body to a habitat that is only the third in Iowa that supports natural reproduction of rainbow trout. Through the district's efforts, the trout population increased 600 percent, sediment was reduced by 12,785 tons and 25 percent of landowners in Howard County are using no-till systems for their croplands.

Iowa River Greenbelt Resource Trust, Hardin County

Iowa River Greenbelt Resource Trust is a private, nonprofit volunteer group working to preserve and protect the Iowa River in Hardin County. In 1994, the trust decided to create a comprehensive water quality monitoring program for all major surface waters in Hardin County. Through partnerships with governmental, university, environmental and youth organizations, the trust developed a stream monitoring plan and resource management guide for water quality in the area. It went on to conduct an initial fish survey in 1995, and completed a more comprehensive survey with the help of Iowa State University and other groups in 1999. The trust also worked with the ENP School District in Eldora to establish an ongoing water testing program facilitated by students. Through its efforts, the trust has developed a comprehensive baseline evaluation of a watershed area in Iowa, an important step in protecting Iowa's waterways.

Watersheds in Hardin County have been monitored and evaluated through the trust's grassroots efforts.

Metro Waste Authority, Des Moines

Metro Waste Authority (MWA), Des Moines, manages waste disposal and provides recycling programs in Polk County. In June 2000, MWA completed construction on the Wetlands Leachate Treatment Facility, designed to protect Iowa's ground and surface waters. The facility was built to mimic the procedures of a natural wetland with a series of multi-level ponds, plants and prairie, and biologically transform the pollutant leachate into less harmful substances. In addition to providing a habitat for plants, animals and birds, the system is projected to save MWA more than $5 million over the next 30 years, money that will be reinvested in educational programs about environmental and waste disposal issues, and recycling and waste reduction programs in Polk County. MWA is a leader in this innovative approach to landfills, incorporating environmental ethics into business decisions and helping protect Iowa's water supplies.

The multimillion-dollar leachate facility at Polk County's Metro Waste Authority mimics a natural wetland.

Michael Foods Egg Products Company, Lenox

All odors from the egg production facility have been eliminated, thanks to its new wastewater treatment plant.

When Michael Foods Egg Products Company purchased Papetti's of Iowa in 1997, the company knew it needed to address wastewater concerns which had challenged the site for years. Located in southwest Iowa near the community of Lenox, Papetti's of Iowa supplies egg products to major bakery, dairy, pasta and food service customers across the country. The company's solution was the design and construction of a state-of-the-art, enhanced activated waste water treatment plant. The plant is operated by two state-certified Papetti's employees and has been operational since 1999. At a cost of $4.6 million, the fully automated system involves a complex treatment system, which includes land-application of residual sludge material that provides nutrients to the earth. The most significant benefit of the project has been the complete elimination of odor for the community of Lenox, helping to enhance the quality of life for area citizens.

Nestle USA, Waverly

Nestle USA of Waverly produces powdered beverages for use in the United States and abroad. In the fall of 1999, the company began a project to eliminate water cooling and river discharge into the Cedar River. Through capital purchases, the company replaced its old water-cooling system for its air compressors and chillers with a closed-loop system. Nestle is saving 350,000 gallons of water daily because of these improvements, while minimizing harm to the river by completely eliminating river discharges. The water savings also translate into economic savings for the company. Additionally, Nestle has created an environmental team represented by all its departments to focus on improved safety and environmental benefits in its plant and community.

Nestle USA saves 300,000 gallons of water daily through its new water cooling equipment.

Phil Fox Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, Fort Dodge

The Phil Fox Chapter of the Izaak Walton League is a 44-member natural resource organization in Fort Dodge. In recent years a local pond at a Fort Dodge park had become unusable, barely able to support aquatic life. In the fall of 1999, the chapter began revitalizing and restoring the pond. With $6,000 from eight fundraising events, the chapter enlisted the help of city workers and machinery to remove sludge, completely drain the pond, transport fish to the Des Moines River and remove silt from the pond floor. Chapter members and community volunteers generously donated their time to remove downed trees and brush surrounding the pond, creating a cleaner atmosphere and a more usable recreational area. By June 2000, the chapter's restoration efforts transformed an unsightly pond into a clean, flourishing public area.

The Izaak Walton League, Fort Dodge, turned a stagnant pond (above) into a flourishing natural resource area for its community.

Special Recognition in Waste Management

Albertson's Inc., Iowa Operations

Albertson's Inc., one of the largest food and drug retailers in the country, spearheaded a new shipping container for the produce industry. The company worked with the Fibre Box Association to develop a standard, unwaxed display-ready box. The outcome was a fully recyclable, corrugated box with greater strength and durability. The grocery chain currently receives 30 percent of its produce in the corrugated box. All grocers can divert these boxes from their waste streams and preserve valuable community landfill space. In addition to increasing recycling revenues and decreasing disposal costs, the amount of produce lost in shipping is reduced because of less handling between the field and the store.

The City of Dubuque Recycling Program

The City of Dubuque Recycling Program created a project in the spring of 2000 to increase awareness among students and citizens about recycling opportunities. The city partnered with 120 students from Jefferson Junior High School to

With the help of junior high students, recycling increased 13 percent in pilot neighborhoods in Dubuque.

increase recycling in two pilot neighborhoods. The grassroots effort had students disseminating flyers and inquiring about how often customers set out recycling bins. The students also filled requests for bins. In response to the project, city crews delivered 47 new and replacement bins to area customers. Following the campaign, BRI Recyclery reported a 32.2 percent increase in weight of recycled materials collected from contacted households. Total recyclable weight within the pilot neighborhoods increased 13.3 percent. For their efforts, the City of Dubuque awarded the students $400, which was used to purchase two Bur Oak trees planted at the Heron Pond Mitigation Wetland.

Franklin County 4-H Organization

In observance of Iowa Earth Year 2000, the Franklin County 4-H Organization in north-central Iowa collected and properly disposed of leftover paint containers. Members collected 1,043 containers of unused paint from a number of homes in Franklin County and delivered them to a collection site. By gathering the containers, further leakage and damage was prevented in homes across the county. Participants did not have to pay for the disposal of the paint that may have otherwise end up in the landfill or eventually in Iowa's groundwater. The paint was then properly disposed of by the Landfill of North Iowa. This organized team effort, which had help from the Franklin County Conservation Board, can be replicated by other youth organizations as an outstanding projec for protecting the environment.

Full Circle Farm, Madrid

In the summer of 2000, Full Circle Farm, a 300-acre family farm near Madrid, worked cooperatively with its neighbor Camp Hantesa to divert 1.8 tons of food waste from the Boone County Landfill. The project engaged more than 2,300 people, most of them youths, in a program that completed the recycling loop by moving food waste from the camp dining hall to the farm's compost system. Food waste had to be sorted from other materials by the campers, then hauled to the farm's compost site where it was mixed and monitored to eventuall become a nutrient source for the farm Plans are underway to use some of th compost to grow vegetables for the camp's consumption. This endeavor not only taught campers valuable wast reduction lessons, but also gave other farms a replicable example for partnering with organizations while protecting the environment.

A partnership between a farm and youth camp diverted 1.8 tons of food waste from an Iowa landfill.

Rockwell Collins, Coralville Operations

Rockwell Collins, Coralville Operations is a world leader in aviation electronics and advanced communications. The company has implemented the Lean Electronics program to eliminate waste in all of its facilities. Lean Electronics is based on the 5-S's (sort, simplify, systematic cleaning, standardize and sustain). In 1999, Rockwell facilitated a 5-S event to revamp a coating process that is used to protect electronic components in avionics equipment. Through its new process, the plant has increased circuit board production 120 percent and decreased cycle time for board coating by 66 percent. In its first year, the process has: reduced material costs by 31 percent; reduced hazard-

ous waste by 42 percent; and kept 2,600 pounds of non-hazardous waste, such as masking tape and paper, out of the landfill. Rockwell Collins, in reducing the amount of chemicals being used, also has decreased air pollution and potential major accidental releases to the environment.

Special Recognition in Waste Management

Able Homebuilders, Sioux City

Able Homebuilders of Sioux City is a small, privately-owned home construction and remodeling business that builds energy-efficient homes in the Siouxland Tri-State area. Since 1997, Able Homebuilders has built 30 Energy Star® homes, featuring tighter construction, increased insulation and high-performance windows. The small construction company has committed to exclusively build homes that use 30 percent less energy in heating, cooling and water heating than standard homes. Able Homebuilders not only contributes to the conservation of natural resources, but also reduces utility bills and guarantees a high-quality product to its customers. Additionally, this small business is recognized as the fourth-largest producer of Energy Star® homes in the state. In initiating an exclusive agenda for its homes, Able Homebuilders promotes widespread conservation of energy and protection of natural resources within a small-business setting.

While a small business, Able Homebuilders is the 4th largest builder of Energy Star® homes in Iowa.

Bott's Harvest and Storage of Solar Energy, Clinton

Bott's Harvest and Storage of Solar Energy, north of Clinton, is a 300-acre organic farm run by Wayne Bott. Bott has eliminated the use of synthetic fertilizers and crop protection chemicals in his operation. Specifically, Bott has been active in discussing the energy intensity of synthetically produced nitrogen fertilizer, which takes energy to produce and apply. The farm also has turned to renewable energy resources whenever possible, such as wood and wood waste for home heating and E85 (85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline) to run the farm's 55-hp tractor. Wayne Bott has given workshops about energy use as it relates to agriculture to college and high school classes, at the Iowa Renewable Energy Association annual fair and has worked with the Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa on global warming.

Wayne Bott accepts an energy special project award from Gov. Vilsack in Dec. 2000.

Great River Medical Center, West Burlington

Great River Medical Center in West Burlington is a $120 million hospital that opened in the spring of 2000. In building its new campus, the hospital's goal was to be one of the most energy-efficient medical complexes in the country. At the center of its plans is the largest geothermal heat pump system at a hospital in the United States. The system uses a 15-acre artificial lake to heat and cool 700,000 square feet of building space. The geothermal heat pump system will reduce energy use by 25 to 30 percent, improve operations, provide individual temperature controls in patient rooms, and offer high air quality for the hospital setting. Building designers also incorporated energy efficient lighting and other energy-saving measures. Because of the magnitude of the project, Great River Medical Center serves as a national case study for the National Heat Pump Association and has been featured in numerous newspapers and trade publications.

Iowa now boasts the largest geothermal heat pump system at a hospital in the nation.

Waverly Light & Power

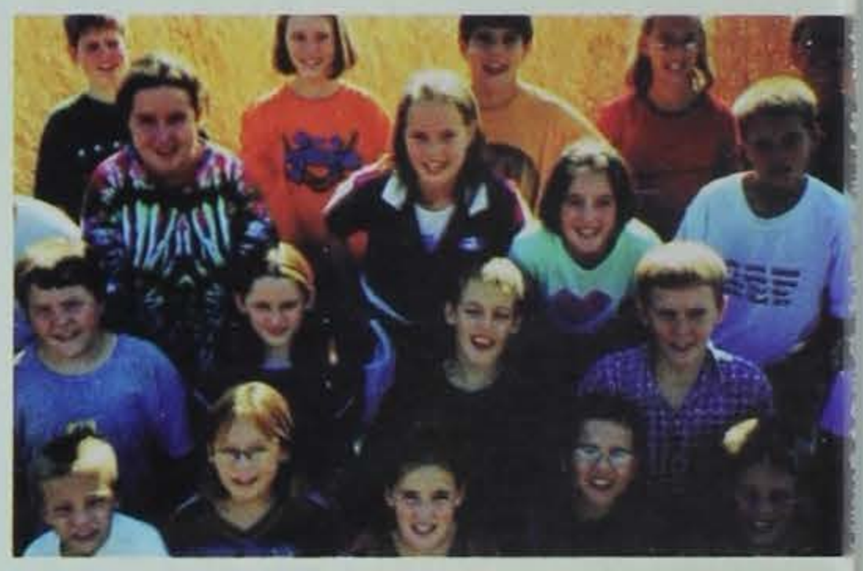
Waverly Light & Power has been a leader and role model for wind energy development in Iowa. See description of the municipal utility's renewable energy efforts in the Environmental Excellence award section.

Waverly Light & Power received both the Environmental Excellence Award and Energy Special Project Award, the only organization to win two honors in the 2000 competition.

Youth Environmental Citizenship Award

Shellsburg Elementary

In 1993, Shellsburg Elementary began restoring and managing a 10-acre native prairie and forest area on the school's property. The project included planting 1,000 native trees and shrubs and 80 varieties of native prairie seeds. Students have also constructed 60 identification posts, two miles of trails, three bridges, birdhouses, feeders and benches. The significant contributor to Shellsburg Elementary's project is student participation. The prairie is developed and maintained by the school's sixth grade class each year. More than 7,000 hours have been invested in the project to date, and sixth graders spend an average of 500 hours a year watering trees, clearing litter, weeding and planting. They have created a multi-media presentation to help educate others on their project, and have presented to several organizations, including the Iowa School Board Convention. Additionally, 2,000 students per year learn about ecosystems at the prairie area, reinforcing the importance of Iowa's native environments.



Sixth graders at Vinton-Shellsburg Elementary are caretakers for the schools 10-acre prairie.

Iowa Tree Farmer of the Year

A Life Investment

Louis Christen, above, continues the tradition his father began as a tree farmer. Christen farms trees on his property, below, in his spare time.

Article and photos by Gary Beyer

In *Webster's Dictionary* under "tree farmer," there should be a picture of Louis Christen. People who know him shake their heads in wonder at what he has accomplished. His timber work is done in the time he spares from farming 330 acres and milking 40 cows.

On a typical day, Christen has the cows in the barn for milking by 5 a.m. By 9 a.m. the milking and chores are done. If there is not field work to do, it's to the woods to tend to his other crop — trees. Normally, timber work is completed in the winter when the other crops do not need attention. After a good winter day in the woods, it's back to milking at 4 p.m. Around 8 p.m., Christen is sitting at the dinner table, another busy day completed.

Christen nurtures his trees like any other crop, and every tree marked for harvest has an intended use. Poorly formed and damaged trees are used for firewood. High-quality young oak, walnut, hard maple, cherry and ash are located and competing trees are removed. The walnut trees are pruned so the wood laid down each year on the bole is clear and veneer quality. This can increase the potential value of the tree by as much as tenfold. Some of the trees to be removed will be large enough to salvage for lumber, which can be used on the farm. Beginning with his father, Will, the timber has always been a vital part of the family farm operation. In the early years, it provided firewood, posts and lumber to build farm buildings. Mature trees were sold to generate periodic income.

Christen owns 120 acres of woodland, 58 of which have been

under a DNR forest management plan since 1963. The remaining acres were purchased later, and Christen has worked in cooperation with a forester on all of his timber activities.

In 1978, 15 acres of low-quality black oak timber were clear-cut and replanted with walnut and red oak. Walnut and oak need full sunlight to survive. The clear-cut area looked brushy and weedy for many years, but today it is a mixture of walnut, red oak, ash and hickory, 30 to 50 feet tall. Once the young trees grew large enough to shade the ground, the brush and weeds vanished.

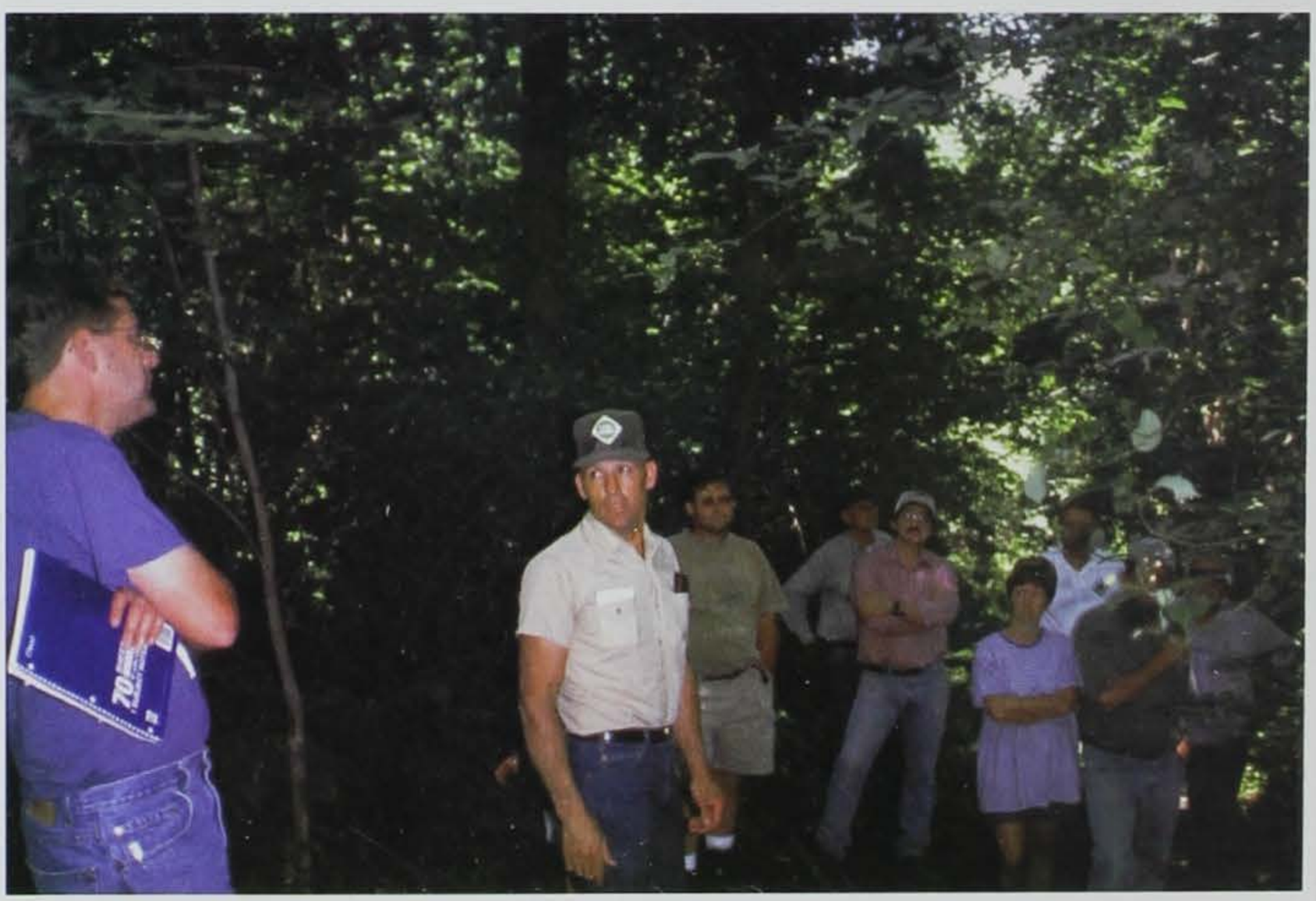
Christen's log cabin, built with timber from his property.

Over the past 20 years, Christen has harvested mature and defective trees on 43 of his acres. Following each harvest, the tops are used for firewood, damaged and low-quality trees are removed and openings are planted with seedlings.

Harvesting is not the end of the forest, but the beginning of a new one. Years of active management in the woods have resulted in a diverse forest with a wide variety of trees, wild flowers and understory plants.

To date, Christen has planted 20 acres of open ground to trees. He constructed a one-row nut planter and planted the seed in rows two to three feet apart, resulting is several thousand trees per acre. The high density planting creates a quick canopy of tree crowns, which shades out competing weeds and grasses. Without weeds and grasses to fight for moisture and nutrients, the trees grow fast and are forced to grow straight by the crowding from neighboring trees. Eventually, through thinning, selected trees will be allowed to grow larger crowns, resulting in more rapid growth.

Although Christen's passion is in the woods, he has a growing interest in prairies and wetlands. He has two ponds on his property. The 1-acre pond is in a ravine that was once eroding. Recently, a 6-acre pond and wetland area were completed. Surrounding the pond are native



Christen talking to the Tree Farm committee in a 20-year-old clear-cut area.

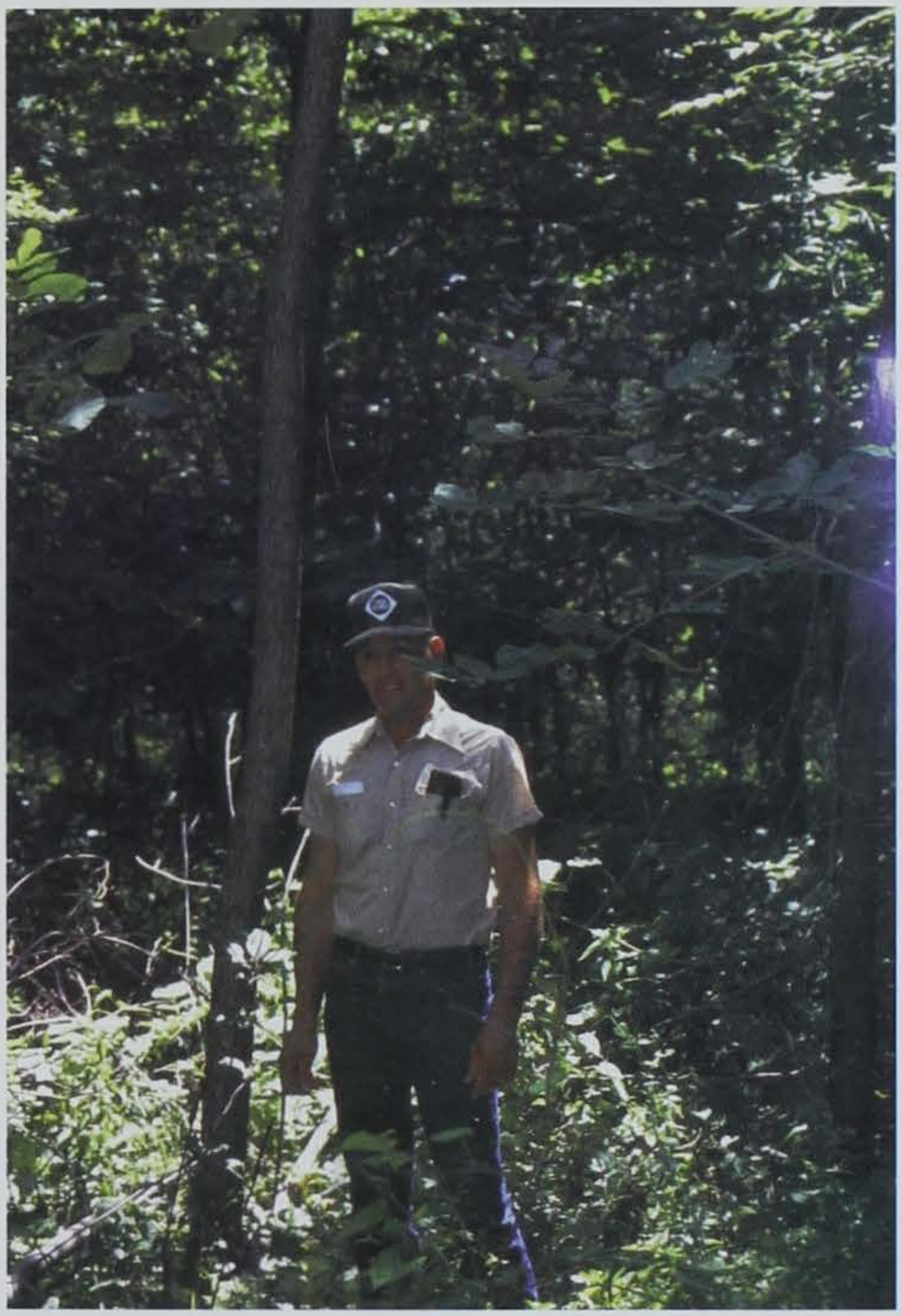
prairie and tree plantings to ensure good water quality in the pond.

Christen and his friends spend many spring days looking for mushrooms, identifying unique plants and simply walking in the woods. Bridges were built across the deep ravines to make hiking more enjoyable. Getting the large telephone poles across the ravine provided a challenge Christen solved with advice from his father. Constructing the bridges was as much an adventure as an accomplishment.

A cabin Christen built with logs from his timber overlooks one of the ponds and provides a quiet place to enjoy the area. The cabin and pond are visible from the road in the winter, but the trees screen the area during the growing season.

The timber has provided not only wood to build the farm, but also many hours of enjoyment over the years. It is also an excellent investment for the family. Large walnut, oak and maple trees continue to grow in value and provide a unique retirement account for the family. The better trees are gaining 10 percent or more in value each year. Christen has watched these "magnum" trees grow for 40 years and takes pride in their health and quality. Unlike a piece of paper in the bank, the forest continues to gain value and provides wildlife habitat, erosion control, improved water quality and recreation.

The interest and commitment Christen has shown has encouraged others to better manage their timber. In 1991 and 1999, he hosted forestry field days for other landowners to attend. These day-long sessions covered all aspects of timber management, prairie establishment, pond management and timber marketing. Sixty to 80 people attended each day. Christen is also a member of the Northwest Iowa Forest Advisory Committee, which provides input to professional foresters in the area and promotes woodland management through education and legislative activities. The committee has worked closely with legislators in the area to draft legislation beneficial to landowners who want to care for their woodlands.



Christen with a pole-sized walnut.

Tree farming is a way of life for Christen. His quiet enthusiasm is contagious, and he provides an example of what can be accomplished with patience and hard work. To him, it has been well worth the effort.

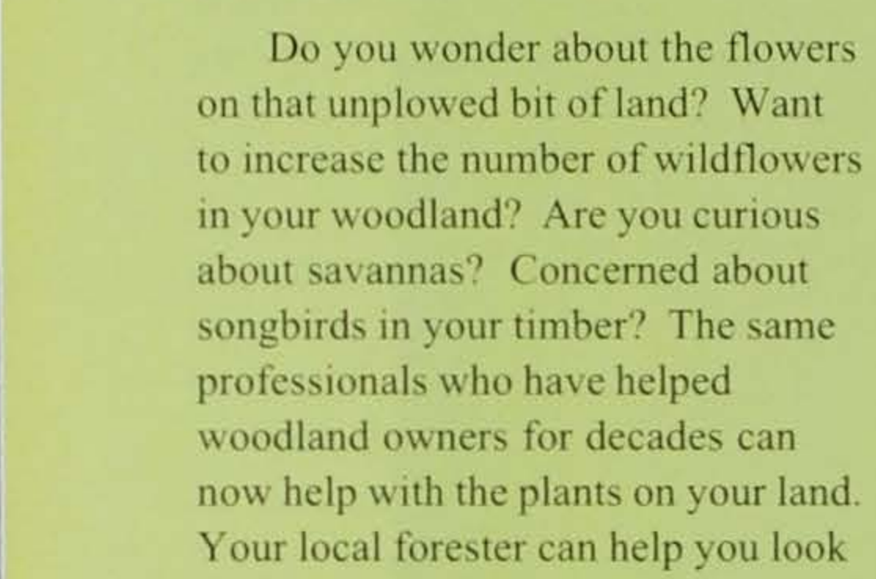
Gary Beyer is the district forester for the Charles City district.

New Opportunities

By Jean Eells

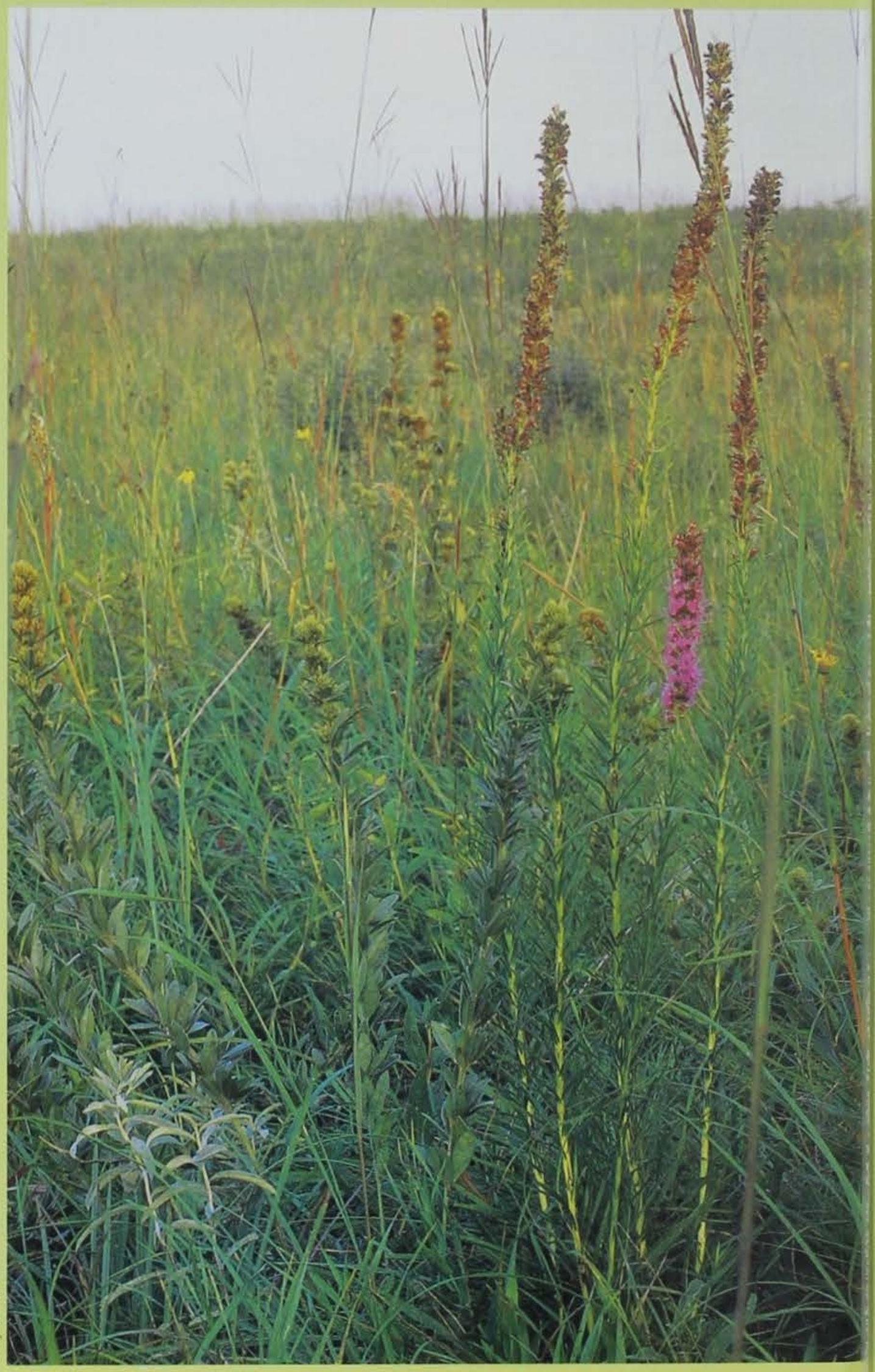
Do you wonder about the flowers on that unplowed bit of land? Want to increase the number of wildflowers in your woodland? Are you curious about savannas? Concerned about songbirds in your timber? The same professionals who have helped woodland owners for decades can now help with the plants on your land. Your local forester can help you look at your land with new eyes.

In 1999, the Legislature approved changing the name of the Division of Forests and Forestry to the Forests and Prairies Division to reflect the addition of prairie work to the menu of programs offered by the DNR. Many state forests have native



Clay Smith

Landowners can now get help with both timber and prairie management by calling on their district forester. Bloodroot, a spring woodland wildflower (above).



Clay Smith

prairies, which are managed to keep them healthy and intact. Because private property owners often have both grassland and trees, it made sense to blend the technical expertise into one conservation professional who can offer landowners "the total package."

Wayne Fuhlbrugge, district forester, points to new landowners in Franklin County who asked for advice on improving wildlife habitat on their property as an example of how the "new division" can help.

"If you work with the plants in the right ways the wildlife will come. Looking carefully at the whole landscape, including surrounding property, is something foresters automatically do when they are working with landowners," Fuhlbrugge said. "Adding prairies to the mix of services gives me a full palette to work with in making plans the landowners are excited to carry out."

Bill and Sibylla Brown called District Forester Randy Goerndt before they started working with their timber. "Our original intention in asking Randy for help was to improve the timber," Sibylla Brown said. "The brush was so thick we couldn't walk through the woods. Once we saw how much better our timber looked, we wanted to do more and the savanna restoration evolved from that.

"We have been conducting prescribed burns here for six years. That, combined with the timber thinning, has released many suppressed plants such as New Jersey tea and yellow false foxglove. Both are now plentiful throughout the restored areas."

Before the addition of prairies to forestry, pastureland may have been viewed simply as a great place to plant new trees. Now foresters can bring existing patches of prairie to the landowner's attention. Restoring prairie remnants diversifies an owner's land value, which they often see as a treasure to protect.

"Sometimes people don't realize what they have and turning them onto what's already on their land makes

Clay Smith

Woodland owners Bill and Sibylla Brown have called on District Forester Randy Goerndt to help restore a savannah on their property (below). Thinning, along with prescribed burns (top) helped release many suppressed plants such as New Jersey tea and yellow false foxglove (bottom).

Photos by William and Sibylla Brown

Photos by William and Sibylla Brown

owning land a whole lot more fun," said Stan Tate, district forester. "This has been true for years with our work in the timber — we see things most people don't in the woods. Now we can do the same for prairie areas. Most people get pretty excited knowing they have something special on their land and are proud to pass it along to future generations."

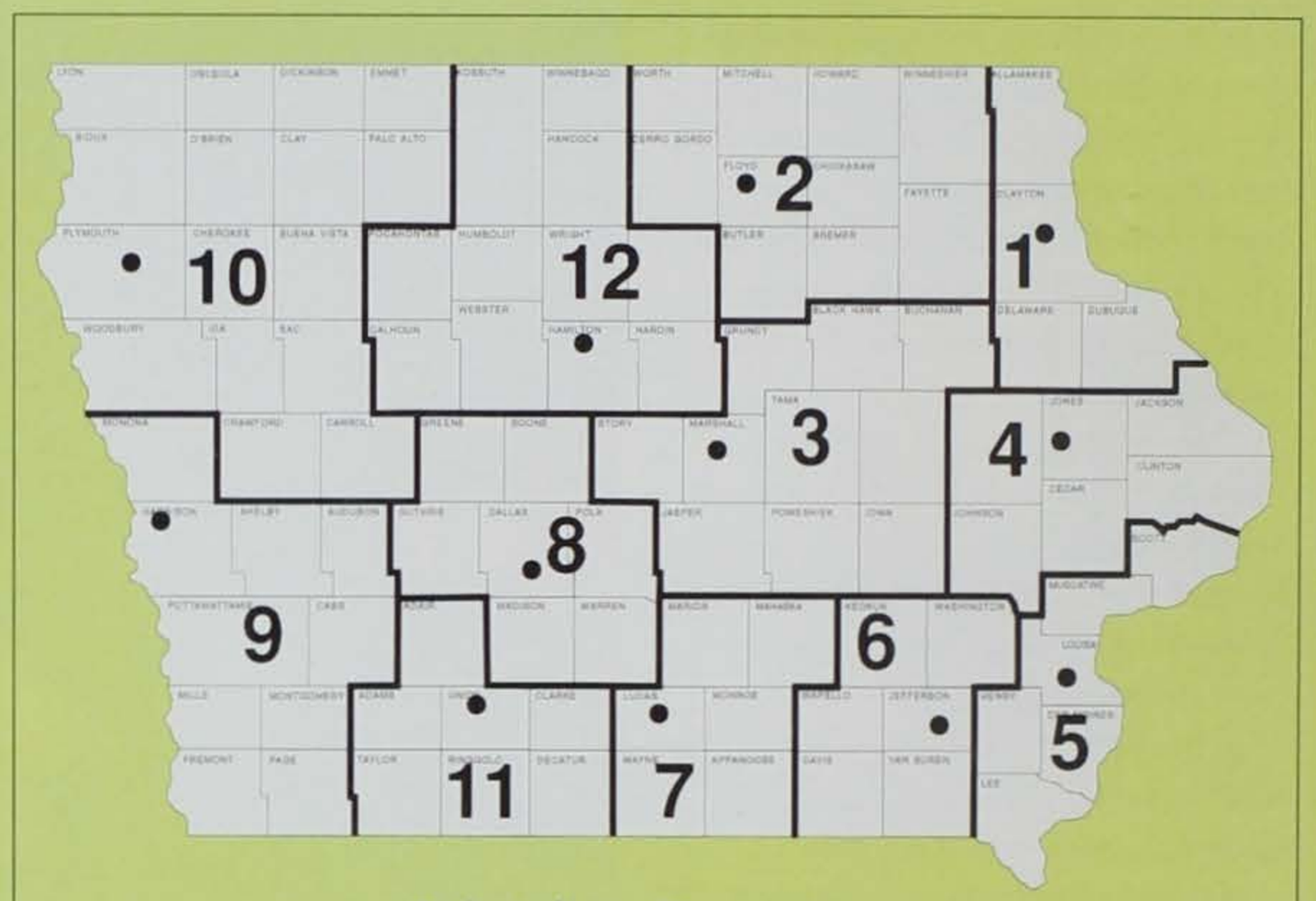
The Forests and Prairies Division is ready for changing landownership patterns in Iowa. People are choosing to buy wilder lands for different reasons. Owning a wild place just for a retreat is not uncommon. Wild places contribute to the quality of life and a healthier environment.

Visiting state forests has always provided a good visual for forest and prairie work. Now, that knowledge is available through foresters who are willing and able to help.

Jean Eells is the department's prairie assistance coordinator.

Clay Smith

Bluebells, an Iowa woodland flower



District Foresters

District 1
Bruce Blair
Gretchen Holstein, Asst.
319/245-1891
Box 662
Elkader 52043

District 2
Gary Beyer
Greg Heidebrink, Asst.

641/228-6611
Box 4

Charles City 50616

District 3
Bob Hibbs

641/752-3352
2501 S. Center St.
Suite 1
Marshalltown 50158

District 4
Steve Swinconos
Dave Bridges, Asst.
319/462-2768
Box 46
Anamosa 52205

District 5
Stan Tate
319/523-2216
515 Townsend Ave.
Wapello 52653

District 6
Ray Lehn
641/472-2370
Box 568
Fairfield 52556

District 7
Duane Bedford
641/774-8733
RR 5, Box 119AA
Suite 4
Chariton 50049

District 8
George Warford
515/993-4133
1918 Greene St.
Adel 50003

District 9
Paul Tauke
712/456-2175
712 South Highway 6
Oakland 51560

District 10
Joe Schwartz
712/546-5161
1100A 12th St. SW
LeMars 51031

District 11
Randy Goerndt
641/782-6761
500 E. Taylor
Creston 50801

District 12
Wayne Fuhlbrugge
515/832-3585
Box 232
Webster City 50595

District 13
Mark Vitosh
319/351-8886
4265 Oak Crest Hill Rd. SE
Iowa City 52246

History of Fort Atkinson

By Kathy Gourley

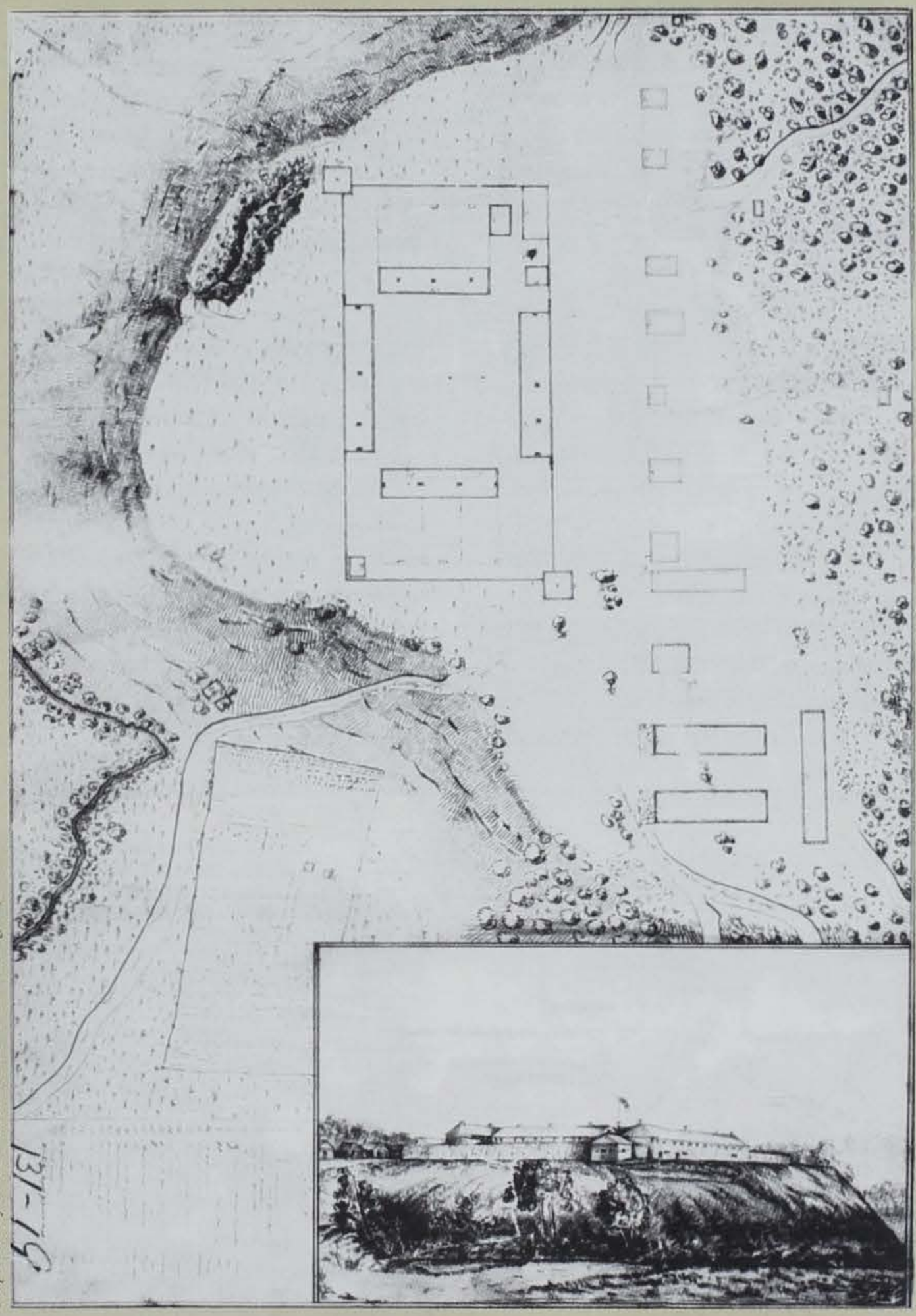
In 1849 Fort Atkinson, a U.S. military post in northeast Iowa, was decommissioned. Although its usefulness as a military fort was over, its history was just beginning.

The post, constructed of log and limestone, was attractive to incoming settlers. Soon after the militia vacated the fort, EuroAmericans began using the government's excess buildings. Some took up residence in the fort buildings; others dismantled some of the structures and reused the stones, logs, hinges, hasps and doors in new buildings. The settlement that grew up around the military post was platted in 1857 as the Town of Fort Atkinson.

Recognizing the importance of the Fort Atkinson military post, local residents helped the state acquire the main portion of the fort in 1921. Fort Atkinson was dedicated as a state preserve in 1968, and today, it is managed by the Iowa DNR.

The Early Years

The fort and associated historic and archaeological sites represent important vestiges of Iowa's past. Fort Atkinson had a short tenure as a military post, lasting just nine years. The army established the fort in 1840 in an effort to enforce an 1837 treaty between the U.S. government and the Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) tribe. The treaty stipulated the Winnebagos would relinquish their lands in Wisconsin, and reside on a reservation west of the Mississippi River.



Map courtesy of the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

This map is an original plan and drawing of the fort, 1842. The fort was built in 1840 and decommissioned in 1849, and the town that grew up around the old military post was named the Town of Fort Atkinson in 1857.

The reservation established for the Winnebago was on land that, a decade earlier, had been established as the "neutral ground," a 40-mile wide buffer strip separating the Sauk and Meskwaki to the south, and the Sioux to the north. Some Winnebago tribal members were reluctant to move to this new reservation. Their reluctance is understandable – not only were they leaving their homeland, they were being forced to resettle in an area situated between enemy tribes.

The 1837 treaty signing and subsequent move west of the Mississippi River led to some divisions within the tribe. Part of the tribe eventually repurchased some of their homeland in Wisconsin. The descendants of this group are now recognized as the Ho-Chunk Sovereign Nation, with tribal headquarters in Wisconsin. Another segment of the tribe prefers the tribal name Winnebago, and has tribal headquarters in Nebraska.

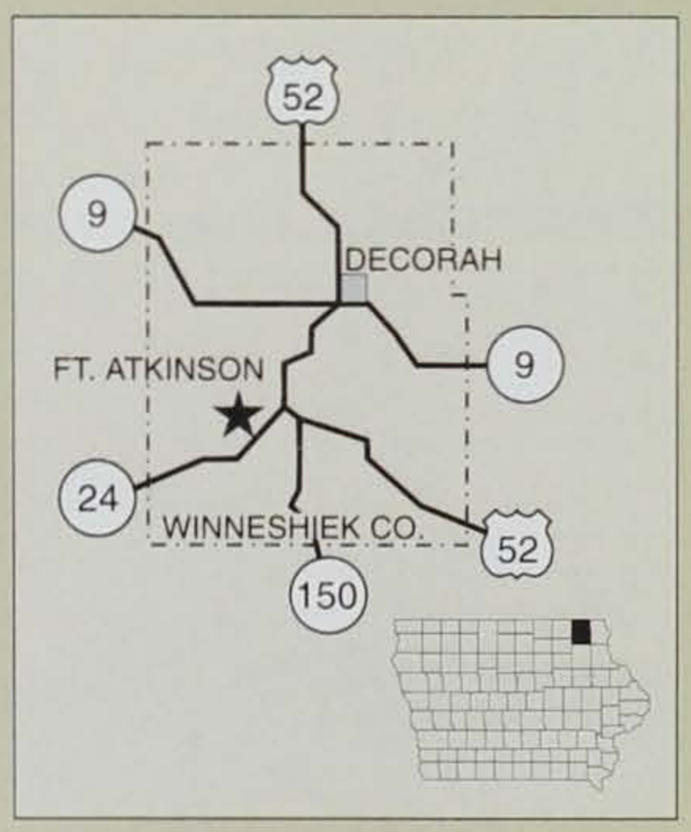
Winnebago tribal tenure in northeast Iowa was short-lived. The terms of an 1847 treaty relocated them to Minnesota. Later moves included settlements in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Although it lasted only a decade, the Winnebagos' existence in northeast Iowa is a significant episode in both the history of the tribe and of the United States. It illustrates the mid-19th century U.S. policy of removing native people from their homeland, and relocating them onto reservations. This policy created a complex cultural landscape. Disruptions in traditional life-styles led to shifts in tribal leadership and political affiliations.

Such disruptions were repeated across the Midwest. As each treaty was signed between a Native American tribe and the U.S., the boundary of the American frontier moved farther west. Treaty signings meant relocating Indian villages. Treaty signings also brought EuroAmerican businessmen seeking licenses to set up trading

DNR photo

posts near Indian villages. The U.S. government established Indian agencies and subagencies, as well as military forts, to regulate interactions between Indian and EuroAmerican individuals and organizations. Military personnel were assigned to these frontier locations not only to enforce treaty provisions, but also to explore the territory for the U.S. government.



Several of the original building foundations are still visible on the fort grounds.

DNR photo

Many artifacts from Fort Atkinson's days as a military post are on display at the fort and at the city museum.

Fort Atkinson was one of a string of U.S. military posts winding along the frontier in the 1840s. Among the contemporaneous forts in the Midwest were Fort Crawford (established in Wisconsin in 1816); Fort Snelling (Minnesota, 1819); Fort Sanford (Iowa, 1842); Fort Des Moines No. 2 (Iowa, 1843); Fort Leavenworth (Kansas, 1827); and Jefferson Barracks (Missouri, 1826).

Unlike other 19th century military posts in Iowa, several of Fort Atkinson's buildings are still standing, including a portion of the north barracks, the southwest blockhouse and the powder magazine. Local preservationists reconstructed the northeast blockhouse in the 1920s. Other Fort Atkinson buildings remain as archaeological features today.

Fort Atkinson visitors can view the remains of the military post, and can see artifacts displayed in one of the barracks. More artifacts from the fort era are exhibited at the city's museum nearby.

Kathy Gourley is the field historian for the State Historical Society of Iowa and a member of the State Preserves Advisory Board.

DNR photo

The north barracks, one of the remaining original buildings at Fort Atkinson.

Summer field school to teach history of Fort Atkinson, Winnebago tribe

This summer, some individuals will have an opportunity to study Fort Atkinson in-depth.

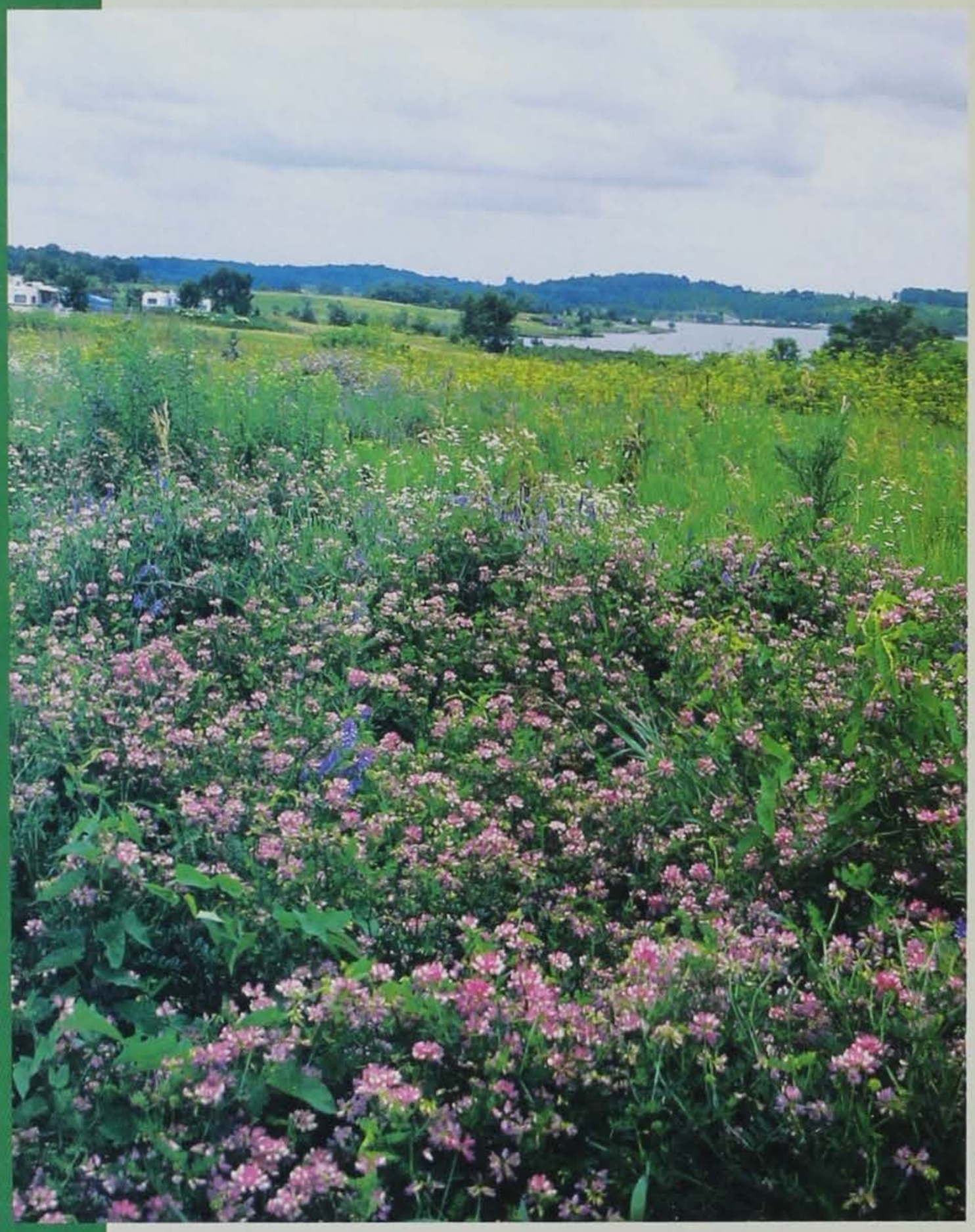
The State Preserves Advisory Board is partnering with several organizations to host a cultural resources field school June 17 – 23. The field school will be targeted toward teachers and other adult learners, and will focus on both research and education. The fieldwork will take an interdisciplinary approach, involving architectural history, archaeology, ethnohistory, museum studies and documentary research.

The story of the fort and of the Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) existence in the state is one most people do not know. The field school will focus on the fort area's history and significance. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about the military post and the Indian and EuroAmerican communities that surrounded it.

Participation in the field school is limited, and the deadline for registration is June 1. For more information, or to obtain a registration packet, contact Diane Ford-Shivvers, Department of Natural Resources, at (515) 281-0878 or diane.ford-shivvers@dnr.state.ia.us.

Parks Profile

Pleasant Creek
A Partnership Between Energy a



Clay Smith

In contrast to most Iowa state parks — which were typically designed around mature, forested areas — Pleasant Creek was set in a vast expanse of open grasslands. An aggressive tree planting campaign resulted in hundreds of trees planted, giving the park the appearance of being around for many years.

By Jim Hansen

Over the last 25 years Pleasant Creek Recreation Area has developed into one of Iowa's premier recreational areas. Many visitors come to enjoy the diverse experiences the area has to offer. Only a few, however, understand the unique partnership that exists between state government and private industry.

In the 1960s, the Iowa Conservation Commission (now the DNR) investigated the concept of developing several recreation areas across Iowa that would extend beyond the normal scope of a state park. The idea was to develop areas strategically located near high population bases across the state. The areas needed to be large, provide a recreational water source and offer a multitude of outdoor opportunities.

The state began developing plans and buying property in the areas targeted for development. Cedar Rapids was one such area.

At the same time the state was searching for the best site to develop a multimillion-dollar public recreation area, the Iowa Electric, Light and Power Company (now Alliant Energy) was in the initial stages of developing Iowa's first and only

and Recreation

nuclear power plant, the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC).

The electric company needed a dependable cooling source for the plant. The Cedar River would be the primary source from which the plant would draw the needed 11,000 gallons of water per minute. However, if river flow naturally dropped below approximately 225,000 gallons per minute, regulations prohibited the plant from drawing river water until flows returned to normal.

The electric company initially planned to drill nine deep wells, which would provide extra water during times of need. However, before well construction began, the electric company learned of Iowa's need for a recreational water source upstream from the DAEC. The company and the state initiated talks to jointly develop a resource which would offer a much-needed recreational water resource while serving the needs of the power plant.

In the past 25 years, there have been only eight occasions when the Cedar River flows were too low and the power plant was forced to draw water from Pleasant Creek. On those occasions, plant operators opened valves at the bottom of the reservoir and released water into a creek feeding the Cedar River above the power plant. The plant drew the required amount of water from the river. Once river

Wayne Lonning

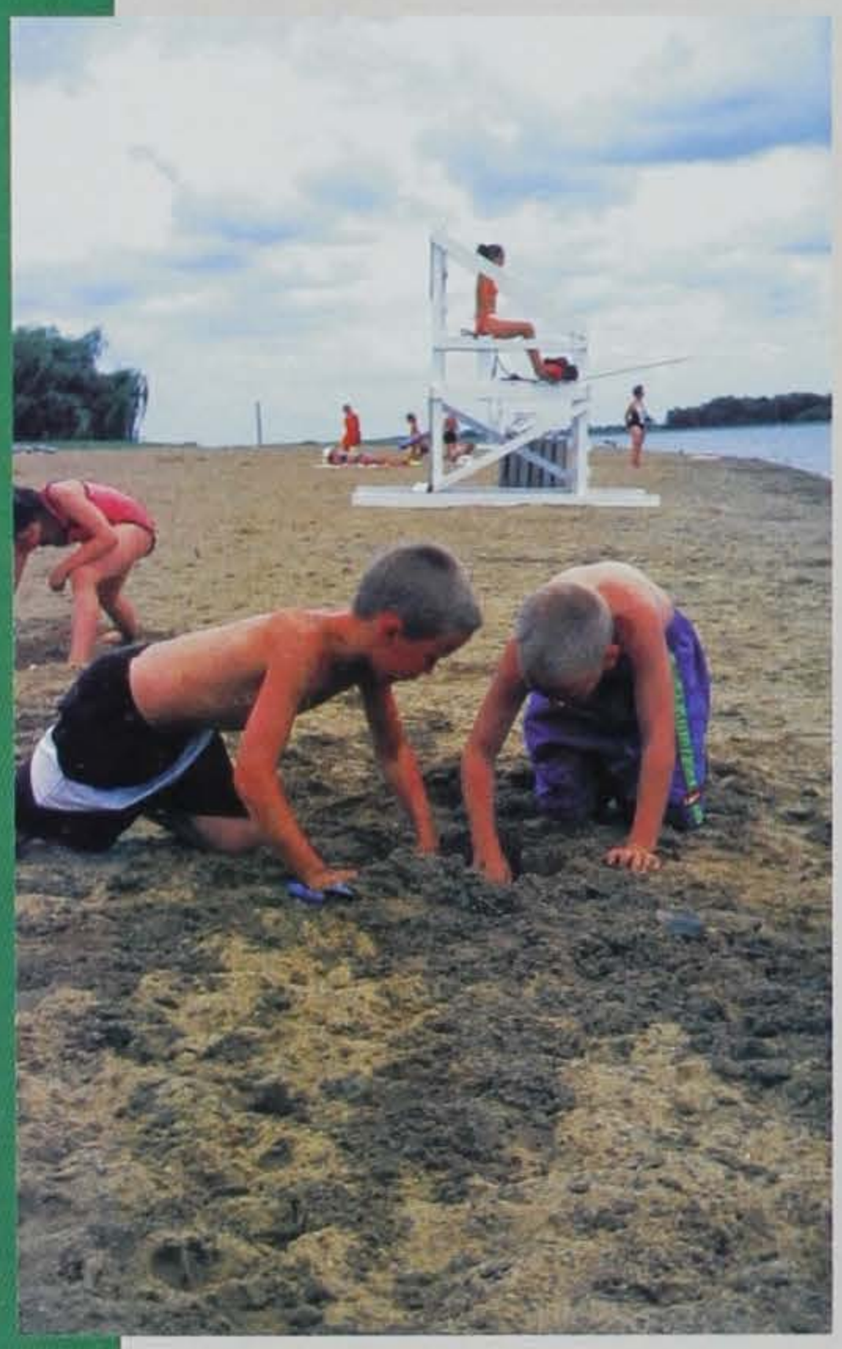
DNR photo

ABOVE: An aerial view shows Pleasant Creek in 1977, a year and a half after ground breaking.

RIGHT: A similar view nearly five years later. Many of the existing roads were flooded when the lake filled.

Parks Profile

DNR photo



Clay Smith

flows returned to normal, the valve was closed and the reservoir refilled from a pumping station located along the Cedar River upstream from the power plant. The process involves pumping water through an underground pipeline 2 to 3 feet in diameter and about two miles long. This allows the reservoir to refill when river flow is adequate so recreation and the natural resources are not significantly impacted.

Ultimately, the electric company and its partners — Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Cornbelt Power Cooperative — donated $1 million toward the development of the dam and reservoir. The donations allowed the state to use available funds for other goals and park development.

By October 1975, construction of the dam was under way and in the spring of 1977 the lake was stocked with fish. The 410-acre reservoir was complete and the state began focusing on developing roads and facilities for the area.

The popularity of the area grew as fast as the bass in the lake. Anglers were lining the shores to catch the 14-inch bass on almost every cast. The fishing eventually slowed to a steady pace as the campgrounds, picnic areas, trails, beach and boating facilities were developed.

Pleasant Creek officially opened May 1, 1982, however facility construction continued through the 1980s. Although most of Iowa's state parks are designed around mature forested

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ABOVE: The Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) began operations in 1974. Today, the Nuclear Management Company (NMC) operates the DAEC for the three plant owners — Alliant Energy, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Cornbelt Power Cooperative.

LEFT: Pleasant Creek has one of the most popular swimming beaches in the state. It features a modern bathhouse and supervised swimming.

areas, Pleasant Creek was set in a vast expanse of open grasslands. An aggressive campaign was initiated to plant hundreds of trees on the property, and now a decade later the area has taken on the look and feel of having been around for many years, in addition to offering shade to campers and other users.

Pleasant Creek offers modern camping and cabins as well as excellent boating and fishing opportunities. Boat rentals are available through the concession stand, and the beach is one of the most popular in the state for swimming. The lake can be accessed for fishing 24 hours a day, and a portion of the 1,927-acre area is open to hunting and trapping. Equestrians have access to a 12-mile trail running the perimeter of the recreation area.

Pleasant Creek exists thanks in part to the partnership between the state and the energy utilities. Without it, the park may not have developed into what it is today.

Jim Hansen is the park superintendent for Pleasant Creek State Park.

PLEASANT CREEK AT A GLANCE

GENERAL INFORMATION: More than 1,900 acres; wooded hills, marshy areas, meadows, lake.

LOCATION: Fifteen miles northwest of Cedar Rapids; 40 miles southeast of Waterloo/Cedar Falls.

FISHING: 410-acre lake containing largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, channel catfish and tiger musky; fishing jetties; bait available at the boat house.

CAMPING: Modern; 69 sites (43 with electric); two modern shower and rest room facilities.

TRAILS: 15 miles of multiuse trails with access to many area facilities and scenic overlooks.

CABIN RENTAL: Four new camper cabins; electricity, covered porch and basic furnishings; shower and toilet facilities located nearby.

PICNICKING: Areas located on northeast and southeast shores, including several open shelters available for rent.

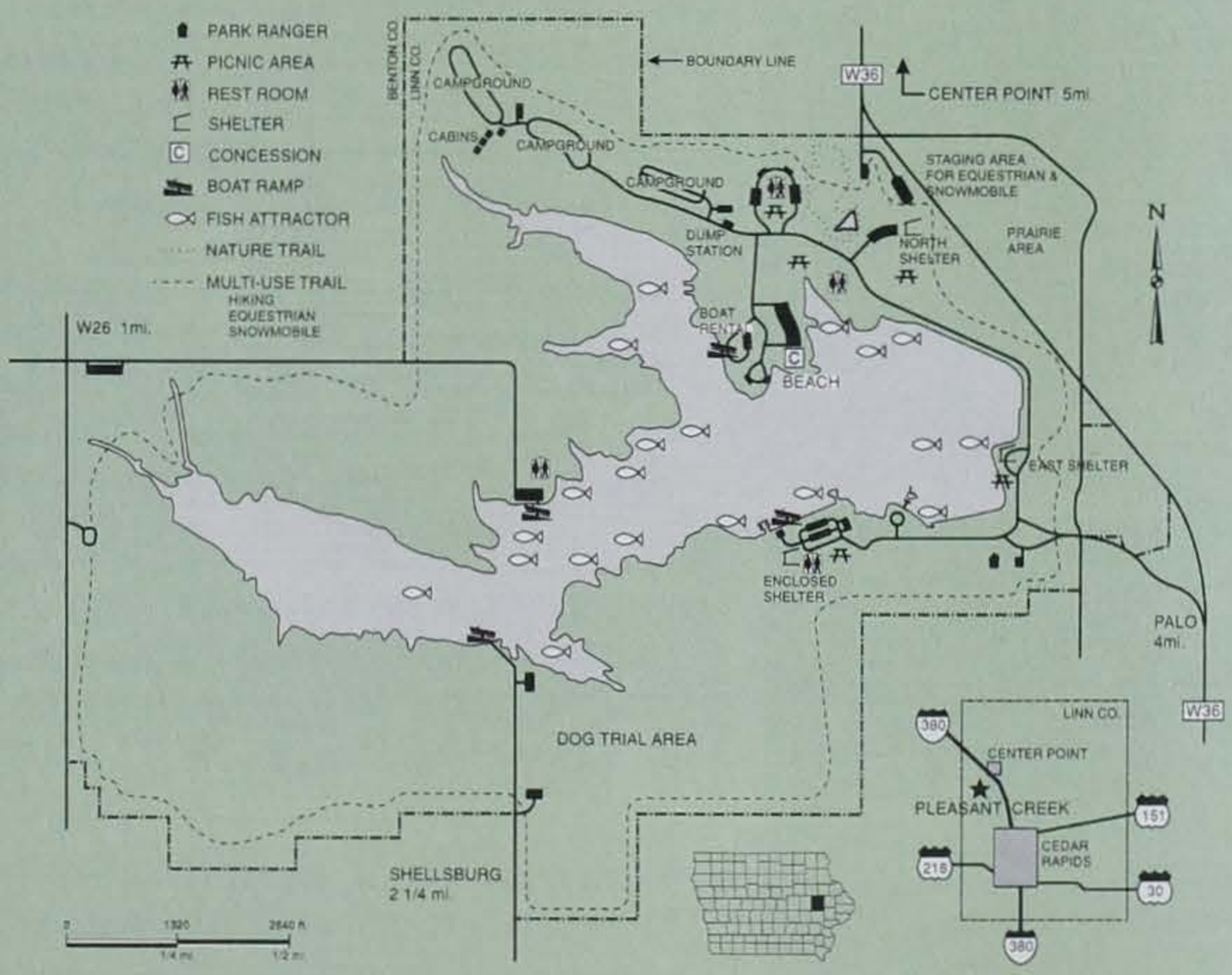
SWIMMING: Swimming area located on the north shore; supervised swimming and modern bathhouse.

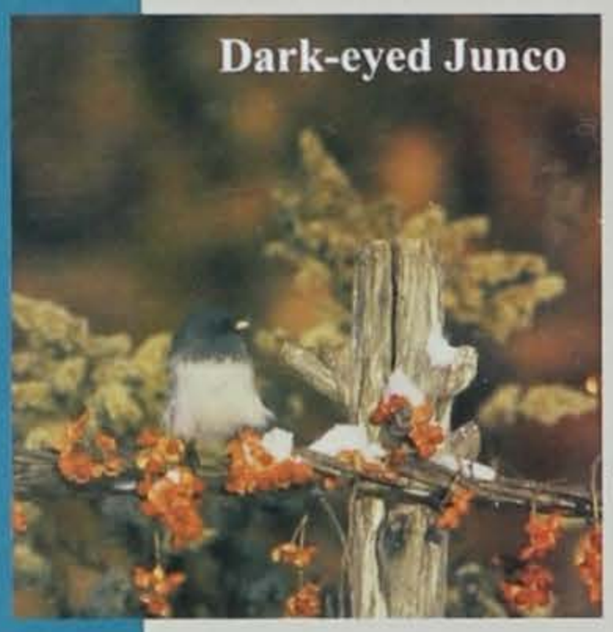
BOATING: Four launching sites; boats with unlimited motor size may be operated at no-wake speed.

CONCESSIONS: Concession stand; paddle boats, motorboats and canoes available for rental; bait and tackle items for sale.

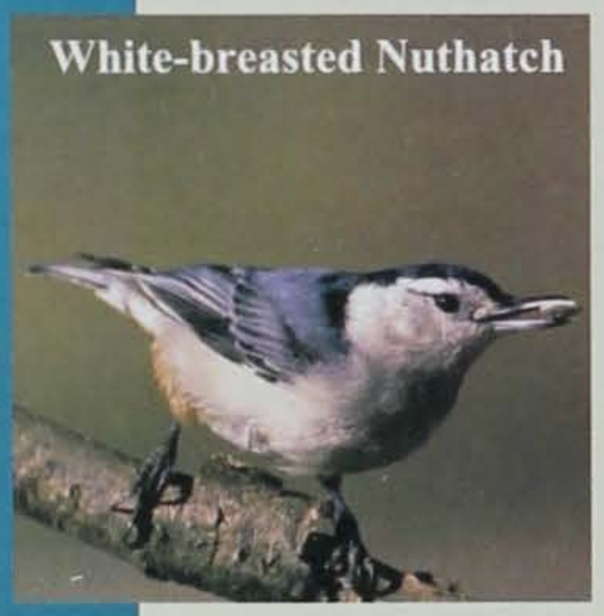
HUNTING: Portion of the area open for public hunting; rabbit, pheasant and quail.

CONTACT: 319-436-7716

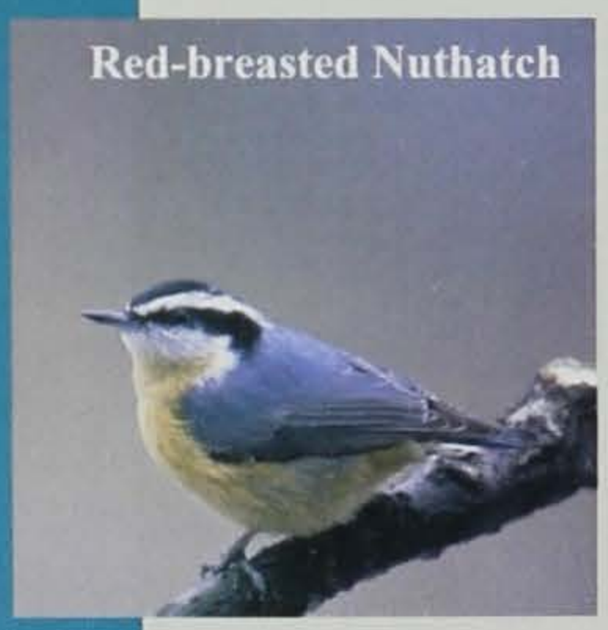




Roger A. Hill



Ty Smedes



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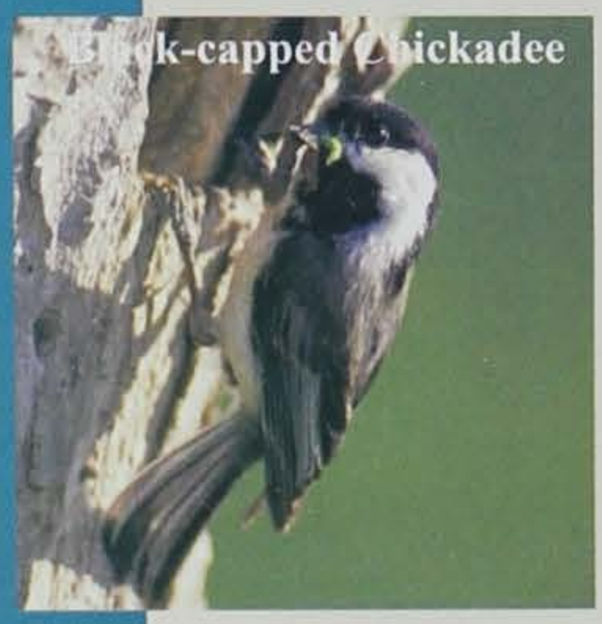


Ty Smedes

Identity Crisis

Editor's note: *This is the last of a two-part series on bird feeding and identification. This article takes a look at identifying different birds and determining their age and sex. The author is a training officer with the department at the Conservation Education Center in Guthrie Center.*

By A. Jay Winter

Half the fun of bird watching is identifying the birds, but it can also be equally challenging.

Body color is typically the most revealing way to identify various species. But bird identification can be more than telling the difference between a house finch and a house sparrow. Paying close attention to certain features not only helps differentiate species, it can sometimes help determine gender and relative age. Keep in mind, given the typically short life-span of a bird, age is relative and difficult to pinpoint.

Bird identification starts with quickly noting general characteristics. Look for general body size, shape and color; bill color and design; length and color of the legs; sounds; behavior; and any other distinguishing features. To identify the bird, and in some cases its gender and age, consult a bird field guide. The information below provides identification tips for some of the more common backyard birds.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

The American goldfinch was adopted as Iowa's state bird in 1933. During the summer, its trademark gold and black colors are brilliant. In the winter, they are more soft and subdued. The male has black flight feathers and a black crown, which are shades of brown in the female. The goldfinch feeds heavily on niger (thistle) seed in tubular feeders.

HOUSE FINCH

The house finch is native to the western United States and was reportedly released in New York City in the 1940s. The species has been moving west ever since and is becoming familiar to anyone who spends time outdoors. The male is reddish/brown and the female is streaked brown.

DARK-EYED JUNCO

The junco is a very common visitor to winter bird feeders. It has a slate-colored top and white bottom. Age can be determined by the color of the iris. The iris of a bird less than 1 year old is gray/brown, while the iris of an older bird is red/brown. Juncos relish small seeds on the ground around feeders.

NORTHERN CARDINAL

The male northern cardinal is famous for its bright red color, while the female is more olive/ brown. Age can be determined by the beak; birds less than 1 year old have a brown/black beak while older birds have an orange beak.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

The white-breasted nuthatch is a pleasure to watch. It hops down the trunks of trees head first, defying gravity. The male can be distinguished from the female by the color on the top of their heads. The male has a jet black cap and the female has a lead/gray cap. Age can be determined by the color of the mouth lining. A bird less than 1 year old will have a yellow lining, while an older bird will have a pink lining.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

The red-breasted nuthatch only occurs in Iowa during winters when there is a poor pine cone crop to the north. It can be differentiated from the white-breasted nuthatch by its smaller size, rusty white breast and dark line through its eye.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

The black-capped chickadee is a very active bird at the feeder and can often be observed clinging upside down to branches as it moves through the woods. A unique feature of these birds is they accumulate a layer of fat during the day which is used to stay warm at night.

HAIRY WOODPECKER

The hairy woodpecker has vivid white and black markings and a white stripe down its back. It is very similar to the downy woodpecker, only slightly larger (7 inches), and lacks the full black bars on the outer tail feathers like the downy.

DOWNY WOODPECKER

The downy woodpecker essentially looks like a miniature hairy woodpecker. However, the downy's smaller and more slender bill distinguishes it from the hairy. It is slightly smaller (5-3/4 inches), and has full black bars on its outer tail feathers. Like the hairy, males have a red patch on their head while the female does not. Both the hairy and downy woodpecker prefer sunflower seeds and suet.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

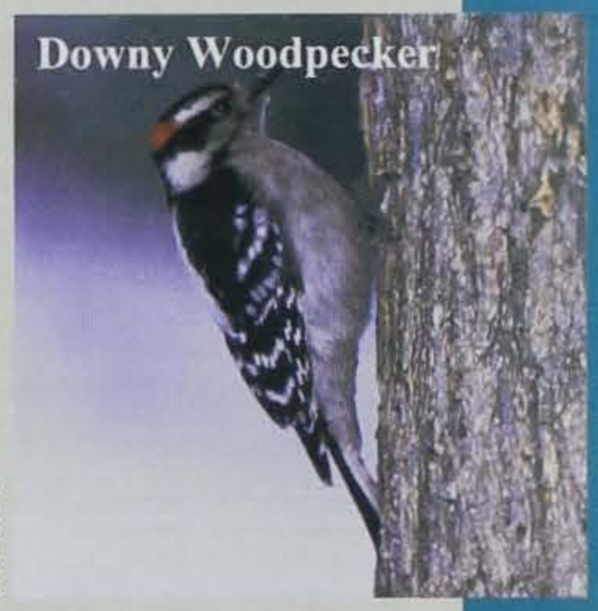
The red-bellied woodpecker is misnamed considering it actually has a buff-colored belly. The male has a red cap extending from its bill to the back of its neck. The female has a gray crown, red nape patch and red spot above its bill. Age can be determined by the color of the iris. Birds less than 1 year old have a brown iris, while older birds have a red iris.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

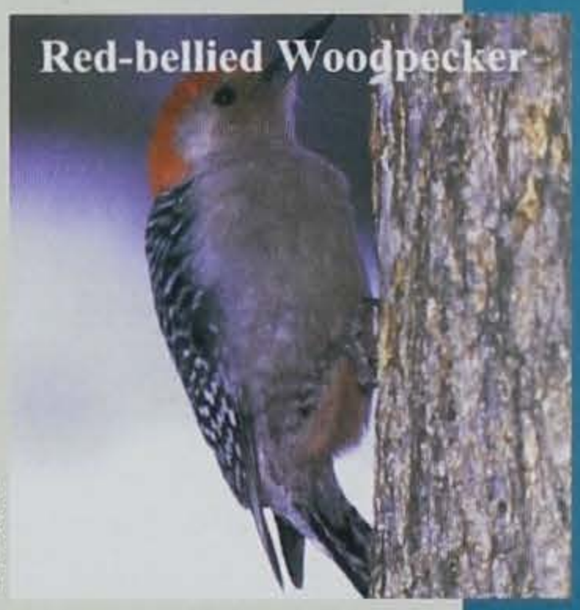
It is obvious where the red-headed woodpecker gets its name. Both sexes are similar in appearance, however the young have brown/red heads prior to their first birthday. They nest in Iowa but will migrate south if the acorn crop is poor.

TUFTED TITMOUSE

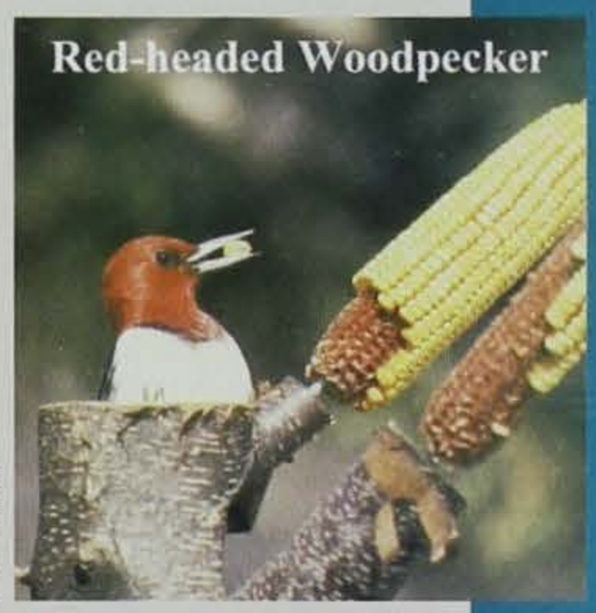
The tufted titmouse is an attractive bird, with its gray top, light bottom and black bill and eyes. The age can be determined by the color of the lining of the mouth. Birds less than 1 year old have a gray lining, while the older birds have a black lining.



Carl Kurtz



Carl Kurtz



Ron Johnson

Ty Smedes

Kids' Corner

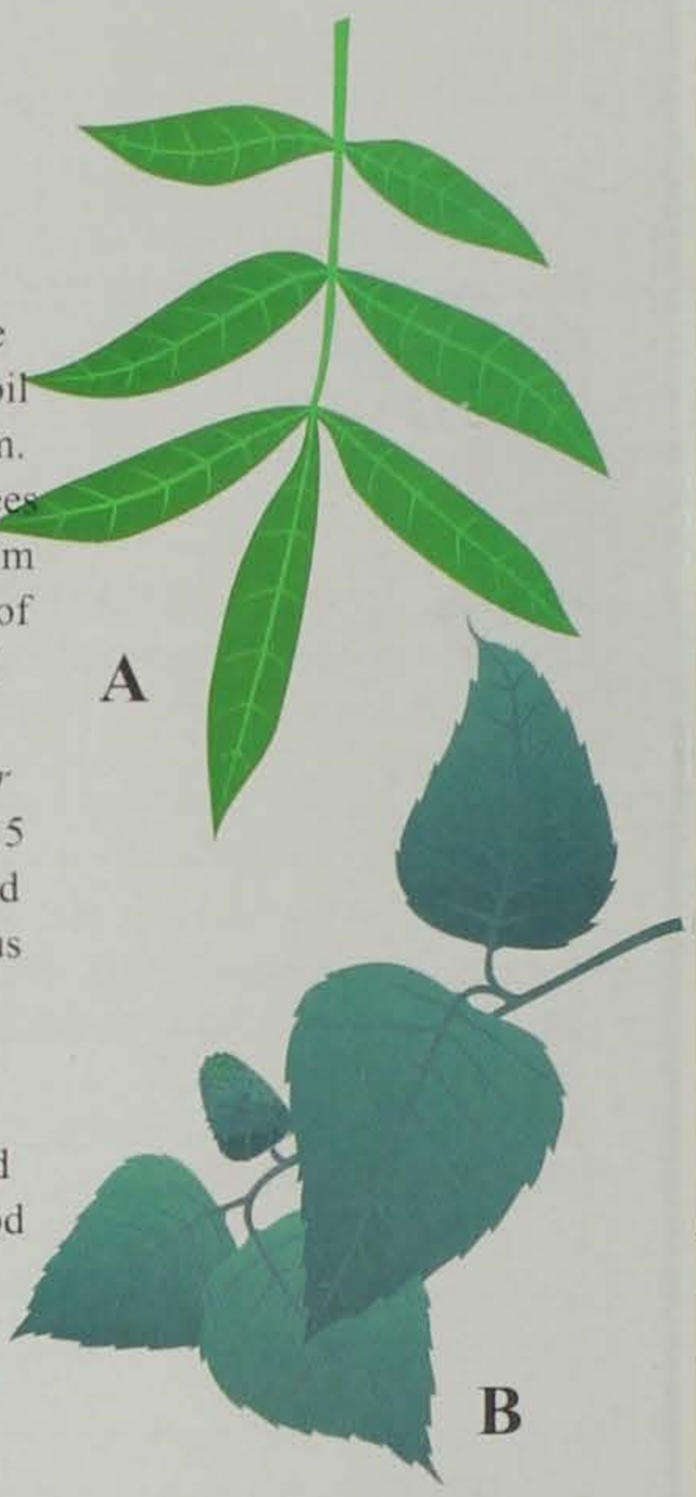
The Riparian Forest

A riparian area is the land adjacent to lakes, streams and wetlands that serves as a buffer for the aquatic habitat. It has a high water table, occasional flooding and many valuable benefits.

Riparian forests occur in narrow strips along small streams and drainages. Tree species commonly found in these areas include willow, silver maple, green ash and boxelder. Shrubs include ninebark, dogwood, chokecherry and native grasses such as switchgrass.

Riparian forests have been gaining new attention for their unique abilities. Here's a sample of what they can do . . .

- *Trap eroded soils* — A forest can stop up to 70 percent of the soil from entering a stream.
- *Treat land runoff* — Pollutants such as fertilizers and pesticides are broken down by forest plants and soil microbes before they enter a stream.
- *Hold down flood damage* — Trees and shrubs block floating debris from washing onto upland areas. Stems of trees slow water and roots hold soil in place.
- *Increase stream flows in summer* — Forest soils take in water up to 15 times faster than pasture or cropland soils. This "sponge" has tremendous water storage capacity and slowly releases water to low streams.
- *Provide food for fish* — Overhanging trees drop leaves, twigs and insects into the water creating a food source for aquatic animals.
- *Create habitat for wildlife* — Animals eat, drink, take shelter and travel these green corridors next to streams.

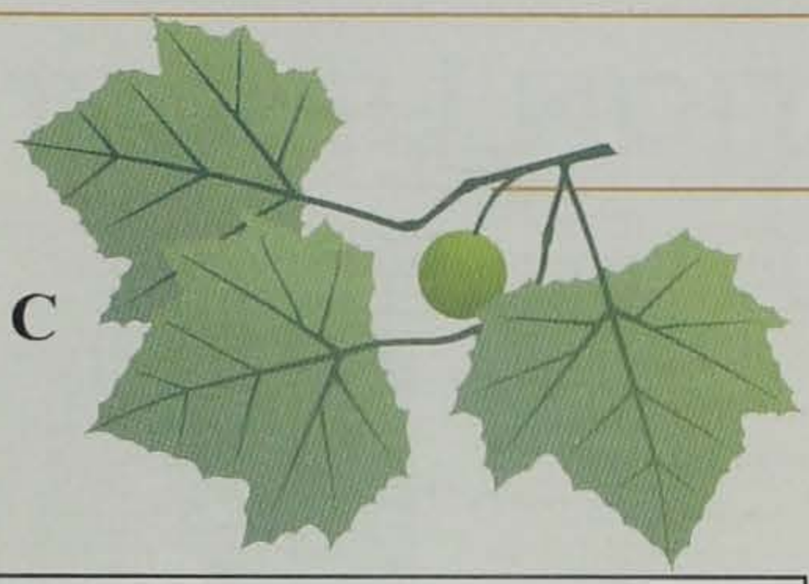


Word Search

S	U	C	C	E	S	S	I	O	N	R	I	P	A	R	I	A	N
W	I	L	L	O	W	A	G	R	E	E	N	A	S	H	V	R	U
P	D	H	W	D	F	L	O	O	D	T	O	L	E	R	A	N	T
E	H	O	A	W	S	Y	C	A	M	O	R	E	E	S	S	N	E
E	E	S	T	A	B	I	L	I	Z	E	L	H	S	H	C	H	C
B	L	E	E	T	H	S	O	H	T	P	C	O	T	A	H	A	O
L	D	D	R	E	T	T	D	L	A	R	D	S	R	D	O	C	S
A	E	I	S	R	T	N	I	M	I	N	T	L	E	E	K	O	Y
C	R	M	H	Q	O	F	R	B	A	O	E	N	A	S	E	O	S
K	B	E	E	U	A	E	R	L	O	E	M	H	M	G	C	L	T
W	E	N	D	A	V	E	M	R	P	U	M	P	H	O	H	S	E
A	R	T	T	L	V	O	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	E	L	M
L	R	E	I	I	T	C	L	E	A	N	S	O	B	D	R	E	E
N	Y	S	R	T	B	O	X	E	L	D	E	R	I	D	R	P	A
U	R	F	O	Y	E	A	Q	U	A	T	I	C	T	O	Y	M	N
T	E	B	A	H	A	C	K	B	E	R	R	Y	A	W	E	T	D
S	Y	E	C	O	T	T	O	N	W	O	O	D	T	P	Z	P	E
S	D	S	E	F	L	O	O	D	P	L	A	I	N	N	Y	G	R

AMERICAN ELM
AQUATIC
BLACK WALNUT
BOTTOMLAND
BOXELDER
CHOKECHERRY
CLEANS
COOLS
COTTONWOOD
ECOSYSTEM
ELDERBERRY
FILTER
FLOOD TOLERANT
FLOODPLAIN
GREEN ASH
HACKBERRY
MEANDER
PUMP
RIPARIAN
RIVER BIRCH
ROOTS
SEDIMENT
SHADES
SILVER MAPLE
STABILIZE
STREAM HABITAT
SUCCESSION
SYCAMORE
WATER QUALITY
WATERSHED
WET
WILLOW

Can You Identify These Leaves?



Use some of the word search words on page 56 to complete the blanks in the following statements.

1. The process in which one plant community is replaced by another is called _____.

2. "_____" is defined as an interacting system of plants, animals, microorganisms, soil and climate.

3. Forest communities that are located on low-lying land, often adjacent to streams, rivers and wetlands are referred to as _____ or _____forests.

4. The _____ is an area on both sides of a stream or river that may typically be flooded during periods of high water.

5. A "_____" refers to the irregular side-to-side path of an active stream channel.

6. Stream channels and natural living communities are "_____," because they are continually changing. not in list

7. "_____" is a term used to describe plants and insects that grow and live in and immediately around water.

8. Roots of woody plants and prairie grasses can help _____ streambanks, reducing the _____ that flows into the stream channel, which clouds the stream and leaves unwanted deposits downstream.

9. _____ _____ is improved when ____ along streams naturally _____ unwanted pollutants and hold the soil in place.

10. _____ _____ is a term to describe the trees, shrubs and other vegetation that grows in and around the stream. This protective vegetation _____, _____ and _____ the water, making it a better place for fish and aquatic insects to live.

1. succession; 2. Ecosystem; 3. riparian, bottomland; 4. floodplain; 5. meander; 6. dynamic 7. Aquatic; 8. stabilize, sediment; 9. Water quality, roots, filter; 10. Stream habitat, shades, cools, cleans

Information used in this issue of "Kids Corner" came from *Trees For Kids (TFK)* educational materials. *Trees for Kids* is a tree education and planting program targeting Iowa's elementary students. For more information about the program contact the DNR *TFK* coordinator at 515-281-4915.

Straight From The Tree

Here are a few of the products made from trees found in riparian forests.

American elm — bent parts for furniture (rockers and arms), toys containers and paneling

Boxelder — it is a maple that can be tapped for syrup

Cottonwood — boxes, paper products, timber road bridges, furniture, cutting boards, pallets, matches

Green Ash — lumber, baseball bats and landscape trees

River birch — landscape trees, furniture, barrels, toys, once used for wooden shoes

Silver maple — highly valued tree for furniture and lumber (especially for Asian export market), like all maples it can be tapped for syrup

Sycamore — flooring, boxes, furniture, sugar and flour barrels, butcher blocks

Willows — furniture, signs, boxes, baskets, doors, cabinets, toys, cutting boards, picture frames and artificial limbs

Can You Identify These Leaves?
A - Green Ash; B - River Birch; C - Sycamore

Conservation Update

Boat Registration Renewals Due This Year At County Recorders' Offices

Iowa boaters and anglers are reminded this is the year to renew boat registrations.

Boat owners must file renewals at the recorder's office in the county they reside. All boat registrations and assigned numbers expire at midnight April 30 in odd-numbered years.

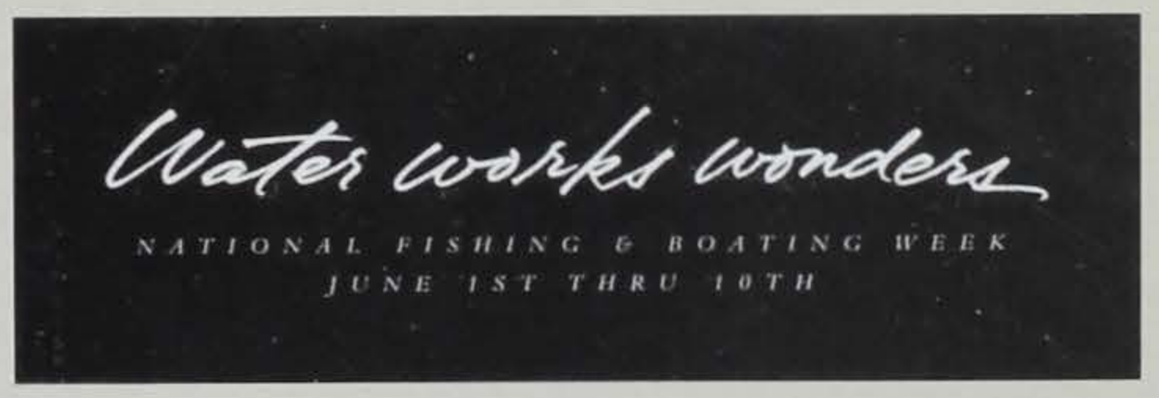
With a few exceptions, all vessels operated on public waters must be registered. Those excluded from registration requirements include traditional non-power and non-sail canoes and kayaks 13 feet or less in length, and inflatable non-power and non-sail vessels 7 feet or less in length.

Registration fees vary from $5 to $28 depending on the type and size of the vessel. A $1 writing fee per registration is charged in addition to the registration fee.

Boaters with questions concerning specific regulations should contact their local conservation officer. Copies of the *Iowa Boating Regulations* brochure, which includes a table of boat registration fees, can be obtained at county recorders' offices; by writing: Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; or by calling (515) 281-5145.

Clay Smith

Fees collected from boat registrations are used for the administration and enforcement of watercraft laws and water safety.



Federal, state and local agencies and conservation organizations across the country will be celebrating National Fishing and Boating Week June 1-10. The theme is "Water works wonders."

The Iowa DNR has designated June 1-3 as Free Fishing Days. During those days only, Iowa residents may fish and possess fish without a license, and payment of the Iowa trout fee is not needed to possess trout. All other fishing regulations apply, including length and possession limits.

1-800 ASK-FISH Has The Answers

The latest information on fishing in Iowa is just a free phone call away.

The toll-free number, 1-800-ASK-FISH (275-3474), is a complete source for anyone wanting information on fishing in Iowa and other states. Callers can find the current fishing hotspots, learn about Iowa lakes and the available facilities and locate camping areas, boat ramps and handicapped-accessible sites. Lake maps and fishing regulations can also be ordered.

The program is supported by Wallop-Breaux/Sport Fish Restoration Funds.

Iowa's Turn in Poachers Program Reports Another Successful Year

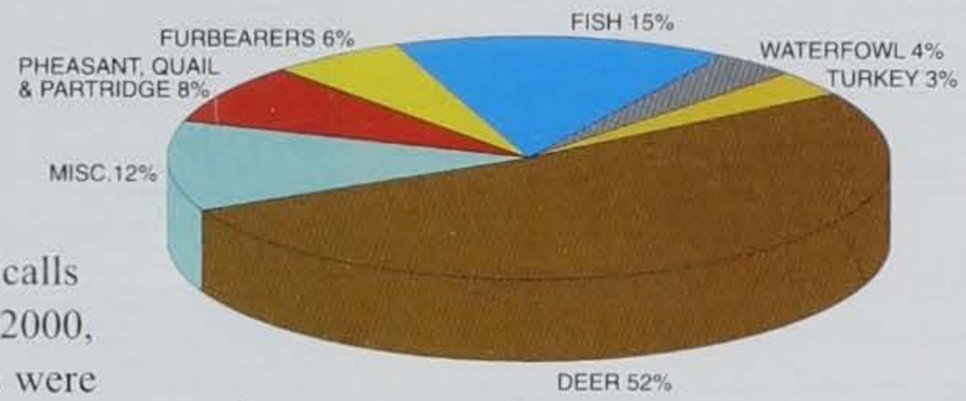
Although the number of Turn In Poachers (TIP) calls has declined steadily over the last seven years, the effectiveness of the program continues to grow.

"We heard many comments from veteran officers who said they 'couldn't remember having a more successful year with poaching cases,'" said Steve Dermand, TIP coordinator for the DNR.

Several landmark poaching cases were successfully investigated last year, many of which were the result of TIP calls. Conservation officers worked overtime investigating solid TIP leads, Dermand said.

Much of the success can be attributed to the TIP program and the quality of calls coming in. In 2000, 275 TIP calls were recorded, 16 less than in 1999 and 38 less than the year before. Of the 275 calls, 20 were successfully prosecuted resulting in 87 citations. The TIP reward committee approved $9,350 in rewards last year.

Since its inception in 1985, the TIP program has recorded 7,485 calls resulting in 1,748 citations and $114,000 in rewards.



Cooperative Effort With Lowe's Nets More Than 500 Bushels Of Acorns

A cooperative effort with Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse in Des Moines netted more than 500 bushels of acorns, which will supply the State Forest Nursery in Ames with seedlings for future plantings.

Last fall, Lowe's agreed to be the central collection site for Iowans who wanted to donate gathered acorns. During a five-week period, 518 bushels of seed were collected, including: 183 bushels of mixed oak; 173 bushels of bur oak; 115 bushels of white oak; 35 bushels of red oak; and 12 bushels of swamp white oak.

DNR forestry officials estimate the collected acorns will produce approximately 250,000 tree seedlings, which will be available for planting beginning the fall of 2001 through the spring of 2003. The collection efforts will help the DNR forestry division goal of providing native tree and shrub seedlings to the general public.

Clay Smith

Mike Brandrup (right), division administrator of the DNR's Forests and Prairies Division, hands Bob Johnson of Lowe's a State Forester's Award for collecting acorn seed last fall. Lowe's agreed to be a central collection site for donated seed, which netted 518 bushels of acorns.

Conservation Update

DNR Tables Decision on Livestock Emission Rules

The state Environmental Protection Commission in February tabled a decision on air emission rules for large-scale livestock facilities to allow incoming director, Jeff Vonk, to have input on the matter.

Citing lack of resources, the DNR recommended the commission deny a citizen petition proposing detailed rules to regulate air emissions.

DNR officials agree the emissions may pose risks and plan to solicit statewide input to find achievable alternatives, said Michael Valde, division administrator for the department's Environmental Protection Division. He said the DNR cannot carry out the proposal due to lack of staff, funding and other necessary resources.

"The proposed rules had merits, but the monitoring, inspection and permitting goals had no chance of being implemented due to staffing and budget constraints. We would have to pull a majority of efforts from industrial air pollution control. We simply can't do that," said Valde.

"We need to work with the petitioners, producers and citizens to find alternative rules that can be implemented," he said. Alternatives could establish less staff-intensive methods to best control emissions. "There may be ways to meet the petitioners concerns that are more effective to manage as regulators," said Valde.

Roger A. Hill

Iowans could find summer recreational activities, including boating and vacation travel, a little more costly this summer if gas prices rise as forecasted.

Summer gasoline prices could reach $2 per gallon

Gasoline market conditions indicate consumers will be paying more at the pump this summer, with the possibility of price spikes reaching $2 per gallon, according to DNR energy analysts.

"Several factors are setting the stage for increased driving costs this spring and summer," said Ward Lenz, DNR energy analyst.

Most national analysts forecast the summer driving season could experience below-average gasoline and crude oil inventories, creating a volatile pricing situation. Gasoline prices in the Midwest this summer are expected to be in the $1.50- to $1.60-range. However, consumers should be prepared for large price swings, and spikes that could approach $2 per gallon, if prolonged supply interruptions due to refinery or pipeline problems occur.

The cost of crude oil has been averaging about $30 per barrel, up $1.50 from this time last year. Crude oil prices are expected to remain strong in the short-term, with U.S. inventories slightly down and OPEC promising future production cuts.

Another important factor, according to Lenz, is the cost of refining. Refining capacity has remained stagnant in the United States for more than a decade, while gasoline demand has increased about 1 percent each year. Because the United States often consumes as much gasoline as it produces daily, gasoline inventories are slow to recover from periods of peak demand or refinery problems.

"Summer driving demand will play a critical role in determining what consumers will pay at the pump," said Lenz. "If the economy is strong, gasoline demand could set new consumption records."

Volunteering Today For A Better Iowa Tomorrow

LAKE BED CLEAN UP NETS MORE THAN 600 VOLUNTEERS AND TONS OF TRASH

Over a two-day period in October, Lake Macbride State Park hosted more than 600 volunteers who donated in excess of 1,600 hours of labor to clean up the drained lake bed.

"It's amazing how much you can accomplish when so many people help and donate just a few hours each," said Lake Macbride Superintendent Gwen Prentice.

The Friends of Lake Macbride group, along with local community members and groups, were instrumental in organizing the successful clean-up. Volunteers included elementary, middle and senior high school students from Solon, Prairie, Clear Creek, Amana and Iowa City. College students from Upper Iowa, Kirkwood, Cornell and Iowa were also involved. Service groups such as boy and girl scout troops and various church groups were represented. Many families who live near the park also pitched in.

Local businesses contributed to the cause, donating refreshments and the containers and hauling for the estimated 30 tons of trash the volunteers collected.

"The cleaning of the lake bed is a very worthwhile effort that will result in a better lake for everyone," said Jerry Reisinger, parks supervisor for the northeast region. "Maybe more importantly, it is a project that brings good people together for a cause that is important to them. I can think of no better way to educate and make people feel inspired."

The lake bed cleanup isn't the end of the story, however. The Lake Macbride Friends Group is raising money for the planned "Beach to Dam" trail project. This summer, the friends group, DNR Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps Trails crew and local volunteers will work together to repair erosion and build a new hiking trail around the revitalized lake.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Lake Macbride, contact Prentice or Ron Puettmann at 319-644-2562. For other DNR volunteer opportunities across the state, call 1-800-367-1025, e-mail volunteer@dnr.state.ia.us or check out volunteer opportunities on the DNR's web page at www.state.ia.us/dnr.

Upcoming NRC and EPC Meetings

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

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

Natural Resource Commission:

— April
No meeting
— May 10
Albia
— June 14
McGregor
— July 12
No meeting
— August 9
Gull Point State Park

Environmental Protection Commission:

— April 16
Des Moines
— May 21
Des Moines
— June 18
Des Moines
— July 16
Des Moines
— August 20
Des Moines

Warden's Diary

By Chuck Humeston

I was settled into my easy chair reading the newspaper when I heard the freezer door open, followed by the loud "thud" of something hitting the floor.

"Uh oh," I thought.

Deb remained calm. Being married to a game warden, she has grown somewhat accustomed to finding feathered, finned or furry things in the freezer.

"Chuck," she calmly said, "when do you think we can get rid of this?"

I put down the paper. I looked for an escape route, but found none. "Uh, is it the grebe?"

"Yes, it's the grebe again."

I winced. I had put it in the freezer door, but the retainer was broken, and the frozen grebe often fell to the floor at the most inopportune times. This was one of them.

"I think that case is over. I'll get rid of it."

The grebe's impromptu appearance brought back memories. I couldn't help but laugh at "The Day the Grebe Died."

It was September and duck season had just opened. Park Ranger Gale Goranson and I had set out to check hunters on Brushy Creek. As I pointed the boat upstream along the shore, I noticed the lake was covered with grebes. "This is not going to be a good day," I thought.

If you've never encountered one, the pied-billed grebe is described as, "... pigeon-sized... a stocky uniformly brownish bird." They are famous for diving, not flying. Although protected, they are often mistaken for ducks.

As the lake narrowed to its inlet creek, we came upon two guys enjoying the fall day.

"The Day... The Grebe... Died"

"Have any luck?" I asked.

Pointing to a log, one of them answered, "Yeah, we have a wood duck, and we have...," he paused momentarily, "we have one of these."

Even before looking, I knew. I've learned from experience, ask a waterfowler how's the hunting, and you may hear, "Oh, a couple of teal" or "I've got some mallards." But ask the same question to somebody who shot a grebe, and almost invariably, you get a puzzled expression and "I've got one of these."

I looked at the form on the log and sure enough, it was a grebe.

"Where did you shoot it?" Goranson asked.

"On the water," the guy answered.

"Was it flying?"

"No, I didn't know what it was."

Invariably, that's the other statement I often hear. Although most waterfowlers are extremely dilligent about duck identification, there are always a few who don't. I cited the guy and took the grebe.

When the next duck season opened in October, we went back to Brushy Creek. Launching the boat at the ramp I looked at the lake. "Oh no." Sure enough, the lake was covered with grebes.

We motored into the furthest tree-covered reaches of the lake. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a boat tucked back into the trees at the edge of a pool. There was a single hunter in the boat. We pulled alongside and asked to see his license and equipment.

"Do you have any ducks?" I asked.

I noticed a puzzled look on his face. "Oh no," I thought. He pointed at the bottom of the boat. "Yeah, one," he said. He kept pointing at it. "I have ONE OF THESE."

I peered over the gunwale into his jonboat. A grebe. I took the bird, and once again, pointed out it was not a duck.

That's how the grebe ended up in the freezer. Sometimes I think it a more fitting punishment to make the offender eat the grebe rather than pay a fine. One bite and I could guarantee there wouldn't be a repeat offense.

I removed the grebe from the freezer and peered in wondering what else I had in there. "Maybe it's better not to know," I thought, as I shut the door.

Parting Shot

DNR archives, C.J. Sorlien, *Mason City Globe-Gazette.*

Remember When . . .

We are looking for your photos to share with our readers. Photos depicting Iowa wildlife or outdoor recreation, humorous and /or historical (prior to 1960) are preferred. Photos should be sent to "Parting Shot," *Iowa Conservationist* at Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. With regard to historical shots, we would appreciate a caption identifying people, places and approximate dates. All photos will be returned.