



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2020

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Outdoor education workshops scheduled this spring

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is sponsoring workshops for K–12 and early childhood educators on Iowa's outdoors this spring.

A *Project WILD* and *Aquatic WILD* workshop for teachers, naturalists and other K-12 educators is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 23 at the Nahant Marsh in Davenport. Learn how outdoor projects, exploration, and field investigations provide relevant learning opportunities for students that support STEM-based learning. Trainers will work with educators to incorporate activities from these resources into inquiry based learning units, and to conduct real field investigations with their students.

Growing Up WILD workshops for early childhood educators are scheduled at three locations for 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on March 28 at the Story County Conservation Center in Ames; April 4 at Starr's Cave Nature Center in Burlington; and April 18 at Camp Autumn in Sutherland. Provide an early foundation for your students with a collection of activities written by educators and wildlife professionals and reviewed by early childhood education experts.

You must register to attend the workshops. Find links to electronic registration forms and more information on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/idnr/Conservation/For-Teachers/Projects-WILD-WILD-Aquatic.

Media Contact: Barb Gigar, training specialist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-494-3891.

Hunting turkeys is the topic of upcoming Learn to Hunt workshop

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is offering a three part Learn to Hunt series this spring focusing on hunting turkeys. The workshops will be held at Butch Olofson shooting range, 11652 NW Nissen Dr., Polk City. Attendees may attend any or all of the workshops. A light dinner will be available at each session.

- **March 19, 6 – 9 p.m. Learn to Hunt Turkeys: Biology and Gear (Part 1 of 3)**
Discussion will focus on turkey hunting basics. Participants will learn about turkey behavior, turkey regulations and basic gear requirements. This class is for adults 18 years of age or older. Most of the class will be held indoors at the range.
- **March 26, 6 – 9 p.m. Learn to Hunt Turkeys: Calling and Shotgun Patterning (Part 2 of 3)** This course is recommended for those who are new to turkey hunting or would like to sharpen their skills. During this class, participants will learn about how to accurately pattern a shotgun and call turkeys effectively. Participants may bring their own shotgun for the patterning portion. Loaner shotguns are available for those who do not have one. This course is for adults 18 years of age or older.
- **May 7, 6 – 9 p.m. Learn to Hunt Turkeys: Field Dressing, Taxidermy and Cooking (Part 3 of 3)** Discussion will focus on turkey season successes and failures. Participants will learn how to field dress a bird, learn at home taxidermy tips and sample some tasty turkey breast nuggets.

To view and register for upcoming events, visit <https://www.register-ed.com/programs/iowa>. For more information, contact Jamie Cook, Iowa State Coordinator, Pheasants Forever Inc., Quail Forever, at 859-779-0222. This event is made possible by Iowa DNR, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Iowa Hunter Education Instructor Association.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jamie Cook, Iowa State Coordinator, Pheasants Forever Inc., Quail Forever, 859-779-0222.

Early spring weather means it's time to stop pruning oaks

It may be cool out, but it's time to finish pruning oak trees to prevent the spread of oak wilt.

The best way to prevent the spread of oak wilt is to not prune any oak tree between the end of March and the start of October. However, the warm weather conditions indicate that spring might be a bit early this year. For that reason, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources advises to finish oak pruning by the end of the second week in March.

Oak wilt is caused by a fungus and has been present in Iowa for many years. The trees in Iowa most commonly impacted by this disease are red, black and pin oaks, but it can infect white and bur oaks. Black, pin, and red oaks usually die within the same summer they are infected. White oak and bur oak can often take years before they succumb.

A healthy tree can be infected by the fungus in two different ways. The first is through open wounds during the growing season. The fungus is carried from a diseased tree to a healthy tree with an open wound by a small beetle. The second is through root grafts between oak trees of the same species. For example, if a red oak is infected and there is another red oak within 50 to 100 feet there is a good chance that the roots of these trees are grafted and the fungus can move from the diseased tree to the healthy tree.

Symptoms to look for on infected trees usually include leaves turning a bronzed brown along the outer margins of the leaves. These leaves can often still have some green on them as they fall from the tree. The defoliation tends to start at the top of the tree. The best way to prevent the spread of oak wilt is to prevent any wounding to oak trees during the growing season. If a tree is wounded from storm damage or pruning is required during the growing season, treat the wounds immediately with a wound dressing such as acrylic paint. Do not purchase pruning paints/sealants. Those products slow the tree's ability to seal over the wound.

More information on oak wilt prevention and control can be found here <https://www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/publications/how-identify-prevent-and-control-oak-wilt>

Media Contact: Tivon Feely, DNR Forest Health Program, (515) 725-8453, Tivon.Feely@dnr.iowa.gov.

INHF to host State Park Centennial volunteer events at 3 state parks

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), the Iowa Parks Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will kick off INHF's 2020 volunteer season and celebrate the Iowa State Parks Centennial with three volunteer events at Iowa state parks on Saturday, March 21.

Volunteers are invited to help remove invasive species and restore native habitat at Big Creek State Park near Polk City, Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area near Palo and Volga River State Recreation Area near Fayette. All three events will be followed by drinks and a social hour at nearby businesses.

There is no experience necessary, training will be provided and families are welcome at all events. Volunteers are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring a water bottle and work gloves if they have them. All other equipment will be provided.

For more details or to RSVP, visit www.inhf.org/events. If you have questions, contact INHF Volunteer Coordinator Melanie Schmidt at mschmidt@inhf.org. For information about other Parks 2020 centennial events, visit: www.iowadnr.gov/parks2020

Central Iowa

Saturday, March 21

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Big Creek State Park
Polk City

About Big Creek State Park: Located in central Iowa just 20 miles north of Des Moines, Big Creek State Park is known as a family-friendly setting for outdoor activities. After the work day, all are invited to Fenders Brewing in Polk City.

Eastern Iowa

Saturday, March 21

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area

Palo

About Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area: Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area is an outdoor recreation venue in Linn County. It features a 410 acre lake, 1,517 acres of public hunting grounds, a swimming beach, campgrounds, and twelve miles of multi-use trails. After the work day, volunteers are invited to Iowa Brewing Company. Everyone is welcome to attend after the event.

Northeast Iowa

Saturday, March 21

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Volga River State Recreation Area

Fayette

About Volga River State Recreation Area: Located in central northeast Iowa near Fayette, Volga River State Recreation Area features heavily wooded ridges and ravines, prairies and of course, the Volga River. After working to restore sand prairie habitat, volunteers will meet up at Heaven Boutique Winery. Everyone is welcome.

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