



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fall fishing for Iowa's prize trout

Enjoy what's left of the spectacular colors and cool weather fishing in northeast Iowa's hundreds of miles of trout streams this fall. From easily accessible streams in state or county parks, to those found in Iowa's most wild and remote natural spaces, there are plenty of places to catch rainbow, brown and brook trout.

Northeast Iowa draws thousands of anglers from across Iowa to its coldwater streams and excellent trout fishing.

"It's a busy place this time of year," said Mike Steuck, Iowa DNR fisheries supervisor for interior streams. "Anglers can test their skills with lots of wild fish in these streams."

View some of the best fall colors in the narrow valley of Little Paint, west of Harpers Ferry. Look for trout behind larger boulders and under rock ledges. Let your lure or bait drift around the boulders and just in front of the ledges.

Catch stream-reared brown trout up to 16 inches and 10- to 12-inch stocked rainbow trout in the Maquoketa River. Miles of public access spots line the river in Clayton and Delaware counties. Find rainbow trout in pools and runs while brown trout will be near wood habitat.

The best chance to catch all three trout species in one trip is at Spring Branch Creek, southeast of Manchester. There is great public access to more than 1.5 miles of coldwater stream.

Learn to "read" a stream, to identify habitats that offer food and cover. Trout are not randomly scattered in a stream. They locate themselves along the edge of the current flow near protective cover. The stream current carries food to the trout while it waits.

Trout try to bulk up in the fall for winter and are always hungry. Brown and brook trout lay their eggs in nests called redds in October and November. The eggs stay in these areas

of cleaned gravel on the stream bottom until they hatch in late winter or early spring. Be careful where you walk to avoid stepping in or directly above these nests.

“Brown trout are wary, be as quiet and hidden as you can,” said Steuck. “If you can see them, they have already seen you and probably will not bite.”

Fish overcast and gray days when using spin fishing gear. Trout are less wary of lures at this time. If fly fishing, target midday on sunny and bright days. In cooler fall temperatures, bright warm days can stimulate an insect hatch. Dry flies can still be productive, but the insect hatches become more sporadic and less intense than in the summer so nymphs are a better option.

Iowa’s trout season is open all year. Iowa’s trout streams are too. About 105 coldwater trout streams await anglers in ten northeast Iowa counties.

Anglers need to have a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. The daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of ten.

Learn more about Iowa’s trout streams, including maps and amenities, and tips and tricks to catch trout on the Iowa DNR’s website at www.iowadnr.gov/trout.

Media Contact: Mike Steuck, regional fisheries supervisor, northeast Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-927-3276.

All 18 community trout ponds have been stocked this fall

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released between 1,000 to 2,000 rainbow trout at the last five community trout ponds as part of its cool weather trout program that brings trout to areas that cannot support them during the summer.

The following locations are ready for anglers to catch trout: [Lake Petocka](#) (Bondurant), [Terra Lake](#) (Johnston), [Ada Hayden Lake](#) (Ames), [Scharnberg Pond](#) (Spencer) and [Blue Pit](#) (Mason City).

All fall community trout stockings were unannounced this year and family fishing events were not held to help reduce the crowd size at stocking locations and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

The fall community trout stockings are a great place to take kids to catch their first fish. A small hook with a nightcrawler or corn under a small bobber or small simple spinners such as a panther martin or mepps is all you need to get in on the fun.

Bringing trout to cities and towns offers a “close to home” option for Iowans who might not travel to the coldwater streams in northeast Iowa to discover trout fishing.

The popular program is supported by the sales of the trout fee. Anglers need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. The daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of 10.

Children age 15 or younger can fish for trout with a properly licensed adult, but they must limit their catch to one daily limit. The child can purchase a trout fee which will allow them to catch their own limit.

Find more information about trout fishing in Iowa on the [DNR trout fishing webpage](#).

Media Contact: Mike Steuck, regional fisheries supervisor, Northeast Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-927-3276.

Learn to Hunt program opens registration for virtual Hunt Iowa Social hour

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering a free virtual social hour to individuals who have little to no hunting experience or would like to find out more about hunting in Iowa.

“If you haven't hunted in a couple of years but would like to get back afield, or maybe never hunted but always wanted to learn more, this is the event for you.” said Jamie Cook, program coordinator with the Iowa DNR.

Join the event online at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 19, for an evening discussing all things hunting with conservation groups, retailers, and staff with the Iowa DNR who will provide information on ways to get involved in hunting and increase your hunting knowledge and skills.

“This is a laid-back, family friendly event will showcase opportunities to get involved in other outdoor recreational pursuits such as shooting sports and fishing,” said Cook.

Participants will have the chance to listen to guest speakers, hear about places to hunt, ask questions to DNR staff and get to know other hunters across the state.

The course is geared for participants 16 and older. Those under 16 must have an adult register and participate in the course as well. Space online will be limited so register right way to ensure your spot. The social will be held on Nov. 19 and will cover topics such as season basics, where to hunt, hunting regulations, and feature some great partners that can help connect you to the field. For more information and to begin the registration process, visit:

Nov. 19: <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/163728>

The program is provided through a partnership with Iowa Wildlife Federation, Pheasants Forever and the Iowa DNR. It is part of a national effort to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters due to the overall decline in hunting and outdoor recreation.

Media Contact: Jamie Cook, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 859-779-0222.

Virtual clinic aims to improve hunter skills

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is hosting a free virtual wing shooting clinic designed to help hunters age 16 and older become more effective waterfowl and upland bird hunters.

The virtual clinic will be held Nov. 16, beginning at 6 p.m. Attendees can register in at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_65GJFINCQEuS-HwiQAzLg. Once registration is completed, they will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The clinic is based on the research of Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP), which was started in 1982 to get statistically derived data to assist hunters in choosing an effective non-toxic shot shotgun load while hunting. Iowa was one of the original member states and continues to support the efforts of CONSEP.

“The clinic is designed to teach hunters how to get the most out of their existing equipment and to make them be more successful in the field,” said Steve Griebel, state conservation officer with the Iowa DNR and workshop instructor.

The goal of the clinic is to provide hunters with the necessary information to become better shots so they can decrease wounding loss while hunting waterfowl and upland birds.

Media Contact: Steve Griebel, State Conservation Officer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-301-4009.

Grants available for fishing and boating education programs in Hispanic communities

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources’ *Fish Iowa!* angler education program has partnered with the Recreational Fishing and Boating Foundation’s (RBFF) *Vamos A Pescar*™ program to provide funding to local 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to support local efforts to educate and engage families in high-density Hispanic communities through programs, classes and fishing activities. Minimum grant request is \$5,000 with a 1:1 cash match required.

The George H.W. Bush *Vamos A Pescar*™ Education Fund and *Fish Iowa!* will provide funds for programming between Feb. 1 and Nov. 1, 2021. Applications must be submitted via email no later than Dec. 1, 2020. For grant guidelines and applications, contact Barb Gigar at Barb.Gigar@dnr.iowa.gov.

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

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with state and local officials to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and has transitioned employees to work remotely. DNR offices are closed to the public during this time and only available by appointment.

In other efforts to further reduce the spread of Covid-19, the DNR is encouraging the use of the online services for purchasing licenses, submitting applications, payments and other daily tasks and interaction with DNR staff.

The FREE Go Outdoors Iowa app is available at the App store and Google Play. The Go Outdoors Iowa app allows users to purchase and view hunting and fishing licenses and submit harvest and quota reports, all from your cell phone.

Full list of DNR's online services: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/about-dnr/about-dnr/online-services-databases>.

Up-to-date information on DNR services, facilities and events impacted by Covid-19: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Covid-19>.

Technical information for regulated businesses in regards to Covid-19: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Social-Media-Press-Room/Disaster-Assistance#3057321-covid---19-outbreak>.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you need to contact DNR staff you can reach them by email or phone or by calling (515) 725-8200.