



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2021

- [Early childhood online outdoor education training scheduled this spring](#)
- [Walleye season opens May 1 on Iowa's Great Lakes](#)
- [Fishing regulations to be relaxed at Emma Young Pond in Clinton](#)
- [Iowa's Scholastic Clay Target Program crowns collegiate trap shooting champions](#)

Early childhood online outdoor education training scheduled this spring

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach are launching an online training for the national award-winning *Growing Up WILD* activity guide.

This online training provides exciting hands-on activities and resources to help lead children (ages 3-7) out the door and explore nature. Activities use age-appropriate practices and concepts to build and nurture a child's sense of wonder about nature, wildlife, and the great outdoors. Early learning activities focus on: math, science, language, literacy, health living, play, and creativity.

Participants are required to complete online pre-workshop activities and attend the online training on May 19, from 6 - 9 pm. Cost is \$45 and includes the *Growing Up WILD* activity guide. Participants receive four (clock) hours credit for childcare license renewal approved by Iowa Department of Human Services.

Registration is required to attend the online training. Register and submit payment by May 5 on the [Iowa Child Care Provider Training Registry](#) (search for Reconnecting Children with Nature).

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

Walleye season opens May 1 on Iowa's Great Lakes

The 145th walleye fishing season officially opens May 1 at Spirit Lake, East and West Okoboji lakes.

"Walleye populations on the Iowa Great Lakes are in great shape," said Mike Hawkins, fisheries biologist for the Iowa DNR. "If the weather cooperates, anglers should have

some good success.”

Walleye season opens the first Saturday in May and runs through February 14 each year on Spirit Lake, East Okoboji Lake and West Okoboji Lake. There is a protected slot limit on walleyes from 17- to 22-inches, with only one walleye over 22-inches allowed per day on Spirit Lake, East and West Okoboji Lake, Upper and Lower Gar Lake and Minnewashta Lake. The daily limit is three walleyes with a possession limit of six.

“Several strong year classes of walleye are present,” Hawkins said. “Spirit Lake has very good numbers of walleyes around 14-inches in addition to continued good numbers of larger fish.”

The walleye season will be opening in the Iowa Great Lakes, but the lakes offer great fishing for a variety of other species. Panfish, northern pike, and smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing can be very good as the water warms.

The Iowa Great Lakes Chamber of Commerce will host the 39th annual Great Walleye Weekend Fishing Contest in conjunction with the opener. For more information on the contest, visit their website at <https://okobojichamber.com/walleye-weekend/>.

Media Contact: Mike Hawkins, Fisheries Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-336-1840.

Fishing regulations to be relaxed at Emma Young Pond in Clinton

CLINTON - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will relax the fishing regulations at Emma Young Pond in Clinton starting May 1 to allow anglers to more freely harvest fish before the pond is renovated this fall.

Anglers with a valid sport fishing license may harvest all sizes and unlimited quantities of any species of fish from Emma Young Pond. Any number of fishing poles is allowed. Anglers must remain in sight of these lines at all times, and follow all other fishing regulations and area rules.

Anglers who catch trout left over from a previous community trout stocking at Emma Young Pond during the relaxed fishing regulations still need to pay the trout fee to keep any trout.

Liberalized fishing regulations for Emma Young Pond will be in effect from May 1 until the pond water level is lowered in fall. Specific regulation changes include:

- Removal of bag limit on trout.
- Removal of bag and length limit restrictions on largemouth bass.
- Removal of bag limit on channel catfish.
- Removal of bag limit on crappie and bluegill.

Dynamite, poison, electric shocking devices, or any stupefying substances are not allowed. It is illegal to sell fish or stock captured fish into public waters.

The DNR will restock the pond with largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish after the project is complete and the pond has refilled.

Media Contact: Chad Dolan, Fisheries Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 319-694-2430.

Iowa's Scholastic Clay Target Program crowns collegiate trap shooting champions

Iowa's community colleges dominated the 2021 Collegiate Trap Shooting Championship this past weekend.

Iowa Western Community College was crowned Team Champions in Singles Trap, and also had members place second, fourth and sixth in the Men's Individual and fourth in the Women's Individual.

The 2021 Iowa Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) Collegiate Championships in Singles Trap held April 17, at the Stockdale Gun Club, near Ackley, included 140 athletes from 17 Iowa colleges and universities. Top individual honors went to Kyle Wilkins, of Grand View University, and Briana Heltibridle, from Hawkeye Community College. The final results are below.

Singles Trap Championship

Men's Individual

1. Kyle Wilkins, Grand View University: 199
2. Weston Zolck, Iowa Western Community College: 198
3. Carson Feeney, Iowa Central Community College: 196
4. John DeFord, Iowa Western Community College: 196
5. Chase Martin, Iowa Central Community College: 196
6. Mitchell Hoffman, Iowa Western Community College: 195

Women's Individual

1. Briana Heltibridle, Hawkeye Community College: 192
2. Alexis Teribury, Hawkeye Community College: 191
3. Courtney Nielsen, Southwestern Community College: 188
4. Reegan Filip, Iowa Western Community College: 187
5. Kaylie Klimesh, Northeast Iowa Community College: 186
6. Nicole, Popp, Hawkeye Community College: 184

Singles Trap Teams

1. Iowa Western Community College: 978
2. Iowa Central Community College: 973
3. Grand View University: 954

4. Hawkeye Community College: 943
5. Southwestern Community College: 926

The Scholastic Clay Target Program is the largest, fastest growing, and most exciting youth clay target program in the country, said Chris Van Gorp, shooting sports coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

“Student athletes from elementary through high school and college have the opportunity to compete in sports such as trap, skeet, and sporting clays, as well as Olympic disciplines like bunker trap and international skeet, Van Gorp said.

The SCTP is a youth development program, first and foremost and we do this through the shooting sports and competitive shooting. The SCTP’s mission is to help kids reach their highest potential in becoming the best athletes and young adults they can be. For more information on the Scholastic Clay Target Program in Iowa, contact Chris Van Gorp, shooting sports coordinator for the Iowa DNR at 515-313-8048 or chris.vangorp@dnr.iowa.gov.

Media Contact: Chris Van Gorp, DNR Shooting Sports Coordinator, (515) 313-8048 or Chris.Vangorp@dnr.iowa.gov.