



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 8, 2021

- [Arson investigation leads state conservation officers to Williamsburg man](#)
- [Urban lumber now available at Des Moines, Iowa City Habitat for Humanity ReStores](#)

## Arson investigation leads state conservation officers to Williamsburg man

Jereme Goltz, of Williamsburg, faces charges including two counts of third-degree arson, felony possession of a controlled substance- methamphetamine (3rd or subsequent offense), and littering following a two-month long investigation by Iowa Department of Natural Resources conservation officers.

During the months of July and August, DNR officials noticed an uptick in the number of illegal fires being set in parking lots, fields, and woodlands located within the 14,000-acre Hawkeye Wildlife Area. The fires damaged trees, fields, and parking lot posts and destroyed multiple hay bales owned by a farmer leasing a portion of the state land.

As a result of the investigation, DNR conservation officers, along with the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation and the Iowa State Patrol executed a search warrant at Goltz's residence in Williamsburg. There, officers seized electronics, evidence relating to the fires, as well as methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

In 2019, Goltz led an Iowa conservation officer in a vehicle pursuit at the Hawkeye Wildlife Area. During the chase, Goltz left his vehicle and fled on foot into flood waters of the Iowa River where he climbed a tree. A lengthy rescue effort by Iowa DNR officers, the Johnson County Sheriff's Department, the Iowa State Patrol and local fire departments to remove Goltz from the tree. Goltz was charged and convicted of eluding, carrying weapons, and possession of methamphetamine.

**Media Contact:** Erika Billerbeck, Conservation Officer Sergeant, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 319-330-9710 or [erika.billerbeck@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:erika.billerbeck@dnr.iowa.gov)

---

## Urban lumber now available at Des Moines, Iowa City Habitat for Humanity ReStores

Calling all woodworkers, DIYers and homeowners looking to support sustainable products – urban lumber may be for you.

Urban lumber is wood cut out of trees that were grown within city limits for their beauty, shade and to block the wind on a blustery winter day. But when these trees eventually have to be removed, there is a growing trend to mill this wood into lumber rather than chipping it into mulch or chopping for use as firewood.

Using these urban trees for lumber is a way of making the most out of them and is a step toward becoming more responsible stewards of the wood these trees have been making, sometimes for more than a century. Milling these urban trees takes a locally renewable resource and produces lumber that can be used to enhance homes, make furniture, flooring, trim or anything else that can be made from wood.

Urban lumber is available at both Habitat for Humanity ReStores in Des Moines, and the store in Iowa City. It was produced from local trees, was processed by local sawmills and is available for anyone to purchase for their wood building projects. Purchasing local urban lumber supports the environment and helps Habitat for Humanity's mission of helping build homes, communities and hope.

Urban wood is not for structural use (dimensional lumber) in homes, since it has not been "graded" to meet home building standards.

**Media Contact:** Aron Flickinger, Forestry Program Specialist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-291-2829.