



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 the cool weather and scenic views while 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."

Although a little late for peak fall colors, the bluffs, valleys and rock outcroppings offer spectacular views. View some of the best bluffs in Northeast Iowa, starting with the narrow valley of Little Paint, west of Harpers Ferry. Several overlooks give excellent views of the stream from above.

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 may be 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 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.

Iowa’s top collegiate athletes in shooting to converge at championship competition

More than 200 athletes from 15 Iowa colleges and universities will participate in the 2022 Iowa Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) Collegiate Championships in Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays and Super Sporting Clays. Many of these athletes have been shooting in the SCTP since middle school or high school and have been able to continue competing at the collegiate level.

The number of collegiate shooting sports programs in Iowa continues to grow with both community colleges and four-year universities participating. New this year is a team from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake. This growth reflects the increase in participation seen in the Iowa middle school and high school teams, which have grown from 1,400 athletes to nearly 4,500 athletes since 2011.

“The continued growth of the Scholastic Clay Target Program in Iowa’s colleges and universities benefits both Iowa’s high school athletes and the colleges. Iowa has a history of cultivating very talented shooting sports athletes and these collegiate programs are providing an opportunity for them to continue competing past high school.”

The all-day events will take place Nov. 12-13, at the New Pioneer Gun Club, in Waukee:

- November 12: Collegiate Trap and Sporting Clays Championships
- November 13: Collegiate Skeet and Super Sporting Clays Championships

The Scholastic Clay Target Program is a youth development program focused on the clay target sports and is available in Iowa for student athletes from elementary through high school and college. These student athletes 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.

The Scholastic Clay Target Program is administered in Iowa by the DNR. 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, DNR Shooting Sports Coordinator 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.

Grants available for fishing and boating education programs

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.

Funds will be available for programming between Feb. 1 and Nov. 1, 2023. Applications must be submitted via email no later than Dec. 7, 2022. Contact Barb Gigar at Barb.Gigar@dnr.iowa.gov for grant guidelines and application.

The George H.W. Bush *Vamos A Pescar*™ Education Fund supports RBFF's Hispanic initiative, *Vamos A Pescar*™. Bass Pro Shops has continued their funding support each year, with commitment provided for another year. With the help of generous donations from Bass Pro Shops, Brunswick Corporation, and other companies and organizations, this fund has continued to grow and expand nationally. It is available to all 50 states and the District of Columbia to keep future generations educated about the joys of fishing and boating, and the importance of conservation.

Media Contact: Barb Gigar, *Fish Iowa!* coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-494-3891.