



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2023

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Public invited to field day highlighting forest management

FAYETTE, Iowa - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Iowa State University Extension will be showcasing various forestry practices at Volga River State Recreation Area as part of a public field day on May 16.

Field day events include presentations on topics like forest bird habitat management, wildlife value of native trees and shrubs, a rare and endangered species update - bees and bats, diagnosing forest health issues and highlights of Volga River State Park.

“The field day has demonstration areas to highlight forest management practices, like timber harvest, tree planning and timber stand improvements,” said Jason Walker, district forester from the Iowa DNR’s office in Charles City. “It also has a variety of speakers on different topics for those with an interest in the outdoors.”

Walker said the Volga River forest stewardship plan has been in development for the past five years and the field day is an opportunity to see active forest management occurring in the timber.

“We want Volga to be a model of doing forest stewardship correctly,” Walker said. “We are following plan developed for this 4,000-acre timber and the field day setting is a good way to highlight different management practices and allows for a good discussion.”

Attendees should plan to either bring their own sack lunch or purchase a lunch for \$15 by calling Fayette County Extension at 563-425-3331. There is no cost to attend unless purchasing the optional lunch. Must RSVP for the lunch by May 12.

Volga River Field Day Agenda

Meet at Volga Lake boat ramp parking lot, 18450 I Ave, Fayette

9:30 a.m., Registration

10 a.m., Concurrent Sessions (40 minutes each)

- Rare/Endangered Species Updates – Bats and Bees!
- Diagnosing Forest Health Issues – Forest Health Update
- Cost Share Program Updates/Options – Ask a Forester

Noon Lunch

1:15 p.m., Concurrent Sessions (40 minutes each)

- Forest Bird Habitat Management
- Beyond Oaks – Wildlife Value of Native Trees/Shrubs
- Volga State Park Highlights

3:15 p.m., Field Day wrap up and final thoughts

Media Contact: Jason Walker, District Forester, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 319-240-6426.

Take time to clean and inspect lifejackets ahead of boating season

Surprising as it may seem, March is not a busy boating month in Iowa. But it is a good time to clean and inspect important boating equipment – lifejackets – so its ready to go when the snow and ice finally disappear.

Susan Stocker, boating law administrator and education coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said it's important to regularly examining lifejackets for wear and tear.

"Lifejackets get tossed around, spend time in the water and sun, and are stuffed under seats and in other available storage. They get dirty and beat up. This is a good time of year to get them out and give them a little TLC," she said.

She recommended each lifejacket be visually inspected for any rips or tears and ensure all straps and buckles work properly and not frayed. Inflatable lifejackets should be free of any cracks or pin holes in the plastic bladder, the CO₂ cartridge sealed and stored in temperatures above freezing.

"All lifejackets should be stored in a cool, dry location to prevent mold or mildew," Stocker said.

Cleaning

To clean and disinfect inherently buoyant lifejackets, toss them in a front-loading washing machine with liquid detergent and run gentle cycle with cold water. Make sure all flaps and straps are fastened before washing to avoid damage. Hang to dry in a well-ventilated area.

To clean and disinfect inflatable lifejackets – first, ensure the inflator is disarmed. Do not dry clean, use chlorine bleach or apply heat. Do not machine launder inflatables – hand wash or sponge down in soapy water near 140 degrees or as hot as you can stand. Be careful of burns when hand washing, taking care not to submerge the inflator. Rinse in clean water and hang to dry on a plastic coat hanger.

Mild over the counter spray disinfectants may also be used on both types of lifejackets. The material used in lifejackets is consistent with most sports equipment so surface sprays that do not saturate fabrics may be used. Always store fully dried lifejackets in warm, dry well ventilated places out of direct sunlight.

Media Contact: Susan Stocker, Boating Law Administrator and Education Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-313-6439.

Renovations at Geode State Park to close beach area in 2023

GEODE, Iowa – The beach and surrounding facilities at Geode State Park will be closed for the 2023 recreational season beginning in late April due to a major road and parking lot construction project.

“In addition to the beach being closed, the road to the beach, the trail from the beach to the campground, beach shelters and beach restrooms will also be closed,” said Geode State Park manager Ulf Konig. The trail around the lake will remain open.

“We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we improve the overall experience and accessibility to the beach and its facilities,” Konig said.

The construction project is expected to be completed by September. For more information about Geode State Park, visit www.iowadnr.gov/geode call the park office at (319) 392-4601.