



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

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Your passport to adventure this summer in Iowa state parks

The Iowa State Park Passport is back in 2024 and better than ever. With more than 60 state parks and forests featured on the Passport, visitors will love discovering hidden gems in the state park system.

Park visitors can sign up and download the State Park Passport onto a mobile device to earn points toward prizes and giveaway opportunities. In its fifth year through partnership with Travel Iowa, the Passport has been a popular way for families to explore new parks and track their outdoor adventures.

Through October 31, Passport holders can earn points by checking into dozens of state parks and forests using the online app. Each park has a different point value (either 100, 200 or 300 points), with remote or "hidden gem parks" earning higher points. Redeem points for various prizes.

Hidden Gems within Each Park

Also discover staff-selected "Hidden Gem" features within each park on the Passport, such as historical markers, scenic overlooks and more!

Prizes for the 2024 State Park Passport include:

- **500 points** – any passholder redeeming at this level gets \$5 off an overnight camping stay
- **1,000 points** – first 500 passholders to redeem at this level get a beautiful and unique sticker. Created by Iowa artist Naomi Friend, choose from 20 different state park designs.
- **2,500 points** – first 300 passholders to redeem at this level get a free Iowa state park t-shirt

- Additionally, each check-in counts as an automatic entry into a sweepstakes drawing for a three-night stay at a cabin at Backbone State Park.

Once points are redeemed, the passholder resets to zero points and starts earning again to get any additional points, so cash-in early, or bank for higher level prizes.

The Passport, sticker and t-shirt prizes are sponsored by [Travel Iowa](#).

Get ready for adventure this summer with the State Park Passport! To learn more and to sign up, go to lowadnr.gov/stateparks or the [Passport web page](#). Previous passholders will need to re-subscribe to take part in the 2024 Passport program.

Fawning season is here, deer are on the move

Fawning season traditionally begins during the last week of May, peaks in the first couple of weeks of June, before gradually tapering off. And that means deer are on the move.

Does are secretive about the birthing process and will venture out from normal use areas looking for a secluded spot to deliver this year's crop of fawns in peace, said Jim Coffey, forest wildlife research biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "This seclusion process is a driving force in protection for the lanky, wavering fawn. Fawns will be left alone while the doe returns only to nurse. This is normal deer behavior," he said.

"The doe searches out an isolated location where she feels safe and, on occasion, those places may leave us scratching our heads wondering what the doe was thinking. But she chose that location because it made sense to her," Coffey said. "The worst thing someone can do at this stage is to 'rescue' the fawn. Mom is likely nearby and watching you. Leave it be, or if you did handle the fawn, return it to where you found it and walk away."

With the recent flooding and saturated soils, many areas near river bottoms are not available for fawning, pushing deer to higher elevations. These spots can be anything from open hayfield to a field terrace to the flowerbed in the backyard.

The Iowa DNR will not be rehabilitating or comingling fawns with other deer to avoid the potential of spreading chronic wasting disease – or other disease - to new areas. This emphasizes the point of leaving 'abandoned' fawns be.

The spindly legged newborn fawn is designed with a few survival tools built in –its spots are cryptic camouflage that emulates the sunlight spots projected onto leaf litter of the forest floor and its lack of movement the first two weeks helps to reduce scent patterns. This combination is its best chance at survival until it is capable to following the doe.

Fawning season also coincides with an increase in deer vehicle collisions.

"There is a lot of movement this time of year that relates to the social structure of deer. The doe is on the move looking for the safe isolated place to have the fawns. Additional movement comes from last year's fawns that are now isolated teenagers starting to venture out to find new space. These yearlings have to make their own

decisions for the first time, encounter other adult deer and build new social structures,” Coffey said. “This movement behavior can occur during all times of the day. Once it settles out, the active movement time will return to dawn and dusk.

“The key to remember is that for the next month deer may not be acting like we think deer should act, stay alert while driving at any time of the day.”

Drivers are reminded to drive defensively, avoid distractions, slow down, and provide safe distance between vehicles. Don’t veer for deer. If a driver does hit a deer, drivers can get a salvage tag for the meat by calling either the local conservation officer or local law enforcement agency. The salvage tag is free and is required to legally possess the meat. Salvaging requires that the entire deer be removed from the roadway.

Media Contact: Jim Coffey, Forest Wildlife Research Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 641-774-2958.

Equipment to measure waves deployed this week in Upper Mississippi River Pool 13

CLINTON, Iowa - A study to learn more about waves and water clarity on the Mississippi River is underway after wave monitors were deployed within several locations on Pool 13.

The highly sensitive equipment sits just under the water’s surface collecting data from late May through mid-September. Scientists will use the data to better understand how waves affect water clarity and the Mississippi River’s ecosystem, including native freshwater mussels and aquatic plants, like wild celery. The results of this study will help with future habitat restoration efforts in the Mississippi River.

Orange buoys will mark the study areas and the public is asked avoid these locations and to not tamper with the equipment. Hunting, fishing and other recreational activities will not be restricted in these locations; however, the boaters should use caution when navigating around the buoys.

The public can help with this project by reporting damage to the monitoring equipment or any suspicious activity around the equipment to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The U.S. Geological Survey is leading the project, with support from the Iowa DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Shooting sports athletes converge on Cedar Falls for Iowa’s largest trap shoot

Nearly 3,100 Iowa shooting sports athletes from grade school through high school will shoot 780,000 targets during the 2024 Iowa Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) Trap Championships, June 3-9, in Cedar Falls.

The Scholastic Clay Target Program has seen constant growth in Iowa and across the nation, with increases in participation seen in Iowa middle school and high school teams, which have grown from 1,400 athletes to over 4,500 athletes since 2011. The state shoot in Cedar Falls has added an extra day this year to accommodate the growth.

“The Scholastic Clay Target Program provides many opportunities to Iowa’s shooting sports athletes. You don’t have to be the biggest, strongest or fastest, it really is a level playing field. All athletes are welcome to attend and compete at the State Championship Events. The shooting sports are as much a competition against yourself as it is with other competitors, and we have many athletes shoot their personal best at these events,” said Marty Eby, interim shooting sports coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Athletes will compete in American Singles, Doubles and Handicap Trap. The daylong competition will take place at the Iowa State Trapshooting Homegrounds, located north of Cedar Falls:

- June 3-4: Rookies and Intermediate Trap Singles
- June 5: Handicap Event, all ages
- June 6: Doubles Trap Event
- June 7-9: JV and Varsity Trap Singles

The Scholastic Clay Target Program will be hosting an “Annie Oakley” fun shoot after the awards ceremony on June 6, as a fundraiser for the Iowa Hunter Education Association. The fun shoot will be open to the athletes, coaches and parents of athletes who will compete for prizes.

The Scholastic Clay Target Program is the largest, fastest growing, and most exciting youth clay target program in the US. 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.

“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,” Eby said.

For more information on the Scholastic Clay Target Program in Iowa, contact Eby, at 515-313-8048 or marty.eby@dnr.iowa.gov.

Media Contact: Marty Eby, interim shooting sports coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, (515) 313-8048 or marty.eby@dnr.iowa.gov.

Get inspired at Cedar Rock: Now open for the summer season



Commissioned by Lowell and Agnes Walter and completed in 1950, Cedar Rock features several Frank Lloyd Wright designed structures, including the summer residence, original boat pavilion, fountain, stately main gate and more. Photo courtesy of the Iowa DNR.

QUASQUETON, IA -- Visitors to Cedar Rock State Park will come away inspired and fascinated by this Frank Lloyd Wright designed home in Buchanan County. Located above a limestone bluff along the banks of the Wapsipinicon River, the park is open for the season from May 22 through Oct. 6.

Commissioned by Lowell and Agnes Walter and completed in 1950, Cedar Rock features several Frank Lloyd Wright designed structures, including the summer residence, original boat pavilion, fountain, stately main gate and more.

The Walters made provisions to donate the site to the people of Iowa shortly after Lowell's death in 1981. Cedar Rock State Park is managed by the Iowa DNR and includes 426 acres of surrounding woodlands and prairie.

Throughout the summer Cedar Rock hosts several special events, including:

- June 22 -- Strawberry Moon Evening Event from 6pm-9pm
- October 5 -- Afternoon with Frank Lloyd Wright Lecture Symposium (held off-site), and
- October 6 -- Last date for tours.

Along with these events will be a series of naturalist, yoga, and fall concerts at the park. Dates for these events will be announced on the Friends of Cedar Rock socials; www.friendsofcedarrock.org and FB Friends of Cedar Rock.

Visitors who enjoy history, architecture, interior design and natural beauty will find it all at Cedar Rock State Park. Tours of the historic Walter Estate are offered Wednesday through Sunday, beginning at 10 a.m. Visitors should call ahead for reservations by emailing cedar_rock@dnr.iowa.gov or calling (319) 934-3572. Make plans to visit Cedar Rock State Park this summer and get "inspired."

Media Contact: Kathryn Hund, Manager, 319.934.3572, cedar_rock@dnr.iowa.gov

Forestry experts available to help landowners assess storm damage

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has forestry experts available to help landowners impacted by recent storms with forest storm damage assessments and forest recovery plans.

Lindsey Barney, district forester for 11 counties in southern and southwest Iowa for the Iowa DNR, said the phone calls are just beginning as the cleanup progresses.

“These storms have caused significant damage across the state. When the landowners are ready, we will be here to help them assess the impact to their timber,” she said.

There is a map and contact information for the local district foresters online at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Forestry-Landowner-Assistance>

Attention Photographers: Showcase your pictures and Iowa state parks in national contest

DES MOINES -- If you enjoy photographing Iowa state parks, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources invites you to enter your photos in the **America's State Parks 2024 Photo Contest**, hosted by the National Association of State Park Directors. Photos will feature state parks from Iowa and other states, and could be included in calendars and other publications.

Participating photographers can showcase Iowa's beauty while winning prizes and earning national recognition for photo entries. Photos categories include: scenic and seasons, camping, best campsite, camping traditions, wildlife and park bloopers. Participants must be aged 18 or older; the easy-to-enter contest ends on July 15, 2024. Visit <https://stateparksphotocontest.org/> to learn more and submit your photos.

Double Skeet State Championship Results

82 athletes competed for the Double Skeet state championship at Mahaska County Izaak Walton League, on May 25, 2024.

Ladies Division Results

Ladies Intermediate Advanced

- First: Avery Clover, Ankeny Centennial Jaguars
- Second: Brooklyn Seekamp, Pella Shooters Club
- Third: Ella Wilson, Underwood Youth Trap Club

Ladies Senior Junior Varsity

- First: Ella Vorthmann, Underwood Youth Trap Team
- Second: Josie Van Gorp, Gilbert Clay Commanders
- Third: Lily Jennings, Ankeny Centennial Jaguars

Ladies Senior Varsity

- First: Quincy O'Donnell, Underwood Youth Trap Club
- Second: Erin Mathes, Pella Shooters Club
- Third: Megan Vos, Oskaloosa Shooting Team

Men's Division Results

Men's Intermediate Advanced

- First: Maddux Heinen, PC Eagles
- Second: Caleb Hol, North Mahaska Shooting Sports
- Third: Camden Eggert, Gilbert Clay Commanders

Men's Senior Junior Varsity

- First: Tylan Siepker, Ballard Clay Bombers
- Second: Ledger Smith, Albia High School
- Third: Dunkin Guillien, Pella Shooters Club

Men's Senior Varsity

- First: Treyton Van Wyk, PC Eagles
- Second: Ian Beyer, Pella Shooters Club
- Third: Treyton Vos, Pella Christian Eagles