



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653

mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us

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IOWA STATE PARKS ALREADY FILLING FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

DES MOINES - The Memorial Day weekend is less than three weeks away and campers using the Iowa State Parks campsite reservation system have secured most of the electrical sites available for reservations. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has made half of all campsites in each state park reservable, including a 50-50 split of electric and non electric sites, and sites with full hook-ups.

“Our campers have taken pretty well to the new reservation system,” said Kevin Szcodronski, chief of the Iowa DNR’s state parks bureau. “We are to the point now where campers wanting to get a site for the upcoming holiday may need to arrive early to secure a site.”

The campsites available as first-come, first-serve could begin filling for the holiday weekend as early as May 22.

“We will start seeing campers fill the non-reservable sites, just like previous years,” Szcodronski said. Campers who are in need of a campsite should call the state park before heading out to see if sites are still available.

With many state campgrounds filling to capacity, campers are encouraged to be courteous to their neighbors, obey quiet hours, and leave the campsite clean and ready for the next campers. "Holiday weekends draw big crowds," said Szcodronski. "We want everyone to enjoy their stay."

"For many people, the Memorial Day weekend is the first time they get their camping and fishing equipment out, so it would probably be wise to inspect the tent or cooking equipment, check the propane, put new line on the fishing reels before heading out. A little preparation can save a lot of headaches in the long run," Szcodronski said. The DNR also recommends that campers bring a supply of firewood, ice and charcoal as many state parks do not have concession operations.

One other factor to prepare for is the weather. From shorts to sweatshirts, Memorial Day weekend can have all types of weather and preparing for all types of weather – including rain – can make the weekend more enjoyable.

###

SHOOTING RANGE AT SUMMERSET STATE PARK TO CLOSE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

DES MOINES – The shooting range at Summerset State Park, five miles south of Des Moines in Warren County, will close for reconstruction beginning May 15. The range will reopen when construction is completed but no later than Sept. 1.

The project includes removing the shooting tubes and installing a new system of shooting booths, building a shelter over the entire shooting area and installing a building for a concessionaire to run the range. There will also be a new handicap accessible walkway to the target and four new trap machines added for the shotgun portion of the range. The project is estimated to cost \$536,000.

"It is really going to be a nice facility once all the work is done," said Craig Cutts, Iowa DNR conservation officer in Warren County.

###

HOMEOWNERS ENCOURAGED TO AVOID TREE TOPPING

DES MOINES – Homeowners faced with large trees or large branches hanging over their home often consider "tree topping" to control size. But arborists and foresters

agree that tree topping, which is the severe cutting back or removal of almost all branches off of maturing trees to allow them to sprout back, leads to an ugly, unhealthy and unsafe tree.

“Topping is the absolute worst action you can do for the health of your tree,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau. “For many years, areas around the State have been spared this poor practice of tree topping, but recently tree topping is gaining again in visibility. Topping trees creates large wounds that never seal over, thereby exposing internal tree wood to decay. The resulting sprouts that occur after tree topping are weak and often unsightly.

Homeowners concerned about tree size or branches hanging over their homes should contact qualified professional arborists who can give recommendations from proper pruning to tree removal needs. Walkowiak said homeowners should seek written bids from as many tree care companies available in the area, references from past work and call to check the references.

“Many Iowa arborists are members of the Iowa Arborists Association, International Society of Arboriculture or other professional organizations – these organizations have codes of ethics that tree topping is not a recommended practice,” Walkowiak said.

For more information about proper tree care go to www.treesaregood.com or contact your local county extension office or DNR Forester at www.iowadnr.com/forestry/

For more information, contact Walkowiak, at 515-242-5966 or john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us

###

Even with price increase **NATURE PLATES REBOUNDING**

DES MOINES - New sales figures for Iowa’s natural resources license plates are welcomed news to conservation interests around the state.

While still the state’s most popular specialty plate, sales of the goldfinch-wildrose plate had skidded from about 70,000 in 1997 to under 42,000 last summer. Recently adding to the decline, the price of the plate increased in January 2005 from \$35 to \$45, and its renewal cost from \$10 to \$25 per year.

“The cost increase was justified to help fund the state’s wildlife diversity program for those 500 plus species of nongame wildlife that are not funded by hunting licenses,”

said DNR Director Jeff Vonk. “But the new cost presented a challenge. We are just grateful that Iowans are meeting it, head-on.”

Last September, the DNR and the DOT unveiled two new design options for the natural resources license plate – a pheasant and a bald eagle. Both designs came from Greg Bordignon, a Cedar Rapids wildlife artist. The pheasant plate was recently judged the fifth best plate in North America. Since then, the number of plates has gone from a 13 percent annual decline to an 8 percent annual increase.

Plate sales are expected to be on about 45,600 vehicles and trailers by the end of June, compared to about 41,900 the previous year. Income is expected to be about \$513,000, compared to \$483,600 last year. Vonk said there is a strong expectation that sales will increase even more in the future. Statewide, pheasant plates are selling faster than the eagle plate, but the two still only accounted for about 10 percent of the three-plate total number.

“With the help of DOT, we are monitoring county-by-county sales and we are enlisting wildlife and conservation-minded groups to help market the plates,” he said. Money from the plates is divided between the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program and wildlife diversity. REAP distributes money to cities, counties and state efforts for parks, habitat, water quality, historic preservation. The Wildlife Diversity program researches and manages nongame species and their habitats

The top 10 counties with the highest percentage of natural resource plates include: Dickinson, Story, Winneshiek, Mitchell, Audubon, Cerro Gordo, Bremer, Johnson, Franklin and Worth. The top 10 counties for total natural resource plates include: Polk, Linn, Johnson, Story, Black Hawk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Woodbury, Dubuque, and Cerro Gordo.

**For more information contact: Ross Harrison, 515-281-5973;
ross.harrison@dnr.state.ia.us**

###

FINAL TREE DISTRIBUTIONS, OTHER VOLUNTEER EVENTS IN MAY

DES MOINES – The season’s last community tree distributions occur this month, along with a host of other natural resources volunteer events. Keepers of the Land, the volunteer program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), encourages all Iowans to join these efforts.

- **Tree Distributions:** The final Plant Some Shade and Operation ReLeaf events will occur on May 13 and 20. Volunteers are needed to help distribute reduced-cost trees to utility company customers. Look for distributions in Dubuque County on May 13,

Sioux City on May 20 and several other locations on both days. Visit the Keepers of the Land Web site (see below) for an online calendar listing events.

- **Campground Hosts:** With camping season underway, dedicated volunteers have a wonderful opportunity to help a state park by serving as campground hosts. These volunteers camp for free all summer, assist park visitors and help with other tasks. The following parks need hosts: Green Valley State Park, Creston; Lake Macbride State Park, Solon; Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area, Palo; Prairie Rose State Park, Harlan; Stephens State Forest Campground, Chariton; Wilson Island State Park, Missouri Valley
- **Statewide “Snapshot” Water Sampling Event:** Volunteers in the IOWATER water-quality sampling program are encouraged to test their IOWATER-registered sites on Saturday, May 13 during the Statewide Snapshot. Volunteers, if necessary, can also test Friday or Sunday.
- **Project AWARE:** Register for Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) by June 2. This year, the annual river cleanup will take volunteers to the Iowa and English Rivers, June 17-24. Visit www.iowaprojectaware.com for details and registration materials
- **Park Projects:** Help out with many ongoing volunteer needs at Iowa’s state parks, including a picnic table repair and painting project at Union Grove State Park. Visit the Keepers of the Land Web site (see below) for more information on this and other park opportunities.

Find our online calendar and information about volunteer events at www.keepersoftheland.org.

For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us.

###

Fishing Events Set for Spring and Summer

Following are several fishing events scheduled around Iowa and listed in date order by county. Whether you want to learn to fish at a clinic, compete for prizes at a tournament, or just have some fun, there is something for everyone. For more information about individual events, call the number listed.

Adams; July 2; Lake Icaria, Corning; Youth Fishing Clinic; (641) 322-4769

Audubon; June 16; Littlefield Recreation Area, Exira; Day Camp; (712) 268-2762

Audubon; June 17; Littlefield Recreation Area, Exira; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 268-2762

Benton; June 3; Rogers Park, Vinton; Youth Fishing Tournament; (319) 472-4942

Black Hawk; June 3; George Wyth State Park, Waterloo; Family Fishing Fair; (319) 232-5505

Black Hawk; Aug. 1-4; George Wyth State Park, Waterloo; Outdoor Adventurers Day Camp; (319) 291-4370

Buena Vista; June 3; Gustafson Lake, Sioux Rapids; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 749-2563

Carroll; June 3; Great Western Park Lake, Carroll; Fishing Tournament; (712) 792-4614

Cedar; June 13; Cedar Valley Park, Springdale; Youth Fishing Clinic; (563) 886-6930

Cedar; June 22; Cedar Valley Park, Springdale; Fishing Clinic; (563) 886-6930

Cedar; Sept. 16; Cedar Valley Park, Springdale; Youth Fishing Clinic; (563) 886-6930

Cerro Gordo; June 4; East Park, Mason City; Fishing Tournament; (641) 421-3673

Clay; May 17; Stolleys Pond, Spencer; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 933-5532

Clayton; June 3; Osborne Pond, Elkader; Youth Fishing Clinic; (563) 245-1516

Dallas; May 20; Glissman Area, Adel; Fishing Clinic; (515) 202-1703

Des Moines; June 3; Gahn Wildlife Refuge, Burlington; Fishing Clinic; (319) 753-5808

Fayette; June 3; Volga Lake, Fayette; Fishing Clinic; (563) 426-5740

Floyd; June 3; Elks Pond, Charles City; Youth Fishing Clinic; (641) 756-3490

Franklin; June 3; Beeds Lake State Park, Hampton; Youth Fishing Clinic; (641) 456-4375

Greene; June 11; Spring Lake Park, Jefferson; Youth Fishing Clinic; (515) 386-5674

Guthrie; June 3; Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Ctr.; Fishing Clinic; (641) 747-2276

Hamilton; June 4; Briggs-Wood Lake, Webster City; Fishing Tournament; (515) 832-4504

Hamilton; June 11; Little Wall Lake, Jewell; Youth Fishing Clinic; (515) 290-9487

Hamilton; July 2; Little Wall Lake, Jewell; Youth Fishing Clinic; (515) 832-9570

Hancock; June 3; Eldred Sherwood Park, Goodell; Youth Fishing Clinic; (641) 923-2720

Hardin; July 4; Iowa River, Iowa Falls; Youth Fishing Clinic; (641) 648-4775

Harrison; May 6; De Soto Bend, Missouri Valley; Fishing Tournament; (402) 697-7128

Harrison; June 3; Willow Lake Rec. Area, Woodbine; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 647-2785

Harrison; June 9; Willow Lake Rec. Area, Woodbine; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 647-2785

Howard; June 3; Lake Hendricks, Riceville; Youth Fishing Clinic; (563) 547-3634

Iowa; June 3; Lake Iowa, Ladora; Fishing Tournament; (319) 647-3555

Jackson; June 3; Hurstville Interp. Ctr., Maquoketa; Youth Fishing Clinic; (563) 652-3783

Jackson; Aug. 12; Hurstville Inerp. Ctr., Maquoketa; Fishing Clinic; (563) 652-3783

Johnson; June 3; FW Kent Park Lake, Tiffin; Fishing Clinic; (319) 645-1011

Johnson; June 4; Lake MacBride State Park, Solon; Family Fishing Fair; (319) 624-3568

Johnson; July 6; North Ridge Park, Coralville; Camp Coralville Fishing Event; (319) 645-1011

Johnson; July 30; North Ridge Park, Coralville; Fly Fishing; (319) 645-1011

Linn; May 18; Thomas Park, Marion; Fish Art T-shirts; (319) 624-3568

Linn; June 3; Pinicon Ridge Park, Central City; Youth Fishing Clinic; (319) 892-6485
Linn; June 3; Cedar Lake, Cedar Rapids; Family Fishing Fair; (319) 624-3568
Linn; June 6; Thomas Park, Marion; Youth Fishing Clinic; (319) 892-6489
Linn; June 25; Guthridge Park, Hiawatha (Farmer's Market); Fish Crafts; (319) 393-1515
Linn; July 13; Thomas Park, Marion; Pond Critters; (319) 624-3568
Linn; July 16; Guthridge Park, Hiawatha (Farmer's Market); Fishing Basics; (319) 393-1515
Linn; July 30; Guthridge Park, Hiawatha (Farmer's Market); Fishing Fun; (319) 393-1515
Louisa; June 10; Langwood Educ. Ctr., Grandview; Youth Fishing Clinic; (319) 523-8381
Lyon; June 3; Lake Pahoja, Larchwood; Youth Fishing Tournament; (712) 472-2217
Mahaska; May 20; Russell Wildlife Area Pond, Oskaloosa; Fishing Tournament; (641) 673-9327
Muscatine; June 3; Discovery Park, Muscatine; Youth Fishing Clinic; (563) 264-5922
Page; June 3; Pioneer Park, Clarinda; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 542-3864
Plymouth; June 17; Municipal Park Pond, LeMars; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 546-5910
Plymouth; Aug. 19; Hillview Park Lake, Hinton; Youth Fishing Tournament; (712) 947-4270
Polk; June 3; Hawkeye Park, Ankeny; Youth Fishing Clinic; (515) 963-3572
Polk; June 3; Blue Heron Lake, Raccoon River Park, West Des Moines; Fishing Tournament; (515) 222-3321
Pottawattamie; June 3; Arrowhead Park, Neola; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 485-2295
Pottawattamie; June 3; Big Lake, Council Bluffs; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 323-8578
Pottawattamie; June 17; Lake Manawa State Park, Council Bluffs; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 366-0220
Sac; June 3; Black Hawk Lake, Lake View; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 662-4530
Scott; June 3; West Lake Park, Davenport; Youth Fishing Clinic; (563) 328-3281
Scott; June 3; West Lake, Davenport; Youth Fishing Clinic; (563) 323-8577
Story; May 20; Hickory Grove Park, Colo; Fishing Tournament; (515) 232-2516
Story; June 10; Hickory Grove Park, Colo; Fishing Tournament; (515) 232-2516
Tama; June 20; Otter Creek Lake & Park, Toledo; Youth Fishing Clinic; (641) 484-2231
Union; June 3; Green Valley State Park, Creston; Youth Fishing Clinic; (641) 782-5131
Van Buren; May 7; Indian Lake Park, Farmington; Youth Fishing Clinic; (319) 878-4017
Washington; June 3; Thomas Marr Mini-Lake, Ainsworth; Youth Fishing Clinic; (319) 657-2400
Wayne; Sept. 16; Bobwhite State Park, Allerton; Youth Fishing Tournament; (641) 873-4242
Webster; May 20; Armstrong Pond, Fort Dodge; Kids Fish Day; (515) 955-1707
Webster; Aug. 19; Badger Lake, John F. Kennedy Park, Fort Dodge; Fishing Tournament; (515) 576-4258
Winnebago; June 1; Lake Catherine, Forest City; Youth Fishing Tournament; (641) 565-3390
Woodbury; June 4; Browns Lake, Salix; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 233-1513
Woodbury; June 24; Bacon Creek Park, Sioux City; Youth Fishing Clinic; (712) 252-1335

###

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION TO MEET MAY 11 NEAR HAMBURG

HAMBURG - The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 11, at the Camp Wa-Shawtee Nature Center, Waubonsie State Park, near Hamburg. The meeting is open to the public.

Commissioners and staff will meet at the Americas Best Value Inn and Suites, at Percival, at 1 p.m., on May 10, for a tour of the area. The hotel is at the junction of I-29 and Hwy. 2 [exit 10].

Members of the NRC are Joan Schneider, Randy Duncan, Carol Kramer, Richard Francisco, Janice Marcantonio, Lennis Moore and Liz Garst. The DNR Director is Jeffrey Vonk.

The following is the agenda for the May meeting.

- Approve Agenda
- Election of Officers
- Approve Minutes of the March 9 and April 13 Meetings
- Director's Remarks
- Construction Projects
 - Manchester Law Enforcement Boat Storage Building, Delaware County
 - Geode State Park Service and Office Building, Henry County
 - Big Creek State Park NW Lagoon Repairs, Polk County
 - Lost Grove Lake – Amendment for Additional Design and Engineering Services
 - Amendment for Enhancements to Project Tracking System
- Land Acquisition
 - Little Buck Wildlife Management Area, Bremer County – Scott Reiter
 - Bloody Run Wildlife Management Area, Clayton County – Osolkowski
 - Brett Kilma Wildlife Management Area, Black Hawk County – Miller
 - Sedan Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Appanoose County – Johnson
 - Stephens State Forest, Lucas County – Hardin
 - Marlowe Ray Wildlife Management Area, Guthrie County – Paul
 - Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area, Monona County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Property Tax Payment by the DNR
- Boundary Agreements
 - Five Island Lake, Palo Alto County
 - Five Island Lake Access, Palo Alto County
 - Smith Wildlife Management Area, Pottawattamie County

- Management Agreement – Kearney State Park, Palo Alto County
- Chapter 18 Leases
 - Cargill Incorporated, Scott County
 - River Trading Company, Muscatine
- Project AWARE Update
- Rural Water Access Easement – Viking Lake State Park
- Conservation and Recreation Donations
- Final Rule – Chapter 52, Wildlife Refuges
- Final Rule – Chapter 95, Game Harvest Reporting and Landowner-Tenant Registration
- Final Rule – Chapter 98, Wild Turkey Spring Hunting
- Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 99, Wild Turkey Fall Hunting by Residents
- Notice of Intended Action - Chapter 105, Deer Population Management
- Final Rule – Chapter 107, Rabbit and Squirrel Hunting
- Final Rule – Chapter 108, Furbearer Trapping Seasons
- Final Rule – Chapter 82, Commercial Fishing
- Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 61, State Parks and Recreation Areas
- Land and Water Conservation Fund – City and County Grants
- Water Trail Grant Applications
- City of Dubuque 28E Agreement
- Big Wall Lake/Wright County 28E Agreement
- Forest Heritage Center 28E Agreement
- Concession Contracts
- Management Agreement with Jackson County Conservation Board – Baldwin Marsh
- Contract with ISU – Aquatic Vegetation in Iowa Lakes
- Contract with ISU – Radio-telemetry Investigation of Common Carp in Clear Lake
- Public Owned Lakes Program – Watershed Eligibility
- Timber Sale – Loess Hills State Forest, Preparation Canyon
- Recognition of Milt Hunt
- Contract Approval – Water Quality Messaging
- General Discussion
- Items for Next Meeting, June 8, at Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids

###

TREES AND SHRUBS FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT AVAILABLE FOR PLANTING THIS SPRING

AMES - Habitat created by trees and shrubs is critical to wildlife survival in Iowa and although one tree gives some benefits, a diverse planting of trees and shrubs gives the greatest benefits to the most wildlife.

“We are getting a number of calls from individuals about expanding wildlife habitat on their own lands. Many of the callers were unaware of the low cost Songbird and Wildlife Packets of hardy native trees and shrubs available from the State Forest Nursery,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau.

The Songbird Packet consists of 20 trees and shrub bareroot seedlings ideal for an area in the yard to devote to wildlife. The Songbird Packet sells for \$20, which includes shipping, and consists of two bur oaks, two white pine, four wild plum, four chokecherry, four gray dogwoods and four serviceberry plants and are all 8 to 24 inches tall. This Songbird Packet was developed in cooperation with Audubon Iowa.

New for 2006 is the Create-A-Wildlife Packet for landowners with one-half to 3 acres, where you can choose 4 different species of trees or shrubs in units of 50 plants for a total of 200 plants for \$90.

In addition, a special Turkey Packet developed in cooperation with the Iowa Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation contains 50 bur oak, 50 red oak, 50 pin oak and 50 gray dogwood. A special Pheasant Packet developed in cooperation with Iowa Pheasants Forever contains 50 redcedar, 50 wild plum, 50 ninebark and 50 gray dogwood. Finally, a special Quail packet containing 100 wild plum and 100 gray dogwoods is also available.

To order any of these tree and shrub packets, contact the State Forest Nursery at Ames at 1-800-865-2477 or go on line to www.iowadnr.com/forestry/. The State Forest Nursery staff will confirm your order and bill you or you can pay by credit card. The packets will be delivered to your door ready for planting with instructions until May 31.

For more information, contact Walkowiak at 515-242-5966 or john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us

###

IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of May 9, 2006

www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing was good this weekend with many legal fish being caught. Drifting with minnows or leeches were good producers during the day. Casting jigs and minnows under lighted bobbers were good at night. Areas that produced were Big Stoney, Buffalo Run, Templar Park and Reeds Run down to the south boat ramp. Bullhead fishing is fair at the North Grade using night crawlers. A few smallmouth bass and northern pike were caught while fishing for walleyes.

West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good trolling crankbaits on the reef in Emerson Bay. Casting plastics to shore at Pillsbury Point produced some nice catches of walleyes in the evening. Bluegills are being caught in the canals and around some docks. Cover lots of ground to find docks that hold fish early. Crappies are being caught around the entrances to the canals and the Harbor with little tube jigs. Anglers are catching largemouth bass in the canals and around flooded brush using soft plastic lures.

East Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing was good below the spillway. Casting jigs with minnows in the current breaks produced many good fish. Walleye fishing was fair on the rest of the lake with anglers working jig and minnow combos. White bass fishing was good below the spillway using jig and minnow combos. Good opportunities exist for channel catfish at the narrows with traditional catfish bait.

Center Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good on the south end of the lake. Using minnows under bobbers and casting jigs tipped with minnows have produced 14 to 18-inch fish.

Silver Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is fair in the evening with minnows. Mostly small fish are being caught.

Pleasant Lake (Dickinson): Anglers are catching some 10-inch perch at this lake.

Ingham Lake (Emmet): Fish around submerged brush for 9 to 11-inch crappies and for 2 to 5 pound channel catfish.

Willow Creek (Osceola): There is a good population of 3 to 5-pound channel catfish in this lake. For the best action, fish around submerged brush and along the dam.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon): Small crappies are being caught from the pier with small jigs.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Most of the fish remain in deep water. A few crappies were caught this week from shore. Most were caught on a small hook with a minnow. Bluegills remain in 10 to 15 feet of water. Use a small leech or a piece of worm. Bass remain off the shoreline.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Anglers are catching lots of yellow bass on the north shore on small mini jigs and wax worms. Crappies are being caught in the Town Bay area on crappie jigs and minnows. A few walleyes are being caught on leeches and jig heads in the dredge cuts. Anglers are catching lots of bullheads.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Anglers are catching a few channel catfish. There are a few walleyes being caught on live bait and trolling.

Crawford Creek (Ida): Anglers are catching a lot of 8-inch bluegills and 9 to 10-inch crappies on jigs tipped with minnows. Fishing is fair for channel catfish.

Nelson Park (Crawford): Lots of nice sized bluegills are being caught off the dam using small bobbers with small night crawlers, jigs tipped with night crawlers or wax worms on small hooks.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing has been spotty. Anglers are catching some fish trolling crankbaits. Live bait fishing has been producing a lot of sub-legal walleye. Remember, Clear Lake has a 14-inch minimum length limit for walleyes. Yellow bass fishing has been fair to good. Yellows have started to spawn near the Island, Dodge's Point, outlet area and the north shore. Use small jigs, minnows and cut bait for the best yellow action. Fish are shallow and the best action is near the bank. Bullhead fishing is fair at the Ventura Grade and Ventura Access. Use night crawlers on the bottom for the best action.

Rice Lake (Winnebago): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the bottom.

Crystal Lake (Hancock): Bullhead fishing is good. Fish the shoreline in the evenings for the best action. Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers, dead chubs and chicken liver.

Lake Cornelia (Wright): Channel catfish are hitting on chicken liver and night crawlers. Fishing in the evening on the north shoreline has been the best.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Crappies have been biting on small jigs and minnows. Fish the dam, jetties or the outside of the vegetation, if fishing by boat.

Briggs Woods (Hamilton): Crappies have been biting on small jigs and minnows. Fish the dam, jetties or the outside of the vegetation, if fishing by boat.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Don Williams (Boone): Fishing for crappies is good to excellent on jigs and minnows in 5 to 15 feet of water over structure. Bluegill fishing has been good using night crawlers. Walleye fishing has been good with fish in the 14 to 16 inch range. Channel catfish are being caught using chicken liver. Largemouth bass fishing has been good with fish with fish over 15 inches.

Hickory Grove (Story): Crappie fishing has been fair to good using worms and bobbers in deeper water. Bluegill fishing has been fair on worms. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good, particularly around the rockier areas.

Big Creek (Polk): Crappie fishing has been fair good using jigs and minnows with the better areas in deeper water. Anglers reported catching smaller walleyes with jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing is slow to fair with some nice-sized fish being caught.

Easter Lake (Polk): Fishing is good for 8 to 9-inch crappies using jigs and minnows suspended in 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegill fishing is good using night crawlers and bobbers. Several walleyes have been reported, with some over 15 inches. Largemouth bass fishing is fair along the rocky areas. Channel catfish fishing has been good with night crawlers.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): Crappie fishing has been good to excellent particularly in the Marina area and below the out from Big Creek Lake. The shallow water coves have produced some nice crappie fishing. White bass/wiper are being caught below the outlet from Big Creek as have crappie.

Below Saylorville Dam (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing has been good using jigs and/or minnows, and some nice walleye have been caught further downstream. Channel catfish fishing has been fair and fair in the tailwater ponds with minnows and

night crawlers. Crappie fishing has been good in the tailwater ponds with jigs and minnows.

Below Scott Street Dam (Polk): White bass in the 8 to 12-inch range are being caught on twisters.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Crappies are good to excellent on jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been good using night crawlers fishing from 3 to 5 feet deep from shore and from boats. Anglers are catching 10 to 15 pound channel catfish on cut bait and chicken liver.

Red Rock (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good in the Whitebreast area of the lake using jigs.

Below Lake Red Rock (Marion): White bass and crappie fishing has been excellent using jigs in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good to excellent using jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been slow.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Crappie fishing is fair to good, with most anglers using jigs and minnows. Bluegill and redear sunfish fishing has been good, with some good sized fish reported. Largemouth bass fishing has been good, although most of the fish catch are below the legal length limit.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Crappie fishing has been fair to good with jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been good with small jigs and night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is best along the rocky dam area with crankbaits.

Contact: Dick McWilliams (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Farm Ponds: Fishing is good for bluegill in 3 to 5 feet of water on night crawlers. Crappie and largemouth bass fishing is good.

Green Valley (Union): Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers, dead minnows and bluegill chunks. Crappies can be caught around cover or near the rocks on jigs and minnows. Some bluegill can be caught using jigs and night crawlers in 6 to 8 feet of water near cover. Bullheads are biting on night crawlers.

Three Mile (Union): Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers and stink baits. Bluegill and crappie can be caught in 6 to 10 feet of water over cover with jigs, night crawlers or minnows. Some walleye are being caught on leeches and night crawlers.

Icaria (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught with night crawlers.

Binder Reservoir (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds are being caught.

Little River (Decatur): Several nice crappies can be caught from shore in the rocks or near cover on minnows or jigs. Some walleye are being caught by trolling the points with night crawlers or with jigs while crappie fishing. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

Slip Bluff (Decatur): Some bluegill can be caught from the brush piles and the corners of the dam on night crawlers. Crappies are in the brush piles and near shore in the mornings and evenings.

Wilson Lake (Taylor): Crappie can be caught from the dam. Nice bluegills are biting near shore on night crawlers.

Windmill Lake (Taylor): Bluegills are biting in the corners of the dam and the coves on night crawlers.

West Osceola (Clarke): Large numbers of 8-inch crappie can be caught from the dam area and the backs of the coves in 6 feet of water. The lake is 40 inches low. Use caution when using the east main ramp.

Grade Lake (Clarke): Crappie can be caught in 6 to 8 feet of water or from the dam.

Badger Creek (Madison): Anglers are catching 7 to 9-inch crappie from shore near rock using jigs.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Nice bluegills can be caught near shore on night crawlers. Some crappie can be caught near the standing timber.

Loch Ayr (Ringgold): Crappie fishing is good from the dam on jigs.

West Lenox (Taylor): Crappie can be caught from shore in 5 to 8 feet of water using small jigs or night crawlers.

Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is good for 2 to 3 pound channel catfish and 1 to 2 pound bullheads on night crawlers. A few crappies are being caught along the shoreline.

Greenfield (Adair): Crappie fishing has slowed with cooler weather. A few bluegills can be caught using jigs tipped with night crawlers.

Nodaway (Adair): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers in shallow areas. Greenfield and Nodaway have low water levels. Shore anglers best fishing would be off the dam.

Meadow (Adair): A few crappies are being caught along shoreline using minnows. Largemouth bass are being caught around brush piles

Littlefield (Audubon): Crappie fishing is fair using minnows on east bay under the road. A few channel catfish are being caught using night crawlers.

Anita (Cass): The lake is still 5 feet low and has limited shoreline access. The lake contains a good fish population and fishing should be good. Channel catfish are being caught in shallow areas.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Wiper fishing is fair on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Walleye fishing has slowed. Crappie fishing is starting to pick up in lagoon area using minnows. Largemouth bass are being picked up on the west side of lake.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Crappies are starting to move in to shore. A few are being caught using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing is slow but a few are being caught in shallow bays. Largemouth bass in the 3 to 5 pound range are being caught on rocky points. Use a slow retrieve.

Willow (Harrison): Crappie fishing is fair using minnows and a bobber in 8 to 10 feet of water. A few 7 to 8-inch bluegills are being caught.

Contact: Chris Larson (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: The water temperature at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 62 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 9.96 feet. Water levels are expected to remain stable over the next several days.

Fishing continues to be slow for walleye and sauger. Anglers continue to report catching a few fish below the **Arsenal Dam** and **Sylvan Slough** area and where the **Rock River** joins the Mississippi. Try using jigs tipped with minnows and crankbaits for walleye and sauger. Anglers report that channel catfish fishing continues to be excellent in the backwaters and the mouths of tributary rivers and streams on shad guts, cut shad, night crawlers and shrimp. Anglers report picking up a few flathead catfish. White bass fishing continues to be good on jigs, spinners, and minnows in the tailwaters and the mouth of tributary streams and rivers. Crappie fishing is fair and bluegill fishing continues to be good in the backwaters... try Sunset Marina and Andalusia in **Pool 16**, Big Timber area and Huron Island in **Pool 17**, and Lake Odessa **Pools 17/18**. These backwaters are also producing channel catfish.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Anglers are catching a few crappies and bluegills at the lower end of the Horseshoe Bend area. Water temperature is in the low 60s but the cold mornings have been keeping the crappies from spawning.

Lake Darling (Washington): The cold nights have been keeping the crappies moving back and forth from shallow to deeper water. Look for bigger crappies in the deeper water habitat. The bass and bluegills have been moving in shallow during the warm, sunny afternoons.

Lake Geode (Henry): Bluegills and redears are biting in the shallow waters of the upper end and the bays.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing is good in the shallow water during the warmest parts of the afternoon. Towards the late afternoon and early evening hours look for some nice catfish to be patrolling the sand and gravel shorelines at the upper end of the lake.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs and also on minnows. Crappies are also hitting in deeper water around some of the brush piles and deep points.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Crappies have been hitting small jigs. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures. A few walleyes are still being caught, primarily in the evenings.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Bluegills and crappies have been hitting on small jigs fished in 10 feet of water.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a minnow around submerged structure. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial baits.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): Channel catfish continue to be caught. Try the rocky areas in the upper end of the lake but beware of the shallow water. Try shad or bluegills for best results.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Crappies are still in the shallows, especially in the brush and stake beds. The bluegills have started moving in a little shallower in preparation to spawn. Try jigs and wax worms for either fish.

Hannan Lake (Benton): Bluegills and crappies are moving in towards the bank and are being caught in the brush. Try jigs tipped with wax worms for best results (remember, no minnows allowed).

Lake Iowa (Iowa): Anglers looking to catch large numbers of bass, and are not concerned with size, should try this lake. Fish around shallow brush piles using various artificial lures. There is a 15-inch minimum size limit on bass. Bluegills and redears are moving shallow and should be biting on small worms or wax worms. Remember the lake is still 4 to 5 feet low so boaters may have some difficulty.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): Crappie fishing has slowed a little due to the cool-off, but it is expected to pick back up as the weather and water warms. Try around the brush piles with jigs, minnows or wax worms.

Iowa River (Louisa): The river is about two feet from being bank-full. Be careful when boating in these conditions. Look for the catfish to be feeding at the mouths of the feeder creeks.

Skunk River (Washington and Henry): The river is running about three-quarters full and it is not dropping very quickly. Anglers are catching a few catfish.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: River stage on Monday was 9.3 feet at Guttenberg and steady. Water clarity is good with near 60-degree temperatures in the main channel. Many anglers are catching nice sized bluegill at the new DNR boat ramp in Guttenberg (**Pool 11**) and also along the emergency spillway on the Wisconsin side. Bluegills are biting in the tailwaters at Guttenberg (**Pool 11**), Lynxville, Wis. (**Pool 10**) and in **Pools 12 to 15**. Simple rigs with worms fished under a bobber are best. Some crappies are being taken in Minnesota Slough (**Pool 9**) and Cassville Slough (**Pool 11**). Freshwater drum have been a consistent biter all spring in **Pools 9 to 15**. Use a night crawler rig with a sliding egg sinker for drum. Carp are spawning in the backwater areas and can be caught on worms or prepared baits in **Pools 9 to 11**. Channel catfish are hitting stink bait and cut baits fished in **Pools 12 to 15**. Largemouth bass are staging for spawn right now in **Pools 9 to 15** and can be caught in the backwaters—usually near tree snags. Large plastic worms and grubs are the bait of choice for these fish. White bass and a few smallmouth bass are being caught with spinners fished along rocky shorelines and wing dams in **Pools 9 to 11**. Walleye are starting to bite on three-way rigs fished above the wing dams in **Pools 12 to 15**. A few limits of walleye were taken at the mouth of Catfish Creek in Dubuque (**Pool 12**).

Cedar (Floyd, Bremer and Black Hawk), **Turkey** (Clayton) and **Volga** (Allamakee) **rivers:** Water clarity has improved on these three rivers and smallmouth bass are starting to bite. In the Cedar River, anglers are picking up a few walleyes on jigs tipped with a night crawler fished in Bremer and Black Hawk counties.

Shell Rock River (Bremer and Butler): The water level is dropping and the river is beginning to clear. Walleyes are hitting twister tails.

Big Woods Lake (Black Hawk): Crappie fishing is good dragging a 1/32-ounce twister tail through 5 to 15 feet of water. Crappie length is about 8 to 9 inches.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): The river is in good condition to fish and anglers are catching smallmouth bass, walleye and crappie.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Some largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie are being taking, but the bite is sporadic.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Bluegill and crappie fishing is fair to good using wax worms, garden worms and small minnows.

Meyer Lake (Black Hawk): Drift or slowly troll a jig and minnow combination for 9 to 10-inch crappies.

South Prairie Lake (Black Hawk): Bluegill fishing is starting to pick up using small jigs fished under a bobber, and fishing will improve as the water temperature increases. Anglers are catching a few crappies on minnows. This lake has excellent shore access for anglers.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Bluegill fishing is good using small jigs tipped with a wax worm and fished under a bobber. A few crappies are biting on small minnows fished near the dam.

Trout fishing is good to excellent. Stocking information for specific streams can be found on the web by going through the DNR web site at www.iowadnr.com or directly to <http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/groupstock.pdf>. Anglers may also call the recorded trout stocking information hotline at 563-927-5736.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

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