

# ***IOWA OUTDOORS***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)**

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653  
[mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us)

\*\*\*\*\*

**May 8, 2007**

1. Weekend Storms Cause Damage in Iowa State Parks
2. Iowa Organization Makes Bridges from Scrub Trees [electronic photos available]
3. Comments Sought on Deer Donation Program
4. Wet Conditions No Problem for Young Foresters
5. Iowa Fishing Report

## **WEEKEND STORMS CAUSE DAMAGE IN IOWA STATE PARKS**

DES MOINES – State parks in southwest Iowa were recovering from damage left by the major storms over the weekend. Nearly all parks had at least minor wind damage or flooding. State parks that had more significant damage were Viking Lake, Springbrook and Lake Anita.

Park staff evacuated the campground at Springbrook State Park, north of Guthrie Center, due to the rising Middle Raccoon River. The river left its banks and closed county road F25, which goes through the park. It has receded and the road is currently open.

The intense rain and runoff around Viking Lake, near Red Oak, caused damage to the road leading to the sewage lagoon. A recently installed sediment pond was damaged and is currently being inspected by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. There was a lot of surface water entering the sewer system. The pumps had a hard time keeping up.

“There was a lot of rain in southwest Iowa, but we’re still here,” said Bob Schierbaum, district supervisor for state parks in southwest Iowa.

Runoff from farm fields surrounding Prairie Rose, near Harlan, deposited cornstalks on trails, boat ramps and all along the lakeshore. “It is going to be really labor intensive to clean the debris up,” Schierbaum said.

Wind was the major factor at Lake Anita. The park, in Cass County, lost a number of trees at the entrance and around the park. At Lake of Three Fires, near

Bedford, the park ranger residence is flooded and there is some downed tree limbs. Some of the boat docks are under water.

Waubonsie State Park, in Fremont County, had its equestrian trails closed. A lightening strike in the campground caused some campers to lose appliances due to the electrical surge. The Missouri River water level was high causing the park staff to pull the dock at Wilson Island. The water was over the ramp, but has since receded.

Not all park damage was in southwest Iowa. A section of the hiking trail slide away at Pine Lake, north of Eldora. Walnut Woods State Park, in Polk County, remains closed due to flooding from the Raccoon River.

Dolliver State Park, in Webster County, had a section of the road slide away during the storms, restricting traffic to one lane. Webster County has plans to repair the damage.

There is minor flooding and wind damage at other parks. For information on the storm impacts on specific state parks, contact the park directly. The Iowa DNR has a listing of park closures on its website, [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), click on state parks, then click on current news, lake levels and construction updates. The information will be updated as it comes in.

###

[Electronic photos available]

## **IOWA ORGANIZATION MAKES BRIDGES FROM SCRUB TREES**

Small trees that would otherwise have been sacrificed under normal timber stand improvement protocol now may be spared the burn pile. The trees, mostly abundant black locust, are being eyed for an innovative bridge project that could benefit state lands and improve Iowa forests.

Under a grant from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Wood in Transportation program, the nonprofit organization Sustainable Science.org Inc., founded by Ibrahim Al-Khattat, has developed a concept to turn invasive scrub trees into bridges. These Light Prestressed Segmented Arch (LPSA) bridges are recyclable, less expensive and often stronger than other bridge constructions. Smaller pedestrian bridges carry a minimum 20-ton highway bridge load, and have withstood an initial three-vehicle weight test.

The bridges can be constructed in a matter of hours by novices, or as a community project. The Iowa DNR plans to train the AmeriCorp Trail Crew to build the bridges on state public land.

Two bridges are already in place near two schools in Coralville. A temporary bridge will be erected for demonstration purposes at Summerset State Park between Des Moines and Indianola May 14 at 3 p.m. DNR and Sustainable Science.org Inc. officials will be on hand. The media is invited.

To reach Summerset State Park, take highway 65/69 south out of Des Moines approximately five miles. Turn east on Elkhorn St and follow the signs.

For more information about the bridges, contact Ibrahim Al-Khattat at 319-541-0675. For more information about the Summerset demonstration, contact the DNR's Whitney Davis at 515-281-6271.

###

## **COMMENTS SOUGHT ON DEER DONATION PROGRAM**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is seeking public review of new rules to govern the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) deer donation program. HUSH encourages hunters to shoot more deer and donate them for Iowa's needy.

A public hearing will be held on May 29 at 1:30 p.m. in the east 4th Floor Conference Room of the Wallace Building, 502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St., in Des Moines. The objective of the hearing is to receive public input on how the HUSH program operates.

Interested persons may present their views at the hearing either orally or in writing. Written comments may be sent prior to the hearing to Ross Harrison, HUSH Coordinator, DNR, Wallace Building, Des Moines, IA, 50319-0034.

To request a copy of the proposed rules, contact Ross Harrison at [Ross.Harrison@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Ross.Harrison@dnr.state.ia.us).

###

## **WET CONDITIONS NO PROBLEM FOR YOUNG FORESTERS**

DES MOINES – The State Historical Building and Iowa Capitol Complex was abuzz April 27, with young tree huggers learning about forestry and participating in Arbor Day activities.

More than 300 students from several Iowa schools attended the event celebrating Arbor Day in Iowa. Students were given a tour through the State Historical Building which included six different presentations on forestry awareness and safety from the Iowa

Department of Natural Resources and famed forestry characters, Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl.

Students then literally got their hands dirty making history. As part of the ongoing construction of People's Park located in front of the Iowa Capitol Building, the students were given the opportunity to plant the first of many trees to be planted on the lawn. Although persistent rains from that week shortened the amount of tree plantings, the students gladly planted what they could.

Governor Culver spoke briefly to the students before the event began. Culver made the point that Arbor Day and forestry efforts are a big part of Iowa's natural resource heritage and the public need only look to the iconography of the Iowa quarter to see this.

"Trees are more than plants, they are monuments to Iowa's past," Culver said.

Upon completing his speech, Culver handed a \$200 check to Mollie Anderson, director of the Iowa Department of Administrative Services, as payment for purchasing a "Culver Tree" for the People's Park project.

The Arbor Day event was made possible by the Iowa Department of Administrative Services with the help of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau. The remaining trees for the park lawn will be planted as weather and ground conditions permit.

**For more information, please contact Randy Cook at (515) 281-5600 or at [Randy.Cook@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Randy.Cook@dnr.state.ia.us).**

###

## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of May 8, 2007**

**[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)**

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): Another opener has come and gone. The Iowa Great Lakes received five inches of rain in areas and wind gusts up to 60 mph. And yet anglers were still out in force. Walleye fishing was good. Most fishing was on the east side of the lake due to the heavy winds. Slip bobbers with leeches and trolling crankbaits in 6 to 12 feet of water was effective in the evening across the whole east shore from Orleans

Park, Reeds Run, Red Nose, Little Stoney Point to Big Stoney Point. Anglers also fared well drifting spinners with leeches during the day in Anglers Bay and along the east shore. Anglers fishing the west and north side of the lake dealt with difficult conditions but also caught fish. Most fish were running 14 to 17 inches, and a few fish over 22 inches were caught. Fishing on the grade for walleyes was fair using shiners or leeches. Northern pike fishing was good along the bulrushes in Hales Slough casting spinner baits. Largemouth bass fishing was good throwing spinner baits and chatter-baits along the bulrushes in Anglers Bay and Hales slough. Bullhead fishing was slow on the grade using night crawlers.

**West Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing was fair on the opener, but the weather kept many anglers off the lake. Some fish were caught around the east shore in Smith's Bay and the trestle area using lighted bobbers with leeches. A few fish were caught on the north end. Crappie fishing in the evening is good around lighted docks using small minnows and jigs. Wahpeton canals and near Spencer Beach have produced. Most fish are running 7 to 9 inches with an occasional larger fish. Bluegill fishing is good in the canals, Triboji Lagoon and the trestle. Small garden worms tipped on a plain hook or small teardrops with wax worms are the baits of choice. Largemouth bass fishing is excellent in the canals using plastic worms and spinnerbaits.

**East Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing was fair. Fish were caught below the spillway and near Little and Big Stoney points. Casting twisters and bobber and leech set-ups were effective. Most fish are running 14 to 16 inches. White bass fishing is good below the spillway casting jigs tipped with shiners or minnows.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good around the island in the evening. Drifting with minnows or using minnows under slip bobbers are excellent choices. Fish are also being caught during the day drifting and trolling.

**Center Lake** (Dickinson): Fishing is good for 12 to 20-inch walleyes along the southwest shore using leeches or shiners. A few white bass are also being caught while fishing for walleyes. Bullhead fishing is excellent along the south shore using night crawlers.

**Lost Island Lake** (Clay): Walleye fishing is good in the evening using minnows under bobbers and casting twisters.

**Silver Lake** (Clay): Walleye fishing is fair in the evening.

**Five Island Lake** (Palo Alto): Walleye fishing is fair in the evening from shore.

**Lake Pahoja** (Lyon): Anglers are catching buckets full of 6 to 8-inch crappies using minnows on a plain hook under a bobber fishing along the north shore. They are catching a few bluegills, too.

**Brushy Creek** (Webster): The lake level is up again. Water at the north end of the lake is muddy. Crappies have been caught on minnows around the shoreline. A few nice walleyes have been caught along the dam. Bass are moving into shallower waters. Bluegills have moved up to the shoreline.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing is good at Dodge's Point, the Island, Billy's Reef and the north shoreline. Yellow bass fishing is excellent using small jigs and twisters. Fish the Island, Dodge's Point and east shoreline for the best action or where a wind is blowing into a rocky area. Mornings and evenings are the best times for yellow bass. White bass are being caught while fishing for yellow bass. Channel catfish fishing is fair in the west end of the lake. Use dead chubs or liver for the catfish.

**Beeds Lake** (Franklin): Crappie fishing is fair from the jetties and causeway using small jigs and minnows. Fish size has been 7 to 9 inches.

**Interstate Park Pond** (Franklin): Crappie fishing is good using small jigs and minnows near the structure and jetty.

**Maynes Grove** (Franklin): Bluegills are hitting small pieces of night crawler.

**Lower Pine Lake** (Hardin): Crappies are hitting small jigs and minnows near shore.

**Smith Lake** (Kossuth): Largemouth bass fishing is good and spinner baits and jerk baits. Remember – Smith Lake has an 18-inch minimum length limit on bass.

**Rice Lake** (Winnebago/Worth): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the windy shoreline

**Lake Cornelia** (Wright): Walleye fishing is fair using live bait. Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers.

**Swan Lake** (Carroll): Fishing is excellent for bluegill around the jetties and shallow water. Fish are running from 7 to 9 inches. A small lead head under a bobber or a small hook tipped with a piece of night crawler has been very good.

**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista): Fishing is excellent for walleye trolling # 5 shad raps in clown, hot steel or blue colors in 8 feet of water. Don't forget the 17 to 22 inch protected slot limit on walleye. All walleye in that slot limit must be returned immediately to the water. White bass have been very good using the same methods. Catfish have been excellent on shad entrails, cut bait or night crawlers.

**Black Hawk Lake** (Sac): The lake water level is high from the recent rainfall. Catfish and bullhead fishing has been good, especially by the inlet where water is entering the lake.

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

## Southwest

**Farm Ponds:** Bluegill and crappie are biting well.

**Icaria** (Adams): The crappie and bluegill fishing is white hot. Anglers are catching 9 to 10-inch crappies. Anglers are catching 1.5 to 5 pound catfish. Some walleyes are being caught on jigs while casting from shore. Several largemouth bass, up to 16 inches, can be caught near shoreline structure. Crappie fishing is excellent with several crappies, 7 to 9 inches long being caught near shoreline structure on white jigs. Some 7 to 8-inch bluegill can be caught near shore on night crawlers. The lake is full and running over.

**Little River** (Decatur): Crappie can be caught in five feet of water just off shore on jigs or minnows during mid day and near shore at dusk and dawn. Some channel catfish are biting in shallow water. Anglers have been catching some walleye off of the dam and the points.

**Wilson** (Taylor): Crappie fishing is excellent on the dam using jigs.

**Windmill** (Taylor): Several crappies are being caught using jigs while fishing near the dam.

**Green Valley** (Union): Some crappies are starting to bite near shore in the evenings or just off shore during the day. Fishing is good for channel catfish on night crawlers, stink bait and liver off silt dikes or in shallow bays.

**Three Mile** (Union): Fishing is good for channel catfish at the north end. Walleyes have slowed but may be found around dam and deep points using minnows. Several wipers have been caught using minnows in deep water near points. Several crappies have started to bite in five to 10 feet of water near structure and are biting well in the shallower areas at the upper end.

**Twelve Mile** (Union): The lake is full and running over. Walleyes are being caught, but most are 12-inch size. Anglers are picking up largemouth bass up to 17 inches with most between 11 and 13 inches. The lake is only one foot low and the main boat ramp is usable.

**Badger Creek** (Madison): Some channel catfish can be caught in the warm shallow water. Bluegill and crappie are biting well near the rocks of the jetties and in areas near shoreline access.

**Lake of Three Fires** (Taylor): The crappie and bluegill fishing is white hot. Anglers are catching 9 to 10-inch crappies.

**Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes.**

**Big Creek** (Polk): A lot of 9 to 10-inch crappie are being caught throughout the lake. Try jigs tipped with minnows or wax worms.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Crappies are biting. Some larger crappies are being caught near the culverts. Bass fishing has been decent.

**Saylorville** (Polk): Fishing below the dam has been good. White bass and crappie are biting on white jigs. The wiper fishing has also been good, with many reports of 2 to 10 pound fish being caught. Some catfish are being picked up as well.

**Red Rock** (Marion): Anglers are catching 13 to 14-inch crappie below the dam. Try fishing areas where the current is relaxed, such as the creek arms and riprapped areas.

**Don Williams** (Boone): Crappie fishing is heating up. Anglers are using white jigs, tipped with minnows in the brush piles, 4 to 5 feet deep. A few catfish are being caught on night crawlers and stink bait.

**Contact: Ben Dodd (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes.**

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is good for channel catfish with average size 20 inches. Bullheads are being picked up in the silt ponds. Crappies have moved shallow and can be caught off the dam. Largemouth bass is fair using a slow retrieve and plastic worms. Fishing has slowed with the high water.

**Nodaway** (Adair): Crappies fishing was good from the dam. Fishing has slowed with the high water.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Bluegill fishing is slow using worms under a bobber.

**Anita** (Cass): Largemouth bass fishing has been good for 14 to 16-inch fish using crankbaits and jigs around brush piles.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): The lake is open to fishing. Anglers can expect to catch crappies on small minnows fished under a bobber in 6 to 8 feet of water.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Fishing for crappies is good in the canals using minnows with a bobber or small jigs. A few wipers are also being caught.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Fishing is good for 7 to 8-inch crappies next to shore along riprap. A few largemouth bass are being caught using a slow presentation. Heavy rains have muddied water and slowed fishing.

**Farm Ponds** are warming up and anglers should be catching fish in area ponds. Be sure to ask permission from the landowner first.

**Contact: Bryan Hayes (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes.**

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 18:** Water levels in all pools are below flood stage and are dropping. However, some of the tributaries may be on the rise due to the weekend precipitation. This should have minimal impact on the Mississippi water level.

Water temperature at Muscatine is 61 degrees. Water level at Fairport is 10.3 feet: flood stage at this location is 14 feet.

White bass fishing has been good below the dams. Fishing has been good at the steel dam on the **Rock River** and a few white bass are being caught up **Sylvan Slough**. Walleye fishing has been slow. Crappies are biting in the backwaters and this should improve with rising water temperature. Catfishing has been good on shad parts but is slowing.

**Lake Odessa** (Louisa): The boat ramps are useable. Even with the recent rains the water is only up to the top of the ramps. Anglers are starting to catch a few crappies but spawning has not started.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): The water temperature fell to the low 60s. Cool wet weather over the weekend has moved the crappies out to deeper water. Look for them to be in the trees in the middle of the lake. The good news is that the catfish are loving all this rain and are feeding heavily anywhere there is water coming into the lake.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): Anglers are catching some nice 10-inch crappies on bobbers and worms or minnows along the riprap along the dam. Look for crappies to be a little deeper than they were last week.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing remains good. Look for fish down in eight foot of water and use either slip bobbers or small jigs.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs or jigs tipped with a minnow in 15 to 20 feet of water. Most anglers are fishing around underwater structure such as cedar trees or pallet structures. Channel catfish have been biting on leeches and cut bait at the west end of the lake around the Bridgeview area. Additional rain has been received so the lake is continuing to rise. For the best results, fish areas where there is some water flowing into the lake. The water temperature is 58 degrees.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations. Walleyes have been hitting on jigs and crankbaits fished around the rocks on the dam and other shorelines with riprapped areas. Crappies and bluegills can be caught using small jigs tipped with a wax worm or minnow.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations. Look for fish around submerged structure and around the rock jetties. Crappies and bluegills are still in deeper water. Fish around the brush piles in 10 to 15 feet of water with a small jig tipped with a wax worm.

**Lake Keomah** (Mahaska): Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations. Try fishing at the end of the rock jetties or around any overhanging trees. Crappies and bluegills should start to pick up around the handicap accessible fishing pier. Use small jigs and a twister tail along this area.

**Lake Miami** (Monroe): Crappies are being caught at the shoreline in about 8 feet of water. Bluegill fishing is slow. Channel catfish are biting on a variety of presentations.

**Hannan Lake** (Benton): Crappies and bluegills were being caught in the shallows before the rains hit this weekend. It is spawning time so they should continue to bite after a couple stable days of weather. Remember, no minnows are allowed here.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Some crappies are up along shallow wood spawning, while the rest wait not far off the bank in slightly deeper brush. Try small jigs or minnows for best results.

**Coralville Reservoir** (Johnson): Some boat anglers were having success for shallow crappies in rocky coves. Shore anglers below the Macbride spillway were also catching some crappies and the occasional white bass. Small jigs were working best.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Fish the stake beds/brush piles for crappies as well as some bluegills. More crappies should be shallow due to the spawning season. Small twisters/tubes are best to use. Remember, no minnows are allowed here.

**Skunk River** (Washington and Henry): The river at Brighton remains at minor flooding level and looks to remain that way if the forecast holds.

**Iowa River** (Washington and Louisa): The river had finally gone back into its banks this weekend but flood warnings were issued Monday morning.

**Cedar River** (Linn): Anglers are catching white bass and channel catfish below the dams. Yellow twisters are catching most of the white bass on their spring run, while bluegills have been the best bait for the 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:** Water levels on the Mississippi River have fallen slightly. On Monday, river stage was 7.9 feet in Guttenberg and is expected to drop to 7.5 feet and remain at that level for the upcoming week. In Dubuque, the Mississippi was at 10 feet and Bellevue was at 8.3 feet and slowly falling to 7.7 feet by the end of this week. The water temperature is in the low 60s. With the water warming, fishing success will continue to improve.

Panfish are beginning to hit in **Pools 9 to 15**. Bluegill fishing is very good right now below the spillway areas in the pockets in **Pools 10 to 15**. Bluegill and crappie fishing is good in the backwaters and sloughs in **Pools 9 to 15** using night crawlers and minnows under a bobber fished next to structure. Look for crappie fishing to pick up in **Pools 9 to 11** as they will soon begin to spawn. Try working the backwater shorelines with a small jig or minnow under a bobber.

A few yellow perch are being caught near the spillways in **Pools 10 and 11**.

Anglers are catching walleyes in Minnesota Slough (**Pool 9**) and fishing is fair for walleyes and saugers above the wing dams in **Pools 12 to 15**. Use a three-way rig tipped with a night crawler for best results.

Fishing for freshwater drum is very good using night crawlers fished on the bottom in **Pools 9 to 15**. Anglers can catch drum from shore using a night crawler tossed in the water below the dams or try fishing near the wing dams.

Channel catfish are being caught in **Pool 10** on worms.

Smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing continues to be very good on crankbaits and spinners fished around rocky areas in **Pools 9 to 11**. Bass fishing is fair in **Pools 12 to 15** casting crankbaits, jigs or soft plastics along riprap, rocky shorelines or in backwater areas and side channels with woody cover.

The interior rivers in northeast Iowa are running clear as many of the heavy rains that recently hit parts of southern Iowa missed this area.

**Cedar River** (Mitchell, Floyd and Chickasaw): Whenever the river rises with seasonal rains, channel catfish hit cut baits, chubs and chicken liver. When the Cedar is more stable and clear, walleye and smallmouth bass are eagerly feeding. Walleye are biting on minnows and 4-inch purple, chartreuse or firecracker colored ring worms. Smallmouth bass are hitting on 3-inch yellow twister tails.

**Cedar River** (Bremer and Black Hawk): Fish below the dams and the mouths of feeder streams for channel catfish. Night crawlers and dead cut baits fished off the bottom work best; however, some are also hitting on jigs and twister tails.

**Maquoketa River** (Delaware): Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers or dead baits fished on the bottom. Walleye fishing is good on jig and minnow or crankbaits.

**Shell Rock River** (Butler and Bremer): Channel catfish are good below dams and the mouths of creeks. Fish on the bottom using night crawlers or dead cut baits. Some anglers are catching catfish on jigs and twister tails.

**Turkey River** (Clayton): Smallmouth bass fishing is good on night crawlers, plastics and crankbaits. Walleye fishing is good on twister tails or minnows.

**Upper Iowa River** (Winneshiek and Allamakee): Fishing for smallmouth bass in the 13 to 17-inch range is excellent floating a twister under a bobber in the current. Bass are also hitting twisters tipped with a worm. Walleye fishing is good on twister tails.

**Volga River** (Fayette): Fishing is slow, but river conditions are good and fishing should improve.

**Yellow River** (Allamakee): Smallmouth bass fishing is good on dark colored jigs from the Ion Bridge to the mouth. Brown trout fishing is also good.

**Casey Lake** (Tama): Fishing is good for bluegills in Casey Lake, in Hickory Hills Park. Fish off the jetties using wax worms or a piece of night crawler suspended under a bobber. Now is a good time to try artificial flies on fly rods for bluegills feeding at the surface.

**Lake Delhi** (Delaware): Channel catfish are good using dead baits or night crawlers fished on the bottom. Bluegill and crappie fishing has improved. Use a small piece of a night crawler or small jigs for bluegills. Fish a jig tipped with a minnow or a plain minnow under a slip bobber for hungry crappies. Crappies and bluegills often congregate around submerged structure and boat docks.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): Fishing is picking up. Crappies are biting on minnows and artificial lures. Largemouth bass are beginning to hit on twister tails.

**Lake Meyer** (Winneshiek): Crappie fishing continues to be excellent on white and black tube jigs. Bluegill fishing is also very good on angle worms and crappie jigs.

Largemouth bass are biting on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Channel catfish are hitting worms and chicken liver.

**Silver Lake** (Delaware): Fishing for bluegill and catfish is fair in Silver Lake, in Delhi. For bluegills, try using a piece of night crawler or a wax worm fished under a bobber. Channel catfish are hitting night crawlers or dead cut baits fished on the bottom.

**Volga Lake** (Fayette): Fishing has slowed. Largemouth bass are hitting twister tails fished in the early morning and late evening hours. Bluegill fishing is fair.

**Trout** fishing is excellent. Water conditions are excellent and Mayflies and caddis flies are hatching. If you are a fly fisherman, now is a GREAT time to be out on the trout streams. Most trout stream stockings are announced and the dates of proposed stockings can be found on the Iowa DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) or by calling the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736.

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

###