

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

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**HIGH WATER CONTINUES TO IMPACT STATE PARKS**

STRAWBERRY POINT - A two mile section of road in Backbone State Park will be closed until the end of July to repair washout damage and remove downed trees caused by heavy rains and storms over the past few weeks. The park road is closed from the CCC museum spur near the west gate on through the park.

The Six Pine Campground and CCC museum is open. The north gate is open only to the auditorium. The east gate is closed. The South Lake Campground is scheduled to reopen on June 30.

Work to repair the two miles of park road includes refilling the washout areas, rebuilding the shoulders and relaying the road. The park clean up will require the removal of tons of silt from the road, lower picnic areas and shelters.

The boat ramp parking lot for Backbone Lake was damaged when floodwaters scoured out two to three feet of fill along its edges. Contractors will be working to get the ramp repaired by July 4.

The Iowa DNR's AmeriCorps trail crew is currently assessing the damage to park trail system.

Other parks are also impacted from the high water.

Palisades-Kepler State Park: The campground is open. The boat ramp and lower road is closed because of high water from the Cedar River.

Wapsipinicon State Park: The campground and upper picnic areas are open. The lower road along the river that leads to the boat ramp and rotary lodge is closed.

Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area: There are no flooding concerns in the recreation area and the roads into the park are currently open. However, it is projected that Blairsferry Road, the main road most users take to Pleasant Creek, will be closed in the next few days because of rising water in the Cedar River. Lewis Bottoms Road, which is the other entry road, also crosses the Cedar River and is expected to be closed either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Springbrook State Park: The park is closed.

Rock Creek State Park: The 33 lake side campsites are closed. The rest of the campground is open.

Summerset State Park: The park is closed.

George Wyth State Park: The park is closed through at least June 16.

Pine Lake State Park: The park and campground are open. The boat ramp along the Iowa River is closed. The four CCC cabins are closed through June 19.

Walnut Woods State Park: The park is closed.

Ledges State Park: The park and campground are open. Canyon Road and Lower Canyon Road are closed, possibly through the weekend.

Dolliver State Park: The south entrance and the south lodge are open. All other facilities in the park are closed.

Big Creek State Park: High water is impacting certain areas of the park, but the park remains open. Park staff are closing the Des Moines River parking lots north and south of the Sycamore Access on 66<sup>th</sup> St. The Neal Smith bike trail is closed from Sycamore Access on south until further notice. If the river continues to rise, the parking lots along 26<sup>th</sup> may be impacted.

Most state park and recreation area equestrian trails are closed.

For the latest information, contact the park directly. A listing is available on the DNR website [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) then click on the State Parks link.

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## **DNR SUSPENDS TROUT STOCKING**

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has suspended its regular trout stocking schedule for at least a week because of poor stocking conditions in the streams and Big Spring and Manchester trout hatcheries are flooded. Stocking will resume once the conditions allow.

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## **AVOID BOATING, CANOEING ON HIGH WATER**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is advising boaters and canoeists to stay off the rivers and flood control reservoirs until the water returns to a more normal level. The strong current and heavy rains washed in debris and moved around other obstacles in rivers and reservoirs creating an unsafe situation.

“High water, especially at the level we are seeing in many places, is dangerous for boaters and paddlers, regardless of the skill level,” said Susan Stocker, boating education coordinator with the Iowa DNR. “There is more to the dangers than the debris you can see. Much of it lies just under the surface or is mixed in with the water from what was flooded upstream.”

There have been reports of all types of debris being washed away in the flood waters, including propane tanks, trees, and outdoor furniture. Wastewater treatment plants and countless basements and garages have also been flooded.

“People who boat on floodwater not only put themselves at risk, but they put the people who would have to rescue them at risk. It is best to wait until water levels drop before going boating,” Stocker said.

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**Note: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts water over the Coralville Reservoir dam on Tuesday, June 10. For more information, contact Gwen Prentice, Lake Macbride park ranger, 319 624-2200 or Joe Wilkinson DNR information specialist, 319 430-0325**

## **CORALVILLE RESERVOIR OVERFLOW ALSO IMPACTS LAKE MACBRIDE**

As water pours over the top of the Coralville Reservoir dam, north of Iowa City, the impact is felt upstream at Lake Macbride State Park, as well.

For only the second time in its history, Lake Macbride will have water from the Coralville Reservoir flowing *into* its 800-acre basin. Normally, water pours *out* of Macbride into the reservoir. The ‘reverse’ flow has park officials scrambling to pull docks, boats and take other steps to minimize damage.

One of the most serious concerns is at the privately-run Lake Macbride Boat Rental. Owner Tina Hoffman expects two feet of water in her building, as she pulls rental boats out of the concession area adjacent to the Macbride beach. Park officials also notified nearly 100 owners, utilizing the park-owned docks, to pull their boats out of the lake so the anchored docks can be removed. “We expect up to three feet of water in here by the weekend, with no additional rain,” notes Macbride Park Ranger Gwen Prentice. “The higher water, with potential storm winds could bend pipes anchoring those docks.”

Boat owners are asked to have their boats out within the next couple days, with the three foot boost in water levels expected by the weekend. Owners of other boats moored alongside privately maintained docks are advised to take action, although the park will not force removal.

In the park’s south side ‘primitive’ campground, several campsites near the lakeshore are expected to disappear as the water rises.

Monday afternoon, DNR workers anchored a barricade across the Macbride-into-Coralville spillway. “It’s primarily for safety, to keep boats from crossing from one lake to another,” noted Fisheries Biologist Paul Sleeper. “We also hope it can keep larger rough fish out of Macbride, and maybe even keep more desirable game fish—such as walleyes and wipers--in Macbride.” In 1993, the only other time that Reservoir water flowed into Macbride, an unwelcome influx of carp and shad washed in.

Most boat ramps on Macbride will be closed as the water rises. The ‘sailboat area’ ramp on the south side of Macbride’s north arm may still accommodate boat access.

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## **PEREGRINE FALCONS HATCH AT STATE CAPITOL**

Iowa's newest pair of nesting peregrine falcons has chosen the Iowa State Capitol as their home. On June 2, the pair was observed tending to their young on a ledge above the east stairs.

In April, employees of Neumann Bros. Construction, installed a nest tray for a female peregrine frequently seen perching on an east ledge of the Capitol. Shortly after the female discovered the nest tray, she was observed laying and incubating eggs.

On Monday, a male peregrine, was observed bringing food to the female and she was subsequently observed feeding three or four young. According to Pat Schlarbaum, DNR wildlife technician, the young falcons will be fully feathered and ready to take their first flight in 38 to 42 days. Adults will continue feeding the young until they are self-sufficient – probably near mid- to late-August.

“This recently successful nesting has a nearly five-year history,” says Schlarbaum. The female peregrine was first spotted at the Capitol in 2003 and determined to be a banded bird (39/E) fledged from a nest box in Minneapolis. She was observed the last few years hanging around the Capitol Complex.

“Last December, she was rescued by animal control officers in downtown Des Moines,” says Schlarbaum, “apparently stunned from flying into a window. The accident was, quite possibly, as a result of a territorial dispute with another peregrine.” The bird was transported to Saving our Avian Resources (SOAR), a wildlife rehabilitation facility near Dedham, Iowa and six weeks later released at Jester Park on the west side of Polk County.

The peregrine falcon is a state endangered species. It was federally endangered also, but it was de-listed in 1999.

There are 12 other documented peregrine nest sites in Iowa, including Cedar Rapids, Lansing, Waukon, McGregor, Clinton, the I-80 Mississippi River bridge, MidAmerican Energy headquarters in Davenport, the I-280 bridge in Davenport, MidAmerican Energy's Louisa Generating Station, the Great River Bridge in Burlington, the Alliant Energy plant in Chillicothe and a second site in Des Moines at the American Republic Insurance building.

Visit the DNR web site at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) to observe the American Republic nest site in Des Moines, click on the “falcon cam returns!” button. Read more about peregrines at <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/falconrestr.html>

**For further information please contact Pat Schlarbaum at 712-330-0526.**

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*\$1,000 Scholarship to Be Won, Plus Drawing for \$3,000 Backyard Pond*

## **WHO RADIO'S VAN AND BONNIE AND THE IOWA DNR TEAM UP FOR KIDS FISHING CONTEST**

ANKENY– Get your family up early and bring your poles this Friday, June 13 to a free fishing contest hosted by WHO Radio's Van and Bonnie and the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The event takes place at the lake at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) campus, and prizes include a \$1,000 scholarship for the child who catches the biggest fish.

“Families will enjoy fried fish samples, tips from DNR staff, giveaways and a fish catching contest,” said Marion Conover, Fisheries bureau chief for the Iowa DNR. “This is a great time to introduce your kids to fishing and give them an opportunity to reel one in.”

The \$1,000 scholarship is donated by Educational Resource Associates. Additionally, Bob Lenc Landscaping is sponsoring a drawing for a free backyard water feature, valued at \$3,000. Other prizes include fishing poles and tackle boxes from Sportsman's Warehouse.

A limited amount of fishing gear will be available for use at no charge. The fishing contest is for children age 15 and under; those over the age of 16 who fish must have a 2008 fishing license. Anyone can register for the drawing for the free backyard water feature, regardless of whether they are fishing, as long as they are aged 18 or older. The event is sponsored by the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, WHO Radio, DMACC, Bob Lenc Landscaping and Sportsman's Warehouse.

For more details, visit WHO radio's web site: [www.whoradio.com](http://www.whoradio.com)

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## **TAKE YOUR DAD FISHING FOR FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 15**

With Fathers Day coming up this weekend, sons and daughters across Iowa will be turning to one of America's favorite pastimes: fishing.

A fishing outing on Father's Day is a tradition that gives fathers the opportunity to bond with their children, relax and experience nature. The memories created through fishing are a gift that will last a lifetime.

Iowa anglers may find fishing efforts particularly successful this Father's Day, as a cool spring has extended the season for crappies and bluegill. "Fish are still close to shore and it's one of the best times for a family to go fishing," said Marion Conover, Fisheries bureau chief for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "Experience and finesse are not as important when fishing this time of year, and the action can be fast.

"Just be cognizant of high water areas across the state and choose fishing locations that are safe for everyone," added Conover.

While taking Dad fishing is a great gift in itself, adding new fishing gear such as lure, line and tackle is another way to show your appreciation.

Visit the Iowa DNR fishing site at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/fishing/index.html> to learn more about how to make the most of your fishing trip this Father's Day. The site includes weekly fishing reports, tips and techniques, and advice on hot spots to fish in Iowa.

Fishing licenses can be purchased on the Internet at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), or at hundreds of local retailers and bait shops across the state.

Whether your dad is 36 or 86, don't miss this opportunity to enjoy Father's Day on the water.

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## **MANAWA LAKE RENOVATION FOCUS OF JUNE 19 PUBLIC MEETING**

COUNCIL BLUFFS - The Tetra Tech work plan aimed at finding ways to improve the water quality in Lake Manawa, will be presented at a public meeting at 7 p.m., June 19, at the Western Historic Trail Center auditorium, 3434 Richard Downing Ave., in Council Bluffs. The firm was selected by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Friends of Lake Manawa.

Tetra Tech, from Omaha, Neb., will perform a diagnostic and feasibility study of the 747-acre lake and present its results to the Iowa DNR that will serve as a road map to the most effective way to improving the overall water quality of the popular western Iowa lake.

The study will develop recommendations for in-lake and watershed improvements. Determining the feasibility of dredging and analyzing Lake Manawa's water budget will be accomplished by Tetra Tech.

Lake Manawa has a 2,490-acre watershed, a maximum depth of just over 11 feet and an average depth of around 6 feet. Lake Manawa is a priority lake and its restoration will be partially funded by lake restoration money allocated by the Iowa Legislature.

**For more information, contact Bryan Hayes, fisheries management biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at 712-769-2587.**

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