



# IOWA OUTDOORS

## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION | [WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/](http://WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 28, 2009

1. Five Boat Operators Charged with BWI Saturday Night
2. DNR Director to Hold Public Forums Across Iowa
3. *Fish Iowa!* Games Finals

### **FIVE BOAT OPERATORS CHARGED WITH BWI SATURDAY NIGHT**

SIOUX CITY, Iowa – A boating safety enforcement project on the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers near Sioux City over the weekend resulted in six arrests including five for boating while intoxicated and one for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

The joint project between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks conducted the project for several hours Saturday night. Field sobriety tests were conducted on 11 boat operators which resulted in the five BWI arrests.

Iowa DNR Conservation Officer Steve Griebel said there were also two boat operators who had blood alcohol readings above .08 but less than .10. The blood alcohol level in Iowa is .10. In Nebraska and South Dakota, the blood alcohol level is .08.

“I think the project was successful,” said Griebel. “The majority of the families on the river are being safe, but too many boaters are disregarding boating safety laws and putting themselves and others at risk. We want people to have fun boating, but safety needs to be their priority on any body of water.”

The Missouri and Big Sioux rivers hazards include a fast current, both are narrow and have a lot of debris.

In addition to the six arrests, the project handed out 13 citations for safety and equipment violations primarily for not having the proper number of lifejackets and for speed and distance violations. Officers also handed out four written warnings and gave three verbal warnings.

**Media Contact: Steve Griebel, Conservation Officer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-301-4009.**

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## **DNR DIRECTOR TO HOLD PUBLIC FORUMS ACROSS IOWA**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tammie Krausman, DNR, at (515) 402-8763 or [Tammie.Krausman@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tammie.Krausman@dnr.iowa.gov).**

MORAVIA – Richard Leopold, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, will be holding public forums across Iowa again this year to discuss natural resource issues with Iowans.

The first forum will be held at Honey Creek Resort State Park on Thursday, Aug. 6.

“I really look forward to hearing from Iowa’s citizens. Last year, we got great feedback and ideas from more than 300 attendees,” said Leopold about the seven forums held last year. “Our relationship with Iowans is something we highly value within the DNR and we will work together on the things most affecting our natural resources.”

Each public forum begins at 6 p.m. with Director Leopold outlining the DNR’s top priorities, the environmental report card, providing an update on budget cuts and discussing local issues. Another hour-and-a-half will be devoted to answering questions from the public.

Other public forums scheduled for Director Leopold are as follows, listed alphabetically by city:

### **Bellevue**

Bellevue State Park Lodge  
Thursday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m.

### **Clear Lake**

Clear Lake State Park Lodge  
Thursday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m.

### **Lehigh**

Dolliver State Park Lodge  
Thursday, Aug. 20, 6 p.m.

**Moravia**

Honey Creek Resort State Park Lodge  
Thursday, Aug. 6, 6 p.m.

**Sioux City**

Stone State Park Lodge  
Thursday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m.

**Solon**

Lake Macbride State Park Main Lodge  
Thursday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m.

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[A photo of winners from each age group is available electronically upon request]

***FISH IOWA! GAMES FINALS***

Individual medalists from the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual *Fish Iowa! Games* casting competitions held this spring competed in a finals competition during the Summer Iowa Games, July 17. The competition was sponsored by the Mid Iowa Bassmasters, Iowa Sports Foundation (Iowa Games), and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Medals were awarded in two age groups. The top winner in each group received a rod and reel.

**Age 6-9**

1<sup>st</sup> – Malena Rumelhart, Guthrie Center  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Grady Laabs, Guthrie Center  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Hunter Vasey, Guthrie Center

**Age 10-12**

1<sup>st</sup> – Matthew Vannatta, Guthrie Center  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Jaden Schurman, New Liberty  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Alexis Allison, Lenox

The *Fish Iowa! Games* is a casting competition developed by the Iowa Sports Foundation in conjunction with the Iowa DNR. The program is a fun competition where students learn to cast from three distances using the flipping, pitching and casting techniques. During the competition participants received points based on the accuracy of each casting technique.

*Fish Iowa! Games* is a great introduction to fishing for the kids of Iowa. Often this is the first time kids have held a rod and reel.

More than 27,000 students from across the state participated in the *Fish Iowa!* *Games* program.

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