



OUTDOOR CONNECTION

JUNE 2022
ESTHERVILLE NEWS

STORIES, ADVICE, AND INFORMATION FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS



It's mine!

When there's good food to be had, everybody wants some. This Baltimore oriole and gray catbird appear to be arguing about who gets what. This photo by Mike Fredrickson was taken in his backyard. For more pictures from this photographer, turn to Page 4 of this section.

Photo by Mike Fredrickson



From left are Scott St. Sauver, Dennis Stabe, Mike Hawkins, and Terry Thomsen.

Photo by Steve Weisman

SCOTT ST. SAUVER AND AMERICAN HEROES VISIT NORTHWEST IOWA

By STEVE WEISMAN
OUTDOOR EDITOR

On May 22-24, the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club (IGLFC) brought American Heroes Outdoors and its host Scott St. Sauver (a retired U. S. Army veteran and now fishing guide in northeast South Dakota), and television crew to the Iowa Great Lakes to film a future episode for Bally Sports North that will air in 2023 and as a live stream on Waypoint Outdoors TV this fall. Terry Thomsen, IGLFC president, said, "Board member Paul Daniels was up in northeast South Dakota a couple of years ago and made a connection with Scott up there. Paul liked the format and the message of the show, and so he worked to help make it happen."

During each show, St. Sauver shares an outdoor adventure with veterans from that specific area. It is a documentation of journey, commitment, struggle and healing and is a tribute to this nation's service men and women. As a frequent viewer of the program, I find their stories to be both compelling and real. St. Sauver finds that after experiencing the dangers and horror of combat, the outdoors for our nation's heroes is a therapy.

Every area of the country has its share of America's veterans. According to Thomsen, three northwest Iowa veterans were willing to be part of the show: Joe Quail, Coast Guard; Roger Simpson, Vietnam army veteran; Tom Goeken, Vietnam army veteran. Looking back on the Sunday night banquet and the two days of fishing, Thomsen reflected, "It was a wonderful opportunity for the club and for viewers to see what northwest Iowa has to offer. It was also a time for us to share the stories of these three veterans and to also remember the sacrifices that all of our veterans have made to keep this country safe."

St. Sauver had lots of positives to say about the trip.

"What a charming community and fantastic people. From the moment we arrived, the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club rolled out the red carpet for us. While the planning and coordination with Paul Daniels was fantastic as always, execution throws you some curve balls. One of the four Veterans we were going to spotlight was exposed to COVID and not able to attend while another had a family member with health issues and had to withdraw as well. I will admit I was a bit concerned but the results

A major sponsor of American Heroes Outdoors is Scheels, and at each site, the local Scheels store will recognize a special Scheels Hometown Hero because, as St. Sauver notes, "Heroes appear in all communities through their service, caring and sharing their talents with their community. To be eligible, the recipient must either be a member of the United States Military or a first responder (law enforcement, fire or emergency medical service)." On hand to present the



From left are Joe Quail, Roger Simpson, and Tom Goeken.

Photo by Steve Weisman

were quite the opposite. Terry Thompson and the Fishing Club Team were simply outstanding!! They adjusted right from the start."

As a member of the IGLFC, I had the opportunity to "tag" along and to even get in a little fishing! Here is how the visit turned out.

A look back: Sunday evening
The Sunday evening banquet was an opportunity for IGLFC board members to meet St. Sauver and learn more about American Heroes. At the same time, it gave Thomsen the chance to dialogue with St. Sauver and share the mission and goals of the IGLFC.

Hometown Hero award was Dennis Stabe with the Sioux City Scheels store. The recipient was Mike Hawkins, who volunteers and is the assistant chief on the Arnolds Park/Okoboji fire and rescue, is a part of the dive/rescue team and a first responder. Thomsen says, "Mike is very deserving of this honor for all of his volunteer efforts. He is a true professional. Congratulations, Mike, and thanks for all that you do for this community."

St. Sauver agreed with the choice. "We were able to surprise Mike Hawkins with our Scheels Hometown Hero for

Turn to HEROES, Page 20

Without Plants

By MIKE HAWKINS
DISTRICT FISHERIES BIOLOGIST, IOWA DNR

If you ask any aquatic ecologist or botanist, limnologist, fisheries or marine biologist about aquatic plants they will tell you how important they are to the health of a lake, an estuary, river, pond or wetland. They'll tell you about the interactions the plants have with all the creatures below and the delicate balance they help keep with water chemistry and nutrients. They will tell you cool facts about each plant and its habitat. In short, these discussions will quickly get into the weeds!

Our phones ring all summer long with worries and complaints about plants. Although I often don't have the answer people want, each conversation is valuable with some knowledge and understanding exchanged. However, when I hang up the phone, I always wish that a larger audience could have listened in. The OPA newsletter always gives me that chance.

I've discussed the interactions of plants and water quality in past articles. However, I thought I'd approach this article from another angle. Instead of trying to explain the chemical, biological and physical

importance of aquatic plants to lakes, I will simply describe what we would have without them.

Without plants, there would be no blue lake, it would be green. Without plants, the lake bottom would be a desolate and barren wasteland - constantly stirred by wind and waves. Without plants, blue-green algae would take over, causing foul smelling blooms that are toxic to us and our pets. Without plants, tiny fish would have no cover to avoid predators or find food. Without plants, bullheads would do just fine. Without plants, bloodworms (cousins to the mosquito) would take over the insect community.

Without plants, we'd all smell like pond scum after a swim, covered in green slime as we climb onto the dock. Without plants, that amazing SCUBA dive with 30 feet of visibility would be limited to what you could feel with your hands and hold up to your mask. Without plants, a trophy fish would be a 20-pound carp. Without plants, our lakes would smell terrible most of the summer, driving away business to cleaner waters.

These aren't guesses about what we'd have without plants. There are many lakes in the re-



gion without plants, and they are what I've just described. Getting the opportunity to work on all types of lakes, I've grown to really appreciate the role plants play in our lakes. I've also grown to appreciate how much of a challenge it is to manage a lake with aquatic plants.

When we understand what's at stake, it seems logical that aquatic plants should be admired, protected and even revered! But as one might guess, for many lake goers aquatic plants are a pain, loathed and even cursed. They can interfere with boating and swim-

ming. Plants can get wrapped up in a propeller, plug a jet ski, or even, in some people's opinion, be simply something that shouldn't be in the water. Some of these feelings are a result of a lack of knowledge of their importance to the lake, but many times it's because the plants are just in the way. They're weeds!

Clean lake water is a result of lots of plants, and lots of plants are a result of clean lake water. The two are intertwined and a natural part of the ecosystem. We can't have one without the other - unless you're talking about swimming pools.

Thinking about what the lakes would look like without plants can give a bit more insight and respect for what they provide.

The next time you go for a boat ride near the shoreline on a calm day, lean over the side of the boat and have a look. Bring along a mask and snorkel if you're feeling adventurous. I challenge you to learn more about the lake environment and appreciate that healthy forest below the water's surface. Instead of thinking about them as "weeds", give some thought to what our lakes would look like if those aquatic plants weren't there!

Motor Inn, Inc.
www.motorinnautogroup.com

GMC BUICK CHEVROLET
Jeep Ford LINCOLN
TOYOTA CHRYSLER
DODGE

A Member Of The MOTOR INN AUTO GROUP
Estherville • Spirit Lake • Carroll

Everything you need
for your home improvement project

What makes a Showplace?
Kitchen Cabinets • Wallpaper Paint • Andersen Windows • Lumber & Tools

North Iowa Lumber & Design, Inc.
2303 Murray Road, Estherville
712-362-6996

Federal • Winchester • Kent • Hornady • Focchi

212

Honest People • Honest Service • Honest Prices

NO LIMITS OUTDOORS
712-580-7000
212 11th St. SW • Spencer, IA • 51301
"There Are NO LIMITS!"
www.nolimitsspencer.com

Benelli • Savage • Ruger • Springfield • S & W • Remington

Avery • Drake • Under Armour • Hoyt • Genesis Bows • Easton • NAP
JB Lures • Berkley • Fahlil • Schucks Lures • Northland • Rapala • Lindy

BRING YOUR CAR TO US TO KEEP YOUR CAR LOOKING ITS BEST!

M.E.'S BODY SHOP

2209 Murray Road, Estherville, IA
712-362-3950

Outdoor Connection



INHF to host open house to celebrate protection of The Narrows Preserve

BY ABBY MADE TERPSTRA AND JOE JAYJACK
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) is excited to celebrate with the Iowa Great Lakes community this summer now that the last private, undeveloped piece of shoreline on East Lake has been permanently protected. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individuals, area businesses, community groups and foundations, this 2,020-foot span of

lakeshore will benefit wildlife, water quality and people for generations to come.
A look back
On September 7, 2021, INHF wrapped up a historic \$8 million campaign to purchase the East Lake shoreline, now known as The Narrows Preserve, and closed on the property near the end of December. The property will be available for public access starting this summer as a place for low-impact recreation

like hiking and bird watching. "We simply had to act," said Joe McGovern, President of INHF. "This land serves a critical function to the lake's ecosystem, and opportunities like this only come around once in a lifetime. The Lakes community has generously supported numerous INHF water quality and land protection projects in the past. We knew this would be a unique campaign, and a big ask, but people really stepped

up, both in financial support and helping get the word out." The Narrows Preserve sits on the east side of the lake, just north of Elinor Bedell State Park. Access to the Preserve will be from the trail that runs through the state park.
Celebrating The Narrows Preserve
From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, INHF will host a public open house to celebrate the protection of this

special place. People are invited to gather at the shelter at Elinor Bedell State Park to tour the property and learn from INHF staff about future plans. Those plans include restoring a more diverse mix of prairie plants into the grassland, removing interior fences, and removing invasive and undesirable woody vegetation within the woodland and grasslands. There will be considerable tree work done to create habitat for

grassland birds, and funding from the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission will assist with extensive shoreline and riparian habitat restoration over the next couple of years. In addition to INHF planning to own the property long-term to manage it in alignment with its mission to protect and restore Iowa's land, water and wildlife, a conservation easement was placed on the property immediately after it came

into INHF's ownership. Dickinson County Conservation will act as the enforcer of the conservation easement – a legal arrangement that stays with the property deed regardless of who owns it. The easement preserves the natural wildlife habitat, perennial vegetation that benefits water quality of East Lake Okoboji, and open-space character of the property, preventing any use that would significantly impair

or interfere with its conservation values like development, permanent structures, mining or agricultural use. Protection of this critical open space was a community effort — one that has helped to preserve the natural character of the lakes that makes them such a special area. INHF is looking forward to gathering with the community that makes projects like this possible!

HEROES, Continued from Page 1C

Sioux City and he couldn't have been a finer choice! Mike and Kim are a dynamic duo who put their heart and souls into the amazing fisheries across NW Iowa. They were articulate and kind, and the community should be very proud to have the quality of fisheries personnel helping maintain these sportsmen's gems of NW Iowa."

A game plan for Monday and Tuesday was also formulated. St. Sauver would share his boat with a different veteran each day. Shane Akin, owner of Great Lakes Guide Service, also volunteered to guide a different veteran each day. Thomsen also participated with his boat to both fish and to offer any assistance needed. He had a special thank you for Akin. "The IGLFC certainly wants to thank Shane for his willingness to give up his own guide trips for two days to help ensure that the veterans who participated in the American Heroes visit to the Iowa Great Lakes had a great time and got the opportunity to experience some excellent fishing."

As a guide himself, St. Sauver greatly appreciated Akin's desire to help out. "Shane Akin was a true professional and as a guide myself I can't explain how much his expertise made this trip so memorable."

The goal was to showcase fisheries in northwest Iowa. There are so many great places to fish in the areas, but it was decided that Day 1 would be fishing for walleyes at Tuttle Lake and Day 2 would be fishing crappies at East Lake Okoboji.
A look back: Monday
Tuttle Lake is a shallow

Minnesota/Iowa border lake covering over 2,000 acres. Since I moved to Estherville in 1978, it has been an excellent walleye fishery. What is amazing about the Tuttle Lake is that it is really shallow, and the last couple of years dry weather has raised the concern of winter kill, but it always seems to survive. It has grown to become a destination walleye lake.

Although the morning was relatively slow, when the day was over, eight anglers caught 24 walleyes between 15-21 inches with a 27-inch-er released. It was definitely a crankbait bite, as all three boats pulled crankbaits.
According to St. Sauver, "If you haven't had the opportunity to fish Tuttle Lake, you most certainly need to. Fishing Shallow Flicker Shads on planer boards in a lake that rarely sees 4' is amazing on its own, but with Veteran Joe Quail in my boat seeing his reaction to his first walleye ripping a board back and coming in at 27" was super special! We followed that up with a limit, while Tom Goeken took advantage of Shane's expert fishing prowess to ensure we had great footage on a very special fishery!"

A look back: Tuesday
It was back to the Lakes on Tuesday with the boats looking for crappies on East Lake Okoboji. This bite has been good all spring, and it hasn't stopped yet. Again, St. Sauver and Akin took the veterans, while I jumped into the boat with Thomsen. Pretty simple fishing, really. Throw out a 1/16 to 1/32-ounce jig tipped with plastics and troll over the weeds in 8-14' of water. All three captains would

watch their locators, and when they found a huge school of crappies, they would spotlock and cast. I would guess that in one spot Terry and I caught at least 40 crappies in an hour. The largest for the morning was around 12". Enough crappies were kept for a good fish fry later.

St. Sauver reflected on Day 2. "Day 2 with a crappie slam fest on East Lake Okoboji and for me extra special as I had Roger Simpson and Joe Quail in the boat, and we had the jigs and 1" Berkley Gulp Minnows firing – in the home of Pure Fishing and Berkley! Joe and Roger commented more than once that Berkley Gulp was definitely finding a place in their arsenal!"

A special opportunity occurred thanks to a Veteran's generosity. "A special shout out to Roger and Sue Simpson for allowing us to stay in their condo as well as their incredible hospitality. As we learned more about Roger's service in Vietnam, it only became more realistic that we should be telling some of his story as well. Tom, Joe and Roger are true American Heroes, and I was honored to spend time in the boat with them and am even more proud to call them brothers in arms!"

A final thought about the IGLFC. "We learned so much about all the great work with kids the Iowa Great Lake Fishing Club does, and we couldn't be happier than to share their great work with our viewers. Kids in the outdoors are our future, and it appears to us that NW Iowa has a very bright future for the outdoors!"

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month

DES MOINES - In an effort to increase awareness of invasive species and the impact they have on Iowa's ecosystems and economy, Governor Kim Reynolds recently proclaimed June as Invasive Species Awareness Month in Iowa.

Each year, public and private organizations spend millions of dollars in an effort to control invasive plants, insects, diseases and animal species in Iowa's woodlands and urban areas.

Invasive species, such as emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, spongy moth and oriental bittersweet threaten Iowa's ecosystem by competing with and destroying native trees and disrupting the natural complex habitat system.

Iowa woodlands, wildlands and waterways draw hundreds of thousands of tourists and recreational users each year. Raising awareness of invasive species and their impacts is an important step towards behavior change, which can prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.

Invasive Species Awareness Month provides an opportunity for government agencies, businesses, industries, conservation and recreation groups, and community organizations to join forces, and take action against the introduction and spread of invasive species in Iowa.

Learn more about forest invasive species on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/invasives.

Yard and Garden: Growing sweet potato in Iowa

FROM ISU EXTENSION

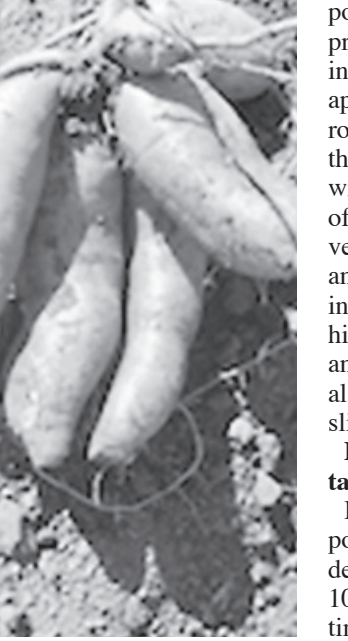
AMES -- The sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) belongs to the family Convolvulaceae (morning glory family). While typically considered as a vegetable suitable for vegetable gardens in the southern United States, sweet potato is a vegetable that can thrive in the hot and humid Iowa summers. In this week's Yard and Garden article, horticulturists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach answer questions about growing sweet potato.

Is there a difference between sweet potato and yam?

Harvested sweet potato. Yes, they are different. Yam is a monocot (single cotyledon), dry and starchy, rough-skinned, grown for its tuber, originated from West Africa, and belongs to the Dioscoreaceae family. Sweet potato on the other hand is a dicot (two cotyledons), moist and sweet, smooth-skinned, grown for its roots, originated from Central/South America and belongs to the Convolvulaceae family.

What are optimal growing conditions for sweet potato?

Sweet potato is a warm season crop that requires a long, frost-free growing season to mature. Plants require full sunlight and should receive at least six to eight hours of full sun each day. Sweet potato plants vine out and trail along the ground. Well-drained, sandy or loamy soils are the best for sweet potato. Heavy clay or rocky soils will result in misshapen sweet potato roots. Soil that does not drain well may



result in lower yields or root rot. Sweet potato is tolerant of a wide range of soil pH but will grow best in soils with a pH of 6.0 to 7.0.

What is the planting material for sweet potato?

Sweet potatoes are starting from a vegetative stem tip cutting, also known as "slip," which is propagated from the roots of the previous season's crop. Slips should be disease and insect free and bought from reputable vendors. A good sweet potato slip should be firm, green and 8 to 12 inches long, preferably with one or two leaves. Slips may or may not have roots when they are cut.

What is the proper way to plant sweet potato?

Plant in mid- to late-May or early June after the danger of

frost has passed. Since sweet potato is a vining plant and prefers to spread, plant slips in rows that are 36-48 inches apart. Plant spacing within the row should be 12 inches. More than 12-inch in-row spacing will lead to a higher proportion of jumbo-sized roots at harvest that are difficult to handle and process. Less than 12 inch in-row spacing will lead to a higher proportion of smaller and slender roots, which are also undesirable. Sweet potato slips.

How do I care for sweet potato?

Before planting, apply 1 to 2 pounds of an all-purpose garden fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, per 100 square feet. At the time of vining, sprinkle another 1 to 2 pounds of an all-purpose garden fertilizer around each plant. Keep plantings weed-free early in the season after which the vining nature of sweet potato will by itself smother and suppress many weeds. Ensure even irrigation throughout most of the growing season; however, don't keep the root zone constantly wet. It is better to limit water during the last four weeks before harvest to protect the developing roots from cracking.

What are some good sweet potato cultivars for Iowa?

Several sweet potato cultivars are available to home gardeners. These cultivars vary in color, size and to some extent in shape. In terms of color, there are cultivars that have light orange, yellow or even white flesh color. Cultivars that are suitable for Iowa in-

clude Beauregard, Centennial, Covington, Evangeline, Georgia Jet and Jewell.

When and how do I harvest sweet potato?

Sweet potato cultivars vary in days to maturity, but most range between 90 and 120 days. Typically, they are harvested late summer/early fall before soil temperatures drop below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. One can wait until the maturity date of the cultivar (90-120 days) or harvest immediately after the first frost. There is no rush to harvest before the first frost, but it is not recommended to expose the root to colder soils for long periods. Cool soil reduces root quality and storage life. Harvest by digging, using a spading fork or shovel, carefully around the plants without damaging the roots.

How do I cure and store sweet potato?

Sweet potato roots require curing to heal cuts, bruises and reduce rots, and to convert some of the starch in the roots to sugar. Commercial growers cure their sweet potatoes in special rooms at 85 F and 80% to 90% relative humidity for seven to 10 days. Duplicating this process would be very difficult for home gardeners. A middle ground approach would be to air dry sweet potatoes for 10-14 days in a warm and shady location like a garage. After curing, the roots should be stored in a dark, cool place with temperatures between 50 to 55 F. Sweet potatoes can be stored under good conditions for four to six months.

Outdoor Connection



This group of anglers checked in a nice bunch of 15-21" walleyes this past week trolling crankbaits. They caught several smaller fish that were released, along with a 27" walleye that was released. Bonus fish included perch and northern pike.

Photo submitted

Get hooked on fishing during free fishing weekend June 3-5

DES MOINES — Iowa residents can try fishing without buying a license on June 3, 4 and 5 as part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) free fishing weekend. All other regulations remain in place.

"A summer of family fun is just a short drive and a fishing pole away," said Joe Larscheid, chief of the Iowa DNR's Fisheries Bureau. "You'll be reeling in fish and making new memories in no time!"

Free fishing weekend is a great time to learn how to fish, take your family fishing, or introduce a friend to fishing. Outdoor fun awaits at hundreds of Iowa lakes, thousands of miles of rivers or a neighborhood pond.

Find a list of stocked lakes and ponds that are easily accessible in parks and along trails on the Iowa DNR's interactive Iowa Community Fisheries Atlas at www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fish-Local.

Fun, hands-on fishing events will be offered across Iowa to help families new to fishing get started. Check the general fishing calendar on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing for a list of free fishing events.

Keep the fun going all summer long by buying a fishing license. It's easy to buy a fishing license with the DNR Go Outdoors Iowa online licensing system at <https://license.gooutdoorsiowa.com/Licensing/CustomerLookup.aspx>. You can download the public Go Outdoors IA mobile app for iPhone and Android devices to buy and store your fishing license, so you will always have access to your license no matter where you are. Yearly, seven-day, or 24-hour fishing licenses are available.

Enticing a fish to bite your hook is fun for all ages. Get tips for taking kids fishing and catching crappie and bluegills on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Ready-to-Fish.

Fishing is hot right now

By STEVE WEISMAN
OUTDOOR EDITOR

As we head into the month of June, fishing is traditionally dynamite during this month. Although it seems we're fighting more wind than normal, when the wind allows, the fishing is getting really good. The nice thing is there are spots all over northwest Iowa to go. It just depends on how far you want to go for a little fishing trip. Here are some options:

Tuttle Lake has an excellent walleye bite going on. Troll crankbaits, trying different colors until you hit the best color. With no real structure, it's just a matter of trolling until you get a strike. Then work that area. Nice 14-20+ inch fish are being taken, along with an occasional perch and northern pike.

Lost Island has been hot for walleyes with lots of 14-20" fish coming on crankbaits.

Silver Lake (Lake Park) The walleye bite has been good in the late afternoon trolling live bait rigs or crankbaits.

East Okoboji has been hot for crappies all spring, and it continues to be so by trolling smaller jigs tipped with plastics over the weedbeds. Watch for the schools of crappies on your electronics and when you find them, anchor and cast for them. Fish run up to 12" right now and are mostly males, with the females preparing for spawning. Expect to catch some yellow bass and bluegills mixed in. Walleye fishing has been fair by trolling spinners and live bait or crankbaits over the weeds. There is starting to be a lot of floating weeds, which can be frustrating when

trolling. Shore anglers can access the rocks along the Trestle and cast out to catch crappies, bluegills and yellow bass.

Lake Minnewashta has also been good for crappies and bluegills. Check out the docks and work the calm side of the lake. Try trolling or casting a jig and plastic or a tiny tungsten jig under a bobber. Tip the jigs with wax worms/silver wigglers or Belgian worms.

West Okoboji panfish are moving into the dock areas. Use a good pair of sunglasses to find them, and then cast a small tungsten jig suspended under a bobber. Tip the jig with a wax worm/silver wiggler or Belgian worm. Lots of largemouth bass can be found in the shallows and in the canals.

Spirit Lake walleye action is best in the eve-

ning and after dark. Live bait is working, but the presentation of choice is pulling crankbaits over the weeds in 10-14' of water. If you fish from shore, try the Grade area for bullheads and panfish. The handicap dock can be a great place to try, especially along where the water is running in from Loon Lake.

Clear Lake is an excellent fishery. Black crappies are on a good bite and have now moved into the bull rush beds to spawn. A small jig tipped with a small minnow with a cane pole is a great way to get the bait right down in the open holes. Walleye fishing has been good. Try trolling spinner rigs fishing a slip bobber rig with live bait like a leech or minnow. If you want to cover a lot of water, try trolling crankbaits trolled over the top of the weeds in the western basin.

Help protect Iowa's forests — leave firewood at home

DES MOINES — Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer, thousands of Iowa will be camping and building campfires. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages campers to buy firewood from where they will burn it instead of bringing it from home.

"Moving unseasoned firewood around the state can threaten the health of our forests by spreading insects like emerald ash borer (EAB) that live in firewood," explains Tivon Feeley, DNR Forest Health forester.

EAB is a small, metallic-green, invasive wood-boring beetle native to east Asia that attacks and kills ash trees. It attacks trees of any size, age, or stage of health.

The spread of EAB into uninfected areas has been primarily through people moving firewood from county to county

or state to state. "These pests don't move far on their own, but they can travel hundreds of miles in a single day in contaminated firewood," said Feeley.

Plenty of firewood is available locally near state and county parks. Simply ask a park ranger or campground host for local firewood availability. Make sure to burn all of the firewood at the campsite and not leave it or transport to a new area.

Plenty of firewood is available locally near state and county parks. Simply ask a park ranger or campground host for local firewood availability. Make sure to burn all of the firewood at the campsite and not leave it or transport to a new area.

Find more information about emerald ash borer and the reasons not move firewood online at www.iowadnr.gov/eab.

Try different colors for more fish

By BOB JENSEN
FISHING THE MIDWEST TEAM

Fishing season is underway across the Midwest, and it's been underway for quite a while in other parts of North America. Wherever you might go fishing, there are some differences and some similarities to the fishing in other areas. One of the similarities is the question of lure color.

The question is, does the color of the lure make a difference to the fish? Some anglers will say that lure color doesn't matter, other anglers say it does. However, more and more, anglers are becoming convinced that lure color can make a big difference in your fishing success.

Mike Frisch chases a variety of species of fish across the Midwest, and he employs a variety of techniques to catch those fish. He throws crankbaits for largemouth bass from early summer until mid-autumn. Pro Model crankbaits in the Series 5 and 5XD sizes get much of the use. But as the water warms and gets a little color in it, the productive colors change.

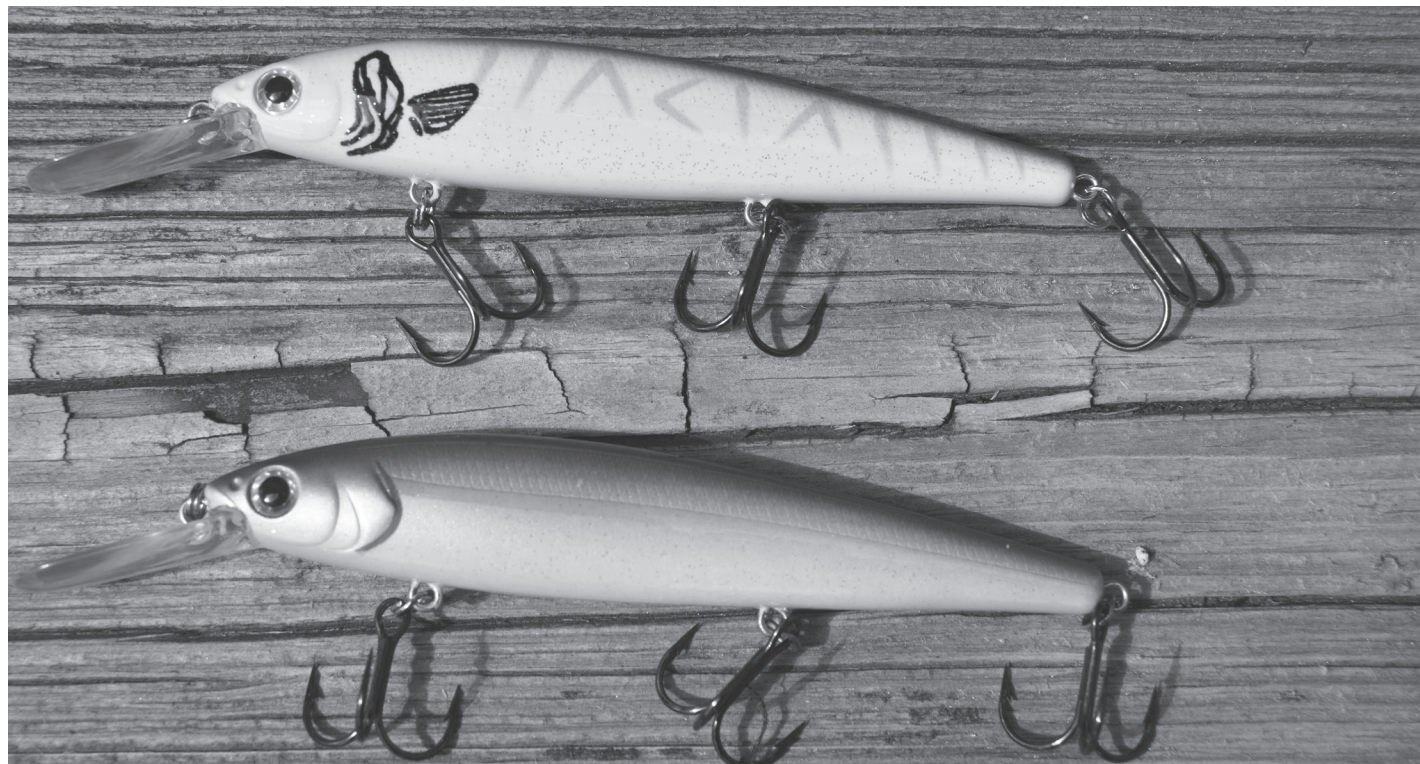
Olive Shad can be good early on when the water is clear, and Blue Back Chartreuse becomes a go-to color later on when visibility in the water is a little less. Also, in some bodies of water for some species of fish, as

the summer progresses, baitfish that were spawned that spring get to a size where they become prey for bigger fish. When the baitfish get to that size, some anglers like to use a crankbait that matches the natural bait in color. They think that the gamefish want to eat what they're used to eating.

And then there are some anglers that like to throw something that looks nothing like the natural prey. Those anglers believe that maybe the gamefish get tired of eating the same thing day after day and want something different.

Wally Marshall is a crappie expert and believes that color can make a big difference in his catches. He's developed his own line of Mr. Crappie baits and says that two of his favorite colors are HotChicken.com and Refrigerator White. When he's on a body of water that he's not too familiar with, he'll start with one of those colors. Osage Orange is another color he likes. Interestingly enough, these color patterns all have some chartreuse in them.

Paul Ruda is in the business of selling lures. He also goes fishing whenever he can. He noticed a long time ago that there are regional color preferences. A color that sells well in one region might not sell at all in another store just down the



In stained water, a bright bait like the top one will often be better. In clear water, start with a bait that's more natural in color like the bottom one. Experiment with color until the fish reveal what they want.

Photo by Bob Jensen

road. When Paul goes fishing, it's often on a river near his home, and much of the time he's got a crawfish colored bait on the end of his line. Crawfish are a primary source of food to many river fish. However, real crawfish come in different colors. A crawdad in a Minnesota river

looks different than a crawdad in a Texas river. Anglers who fish rivers will often have several different patterns of crawfish colored crankbaits in their tacklebox.

Now for my personal experience: I am convinced that there are times when color matters. Fishing partners and I have ex-

perimented with colors when the fish were biting and when they weren't biting. When they were biting, a particular color might attract bigger fish. When they weren't as aggressive, a particular color will often get a few to bite. It's been my experience that it's more important to find the color that they're most

willing to eat on days when the fish aren't so aggressive.

It's been said by some very successful anglers that there are two times to experiment with color: When the fish are biting and when they aren't biting. If you keep that wisdom in mind, you'll catch more and bigger fish much of the time.



Doug Wagner
Financial Advisor
120 North Seventh Street
Estherville, IA 51334
712-362-7744

Greta Farley
Financial Advisor
504 Central Ave.
Estherville, IA 51334
712-362-4654



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
edwardjones.com

Outdoor Connection



In the backyard

Making your backyard a haven for birds will attract those feathery friends so that you can take photos like these. At left are several goldfinches - Iowa's state bird. Above is a good group of rose-breasted grosbeaks.

Photos by Mike Fredrickson



An indigo bunting



A brown thrasher



A Tennessee Warbler

Celebrating 40 Years!
WE SPECIALIZE IN LARGE AND DIFFICULT TREE PROJECTS!
THATE'S TREE SERVICE
COMPLETE PROFESSIONAL TREE CARE FOR COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

- 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
- PRUNING AND REMOVAL
- CLIMBING CREW
- LOT AND LAND CLEANING
- STUMP REMOVAL
- AERIAL TRUCK





FREE ESTIMATES!
 SERVING SOUTHERN MINNESOTA & NORTHERN IOWA SINCE 1977



MN-4410A

OUR ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST AND A COMPLETE LINE OF EQUIPMENT CAN SERVICE ALL YOUR TREE NEEDS.

THATE'S TREE SERVICE

800.225.8733

WWW.THATETREE.COM • FULLY INSURED