



# OUTDOOR CONNECTION

STORIES, ADVICE, AND INFORMATION FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS



Iowa DNR Fisheries Biologist Mike Hawkins shares pertinent information about Eurasian watermilfoil and the plan to eradicate it from our lakes.

Photo by Steve Weisman

## DNR PERSONNEL GIVE UPDATES AT IGLFC FALL EVENING

By STEVE WEISMAN  
OUTDOOR EDITOR

What a great night for northwest Iowa anglers on Thursday, November 10 at the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club's annual fall DNR night at Oak Hill Outdoors. Lots of information from club president Terry Thomsen about all of the volunteer fishing activities the club members had been a part of in 2022 and club donations to area fisheries. Since it was the night before Veteran's Day, Thomsen gave a shout-out to all of the veterans in the crowd, along with a well deserved round of applause from the crowd.

The big part of the night, however, was the DNR presentations. Fisheries biologists Mike Hawkins and Jonathan Meerbeek, along with District 1 Law Enforcement Supervisor Greg Harson gave excellent summaries of their areas. Their program lasted over an hour, and when you have over 150 people in attendance, they can get a little antsy. BUT you know what? It was a captivated audience, and I thought to myself how lucky we are to have the DNR folks that we do. They work hard, they care for their resources, they care about the general public and they don't do any

of their work for the accolades. They are why we have the incredible natural resources we have here in northwest Iowa. Mike Hawkins began by touching on the topic concerning everybody in attendance: the discovery of the Eurasian watermilfoil.

Hawkins gave a little summary of Iowa's stance on aquatic invasive species. Iowa is the first state in the United States to develop a comprehensive Aquatic Invasive Species Plan in the mid-1990s, and Iowa has a zero tolerance for Eurasian watermilfoil. Over those years, three dozen water bodies have been found with Eurasian watermilfoil, and through treatment the aquatic has been eradicated.

Here on the Iowa Great Lakes system, a detailed water surveillance system occurs twice each summer. A total of 153 sites are checked through the use of rake grabs, and all species are identified. The June surveillance found nothing out of the ordinary. Then came August: there it was...Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered. About its discovery. The largest area was around the boat ramp on Upper Gar. That was certainly problematic with all of the boats entering and leaving. So, that area was treated immediately.

Furthermore, testing found that Eurasian watermilfoil had shown up in areas multiple areas in East Okoboji, Minnewashta, Lower Gar and, of course, Upper Gar.

A local task force was organized to address the situation. After much discussion, the group decided the an-

swer was not in spot treatments. The group felt the entire system needed to be treated. However, that was going to cost over \$300,000. A total of \$150,000 came from the Iowa DNR and its Marine Fuel Tax and the Lake Restoration Program. Initially, local donations came from the East Okoboji Improvement Corporation, the Okoboji Protective Association, Dickinson County Supervisors and the Dickinson County Taxpayers Association. Other local entities soon indicated their willingness to help.

It was determined that Sonar A. S. was the best choice for the treatment. It has very little impact on native aquatic plants, is extremely easy to apply and has the potential to eradicate Eurasian watermilfoil. Plus, it has been successfully used to eradicate Eurasian watermilfoil on smaller lakes and ponds in Iowa since the 1990s. A total of 146 gallons of Sonar A. S. was purchased.

On September 21, 64 gallons of Sonar A. S. was applied. Since that time, regular testing has been occurring, and when levels of Sonar A. S. have slipped, spot applications have been made.

At this point, things are going as planned, and according to Hawkins, the task force sees the potential of eradication occurring.

**It's now on us**

With the efforts of the task force and the financial support of the DNR and several local entities, we now have a second chance. All of us that use the Iowa Great Lakes for boating need to do our job and not let Eurasian water-

milfoil or any other aquatic invasive species in our waters.

Our mobility means we might be on a lake in Minnesota or Wisconsin one day, and be down here the next day. It is OUR responsibility to leave any aquatic invasive hitchhikers behind. DO NOT bring them here! Plus, we have West Okoboji and Big Spirit Lake that offer an additional challenge. As our regulations read right now, you cannot do a chemical treatment on these lakes.

It's really quite simple... clean, drain and dry! If we all do that, the problem is solved, and our lakes are safe.

So, there you have it: our challenge! Protect and preserve all of our waters in the state of Iowa from any invasive aquatic hitchhikers!

## The wait is nearly over: Shotgun deer seasons begin Dec. 3

DES MOINES - Iowa's most popular deer hunting seasons are just around the corner, when roughly 100,000 blaze orange clad hunters take to the timber and wildlife experts are forecasting another good year.

"Our deer population is stable to slightly increasing statewide, so hunters should expect to see numbers similar to last year," said Tyler Harms, with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The two shotgun seasons see the highest numbers of hunters participating, which also leads to significant deer harvest, all condensed into less than three weeks in December.

"About half of our annual deer harvest statewide each year occurs during these two seasons," Harms said. Shotgun one is Dec. 3-7; shotgun two is Dec. 10-18.

While seasonal weather is finally arriving, the mild, dry fall has benefited hunters in the earlier deer seasons.

"Hunters have reported harvesting more than 23,000 deer so far, which is about 8

percent higher than last year, so we're on track to harvest more than 100,000 deer statewide again this year," Harms said.

Last year, hunters reported harvesting nearly 103,000 deer, down from 109,600 in 2020. The Iowa DNR has a goal to manage the herd to provide an annual harvest of 100,000-120,000 deer. A key piece to the population management plan is harvesting antlerless deer.

"We encourage folks in counties where antlerless licenses are available to use them to help us to effectively manage the deer herd," Harms said. The Iowa DNR has a listing of counties with antlerless licenses in real-time. To check the number of licenses in each county, visit [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), then click on the "available tags, quota information" tab on the hunting page and select "Resident Antlerless Deer by County" in the drop-down box.

New this year is the Excess Tag January Antlerless Season. Any county with un-

sold county specific antlerless licenses on Jan. 11, is eligible for this season.

"This is an opportunity to harvest late season deer, but this new season has a limited method of take - only center-fire rifles from .223 to .500 caliber may be used," said Harms.

Counties that typically have unsold licenses at the end of the season in the past were those with higher quotas, in the southern and northeastern parts of the state.

"We also have the Population Management January Antlerless-only Season to manage the herd in localized areas. This season will be available in Allamakee, Appanoose, Decatur, Monroe, Wayne and Winneshiek if the county has more than 100 antlerless tags available on Dec. 19," Harms said. "Although this season is only available in those six counties, it allows all legal methods of take, in addition to the .223 to .500 centerfire rifles."

The Population Management January



Prairie Ridge Photography

Turn to DEER, Page 2C

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## Outdoor Connection

# Cold weather means ice is on the way

By STEVE WEISMAN  
OUTDOOR EDITOR

Wow! Since the middle of November, it has felt much more like winter than late fall. We had several little snow flurry events, some bone chilling winds and our sloughs and smaller bodies of water have frozen over.

I'm not making a bet on when we'll be ice fishing, but several single digit nights with no wind can really hurry things along. I do think we'll be ice fishing earlier than the past few years.

So, anyway at this point, I'm definitely excited for the first solid ice.

### Think safety first

I know, I know...you've heard this lecture "forever!" Well, how many times do we remind our kids and grandkids "be sure to buckle up!" We need to constantly be reminded of this: safety first!

First ice is always dynamite action, and people are always antsy to catch the early ice bite...BUT, I always follow this philosophy when I am going out on any ice: Not all ice is created equal! In other words, ice thickness will vary from spot to spot even on the same area of the lake and certainly from one lake to another. I've seen it many times. A couple of nights down in the single digits and daytime temperatures in the 20s, and with ice barely two inches thick... you'll have people giving ice fishing a try. However, that's really pushing the envelope, almost like playing Russian roulette, so to speak.

### Ice guidelines

Each state across the northern Ice Belt puts out safety guidelines anglers can use when considering ice fishing. During a recent visit with Iowa DNR Conservation Officer Joe Yarkoky, he made these recommendations. "When venturing out on frozen water, always remember that 'No ice is safe.' Recommended thicknesses are based on solid, clear ice: 4" for walking; 5" for ATV/Snowmobile traffic; 8-12" for a small car; and 12-15" for a pickup. Look for color changes in the ice and seams/heaves that would suggest ice is not consistent. Also avoid areas near bridges and high current."

Be careful of fishing alone in case something happens, but a group of anglers should not walk out together on four inches of ice. It's wise to check ice depth as you move out deeper.

Remember, snow on top of the ice slows



Early ice usually means excellent bluegill action in the shallows.

Photo by Steve Weisman

down the freezing process.

### Getting ready

If ice fishing hits early, we won't have until mid-December to get ready! When that ice is ready, we need to be ready! I have already been going over my tungsten jig boxes, checking the lines on my Dave Genz Spooler Gravity Elite reels matched with a 22" ultra-light action. The spooler, like a fly reel, releases line out the front which helps alleviate the lure spinning you often experience with a spinning reel.

Lots of new options when it comes to ice augers. I have a hand auger, but I don't use it much anymore, and I have retired my gas powered auger. Instead, I now go with what I call a hybrid that weighs just under 12 pounds. It's an 8-inch StrikeMaster Lite-Flite Lazer auger, a Clam drill plate kit (conversion kit) and power drive, a Milwaukee M 18 Fuel 18-volt drill with heavy duty lithium battery. I have two batteries, so my hope is I never run out of power. The drill is securely attached to a

bar above the drill plate and down through the plate with a power drive accessory that goes into the opening on the drill and then attaches to the auger to reduce the torque on the drill and help stabilize the entire unit.

I have a set of ice cleats to use on glare ice, and it more than likely will be glare ice, if the ice freezes smooth and there is no snow.

I have checked my single person Kenai Trap to make sure the rope is good and the frame and fabric are good to go. I also have a good supply of small propane tanks to use for fuel with my Mr. Buddy Heater. My big purchase for this winter is a Clam Ice Armor Rise Float Parka and bibs. It features motion float technology, in case I were to go through the ice.

I have located my ice mittens, my hat and checked my boots! My bucket and ice dipper are both ready! Now, come on ice! The early bite will be awesome!

## Fall trout spawn in full swing

Des Moines - Hundreds of yellow ovals offset the brown and green coloration of each female brown trout ready to spawn at the Manchester Fish Hatchery. The splashes of color are signs that trout spawning season is in full swing.

Brown trout spawning was completed a couple of weeks ago. Brood trout from the French Creek genetic lineage were collected from Spring Branch Creek in Delaware County. The fish are checked for ripeness and spawned streamside before being returned to the stream.

All brown trout are stocked as 2-inch fingerlings. "Anglers like these 'wild' stream raised fish. They are harder to catch than our put-and-take stocked fish," explains Mike Steuck, Iowa DNR fisheries supervisor for interior streams. "Many of the public streams have lots of brown trout in them."

Fewer and fewer brown trout fingerlings are raised and stocked as the number of self-sustaining, naturally reproducing brown trout populations increase throughout Northeast Iowa.

Brook trout, Iowa's only native trout, give up their eggs in late October and early November. Eggs are taken streamside from wild South Pine Creek brook trout, fertilized and taken back to the Manchester Fish Hatchery to be raised and stocked as 2-inch fingerlings in June.

"As a part of DNR's Brook Trout Restoration Program, we're working to re-establish populations of Iowa 'wild' brook trout in streams with suitable habitat and excellent water quality," said Steuck.

Rainbow trout, the backbone of Iowa's trout program, take up much of December and January. Roughly 750,000 eggs will be collected this season.

Crews check for ripe female broodstock once a week. After a quick sedative bath to calm them, each big trout is held firmly over a plastic bowl, as one of the workers rolls a hand down her belly to force out a stream of orange-gold-

en eggs—up to 4,000 to 6,000 per fish. Mixed in quickly is the milk-white sperm from two males. Water is added to activate the eggs and sperm allowing fertilization to occur. The ingredients are gently stirred with a turkey feather to avoid bruising the eggs.

The fertilized eggs are poured into an incubator tray and slid into their place below a stream of 50 to 52 degree water until they hatch. Tiny sac-fry hatch about 30 days after fertilization. Dark clouds of tiny fish grow in raceways at the hatchery. The fish are hand-fed for the first month, then "trained" to eat from automatic feeders.

As the trout develop and grow, they are monitored and transferred to larger tanks, then raceways. The fingerlings will be kept at Manchester or transferred to Iowa's two other stations, near Elkader and Decorah, to be raised for future stocking. In 13 to 15 months, they will be a half-pound and ready to be stocked. Nearly 50 put-and-take streams throughout nine northeast Iowa counties are stocked from April through October and almost 20 community trout fishing locations are stocked through the cold weather months.

"We stock about 380,000 catchable rainbow trout from the hatcheries," said Steuck. "We also stock about 60,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout fingerlings each year to grow in the streams."

There's natural spawning, mostly brown trout and some brook trout, in more than 75 northeast Iowa streams thanks to improved habitat and trout genetics, and an extended period of above average annual rainfall. Most trout caught, though, are spawned under the eyes of hatchery workers at Manchester. These coldwater fish are great fighters and beautiful in their spawning colors this time of year.

Find more information about Iowa trout streams and tips for trout fishing on the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov/trout](http://www.iowadnr.gov/trout).

DEER, Continued from Page 1C

Antlerless-only Season is in select counties where chronic wasting disease has been confirmed. The season, if open, will be Jan. 11-22, 2023.

### Deer donation program

The Iowa Deer Exchange is in its third year of connecting participants willing to provide deer meat with those willing to accept it. Heading in to the shotgun deer hunting seasons, the Iowa DNR is encouraging Iowans to sign up for the program.

Participants who signed up previously are encouraged to review their profile to make sure they are still considered active and the offer good until date hasn't passed.

"We're encouraging hunters who are making their plans now to consider picking up another doe tag and registering with the deer exchange to donate venison," said Harms.

To sign up for the Iowa Deer Exchange, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/deer](http://www.iowadnr.gov/deer) then scroll down to Iowa's Deer Exchange Program link and fill out the required fields. The database creates a map and table with information deer donors and deer recipients can use to get connected. There is no cost to participate. It is illegal to sell wild fish and game in Iowa.

The deer exchange, along with the Help us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program, allows hunters an opportunity to provide high quality lean protein to their neighbors, while con-

tinuing to do what they enjoy — hunting deer.

Hunter who prefer to use the HUSH program are encouraged to contact a participating locker before they harvest a deer to see if the locker has any additional drop off instructions. The list of participating lockers is available at [www.iowadnr.gov/deer](http://www.iowadnr.gov/deer) the scroll down to the Help Us Stop Hunger link. The HUSH program is a partnership between the Iowa DNR, the Food Bank of Iowa and participating meat lockers.

### Report your harvest

Hunters who harvest a deer are required to report their harvest by midnight on the day after it is tagged or before taking it to a locker or taxidermist. The hunter whose name is on the transportation tag is responsible for making the report. If no deer is harvested, no report is necessary.

Options to report your harvest include texting the registration number on your deer tag to 1-800-771-4692 and follow the prompts, online, by phone, through a license vendor during normal business hours, or using the Go Outdoors Iowa app. Reporting using the app is straight forward, fast and easy. Hunters have their confirmation right on their phone and also receive it as an email.

Deer harvest numbers are an important component of Iowa's deer management plan.

## PROJECT THIS FALL WILL REPAIR A PORTION OF INGHAM NORTH SHORELINE

FROM THE IOWA DNR

Work will begin this fall on a section of Ingham Lake's north shoreline that, once completed, will reduce the amount of siltation entering the lake and provide protection to the road surface of the adjacent Ingham Lake Road. Drivers who use Ingham Lake Road may experience occasional disruptions at County Road A34 while the work is underway.

Contractors will be working on a quarter mile long section where wind and wave action has damaged the shoreline and road surface and exposed the roots systems of many of the large oak trees. Natural field stones will be placed in the eroded area. The field stone will absorb the wind and waves, protecting the shoreline, the road and the oaks.

The project will require a number of trees to be removed to access certain areas of the damaged shoreline. Many native trees will remain that will become part of a healthy oak savanna ecosystem along the lake. Once completed, the project will help with the long-term maintenance of Ingham Lake Road and provide improved fishing access along the road.

Work is expected to be completed by March.



## Grants available for fishing and boating education programs

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Fish Iowa! angler education program has partnered with the Recreational Fishing and Boating Foundation's (RBFF) Vamos A Pescar™ program to provide funding to local 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to support local efforts to educate and engage families in high-density Hispanic communities through programs, classes and fishing activities. Minimum grant request is \$5,000 with a 1:1 cash match required.

Funds will be available for programming between Feb. 1 and Nov. 1, 2023. Applications must be submitted via email no later than Dec. 7, 2022. Contact

Barb Gigar at [Barb.Gigar@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Barb.Gigar@dnr.iowa.gov) for grant guidelines and application.

The George H.W. Bush Vamos A Pescar™ Education Fund supports RBFF's Hispanic initiative, Vamos A Pescar™. Bass Pro Shops has continued their funding support each year, with commitment provided for another year. With the help of generous donations from Bass Pro Shops, Brunswick Corporation, and other companies and organizations, this fund has continued to grow and expand nationally. It is available to all 50 states and the District of Columbia to keep future generations educated about the joys of fishing and boating, and the importance of conservation.



Terry Wilts, (far right) presents a check for \$5,000 to SLPA President Kirk Huisenga from the EOLIC in support of the Spirit Lake North Watershed Project. From L to R: Blaine Strampe, Becki Huisenga, Rosie Lundquist, Marsha Smeltzer, Gayle Mayer, Kirk Huisenga, John Smeltzer and Terry Wilts.

Photo by Steve Weisman

## Spirit Lake Protective Association receives donation from East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation

By STEVE WEISMAN  
OUTDOOR EDITOR

At a special meeting of the Spirit Lake Protective Association (SLPA) on Saturday, November 12, Terry Wilts, secretary of the East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation (EOLIC), presented a check for \$5,000 to the SLPA in support of the Spirit Lake North Watershed Project, a crucial 195.5-acre tract of land located just across the border (Minnesota side) which became a reality this past May. A little history Located east of the Mini-

Wakan State Park entrance (north side of Big Spirit Lake) on the Grade Road or Stateline Road, this parcel was one that conservationists, clean water groups and lake homeowners in the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed had worked for years to secure.

Finally, in May of 2022, Pheasants Forever Minnesota worked out an agreement with the owners to purchase this 195.5 acres of farmland using their internal land loan fund and additional partner funding. Eran Sandquist, Minnesota state coordinator for Pheasants Forever, is excited that the property has been secured.

"Although Pheasants Forever purchased the property, there are so many other groups that have come together with this project. Even though the land is in Minnesota, it is in the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed and directly affects Big Spirit Lake and all the lakes in the Okoboji chain. We have partners in both Minnesota and Iowa that have worked to make this happen. It truly is an example of conservation without borders."

As a major partner in this acquisition, the SLPA is taking the lead to help fundraise for the Spirit Lake North Watershed Project. Wilts noted, "Representing the EOLIC,

I am excited to present a check for \$5,000 to help support the Spirit Lake North Watershed Project. Upon completion, this project will positively impact the entire watershed. Nothing is more important than this project right now."

According to John Smeltzer, SLPA Vice President, "The SLPA greatly appreciates our partnership with the EOLIC. Quality of Water - Quality of Life ... is the SLPA motto and the core of our existence since 1930. This Spirit Lake North Watershed Project strikes at both core elements. 'Quality of Water' for the entire Iowa Great Lakes system will be im-

proved by reducing silt, phosphorus and nitrogen runoff directly into Big Spirit Lake. And the area 'Quality of Life', that day to day enjoyment of the area, will resonate for everyone who enjoys the beauty of nature and drives by on that State-line highway with satisfaction in their hearts that they were a part of a legacy project."

Smeltzer noted that the SLPA has already made a \$20,000 donation to the project. "We thank the EOLIC for their donation and their support for this important project. We hope that the SLPA members and our friends in the community will help with our fundraising ef-

forts. Over many years, people in the Iowa Great Lakes area and beyond have stepped up to help complete clean water projects. We hope that this will happen with the Spirit Lake North Project."

To learn more about the fundraising options or to donate, contact President Kirk Huisenga at [SpiritLakeProtective@gmail.com](mailto:SpiritLakeProtective@gmail.com). Mailing address is P. O. Box 51,

Spirit Lake, IA. 51360. Also, check out the SLPA website at [theslpa.org](http://theslpa.org) for more information.



# Outdoor Connection



## Rathbun Lake walleye length limit changes effective Jan. 1

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is implementing a 15-inch minimum length limit on all walleye captured from Rathbun Lake, starting January 1, 2023.

All walleyes measuring less than 15 inches must be immediately released. Anglers can keep five walleyes per day. This regulation does not apply to the Chariton River below Rathbun Dam; the upper limit of the regulation will be the Wayne/Appanoose county line.

Currently, there is no length regulation on walleyes at Rathbun Lake.

“The walleye population in Rathbun Lake is one of the most studied in the state,” said Mark Flammang, fisheries biologist for the Iowa DNR.

Biologists monitor lakes to evaluate the effectiveness of different regulations and predict changes to the population to improve the angler experience and ensure that Iowa has a strong broodstock population.

When you catch a walleye in Iowa, there’s a good chance that fish got its start in one of Iowa’s walleye hatcheries. Since walleye often don’t reproduce naturally in the state’s inland rivers and lakes, their populations must be maintained through the DNR’s stocking program.

The DNR will continue to assess these regulations and recommend changes as needed “We have observed the average size of walleye anglers harvest, potentially increase the overall density of Rathbun Lake walleye, and likely reduce the time between bites for walleye anglers, while still protecting the adult female population.”

The hundreds of millions of eggs needed each year to keep populations healthy are predominately collected from wild broodstock populations at Lake Rathbun.

Photo by Bob Jensen

Robby Moody watched this walleye on forward facing sonar as it approached, then ate his bait.

## Developments in the fishing world

By Bob Jensen  
Fishing the Midwest Fishing Team

The 2022 version of the open water fishing season was an interesting one on several levels. Some of the events/developments of the fishing season were good, some not so good. One of the developments that has really caught on in the past few months is the ongoing popularization of forward facing sonar(FFS). First, a little bit of history regarding sonar.

My first exposure to fish-finders, depth-finders, sonar, fish locators, whatever they were called, was a

Lowrance Green Box. It was an amazing experience for a young, curious angler. Instead of just seeing the surface of the lake, we could now see what was on the bottom of the lake.

By today’s standards, it was a very antiquated look at the bottom of the lake, but back then it was so revealing. We could see how deep the water was directly below the boat, we could see gradual and abrupt changes in the bottom structure, and we could see where the bottom changed from sand to mud. Every now and then we even saw

what we thought might be a fish.

Very interesting times, and truly an era of learning more about fish and fishing. Some people were worried that with this new technology, fish populations would be in jeopardy. Due to the efforts of fishery managers, they weren’t.

Later on, paper graphs hit the market. They drew an outstanding picture of the bottom of the lake and showed a history of the path of the boat. An angler could see what they were going over and what they had gone over. And you could definitely see if fish were in the area. But the paper had to be changed often, and when

the wind was blowing or it was raining, that was an inconvenience. Paper graphs weren’t around for very long.

The next technology was liquid crystal graphs. The early versions of LCG’s were crude by today’s standards, but a huge improvement in what we were accustomed to. No paper changing and very good displays. I recall a day on Rainy Lake when I was just learning about LCG units.

We would see on the screen in water 20 feet deep what we thought was a fish; then we would catch a fish. Those really were fish that we were seeing! Another very interesting time and era of learning more about

fish and fishing. Some people were again worried about the impact of this new technology, and again, the fisheries people prevented over-harvest.

A few years later, side-imaging came into play. This technology enabled an angler to see what was going on off to the side of the boat. More learning and more interesting discoveries about what goes on in the fish’s world.

Most recently, forward facing sonar entered the picture. It has really impacted the fishing world. It shows what is in front of the boat, and when mounted to do so, will show what is all around the boat. Fishing guide and expert angler Mike Frisch

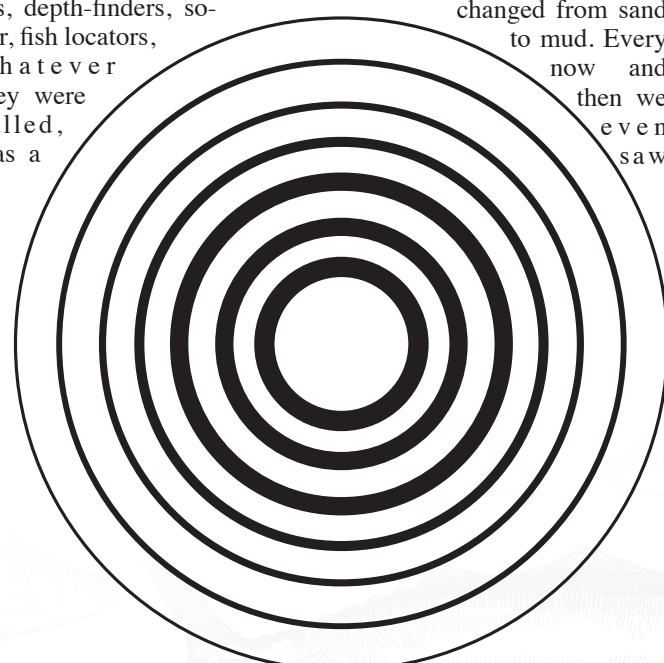
says that he has learned more about fish and fishing while using FFS this past summer than he did in the previous 10 years combined.

Mike has the transducer of his FFS unit mounted to a Rite-Hite Turret mount that enables him to scan all around the boat. The Rite-Hite Turret is a slick deal. He says that when he sees a group of bass to the side or in front of his boat, he can put an Ocho Worm exactly where it needs to be, and much of the time he can see how the bass react.

If they look but don’t eat, he knows that a different presentation is needed. And the folks in charge of our fisheries will

make sure that this new technology doesn’t negatively affect fish populations.

The wonderful thing about fishing is that we make it whatever we want to make it. Some enjoy the technology; others, like me and the young anglers that I take fishing, sometimes enjoy dipping a jig along a dock with a Lew’s Bream Buster rod. A long rod with no reel and 6 feet of line tied to the tip of the rod. Very basic but very effective. However you like to fish, there is a way for you to enjoy doing so.



*Fishing guide and expert angler Mike Frisch says that he has learned more about fish and fishing while using FFS this past summer than he did in the previous 10 years combined.*

**-Bob Jensen**

## Attention Deer Hunters

Estherville Elks Lodge is collecting Deer Hides for the Veterans Leather Program. These donated hides will provide finished leather to recovering Veterans to be used in therapy kits and gloves for Veterans in wheelchairs across our nation.

Please consider donating by dropping off your hide in the containers located at the south side of Elks or the north side of KCN/John Deere.

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## Outdoor Connection



Turkeys in Backyard

# WILDLIFE PHOTOS



Bluejay in Backyard

PHOTOS BY  
**MIKE  
FREDRICKSON**



Goldfinch & Siskin in Backyard



White Tailed Buck at Ingham Lake

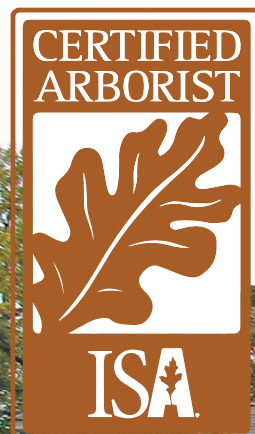


Northern Flicker in Backyard



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