



# OUTDOOR CONNECTION

STORIES, ADVICE, AND INFORMATION FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

## A LITTLE HISTORY AND A WHOLE LOT OF NOSTALGIA

By STEVE WEISMAN  
OUTDOOR EDITOR

It's amazing how fast a generation can pass. When we are young, it seems that time sometimes stands still. Seconds crawl by like hours, and we think an event a month away is forever. A year, well a year is light years away. However, as we age, those notions begin to leave us.

By the time we are middle age, we are telling our children to "not wish your life away by wanting time to go by more quickly!" We also begin to see those mentors (parents, aunts and uncles, and other adults) that we have looked up to begin to die. That's when it strikes us: just how quickly a generation can pass.

At age 76, more than ever I feel my frailty and that time is growing short. This has given me a chance to reflect back on my upbringing on the farm near Tulare, a typical small town in north central South Dakota. Yes, there were farm chores and crops to harvest, and, of course, I got to experience some of the best pheasant hunting in the country, even if I was the "kid retriever and pheasant carrier". But that didn't matter, because I was walking with the neighborhood farmers, who to this day are some of the best shots I've ever seen. And my dad introduced me to duck and snow goose hunting on our farm pond used for cattle water.

Finally, my folks, at least once a week when I was a grade schooler, would take me down to Turtle Creek, and I'd



Darial and the author, Steve Weisman, look at the extended family history that Judy has spent countless hours putting together.



Judy, Jim, Jean, Pat, Doug, (Steve, the author) and Bill.

throw out a bobber and a gob of worm hoping to catch a bullhead. My dad, to my chagrin, always seemed to catch that much hoped-for carp! With a bucket full of bullheads, home we would go, and the folks would clean the fish. Then my mom would make the best, and I mean best, crisp fried bullheads for supper.

As I moved toward high school, my dad and uncle Frank would take me to Twin Lakes, Cottonwood Lake and the James River Dam where the target became bass, northern pike and walleyes.

### Childhood friends

Growing up, I think we all have memories of our childhood friends. You know, the trips to the pool, to the ball park, games of hide and seek. For me, since I lived in the country several miles from town, things were a little different.

Luckily, I had some distant cousins, the Schultze kids, who lived 2-3 miles

Turn to HISTORY, Page 2C

## Experiencing devastation and bouncing back

### Cleaning up after the flooding

By STEVE WEISMAN  
OUTDOOR EDITOR

What a nightmare the weekend of June 21-23 was for all northwest Iowa, southeast South Dakota and southwest Minnesota! The rains just would not quit, and the soil and the infrastructures put in place in both rural and urban areas just plain could not handle the deluge that followed. Television, radio stations, newspapers and Facebook posts shared the results of rivers and streams flooded, which then greatly impacted area lakes. Finally, communities ended up getting nailed to the point that sand bagging took place and in some cases it worked, and in other cases, nothing could stop the water's destruction.

Across the area, volunteers stepped up both in the communities facing the devastation along with volunteers from other communities. Individuals, groups and organizations and school teams all pitched in. That is definitely what I call "northwest Iowa strong and caring for others!"

Each community will now face its own issues as recovery begins. Hopefully, the State, of Iowa the federal government, FEMA and Red Cross among others will give communities and individuals the boost they need to get back on their feet. Yes, it will take time, but I think strength of character will make a difference. Constant prayers are definitely being offered.

### Not over yet

Unfortunately, even though that rain event is over, the lakes are not going to just drop in a

day or two! Too much water is still coming in from the north and from the total watershed of each area lake. No, now we must hope and pray for tranquil weather void of torrential rains and damaging, violent storms...and the rebuilding begins, slowly but surely, because that's what we do! It happened after 1993, 2018 and now it is the same in 2024.

At the same time, we northwest Iowans need to be proactive. We need to assess just why this happened to this degree, and determine if there is anything we can do moving forward to at least help stop this total devastation that we have been experiencing. There are ways, but people both rural and urban must make some concessions and changes as to how we handle water!

Turn to FLOODING, Page 3C

## Iowans encouraged to report wild turkey sightings in July and August

DES MOINES — The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is looking for help with its annual wild turkey production survey. During the months of July and August wild turkey sightings are recorded to estimate this year's nesting rates and nest success.

Participation is easy — just note the date and county in which the turkey was seen, if it was an adult female or adult male — males have beards on their breast — and if and how many poults (baby turkeys) were present. The survey is available online at [www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Turkey-Hunting/Wild-Turkey-Survey](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Turkey-Hunting/Wild-Turkey-Survey). There is a guide on documenting wild turkey broods on the survey webpage, that provides tips on how to determine males from females, and different



flock scenarios with poults of different ages.

Annual population surveys conducted by the DNR are an important component of managing the wild turkey. Turkey populations can fluctuate annually across all regions of

the state. All participation is appreciated. To view the 2023 survey results, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Turkey-Hunting](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Turkey-Hunting) and scroll to the bottom of the page, then click on Wild Turkey Production Survey.

Turn to HISTORY, Page 2C

## An explorer's perspective on weather and climate changes

By DAVID THORESON  
PHOTOGRAPHER, EXPLORER AND OCEAN EDUCATOR

Three decades ago, in 1994, I was preparing to sail north to the Arctic's Northwest Passage for the first time. I had just completed a sailing expedition in 1992, where I sailed south to Antarctica and across the Antarctic Circle. During this voyage, we made port at Palmer Station, the United States scientific base after being battered by storms along the Antarctic Peninsula.

I was able to meet many scientists and go out in the field with them to different Penguin colonies in the area. The experience was the first time I witnessed scientists working in such remote areas and climate change at work. Temperatures along the peninsula were warming and affecting the entire ecosystem, threatening the many Penguin species directly.

In late spring 1994, I traveled to Nova Scotia and met the sailboat, Cloud Nine to set sail for Greenland. There was no sat phone/internet for us to use on the vessel, so we went into the ice old school and were punished for it, almost losing our vessel. We eventually retreated from the extensive (normal) northern polar ice pack.

In 2007 and 13 years later, we returned on Cloud Nine and sailed 7000-miles through the Northwest Passage and never touched a piece of ice in the process. We became the first American vessel, but I witnessed and documented tremendous ice loss from 1994. Climate change and sea ice loss were very real just as scientists predicted.

I returned to the Arctic again on the research vessel, Ocean Watch, in 2009-10 working with NASA, NOAA and many universities on an extensive ocean/sea awareness program. This pattern of exploring the Arctic region, and working with scientists, has continued through the past two summers and in each of the past three decades.

### Dramatic climate changes occurring

Why do I mention these stories from remote regions of the planet? It is because these dramatic climate changes I've witnessed in the Arctic do not stay in the Arctic. The changes have now penetrated the globe. The north slope of Alaska has warmed 7 degrees Fahrenheit, and the North Polar ice cap has lost almost 50% of its ice in my short career.

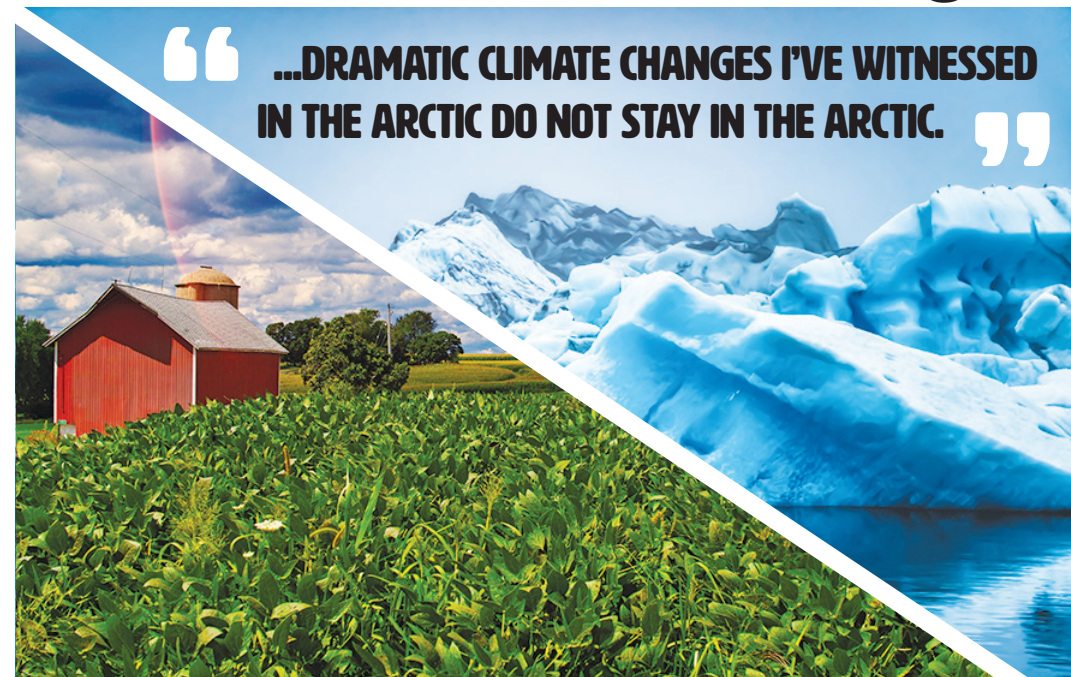
These are extreme examples of climate change, but the Midwestern United States has also had nu-

merous record weather events during this period. It all started with the great flood of 1993, a multi-billion-dollar disaster. This record flood caused tremendous damage and harm throughout the Upper Mississippi farm belt, and downstream, including in the Iowa Great Lakes. This should have been a wakeup call as the extreme weather events have not stopped.

In 2023, the US experienced 28 separate weather and climate disasters costing at least \$1 billion dollars each making this the most expensive natural disaster year in American history. Iowa has been a big component of this weather disaster history with the 2019 floods of both the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and 67 Iowa counties declared disaster areas. Not to be outdone, the 2020 Derecho storm tore through Iowa as the strongest and costliest thunderstorm ever recorded in the United States.

I could go on, but I will instead let the insurance industry take over, as they have recorded these years of heavy losses due to climate disasters. They have now adjusted rates accordingly and sent insurance premiums skyrocketing.

Turn to CLIMATE, Page 3C



Dramatic climate changes are occurring in the arctic and in Iowa.

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## DNR shares tips for a safe holiday weekend

DES MOINES — As the Fourth of July holiday weekend quickly approaches the forecast predicts very warm weather which will draw thousands of people to state parks, beaches, lakes and rivers.

### Beach & Swimming safety:

■ Keep a close eye on others, especially children. Assign a designated adult to watch over children, and never assume someone else is watching them. Be close enough to touch the child at all times. Even in ankle deep water, the current can be strong enough to sweep you off your feet and out into deeper water.

■ Swim with a buddy.  
■ If you haven't swam in a long-time, refresh your abilities. All children should learn to swim with formal lessons.

■ Always wear a life jacket. Make sure kids wear their life jackets before getting in the water.

■ Avoid alcohol while swimming.  
■ Stay within the roped in area of the lake.

■ Obey posted signs and flags.  
■ Take a water bottle with you and keep it nearby throughout the day. It's easy to get dehydrated in the sun, particularly if you're active and sweating.

Note that Iowa's public beaches do not have lifeguards on duty, that alcohol is prohibited at some public beaches and glass bottles are prohibited on beaches.

Because the beaches are busier this summer, staff encourage visitors to visit during the non-peak times and days. For the busier beaches/parks, the non-peak days are usually Sundays through Thursdays, and Fridays before 5:00 pm. If you plan to go to the beaches on Saturdays, the non-peak hours are usually before noon.

Parks staff may temporarily close parking lots when they become full and limit the number of visitors at that point. The DNR recommends visitors go to another nearby park or beach that is not as heavily populated. Visitors are reminded to only park in designated parking spaces. Violators will be cited by staff.

## Tips to state safe at parks, campgrounds

DES MOINES — The Fourth of July is one of the busiest times to visit a state park as people enjoy beaches and outdoor activities in the summer sun. Please use these safety tips to ensure an enjoyable time:

• Pack snacks, food, water and personal hygiene products, to bring along for hiking and other recreational activities in the state parks.

• Stay hydrated with plenty of fluids.

• Don't hike alone and always have some way to communicate if you get lost and need help.

• Wear proper outdoor attire for hiking.

• Pack bug spray and sunscreen.

• Slow down on park roadways and obey posted speed limit signs.

Families and kids are often walking or biking on the roads.

• If a parking lot becomes full at a park or campground, staff may temporarily close the parking lots and limit the number of visitors at that point. If there is no parking available, do not park in the grass areas, along roadways or any other area that is not a designated parking lot. Violators will be cited.

• If a park is busy, consider visiting a nearby state park that is less populated. Or visit the park during non-peak times, which often include mornings and evenings.

• "Carry In, Carry Out"—please pick up any trash and carry out what you carry into the park. Be respectful and care for our natural resources.

• Don't transport firewood; buy it locally.

• Be respectful of your neighbors camping around you.

• Campers should dispose of trash in receptacles, not burn it in the campfires.

• Check the DNR website for current alerts and closures.

• If you plan to fish, be sure to have a current fishing license. Anyone 16 years and older must have a fishing license to fish Iowa waters.

You can purchase one by visiting: GoOutdoorsIowa.com, or by downloading the Go Outdoors Iowa app on your smartphone through the Google Play store or the App Store.

You can also purchase your fishing license at some local retailers in your area.

# TACTICS FOR CATCHING CRAPPIES

### Don't forget to adhere to 5 mph speed limit

By STEVE WEISMAN  
OUTDOOR EDITOR

Recovery is going on across northwest Iowa, but we also need to take a break now and then. As the water on our lakes begin to recede, we can begin to head out on our lakes to do a little fishing.

### Changes to lake activities

Over at the Iowa Great Lakes, this means we need to adapt. We can still enjoy our resorts, our restaurants, put-put at 5 mph because of the No-Wake 5 mph ordinance and enjoy being on the water. Certainly, no run and gun, but we can still enjoy the beauty of our lakes!

### Yes, we can we still fish?

First off, we need to adhere to the 5-mph ordinance because it IS the right thing to do! We need to stay out of the road of the boat, hoist and dock folks, who will be trying to straighten out one huge mess. Secondly, the ramps are there, but you'll be in water as you get onto the main dock. Just be aware of that.

Finally, it will take more planning. We must adjust for the wind and can't just plan on going from one end of the lake to the other and back at high speed. So, we must figure out where we can best fish closest to the ramps. I mean, going a mile at 5 mph, will take 12 minutes or so. It just takes more time and planning. We can't just run and gun and go from one end of the lake to the other and back. So, yes, plan things out, and we have to figure out which boat ramp will work best for our fishing that day.

### Hot bite for crappies

One of the sought-after fish on the Iowa Great Lakes is the slab crappie. Big Spirit Lake, East Lake Okoboji, West Lake Okoboji and Lake Minnewashta all have excellent crappie populations. If you want a little day trip, Clear Lake is a great place for big crappies. From late spring through late May, the shallows on Big Spirit, Minnewashta, the dock areas



Hunter Wheatley, Elle Johnson, Tate Hoyer caught a triple while trolling with plastics for crappies.

Photo by Steve Weisman

on East Lake, the Harbor on West...well, they produced big crappies.

### Crappie trolling

This has continued and the past few weeks have been great for trolling over the weeds on West Okoboji for crappies. So, where? Well, just about any shoreline with good weeds: Browns, Emerson, Millers Bay (either side), Manhattan to Egralharve, to Estherville Beach all on the west side. Then both east and north of Atwell Point toward Omaha Point and finally Haywards Bay out to Colcord Point.

Anglers have been fishing all these areas, and I am sure there are others! Most certainly, this is one heck of a lot of water to cover, and to cover them all would take days. Best depths range from 12' to 17' of water. Lots of depth changes, which means even more searching. First off, not all weeds are created equal, so you might work a 400-yard stretch and only find two 30-40 yard areas that we might call "honey holes."

If you have a group of fishing friends that work together and share their general good spots, you can cut out a lot of water and a lot of time looking for fish. When I go to my general area, I will watch my Humminbird to see the weeds, and then if I get a couple of hits, I will go back over that area (following my crumb trail back). Each time, I learn a little more, and I can use what I learned previous times!

### Presentation

I will troll a 1/16-ounce or 1/8-ounce jig head tipped with a plastic. My favorite plastic is a Purple Rain, but there are so many different colors, and if I have 2-3 other anglers with me, we'll all put out our favorite plastic and color and then let the crappies tell us what they want that day. I'll cast far enough back to just tip the weeds, reel up a bit and troll at that distance. Speed will usually be .8-1.2 mph. Each day might be a little different speed.

When things are going right, there might be a school of crappies in one spot, and I've had four crappies hit jigs within a few seconds of each other! Often times, you can find crappies going one direction, and then go back through, and there's nothing. They seem to only be biting when you come through in that one direction. Other days, they will hit going both ways. Other times, a hot spot becomes a bust, and you must go to plan B, C, D or... but then that's why it's called fishing. I like a little ripple but not waves, because it makes it harder for me to keep the pontoon straight and the speed consistent.

All these trips the last few weeks have found most of my keepers to be 10-12 inchers, but I know of people who have found crappies bigger than that.

I do encourage us all to keep a good bunch for a good meal, but I also encourage us all to catch, keep and release to help keep this crappie population healthy into the future.



The author with a nice black crappie taken on a jig over the weeds on West Okoboji.

Photo by Hunter Wheatley

## HISTORY, Continued from Page 1C

away, and our parents were good friends. When they would visit back and forth, the Schultze kids and I would get together. The most anticipated date would be in early June, when my dad would mow the alfalfa field behind our house, rake it and then put it into a haystack. THAT became OUR ballpark for at least two weeks. We would take some old disc blades and use them for our bases and home plate.

Then it was game on. The longer the folks visited, the longer our game would last. Of course, a pitcher of lemonade and my mom's cookies always were an excuse for a mid-inning break. When the alfalfa grew too tall again, we could head to the Schultze farm and play there. We'd often get up to three cuttings of alfalfa, so we'd be back at least two more times each summer.

Just like the movie, Sandlot, as we grew older and moved toward high school, the baseball games ended, and by 1966, I had graduated and moved on; Pat graduated in 1967; Judy graduated in 1968; Bob graduated in 1970; Bill graduated in 1972; Doug graduated in 1974; the two tag-alongs, Jim and Jean graduated in 1977 and 1978, respectively.

We all moved on to our adult lives, careers, raising kids and then grandkids. We kept in touch via Christmas letters and in recent years via Facebook. The Schultze kids got together, but I never saw them as a group after 1978. That's 46 years! Sadly, during that time Bob passed away at age 55 with cancer, and there have been other spousal tragedies.

### June 8, 2024

That's the day that this all changed! You see, the Schultze kids were getting together at Lake Hendricks (near Hendricks, MN), where Bill and his wife, Cindy have lived for nearly 10 years! So, on that Saturday, my wife Darial and I were invited to Lake Hendricks where we met the kids I used to play with as a child. Certainly, there was a little apprehension with the passage of so many years.

Never mind that we now ranged from 63 to 76 years of age. The smiles, the hugs said it all: Father Time, you can age us, but we're still kids at heart! In the over four hours of our stay, there was never a mo-



The Schultze family and their spouses, (including Bob's wife) and the author and his wife, Darial.

ment of silence. I learned that these now "old" Schultze kids had these adult get-togethers every year WITHOUT any of their children and grandchildren. After all they have over 80 in the family, and they want some "old folks' peace, time and quiet!" Then later the entire family rebellion takes place.

Yes, there was joking, laughter about yesterday and today, and also reminiscence of those who had passed before us.

Talk about memory lane for me, and also my wife, Darial who is now 73, and grew up in nearby Redfield, SD, where her dad was a family physician and the lead doctor at the local clinic and hospital. As

a matter of fact, after he retired, he and my mother-in-law would walk every day at the Redfield Armory with Harold and Winnie, parents of the Schultze kids. They became extremely good friends and had coffee every morning at Leo's Good Food in Redfield.

Yes, on that Saturday, we came from near and far away: from Texas (1), Iowa (1), South Dakota (3), Minnesota (3). We had raised our kids over the past 50+ years, and here we were together again! Yes, life is a journey, and we are fortunate to be able to share our lives with each other. Yes, we know that time is growing short, but that's the way life is.

### So, what's next?

A lot, I hope! We don't want things to end yet! We want to continue the fun we had on that Saturday. Here are my personal thoughts...first off, for all of us (and you who are reading this), I must reference Jimmy Valvano, the North Carolina State basketball coach, who (though he eventually succumbed to cancer at age 47 in 1973) fought so valiantly to live life to the very end. His words will always ring in my ears. First off, he said, "You need to have a dream, a goal and you must be willing to work hard. Conceive the inconceivable!"

Another Valvano quote, "To me, there are three things everyone should do every

day. Number one is laugh. Number two is think-spend some time in thought. Number three you should have your emotions move you to tears. If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day!"

Finally, he said, as he battled terminal cancer, "Don't give up. Don't ever give up!"

I know; I know...enough is enough... so I end with this. No matter your age, no matter your walk in life, give life your best shot, and be the best that you can be! Finally, take time to smell the roses! I hope you all have that wonderful opportunity to continue relationships with all of your family!



# Outdoor Connection



In the summer, it's tough to beat a crankbait on the deep weedline.

Photo by Bob Jensen

## Work the weedline for more fishing success

By Bob Jensen  
FISHING THE MIDWEST FISHING TEAM

It's summer and the fish are hungry. At this time of year, there are lots of techniques that we can employ to catch those hungry fish. The fish can be in deep water, shallow water, they can be suspended or they can be relating to structure. One very good way to catch a variety of fish species, day-in and day-out, is by fishing along and over the weeds that grow in deeper water. Here's how to go about that.

The type of weeds that we're talking about are mostly submergent vegetation. There will be bass in the shallower vegetation this time of year, but that's not what we're talking about for now. This time of year, in a variety of places, the vegetation that is so productive is cabbage and coontail.

You can see these weeds if you're right over them, and sometimes they'll appear a bit above the water's surface, but for the most part they're below the surface. Almost every predator fish that lives in lakes that has cabbage or coon-

tail will visit that area of vegetation regularly.

At times, like early and late in the day or on cloudy days, largemouth bass will spread out over the tops of the weeds. During the day, largemouth will dig into the weeds or hold on the deep edge of the weeds.

Walleyes, northern pike, muskies, and panfish will all gather on the deep edge of the weeds during the day, and sometimes the panfish will suspend out away from the weeds 20 yards or so. They can sometimes be seen dimpling the surface as they feed on bugs that are on top of the water.

This is fun fishing. You never know what's going to eat your bait, but when you hit it right, and you can hit it right frequently on the weedline, you'll be getting bit regularly. You might catch a few bass, then a walleye comes along, then a pike or crappie, then a few more bass.

Crankbaits and plastic baits are the way to go on the weedline this time of

*Walleyes, northern pike, muskies, and panfish will all gather on the deep edge of the weeds during the day, and sometimes the panfish will suspend out away from the weeds 20 yards or so. They can sometimes be seen dimpling the surface as they feed on bugs that are on top of the water.*

year. If you're looking specifically for largemouth bass, tie on a Pro Model XD crankbait. If you're just looking to get bit go with a #5 Hornet crank. Bluegill or perch are good starting points for color, but blue/chartreuse or a shade of shad can be outstanding also.

Every now and then you'll feel your crankbait get hung on the vegetation. Rip it free, then let it float briefly. A strike will often occur when you start reeling again.

After working an area with the crankbait, grab a jig rod and throw a jig/plastic presentation. Experiment and let the fish show you what they want. It's hard to beat a KVD Ocho worm on an eighth

or three-sixteenths ounce jighead. Start with a five or six inch Ocho and go bigger if the fish are hitting, smaller if they're not. Don't get too hung up on shapes. Try different looking plastics.

You never know what you might discover. Many colors will work, but you usually won't go wrong with plastic that has shades of blue or watermelon color in it.

Summer is a time of plenty in the underwater world. There is lots of food and there are lots of fish looking for that food. If you're looking for a smorgasbord of fishing action right now, in and around a submergent weedline is an outstanding place to start...and finish.

## Protecting Iowa's wildlife

DES MOINES — Iowa has over 1,100 species of fish and wildlife! The Wildlife Diversity Program works to preserve and protect Iowa's nongame species, including shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, many small mammals and bats, most amphibians, reptiles, many small fish, butterflies, dragonflies, and more. The program focuses on landscape and ecosystem management, statewide inventory and monitoring of all wildlife species, training volunteer wildlife surveyors, public outreach, species reintroductions, and oversees the implementation of Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan.

### Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan

The Iowa Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) is a proactive plan designed to conserve all wildlife in Iowa before they become rare and more costly to protect. Developed by a coalition of scientists, sportsmen and women, conservationists, and members of the public, this plan will help protect wildlife and the places they live for future generations. In order to protect Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), the plan prioritizes protecting and enhancing existing habitats, developing new habitats, and increasing broadly-applied conservation efforts to improve aquatic habitats.

### Threatened and Endangered Species

Iowa's ecosystems have changed greatly since becoming a state. The prairies have been reduced by more than 99 percent; about 95 percent of the prairie pothole wetlands have been drained; and over half of the original forest is gone. This loss

of suitable habitat has led to the decline and loss of species. In order to prevent further loss and help species recover, Iowa enacted their endangered and threatened species law in 1975. The Natural Resource Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources are responsible for the administration of the current law, Chapter 481B of the code of Iowa.

### Helping Iowa's wildlife: Chickadee Check-off (Fish/Wildlife Fund)

Through the Chickadee Checkoff, Iowa taxpayers can donate to Iowa's wildlife diversity programs on their state tax forms. The funding assists thousands of vulnerable species such as songbirds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and more

### Sample projects

Designation of Bird Conservation Areas in key areas around the state supporting increased habitat for all types of birds

Restoration of previously lost Iowa Wildlife such as: Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, Trumpeter Swans, and Prairie Chickens

Monitoring of species populations through research projects and volunteer surveys such as: multi-species inventory and monitoring; the breeding bird atlas; the breeding bird survey; the Bald eagle midwinter survey; frog and toad call surveys; and raptor nest and colonial water bird colony monitoring

Educational Wildlife Appreciation events held all over the state such as: Bald Eagle Watch Days, Pelican Fest, Prairie Chicken Day

## DNR to host Western Iowa deer population meetings in July

DES MOINES — The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting eight meetings in Western Iowa to discuss the status of the region's deer herd as population levels have fallen in recent years. The meetings are open to the public.

State wildlife experts say there are likely multiple factors that have contributed to the decline in the number of deer on the landscape and it might take a multilevel approach for the herd to recover.

"With the hindsight we have today, we can look back and realize that too much doe harvest was encouraged for too long in western Iowa. Significant outbreaks of hemorrhagic disease over the last decade have not helped populations recover, and changes in land cover resulting in less habitat makes deer more vulnerable to harvest," said Jace Elliott, state deer biologist with the Iowa DNR. "This population decline impacts roughly one-fifth of



the state so we are encouraging hunters and landowners to come to the meetings and give us their feedback. Every voice counts."

The goal of these meetings is to move forward with a plan the department can execute and that hunters will support, he added.

Meetings are scheduled in July and will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

July 8, Atlantic, at The Venue  
July 9, Denison, at Yellow Smoke Park Lookout Shelter  
July 10, Council Bluffs, at Bass Pro Shops

July 11, Shenandoah, at the

Public Library

July 15, Onawa, at the Public Library

July 16, Sioux Center, at Sandy Hollow Clubhouse

July 17, Sioux City, at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

July 18, Cherokee, at the Community Center Auditorium

"Deer hunting is one of Iowa's most recreationally and economically important traditions. Our goal is to manage deer numbers at a level that is acceptable to our citizens and that supports a quality hunting experience," Elliott said.

### FLOODING, Continued from Page 1C

#### Thinking about the future

We have that opportunity right now! We are all being affected, and we can all do something, no matter how large or small, to help ease this type of situation if and when it comes surrounding each river, lake and community. Water goes where it is allowed to go, the path of least resistance: the rivers, the streams, the tiles, all the cement and roads in our towns that eventually get to our lakes. When it arrives too quickly, well, that's where we're at right now.

This is where we can all do our part, both rural and urban dwellers. We need to find additional ways to slow our water down, to filter it so that our rivers and lakes don't get overwhelmed. I know that landowners spend a lot of money on tiling to get the water off the land more quickly. However,

that in itself can become an issue if it just goes directly into a ditch, to a stream and to a lake. A farming practice gaining momentum is the edge of field practices such as a vegetated buffer, grassed waterway, prairie strip, restored/constructed wetland, saturated buffer, etc., can help slow that water down.

How about in town? Well, first off, we can all make sure that our sump pumps are not emptied into the storm sewer system. Talk about putting pressure on the sanitary systems! It just seems that some homeowners do not this this means them!

As we continue to develop our communities, more roads, more driveways...all causing more "unnatural" runoff! The more concrete and pavement, the more "unnatural" runoff will occur. We need to consider making environmental concessions here...like building retention ponds and wetlands

that slow down water movement during wet times like this. Several of them strategically placed can make a huge difference. They can be both aesthetically pleasing and extremely valuable. At the same time, though it costs more money, the use of permeable and previous pavers and pavement can be another option.

As property owners, we can slow down rainfall by adding rain barrels and building rain gardens capitalizing on a depressed area in a landscape that can collect rain water from a roof, driveway and maybe even a street. Rain gardens can be attractive with flowering perennials and native grasses. Their deep roots are key to holding the soil and slowing down runoff.

We need to make these changes, unless we want to experience the water issues we have faced over the years. It is truly up to us!

### CLIMATE, Continued from Page 1C

#### Iowa Climate Scientists predicted this

Iowa Climate Scientists predicted these changes decades ago. Instead of following the science and building and restoring more natural, resilient infrastructure, the agricultural sector expanded corn and hog production dramatically while at the same time adding more farm tile to get rid of water more quickly downstream.

The result has been a degradation of the water quality in the state as excess nutrients are flushed into all the waters across Iowa. As we enter this new era of extreme weather with record one-time rain events followed by heat domes and flash droughts, our natural resources will be further strained, and the public will be asked to pay more in the way of taxes to mitigate the damage again and again.

The public recognized these facts long ago and acted in 2010 to pass a constitutional amendment to tax ourselves for the purpose of creating the Iowa Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreational Trust Fund. The amendment

passed with a bipartisan majority of 63 percent, but our elected officials refuse to act to raise the sales tax to fund the trust. Recent polling shows that over 80 percent of Iowans support the Trust Fund. Iowans overwhelmingly support efforts to clean up our waters and create more public natural resources for healthy outdoor recreation. These efforts would help protect the state as extreme weather events increase. By not funding the trust, our elected leaders continue to fail the expressed wishes of the majority of Iowans and put the future of the state at risk.

Meanwhile, in the Iowa Great Lakes, we continue to forge ahead in our water quality and outdoor recreational efforts. We are more prepared to deal with weather extremes by investing in our natural resources. We are providing the model (and data) to our representatives and the rest of the state that committed conservation efforts measurably work and that an outdoor recreational-based economy can have great success in the state of Iowa alongside agriculture.



### River road?

The west fork of the Des Moines River overflowed its banks to the north of the Tom and Jerry Bridge on County Road N26 northwest of Estherville. The bridge was blocked off to protect motorists.

Photo by David Swartz





Gray Catbird On Nest at Elinor Bedell State Park



Great Crested Flycatcher at Elinor Bedell State Park



Olive Sided Flycatcher with Dragonfly at Elinor Bedell State Park



Blue-Winged Teal at Elinor Bedell State Park

## Photos by Mike FREDRICKSON

*If interested in buying digital copies of Mike's photos, contact him at 712-209-4907 or mikefredrickson91@yahoo.com*



Yellow Headed Blackbird at Grade North Spirit Lake



Lark Sparrow at Ft. Defiance

**Inspiration for Our Day-** "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." ~ Psalm 18:2

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