

THE DES MOINES IKE



DES MOINES CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE
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Menus and Programs

April 4, 2017: Pork Tenderloin Medallions

Ticket Sellers: Bud Hartley and Mike Sheridan

April 11, 2017: Barbeque Ribs

Ticket Sellers: Bruce Hubbard and Kent

April 18, 2017: Variety Night!

Ticket Sellers: Bill Gay and Bryan Glider

April 24, 2017: Board Meeting at 6 p.m. All are welcome!

April 25, 2017: Chicken Fried Steak or Chicken Fried Chicken

Ticket Sellers: Joe Gavin and Mike O’Deay

There are alternatives to the main entrée available such as Chef Salad, a fish entrée, and usually one other entrée. Dinner is served from 6 to 7:00 p.m. and the program starts at 7 p.m.

**Annual Spring Trip to Lake Taneycomo
 April 19-23, 2017**

It’s not too late to join us for our annual trip to Lake Taneycomo in Branson, MO! **Cabins are very limited so hurry!**

Officers 2016/2017

President: Craig Rogers

1st VP: Mark Shore

2nd VP: Mike O’Deay

Secretary: Joe Gavin

Treasurer: Richard “Bo” Galloway

Past President: Fred Baumann

Honorary Pres: Keith Kirkpatrick

Directors 2016/2017

Tom Dudley

Bryan Glider

Bud Hartley

E.M. (Mel) Hrubetz

We'll be staying at the Cooper Creek Resort and Campground at 471 Cooper Creek Road, Branson, MO 65616. **Make your reservations NOW by calling 417-334-4971!**

Join us for a steak fry Saturday night, and the big fish contest including prizes! There are 22 1, 2 and 3 bedroom cabins from \$81 to \$179 a night along with 75 full hook-up camping sites. Plus 24 boat and fishing docks for \$13-15 a day, with access to a double boat ramp nearby.

2017 94th Annual State Convention
April 28-29, 2017

Hosted by the [Red Cedar Chapter](#) of the IWLA at the Vinton Country Club, 314 N. 9th Ave., Vinton, IA 52349.

Red Cedar Chapter has invited Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey's office to address the convention. The Awards Banquet will be held **Saturday, April 29th** at the Country Club, beginning at 5:30 with dinner at 6:30.

To learn more and for registration information refer to the [Winter 2016 Iowa Waltonian](#).

Robert Jackson Sr.
Earl Kaminski
Mike Simpson

Editor: [Bud Hartley](#)



Thanks to Ralph Rosenberg of the IEC!



Ralph Rosenberg with Mike Delaney

Tuesday the 21st Ralph Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Iowa Environmental Council (IEC), presented a great program on What We Can Do to Protect Our Land and Water in Three Easy Steps.

Founded in 1995, the Iowa Environmental Council is the largest and most comprehensive environmental coalition in the state. The IEC is a nonpartisan alliance of [diverse organizations](#) and individuals working together to protect and preserve Iowa's environment. The IEC's goal is to unify Iowans to advocate for clean water & land stewardship, [clean energy](#), and a [healthy climate](#).

By amplifying the voices of Iowans and leveraging our collective influence, the IEC advocates for a cleaner, healthier Iowa at the legislature, rule-making agencies and when necessary, in the courts.

Through education, advocacy and coalition building, the IEC raises awareness, generates action and creates large-scale change that makes Iowa a better place to live, work and explore.

Jared Mott from IWLA Visits the Ikes



Jared Mott with Darwin Nordquist

Jared Mott, IWLA Conservation Director, spent some time in Iowa this week discussing the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and meeting chapter members at our meeting March 21st. Jared oversees the Farm Bill lobby and the

water quality efforts at the IWLA.

The Hillbilly Auction Returns!

May 2, 2017 – ALL are welcome!

Our annual fundraiser for youth returns, with everything from fishing rods to tackle, to anything you can think of! Make your donations beginning at 3 p.m. the day of the auction!

Bring your kids, grandkids and all of your friends to join us for this fun family event!

Osprey Fest Picnic May 20 at Quarry Springs in Colfax

Volunteers from 12 osprey release sites, their families and key partners from Minnesota and Wisconsin will be recognized during a picnic celebrating the return of the fish hawks to Iowa's landscape at Quarry Springs Park, in Colfax on May 20. The event is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Yankton chief Golden Eagle Elk will be the keynote speaker.

There were 24 nesting pairs of ospreys in Iowa last year. Since 2015 two nesting pairs of ospreys have fished from Quarry Spring's waters.

Attendees may purchase a pulled pork or vegetarian catered box lunch for \$10 or bring their own picnic. To order lunch, contact Pat Schlarbaum at 515-432-2823 ext. 104.

CARPfest Tournament

June 3, 2017 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Gray's Lake, Des Moines - Swimming area parking lot
Registration at 8:00 a.m. - Door prizes and Prize for largest fish.

Volunteers are needed, and you can sign up at the clubhouse.

Fish caught will be donated to [SOAR \(Saving Our Avian Resources\)](#) to help support raptor rehabilitation.

Urban Trout Stocking & Family Fishing Event

April 8, 2017 - Noon - 1 p.m.

Summerset State Park, Indianola, IA

Jared knows his wildlife and made a good impression on the Des Moines and Panora chapter members. If you are willing to contact your legislators on our issues send an e-mail to Mikedelaney1@mac.com.

Warren County Izaak Walton League to provide food & drinks from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. For more information go to www.iowadnr.gov

National Trails Day at Jester Park

Polk County Conservation, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and REI West Des Moines invite you to celebrate our 2nd Annual National Trails Day **Saturday, June 3, 2017**. A day of trail maintenance, "History of Iowa Trails" presentation, free food and beverages, live music and more at Jester Park.

Spend the afternoon participating in trail maintenance with other outdoor enthusiasts. Afterward, grab some tacos from Tacopocalypse and a brew specially crafted by Peace Tree Brewing Co. for National Trails Day. Then kick back and settle into REI's Camp Lounge to hear Andrea Boulton of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation present on the rich history of Iowa's trail systems followed by live music with Adam Bruce. Look forward to yard games and giveaways which will be taking place as well as free tent camping at Jester Park available on Saturday for all registered volunteers.

Registration is limited to the first 90 people. Early registration is recommended.

A special thanks to Peace Tree Brewing Co. and Tacopocalypse for their support and sponsorship.

Schedule of Events:

- 12:30 p.m. – Sign In at Jester Park Amphitheater
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Trail maintenance – we will clear overlook areas, re-surface trails and repair erosion structures.
- 4:45 p.m. - Peace Tree Brewing Co. Beer specially brewed for National Trials Day and local food from Tacopocalypse (for registered volunteers)
- 5:15 p.m. - "History of Iowa's Trails" presented by Andrea Boulton of Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. - Snacks, live music, giveaways and yard games.

**Public is invited to attend live music and "History of Iowa Trails" presentation. Free camping and food is for registered volunteers. Early registration is recommended.

Details:

No experience necessary, all equipment provided. Kids welcome! Registration required for the meal and camping; please indicate if you will camp that evening at sign-in. Contact Melissa at melissa.schmeling@polkcountyiowa.com for any questions or concerns. Registration deadline is June 1.

Iowa Spring Turkey Season is Right Around the Corner

©2017, Iowa DNR

Hunters will be going through their equipment, patterning their guns and securing vacation days to pursue the elusive Eastern wild turkey as Iowa's premier spring hunting season is almost here. Elusive may be an understatement; of the estimated 50,000 turkey licenses that will be purchased, only about 20 percent of hunters will find success.

"Turkey' have home field advantage," said Jim Coffey, forest wildlife research biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "We are going to his turf and trying to get him to act in a way that goes against nature. It's a challenge."

In the timber, hens will answer the male turkey's call when she is ready to breed. Turkey hunters will try to replicate hen calls to gain the attention of the Tom, and then frustrate him enough that he will come to the hunter. The good news for hunters is there is always a new population of two year old gobblers to call each spring. Those two year old birds will likely be anxious to show off their moxie as they try to establish themselves as the dominant Tom for the flock.

"Those birds will be wide spread in groups of two to five and likely respond to calls well, competing to see which bird can get to the "hen" first, which is good news for hunters," Coffey said. The mild winter will likely mean an early spring green up that can change the timber quickly.

"Normally over the course of the four seasons, the timber will change from bare branches to full leaf out but this year, winter loosened her grip early and having an early leaf out can make the conditions change quickly, shrinking the distance that you can see in the timber," Coffey said.

2017 Spring Turkey Seasons

- Youth (Gun/Bow): Apr 8 - 16
- Season 1 (Gun/Bow): Apr 17 - 20
- Season 2 (Gun/Bow): Apr 21 - 25

- Season 3 (Gun/Bow): Apr 26 - May 2
- Season 4 (Gun/Bow): May 3 - 21
- Resident Archery: Apr 17 - May 21

Hunters may purchase up to two spring turkey tags -- at least one of the two tags must be for the fourth season (May 3-21).

Native Prairie Restoration Project – Red Cedar Chapter, Vinton, Iowa
©2017, Miles Greenbaum, Izaak Walton League of America Endowment President

Tallgrass prairie once covered up to 80 percent of the Iowa landscape. However, as acres of prairie disappeared, so did native wildlife populations and the water quality benefits prairie provided by slowing and filtering runoff.

The League’s Red Cedar Chapter (Iowa) has embarked on an ambitious program to prepare and reseed more than five acres of the chapter’s property as a showcase for prairie restoration. The long-range objective of the project is to restore native prairie and wildflowers, create an environment for education and bird watching, and help the community understand the multiple benefits of native prairie.

In 2015, the IWLA Endowment awarded the Red Cedar Chapter a \$9,000 grant for this project. The chapter’s grant application contained a clear explanation of the project, including expected outcomes and a detailed budget.

An earlier attempt by the chapter to re-establish prairie grasses did not end well. Chapter members tilled the soil and planted prairie grasses but left the seeds of earlier grasses intact. The result was an area of switchgrass so mature that it simply choked out all other forms of native grasses. The lesson learned from this effort was that unless the switchgrass was completely killed, a successful restoration with a variety of native plants was simply impossible.

The area currently under restoration includes four distinct units – each with its own restoration requirements. Units 1 and 2 were covered with switchgrass and weeds. Units 3 and 4 can best be described as remnant prairie (and one of those units had been used as a cemetery for local residents’ pets!).

The chapter was fortunate to have a professional naturalist on the membership roster. Mark Pingenot advised the chapter on techniques and timing for seasonal burns, targeted planting, seeding, and monitored mowing to ensure the establishment of healthy root systems.



The process started with the local fire department, which sent firefighters to conduct grass fire trainings on the lots. They burned the entirety of the four units, destroying both plants and seeds. This was then followed by multiple applications of weed killer to units 1 and 2, which finally resulted in a clean slate from which to begin the restoration project. The process of regenerating native prairie becomes rather complex at this point, between burn cycles and targeted seeding, but the chapter is committed to a multi-year effort that will enhance community access to the prairie demonstration areas and increase native plant and wildlife populations.

As part of the community outreach effort, chapter members constructed and installed 10 bluebird houses and a bird feeding station to encourage birdwatching. Ten viewing benches were constructed as part of an Eagle Scout project. The chapter will build viewing paths, and signs have already been installed to identify plants and animals typically found in the area.

Craig Hoepner, the chapter’s environmental education director and first vice president, has been the driving force behind this project. Hoepner and chapter president Bill Keller see this as an opportunity to share their experiences with other chapters interested in prairie restoration. For more information, contact Bill Keller at pres.redcedar@gmail.com.

The Red Cedar Chapter’s native prairie project is an excellent example of programs that support the mission and goals of the Izaak Walton League.

IWLA History – Jay N. “Ding” Darling, Part 2

Sources: Carol A. Buckmann, *The First 50*, ©1973 Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America; and David Lendt, *Ding, The Life of Jay Norwood Darling* (available through the [J. N. "Ding" Darling Foundation](#))

In 1934 when Ding was Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey he established stringent hunting regulations to halt the serious decline of ducks. Refuges were established, and he designed the first duck stamp to pay for them, which sold for \$1.



The duck stamp act was passed about six weeks after Ding had gone to Washington, and with it came an urgent deadline. Under the new law no hunter could shoot waterfowl without a duck stamp, however there was no stamp and little time to create one.

It would take the Bureau of Engraving at least six weeks to engrave and print the stamp. Then postmasters had to be instructed about the new law, and stamps distributed to all post offices. All of this had to be done well ahead of duck season, and the man in charge of developing the stamp

came to Ding waving the time schedule. He didn't see how the deadline could be met, and besides no one had the faintest idea what a duck stamp should look like!

Neither did Ding, but as a top cartoonist he thought he could help. That night, on six sheets of cardboard, he made some sketches of the duck stamp layout. He handed them in the next day saying they were only rough ideas. A week later he found out the Bureau had selected one of his drawings, and was already at work having it engraved. Years later Ding wrote "I could have murdered Colonel Shelton (the man responsible) and all of the Bureau of Engraving, and every time I look at the proof design of that first duck stamp I still want to murder them...but it was too late to withdraw the design and make a new one."

And so, a hasty sketch of two mallards coming in for a landing became the first federal duck stamp and although Ding deplored it, the stamp had a rough sketch that fit the new program well.

While in Washington, Mr. Darling initiated the National Wildlife Federation and organized first North American Wildlife Conference. He returned to Des Moines and cartooning but he never let up in his fight for conservation.

He officially resigned from the Register in 1949, and Tom Carlisle took over the cartooning responsibilities. During his cartooning career he had won two Pulitzer prizes, and many other honors. Darling stopped drawing editorial cartoons, save for an occasional cartoon for conservation purposes. He continued to be active in conservation matters, especially conservation education. In association with American School Administrators, Darling worked on a conservation yearbook, but after eight months, quit in disgust at the manuscript they had produced. In fact, Darling was disillusioned with many things, and especially with the National Wildlife Federation, which he had helped start.

Ding (Jay) and his wife Penny wintered for many years in a house on Captiva Island, Florida. They also owned a house in Des Moines on Terrace Road near the governor's mansion, and Peony Farm outside Des Moines, where Darling went to relax and indulge in a hobby, making etchings. (He never sold his etchings himself, because he didn't think they were good enough.) By the late 1950s, they found that they could not manage all three establishments, and they sold the Captiva and Des Moines houses.

Darling was still losing battles on the conservation front. Over Darling's objections, the Red Rock and Saylorville dams and reservoirs were approved and funded. Often seriously ill, Darling kept up the conservation fight. He proposed that the entire Missouri River between Iowa and Nebraska be turned into an interstate park and that the trail that Lewis and Clark had traveled be made into a series of related parks.



During the late 1950s, Jay and Penny spent a lot of time traveling. In 1959, he spent some time in the hospital where, thinking he was dying, and Darling made a farewell drawing. He gave this to his secretary of many years, Merle Strasser. He survived this illness, and Strasser filed the drawing.

In the early 1960s, he was showered with many honors, and he seemed to cheer up somewhat. He reconciled with some organizations, most notably the National Wildlife Federation.

In 1961, he suffered a stroke that paralyzed his left hand. He could not see, hear, or breathe well. He died on February 12, 1962. Strasser retrieved the drawing Ding had made in the hospital in 1959, and it was published in the Des Moines Register on February 13.

Within a month of his death, the J. N. "Ding" Darling Foundation was formed. In 1965 the [J. N. Darling National Wildlife Refuge](#) was established on Sanibel Island, Florida, supported by The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society.

Darling was an active, energetic, boisterous, outspoken, and articulate man with a wonderful sense of humor enriched by a common sense view of the world. His achievements were considerable, and he has left a nearly complete record of his professional life in the papers at the University of Iowa.

Fund the Trust!

A message from Randy Taylor, president of Bowhunters and the Iowa Conservation Alliance

Recently the House Natural Resources Committee voted to move forward the DNR Trust Fund fee increase. The next step for passage is the House Ways and Means Committee.

Please contact committee members and ask that they support this fee increase. Please remind them this is NOT a tax increase but a fee increase. An increase as sportsmen and women that we will support knowing this will maintain and expand the natural resources opportunities in Iowa.

At the Deer Classic three different booths (organizations) asked the question you see below. The results were overwhelming in support of fee increase. Granted this wasn't a scientific survey but it was directed to the very people it would affect. As expected hunters, fisherman and trappers are willing to step up and pay to play.

- There is legislation moving forward that would increase hunting, fishing and trapping license fees in Iowa to maintain and enhance your recreational opportunities in our state. Would you support this?
- If it passes: Continued land management such as public land food plots, continued fish stocking (warm and cold water stocking), improvements regarding land and water access.
- If this legislation does not pass: Cuts will be made. Less fish stocking, less food plots, reduced land access and fewer officers in the field.

With all the controversial issues that have faced legislators this session many emails are not being read, many deleted by staff members. Below is the switchboard numbers for House and Senate, these phone lines are manned 24/7, you can leave a message with a real person. You just need to know your legislator, and it's very important to give your name and the town you live in. This lets them know you are a voting constituent. A phone call to any legislator is good, but they sit up and take notice when you are from their district.

Please let them know you support HF 574, the DNR Trust Fund user fee increase. This is a user fee not a tax increase.

- House switchboard number 515-281-3221
- Senate switchboard number 515-281-3371

Below is a link to the Governor's office and a telephone number:

<https://governor.iowa.gov/constituent-services/register-an-opinion>

515-281-5211

House Ways and Means Committee Members

House [Rob Bacon](#) **48** Republican Story rob.bacon@legis.iowa.gov

House [Chip Baltimore](#) **47** Republican Boone chip.baltimore@legis.iowa.gov

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|--|
| House | Liz Bennett | 65 | Democrat | Linn | liz.bennett@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Michael Bergan | 55 | Republican | Winneshiek | michael.bergan@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Jane Bloomingdale | 51 | Republican | Worth | jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Jim Carlin | 6 | Republican | Woodbury | jim.carlin@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Peter Cownie | 42 | Republican | Polk | peter.cownie@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | John Forbes | 40 | Democrat | Polk | john.forbes@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Greg Forristall | 22 | Republican | Pottawattamie | greg.forristall@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Ruth Ann Gaines | 32 | Democrat | Polk | ruthann.gaines@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Mary Gaskill | 81 | Democrat | Wapello | mary.gaskill@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Charles Isenhardt | 100 | Democrat | Dubuque | charles.isenhardt@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Dave Jacoby | 74 | Democrat | Johnson | david.jacoby@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Bobby Kaufmann | 73 | Republican | Cedar | bobby.kaufmann@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Jerry A. Kearns | 83 | Democrat | Lee | jerry.kearns@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Monica Kurth | 89 | Democrat | Scott | monica.kurth@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Dave Maxwell | 76 | Republican | Poweshiek | dave.maxwell@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Charlie McConkey | 15 | Democrat | Pottawattamie | charlie.mcconkey@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Gary Mohr | 94 | Republican | Scott | gary.mohr@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Zach Nunn | 30 | Republican | Polk | zach.nunn@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Dawn E. Pettengill | 75 | Republican | Benton | dawn.pettengill@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Todd Prichard | 52 | Democrat | Floyd | todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Ken Rizer | 68 | Republican | Linn | ken.rizer@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | David Sieck | 23 | Republican | Mills | david.sieck@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Guy Vander Linden | 79 | Republican | Mahaska | guy.vander.linden@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Matt W. Windschitl | 17 | Republican | Harrison | matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov |
| House | Mary Lynn Wolfe | 98 | Democrat | Clinton | mary.wolfe@legis.iowa.gov |

14th Annual Prairie Chicken Festival April 8

Kellerton, Iowa - The Grand River Grasslands Bird Conservation Area will be at center stage on April 8 for the 14th Annual Prairie Chicken Festival, originating from the viewing platform on 300th Avenue, southwest of Kellerton.

Viewers should plan to arrive early as the best viewing occurs at dawn. The event will proceed until the birds diminish their courtship dancing and booming, which is around 9:30 a.m.

Prairie chickens were reintroduced to the area and each spring their courtship dances occur where their booming calls resonate across southern Iowa hills and valleys.

Spotting scopes, binoculars, cameras and phones will be trained on capturing the images and sounds of the unique mating ritual that is part dance, part combat, and part haunting symphony.

Iowa's prairie chickens are only found in Ringgold County.