

# THE DES MOINES IKE



DES MOINES CHAPTER NEWSLETTER  
**DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE**  
**MAY 2017 (ISSUE #328)**  
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## Menus and Programs

**May 2, 2017:** Catfish

**Ticket Sellers:** Bruce Skidmore and Denny Reynolds

**Program:** Hillbilly Auction

**May 9, 2017:** New York Strips

**Ticket Sellers:** *Bruce Hubbard and Jerry*

**Program:** Open Mic Night! Tell your tall tales about yourself or a buddy in the great outdoors!

**May 16, 2017:** Pork Rib Eye

**Ticket Sellers:** Bill Gay and Bud Hartley

**Program:** Political update on this year's legislative session.

**May 22, 2017: Board Meeting at 6 p.m. All are welcome!**

**May 23, 2017:** Prime Rib

**Ticket Sellers:** Bryan Glider and Mike Simpson

## Officers 2016/2017

President: Craig Rogers

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Mark Shore

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**May 30, 2017:** Fried Chicken or Chicken Fried Steak  
**Ticket Sellers:** TBD

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.

### Free Fishing Friday

Friday, June 2, 2017 5 pm. – 8 p.m.

Gray's Lake, Des Moines - Free fishing weekend (no fishing license needed) - bring the kids, a friend, or come alone. Fun, hand-on activities with a focus on fishing. Volunteers to help, bait and (limited) free-loan equipment available.

### Butterfly Garden Plant.Grow.Fly.

On Saturday May 20th from 10 am to Noon, Des Moines Parks and Recreation will host a Plant.Grow.Fly event at the Gray's Lake southeast parking lot. Sign up to be part of the program, and not only will you help create the new Butterfly Garden at Gray's Lake but you will make a butterfly friendly planter to take home with you on the same day.

The first part of the program will involve learning about what pollinators need so they can survive and why they are so important to people. Second, participants will decorate and fill a flower pot they design to help support pollinators and they will take it home with them. The last part of the program will actually be planting native Iowa species of plants in a new butterfly garden. Be prepared to get your hands dirty and do a little work to help out Monarchs and pollinators.

Registration for this event is limited and the fee is \$10 per take home planter created. Reserve your spot for this event at [www.dmparks.org](http://www.dmparks.org) or for more information contact Joel at (515) 248 6369 or [dmparksEE@dmgov.org](mailto:dmparksEE@dmgov.org).

Register online now:

[https://apm.activecommunities.com/desmoinesparks/Activity\\_Search/butterfly-garden-plant-grow-fly/5498](https://apm.activecommunities.com/desmoinesparks/Activity_Search/butterfly-garden-plant-grow-fly/5498)

Bud Hartley  
E.M. (Mel) Hrubetz  
Robert Jackson Sr.  
Earl Kaminski  
Mike Simpson

Editor: [Bud Hartley](#)



### May Photo Hike at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

Grab your camera and come to the May Photo Hike on Sunday, May 21, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please note that this is a Sunday evening hike. This program is free and open to the public. Amateur and professional photographers of all ages and skill levels are welcome.

Bring your own camera equipment, comfortable shoes/boots, long pants, bug spray, sun block, a water bottle and your sense of wonder. Weather permitting, be prepared to go off the walking trails.

Please check Facebook before the hike for any cancellations due to inclement weather. Please RSVP to [Doreen\\_vanrswyk@fws.gov](mailto:Doreen_vanrswyk@fws.gov).

Photographers will have the opportunity to participate in a photography exhibit in November and December in the J.N. "Ding" Darling Art Gallery at the Refuge.

### National Trails Day Hike

Saturday, June 3 at 10 AM - 11:30 AM, McFarland Park, 56461 180th Street, Ames 50010

June 3 is National Trails Day! Join Story County Conservation Board Chair and hiking enthusiast Nancy Franz for a walk/hike around McFarland Park to celebrate the day.

### 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.

***This event is associated with the Iowa Outdoor Expo, and volunteers from the Ikes are needed. You can sign up at the clubhouse.***

### Casey Kazebeer Wins 2017 Tobin Award

Congratulations and a sincere thank you to Casey Kazebeer for his outstanding service to the Des Moines Chapter!

The Judge John W. Tobin Chapter Volunteer Appreciation Award was established in 1976 in cooperation with the IWLA Endowment.



### This Month's Quote – Aldo Leopold

***We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may***

Meet at the informational kiosk near the conservation center.

***begin to use it with love and respect.***

### 2017 State Convention – Awards

Special thanks to the Red Cedar Chapter in Vinton, IA for hosting this year's event! We had great food, fellowship and some interesting presentations!



Here are the awards presented for 2017:

**Conservation Award:** Michael Rickert



*Michael Rickert (L) with Mike Roland (R)*

**Fish and Game Officer of the Year:** Aaron Arthur



*Mike Roland (L) with Aaron Arthur (R)*

**Hall of Fame:** Mike Delaney



*Mike Delaney (L) with Mike Roland (R)*

**Host Chapter Award:** Red Cedar Chapter, Vinton, IA; Accepted by Bill Keller, President, Red Cedar Chapter



*Bill Keller (L) with Jack Johnson, President, Iowa Division*

**Ries Tuttle Communication Award:** Gordon Wolf



*Gordon Wolf (L) with Mike Roland (R)*

**Rookie of the Year:** Craig Theis, Aaron Vos, Ethen Vos

**State Legislator Award (Founded by Ron Kuntz):** Senator David Johnson



*Senator David Johnson (L), Mike Delaney (C), Mike Roland (R)*

**Soil Conservationists of the Year:** Dr. Ray and Susan Meylor (Cherry Glen Learning Farm}, Lyle Stewart and Maj. Philip Turner, John Swanson and Amanda Brown, Courtney Long



*Dr. Ray Meylor (L) with Mike Roland (R)*

**Teacher of the Year:** Adam Egherman.



*Adam Egherman (L) with Mike Roland (R)*

### **Take a Stream Selfie!**

Every American has the right to know whether the streams running through their backyards and neighborhood parks are safe. But there is an alarming lack of up-to-date information about water quality across the country. The Izaak Walton League's "Stream Selfie" campaign will help bridge that information gap.

Anyone can get involved! Simply snap a photo of a stream that's important to you, answer a few key questions, and share your picture on our Stream Selfie website.

With each photo, we are also creating a first-of-its-kind national map for volunteers and community organizations involved with stream monitoring. By putting this information in one place, we can highlight streams that are being monitored today and develop a national inventory of streams that need to be monitored in the future.

The League is proud to be partnering with SciStarter on this campaign. SciStarter is the place to find, join, and track contributions to citizen science projects. Through SciStarter, people across the globe can contribute to recreational science activities and formal research efforts.

Thousands of people are working toward a common goal: clean water. Will you join us?

Click on our [Infographic](#) to learn how to upload your Stream Selfie or [dive right into SciStarter now!](#)

## 4 Lures You Need for Crappie Fishing in Iowa

©2017, Iowa DNR

It's that time of year that anglers across Iowa have been waiting for – crappies are biting. Crappies are one of the most frequently caught panfish. Add one of these lures suggested by DNR fisheries biologists to your tackle box and start planning your next spring fishing trip.

### Tube jig

This small compact lure imitates a small minnow - one of the preferred foods of crappie. It has a very subtle presentation and does not need much action. Use when the crappie wants a subtle action.

### Small hair jig

This lure is made of deer hair or more frequently now an imitation hair like flashabou. The hair under water collapses when the jig is pulled forward and expands when the line is slack so it has a pulsing appearance in the water. Use when the fish are more active and feeding.

### Small rooster tail

This lure has a small spinner that creates a lot of action and flash. It is useful when crappies are very active or when you are trying to locate fish and need to search larger areas.

### Leadhead jig (1/32 oz.)

This lure imitates a small minnow when fished properly. Cast perpendicular to the shoreline with a slow and steady retrieve. If this doesn't seem to work, let the jig sink until it falls out of sight, then begin your retrieve.

## Save the Boundary Waters!

©2017, Izaak Walton League of America

The interconnected lakes and rivers of Minnesota's canoe country are one of the largest sources of fresh water in the country. More than 250,000 people come to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness each year to camp, canoe, fish, hunt, and unplug from their busy lives.

Some of the Izaak Walton League's earliest fights centered on the waters along this Canadian-American border country. In 1925, Edward Backus proposed a series of dams across the big border lakes. The Izaak Walton League and the Quetico-Superior Council worked to sway the International Joint Commission (an organization created by Canada and the United States to prevent and resolve disputes in the Boundary Waters and pursue the common good) to oppose the dam proposal. After nearly a decade, the plan was finally defeated. Ikes have also prevailed in fending off roads, aircraft, use of recreational vehicles, logging, and mining that would have damaged the character of the wilderness.

In the 1960s, controversy heated up again in anticipation of The Wilderness Act of 1964. While many believed the long years of strife were over with the passing of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1978 Boundary Waters Act, threats along the wilderness' mineral-rich, unprotected edges still loom today.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is threatened by proposals for sulfide-ore copper mining near the town of Ely, Minnesota, virtually at the edge of the wilderness. This type of mining has never been done in Minnesota – and has yet to be done anywhere else in the world without polluting water and compromising the health of the surrounding environment and communities.

### Toxic Outcomes

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data show hard-rock mining to be the most toxic industry in America. Acid mine drainage, heavy metal pollution of water, and particulate air pollution are just a few side effects of copper mining. Acid mine drainage occurs when sulfide-bearing ore is exposed to air and water, creating sulfuric acid, which causes leaching of heavy metals such as lead, arsenic, copper, and mercury into the watershed. Aquatic organisms in these environments bio-accumulate heavy metals and other toxins, passing them up the food chain.



The Rainy River Drainage Basin, which includes Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, is currently one of the most pristine watersheds in the nation. Peer-reviewed scientific reports have shown that pollution from the proposed mine would lead to widespread contamination of the interconnected lakes and rivers downstream, including the Boundary Waters, Voyageurs National Park, and Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. The soils and waters in this watershed lack the alkalinity necessary to buffer sulfuric-acid mine drainage, leaving the area's land, waters, and fisheries particularly vulnerable to damage. Acid drainage and heavy-metal pollution would lead to die-offs and disruptions in the aquatic food chain and affect terrestrial creatures that depend on the purity of these waters.

Advocates of copper mining tout new jobs and a boost to the regional economy, which has suffered in recent decades, in part due to the boom-bust cycles of iron mining. The iron-mining industry supported workers for 130 years across the Iron Range of northeastern Minnesota and was the backbone of the area's economy for several generations. However, as mechanization replaced human labor, the number of mining jobs steadily declined. Today's mines require a fraction of the human labor needed just 25 years ago. Mining families are caught in the squeeze. They love the area and do not want to leave, so the opportunity to find high-paying mining jobs in new copper mines is very attractive.

Yet many people in the area worry about high environmental costs and economic harms. Since 1967, when iron mining collapsed in the Ely area, a new, diversified economy arose and prospered in wilderness-edge communities. Ecotourism and outdoor recreation have provided a stable, long-term economy that is sustainable and less susceptible to boom-bust cycles than mining. Copper mining would cause the loss of existing jobs dependent on wilderness recreation and the ability of Ely and other wilderness-edge towns to attract entrepreneurs and retirees. Foreign and out-of-state workers would compete for what local supporters envision as "their" jobs. The 30-year lifespan of a copper mine pales in comparison with pollution costs that will last for centuries.

With more than 17,000 jobs created and \$850 million contributed to northeastern Minnesota's economy each year, lodges, shops, restaurants, and outfitting companies are clearly a vital source of income for families in wilderness-edge communities. Congress recently passed the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016, which will assess and analyze the outdoor recreation economy of the United States and its effects on the overall U.S. economy. This gives a voice to the hundreds of companies that rely on recreation in this wilderness area to make a living and provide jobs locally.

### **Path Forward for Wilderness**

Federal agencies recently denied the renewal of two mineral leases held by Chilean mining company Antofagasta on the edge of the Boundary Waters wilderness. These leases, which recently expired, had been granted in the 1960s and never underwent environmental review to assess the potential impact a copper mine could have on the surrounding area. Antofagasta's request for renewal of the leases was denied in December 2016, and the U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior announced in January 2017 that they will conduct an environmental review of the watershed to determine whether it is a suitable place for sulfide-ore copper mining. However, this may be a temporary reprieve.



Explorers and wilderness guides Dave and Amy Freeman spent one year within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness to remind people of the area's beauty and raise awareness of the sulfide-ore mining threat. The Freemans camped at approximately 120 different sites; explored 500 lakes, rivers, and streams; and traveled more than 2,000 miles by canoe, foot, ski, snowshoe, and dog team.

Upon their return, Amy Freeman shared a reflection about crossing the boundary as they exited the wilderness: "Somewhere in the middle of a nondescript portage, we crossed an imaginary line. There was no sign. There was no change in the character of the forest. The moose, gray wolves, and red squirrels haven't been told where the boundary of this federally designated wilderness area lies. The water knows no boundary. A line on a map doesn't protect the wilderness from the risks of copper mining – but we can. If we stand together to protect these ancient lakes, rivers, and woods, we can ensure that this unique ecosystem is here for generations to come."

To help preserve the integrity of the waters that feed this wilderness, we need you to get involved. Let the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service know that you approve of their decision to deny renewal of the Antofagasta leases and urge them to "withdraw" (i.e., make off limits to mining) key federal lands inside the watershed of the Boundary Waters for 20 years. Tell them not to risk the health and well-being of this unique hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation treasure. Ultimately, it will be up to these agencies and the new administration to secure permanent protection for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and, downstream, Voyageurs National Park. So please do your part to preserve this unbelievable part of America by picking up the phone, sending an e-mail, or writing a letter today.

For more information, visit [www.sportsmenfortheboundarywaters.org](http://www.sportsmenfortheboundarywaters.org).

**Project AWARE: Cedar River**

©2017, Iowa DNR

Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Volunteers will have an opportunity this summer to spend their vacations cleaning up, learning about and exploring 60 miles of the upper Cedar River from the Iowa-Minnesota border to Nashua.

Project AWARE, which stands for A Watershed Awareness River Expedition, is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' annual volunteer river cleanup event.



In addition to removing trash from the river, participants learn about watersheds, water quality, recycling, and other natural resource topics. This year's expedition marks Project AWARE's 15th year.

Volunteers participate by paddling down the river in canoes and cleaning up river trash along the way. Opportunities for land-based volunteers are also available. While the expedition lasts five days, volunteers may stay and help for as little or as long as they like. Project AWARE is family-friendly and provides the opportunity to experience a different river each year.

In addition to river cleanup, Project AWARE also offers a unique blend of educational programs and demonstrations, volunteer camaraderie, camping and other outdoor recreation opportunities that enrich the experience.

In the past 14 years, more than 4,000 AWARE volunteers from across the state have cleaned up 1,083 river miles, removing 377 tons of trash (76 percent of which has been recycled) from rivers all across Iowa.

For more information on this event and to download the registration materials, please visit [www.iowadnr.gov/aware](http://www.iowadnr.gov/aware).

### **IWLA History – Iowa and the Jackson Hole Elk**

*©1973 Carol A. Buckmann, The First 50, Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America*

Shortly after the first state convention in 1923, it was called to the attention of the League that the elk in the southern part of Jackson Hole were in danger of starvation.

Members of the League are generally aware of the part the National organization played, but many don't know the important part the Iowa Division and Iowa's Cliff Hallowell played in the rescue of these animals.

The native grasses in the valley were both abundant and nutritious. They grew to considerable height and were readily obtainable by the elk. The area, which was generally in the public domain, was the wintering place for the southern herd of elk numbering about 30,000 head.

Following World War I this part of Jackson Hole was made available to returning servicemen, and the richer portions of the valley were rapidly being cultivated. As a result, the elk quickly lost their winter feeding grounds. Starving elk destroyed fences and even buildings in search of food; only to be driven off by the settlers. They greatly outnumbered the domestic livestock of the valley, and it became a matter of survival of the fittest. With the settlers' help the domestic livestock was winning out.

Feeble efforts were made to feed the elk. They had become so weakened through starvation that they were no longer wild. Many would eat corn cake from the hands of people, but usually died anyway. "One could cross an entire 40 acre tract in some instances by stepping from carcass to carcass," Hallowell once recalled.

The herd dwindled to between 8,000 and 9,000 head. The situation came to the Izaak Walton League, and very forcibly to the Iowa Division.

The government had optioned the hay lands with plans to feed the elk, but Congress was hard pressed for money for this purpose and refused to provide the necessary lands to close the options. The League didn't have the funds to purchase the lands, so public donations were solicited and the funds began to build. The League's goal was to raise \$100,000, and within a few months \$40,000 had been collected.

The National Executive Committee elected to send Cliff Hallowell to Jackson Hole in 1925 to close the options on behalf of the League. The original options ran about \$40 per acre, but were sold to Cliff at an average of \$20 per acre. With the money Hallowell had left he leased several thousand acres of good grazing land at 15 cents per acre per year, which was cheaper than owning the land and paying taxes.

"Our money wouldn't cover the options price, but reductions were secured so that we were able to buy what we wanted and have enough surplus to harvest three crops, besides leasing hundreds of acres of summer range," said Hallowell. Then for three years Hallowell harvested the alfalfa on the lands, fed the elk, and had a surplus of about 800 tons of alfalfa.

With the winter feed restored and ample summer range provided the elk herd increased to about 25,000 head. The land and the surplus feed were then donated to the federal government to be included in a Nation Elk Refuge under management of the U.S. Biological Survey, a forerunner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Iowa Division had played a leading role in this first great conservation battle of the league. It had furnished the brains and manpower, and a good share of the money, in a project that is still pointed to with pride by Waltonians throughout the United States.

### **Legislature Must Make Conservation a Priority**

*©2017, Joe McGovern, President, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation*



The 2017 Iowa legislative session ended a week ago. It has been called a historic session, by some, for many reasons. The reason that stood out to us is the amount of engagement we saw from people like you: people that care about Iowa's land, water and wildlife and want to make Iowa a better place for future generations. For that, I want to thank you.

Thank you to everybody that attended Environmental Lobby Day, REAP Day, Fund the Trust Day or made a special trip to talk with your legislators at the Capitol. Thank you to everybody that made a call or sent an email to let your representatives know that you

support investment in conservation. Thank you to everybody that wrote a letter to the editor of their local newspaper about sustainable funding for water quality. And thank you to the legislators in both parties (or no party) that supported our natural resources by championing existing conservation programs and proposing bold, new ideas that can help us achieve our goals. There was more engagement from people that care about conservation this year than we've seen in a long time. We need to keep it up.

It was a difficult budget year across the board in Iowa given the lower than expected revenues. Even so, it was extremely disappointing that conservation and environmental programs received disproportionately large cuts. Pending the Governor's signature, the [Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture](#) will be completely de-funded and dismantled. The [Loess Hills Alliance](#) was reduced to a meager \$40,000 after almost being zeroed out. The [Iowa Flood Center](#), which helps urban and rural residents deal with and plan for more frequent flood events, was reportedly going to be de-funded before having \$1.2 million restored. The popular statewide [REAP program](#), authorized at \$20 million, was cut from a proposed \$16 million to \$12 million. Trails appropriations were cut by a third to just \$1 million. And the [Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund](#) remains empty, seven years after Iowans voted to create it.

Why are conservation and quality of life programs the first on the chopping block when there is a budget crisis? We fully understand that there are tough decisions to make, but using the budget situation to make disproportionate and unnecessary cuts to conservation programs is unacceptable. These programs not only support Iowa's land, water and wildlife, they are a vital part of Iowa's economic engine, and they help make Iowa a healthier place to live. Many of these programs help private landowners achieve conservation goals on their own land, which have significant public benefit. Iowa also needs to adequately support our public conservation partners, like county conservation boards and the DNR, that steward our public lakes, trails, parks and wildlife areas.

Near the end of session, the House and Senate were debating water quality bills and didn't reach a compromise. The House bill addressed water quality on a collaborative, watershed-based approach, and it contained a more clear path to eventually funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. However, the debates about our natural resources should be about more than just water quality. The diverse coalition of agricultural, conservation, business and sportsmen groups that make up Iowa's Water and Land Legacy identified almost \$700 million in existing unmet conservation needs across our state. The only way we begin to address those needs, which include improving our water quality, is by funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

There are many farmers and landowners working hard to improve soil health and water quality, creating wildlife habitat and doing their part to make Iowa better. INHF will continue to do our part for conservation, working in collaboration with private landowners and our public partners. We will continue advocating for the voiceless — the land, water, wildlife and future generations. Your passion and dedication to our mission gives us the energy and resources that make that possible. For that, we thank you.

Yours in conservation,

Joe McGovern

President, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation