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## December 10 Iowa Outdoors

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**Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

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Reply-To: DNR.Media@dnr.iowa.gov

To: Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards &lt;IACCB@mycountyparks.com&gt;



# IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** DECEMBER 10, 2013

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2. 2014 Hunting, Fishing Licenses on Sale Dec. 15
3. Licenses for the January Antlerless Deer Season on Sale Dec. 15
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## HUNTERS REPORT MIXED RESULTS DURING SHOTGUN DEER OPENER

Cold weather greeted hunters on the opening weekend of Iowa's shotgun deer season. Success rates

varied; depending on the time spent in the field...and a little bit of luck. In east central Iowa, hunter numbers appeared down by late Saturday afternoon; following a morning of subzero or single digit temperatures.

Sunday, it was a little warmer, and a few more hunters were stomping the fields and woods.

"It seemed like every group we checked had a deer or two; actually, we had a couple groups with six or seven; but it was still spotty in areas," notes DNR conservation officer Aric Sloterdijk. "You could tell the deer population is down, at least in Linn and parts of Benton and Johnson County, where I was."

Early in the day, patrolling the Hawkeye Wildlife Area, near North Liberty; success was varied. A large group might have a couple deer. A few single hunters and a group of three had none, yet.

That's also where conservation officer Erika Billerbeck was dealing with two hunters, who walked out with the antlers and some of the meat from a buck they had dropped. The hunter who tagged it was ticketed with 'wanton waste' and illegal transportation. Other hunters can learn from the misstep. Your deer is to be removed from the field; not just your choice of cuts and the rack

Near the Linn/Cedar County line, Sloterdijk talked with groups ranging from five to 12 hunters.

"We're seeing more does this year than last year. Last year, we had no trouble filling buck tags," offered hunter Dennis Day. "This year, we're not seeing any quality bucks."

He pointed to standing corn in the area which offered a multi-acre hiding place.

A few miles away, Brie Winegar found one. However, it came after a long drive...and a change of clothes. The Grandview University student had spent the week in Sioux City at the NAIA national volleyball tournament. After their fifth place finish Friday, it was back to Solon, for a couple drives Saturday...and then back out on Sunday.

A middle blocker on the court, she was a blocker—of a different kind--on a drive near Solon.

"We were on the (Coralville) Reservoir bottoms. Two does came down first. My Dad and brother shot at them," she recalls. "The pressure from the drive pushed an eight-point buck toward me. I was posted up by a tree. It made a turn, and I shot at 50 yards. One shot."

This weekend, second season shotgun hunters hit the woods with a pretty nice snow cover...but forecast high temperatures still below 20. Still, the same reminders stand. Know where everyone in your party is. Know what you are shooting at...and know what lies beyond.

## **2014 HUNTING, FISHING LICENSES ON SALE DEC. 15**

Iowans may begin purchasing 2014 resident hunting, fishing and other licenses on Dec. 15.

The menu of license options includes the popular Outdoor Combo annual resident hunting/fishing/habitat combo license for \$47; the Angler's Special three-year fishing license for \$53; and the Hunter's Special three-year hunting license with habitat included for \$86.

Also available is the Bonus Line option allowing resident and nonresident anglers to fish with one additional line in addition to the two lines allowed with the regular fishing license for \$12.

Iowa hunting and fishing license fees remain unchanged for 2014. The last increase for a hunting license was in 2002, and for fishing license was 2003. Vendor fees were increased and passed on to the license buyer in 2010 to help offset the cost of developing the second generation electronic license system for Iowa.

2013 licenses are valid through Jan. 10, 2014.

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## **LICENSES FOR THE JANUARY ANTLERLESS DEER SEASON ON SALE DEC. 15**

Licenses for the January antlerless deer season go on sale Dec. 15, in counties where the antlerless quota has not been filled.

To avoid over-harvesting deer where they hunt, hunters are encouraged to work with landowners to determine if deer are at desirable levels, and base decisions on how they use the remaining antlerless tags on local herd conditions.

Hunters will need a 2014 hunting license and the habitat fee to participate in the Jan. 11 to 19 antlerless deer season. All 2013 licenses expire on Jan. 10, 2014.

Nonresidents are eligible for the January antlerless season. Nonresidents may purchase a 2014 hunting license and habitat fee beginning Jan. 1, and antlerless licenses starting Jan. 11.

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## **LU VERNE MAN WINS ADVENTURE READY GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY**

William Thilges, from Lu Verne, is this week's winner of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Adventure Ready Gift Card Giveaway. Thilges won a \$50 gift card generously donated by Bass Pro Shops.

Hunters and anglers who purchase one of four new licenses in 2013 will be automatically entered into a weekly drawing for a \$50 gift card.

To participate in the drawing, Iowans can simply purchase one of the four qualifying licenses at any license retailer or on the DNR's website at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov). The four qualifying licenses are:

- **Bonus Line License** – resident and nonresident anglers can fish with one additional line (with the purchase of the annual fishing license, which allows two lines), for \$12.
- **Outdoor Combo License** – annual resident hunting/fishing/habitat combo license for \$47.
- **Angler's Special** – a three-year resident fishing license for \$53.
- **Hunter's Special** – a three-year resident hunting license with habitat included for \$86.

The DNR will draw every Monday at noon and announce the weekly winner on its website and through Twitter on Tuesday afternoon. The promotion will run through December 23, 2013.

Bass Pro Shops is sponsoring the Dec. 16 gift card drawing. Weekly winner announcements, gift card sponsors and complete drawing details can be found at [www.iowadnr.gov/giveaway](http://www.iowadnr.gov/giveaway).

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## ***IOWA OUTDOORS MAGAZINE GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS***

Give Iowa Outdoors Magazine to your friends or family for only \$15. Six big issues, loaded with beautiful nature photography, in-depth nature management, wildlife, outdoor travel and other stories. Your friend's subscription will start with the next issue. And you can download a gift card on the magazine website to put under the tree! Call **1-800-361-8072** or online at [www.iowaoutdoorsmagazine.com](http://www.iowaoutdoorsmagazine.com).

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