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March 11 Iowa Outdoors

1 message

Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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<DNR.Media@dnr.iowa.gov>

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

To: Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards <IACCB@mycountyparks.com>



IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 11, 2014

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1. DNR to Answer Your Iowa Tree, Emerald Ash Borer Questions Live on Facebook March 18
2. Bowhunter Ed Offers New Iowa Online-only Bowhunter Education Course
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DNR TO ANSWER YOUR IOWA TREE, EMERALD ASH BORER QUESTIONS LIVE ON FACEBOOK MARCH 18

DES MOINES —Iowans with questions about spring tree planting, Iowa's forest health or the spread of the emerald ash borer can have their questions answered during a live question and answer session March

18 on the DNR's Facebook page.

DNR forest health program leader Tivon Feeley will answer questions live from noon to 2:30 p.m. and will be joined by Robin Pruisner, state entomologist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. To ask a question, post it as a comment on the "Live Q&A" post that the DNR will post at noon that day. You can also post questions ahead of time on the DNR's Facebook Timeline at www.facebook.com/iowadnr. Questions received after 2:30 will be answered, but at a later time.

To make sure you see the Facebook live Q&A when it is posted, make sure you "like" the DNR's page on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/iowadnr and click on "like" and make sure "get notifications" and "show in news feed" are selected.

Commenters should also view the DNR's Facebook posting policy ahead of time at <https://www.facebook.com/iowadnr/info>.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown, DNR, at 515-281-5131 or Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov

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BOWHUNTER ED OFFERS NEW IOWA ONLINE-ONLY BOWHUNTER EDUCATION COURSE

A new online bowhunter education course is designed to help Iowa bowhunters improve their skills and stay safe in the woods.

Bowhunter Ed, which is an official course of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation, teaches safe in-the-field practices, bow shooting basics, different methods of bowhunting, and shot placement and recovery techniques. By completing this Bowhunter Ed course, students satisfy bowhunter educational requirements for the state of Iowa, with no field day required.

"The bowhunter-ed.com course is Iowa's official online bowhunter education course. The training is a great idea for new or experienced bowhunters because they learn safe practices and study information that will truly help them in the field," said Megan Wisecup, hunter education administrator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The new online bowhunter education course allows students to study for free, paying only when they pass the course. The course is mobile friendly so students can take the course on a smartphone, tablet, laptop or other device. It features easy-to-understand information, instructional videos, plus detailed illustrations and animations to help students become better, more prepared bowhunters.

To take the Iowa-approved bowhunter education course, visit <http://www.bowhunter-ed.com/iowa/>.

Students must be at least 18 years of age to register for and complete the online course. While bowhunter education isn't required in some states, several states and provinces do require bowhunter education.

The Iowa Bowhunter Ed course will satisfy the bowhunter education requirements mandated by Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Nova Scotia and Quebec Canada.

"Bowhunting seasons will be here before you know it so there's no better time than now to complete your education," said Marilyn Bentz, executive director of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation.

For more information regarding the NBEF or becoming an instructor, contact the National Bowhunter Education Foundation at info@nbef.org or visit <http://www.nbef.org/>. To take an online bowhunter education course, visit <http://www.bowhunter-ed.com/>.

MEDIA CONTACT: Megan Wisecup, Hunter Education Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-238-4968.

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OUTDOOR NOTES

The new **Brushy Creek Lake** map was loaded to the Iowa DNR's website last Friday. Look for new lake maps of Mariposa, Volga, Fogle, Meyers Lake and Lake Meyer to be added soon. The habitat coordinates will be posted on a new separate map later this spring.

The February gate setting at **Lake Darling** was the culmination of years of effort to restore and redevelop the lake and its adjoining recreational area and facilities. That project will be the subject of a new 30-minute documentary tentatively titled, *Darling is Back!* by Samuel Koltinsky, executive producer with Marvo Entertainment Group LLC, and co-produced with Iowa Public Television. It is currently in production.

The **Iowa Falcon River Trip** is an event in Harpers Ferry celebrating the return of peregrine falcons to the cliffs overlooking the Mississippi River is scheduled for May 2-3, which is when falcons are most vocal as they defend their nesting territories from natural intruders. For more information, contact Pat Schlarbaum with the Iowa DNR at pat.schlarbaum@dnr.iowa.gov or 712-330-0526, or call Robert Vavra with Maiden Voyage River Tours at 563-586-2123 or info@maidenvoyagetours.com.

The Mines of Spain Recreation Area will feature a program on **making maple syrup** from sugar maple trees on March 23, at 1 p.m. at the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights south of Dubuque. Scott Dykstra, park ranger at Maquoketa Caves State Park, has been making syrup for several years and will share his experiences, challenges and what has worked for him. He will have equipment on hand and demonstrate their uses outdoors near the center.

The average ice out date for **Clear Lake** is April 1. The latest ice out was on April 28, 1952. Earliest

was March 5, 1932.

It sounds like bluebirds are already in southern Iowa so grouse and turkey vultures will not be far behind. **Spring** really is coming.

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