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**March 17 Iowa Outdoors**

1 message

**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 <IACCB@mycountyparks.com>



# IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 17, 2015

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1. Play Park Madness with the DNR on Facebook
2. Snow Goose Hunters – Samples Needed to Monitor for High Path Avian Influenza
3. Annual Purple Martin Workshop/Seminar March 28

## PLAY PARK MADNESS WITH THE DNR ON FACEBOOK

DES MOINES — Take time this March to fill out another kind of bracket and support your local state park. Join the DNR's Park Madness on Facebook, and be in the running to win a free weekend of camping.

Beginning March 18, two state parks from each quadrant of the state will face off to determine which park will be Park Madness Champion. To vote for a park, watch the DNR's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/iowadnr](http://www.facebook.com/iowadnr) on the dates below for Park Madness posts. Be sure to "like" the DNR's page while you're there to see future Park Madness posts.

The tournament schedule is as follows:

- March 18: northeast regional, Lake Macbride vs. Volga River
- March 21: southeast regional, Lake Darling vs. Geode
- March 23: southwest regional, Lake Anita vs. Wilson Island
- March 27: northwest regional, Dolliver vs. Stone
- March 30: eastern semifinal
- April 2: western semifinal
- April 5: Park Madness Final

On April 5, vote in the championship round – following the instructions on that night's Facebook post – and while you're there, also enter for a chance to win two free nights of camping at the "championship" park (winner chosen at random).

A full bracket is available and will be updated on the DNR's website, along with official contest rules, at: [www.iowadnr.gov/ParkMadness](http://www.iowadnr.gov/ParkMadness)

For more pictures of parks in the running, visit the DNR on Pinterest at [www.pinterest.com/iowadnr](http://www.pinterest.com/iowadnr) and check the "Iowa State Parks" board.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown, DNR, at 515-725-8278 or [Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov)**

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## **SNOW GOOSE HUNTERS – SAMPLES NEEDED TO MONITOR FOR HIGH PATH AVIAN INFLUENZA**

Recently confirmed outbreaks of high path avian influenza in commercial turkey flocks in Minnesota, Missouri and Arkansas, and in a backyard chicken and duck flock in Kansas has Iowa wildlife officials on alert.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the USDA Wildlife Services is looking to collect swab samples from 150 snow geese from across Iowa looking for the presence of this disease.

The samples need to be taken within 24 hours of harvest. Samples are collected by swabbing the throat and the cloaca with a cotton swab. Successful hunters may call [217-306-8287](tel:217-306-8287) to arrange for collection. It only takes a minute and hunters may keep the birds.

Avian influenza is found naturally in certain waterfowl and shorebirds. However, the recent origin of a high path avian influenza (HPAI H5N8) in the Pacific Northwest has raised concerns regarding the potential impact on wild birds and domestic poultry. The Centers for Disease Control considers the risk to people from high path infections in wild birds, backyard flocks and commercial poultry, to be low.

The light goose conservation order ends April 15.

For more information, contact Josh Wisdom, United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Service at [Joshua.P.Wisdom@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Joshua.P.Wisdom@aphis.usda.gov).

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## **ANNUAL PURPLE MARTIN WORKSHOP/SEMINAR MARCH 28**

A workshop/seminar on attracting purple Martins will be held March 28, at 9 a.m. at the CAM Iowa Clothing Center 1005 Nutmeg Ave., north east of Kalona.

Morning speakers include Dave Irvin, of Iowa City, president of the East Central Iowa Beekeepers Association, will talk on "Beekeeping for Beginners." Everything you'll need to know about how to get started in this fascinating hobby.

Nationally recognized photographers and naturalists, Linda and Robert Scarth, of Cedar Rapids, will speak on "Restore It and They Will Come." They will showcase their photo-documentation of the first nesting chimney swifts to return to the 100-year-old Althea R. Sherman Chimney Swifts' Tower.

Larry Dobson, of Raymore, Mo., vice-president of the Missouri Bluebird Society and an award-winning bluebird photographer, will speak on "The Resurgence of the Eastern Bluebird."

The afternoon Martin program will feature Tim Millard, of Lockridge, speaking on "Mentoring Purple Martins." Millard is one of Iowa's most successful Martin landlords. He is constantly working to improve and protect his colony, and has helped many others get started, as well.

A panel of experts will then answer questions, followed by door prizes and an auction.

A well-maintained Martin colony brings joy to any neighborhood. Establishing a new colony is now a realistic possibility for many people. Anyone wanting to start or re-establish a purple Martin colony, or in need of assistance in maintaining a colony, will benefit from attending this program.

There is a \$2 registration fee (ages 10 and under free). Lunch will be available at the site.

For more information about the event or to secure booth space contact Evan Gingerich, at [319-656-3629](tel:319-656-3629) (voice mail) or Jim Walters at [319-466-1134](tel:319-466-1134).

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## MICK KLEMESRUD Information Specialist

### Iowa Department of Natural Resources



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*Leading Iowans in Caring for Our Natural Resources.*

**Please Note: My new phone number is 515-725-8280, and new fax number is 515-725-8201.**

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