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## March 25 Iowa Outdoors

1 message

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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;

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# IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 25, 2014

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1. Celebrating 25 Years of REAP - Famous Puppet Collection Protected for Generations in Mason City
2. Boater Reminder, Pull the Drain Plugs
3. New Law Allows Unsuccessful Youth Turkey Hunters Another Chance
4. Ninth Annual Purple Martin Workshop /Seminar is March 29
5. Princeton Shooting Range Looking for Volunteers

[Editor's Note: Photos are available upon request by sending an email to [mick.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov)]

Celebrating 25 Years of REAP

## FAMOUS PUPPET COLLECTION PROTECTED FOR GENERATIONS IN MASON CITY

Thanks in part to Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Funds, the “lowly goat herd” – an icon of the big screen - has been preserved.

The lowly goat herd puppets were a feature of the 1965 Academy Awards Best Picture, *The Sound of Music*” and the creation of Mason City native Bil Baird.

As the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of REAP is celebrated, one of the great accomplishments from the program has been the preservation of some of Iowa’s most iconic historical and cultural treasures such as the Bil Baird puppet collection at the MacNider Art Museum in Mason City.

Baird was one of the world’s best-known puppet masters. Based out of his New York City studio, once a Capone-era whisky still, Baird produced such works as the “Goat Herd” marionette performance in *The Sound of Music*. He also performed extensively throughout Russia and India.

Before animation, Baird’s puppets were hugely popular in the advertising and promotional world. His clients ranged from AT&T to governments promoting healthy agricultural practice — he even commemorated the USA moon landing. Baird became friends with founding MacNider museum director Richard Leet, and in 1979 began donating his collection of wood and newly engineered plastic puppets to his hometown, where he still visited family.

The puppets came smashed and crammed haphazardly in old dusty wooden meat boxes with no clear labeling system. In 2008, REAP funds matched by private donations enabled museum director Edith Blanchard to contract Sarah Carlson to inventory and photograph the collection with the help of Mara Linksey-Deegan, documenting condition and repairs. Now stored one puppet per chemical-free box, organized strings and fiber-filled bags support fragile structures ensuring proper preservation.

The museum also features a collection of Bil Baird films, interviews, demo tapes, commercials and productions that have been converted from their original 16mm film format to digital DVDs. Edward R. Murrow’s *Person to Person* interview with Baird and his wife, Cora, in their studio is included. REAP funds purchased a special freezer that safeguards the flammable self-toxic filmstrips.

“These aren’t just puppets he owned. He made all these puppets, that’s why we’re trying to save them in the way we are and preserve them,” said Blanchard. “Baird is uniquely Iowa, very creative and educated both in the Mason City school system, and at the University of Iowa. It really shows what talent you have possible in Iowa and we want to preserve that for future generations.”

## BOATER REMINDER, PULL THE DRAIN PLUGS

Judging by the inquiries at late winter outdoor shows, anglers and boaters are getting ready for spring. One of the most-asked questions at the DNR booth was about a new regulation requiring drain plugs to be pulled as a boat leaves a ramp.

That regulation went into effect last July, so it did not make the 2013 regulations booklet. In the 2014 version, the regulation change is summarized on page 3, but is explained more fully on page 24; *“Drain plugs and other water draining devices must be removed and/or remain open during transport. If you want to keep live bait when leaving a water access, you must replace water in bait containers with tap or bottle water.”*

Anglers leaving with fish are recommended to put them on ice, whether in a cooler, a bucket or a live well (plug must still be removed and/or opened)

The new regulation is to avoid spreading invasive species from one body of water to another; through residual water inside your boat or vegetation which remains attached to your boat, motor or trailer. Enforcement was ‘soft’ last summer. It will step up this year.

Invasive species could range from vegetation such as Eurasian watermilfoil or brittle naiad to water dwelling animals such as zebra mussels—or even minnows purchased elsewhere. Once introduced into another water body, the unwanted species can spread throughout, often with few or no natural predators or vegetation to control the spread. That crowds out native species; disrupting the ecology of the lake or stream...as well as fishing and other recreation.

Is it worth the extra few seconds to pull a drain plug or clean that aquatic plant trailing from your boat motor? It can cost a couple million of your license dollars...and three or four years of your fishing recreation to draw down a lake, kill out the invasive species, renovate it, restock it and wait for fish to grow back to catchable size.

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## **NEW LAW ALLOWS UNSUCCESSFUL YOUTH TURKEY HUNTERS ANOTHER CHANCE**

Hunters with a youth turkey season license who are not successful at harvesting a turkey in the April 5-13 youth turkey season can now get a do-over. They may use that unfilled youth license in any of the spring turkey hunting seasons. Youth hunters may also obtain an additional license for the fourth season, if they choose.

Last year, 4,100 hunters participated in the youth turkey season and reported harvesting 1,050 turkeys.

This new regulation became effective when Iowa Governor Terry Branstad signed the bill into law March 14.

The youth season information in the hunting regulations was updated online at [www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/HuntingLicensesLaws.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/HuntingLicensesLaws.aspx) to reflect the change in the law. This change occurred after the printed regulations booklets were issued last August.

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## **NINTH ANNUAL PURPLE MARTIN WORKSHOP/SEMINAR IS MARCH 29**

KALONA, Iowa - A well-maintained martin colony brings joy to any neighborhood and establishing a new colony is now a realistic possibility.

A workshop/seminar on attracting purple martins to the neighborhood will be held March 29, at the CAM Iowa Clothing Center, 1005 Nutmeg Ave., 1.8 miles north of Kalona, and one mile east of Hwy. 1. The workshop begins at 9:10 a.m.

The morning session will cover why native plants matter to songbirds, pollinators and people; bluebirds still need help; and Iowa owls.

The afternoon program will feature Andrew Troyer, from Conneautville, Pa., on getting to know and care for the purple martin. Troyer is one of North America's leading purple martin authorities. He is a longtime martin landlord, housing-design innovator, and owner of Troyer's Birds Paradise, a national supplier of martin housing and accessories.

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

There is a \$2 registration fee. Kids 10 and under are free. Lunch is available onsite.

**For more information, or to secure a booth, 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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## **PRINCETON SHOOTING RANGE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

PRINCETON, Iowa – Volunteers are needed for a cleanup day at the Princeton shooting range, in Scott County, on April 12 starting at 8 a.m. Those interested should contact Wade Webster, range safety officer, at 563-210-8213.

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