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**May 12 Iowa Outdoors**

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

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

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AM

# IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** MAY 12, 2015[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) | [facebook.com/iowadnr](https://www.facebook.com/iowadnr) | [twitter.com/iowadnr](https://twitter.com/iowadnr) | [pinterest.com/iowadnr](https://www.pinterest.com/iowadnr)

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## PEREGRINE FALCON RECOVERY TAKES A BIG STEP

It's a big year for peregrine falcons on the Mississippi River with additional nesting pairs being reported at Bellevue, Dubuque, Clinton, Muscatine and Keokuk.

Having five additional pairs show up in one year hasn't happened before.

"Getting these birds on the river was really the key to bringing them back," said Pat Schlarbaum, wildlife diversity technician with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "Bob Anderson with the Raptor Resource Project and Lowell Washburn who was the chair of the Iowa Falconry Recovery Team complemented each other in releasing wild birds back in 2000 that started this successful reintroduction."

The new falcon pairs have set up nests on the Dubuque courthouse, on a huge rock near Bellevue State Park, on a large building at ADM by the river in Clinton, in a smokestack box at the Muscatine Light and Power, and at the energy plant dam in Keokuk.

"The Clinton site is increasingly exciting as Clinton County is the southern extent of their historic nesting range," said Schlarbaum. "With the inclusion of the new pair, Clinton has three nesting pairs. Predictably there will be a lot of falcons flying over this stretch of the Mississippi River in early summer."

Young falcons hone their flight skills engaging in mock combat flights that provide incredible visual, high speed chases and maneuvers. And peregrines attract non-breeding peregrines, so it will be quite a show.

The Mississippi flyway has seen falcon nesting increase on the historic cliffs since 2000. Last year, 15 falcon pairs were successful at 13 sites that produced 34 young. It is Iowa's falcons along the Mississippi that are driving the increase in numbers, said Schlarbaum.

Established wild pairs on cliffs include Agee's Bluff, north of Lansing; Lansing Power Plant cliff; Leo's Bluff, south of Harper's Ferry; Bungee Elevator at McGregor and at the quarry near Eagle Point Park in Dubuque.

Established pairs at Louisa Generating Station and the Great River Bridge in Burlington are active this year as are the sites at the I-80 Bridge in Davenport and the Alliant Energy smokestack at Chillicothe.

In Des Moines, pairs will be hatching young on the east side of the state Capitol and downtown at the American Enterprise building. The Cedar Rapids pair on their US Bank building will begin hatching soon.

Iowa's first nesting pairs in 1993 occurred at Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Iowa skies have included falcons with incremental growth in nesting numbers since those first attempts.

Elsewhere, falcons are hatching at Mid-American Energy headquarters in Davenport. Go to <http://wqad.com/falcon-cam/> to watch the nest.

**For more information, contact Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Technician at 515-432-2823 ext 104 or 712-330-0526.**

## CELEBRATE SPRING BY PLANTING TREES

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) State Forest Nursery is helping Iowans to plant more trees this spring by offering 100 additional seedlings to each specialty packet purchased until Memorial Day weekend, while supplies last.

“With the continuing impacts of emerald ash borer, we want to make it easy for Iowans to mitigate the loss of trees and help diversify and expand Iowa’s tree canopy,” says Paul Tauke, chief of the DNR’s Forestry Bureau.

The first 400 orders of Create-a-Packets through the State Forest Nursery will receive an additional 100 seedlings of the nursery’s choice. Each custom packet consists of 200 bare-root seedlings which the customers choose, 50 each of four selected species, and 100 seedlings which the nursery chooses. The seedlings are between 8 and 24 inches, depending on the tree or shrub species. Size and species requests do not apply to the additional 100 seedlings added to each packet.

To take part in this offer, call the State Forest Nursery at [1-800-865-2477](tel:1-800-865-2477) between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and mention the “add-a-hundred program.” Orders will be filled on a first-come first-served basis until 400 packets have been requested, or 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 22, whichever comes first. This offer only applies to newly placed orders, and cannot be applied to previous orders.

Recommended packet choices include:

### **Butterfly host packet**

Play host to more than 16 species of butterflies by planting these seedling selections.

Choose 4 of the following 5 species:

Ninebark

Wild Plum

Bur Oak

Hackberry

Redosier Dogwood

### **The Fastest Forest packet**

These selections are known as the fastest growing trees at the nursery – typically 3 feet or more per year, once established. They are also known for superior storm water interception, tolerance of wet conditions and water uptake, and are suitable for planting along streams, rivers and waterways.

Choose 4 of the 5 following species:

Hybrid Poplar (cuttings)

Silver Maple

River Birch

Sycamore

Cottonwood (cuttings)

### **Wild Edibles Packet**

Not only does wildlife love the fruit and nuts from these native trees and shrubs, but people do, too. Try planting some wild edibles in your backyard woodland.

Choose 4 of the following 6 species:

Wild Plum

Aronia (Black Chokeberry)

Black Walnut

Northern Pecan

Shagbark Hickory

Serviceberry

Anyone can purchase Create-a-Packets from the Iowa State Forest Nursery to increase wildlife habitat, pollinator potential or diversify backyard woodlands. Cost of a Create-a-Packet is \$110, plus shipping and handling. Seedling choices can be seen in the Seedling Catalog at [www.iowadnr.com/nursery](http://www.iowadnr.com/nursery).

For more information about the add-a-hundred program, contact the Iowa DNR State Forest Nursery at [1-800-865-2477](tel:1-800-865-2477).

**MEDIA CONTACT: Laura Wagner, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau, [515-725-8456](tel:515-725-8456)**

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## **USDA CONSERVATION PROGRAM REACHES 1 MILLION ACRES WITH HELP FROM IOWA PARTNERS AND LANDOWNERS**

A major national conservation program that restores high-priority wildlife habitat has surpassed 1 million acres with the recent enrollment of land in La Moure County, North Dakota.

The initiative, known as State Acres for wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), is a part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally-funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally-sensitive land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits.

Iowa has played a significant role in the achievement contributing nearly 90,000 acres with its four SAFE projects – the early successional forest bird’s project in northeast Iowa, the Grand River grasslands project for prairie chickens in Ringgold County, the gaining ground project for grassland birds statewide and the Iowa pheasant recovery project. Farm Service Agency staff, Iowa DNR private lands biologists, and Pheasants Forever biologists helped landowners enroll these critical acres throughout the state.

The one Iowa project with acres still available is the Pheasant Recovery – SAFE program. Iowa landowners who want to restore top notch pheasant habitats to their property may enroll in this continuous CRP practice designed to restore native grasslands and wetlands where they will be the most beneficial for ring-necked pheasants.

An estimated 6,300 acres are still available for projects in Iowa’s primary and secondary pheasant counties and are going fast.

“Landowners have responded so positively to SAFE projects to the point that we requested additional acres to meet the demand,” said Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

With SAFE, wildlife that may be endangered, suffering population declines, or that provide value to the local community, is identified by nonfederal partners. Agricultural producers within an approved SAFE area then can submit offers to voluntarily enroll acres in CRP contracts for 10-15 years. In exchange, these producers receive annual CRP rental payments, incentives and cost-share assistance focused on establishing, improving, or creating higher-quality wildlife habitat.

SAFE began in 2007 to focus on establishing key plant species that help not just soil and water, but also are beneficial to selected rural wildlife habitat. And as it enhances the flora and fauna of the countryside, it can also create recreational opportunities for the sportsman, which is an investment in the rural economy.

Producers can offer land for enrollment in SAFE and other CRP programs by contacting their local FSA county office at <http://offices.usda.gov>, visiting with their local DNR private lands biologist at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/privatelands>, or inquire with a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill biologist in Iowa at <https://www.pheasantsforever.org/getdoc/d68502f8-71ec-423c-a8a0-dbaf1e2851b2/Farm-Bill-Biologists.aspx>. To learn more about Farm Service Agency conservation programs, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation).

The 2014 Farm Bill continues the Conservation Reserve Program. The Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/farbill](http://www.usda.gov/farbill). To learn more about FSA, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**MEDIA CONTACT: Todd Bogenschutz, Upland Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-432-2823 x 111.**

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## MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL TO SET PRICES TO COVER PRODUCTION COSTS AT STATE FOREST NURSERY

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau has proposed a series of price increases to its stock of tree and shrub seedlings to bring it into compliance with Iowa law requiring the state forest nursery to cover all expenses related to growing the plants.

The proposal does not change the ability to provide nursery stock for conservation plantings to schools and conservation and education groups to use for Arbor Day and other special events at no charge.

The proposal will be up for discussion at a public meeting at 4 p.m., May 26, at the State Forest Nursery, in Ames. Individuals who are unable to attend may send their comments to Paul Tauke, chief of Forestry, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-3304 or [paul.tauke@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:paul.tauke@dnr.iowa.gov) by May 28.

### PROPOSED NURSERY STOCK PRICES:

#### Hardwoods

- Aspen, oak, hickory, walnut, pecan and basswood – 6-16 inches: per 100 plants - Current \$40 Proposed \$65
- Aspen, oak, hickory, walnut, pecan and basswood – 17 inches and larger: per 100 plants - Current \$55 Proposed \$90
- Other hardwoods: 6-16 inches: per 100 plants – Current \$37 Proposed \$65
- Other hardwoods: 17 inches and larger: per 100 plants – Current \$52 Proposed \$90

#### Shrubs

- Elderberry, buttonbush, dogwood and Nanking cherry – 6-16 inches: per 100 plants – Current \$37 Proposed \$65
- Elderberry, buttonbush, dogwood and Nanking cherry – 17 inches and larger: per 100 plants – Current \$52 Proposed \$90
- Other shrubs: 6-16 inches: per 100 plants – Current \$40 Proposed \$70
- Other shrubs: 17 inches and larger: per 100 plants – Current \$55 Proposed \$90

#### Conifers

- 6-16 inches: per 100 plants – Current \$25 Proposed \$50

- 17 inches and larger: per 100 plants – Current \$40 Proposed \$80

### **Specialty Packets**

- Wildlife packets: Current \$110 Proposed \$220
- Songbird packets: Current \$25 Proposed \$50

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those relating to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Iowa DNR and advise of those specific needs.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Paul Tauke, Chief of Forestry, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [515-725-8450](tel:515-725-8450).**

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## **IOWA STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR IOWA STATE-FISH DRAWINGS**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources partnered with the Wildlife Forever® State-Fish Art® Contest to host an Iowa State-Fish Contest in conjunction with the annual “Take It Outside” Art Contest.

The State-Fish Art Contest uses art to ignite children’s imagination while teaching them about fish and fishing. Entries showcased students’ favorite Iowa fish in its natural habitat. All entries were original hand-drawn artwork. Winners were selected based on portrayal of theme, creative expression, originality, visual appeal, and artistic merit.

### **Individual winners:**

#### **Grades K-3**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Emma F., Homeschool

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Jonah V., Homeschool

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Carley F., Adair-Casey Community Schools

#### **Grades 4-6**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Benjamin S., Homeschool

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Nathan P., Mid-Prairie Home School Assistance Program

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Anessa S., Benton Community Schools

### Grades 7-9

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Helen H., Ames Community Schools

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Gretchen M., North Polk Community Schools

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Carmen A., Benton Community Schools

### Grades 10-12

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Hunter F., Twin Cedars Community Schools

Artists who placed first in their age group are invited, along with their families, to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual State-Fish Art Expo held in conjunction with FLW during the Forrest L. Wood Cup bass world championship on August 21-22 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Every participant received a Certificate of Recognition. Winning entries will be displayed during the Iowa State Fair at the DNR building.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Shannon Hafner, Information Specialist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-725-8241 or [shannon.hafner@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:shannon.hafner@dnr.iowa.gov).**

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**MICK KLEMESRUD** Information Specialist



**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

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[WWW.IOWADNR.GOV](http://WWW.IOWADNR.GOV)



*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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