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May 20 Iowa Outdoors

1 message

Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 20, 2014

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CRAPPIE FISHING EXCELLENT AHEAD OF MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, SMALL TACKLE IMPROVES SUCCESS

It was the last move on his fourth lake of what had been a slow fishing day when Bruce Trautman finally hit the jackpot. Over the next hour plus, he caught a crappie on nearly every cast, keeping a 25 fish

limit and releasing the rest.

Mid May is the peak of crappie fishing as the fish are near shore and aggressive during their spawn. It is the time of year most anglers wait for and do whatever they can to be there when the fish are biting.

Trautman, of Des Moines, started his day at Beaver Lake, and then Nodaway Lake, followed by Lake Icaria before heading to Mormon Trail Lake. It was at Mormon Trail Lake, in southwest Adair County where he found spawning crappies, and saw a family fishing trip struggling to catch fish.

He called the kids over and gave up his fishing spot.

“The fishing tackle they were using was way too large,” he said. He offered some small tube jigs and even his fishing rods and within 15 minutes the kids were catching crappies.

Using incorrect tackle size can prevent fish from biting and make young or inexperienced anglers frustrated.

When fishing for crappies or bluegills, hooks should be smaller than the tip of an adult pinkie, bobber should be around the size of a quarter and the line 2-to 4-pound strength test. Jigs should be no larger than 1/32nd of an ounce.

Crappies will be looking for structure, like rocks or brush piles in shallow water during their spawn. This time of year, live bait may not be necessary, only a small tube or twister tail on the small jig.

In a few weeks, bluegills will begin spawning in sand or fine silt in shallow areas of calm bays of ponds and lakes. Use similar tackle to target bluegills in late May to mid June.

The weather forecast for Memorial Day Weekend should allow for good shore fishing success. For Trautman, success this day wasn't found in catching his limit, but in teaching others how to be more successful anglers.

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PROTECT IOWA WATERS – STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

As Memorial Day weekend approaches marking the unofficial start to the peak boating season, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reminding boaters and anglers to “Clean, Drain, and Dry” their boats and equipment to protect Iowa lakes and rivers from aquatic hitchhikers.

Zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil are two examples of aquatic invasive species that have spread across Iowa by hitchhiking on boats, in bait buckets, and with other equipment used in the water. Bighead and silver carp are aquatic invasive species that can also spread on their own by swimming up rivers and streams. These aquatic invaders can create serious problems when they become established in our waters.

“Public awareness and action are keys to preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species,” said Kim Bogenschutz, aquatic invasive species program coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

To help raise awareness of aquatic invasive species, DNR employees will be doing watercraft inspections and invasive species education at public boat ramps across Iowa throughout the summer.

“Overland transport of boats is one of the most common ways aquatic invasive species are spread,” said Bogenschutz. “By taking some simple precautions – clean, drain, dry – boaters and anglers can help stop aquatic hitchhikers.”

- CLEAN any plants, animals, or mud from boat and equipment before leaving a water body.
- DRAIN water from all equipment (motor, live well, bilge, transom well, bait bucket) before leaving a water body.
- DRY anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, boots, clothing, dogs). Before transporting to another water body either:

Spray your boat and trailer with hot, high-pressure water; or

Dry your boat and equipment for at least 5 days.

- Never release plants, fish, or animals into a water body unless they came out of that water body and empty unwanted bait in the trash.

These steps are not only suggestions; they are law. It is illegal to possess or transport prohibited aquatic invasive species in Iowa. It is also illegal to transport any aquatic plants on water-related equipment. Boaters must drain all water from boats and equipment before leaving a water access and must keep drain plugs removed or opened during transport. It is also illegal to introduce any live fish, except for hooked bait, into public waters.

Signs are posted at public accesses to remind boaters to stop aquatic hitchhikers and to identify infested waters. More information about aquatic invasive species and a list of infested waters can be found in the 2014 Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet or online.

For more information contact Kim Bogenschutz, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at [515-432-2823](tel:515-432-2823).

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LEARN FISHING TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

Whether you want to learn to fish, compete for prizes at a tournament, or just have some fun, there is something for everyone at upcoming fishing clinics held across the state.

A list of fishing clinics is available on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources website under the special events calendar at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/specialevents/Search.aspx>. For more information about individual events, call the number listed with the clinic.

Activities vary at each clinic and may include fish identification, how to operate a reel, different ways to cast, knot tying, how to handle fish, bait presentations and different fish cleaning methods.

UPCOMING FISHING CLINICS

May 31

Muscatine, 34th Annual Kids Fishing Seminar, Environmental Discovery Park Pond, 9 a.m. to Noon

Wapello, Outdoor Adventure Day, Langwood Education Center, 8-10 a.m.

June 7

Anita, Lake Anita Kids Fishing Day, Lake Anita, 10 a.m. to Noon

Ankeny, Ankeny Optimist Club Fishing Derby, Hawkeye Park Pond, 10 a.m. to Noon

Bloomfield, Youth Fishing Clinic, Davis County Pond 7 (S-NM1), 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Center Junction, Central Park Annual Kids Fishing Derby, Central Park Lake, 8 a.m. to Noon

Central City, Annual Kids Fishing Clinic, Wapsi – Central City to Oxford Junction, 9-11:30 a.m.

Correctionville, NwIowaOutdoors.com Youth Fishing Tournament, Little Sioux Lake, 8 a.m. to Noon

Davenport, West Lake Park Fishing Clinic, Lake of the Hills, 8 a.m. to Noon

Des Moines, Pleasant Hill Youth Fishing Derby, Copper Creek, 8 a.m. to Noon

Duncombe, Youth Fishing Derby, Brushy Creek Lake, 10 a.m. to Noon

Dundee, Backbone Lake Kids Fishing Clinic and Derby, Backbone Lake, 1-3:30 p.m.

Lenox, Seth Thompson Memorial Kids Fishing Day, Wilson Park Lake, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maquoketa, Free Fishing Clinic, Hurstville Pond, 9-11 a.m.

Marion, Kids Fish Iowa! Adventure, Lowe Park, 3-6 p.m.

Nevada, Go FISH – “Fishing Instruction Starts Here,” Hickory Grove Lake, 8-11 a.m.

Newton, Hook, Line and Sinker Fishing Derby, Mariposa Lake, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

North Liberty, Free Family Fishing Event, Liberty Centre Pond, 10 a.m. to Noon

Onawa, Blue Lake Kids Day, Blue Lake, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Scranton, Scranton’s Kids Fishing Days, Lost Lagoon, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shenandoah, Optimist Club/Page County Conservation Fishing Derby, Pioneer Park, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sperry, DMCC Kids Fishing Derby, Big Hollow Lake, 9 a.m. to Noon

Stacyville, Family Fishing Day!, Riverside Park, 9 a.m. to Noon

Ventura, Fishing Clinic, Clear Lake, 8:30-10 a.m.

West Des Moines, 15th Annual Cops N' Bobbers Fishing Clinic, West Des Moines City Hall, 9 a.m. to Noon

Woodbine, Kid's Fishing Day, Willow Lake, 9-11 a.m.

June 8

Adel, Family Fishing Fun, Glissman Pond, 4-6 p.m.

Bellevue, Kids Fishing Day, Mississippi River Pool 13, 2-4 p.m.

West Point, Fishing Clinic and Derby, Pollmiller Park Lake, 9 a.m. to Noon

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FISHING TEAMS FIND WALLEYES WILLING TO BITE IN CLEAR LAKE WALLEYE TOURNAMENT

Clear Lake hosted 100, two person fishing teams for its two day annual walleye fishing tournament, May 17-18.

Teams entered 804 walleyes over 14 inches, weighing 1,200 pounds. The winning team of Terry Mitchell, of Woodward, and Nate Guerdet, of Ankeny, won with a two day total of 28.33 pounds.

DNR fisheries biologist Scott Grummer helped on both days with the live release of the walleyes back to the lake.

All 100 teams weighed in fish. There was a five fish bag limit per team per day and 51 teams weighed in a 10 fish limit over two days. The largest walleye weighed 6.25 pounds.

MEDIA CONTACT: Scott Grummer, Fisheries Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [641-357-3517](tel:641-357-3517).

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