



Thomas Hazelton <countyparksiowa@gmail.com>

May 6 Iowa Outdoors

1 message

Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

<DNR.Media@dnr.iowa.gov>

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

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

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IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 6, 2014

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[Editor’s Note: Photos for this story are available by sending an email to mick.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov]

Celebrating 25 Years of REAP

GREENFIELD'S WARREN OPERA HOUSE HONORED NATIONALLY FOR PRESERVATION WORK

GREENFIELD- The historic Warren Cultural Center in Greenfield has once again taken its place as the "grand lady" of town square.

Enabled by REAP funding, its expansive windows, oxidized copper accents and distinctive turret provide the architectural foundation for the three-story brick structure that serves as a landmark destination for culture, art and commerce in southwest Iowa.

The multipurpose center occupies nearly 30,000 square feet — an entire corner of Greenfield Square. In addition to the resurrected opera house auditorium and balcony that seats 240, it provides office space, conference and meeting rooms, guest rooms and a spacious lobby and gallery that show case art and photography exhibits.

Ed & Eva's (the Warrens' first names) occupy the ground floor retail space, once home to the Warrens' dry goods store. It sells a collection of works by more than 80 Iowa artists, who receive 70 percent commission from sales. The original dry-goods store sign still resides inside Ed & Eva's, which sells pieces varying from metal sculpture and woodwork to hand-made jewelry and barware.

Originally built in 1896 and put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, a century later and in disrepair the building was gifted to Main Street Greenfield by a private citizen in 1996.

In 2000, the E.E. Warren Opera House Association (EEWOHA) formed as a nonprofit corporation, officially taking the reins for redevelopment of the property. REAP funding was secured through a Historical Resource Development Program grant in 2010.

Iowa REAP funds were used to remove the storefront and restore its copper trim. The original double hung windows were repaired, restored and thermally upgraded, using preprinted metal frames that matched original wood-profile paneling and insulated glass that facilitates higher energy efficiency and stability. The copper and mortar on the parapet was also selectively tuck-pointed and refabricated to match the existing finish, keeping the majority of copper original on the turret.

"Most of the brick was repointed and it had to be done in a very particular way to meet the historic standards," explained director Ken Sidey.

"The removal and replacement process was carefully orchestrated among mason, copper contractors, roofers, and other laborers, since each building component installation had direct impact on the others. Because sometimes two or three lifts were in use at once, safety for pedestrians and drivers was a top priority," said EEWOHA vice-president Catherine Howe.

Howe explained the impact of REAP funding on the project's success. "As an early funding source during the capital campaign, the REAP grant demonstrated the confidence the State of Iowa had in the realization of the vision for these historic buildings. When potential supporters see evidence there is broad based support within the community in addition to county, state, and federal sources, they are willing to make the investment. To know that as a contributor each dollar had the potential to be matched 2 or 3 times, their willingness to commit increased. The potential donor is also convinced of the sponsoring organization's

creativity and commitment in securing project funding when the base for support reaches diverse sources.”

The restoration project dollars have found their way into the local economy in several ways, Howe said.

As required by grant funding, \$1.3 million has gone to Greenfield contractors. Additional spending has gone to firms and workers in nearby towns. Local restaurants, lodging and stores have benefited as well.

Along with numerous local and state awards, the Warren Cultural Center was awarded the prestigious National Preservation Honor Award by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2013. Other recipients included projects from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Indianapolis, Boston, Detroit, and St. Louis.

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DNR TO ANSWER YOUR IOWA STATE PARK, CAMPING QUESTIONS LIVE ON FACEBOOK MAY 14

DES MOINES —Iowans with questions about Iowa’s state parks – everything from camping to natural features – can have those questions answered live on Facebook May 14.

Todd Coffelt, head of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources’ State Parks bureau, will answer questions live from noon to 2 p.m. To ask a question, post it as a comment on the “Live Q&A” post that the DNR will post at noon that day at www.facebook.com/iowadnr. Questions received after 2 p.m. 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, Iowa DNR, at 515-281-5131 or Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov

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FOUR CHARGED FOR ILLEGAL HUNTING AT DAVENPORT PARK

DES MOINES – Four men have been charged for alleged hunting violations at Credit Island Park in Davenport on Sunday.

The four men were charged after allegedly shooting two ducks and two squirrels with a pellet gun.

Hay Seet, 19, of Rock Island, Ill., was charged with hunting without a license, hunting out of season, failure to have a federal waterfowl stamp and for shooting waterfowl with lead shot.

Also charged were Kaw Hae, 18, of Rock Island, Ill., Htoo Kler, 19, of Waukesha, Wis. and Aung Win, 43, of Waukesha, Wis. Hae, Kler and Win were all each charged with one count of hunting without a license and taking a game bird out of season.

MEDIA CONTACT: Kevin Baskins, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at [515-249-2814](tel:515-249-2814).

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POPULAR CAMPGROUND TARGETS MID JUNE TO REOPEN FROM 2011 FLOOD

MISSOURI VALLEY, Iowa – The campground at Wilson Island State Recreation Area remains a work in progress, but the end is in sight.

The \$2.5-\$3 million cleanup and rebuild project enters the home stretch as workers are installing fire rings at campsites and the picnic/shelter areas, setting out about 200 picnic tables, reseeding the area and adding street and information signs, installing new parking curbs, painting and planting trees.

“We hope to reopen in mid June, depending on how the seeding takes and the weather,” said Chris Anunson, park ranger at Wilson Island.

Wilson Island has been closed since the spring of 2011 due to damage from the Missouri River flooding. The campground does not have any electricity yet as contractors are replacing power poles.

“It’s been a long process but we’re getting there,” Anunson said.

The campground remodel includes eliminating the more flood prone sites and changing the first to flood electric sites to non electric. The number of electrical sites increased by 15 but the total number of campsites has been reduced by 10.

The new Wilson Island will have 50 amp service electrical sites, a new shower house, two new dump

stations, two new picnic shelters all at higher elevations, and a new park office.

MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Anunson, Park Ranger, Wilson Island State Park, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [712-642-2069](tel:712-642-2069)

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AMERICORPS MEMBERS ORGANIZE HABITAT RESTORATION VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECT FOR RARE NATIVE BIRD

On a recent spring morning, three AmeriCorps members with the Iowa DNR caught the attention of a pair of trumpeter swans as they were organizing and leading a volunteer service project.

Many state, national, and private programs like the Iowa DNR and the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Committee exist to increase awareness and provide conservation efforts for the magnificent birds.

One of the known nesting locations for these swans lies just a few blocks east of Clear Lake in northern Iowa. The small pond sits adjacent to Clear Creek Elementary School and provides local school children with a rare opportunity to view wild swans at a close distance.

In the last decade, however, the pond had become overgrown with invasive plants, shrubs, and trees making public viewing difficult. More importantly, the area was becoming unsuitable for nesting swans. Realizing the need for habitat restoration around the pond, three AmeriCorps members, Vaughn Wassink, Ryan Wilcke, and Ryan Murphy, teamed up to organize a volunteer service project to clear invasive species from the land around the pond.

More than 20 community volunteers helped to cut and pull invasive plants and shrubs from the land surrounding the pond. The pair of trumpeter swans watched intently as AmeriCorps members and community volunteers efficiently cleared the area of any damaging plants and trees. The land around the pond was restored to a healthier, more suitable habitat in only a few hours.

"The volunteers did a great job, working hard and enjoying a little bit of swan biology and recovery history," said AmeriCorps member Vaughn Wassink. "We were very happy with the outcome. It was the first time this area has been totally cleared of invasive species for about 10 years or more."

To see photos from the event, check out *Iowa DNR AmeriCorps on Flickr*. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/iowadnr/sets/72157640357051923/>

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MICK KLEMESRUD Information Specialist

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



P 515.281.8653 | F 515.281.6794 | mick.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov

Wallace Building | 502 East Ninth Street | Des Moines, IA 50319

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