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July 22 Iowa Outdoors

1 message

Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Tue, Jul 22, 2014 at 12:45

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IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 22, 2014

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1. Once-extirpated Fish Species Believed Discovered in Mississippi River
2. BOW Workshop Registration Open

ONE-EXTIRPATED FISH SPECIES BELIEVED DISCOVERED IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER

DES MOINES—State and national scientists are working to identify a fish found in the Mississippi River recently that, if proven to be what it is thought, would be the first time in more than 80 years the species has been confirmed in Iowa.

Iowa DNR fisheries staff collecting fish for a fishing clinic in early July captured what is believed by state and national authorities to be a longear sunfish.

“If this proves to be a longear sunfish it will be the first time since 1932 the species has been positively identified in Iowa,” said DNR fisheries technician Adam Thiese, who collected the fish. “How it got here and where it came from remains to be determined. For those that work in the fisheries field, both state and nationally, anytime an uncommon species can be documented, it’s an exciting discovery.”

Leading national ichthyologists believe it is a longear sunfish. A fin clip has been collected to verify. Once listed as common in bayous around Muscatine, they have been extirpated from the state for more than eight decades.

The fish is being held alive by the DNR until it can be positively identified.

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For more information, contact Adam Thiese at [563-263-5062](tel:563-263-5062) or [563-260-4791](tel:563-260-4791). To request a photo, contact Kevin Baskins at Kevin.baskins@dnr.iowa.gov, or Julie Sparks at Julie.sparks@dnr.iowa.gov.

BOW WORKSHOP REGISTRATION OPEN

DES MOINES – Women can still answer their “call of the wild” by registering for the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop Sept. 19-21 at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center in Guthrie County. Women thinking about participating are encouraged to sign up soon, as some classes fill quickly.

This workshop is an excellent opportunity for women 18 years or older to try a wide variety of activities they may never have had the chance to experience, said Julie Sparks, DNR Becoming an Outdoors-Woman coordinator.

“We have top-notch instructors, our class sizes are kept small and the setting at Springbrook is beautiful, particularly in the fall,” she said.

Workshop topics include basic fishing, fly fishing, birdwatching, archery, beginning shotgun shooting, basic motor boat skills, geocaching, canoeing, stand up paddling, Dutch oven cooking, nature photography and much more. The registration fee of \$150 covers food, lodging and materials for the weekend workshop.

Brochures and registration forms are available online at www.iowadnr.gov/bow or by contacting Julie Sparks, at [515-281-6159](tel:515-281-6159) or julie.sparks@dnr.iowa.gov.

ALAN FOSTER Managing Editor, Iowa Outdoors magazine

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



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