



Thomas Hazelton &lt;countyparksiowa@gmail.com&gt;

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**Sept. 16 Iowa Outdoors - correction**

1 message

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

&lt;DNR.Media@dnr.iowa.gov&gt;

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

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

Tue, Sep 16, 2014 at 11:50 AM

The phone number listed for Jeff Kopaska in the Iowa DNR Fishing WebPages Add New Features article was incorrect. The number has been corrected. To contact Jeff, call 515-432-2328 ext. 109.



# IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

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## TREE STAND SAFETY AS DEER SEASONS APPROACH

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

With Iowa's bow season just days away, hunters are in the final stages of preparation; adjusting tree stand locations, cutting shooting lanes, or 'just' scouting those early season deer habits.

Tops in that preparation? Staying safe above the ground. Talking with bow hunters, it's surprising how many have slipped, fallen or had to 'jump' the last few feet to the ground. Add to that, the fact that Iowa's two hunting fatalities in the last two seasons involved not firearms, but bow hunters falling. With upwards of 50,000 of them in Iowa, it is a hazard that can be eliminated with a little forward thinking.

To play it safe, consider a couple staples.

"Bring friends when you install your tree stand," urges Dave Giese, Hawkeye Wildlife Area shooting range officer in Johnson County. He recently coordinated an Archery Safety Day there. "Once up, make sure it gets anchored. Have a harness to raise your equipment. Don't carry your bow up or down."

Once on stand—your first move should be to secure your safety harness to the tree.

"A safety harness is an absolute necessity. You are just *asking* to fall out of a tree if you don't have one," warns Mark Powers, of Cedar Rapids, a 25-year bowhunter. "There are just too many situations where you're moving your feet, moving your body, changing things around. You have to be safe."

Basically, follow the 'three point rule.' Your hands are two points of contact. Your feet are two more. To safely climb, you need three points of contact.

Purchase a stand made by a supporting member company of the Treestand Manufacturers of America (TMA), and it includes a basic harness. In fact, safety harnesses—over each shoulder and adjusted at both thighs—are overshadowed now by safety *jackets*; easier to put on and which spread the pressure, should you fall. Some have a telescoping-type strap between you and the tree, which lessens fall impact or even lowers you to the ground.

"It's the concept of 'where are you most vulnerable?' As bow hunting has become more popular, there are more products. Many are just, 'Hey, this would solve that problem,' thought up by bowhunters themselves," explains Roger Mildenstein, longtime bowhunter and owner of Fin & Feather Outdoor Store in Iowa City. Among more recent safety features is a pair of heavy-duty plastic sleeves, over anchor spikes. By sliding the legs of a tree stand ladder into them, it creates a ground-based 'hinge' to easily set the stand into place.

Other products range from a lineman's type belt, allowing you to lean back with your hands free to attach and climb sectional ladders...or a hoist to hold a stand in place as you strap it in. They become that 'third

point' of contact; allowing you to tend to the details, when on high.

Probably the best safety advice? Communicate.

"Plan ahead. Let someone know where you are; what time you expect to be home, what stand you will be in that day," urges Giese. "If you do end up with an issue, people have an idea of where to look for you."

### **Youth, Disabled Hunter Seasons**

Saturday will find thousands of young hunters in stands or posted along field edges or funnel points in the woods. As Iowa's Youth Deer hunting season opens, a bow, shotgun or muzzleloader can be used...with the requirements specific to the season, such as blaze orange clothing. Last year, about 10,000 young hunters took part.

Each must be under direct supervision of an adult mentor, with a valid license and habitat fee (if required). The youth license is valid statewide. Additionally, a couple hundred disabled hunters will be active across Iowa. Each season runs September 20 through October 5.

An unfilled youth season tag may be used during the early or late muzzleloader season or one of the two shotgun seasons ONLY. That youth must follow all other rules specified for each season. However party hunting with a youth tag is not allowed. A deer must be harvested by the youth with the tag. However, that tag holder may obtain deer tags for other season, just as any other hunter can do.

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## **IOWA'S YOUTH AND DISABLED HUNTER DEER SEASON BEGINS SATURDAY**

The Iowa deer hunting tradition will be passed on to about 10,000 youths who are participating in the youth deer hunting season, which opens on Sept. 20. This season provides an opportunity to teach deer hunting, wildlife behavior, and safe hunting practices to resident youths while they are under the watchful eye of a licensed adult.

For many young hunters, this will be their first experience hunting deer, and mentors are encouraged to take the needs of the new hunter into account when planning the hunt.

The goal of the hunt should be a positive, enjoyable, and ethical experience, and harvesting a deer should be considered a bonus, not define the success of the hunt.

The youth season coincides with the disabled hunter deer season for hunters who meet certain criteria. Each season runs September 20 through October 5.

Each youth must be under direct supervision of an adult mentor, with a valid license and habitat fee (if

required). The youth license is valid statewide.

An unfilled youth season tag may be used during the early or late muzzleloader season or one of the two shotgun seasons only. That youth must follow all other rules specified for each season. However party hunting with a youth tag is not allowed. A deer must be harvested by the youth with the tag. However, that tag holder may obtain deer tags for other season, just as any other hunter can do.

The youth deer season usually has mild temperatures and biting insects. Hunters should be prepared in case they youth harvests a deer by bringing bags of ice to cool the deer cavity and by having a locker that can accept the deer for processing. Last year, more than 10,000 youth hunters reported harvesting 3,300 deer and nearly 300 disabled hunters reported harvesting 120 deer.

All deer taken must be reported using the harvest reporting system by midnight the day after the deer is recovered. Harvest reporting is a very important part of the deer management program in Iowa, playing a vital role in managing deer populations and hunting opportunities. Hunters can report their deer on the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), by calling the toll free reporting number 1-800-771-4692, or at any license vendor.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jim Coffey, Forest Wildlife Species Technician, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 641-774-2958.**

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## FALL TROUT STOCKING BEGINS OCTOBER 3

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will begin its popular fall and winter trout stocking on Oct. 3, with a release planned for Sand Lake, in Marshalltown.

The DNR has 16 cool weather stockings planned and will release between 1,000 to 2,000 rainbow trout at each location as part of its cool weather trout program that brings trout to areas that cannot support them during the summer months.

A family friendly event is often paired with the stocking to help anglers have success and fun while fishing.

"We do these events to create excitement about fishing," said Joe Larscheid, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Bureau. "The fish are here, easy to catch and good to eat. For someone who has not tried it before, grab your neighbors, friends and kids and out there. It's time well spent."

Anglers will need to have a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. The daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of 10.

Children age 15 or younger can fish for trout with a properly licensed adult, but they must limit their catch to one daily limit. The child can purchase a trout fee which will allow them to catch their own limit.

### 2014-15 Fall Winter Trout Stocking Schedule

Oct. 3, Sand Lake, Marshalltown, 12 p.m.  
Oct. 11, Lake of the Hills, Davenport, 10:30 a.m.  
Oct. 17, Banner Lake (South), Summerset State Park, Indianola, Noon  
Oct. 18, Sand Lake, Iowa City, 10 a.m.  
Oct. 23, Big Lake, Council Bluffs, 3 p.m.  
Oct. 23, Petoka, Bondurant, Noon  
Oct. 25, Discovery Park, Muscatine, 10 a.m.  
Oct. 25, Wilson Lake, Fort Madison, Noon  
Oct. 31, Ottumwa Park Pond, Noon  
Nov. 1, Heritage Pond, Dubuque, 10 a.m.  
Nov. 5, Moorland Pond, Fort Dodge, 1 p.m.  
Nov. 8, Scharnberg Pond, Spencer  
Nov. 12, Bacon Creek, Sioux City, 2 p.m.  
Nov. 14, Prairie Creek Park (Cedar Bend), Cedar Rapids  
Nov. 20, Ada Hayden, Ames, Noon  
Nov. 21, North Prairie, Cedar Falls, 1 p.m.  
Nov. 26, Blue Pit, Mason City, 11 a.m.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Joe Larscheid, chief, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Bureau, 515-281-5208.**

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## **IOWA DNR FISHING WEBPAGES ADD NEW FEATURES**

Recent updates to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources fishing web pages feature stocking information for the last 10 years, individual regulations for each lake and the trout stream pages include an automatically generated map.

The new information can be found by going to [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) and clicking on the fishing tab, then on the where to fish link in the column on the left. Select either lakes, ponds and reservoirs, or trout streams then the individual resource.

The individual pages also include amenities in the area, common fish species in the water body, current fishing reports if available, and an annual fishing forecast.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Kopaska, Fisheries Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-432-2823 ext. 109.**

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## TREES FOR KIDS GRANTS AWARDED TO 17 FALL PROJECTS

Trees For Kids will be funding 17 different projects totaling \$67,000 to give more than 1,400 students hands-on experience planting 639 trees, and learning about the benefits that trees can bring to Iowa schools and communities.

Each planting event will have an educational component with the students which include a planting demonstration. More than 225 adult volunteers will assist at the planting events, and given training to assist student with proper planting. Project Learning Tree training is also provided to educators to create lesson plans and utilize curriculum with the planted trees.

Grants are awarded to the following schools and groups: Chariton Housing Authority, Charles City High School; Clinton CSD; Decorah High School; Denison Arbor Committee; Durant Elementary, Sumner; City of Eddyville; Gilmore City; City of Milo; Ottumwa CSD – Liberty Elementary; City of Pleasant Hill; Roland-Story FFA; City of Sergeant Bluff; Clark Elementary, Sioux City; City of Slater; South Tama County FFA; and Woodbine Community Foundation.

Forty-two different species will be planted throughout the state to help provide diversity to Iowa's urban forests.

The environmental impact of planting trees can now be quantified using a USDA Forest Service Tool called i-tree design. This tool was utilized on each grant to determine energy benefits, stormwater runoff reduction, and carbon sequestration for the useful life of the trees. It is available at <http://www.itreetools.org/design.php>.

The useful life is estimated at 60 years, and crown growth modeling over the lifespan of the trees is utilized to provide accurate and increasing benefits over the lifespan of the tree.

Over their 60 year lifespan, these trees will save more than 189,000 kilowatt hours of electricity by shading buildings and more than 54,600 therms by slowing down winds and reducing building heat loss.

Those trees will help reduce flooding throughout by intercepting over 38,700,000 gallons of storm water and will reduce over 9,000,000 pounds of atmospheric carbon dioxide through CO2 sequestration and decreased energy production needs and emissions.

Trees planted around schools and in neighborhoods have also shown to give youth increased levels of

concentration, lower levels of aggression, lower levels of obesity, and fewer symptoms of ADHD.

Communities are made more livable by having a healthy, diverse tree canopy.

The Trees for Kids and Trees for Teens grant program is funded by Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau, MidAmerican Energy, Black Hills Energy, Alliant Energy, Iowa Bankers Association, Trees Forever, Iowa Tree Farm Committee, and the Iowa Woodland Owners Association.

For information about how to apply for a spring Trees For Kids grant, go to <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Education/ForTeachers/EducationTrainingPrograms/TreesforKidsTeens.aspx> or contact the grant coordinator at [laura.wagner@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:laura.wagner@dnr.iowa.gov).

**MEDIA CONTACT: Laura Wagner, Trees for Kids Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at 515-281-6749.**

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## PLANT SOME SHADE EVENTS PLANNED FOR FALL

DES MOINES – MidAmerican Energy Company residential customers who live in Iowa can participate in the *Plant Some Shade*<sup>®</sup> program this fall. The program offers customers discount-priced trees to reduce future energy use and green up their neighborhoods. Iowa residential customers have the ability to purchase up to two, 3-to 4-foot conifers and 5-to 8-foot landscaping trees for \$30 each. A variety of trees are available, including two or three varieties of shade trees, a low-growing ornamental tree and a conifer.

Order forms can be obtained at [www.midamericanenergy.com/iowa\\_plantsomeshade](http://www.midamericanenergy.com/iowa_plantsomeshade). Orders will be accepted until all trees have been sold. *Plant Some Shade* events will be held in Des Moines, Oskaloosa, Sioux City and Waukee. Prepayment and advance orders are required. Orders will be accepted until all trees have been sold. Tree recipients are given instructions on how to plant and care for their trees, including safety information regarding the need to call 811 before digging to check for underground power lines. In addition, it is important to choose a tree that fits the site characteristics so that it will not grow into overhead power lines or buildings.

*Plant Some Shade* is a partnership initiative to aid long-term energy and natural resource conservation. The program is funded by MidAmerican Energy and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Bureau of Forestry, with four local partners: Mahaska County Extension, Polk County Conservation, Siouxland Chamber of Commerce and the City of Waukee Parks and Recreation department.

“Encouraging residents to plant trees in their yard is an effective way to promote energy efficiency and environmental beautification,” said Tina Yoder, MidAmerican Energy’s manager, energy efficiency. “Strategically planted trees provide year-round protection of homes from the elements and that means energy savings. *Plant Some Shade* helps our customers save energy.”

Strategically placed deciduous trees provide shade on hot summer days, easing the cooling load on air conditioners or heat pumps. Trees planted on the west side of a house provide the most benefit. Additionally,

conifer trees planted as windbreaks help protect the home from blustery Iowa winter winds thus reducing the energy needed for heating.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for homeowners to get a quality tree at an affordable price,” said Matt Brewer, partnership coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Bureau of Forestry. “Fall is an ideal time to plant new trees. The season’s warm days and cool nights are excellent for root growth.”

**MEDIA CONTACT: Matt Brewer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau, 515-242-6892.**

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REAP: 25 Years of Enhancing and Protecting Iowa’s Resources

## **CITY OF DES MOINES SHOWCASES URBAN REAP-EMPOWERED NATURAL RECREATION**

Known as the “Place to Meet” in the Des Moines Metro area, 167-acre Gray’s Lake Park is located in the heart of the City of Des Moines.

Positioned on the southwestern edge of downtown, Gray’s Lake offers opportunities for walking, biking, fishing, swimming, sailing and canoeing. It features a 1.9-mile lighted trail that encircles the lake and is equipped with emergency phones.

In 2010, Iowa’s REAP program funded \$250,000 worth of shoreline stabilization for 2,000 linear feet on the east side of Gray’s Lake. Better fishing access was also provided by REAP. Hooking Gray’s Lake’s unusual offering of fish species — typically found in both lakes *and* rivers — has never been easier. It is also one of the best cat fishing spots in central Iowa, according to the Iowa DNR.

Efforts to pull back shoreline along Gray’s Lake and re-grade it allowed for the establishment of native prairie plantings, whose root systems naturally provide stabilization and deter erosion. Improved fishing access installation was accomplished seamlessly alongside resolution of shoreline degradation issues.

Also focusing on water quality, Des Moines’ oldest city park, Greenwood Park, was renovated in 2004 with REAP funds.

The renovation plan called for better opportunities for fishing around the pond, which is surrounded by an urban environment, that had degraded over the years due to excessive runoff and erosion. Retention basins and woodland restoration were utilized in areas above the pond in order to reduce sediment flow and nutrient delivery to the fishery.

Greenwood Park offers Sylvan Theater, Clare and Miles Mills Rose Garden, an enclosed shelter and the Mary Miss Greenwood Pond Double Site outdoor classroom. It is also home to the Des Moines Art Center and several outdoor works of art.

“The Greenwood Park project was very well received by the neighborhood. They were very excited about the work that was going to be done there,” said Jen Fletcher, City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation



Supervisor.

“We have been lucky to have been involved with the REAP program as often as we have. I can’t think of another city who has been awarded as many REAP grants as we have in such a short amount of time. We hope the program continues; it’s been a great supplement to our dwindling budget. Please keep it going!”

“From our perspective REAP has been one of the best funding sources for us to do projects within our park system that we wouldn’t otherwise be able to accomplish. Des Moines’ major REAP-funded projects represent over \$2 million in parks funding that wouldn’t have existed before,” said Des Moines Parks and Recreation assistant director Richard Brown.

Walnut Creek Trail is a key REAP-funded Central Iowa Trail segment that connects downtown Des Moines to West Des Moines and Clive. Brown said it was a tough project to get completed and REAP was instrumental in the project’s completion.

Four Mile Creek Greenbelt, also known as the Gay Lea Wilson Trail, is another gleaming example of REAP-funded trails in Des Moines. Located on the east side of town, it connects Ankeny, Altoona, Pleasant Hill, and the City of Des Moines, following Four Mile Creek.

All REAP-funded recreation projects are tied into the Central Iowa Trail Network that offers 550 miles of trail connected through Des Moines. Brown said it’s easy to see that people are out enjoying these facilities. With over a million trail users annually, two new restaurant/bars have been opened specifically because of the trails that connect Des Moines’ park system.

“REAP has been a big benefactor for not just residents of Des Moines, but also the many visitors who come to Des Moines to use the Central Iowa Trail Network,” said Brown.

Des Moines has just recently been awarded REAP funds to connect its proposed MacRae Park recreation area to the existing Meredith Trail. The new park will offer restored Oak Savanna and Woodlands, paved recreational biking/walking trails and extensive nature trails. Four activity areas are planned that include natural playscape/classroom, 1930’s shelter house renovation, car access and parking areas, trailhead, historical signage, fishing and pond access areas, open air shelter house and an improved scenic overlook of Des Moines.

“Almost every project we’ve done has been accomplished as a result of leveraging REAP funds with a combination of city, state DOT, and private funding,” Brown explained.

Fletcher said people are definitively more likely to get on board with projects because of the “quality of the REAP program.

“When we are fortunate enough to be awarded a REAP grant, the next question we get is, ‘When is the project going to start and when is it going to be done?’ because people realize how much impact the grants and the projects that come from the grants have,” Fletcher said.

In its 25 years, REAP has benefited every county in Iowa by supporting 14,535 projects. REAP has funded these projects with \$264 million in state investments, leveraging two to three times the amount in private, local and federal dollars. Collectively, these projects have improved the quality of life for all Iowans with better soil and water quality; added outdoor recreation opportunities; sustained economic development; enhanced knowledge and understanding of our ecological and environmental assets, and preservation of our cultural and historic treasures.

**MICK KLEMESRUD** Information Specialist

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



P 515.281.8653 | F 515.281.6794 | [mick.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov)

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

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*Leading Iowans in Caring for Our Natural Resources.*

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