

DCCS Newsletter

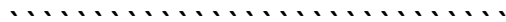
Dubuque County Conservation Society

“Organized in 1933 for Protection of Soil, Forests, Waters and Wildlife”

P.O. Box 645 Dubuque, IA 52004-0645



Every society needs people who can encourage and stimulate and cheer. They are the ones who make the world run. You can be one of them! – Richard M. DeVos



First Day Hike

Hikers can experience the quiet beauty of nature in winter, spectacular views, beautiful settings and cultural treasures. Several parks and forests will host guided hikes on New Year’s Day, including some providing hot chocolate and snacks. Participants should dress for winter conditions. The DNR invites Iowans to step outside and enjoy Iowa state parks and forests in the 2023 First Day Hike Challenge (<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/First-Day-Hikes>). Visitors can ring in the New Year with the Parks Passport on their own or by joining park staff on a guided hike. Check out the complete list of guided hikes with times and meeting locations, <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/parks/firstdayhikes-2023events.pdf>

“First Day Hikes are a popular tradition in state parks, and the Park Passport is a great way for people to enjoy winter hikes,” said Sherry Arntzen, chief of the Iowa DNR’s Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau. With the First Day Hike Challenge, park visitors can check into more than 50 participating state parks and forests on the Park Passport from Dec. 30, 2022 through Jan. 1, 2024. Visitors can explore as many parks as they wish -- every check-in will qualify for a prize drawing of a two-night stay at a cabin at Pine Lake State Park, Eldora. Some restrictions and fees apply. The State Park Passport is free and can be downloaded onto mobile devices at <https://explore.traveliowa.com/checkout/311/travel-iowa/1619/iowa-state-park-passport> Visitors will find trail suggestions and directions from park staff under the “More Info” tab for each park on the Passport.



Winter Birding

Attracting birds in winter is easier than you might think! Attract them by offering foods they love and provide them safe places to take shelter as the air gets crisp and the temps fall. Birds are even more beautiful in the midst of a few flurries, so besides helping them get through winter, you’ll also be able to enjoy their beauty in your own backyard. A bird’s diet is mostly from natural sources, such as berries, seeds and nuts. But blizzards and winter storms can cause those sources of food to be frozen or hidden under blankets of snow, which often brings visitors to feeding stations. Bundle up and top off your feeders repeatedly after bad weather. The easy access to a birdseed buffet after a storm provides some of the best bird-watching opportunities. The most common birds seen at area backyard feeders are Bluejay, Black-Capped Chickadee, Cardinals, Goldfinch, Junco, and Woodpecker. You can

usually find a pair of Mourning Doves on the ground doing cleanup.

Stay Safe On Ice This Winter

With cold weather finally arriving in Iowa and freezing over lakes and ponds, ice fishing activity has begun at certain northern lakes. As a note of caution, the Iowa Department of Natural Resource (DNR) reminds all anglers - especially those in central and southern Iowa - to stay patient and allow that ice thickness to grow before heading to their favorite ice fishing spot. The DNR recommends a minimum of four inches of quality ice for fishing and at least five inches for snowmobiles and ATVs. Ice forms at different rates on each body of water depending upon its size and depth. Once frozen, conditions change constantly and ice thickness can vary across the lake. Rocks, trees, docks or other things that poke through the ice will conduct heat and make the ice around it less stable. The DNR recommends that anglers test the ice thickness frequently and to trust your instincts – if the ice does not look right, don't go out. A blanket of snow on top of an ice covered lake insulates the ice, slowing the growth of ice and hiding potential hazards or weak spots. River ice is 15 percent weaker than lake ice. Ice with a bluish color is safer than clear ice. Avoid slushy or honey-combed and stay away from dark spots on the ice. Don't walk into areas where the snow cover looks discolored.

Safety Tips on the Ice - No ice is 100 percent safe. New ice is usually stronger than old ice.

Don't go out alone - if the worst should happen, someone will be there to call for help or to help rescue. Let someone know where you are going and when you will return. Check ice thickness as you go out because there could be pockets of thin ice or places where ice recently formed. Avoid off-colored snow or ice. It is usually a sign of weakness. The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process.

Bring along these basic items to help keep you safe: hand warmers, ice cleats to help prevent falls, ice picks (wear around your neck) to help you crawl out of the water if you fall in, a life jacket, a floating safety rope, a whistle to call for help, a basic first aid kit and extra dry clothes including a pair of gloves.

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Pruning Trees and Shrubs

There are many valid reasons for pruning trees and shrubs. However, the most important reasons include pruning for safety, health, and appearance.

Safety pruning includes trimming branches from trees and shrubs that interfere with lines of sight for automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic; eliminating branches that grow into utility lines; and removing dead or structurally unsound branches from trees.

Pruning for health might involve removing crowded, rubbing, or crossing branches to decrease the chance of self-wounding, wind damage when leaves are mature, and eliminating diseased or insect ridden branches.

Trees and shrubs pruned to take advantage of their natural growth habit usually require less maintenance than their carefully sculpted counterparts.

Because wound response takes place most rapidly just before the onset of growth in the spring when energy reserves are at their highest, the late dormant season (February to March) is commonly regarded as the "best" time to prune. This also is a time when woody plants will not have to cope with opportunistic insects and disease causing pathogens. Also, absence of foliage makes it easier to view the general structure of deciduous trees and shrubs, and facilitates the removal of appropriate branches.

Maple, elm, birch, and fruitless mulberry often experience sap flow or "bleeding" from pruning wounds made in late winter or early spring. Pruning in early to midsummer, after the leaves have

matured, will prevent unsightly sap flow. Oaks are an exception. The winter months – December, January and February – are the best time to prune oak trees. Large amounts of sap often flow from pruning cuts on maple, birch, and elm when pruned in late winter. However, the loss of sap doesn't harm the trees. The trees won't "bleed" to death. Eventually the flow of sap will slow and stop. Pruning should not take place in the spring when leaves are forming because energy reserves are low and the bark "slips" or tears easily at this time. Autumn pruning, particularly during the period when leaves are falling, also should be avoided because this is when new absorbing roots are forming, and the wound response drains energy from this important period of growth.

For information including videos on when and how to prune go to the ISU website.

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2020/01/principles-pruning-part-1-when-and-why-prune>

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2020/01/principles-pruning-part-2-making-good-cut>

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2020/01/principles-pruning-part-3-included-bark>

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2021/04/principles-pruning-suppression-cut>

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/faq/when-pruning-trees-it-desirable-make-flush-cuts>

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/faq/sap-flowing-pruning-cut-my-maple-tree-should-i-be-concerned>

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Federal Clean Water Act Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary – Adam Schnieders, DNR

The Clean Water Act, created and passed in response to a nationwide movement advocating for the improvement and restoration of the country's waters, celebrated 50 years October 18, 2022.

Passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act made it a priority to prevent water pollution and clean up industrial and municipal sewage. The act regulated the disposal of wastes and provided funding for communities to build sewage treatment plants with grants.

Through the Clean Water Act, wastewater standards were established and other pollution control programs were implemented that, along with the dedication of states, communities and industries to improve the quality of water sources, have made a significant difference in the health of communities and waterways.

Before the Act, some waters in Iowa were so hazardous that they were deadly to fish. The Cedar River had levels of E. Coli and other bacteria hundreds of times the modern limit. Polluted waters that caused eye and skin infections made fishing and recreation dangerous.

Today, Iowa's wastewater treatment facilities are continually improving to meet modern standards. Since 2011, more than 115 Iowa communities have constructed wastewater treatment technologies that now remove more than 1 million pounds of ammonia annually from more than 41 billion gallons of wastewater. Additionally, 191 communities constructed technology that disinfects 86 billion gallons of effluent annually to reduce bacteria in waterways. That means a cleaner environment for fish and a safer experience for Iowans to swim, fish and boat in rivers and lakes.

The wastewater infrastructure in Iowa and across the country is impressive, and expensive to build and maintain. One way the Iowa Department of Resources, in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and local communities, supports these significant community investments is with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The fund supports wastewater treatment, sewer rehabilitation and stormwater quality improvements, as well as several other water quality improvement projects. Loans are available for publicly owned treatment facilities for construction projects, planning and design costs.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program also offers public and private entities and landowners affordable financing for a variety of water quality projects. Since 1990, the Iowa CWSRF has provided over \$3 billion in cumulative assistance to meet Iowa's wastewater, stormwater and sewer needs.

The DNR's Watershed Improvement Program, focused on how drainage from land affects water sources, has funded nearly 630 local, regional and statewide clean water projects since 1990. Local staff work with landowners and officials to track improvements in water quality, and its projects in Iowa have totaled \$113 million through implementation of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. To learn more about Iowa water quality programs go to: www.iowadnr.gov/waterquality. To learn more of national Clean Water Act success stories, visit the Association of Clean Water Operators website at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7d0f08ced7114279a76ac501d30ef3b7>

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Keep Iowa Beautiful

"Pick Up Iowa" program provides materials to clean up towns and highways. Join communities across Iowa in cleaning up our streets, rivers, and public spaces! Your community may participate by cleaning up litter and trash along Iowa's roadsides, neighborhoods, streets, school grounds, parks, forests, and streams. Any clubs, groups, conservation organizations, or family members can participate in Pick-Up Iowa. Pick Up Iowa is held April 1st through July 31st. Your organization can coordinate a pick-up event on a date that works best for you. Groups are encouraged to host multiple pick up events during the duration of Pick-Up Iowa which is part of Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup the nation's largest community improvement program. Registered participant groups are eligible for a limited supply of free cleanup supplies such as bags and gloves donated by Keep Iowa Beautiful. Apply by March 15 at keepiowabeautiful.org for supplies.

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If your garden is covered in a foot of snow, you probably aren't thinking about planting. This is an ideal time to think about purchasing seeds if you haven't saved any from your fall garden. Check out Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah. <https://www.seedsavers.org/>

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DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023 AT 6:00 PM

Driftless Virtual Series – Online event

Join us for online educational programs to learn about the unique area we call home, the Driftless Area. Through this virtual series learn about the geology, plants, animals, and culture that the Driftless Area encompasses. We will explore the reasoning behind the land's sinkholes, algific talus slopes, & caves, discover the interesting plants and animals that call these bluffs home, and explore the culture of the people who inhabited this area over the years. Not sure what the "Driftless Area" is? This is a great way to learn about this unique area and all there is to discover in it! Look forward to hearing about not only these amazing things, but also where and how you can see them on your own through Dubuque County Conservation properties and programs! This virtual series is available for 3 different nights. You do not need to pre-register and do not need to attend all three nights to learn. Come and go as you need through the Zoom link. Specific dates for the programs can be found below. Programs will be 45-60 minutes in length with time for questions at the end of the session.

<https://www.facebook.com/dubuquecountyconservation>

Go to facebook to access the link. <https://www.facebook.com/events/534175148432839/?ref=newsfeed>

Monday, January 9th | 6:00pm-7:00pm | Driftless Geology

Monday, February 13th | 6:00pm-7:00pm | Driftless Flora & Fauna

Monday, March 13th | 6:00pm-7:00pm | Driftless Culture

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 AT 5:45 PM

Environmental Book Club: Braiding Sweetgrass

River Lights Bookstore - 1098 Main St. Dubuque

Free: www.eventbrite.com/e/484390905237

Come join our Environmental Book Club at River Lights Bookstore. We will be reading and discussing Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:45pm from January to March. The first meeting will be an informational meeting.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023 AT 10 AM

Friends of DCCB Guided Snowshoe Hike -- Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area

Free event: www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-of-dccb-guided-snowshoe-hike-tickets-487559181637

Join the Friends of Dubuque County Conservation for a guided hike at Whitewater Canyon to enjoy the beautiful scenery at Whitewater Canyon as we explore with snowshoes on our feet and learn a bit about the history of the property as well. The Friends of Dubuque County Conservation is a non-profit group that supports Dubuque County Conservation. All snowshoes have been donated or purchased by the Friends, making this wonderful winter recreational activity possible for Dubuque County residents and visitors.

*If there is not sufficient snow, this will be turned into a guided hike without snowshoes. If weather is unsafe for driving or for spending an extended amount of time outside, we will work on rescheduling this event. Those who sign up will be notified by email if the event is canceled or postponed.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023 AT 9 AM

Little Maquoketa River Mounds State Preserve – Invasive Species Removal: Restoration Event

Meet in the parking lot. Dress for the weather. Loppers and gloves will be provided.

Join us in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day by helping us remove invasive species from the Little Maquoketa River Mounds. We will hike up together and look at the ceremonial mounds at the top of the hill, then remove invasive trees together near the mounds. The Little Maquoketa River Mounds State Preserve is an Iowa state owned archaeological site and natural area located within the city of Sageville (just north of Dubuque) on U.S. Highway 3. It is high up on a limestone ridge above the Little Maquoketa River, not too far from the river's mouth with the Upper Mississippi River. Covering about 42 acres, it contains a fenced-in 3 acre burial area with 32 mounds. The graves have been related to the Late Woodland culture, about AD 700-1200. Significant consultation went on with Native American tribes regarding the establishment of the preserve. The land was purchased by the Iowa Department of Transportation in 1977, and in 1981, it became a state archaeological and geological preserve. By agreement with the state, the Dubuque County Conservation Board maintains and administers the area. The remainder of the preserve functions as a park with a hiking trail, featuring mature forest and a segment of native blufftop prairie. As a part of the Driftless Area of Iowa, it has some geologically interesting areas, particularly the high limestone bluffs.

To check for future events got to <https://www.facebook.com/dubuquecountyconservation>

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Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation - Breen Prairie Winter Workday

Thursday, Jan. 12, 1:00pm - 3:30 pm

Breen Prairie Farm is located approximately 3 miles north of Monticello on Hwy 38

<https://www.inhf.org/events/eid/39581f7f54455fbc/volunteer/winter-workday-at-breen-prairie-monticello/>

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION

Friday, January 6, 2023 -- 5:00 PM

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

Prairie Creek Recreation Area—Meet at Pavilion
1215 East Summit Street Maquoketa, IA

Strap on some snowshoes and enjoy a walk along the trails. The initial full moon of a calendar year has been nicknamed the Wolf Moon. Let’s hope for clear skies and let the Wolf Moon guide us along the trails. Registration Required 48 hours in advance: (563) 652-3783 jwagner@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov

Saturday, January 14, 2023 -- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ice Fishing Clinic at Selzer Pond

Selzer Pond 10047 168th Ave Maquoketa, IA

It's January and it is time to hit the ice and catch some fish. Join Jackson County Conservation for a ice fishing clinic at Selzer Pond. Jackson County Conservation will provide instruction and basic ice fishing equipment for those who do not have their own. This is a perfect opportunity for folks who are curious about ice fishing but have not had the opportunity to do so. People 16 years and older need to have a valid fishing license. Dress for the weather. Children are not to be left unattended. Please register 48 hours in advance. To register call Jackson County Conservation at (563) 652-3783 or email tvorwald@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov.

Saturday, January 21, 2023 -- 2:00 PM - 4:00PM

Snowshoe and Brew

Meet at 2:00 PM at the Prairie Creek Pavilion
Prairie Creek Recreation Area 1215 East Summit Street Maquoketa, IA

Winter doesn’t mean that we need to sit inside and hide from the cold weather. January is a perfect time to strap on some snowshoes, hit the trails, and sample some fine craft beer. On Saturday January 21 join naturalist Tony Vorwald and Maquoketa Brewing as we enjoy these winter past times, snowshoeing and beer. Jackson County Conservation will provide snowshoes and a guided hike. Maquoketa Brewing will provide some delicious, local craft beer for sampling at the pavilion around a warm bonfire. If there is no snow we will still go on a guided hike. Registration is not required. Questions: tvorwald@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov (563) 652-3783

Sunday, February 5, 2023 -- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Seed Swap at Maquoketa Brewing

Maquoketa Brewing 110 S St. Suite A, Maquoketa, IA 52060

It may be winter but it is time to start thinking about your garden. Join Maquoketa brewing and Jackson County Conservation as we talk seeds and plants. AJ Shultz of Convivium Urban Farmstead will be available to chat about and provide resources on vegetable plants, seeds, and gardening. Tony Vorwald of Jackson County Conservation will be available to chat and provide resources about native plants and how to integrate natives into your home garden. Also if you have vegetable seeds that you have and want to share with other garden enthusiasts, come swap your seeds. There will be materials and information for you to package and share small amounts of vegetable seeds. Door prizes will be given. This event is free and no registration is required.



Now that it's all over, what did you really do yesterday that's worth mentioning? ~Coleman Cox

Business Members

All Seasons Heating
798 Cedar Cross Rd

Artistic Cleaners
107 Locust St.

Dennis Baumhover Ins.
2615 Dodge St.

Behr's Funeral Home
1491 Main St.

Breitbach's Country Dining
563 Balltown Rd.

Cedar Cross Overhead Door
1040 Cedar Cross Rd

Citizens State Bank
P.O. Box 50
NewVienna

Copper Kettle
2987 Jackson St

Dupaco Credit Union
P.O. Box 179

DuTrac Credit Union
3465 Asbury

Environmental Management
Services - 5170 Wolff Rd #2

Sherry Horsfield
Farm Bureau Ins
20214 E Pleasant Grove Rd

Home+Floor Show
1475 Associates Dr.

The Friedman Group
880 Locust St. P. O. Box 1780

Leo H. Frueh, Consulting Forester
Email: fruehforestry@gmail.com

Hendricks Feed Co.
880 Central

Herbst Upholstery & Auto
76 Main St

Kaufmann Painting
17368 S John Deere Rd.

Klauer Optical
1705 Delhi St.

MidWest One Bank
895 Town Clock Plaza

Miller Flooring
Box 125 New Vienna

Natures Way Inc.
lancekirby1970@gmail.com

Oky Doky Food Mart
P.O. Box 300 Dubuque

O'Meara Custom Products
8915 N. Badger Rd.
East Dubuque IL

Joe Klein - Organic Valley
PO Box 181 Dickeyville WI

Origin Design
137 Main St - Suite 100

Pfohl's Blinds, Drapes Inc.
335 West 1st Street

Pregler Electric
216th Ave LaMotte IA

Premier Bank
1975 JFK Rd.

Schuster Tree Service
7273 Schueller Heights Rd
Schustertree@gmail.com

Sisters of Saint Francis
3390 Windsor Ave.

Skip Breithbach Feed
Balltown, IA

Spahn \$ Rose Lumber
250 Harrison St.

Stecklein Tree Service
Epworth, IA

Steve's Ace Home and Garden
3350 JFK & 200 South Locust

Therapeutic Massage
2255 JFK Road

U.S. Bank
270 West 7th

Weber Paper Co.
4300 Chevenelle Dr.

White Front Feed & Seed
4290 Dodge St.

White Water Native Seeds
Epworth, IA

Board Members

President: Mark Kaufmann
Vice-President: Paul Kaufmann
Secretary: Bob Walton
Treasurer: Connie Kintzle
Facebook: Nick Kaufmann
Newsletter: Connie Kintzle
Website: Nick Kaufmann

563.879.3452
563.583.5030

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Gerda Hartman 563.588.0649
Pat Hayes 563.542.2960
Whitey Kemp 563.582.7752
Tom Klinge
Matt McQuillen
Bev Rettenmeier
Dan Simon 563.583.0514

Reach any board member by email at dbqccs01@gmail.com
Dubuque County Conservation Society
PO Box 645
Dubuque, IA 52001



Dubuque County Conservation Society website: <https://www.dbqccs.org/>
Conservation Society Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dbqcntyconsoc>

Reminders:

Dubuque Farmers Market is held Saturday mornings in the Kennedy Mall
DCCS January 9, meeting is scheduled to be 6 p.m. at the National Guard Armory Old Hwy Rd

Check the events calendar for area Conservation activities and projects.

<https://www.facebook.com/dubuquecountyconservation/>

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jackson.aspx>

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jones.aspx>

When making a purchase at Amazon make it count by using the link below

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1090854>

