

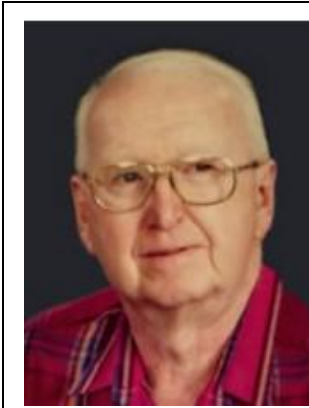
DCCS Newsletter

Dubuque County Conservation Society
 “Organized in 1933 for Protection of Soil, Forests, Waters and Wildlife”
 P.O. Box 645 Dubuque, IA 52004-0645



One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring.

~ Aldo Leopold



In Memory

Whitey Kemp 1935-2025

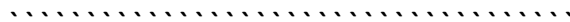
He was a board member serving for over 40 years. He helped with projects from building bluebird houses to installing fences, and helped with other conservation & fundraising efforts. He eagerly helped when and wherever he could. He was a valued member.



Recognition

Nick Kaufman

Since joining the board, he assumed management of the Facebook page and website. He developed tools which enable members to renew their membership online. He has also developed a QR code making it easy for prospective members to join online.



Bluebird House Workshop

The Bluebird House Workshop was held Saturday March 8, at the Swiss Valley Nature Center. Board members Paul Kaufman and Bob Walton spoke on the value of bluebirds and explained how to build the house. Dan Simon Jr., Board President, along with Dubuque County Conservation (Board) staff assisted with those participating in the event.





In 2025, the Wildlife Diversity Program is releasing a series of articles throughout the year on how to support wildlife where you live. We (Iowa DNR) will focus on five areas where humans and wildlife can connect. They all represent positive actions that can be taken to make your little corner of the world a little more welcoming to wildlife. This month we are highlighting some actions you can take to Reduce Hazards to Wildlife. Subscribe to Iowa DNR 'Wildlife Diversity News'.

Sometimes quality habitat outside can lead to wildlife conflicts inside when our homes become mouse bed and breakfasts. And being welcoming to wildlife outside does not mean you need to welcome it inside! There are lots of products available direct to consumer or used by pest control companies to resolve rodent problems, and most of these compounds are marketed as “anticoagulant rodenticides” that can have devastating impacts to non-target wildlife. How to Avoid The Unintended Consequences of Anticoagulants: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/IACIO/bulletins/3d6cb46>

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Who knew there were 10 different frogs and toads? Be ready to turn the volume down, if you listen to their chorus. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/programs-services/volunteer-opportunities/wildlife-monitoring/frogs-and-toads>

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Eager paddlers encouraged to wait for warmer water temperatures.

The weather is starting to feel like spring, but water temperatures are still dangerously cold.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends that paddlers wait for consistent warm weather to allow the water temperatures to rise slowly. It could be several weeks before water temperatures are ideal and safe as water and air temperatures continue to change.

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Thinking of planting a tree - <https://www.iowadnr.gov/programs-services/forestry-resources/urban-forestry/selecting-planting-maintaining-trees?>

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Native plant sale - preorder until April 15 for delivery in May.

Friends of Jackson County Conservation is holding a native plant sale this spring to help people obtain native wildflowers, grasses, and sedges. Prairie plants are finding their way back into Iowa’s landscapes, not only on public lands, but also in private gardens and yards. Use this link (<https://jacksonccb.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e8ffb8b3fa16ed88d13afed0d&id=266680c4dd&e=47a5ed52d0>) to find out more information and to order, or go to our website, jacksonccb.com and look under news.

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Add spring color to your yard with quality native Iowa seedlings

AMES - The Iowa DNR State Forest Nursery offers spring delivery in April and May for hardwood, conifer and shrub seedlings. Seedlings can be ordered through May 23. Visit the online sales site at <http://nursery.iowadnr.gov/> or call 1-800-865-2477 during regular business hours, Monday – Friday. DNR’s expert nursery staff can assist with species selection and answer questions about your tree needs and nursery offerings.

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Woodland Wildflowers -- Early spring wildflowers are commonly called ephemerals, which means “short-lived.” Their dazzling show of spring color is only a limited engagement, so take time to see the flowers before they are gone. The following link includes pictures and descriptions of the spring flowers, tick prevention and removal, photography tips, baby wildlife – leave them alone, and family outdoor activities.

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/news-release/2025-03-20/wildflowers>

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May is fawning season – which also coincides with an increase in deer vehicle collisions. Don’t veer for deer.

Dubuque Trees Forever by Laura Roussel Executive Director, Dubuque Trees Forever

We've been planning for spring! So much fun is on the horizon. First, we have three planting opportunities listed on our website. To sign up for any of these events, go to www.dubuquetreesforever.org/get-involved then select the one(s) you want to participate in.

- April 26 8:30am Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
- May 3 8:30 am Bunker Hill Golf Course
- May 10 8:30 am Our Neighborhood Orchard (Corner of Hill & Caledonia)

BRANCHING OUT TREE DISTRIBUTION:

The Branching Out Tree program will have a tree distribution on Saturday, April 19 at the Bee Branch parking lot. More details will be available soon. For now, just pencil it in on your calendar. We will need volunteers to help with the distribution and to help people in need of assistance with plantings at their homes.

CELEBRATION OF ARBOR DAY

Get ready for a great event on Saturday afternoon, April 26 from noon-2:30 at the Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. Details coming soon. Events will include Tree ID walks, a coloring contest, tree-themed story time with celebrity readers, free tree seedlings and free trolley rides from downtown! Although Arbor Day is actually that Friday, our event is on Saturday so more people can participate.

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Locher Property

The transfer of ownership of the Locher property north of Cascade at 7572 Macomber Rd in Dubuque County has been completed. DCCS board member Matt McQuillen has been instrumental in securing the funding and purchase of the property which the public will be able to access for hunting and fishing.

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Ring-necked pheasants' unlikely journey to becoming an Iowa icon

Read the full article at <https://info.gooutdoorsiowa.com/100-year-pheasant-anniversary/>

Pheasants are not native to the United States but seem to have found a home in the Plains and upper Midwest. Iowa's birds can be traced back to a wind storm in 1901 that damaged William Benton's private game farm in Cedar Falls, liberating around 2,000 pheasants. Rumor had it, Benton obtained his stock from a Tacoma, Wash. importer.

That unintentional release was followed by intentional stockings in 1908-09 by private landowners in Kossuth and O'Brien counties that helped the exotic birds get a foothold in northern Iowa. By 1910, the state Conservation Commission got involved, purchasing 6,200 eggs and distributed them to farmers in 82 counties. Farmers would often have hen houses where the pheasant eggs would be placed alongside chicken eggs.

At the time, Iowa's countryside consisted of too-wet-to-farm sloughs and small farms, with a patchwork of corn, oats, hay, pasture and beet fields, which was a perfect match for the ring-necked pheasant. Soon, it became clear that wild birds were better equipped to survive than captive birds and in 1915, farmers were encouraged to trap and move wild birds to new areas.

The expanding pheasant population began to cause localized crop damage to the point that 130 farmers in Hancock County petitioned the state to open a hunting season. While pheasants were expanding their reach, Iowa's agriculture community began to change, going from more than 6.8 million acres planted to small grains in 1950, to 1.29 million acres in 1972, and soybeans increased from 1.9 million acres to 6 million acres.

Changes to Iowa's countryside accelerated during the farm crisis in the 1980s.

The 1985 Farm Bill created the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to reduce crop production to allow grain prices to recover, and Iowa producers enrolled 76,000 acres in the program by the end of the year. The second round of enrollments increased to 1.2 million acres. By 1993, 2.2 million acres of crop fields were enrolled and converted to grasslands. When added to existing hay and small grains, Iowa had an estimated 4.5 million acres of pheasant friendly habitat, up from 2.9 million acres in 1983.

With the goal of improving grain prices achieved, the focus of CRP shifted to prioritize native seed plantings, seed mix diversity and specific landscapes. The federal Farm Bill had become the most important habitat program for the state.

A century of pheasant hunting

The Iowa DNR and Pheasants Forever are celebrating 100 years of pheasant hunting in the Hawkeye State.

Information on places to hunt, the August roadside survey results and more is available online by clicking the 100 Years

of Pheasant Hunting graphic at www.iowadnr.gov/pheasantsurvey.

Media Contact: Todd Bogenschutz, Upland Wildlife Research Biologist, Iowa Dept of Natural Resources, 515-979-0828.

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Tick Season - the possibility of coming in contact with a tick increases with warmer weather.

A bite from a blacklegged tick—also known as deer tick— can transmit Lyme disease. Symptoms of Lyme can be tricky and can include headache, fever, chills, fatigue, and muscle aches in the early stages. Most people get some kind of rash but only a small percentage get the bullseye rash.

If left untreated, it can cause more serious neurological symptoms, like nerve pain or a form of temporary facial paralysis known as Bell’s palsy. In some cases, despite treatment, symptoms can last for months or even years.

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Dubuque Fishing Spots

- 16th Street Detention Basin - near the corner of East 12th Street and Kerper Blvd. Catch largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and other river species.
- East Bergfeld – in the Bergfeld Recreation Area at 7600 Chavenelle Drive. Accessible fishing jetties, picnic area, trails, playground and restrooms. Catch largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish.
- Heritage Pond – 11330 Rupp Hollow. Accessible fishing pier, trails and restrooms. Catch largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Rainbow Trout stocked each fall and spring.
- Heron Pond – in Miller Riverview Park at 1851 Admiral Sheehy Drive. Playground, restrooms, picnic area, trails and camping. Catch largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish.

Trout stocking in northeast Iowa streams starts March 31. *Heritage Pond is scheduled to be stocked April 26.*

The popular trout stream stocking season starts on March 31. Find a list of stocked trout streams on the DNR trout stream map or the DNR trout fishing webpage. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/fishing/trout-fishing?>

About 320,000 catchable-sized rainbow trout and 30,000 fingerling brook trout will be stocked into hundreds of miles of northeast Iowa streams from the beginning of April through the end of October. Funding to support the trout stocking program comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and trout fees. About 50,000 Iowans and 7,000 nonresidents go trout fishing in Iowa each year.

Iowa’s trout streams are open year-round and meander through some of the most scenic areas of the state. Get the most out of your trout fishing trip with information about each stream's location, qualities, and other fun facts on the Iowa trout streams webpage. <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/lakemanagement/FishIowa/TroutStreamSearch?>

Media Contact: Mike Siepker, Regional Fisheries Supervisor, Northeast Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-382-8324.

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Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency – DMASWA is more than a landfill. Check out all they offer.

Education -- We believe providing education and programming to our community and educators is important in sustaining a livable environment. Lessons on composting, solid waste reduction, groundwater contamination, pollution prevention, and many other topics can provide opportunities to learn and make a positive impact in our community.





Programming Opportunities -- In addition to sharing lessons and resources online, presentations and tours provide a unique learning opportunity for all ages. Let us come to you! A partnership between DMASWA and Loras College brings authentic learning experiences to meet the needs of your classroom or event through community outreach.

We are ready to tell you more about these and other ways we support environmental education.

Agency Education Coordinator, Bev Wagner, is available for classroom presentations and to meet with community groups on waste reduction and sustainability topics. There is no charge for this service. Email Bev Wagner (beverly.wagner@loras.edu) or call 563-557-8220, ext. 2 for more information.

DMASWA also has an on-site Compost Facility.

The facility is co-located at the DMASWA Landfill. The facility processes organic materials received into finished, screened, USCC Certified Compost (Compost is produced from materials such as yard debris, which may contain chemicals). <https://www.dmaswa.org/DocumentCenter/View/190/USCC-Certification?>

				<p>Cascade Compost Site 5th Ave SW & Pierce St Cascade, IA 52033</p>	<p>Epworth Compost Bunker 212 N Center Ave Epworth, IA 52045</p>
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❖ Self-Load, Small Quantity Availability

Residents looking for small quantities of compost (less than 1 Yard) can utilize self-load bunkers. There is no fee for residents self-loading small quantities from these bunkers which are located in Cascade, Epworth, and Dubuque.

❖ Large Quantity, Loaded Compost Availability

Landscaping companies and other customers looking for larger quantities of finished compost (more than 1 cubic yard) can schedule an appointment to have their compost loaded by Agency staff. Agency-loaded compost is available for \$30 per cubic yard (1-cubic yard minimum charge). Appointments can be scheduled using the calendar on the website <https://www.dmaswa.org/166/Compost>.

Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency Landfill - 101 Airborne Road Dubuque, IA 52003

Dubuque Municipal Services Center - Fuel Station Ken Miller 925 Kerper Court Dubuque, IA 52001.

8 TIPS FOR RAISING ECO CONSCIOUS KIDS Eco Living - Sustainable America.org By Nicole Sturzenberger

As parents, we teach our children small things each day, with the hope of preparing them for an eventual departure and life on their own. As climate change becomes an increasingly prevalent part of our lives, raising them to protect and care for the earth is imperative. To help in the journey, we have rounded up a few tips for raising children who respect the earth and feel a need to protect our environment.

Like many aspects of parenting, creating healthy habits involves repetition and explaining the reason behind why we do things. If we don't explain why composting keeps material out of landfills, they may never know.

We also have the power to build empathy within children by teaching them how our actions impact others and the earth. Plastic bottles that we throw away may wash up on a beach across the world where another child plays or a sea turtle migrates to lay eggs.

1. MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOR -- The easiest and probably most impactful way to show kids how to be environmentally conscious is to live by example. If they see you driving to a friend's house a block away or throwing edible food into the trash can, they may take this behavior as the norm. Modeling eco-conscious ways of living is the best way to impact current and future behaviors.

2. TAKE THEM OUTSIDE -- The best way to build a connection with the earth and a drive to protect it is to take kids outside and let them experience it first hand. This can be done by taking hikes, visiting the ocean, or simply weeding in the yard. For kids in urban environments, picnics in the park are a great way to experience nature. If there are ways for children to experience nature using their body, this can help build a stronger connection. Climbing trees, swimming in a lake, or biking through the park are all great ways to experience nature and movement.

3. TEACH THEM TO RESPECT NATURE -- When we spend time in nature, our presence often impacts the health of the plants and animals we come into contact with. If you spend time outdoors, take the time to teach your kids why staying on trails will protect sensitive ecosystems or why a closure due to nesting birds is important to respect. At home, try incorporating a practice of visiting natural webcams for an everyday way to feel connected and respectful of forces outside of our own. You can view animals or birds on Explore.org (<https://explore.org/livecams>). Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints.

Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints.

4. SHOW THEM HOW TO CARE FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS -- Taking care of pets and plants at home is a great way to teach children to care for a living thing while building a sense of responsibility. Caring for an animal also helps build empathy as a child witnesses the emotions of another being.

5. TEACH THEM ABOUT WHERE OUR WASTE GOES -- Most small children are fascinated with the garbage truck, but the destination of trash is usually a mystery. Take the time to explain to children where trash goes after it gets picked up and what this means for our planet. Use this as an opportunity to teach them about recycling and the power of composting. If kids are older, engage them in the process by having them empty the compost bin from the kitchen and periodically turn the compost pile if you have one at home.

Taking the occasional trip to the dump can also broaden a child's understanding of the scope of our waste problem.

6. **TEACH THEM TO REUSE AND REPURPOSE** -- When it comes time to throw something out, take it as an opportunity to inspire creativity. Is the item something that can be fixed or made into something else that you need? Can a hole be mended or wood from a broken chair be used as kindling for the fire? Outgrown rain boots are repurposed as planters.

7. **VOLUNTEER TOGETHER** -- Find organizations that you all care about and make a regular plan to get out and volunteer as a family. Experiences like this will likely stay in their memories for a lifetime and create a habit of volunteering when they are on their own.

8. **MAKE A FAMILY PLAN** -- Come together as a family to discuss ways you can live collectively with less impact on the earth. Let your kids contribute ideas that will reduce their carbon footprint, allowing them to buy into the idea. Maybe they will suggest biking to school or eliminating paper towels from the house.

As we race toward meeting global sustainability targets, knowledge is power. Giving our children the knowledge and actions to live more sustainable lives will empower them to treat the earth like a lifetime family member.

If you or your child are experiencing climate change related anxiety, check out this blog on Living with Eco Anxiety in a Changing Climate. <https://sustainableamerica.org/blog/living-with-eco-anxiety-in-a-changing-climate/>

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Jackson County Conservation Events



Clothing Swap - April 5th from 1-4pm at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Fast Fashion is the concept of producing clothing quickly to keep up with the latest trends, thus encouraging consumers to buy new clothing all the time. But this puts a huge strain on our planet's resources, contributes to pollution of our environment, and overwhelms landfills all over the world. So, to encourage the use of second hand fashion, we (Jackson County Conservation) will be hosting a clothing swap!

Woodland Wildflower Walk - APR 17, 2025 @ 9:30 AM. Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area, Jackson County

This OWLS (Older, wiser, livelier souls) event is FREE and open to all adults.

Palisades is the word used to describe a line of lofty, steep cliffs usually seen along a river, and Mississippi Palisades, 3 miles north of Savanna in Carroll County, handsomely lives up to its name.

Each spring and summer the valleys and slopes are dappled with the blooms of trillium, bluebell, lobelia, shooting star and yellow ladies' slipper. The U.S. Interior Department recognized the remarkable nature of this area in 1973 when it designated acreage here as a national landmark.

Join Naturalists from Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones County in exploring the trails and enjoying the spring ephemerals throughout the woodlands on Thursday, April 17.

OLWS events are geared for adults who are interested in learning more about the environment and exploring outdoor places. Be prepared for hiking up and down slopes. Dress for the weather. Bring water, a sack lunch, and hiking gear. We'll hike from 9:30 - Noon and then enjoy a picnic at the park before heading home.

Meet at 8:30 AM at the Hurstville Interpretive Center or meet at 7:30 AM at Central Park, Jones County.

Or meet at Mississippi Palisades State Park at the first picnic shelter when you enter the park at 9:30 AM.

Carpooling or caravanning to the park is available. Please register in advance. Questions or to register to attend, contact Jess Wagner with Jackson County Conservation at (563) 652-3783 or email jwagner@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Jackson/Park/Whitewater-Canyon-Wildlife-Area/Events/26591/Woodland-Wildflower-Walk-OWLS-event>

Business Members

Artistic Cleaners
109 Locust St.

Dennis Baumhover Ins.
2615 Dodge St.

Behrs 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

*Dubuque Arboretum &
Botanical Garden*
3800 Arboretum Drive

Dupaco Credit Union
P.O. Box 179

DuTrac Credit Union
3465 Asbury Rd.

*Environmental Management
Services - 5170 Wolff Rd #2*

*Sherry Horsfield
Farm Bureau Financial Svcs*
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 & Seed
2040 Kerper Blvd

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

Origin Design
137 Main St - Suite 100

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

Pregler Electric
216th Ave LaMotte IA

Premier Bank
2625 Northwest Arterial

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

White Front Feed & Seed
4290 Dodge St.

White Water Native Seeds
Epworth, IA

Board Members

President: Dan Simon
Vice-President: Mark Kaufmann 563.879.3452
Secretary: Nick Kaufmann
Treasurer: Connie Kintzle
Facebook: Nick Kaufmann
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Website: Nick Kaufmann

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Pat Hayes
Paul Kaufmann 563.583.5030
Tom Klinge
Matt McQuillen
Bev Rettenmeier
Dan Simon Sr.
Bob Walton

Reach any board member by email at dbqccs01@gmail.com

Dubuque County Conservation Society
PO Box 645
Dubuque, IA 52001



DCCS meetings are held September through May on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.
Next meetings: Tuesday, April 8, May 13, & September 8.
Check for location by emailing dbqccs01@gmail.com one week prior to meeting date.

Connect with the Iowa DNR - <https://www.iowadnr.gov/newsroom/social-media>

Dubuque County Conservation events and projects:

<https://secure.rec1.com/IA/dubuque-county-ia/catalog>

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

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

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

Dubuque County Conservation Society website: <https://www.dbqccs.org/>

Conservation Society Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dbqcntyconsoc>

DCCS online renewal link on website: <https://dubuque-county-conservation-society.square.site/>