

Iowa's Hunter Education Newsletter

The Volunteer

Dedicated to the Volunteers that Keep Hunting Safe in Iowa

Greetings! I hope everyone has been out enjoying the outdoors this summer. It has been a hot one and rainy one at times, but we have gotten lucky for the most part over the holiday weekends to squeeze in some nice days as well. As summer begins to wind down, preparation is underway for the fall hunting seasons and Hunter Education Classes. Please be sure if you haven't already posted your fall classes to do so as soon as possible. The more lead time we can give our students to plan for upcoming classes the better attendance will be. Be sure to notify your local RSO and/or CO at least 30 days in advance of holding your class so they can accommodate your needs for materials, training aids and the laws presentation. Fall is a busy time for all of the conservation officers so please keep this in mind when setting up your classes and be sure to involve them early on in the planning process.



We are currently busy working on auditing classes for FY18 (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018). You may be contacted by your local RSO, Rachel Ladd or myself if any issues are found with your class reporting so that they can be rectified prior to submitting our final report to the USFWS. We would like to thank everyone in advance for doing a great job getting everything completed properly and submitted in a timely fashion. It is much appreciated!

I recently just returned from spending two weeks in Alaska. What a beautiful state! If you haven't been to Alaska and are afforded the opportunity to visit, I would highly recommend it. It truly is an outdoor person's paradise! While there, my family had the opportunity to spend a few days down on the Kenai Peninsula in Seward. We took a fjord boat tour and seen several glaciers, puffins, eagles, sea lions, sea otters and 3 species of whales - humpback, orca and gray. While also in Seward we visited the Bear Creek Weir to watch the salmon run and also did a wheeled

dog sled ride through a rainforest. From Seward we traveled north and spent a couple of days in the Talkeetna area where we seen lots of wildlife, rode the local flag stop train and took in some beautiful scenery including a partial glimpse of Denali.

After almost a week of sightseeing and taking in all that we could, we settled down back in Anchorage for the Annual IHEA-USA Conference and Business Meeting. Over the next couple of newsletters you will receive multiple highlights and takeaways from our staff and volunteers that attended.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a couple of challenges and thoughts for consideration. Mentoring. It is desperately needed, if we want to continue to see hunting stay relevant in Iowa. If you haven't taken out a new person before I would highly recommend it. To me, it is just as rewarding if not more than hunting myself. To watch someone new experience all the sights and sounds of Iowa's outdoors is truly amazing. Partnering. We can't make the impacts we need to for conservation and hunting alone. It is going to take working together and pooling resources. If you are a member of a conservation group or organization, look at partnering with someone else in your community on your next event, conservation project, land acquisition, etc.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your respective RSO, Rachel or myself. We can't thank you enough for your continued dedication and support to the Iowa Hunter Education Program. The countless hours that you all volunteer not only to classes but to the various outdoor days, camps, workshops, and events around the state is greatly appreciated.

Stay safe and enjoy the outdoors! Don't forget to share the experience!

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2018 Iowa Shooting Sports Championship Series Recap

Rachel Ladd | Scholastic Action Shooting Program Coordinator

The 2018 Championship Series has come to an end, with another record year in participation from Iowa's youth shooters. Championship events were held for Collegiate Trap, International Skeet, International Trap, American Skeet, American Trap, Sporting Clays, and the Scholastic Pistol Program.

The 2018 SCTP season saw 134 teams registered in Iowa with over 3,922 athletes, a 3% increase over 2017.

The first event this year was the Collegiate Trap Championship, held on April 28 at the Stockdale Gun Club near Ackley. Approximately 77 collegiate athletes from 9 different schools competed in the 200 target event. Organized shooting sports continue to grow rapidly in Iowa's collegiate arena, with many of Iowa's Community Colleges including the shooting sports as a school organized sport, and in some cases providing scholarships.

The 2018 International Trap Championship was held May 19th at AVAD Hunt Club in Coon Rapids. Over 10 athletes competed from 6 different teams. The 2018 International Skeet Championship was held May 26th and 27th at New Pioneer Gun Club in Waukee, IA. 22 athletes competed from 7 different teams.

On June 6-10, youth from across the state converged on the Iowa State Trapshooting Association Home Grounds north of Cedar Falls for the SCTP Championship events. The SCTP Championship saw 2,500 athletes from 117 teams compete. Over 593 athletes from 51 teams competed in the American Doubles Trap Championship and over 525 athletes from 51 teams competed in the American Handicap Trap Championship. Combined, over 602,700 targets were shot over this five day period.

The Black Oak Shooting Clays in Pella, IA hosted the 2018 SCTP Sporting Clays Championship on June 16, with 218 athletes from 29 teams competing.

The 2018 Skeet Championships were held on June 22-24 at the New Pioneer Gun Club in Waukee. Over 204 athletes competed from 25 teams over the two days.



Iowa was once again well represented by our 29 Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation Scholarship Recipients.

The following athletes received \$1,000 scholarships:	The following athletes received \$500 scholarships:
Dayne Crouch, Storm Lake	Dain Stolba, Swisher
Nicole Breese, Solon	Bailey Beckman, Danville
Carter West, Charles City	Alexis Berte, Algona
Kyle Myers, Ankeny	Allison Pettinger, Oxford
Sloan Volkman, Kellogg	Brooke Wilson, Shell Rock
Will Hurd, Nemaha	Sydney Pierson, Cambridge
Michael Mohr, Long Grove	Dayton Harson, Little Rock
Carl Preston, Ankeny	Garett Tierney, Missouri Valley
Rebecca Crawford, Grinnel	Sarah Jordan, Pleasantville
	Stephanie Vipond, Sibley
	Trenton Kruse, Danville
	Christopher Mott, Coralville
	Ashton Lamborn, Nashua
	Lucas Schmitz, Westphalia
	Jenna Kinch, Cedar Rapids
	Bailey Schmitz, Westphalia
	Caleb Williams, Waterloo
	Zachary Henry, Deep River
	Cole Baskerville, Mason City
	August Helgeson, Toddville

The 2018 Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) season saw 5 teams registered in Iowa with over 114 athletes.

The fifth SASP Championship was held at the Dragoon Chapter (Elkhart) Izaak Walton League June 2-3. We had 111 athletes participate representing three states. Athletes competed in the rifle and pistol shooting competition, which is a combination of accuracy and speed shooting at steel targets.

Iowa was well represented in the 2018 Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) Scholarship Winners. Zachary Henry of Deep River, IA, who competes with the Montezuma Shooting Sports Club, received a scholarship from GLOCK.

For complete results of the 2017/2018 Iowa Scholastic Clay Target Program and Iowa Scholastic Action Shooting Program Seasons visit: <http://sssfonline.org>.

News from District One

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Howdy from NW Iowa! Where did the first half of 2018 go? Quick question is can anybody shut the water off? The month of April was relentless with snow and when it all melted all of our rivers and creeks were way out of their banks which I hoped would have pushed the ground nesting birds way high. Then the May rains hit and kept

everything high including the Iowa great lakes. Then comes the huge rains at the end of June which has led to record flooding on local lakes and rivers and it makes me wonder about the upcoming August roadside counts. At any rate, we need some dry weather and hopefully some pheasants survived.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the IHEA-USA Annual Conference and Business Meeting. Below are some highlights from the conference.

DAY 1:

The conference kicked off with the formal opening ceremonies consisting of the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & The National Anthem. The keynote speaker was Dallas Seavey who is a 4-time Iditarod Sled Dog Race Champion and his message was short and to the point. We here in Alaska do things differently and in order to succeed we have to fail. Dallas said his dogs are allowed to fail at challenges and that instills the drive not



to be scared to try something new and to work as a team. Dallas said the biggest challenge is how do you train a dog to love to do something more than they already do.

The rest of the morning was spent in small breakout groups and meeting with the Instructor Advisory Committee to discuss issues that states may be having pertaining to hunter ed. The problems are pretty much the same across the board. Some of the biggest issues were:

- Students not showing up for class
- Students not being able to read
- Some states cheating is a big issue using cell phones

The afternoon then consisted of a trip to and tour of William Jack Sport Fish Hatchery. Alaska's definition of sportfish is certainly different than ours, their sportfish consists of the 5 species of salmon (King, Coho, Sockeye, Chum, Pink), rainbow trout, dolly varden, and arctic grayling. It was interesting that northern pike are an invasive species and they have an eradication program in place for them. They also showed us how they spawn these species and it is very different from our process.

DAY 2:

This was our outdoor day where we went to the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park and had the opportunity to try different equipment in the morning and then we were treated to reindeer dogs for lunch.



The afternoon consisted of traveling down the peninsula to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center for a self-guided tour. The center was the focal point for the reintroduction to the wood bison to parts of the Alaskan wild. The wood bison is the largest land mammal and it tops the scale at up to 2600 lbs. It is the hopes that they will be able to have a huntable population in the future. The center also was home to most of the native big game animals such as

muskox, black bear, brown bear, moose, elk, caribou, wood bison as well as smaller native animals.

DAY 3:

This day consisted of addressing how to recruit, keep and motivate volunteers to your organization, R3, and seminars on some of Alaska's big game management strategies and studies.

Kevin Kehoe was tasked a few years ago to start the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation to help raise funds for sustaining the wild sheep herd. Kevin talked about motivating volunteers and what it takes to be successful. The following is the long of the short of it:

1. Make it fun
2. Good training provided
3. Flexibility – offer different levels of involvement
4. Communicate, Communicate, Communicate
5. Show appreciation

Kevin's second message was on recruiting new volunteers and this is the low down on recruiting:

1. Current volunteers are the best recruiters
2. Persistence in recruiting good prospects
3. Recruit all year long
4. Honesty about workload and expectations

There was an R3 round table discussion and a Take Me Outdoors program presentation to finish the morning. The afternoon consisted of seminars on Dall sheep management and hunting in Alaska along with a seminar by Richard Lynch on Strategies for Keeping Volunteers in the 21st Century.

DAY 4:

Day 4 consisted of an introduction to and welcome address by David Allen who is the new director of IHEA-USA. In addition, we had a seminar by Jamie Van Lanen on hunting for subsistence in Alaska. This was very interesting to listen to how Alaska manages their resources based upon one principal – SUSTAINABILITY – which is very different from management strategies in the lower 48 where they are based on recreation. Alaska actually can put a monetary value on its resources based upon the amount of game and fish harvested to survive.

David Windsor then gave a presentation on the history of hunter education in the United States which was very informative.

Richard Lynch then finished the morning session with a program on trends in volunteer engagement which was kind of troubling. He indicated that the amount of volunteers is down since the 1980's when it peaked, along with the duration of their commitment and their number of hours.

The afternoon consisted of the IHEA-USA Administrator Business meeting and then the conference concluded with conference banquet and auction.

I want to give a big shout out to all the Iowa instructors that attended the conference as Iowa had 19 people which was easily the best representation of any state.

Hope you have a great fall hunting season. Thanks much for all your hard work and let me know if there is something you need to improve your class and I will see what I can do. REMEMBER: "DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF and IT REALLY IS ALL SMALL STUFF"



News from District Two

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Without a spring season and with summer nearly passed I am looking forward to this fall and the adventures of a new hunting season. I wish all a safe and successful hunting season.

I know that my topic is not customary for this publication but I know that it is important for the

future of our natural resources and the wildlife that depend on it. Forest management is not something we think about often especially if you are someone who does not own any forestry land. Did you know that the Department of Natural Resources has Forestry staff that help Iowans with more than 3 million acres of trees and forest? These professional forestry staff assist private landowners, manage our state forest areas and operate the state forest nursery to ensure we have healthy forest areas for years to come. Forestry services include the State Forest Nursery, forest health, urban forestry, landowner assistance, fire management and prescribed fire, educational opportunities, Iowa's wood industry and logging and fall color reporting.

The Department's District Foresters are on hand to assist landowners with timber management. Your District Forester can help you improve your woodland for wildlife, recreation, water quality, wood products through tree planting, selective harvesting and dealing with invasive species. There are sample management plans posted on the DNR website: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Forestry-Landowner-Assistance>.

Other programs for woodland owners include the Forest Reserve Program. The Forest Reserve Law in Iowa has been established under Iowa Code 427C and provides that any person who establishes a forest or fruit tree reservation as provided in this chapter shall be entitled to the tax exemption provided by law. Iowa Code 427C establishes criteria for maintaining forest and fruit tree reservations. The following are criteria for the program:

Designation. The selection of a forest or fruit tree reservation is the prerogative of the taxpayer and shall not be denied unless the criteria set forth in Iowa Code chapter 441 and these rules have not been satisfied.

Area designated. The area designated as a forest or fruit tree reservation may be less than one legally described tract of land if the minimum acreage requirement of Iowa Code 161.2 is satisfied.

Size of reservation. A forest or fruit tree reservation must be at least 2 acres in size. The area occupied by buildings on the area of the forest or fruit tree reservation may not be included. As used in Iowa Code, the term "contiguous area" means an area of land which is not separated by public roads or streets. A "contiguous area" may include land contained in more than one legal description.

Fencing. It is not mandatory that a forest or fruit tree reservation be fenced. However, it is the taxpayer's responsibility to ensure that livestock are not permitted on the reservation.

Number of trees. To qualify initially as a forest reservation, a tract of land must contain at least two hundred growing trees on each acre. However, if trees are removed pursuant to Iowa Code, Section 161.4, a taxpayer has up to one year to replace the trees.

Economic gain. As used in Iowa Code, the term "gain from raising fruit or forest trees" means gain from the harvest from trees including but not limited to fruit, nuts, Christmas trees and greens, posts, poles, logs, fuelwood, pulpwood and tree sap.

Ownership. A designated area must remain so under the same ownership for a period of 10 years. If sold prior to the end of the 10 year period, taxes that would have been paid during the past 5 years of that period will be recaptured.

Protection. Areas so designated must be protected from fire and grazing.



Iowa's woodlands are vital habitat that help shelter and protect our states game and non-game species. Other species such as wildflowers, mushrooms, endangered plants/animals and insects benefit from proper forestry management. If you or someone you know would like professional help in managing your woodland please contact your local District Forester and schedule an appointment. Forestry Staff contacts are listed on our DNR website at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry>.

Other helpful resources on the Forestry website include:

- Resources for Woodland Owners
- Iowa's Woodlands Vital Habitat for Native Pollinators
- Forester's Handbook
- Iowa Hardwoods - The Perfect IRA
- Economics of Black Walnut Management
- Weed Control
- Crop Tree Management
- Top Ten Things Not To Do When Selling Timber
- Maximizing Forest Reserve Potential - Outreach in the Driftless Area
- Iowa Woodland Suitability Recommendations
- Forestry Practices Manual Technical Guide
- Planning For Wooded Acreages And Woodlands
- Woodland Wildlife Habitat Improvement Guide
- Forest Reserve Law (Iowa Code)
- Forest Reserve Fact Sheet
- 2011 DNR Forest Reserve Overview
- Forest Reserve Acres by County in Iowa
- Landowner Survey Results
- Forest Reserve Findings

State Forest Nursery - <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/State-Forest-Nursery>

The State Forest Nursery provides affordable, high-quality native plant material for use in timber production, wildlife habitat restoration, erosion control, and other conservation-related endeavors, to landowners in Iowa and other states. Located on 98 acres just south of Highway 30 in Ames, the nursery was established by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's and has operated continuously ever since. Currently, the nursery sells approximately 1 million seedlings per year, and 3-5 million seedlings are grown on-site at any given time.

Why Plant Trees?

Trees provide an incredible array of benefits, including: food and habitat for wildlife and pollinators; reduced soil erosion along streambanks and waterways; innumerable products, such as lumber, furniture, fruit, and Christmas trees, just to name a few; reduced heating and cooling costs for homes and other buildings; cleaner water through removal of chemicals such as nitrogen and phosphorous;

cooler temperatures, cleaner air, and reduced noise pollution in towns and cities, and; aesthetic and other benefits that have been shown to improve mood, increase focus and learning, and foster general health and well-being for people.

Why Plant Native Trees?

No matter where you live, it's always best to plant trees grown from locally-adapted seed. The further a tree is planted from its seed source, the greater its risk of suffering from disease or early mortality, even if the seed source and planting site both fall within the native range of the species. The habitat provided by native tree species is also far superior to that of non-native species, as wildlife and pollinators are adapted to trees that are native to where they live. Iowa has the enviable distinction of possessing the soil and climate ideal for producing some of the finest trees in the world, and the State Forest Nursery strives to grow and distribute the best stock possible. Whatever your tree-planting needs, the State Forest Nursery is here to help you achieve your goals!

Orders are taken August 1st – May 31st. Fall orders are processed beginning the last week in October and spring orders are typically processed starting April 1st, weather-permitting. Sizes range from 4-30", depending on species, and two size categories are available for most species.

How to Place an Order

Download the current Seedling Catalog and Seedling Order Form or request paper copies by calling the State Forest Nursery.

Mail or Fax:

Complete the order form and Mail it to:

Iowa State Forest Nursery
2404 S Duff Ave.

Ames, Iowa 50010

or Fax your order form to: 515-233-1131

Please do not send payment with your order; An invoice will be emailed or mailed to you.

To place an order over the phone, please call 1-800-865-2477 between 8 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Ordering Online:

<http://nursery.iowadnr.gov/>

Ordering online is easier than ever with the nursery's new online order system. Simply visit the website above to set up an account, and follow the instructions given. After you place your order, you will receive invoices and updates via email.

Fall Hunting Seasons Are Upon Us - Become a Digital Mentor Today!!!

Why digital mentoring?

- Allows folks to help without dedicating hours to in-person mentoring.
- Enables users to get real-time answers to questions that are holding them back.
- Provides incentives to those who help answer user's questions.
- Engages volunteers and staff members in the local "Chatter."
- Offer next steps to participants at all stages of the adoption sequence.
- Promotes programs and events.

The Iowa DNR has joined forces with other state agencies, Cabela's, NWTF, National Deer Alliance, MTB - Happy Fishing, Yamaha, etc. to bring mentoring to a whole new level. Mentoring today comes in many forms especially when it comes to mentoring our younger generations. Having a trustworthy resource at the touch of your finger tips can be crucial when it comes to someone taking that "next step" in participating in hunting, angling, recreational shooting, etc. Through the Powderhook Digital Mentoring App we are able to embrace technology and put it to good use by providing real-time answers and advice to our new and/or upcoming outdoor recreationists.

For more information visit: www.iowadnr.gov/learntohunt.

DNR DIGITAL MENTORING

How to Become a Digital Mentor & Answer Questions

1. Download Powderhook from the Google Play or App Store.
2. After loading the app, click allow location information access and turn on push notifications.
3. Log in or create an account with the email you want associated with your mentoring account.
4. The Chatter feed will load after creating an account. Click the menu icon in the top left corner.
5. Click the "Digital Mentoring" tab in the menu.
6. Follow the steps to becoming a Digital Mentor.
7. Time to start answering questions. Click the back arrows in the top left corners to get back to chatter.
8. Scroll the feed and look for posts marked with orange question banners.
9. Click the post and type your answer in the reply box at the bottom.
10. Once you submit your answer, you will see your post now bears the Digital mentoring Badge and the banner of your program.

Happy Mentoring!

Powderhook

www.powderhook.com

News from District Four RSO Terry Nims

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It doesn't seem long ago that I was trying to host an Instructor workshop in a blizzard. Now I'm moaning that it's too hot. I know most of you are thinking, Terry's complaining therefore he must be happy! Actually, I am very happy because you instructors and volunteers pulled off the latest addition of YHEC.

As most of you are aware, last year was the final year for the state organized YHEC. It didn't take long before a group of coaches and instructors out of Clinton County to resurrect YHEC. As soon as the 2017 YHEC was coming to an end, those coaches and instructors were looking at ways to keep the tradition going and have a 26th YHEC event.

After a year of planning and preparation the event was held on June 9th. The event was held at the Rock Creek Marina and Campground, along with the shooting events being held at a private range nearby. George Fatchett is the owner of the shooting range and was gracious enough to allow us to do what we needed to make the event a success. Thanks George!!!! For those of you unfamiliar, we were located just south of Camanche on the Mississippi River.

As usual, the pre-event preparation started slow on Friday due to a morning thunderstorm. The weather cleared nicely and all of the events were ready to go by late afternoon. Saturday morning started off in typical YHEC fashion, another round of thunderstorms rolled through holding back the start of the events until 9:30. Once the rain moved through the participants started putting their skills to work. It turned out to be a pleasant June day and had no hiccups at any of the events. It was approximately 4:30pm when the volunteers started picking up their areas and headed back for supper at the Rock Creek Campground. By 6:30pm the awards had been presented and most of the participants and volunteers were on their way home.

Now for some numbers from the day of the event! I believe this is a good start, the event brought in 50

participants, which is an increase from previous years and it also had 17 youngsters ages 10 and 11 that observed because they were too young to participate. There's a good chance those observers that will be 12 next year will be participants. There were 12 coaches for the 10 teams, 42 event volunteers, 7 conservation officers, and 1 Clinton County Conservation employee. Lunch and supper were donated and used another 18 volunteers between the two groups. Don't worry, I sampled the meals several times and every plate I had was delicious. I got hungry because it's exhausting watching everyone else work.

I'm sure everyone will agree this event wouldn't have happened without the dedication and work that Loren and Ellen Zaruba put into it. I figured Loren was getting tired when he mentioned he'd like to go to bed and think about fishing rather than the next day's YHEC preparations. Great work you two and it sounds like you're hired for next year.

I know I'm going to forget some people or organizations but trust me if I didn't mention your name you are very much appreciated. A special thanks to the Clinton County Conservation Board, the Iowa Hunter Education Instructors Association, and the group of instructors and volunteers from Clinton county that made this happen! Also, thanks to those that helped out at the event or sponsored it, our Hunter education instructors that traveled many miles to help, Grand Mound Sportsmen for Saturday's lunch, Big Boar BBQ for Saturday's Supper, Hy-Vee, and those that supplied snacks and drinks. Like I mentioned earlier I'm sure I forgot a lot of people, it's not intentional, thank you for the help!

As far as I'm concerned, YHEC 2018 was a great success and let's make it bigger and better next year!

Help Needed - Iowa Outdoor Expo

As we prepare for the 10th Annual Iowa Outdoor Expo Event we are in need of volunteers with various interests to assist at the many stations running over the course of the weekend.

If you have an interest in volunteering or know of someone or a business that supports their employees volunteering please visit or share the link below to sign up!

Let's make the 2018 Expo the greatest one yet!

[www.SignUpGenius.com/
go/4090444A9AA2BA0F49-20181](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090444A9AA2BA0F49-20181)



YOU'RE INVITED!

Iowa's Biggest Outdoor Event

Free event for families and people of all ages

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Experienced Conservation Professionals and volunteers will safely share outdoor recreation opportunities. Shoot a bow, paddle a kayak, cast a fishing line, practice bow fishing, see wild animals, safely handle a gun, and much more!

SEPTEMBER 22ND : 9AM-6PM
SEPTEMBER 23RD : 10AM-4PM

WATER WORKS PARK
DES MOINES, IA

Learn more at: www.iowadnr.gov/expo



Iowa Outdoor EXPO
For Kids and Families

News from District Five

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With the summer winding down, county fairs and the State Fair are over and all the kids are headed back to school. It's at this point that I usually start preparing for all the fall hunting seasons, which in reality means I'm working on getting my girls prepared. With all their extracurricular activities, it can be a

challenge to fit in practice sessions for hunting, but luckily they understand the importance of preparedness.

I was able to get both my girls out to the Black Hills this spring to chase Merriams turkeys, and we spent quite some time getting ready for that. Hunting out there isn't quite the same as it is here, with the open rocky terrain and the ability to use high power rifles as well as shotguns, so practice became critical. The payoff was realized when they were both able to harvest nice birds.

They both ask every year what types of hunts we're able to do out of state, so last year we started planning an antelope hunt in Wyoming by getting preference points. In a few years we should be able to get tags in one of the better areas. Now they're talking about going after caribou somewhere. These two are going to run me broke, but it sure will be fun.

The one thing they hadn't thought about was going out of the country to hunt.... until this year. The day after they got out of school we went on a trip to Ireland. We didn't really know what to expect, as it was our first time over there, but we were able to travel most of the west coast, and it was absolutely beautiful. Mountains and awesome habitat everywhere we went sure made them start wondering what the hunting situation was there, and so it began.

We spent just shy of two weeks staying at bed and breakfasts, so I had ample opportunity to talk to the local folks about hunting in Ireland. We also went to two of their National Parks, Killarney National Park and Connemara National Park, and were able to talk to a few of their people as well. What I really came up with was that the topic was about as contentious there as it is here in the states.



When I thought of hunting in the European areas I first thought of fox hunting. We've all seen pictures of the fancy hunters up on fancy horses with a pack of 20 to 30 dogs, where the dogs actually find, catch and kill the fox. They rarely ever fire a shot, and often didn't even have a gun. After some talking I found that type of fox hunting was actually banned by the Hunting Act 2004, which banned the hunting of wild mammals with dogs. The topic is still being discussed as part of the national heritage, but sounds like it's unlikely to change.



When asked if there were other types of hunting to be done in Ireland, we found there was actually quite a good array of hunting taking place there. They have four different types of deer to hunt, and just about every type of waterfowl and several types of upland game birds.

While driving around we were able to see pheasants, a red-legged partridge, which is pretty much what we call a chucker, and a curlew, which is a water bird by some of the beaches. You're also able to hunt snipe, woodcock, plover and pigeon. Each of these species are regulated by hunting seasons, but I couldn't find anything that limited how many could be harvested.

When it came to hunting deer, it was a whole different story. As usual, they're much more highly regulated. The process to go deer hunting, especially as a "non-resident", takes a fairly decent amount of effort, and a lot of pre-planning.

There's a wide array of habitat and terrain, but a lot of the inland, especially on the west side, is quite mountainous with lots of large tracts of forests. One of the neatest things we saw was how a lot of the countryside had very defined tracts of land that reminded me a lot of patchwork quilts. Fences over there consisted of stacked limestone rock, most of which were several hundred years old, and were completely encased in vegetation, which is fairly unique to that area.

The most surprising thing was that there was no fee to hunt deer. The challenge is either finding places to hunt, or getting hooked up with an outfitter. In order to even apply, you have to have ground that you're planning to hunt, whether it's your own or other private property. If you plan on hunting someone else's land, you have to have prior written permission from three different landowners with minimums of 100 acres prior to applying to deer hunt. If you're hunting your own land the 100 acre minimum doesn't apply.

If the plan is to hunt with an outfitter, there's plenty to choose from. Prices depend on what exactly you want to hunt, whether it's Red deer, Sika deer, Fallow deer or a hybrid Red/Sika deer. Just like here it's different between shooting stags versus a hind, which is the female, and juveniles. The most expensive hunt was for the Red deer stag, and most I found were in the \$6000 range, while you could find a Sika stag hunt in the \$1500 range. Most of the hind/juvenile hunts were unlimited harvest for around \$1500.

Seeing that the country of Ireland is an island that's roughly the size of Iowa, there's just a pile of waterfowl moving through it. Mostly what we saw there in June were mallards, but if you hit it right they show pretty much all the inland as well as ocean ducks in the area during the seasons, which run from September 1st through January 31st. You can also goose hunt between September 1st and October 15th.

When it comes to hunting in Ireland, it appears that simply possessing a firearm is the first hurdle to tackle. Unlike in the states, it's quite a process simply to possess a gun there. From what I gather, it's not as easy to simply hand guns down from generation to generation, and the whole process is regulated through their Garda, which is their law enforcement agency.

There is a 9 page application that must be submitted and approved before anyone has the ability to possess a firearm, and it's quite thorough. It begins with standard personal information, and then moves right into medical history and character references. From there it asks for detailed information about the firearm, such as physical info, where the gun came from, what it will be used for, and even if it's intended to replace another gun. They even require information as to how the gun will be stored, where you took the required firearms training, and what shooting ranges and clubs you'll be associated with. They take the tracking of firearms in Ireland very seriously to say the least.

The certification process must be renewed every three years, and if someone fails to get that done, they'll be considered to be in illegal possession of a firearm, and may be charged and have their guns seized. This is the link to the firearms certificate form that must be filled out and approved prior to possessing a firearm in Ireland - <https://www.garda.ie/en/About-Us/Online-Services/Firearms-Licensing/FCA1-Firearm-Certificate-Application-Version-April-2015.pdf>.

Once you've been approved to have the firearm, you then have the ability to apply for the permit to go hunting. All the permits are issued through their National Parks and Wildlife Services. They do have Conservation Officers associated with them, but I was unable to meet up with them to see how things were done in Ireland.

Their hunting application is fairly simple. It asks for basic personal information, where you plan to hunt, and details about the gun you plan to use. They even keep track of harvest information from previous hunts. Again, there is no fee to deer hunt, you simply have to obtain the permit and head out. This is the link to the hunting license section of their National Parks and Wildlife Services website - <https://www.npws.ie/licences/hunting>. If you get the chance, take a look at what they have to offer.

It was a lot of fun touring around Ireland, and we all certainly learned a lot about history. I'm guessing at some point both my girls and I will make the trip back over in the fall to do some type of hunting. After being over there for a couple weeks, I'm convinced a hunting adventure in Ireland would be a once in a lifetime experience, and I can't wait.

I sure hope you had a great summer, and you're all geared up for fall. It'll be here before you know it, and if you're like me it'll sneak right up on you. As always, take the time to get someone new out in the field. The little things you do can make a big difference to the people you take out. Have a safe fall season, and let me know if you need anything.

News from District Six

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As I sit down to write this article, it is the weekend before the 4th of July and I have spent the last 3 weekends at the various shooting sport state championships and can't believe the state fair is just a few weeks away. I hear the fishing has been good this spring and early summer, but haven't had much of a chance to go myself.

I had to think long and hard about what to write about this time and finally decided to tell you about my latest project that I was able to restart after about a 5 yr. layoff. That was to learn how to brain tan a deer hide. About 5 yrs. ago I started this project to see if I could do it. I had saved a hide from a buck deer I had harvested during the late muzzleloader season with plans to do this. I then went into researching on how to do it. I read a couple of books and thought this seems easy enough, needless to say it was quite a lot of work to undertake during the hot summer months. In short, the process involved first scraping all the fat and flesh off of the inside of the hide. Then I had to soak the hide in a lye solution for about a week so all the hair will "slip" off. I then had to scrap all the hair and "grain" layer off of the outer hide. It was at this point I was amazed at how hard this was to do with a modern fleshing knife and a fleshing beam. I could not even fathom how much work this would be with a buffalo hide and stone scraper tools that the Native American's would have had to



Photo Credit: Outdoor Life

use. From there I had to neutralize the hide by rinsing the lye out of the hide with a lot of fresh water. Once I got that done I was at a point that I could stop and dry the hide or continue on with the tanning process. It was at this point that I chose to put this project on hold, and let the hide dry into rawhide.

And there it sat stored in the rafters of my shed for 5 yrs. It wasn't until this last late muzzleloader season when I harvested a couple of mature does that I thought that I might once more give this a try. So I put the hides in the freezer and planed on trying to do this before the weather got hot. In the mean time I had heard of a method of fleshing the hide with a power washer verses the traditional scrapping method. So I went to the place where all knowledge on everything is kept, YouTube, and sure enough there were several video on this process. Also there were a lot of videos on how to brain tan deer hides. These videos were very helpful to me because, as with most of our hunter ed. students, I am a visual learner and I was able to better understand the process as presented in the videos then what was written in the books I had read. So I used a power washer to flesh both hides in about 10 minutes which saved me about 4 hours bent over a fleshing beam. From there I soaked, de-haired, and grained the hides and was ready to brain tan the hides. My wife looked on at first with utter discuss as I blended the brain with very warm water and began to work the mixture in to the hides. After soaking and wringing out the brain mixture twice it was time to work the hide by stretching and pull it in all directions until it was completely dry. As I did this it was amazing to see this wet hide transformed in to the snow white, soft leather in the matter of a couple of hours. As I sat there on a bucket stretching and pulling on this hide couldn't help but wonder how on earth did these Native Americans ever figure out how to do this without YouTube.

Hope you all have a great rest of your summer and a better fall. Never quit learning something new even if it's an old way of doing something. Thanks for all you do for the Hunter Education Program.

Explore Bowfishing Workshop

Donise Peteresen, Archery Coordinator

In May, the Iowa DNR and Mahaska County Conservation hosted an Explore Bowfishing workshop to train 10 naturalists from across the state to teach the program to others. Explore Bowfishing is designed for both youth and adults to learn the basics of bowfishing. Participants who go through the program will learn about bowfishing gear, fish species they can and can not bowfish, what to do with the fish, as well as getting to shoot a bowfishing bow.

The Iowa DNR has once again partnered with the Archery Trade Association to bring another archery program to our state. You may recall a few years ago we partnered ATA to bring the Explore Bowhunting program to Iowa. The Explore Bowfishing program was modeled after the ATA's Explore Bowhunting program which teaches youth and adults basics of bowhunting.

Bowfishing is different than bowhunting while both are fun and enjoyable in the outdoors. Bowfishing brings a social and interactive activity that many youth and adults are seeking when they go outside. Bowfishing can also be done at night or during the day.

If you are interested in becoming an Explore Bowfishing Instructor or an Explore Bowhunting Instructor and teaching classes please contact Donise.Petersen@dnr.iowa.gov. Instructor workshops are limited and are scheduled once we have individuals interested in teaching. General public Explore Bowfishing/Explore Bowhunting classes will be posted online using the event manger system just like hunter education classes.



NRA YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

YHEC

2018 Youth Hunter Education Challenge Results

June 9, 2018 | Loren Zaruba, YHEC Coordinator

Thank you to each and everyone of you who volunteered for this year's YHEC. It was a pretty special year to not only see everyone again, to welcome the new youth and volunteers but it was also held in a brand new location - Rock Creek Marina in Clinton County!

Overall we had 50 youth compete in the 8 different challenges and over 42 volunteers not including DNR staff, Clinton County Conservation Board staff and volunteers cooking on site.

Individual Awards (By Division & Discipline)

Muzzleloader

250- Sawyer Schmidt, Wendling Quarries, JR

300- Ty Schmidt Grand Mound Sportsmen, SR

Shotgun

180- Allen Brenner, 4H Camp 2, JR

210- Wyatt Schmidt, Wendling Quarries, SR

Rifle

290- Vaughn Dickau, Clinton County Pheasants Forever, JR

300- Lane Krukow, Grand Mound Sportsmen, SR

Archery

285- Aaron Dunkel, 4H Camp 2, JR

275- Remington Overstake, Grand Mound Sportsmen, SR

Safety Trail

260- Joey Portz, Clinton County Pheasants Forever, JR

270- Remington Overstake, Grand Mound Sportsmen, SR

Wildlife ID

210- Sawyer Schmidt, Remington Seeds, JR

280- Landra Reece, Clinton County Pheasants Forever, SR (Boone)

Orienteering

239- Ty Gravert, QCCA, JR

235- Brandon Lochner, North Linn Fish and Game, SR



Exam

246- Kate Nebergall, 4H Camp 1, JR

252- Grant Goering, Wendling Quarries, SR

Rookie Award Recipients (High Point Overall for First Time Participants)

1388- Ethan Middendorp, QCCA, JR

1600- Grant Goering, Wendling Quarries, SR

High Overall Awards (JR and SR)

Junior High Overall

1395- Sawyer Schmidt, Remington Seeds, JR

1388- Ethan Middendorp, QCCA, JR

1294- Allen Brenner, 4H Camp 2, JR

Senior High Overall

1875- Wyatt Schmidt, Wendling Quarries, SR

1736- Remington Overstake, Grand Mound Sportsmen, SR

1678- Ty Schmidt, Grand Mound Sportsmen, SR

Team Results (JR and SR)

Junior Teams

5713- Remington Seeds

5575- Clinton County Pheasants Forever

5317- QCCA

Senior Teams

7582- Grand Mound Sportsmen

7493- North Linn Fish and Game

7359- Wendling Quarries



Feature Recipes: The Camp Dutch Oven Cookbook



CRISPY BEER-BATTERED FRIED FISH

- Cooking oil for frying (4 C.)
- 1 (12 ounce) can beer (Lager-Style)
- 2 C. All-Purpose Flour, Divided
- 1/2 Tsp. Kosher Salt, Plus additional for seasoning
- 2 Pounds Cod Filelets, cut diagonally into 1 - inch wide by 5- or 6-inch long strips
- Malt vinegar, for serving

Fill the Dutch oven about 1/2 full with oil and place it over a bed of 14 hot coals. Heat until the oil is very hot.

To make the batter, whisk together the beer and 1 1/2 cups of the flour in a large bowl until well combined. Stir in the 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Place the remaining 1/2 cup of flour in a wide, flat bowl.

Pat the fish dry with paper towels and season on both sides with salt and pepper. Dunk each piece of fish in the batter, dredge it in the flour, and lower it gently into the Dutch oven. Cook several pieces of fish at a time, but be careful not to crowd the pot. Turn the fish pieces frequently as they cook, until they turn a deep golden brown, about 5 minutes. Transfer the cooked fish to a paper towel-lined plate and season with salt. Serve immediately with malt vinegar for sprinkling over the top.



GOOEY CARAMEL BAKED APPLES

- 4 Large, Crisp Apples
- 4 Caramels
- 3 T. Unsalted Butter, Melted
- 1/4 C (Packed) Brown Sugar
- 1 1/2 T. All-Purpose Flour
- 1 1/2 Tsp. Cinnamon

Cut the apples in half and scoop out the core from each half using a small metal spoon. Cut 2 concentric circles into the apple halves around the scooped-out centers. Turn the apples over and make several slits without cutting through the center of the apple.

Arrange the apple halves in the Dutch oven, cut side up. Place a caramel into the center of each apple half.

In a small bowl, stir together the butter, brown sugar, flour, and cinnamon. Spoon this mixture over the apple halves in the Dutch oven, dividing evenly. Place the lid on the Dutch oven.

Place the Dutch oven over a bed of 6 hot coals and place 20 hot coals on the lid. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes, until the apples are tender. Serve warm.

For more easy 5-Ingredient Recipes to eat well in the great outdoors check out:

The Camp Dutch Oven Cookbook
By Robin Donovan