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CAMPING — The Vacation That Pleases the Whole Family

After the pressures of a long, hard winter, you're really ready for those summer vacation days that are just around the corner.

You want rest, relaxation . . . you want to "get away from it all." The kids want to swim; you want to fish a little, and it would be so nice to see the countryside and maybe even visit some historical sites.

But Christmas, income taxes, and family necessities ate up the little you had tucked away for the vacation. You dread the long drives, and besides, why use so much time getting where you're going

and then be too tired to really enjoy yourself?

What's the answer? Well, right here in Iowa there are over 32,000 acres of state recreation areas—parks, preserves, and forests—that will solve all these problems and fill the requests of the entire family.

Last year 10,343,000 people visited Iowa's state parks and preserves and in the 45 areas where facilities are provided, approximately 435,000 individuals camped overnight.

These people are among the millions throughout the country who have found

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Both tent and trailer camping facilities are available in Iowa's parks as this scene from Springbrook State Park demonstrates.

Iowa Conservationist

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COMMISSION MINUTES

**State Conservation Commission Meeting
 Held in Des Moines, Iowa
 March 4, 1969**

The following acquisition project was approved for submission to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation: Urbandale Park Board—Neighborhood Park—3.48 acres.

The following project was accepted for submission to the BOR for qualification only to be activated when sufficient funds are available: Worth County Conservation Board—Dixon Woods—Approximately 100 acres acquisition.

Exercised five land purchase options in the Volga River Project, Fayette County, totaling 484 acres.

The following County Conservation Board land acquisition projects were approved: Buchanan County Conservation Board—Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area—60 acres—Otter Creek Wildlife Area Addition—17.40 acres. Polk County Conservation Board—Saylor Recreation Center Addition—2.232 acres. Mitchell County Conservation Board—Stacyville Park Addition—6.08 acres. Monroe County Conservation Board—Carmack Park—44 acres. Worth County Conservation Board—Dixon Timber Area—160 acres.

The Monona County Conservation Board Development Plan for the Oldham Recreation Area was approved.

The Commission advised the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers of its desire to apply for a license on 3 areas totaling 403 acres in the Red Rock Reservoir Complex. The Corps has agreed to develop a 970-acre area, including roads and other facilities. This area will be made available to the State as an amendment to the license now being applied for.

The Commission supported the following amendment as an item as legislation in the 63rd general assembly with the

(Continued on page 39)

Our Readers Write . . .

Dear Sir:

I read your paper with interest. Please tell me how you get a nice picture like the one of three men trying to get one shovel of dirt out of the ground—eight months ahead of the year? (March, 1969 IOWA CONSERVATIONIST, page 20.)

Sincerely,
 David Hunter
 Center Point, Iowa

Editor's Note: By employing a pick-axe beforehand, the ground-breaking was relatively easy.

Dear Sir:

There are two different worlds when we start to discuss the way we would like the world to be and the way it is, actually. Let us first consider our environment, recognizing there is a vital difference between wishing and reality.

The world that people want to live in is the issue. It is not a case of survival of the fittest but to have a place in which to survive. Man's lack of respect for the balance of nature can prove costly. Man, himself, is endangered by ill-considered tampering with his environment which is being placed under stress to the point of collapse. This planet is nearing a crisis which may destroy its suitability as a place for human society. This is the important consideration because our present surroundings are becoming increasingly inhospitable to wildlife.

Every new highway, airport, or suburban development diminishes the amount of open land supporting birds and animals. Pollution of waterways has taken a heavy toll of fish and other marine life. The extensive use of pesticides on cropland and trees has brought death to millions of birds as well as helpful insects.

Air travel of the future will likely create problems of survival for some forms of wildlife and human beings. Airports will need to be built in areas unsuitable for plant life and well away from residential areas.

Floridians have already discovered that by draining portions of swampland they are bringing about unfavorable changes in nature's system of balance among wildlife.

There are many other instances where the balance of nature is being wrecked by man. The tragedy is that man often does not realize that what he is doing is destructive. He brushes aside protests of the conservationists as impractical, therefore failing to recognize his place of responsibility in nature's scheme in preserving life on this planet. Let us conserve our natural resources while there is still some hope for survival.

Sincerely,
 T. V. Van Laningham
 Hazelton, Iowa

Editor's Note: The preceding letter appeared in a Buchanan County local newspaper and was forwarded to us by the author, an executive officer of the Buchanan County Conservation Board.

Dear Sir:

We are campers and have camped in many Iowa parks for seven years. We were very disturbed with an article in the newspaper, April 2, regarding private owners taking over the State Park campgrounds to be run at a profit.

We are taxpayers and understand our tax money helps maintain our parks. Also we pay camp fees now, while picknickers do not.

Private owners are not concerned with the welfare of Iowa's parks, but the welfare of their own pocketbooks, instead! They insulted the campers and the park officers. Campers do not leave any more of a mess in the parks than picnickers and don't do as much damage as these people who drag race and run their motorcycles over the grass.

I wonder how many park officers really don't like caring for the campgrounds? These forty-one private owners can't stand the competition as many have little to attract campers.

Also people traveling in our state will no doubt make it a point **not** to stop here if they have to pay \$3.00 nightly for just a place to stop!

We've traveled nearly every state and can't recall anyone charging this.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Roth
 Des Moines, Iowa

EDITORIAL

"Oh come now, how can you get so excited about conservation? After all, people and progress must come first."

This refrain is being played with increasing frequency today. Its dominant theme appears to be: "Let's not become a fanatic about conservation." The conservationists of the nation are pictured as red-eyed militants who are holding up the wheels of progress.

Well, it's true that conservationists are "excited" about conservation. And it's a good thing they are!

Conservation involves the wise use of our natural resources. And, if we don't make wise use of these resources—the land, water, and wildlife—we could lose everything. We have already lost many battles and it's all we can do to keep from losing the war.

The sickening smell of dead fish that could not survive in a polluted river is a battle lost. The game bird that dies after getting a taste of pesticide is a skirmish lost. The pothole dried up, the fence row destroyed, the stream ruined by a bulldozer . . . all battles lost.

It's about time someone got excited. Perhaps we are our own worst enemies. Alexis De Tocqueville, an observant Frenchman, put it this way back in 1931 ". . . Such is the position of the New World that man has no other enemy but himself."

Add to this the caustic comment of General Omar Bradley: "Year after year our scenic treasures are being plundered by what we call an advancing civilization. If we are not careful we shall leave our children a legacy of billion-dollar roads leading nowhere except to other congested places like those left behind. We are building ourselves an asphalt treadmill and allowing the green areas of our nation to disappear."

At times it looks like a last ditch stand against the exploiters, the wheeler-dealers, and the apathetic. However, some battles are being won. We have lakes where people can go boating, water skiing, and fishing. We can hunt deer and a variety of small game.

Parks are open to the picnicker, camper, hiker, and bird watcher. People are becoming aware of the pollution danger and loss of important wildlife habitat.

These things are the results of enlightened management, the work of the trained professional and the dedicated and competent amateurs who have a real understanding of the problem. These people have the courage to fight for conservation.

The conservation of the human race just might be determined by the conservation of its habitat and natural resources. If we are to survive, our nation must be made aware of the importance of conservation. *de*

Combine Exercise With Public Service

A few years ago the 50-mile hike was making big headlines all over the country. And for many it resulted in blisters, sore muscles, and a not altogether useful expenditure of energy. As a matter of fact some 50-mile hikers swore off exercise for life.

No one is against physical exercise, really, but a one-shot deal like a 50-mile hike doesn't accomplish much compared to other activities. Perhaps it would have been much better if something constructive could have been done with all that energy.

What? Well, for instance, suppose each hiker, instead of wearing himself and his sneakers out, had confined his efforts to cleaning up a mile or so of trash and litter. There is no lack of working material here.

"America the Beautiful" is fast becoming "America the Ugly" as a result of the slovenly nature of that All-American Strewball—the Litterbug.

Unfortunately, a clean up project doesn't get as much publicity as a 50-mile hike or dribbling a basketball between East Overshoe, Nebraska and Hogwallow, South Dakota.

Some people actually think of public service first—rather than publicity or personal gain. Take the Iowa City Family Campers Club for instance. Recently the members of this group cleaned up and hauled away trash from about a half-mile of shore line at Lake Macbride State Park. Here is a group who provided a valuable service and helped keep a park attractive. Their energy was channeled in a really worthwhile direction.



Many campers have already taken advantage of the warm, sunny weather for weekend jaunts to Iowa's parks. Every Friday more and more families pack up the kids and supplies and head for the great outdoors.

The cooks for the clan know that when lunch or dinner time rolls around, their tribe will be **hungry** and ready for quick but tasty meals.

These are two suggestions that will whet any appetite and please any "critic's" tastebuds.

GOM

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium onion (minced)
- 1 small can tomato paste (can substitute Ketchup)
- ½ cup American Cheese
- ¼ tsp. salt

Brown ground beef and onion. Add tomato paste and seasoning. Just before serving add cheese and simmer until cheese is melted. Serve on toasted buns. Serves four.

BAGS OF GOLD

- 1 lb. of American Cheese (cut into ½-in. cubes)
- 4 cans tomato soup
- 4 cups flour
- 2 tblsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 5 tblsp. shortening
- Water or milk for desired consistency.

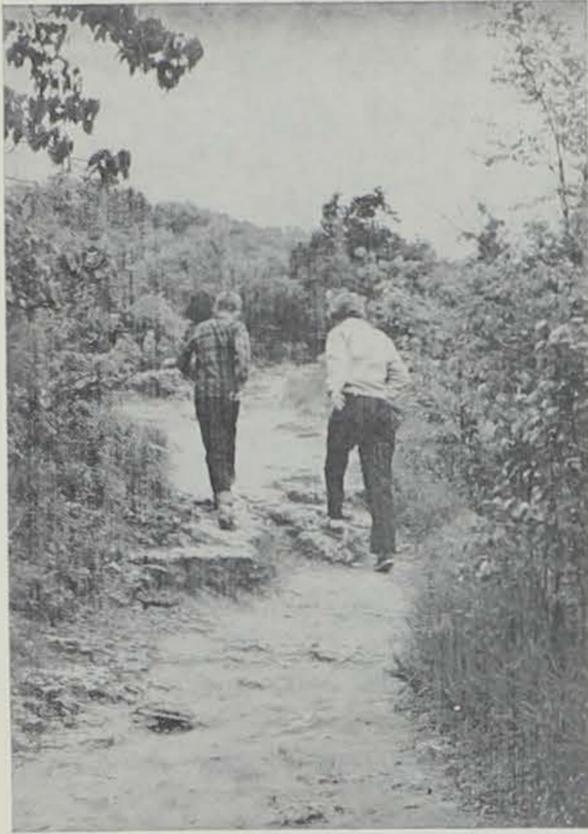
Make up dough as you would for biscuits (use biscuit mix if desired). Roll dough into round balls around a cube of cheese in the center. Heat tomato soup (dilute with ½ can water instead of whole can). Drop balls into hot tomato soup and heat slowly until dough is cooked through (about 15 or 20 minutes). Keep lid tightly on pan and do not remove. Serve dumplings with soup as sauce. Add more water to soup before cooking next batch of dumplings. Serves 12.

DID YOU KNOW?

The wild goose has about 12,000 muscles, 10,000 of which control the action of its feathers.

Fish with forked tails are the fastest swimmers.

A bird's two eyes often weigh more than its brain. The ostrich's eyes often weigh more than twice the weight of its brain.



Many recreation areas offer the opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauty of the outdoors by prepared hiking trails such as this one at Backbone State Park.

Variety Is the Key To Camping's Success

(Continued from page 33)

camping to be the most rewarding way to spend their vacation time.

And just what do these 10 million people list as their "rewards"? Economy is probably first on the list. For families on limited budgets, camping is the answer. To prove it, just add the motel or hotel bills, meal costs, transportation expenses, and recreation fees for your family for one week.

Then, compare that figure with the sum of campground fees (rarely over one-fourth the cost of commercial lodging fees), meal expenses prepared at "home rates" rather than restaurant costs, limited transportation fees, and fewer, if any, "extra" costs for recreation.

If that alone doesn't "sell" camping, think of all the other rewards. The variety of recreation possibilities in one area will meet nearly any request. Swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, nature study, historical sites, bird watching, picnicking,

to name only a few, should attract the members of your family.

The educational and health aspects of being in the outdoors is certainly a consideration, and according to many experienced campers, one of the greatest rewards of this popular "hobby." Also the variety of activities possible is enhanced by the fact that camping can be for the whole family.

And, as long as we're mentioning "variety", we can't avoid discussing the variety in the form that camping takes. Ten camping is still very popular. Increasing numbers of people are buying camper trailers or commercial units made especially for individual needs and wants. Of course, many areas have cabins which can be rented at very nominal costs, if the individual wants to avoid the investment of camping equipment, and still benefit from a camping experience.

What, you might ask, does Iowa have to offer for the camper? As previously mentioned, 45 areas have camping facilities ranging from primitive areas, suitable for tents only, to modern cabin areas and electrical facilities for camper trailers.

Of these 45 areas, 26 have water recreation and water sport possibilities. Nineteen are areas of special historical interest, and most are within a very few miles of regions of natural and historical significance. Hiking trails, picnic areas, photographic and scenic interest spots, and nature study regions in all of these areas are too numerous to even touch upon.

The State Conservation Commission certainly does not ignore the camper in its activities and plans for providing excellent recreation areas. In fifty of the 99 state-owned recreation areas in Iowa major construction and maintenance projects were completed in 1968.

These included the construction of showers and toilets, buildings, cabins, lodges, campground areas, roads, boat ramps, hiking trails, and parking lots.

Maintenance of many existing facilities, and repair of storm and vandal damage accounted for many dollars of the Commission's budget, and many hours of work for park personnel. And, all this time and money spent on the parks will directly benefit every camper.

Land is always being acquired for new recreation areas so that Iowa may accom-



Hundreds of people "cool off" during the hot summer months by taking advantage of Iowa's beaches.



Facilities for all types of outdoor recreation fun are just waiting to be used this summer, whether your preference is a relaxing picnic, or active participation in fishing or other water sports.

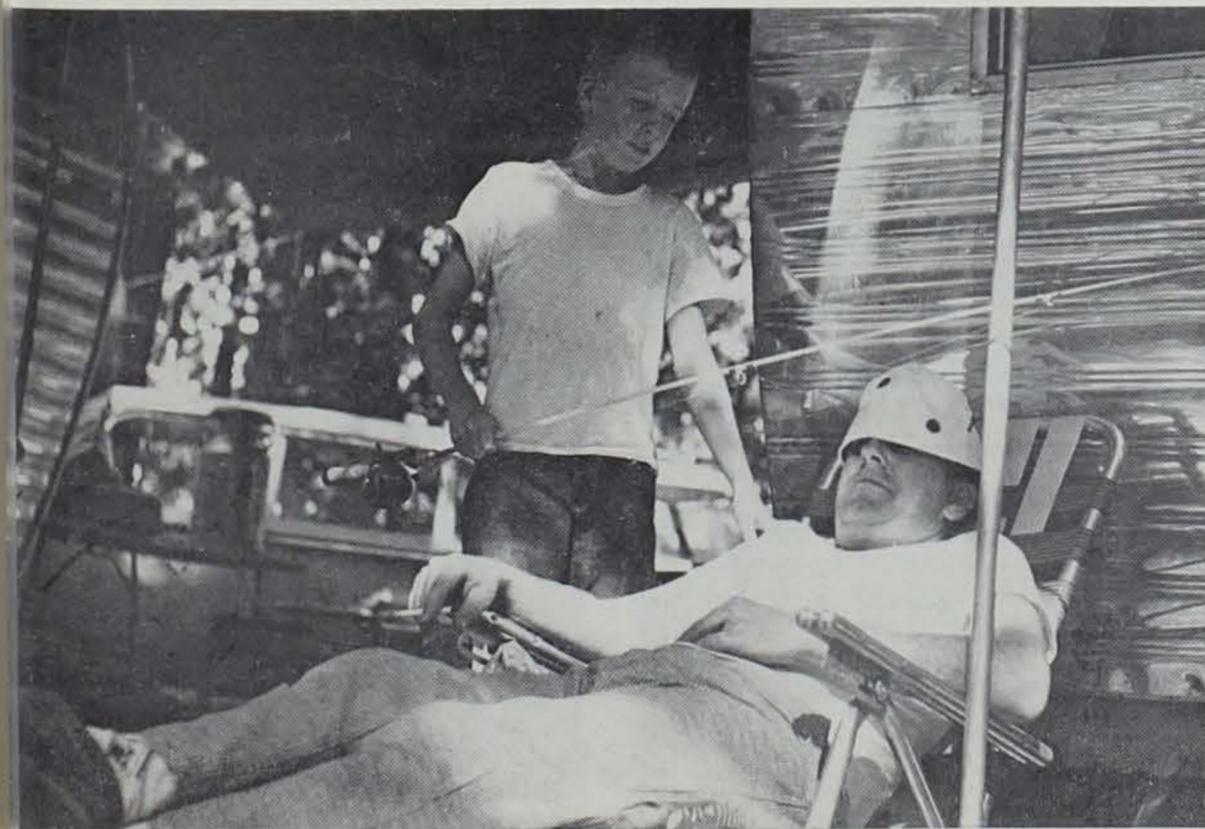
to accommodate the growing number of campers and all outdoor recreationists.

Although some state-owned areas do not offer facilities for overnight camping, these parks provide many opportunities for outdoor fun, both for campers and for those persons who may be limited to one afternoon, or very brief visits to recreation areas.

Obviously, limited space prevents a complete listing of these areas but the Conservation Commission publishes a folder which lists the camping areas and

other state areas having facilities for outdoor recreation. The location, description, and name of each park, preserve, and forest area is outlined in the folder which can be obtained by writing the Commission at 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

But, no matter what your pleasure or family wish may be, camping has the answer. And, Iowa's state areas have the answer for camping—variety of facilities, variety of resources and terrain, and, most of all, **variety of fun!**



Although Dad might prefer to nap a little, his persistent son is anxious for some action in the fishing waters. All members of the "camping family" will find their needs answered by varied opportunities available in Iowa's parks and recreation areas.

A GOOD PARK VISITOR:

1. Camps and parks only in prepared areas.
2. Does not remove, destroy or injure trees, shrubs, plants, flowers, or any other natural attraction.
3. Places refuse in cans provided.
4. Makes sure his fire is out before leaving.
5. Keeps his pets on a leash.
6. Vacates the park before 10:30 p.m.
7. Leaves nothing but footprints and takes nothing but pictures and memories.

Wildlife Exhibit Opens At Boone

The State Conservation Commission's Wildlife and Research Exhibit Station, located just south of the Ledges State Park near Boone, opened Sunday, May 4.

Iowans will have the opportunity to view the Exhibit from 10:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. daily until late October.

Game birds and mammals common to Iowa may be studied at the Wildlife Exhibit. These include the seldom seen otter and beaver, several exotic species of pheasants, as well as an interesting display of native snakes.

This year the waterfowl pool is bigger and better than ever before. Exhibit officials noted that the pool contains a larger number of waterfowl and a more outstanding variety of species than has been available in recent years.

Organized groups who desire guided tours of the Exhibit may make reservations by writing to the Wildlife Research and Exhibit Station, Ledges Road, Boone, Iowa. Reservations cannot be accepted for Saturday and Sunday dates.

Last year over 300,000 persons visited the Exhibit between May and November, and attendance is expected to surpass the number this season.

A trip to the Exhibit provides an excellent educational opportunity for the whole family. Schedule an outing this year; see and learn about Iowa's native animals and birds at the Wildlife Research and Exhibit Station. You'll be glad you did!



Fisheries workers hustled to bring in rock to rip-rap the jetties before spring thaws. Much of this work was accomplished during the coldest days of the winter.

Summer visitors to Rock Creek State Park and Lake will be amazed at the improvements made during the winter by the State Conservation Commission.

Spillway damage and erosion below the spillway forced draining of the lake last fall. The Commission wisely chose this time to incorporate new facilities around the lake.

The combined talents of various sections of the Commission, utilizing their own personnel and equipment, were used to bring about low-cost improvements that will benefit campers, boaters, fishermen, and swimmers.

Spillway repairs and improvements were the only jobs placed on a contract basis.

Gates in the spillway were closed in March. Spring rains and melting snow have filled the lake to within six feet of normal water level.

The Fisheries Section plans to stock a combined total of 240,000 bass and catfish during 1969. Unique fish habitat improvements will help the lake to eventually reclaim its title of a fishing 'hot spot.' The State's record 25 lb. 3 oz. channel catfish was taken from the lake in 1964 by Lawrence Carpe of Des Moines, Iowa.

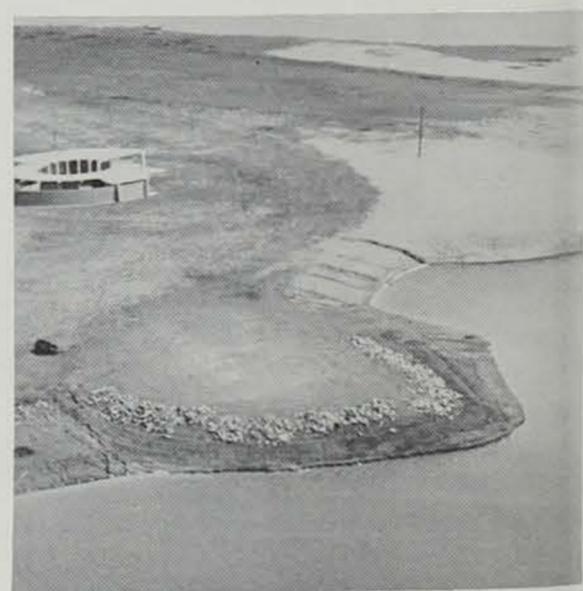
'Face-lift' Creates A 'New' Rock Creek



One of 13 new jetties is shown at the southeast corner of the lake. Rip-rapping and finishing of the jetties is now in the final stages.



A new boat lagoon was built just north of the existing camping area. The concession stand (at left) was moved to this location from the west side of the lake to be more accessible to picnickers and campers. The sheltered lagoon is expected to provide an excellent panfishing area for children.



A section of the beach below the bath house has been dredged to provide a diving area, with diving boards to be installed this spring.



Left: Myron Brewer (on ladder) takes shingles from his helper during construction of an additional shower and bath house near the main camp grounds.



Left: Diseased elm trees were removed from the park and wired to used utility poles placed in the lake bottom. Top of poles will be visible above the water to mark these fishing locations.



Above: Erosion and spillway damage before construction started, point out the need for maintenance work at Rock Creek.



Right: Except for minor clean-up work, the renovated spillway stands ready to face its future.



COMMISSION MINUTES . . .

(Continued from page 34)

recommendation that it also be applied to juveniles:

"Every person who kills, destroys, takes, or has in possession, contrary to the provisions of this act, any animal, owl, bird, or fish shall be liable to the State of Iowa for the damages caused hereby, which are hereby declared to be three hundred dollars for each year, whooping crane, or swan; twenty-five dollars for each wild turkey, wild goose, or other game bird, game animal, or fur-bearing animal or the raw pelts hereof; and five dollars for each insectivorous bird or game fish so unlawfully killed, destroyed, taken, or had in possession; provided, that a return uninjured of any such animal, fowl, or bird

to the place where captured, or such other place as the Conservation Commission may direct, shall discharge such damages. Said damages may be collected by the Commission by civil suit. In every case of conviction for any of said offenses, it is hereby made the duty of the court or magistrate before whom such conviction is obtained to further enter judgment in favor of the State of Iowa and against the defendant for the liquidated damages in a sum as hereinbefore set forth, and to collect the same by execution or otherwise. Failure to obtain conviction on a criminal charge shall not be a bar to a separate civil action for such liquidated damages. It shall be the duty of all magistrates collecting such damages to forthwith remit the same to the Conservation Commission, which shall forthwith deposit the same with the State

Treasurer, and the treasurer shall place the same in the State Fish and Game Protection Fund."

The Commission endorsed the enactment of a "no-wake" law by the 63rd General Assembly as follows: "Amend Chapter 123, laws of the Sixty-Second General Assembly, Section two (2), subsection two (2), to read as follows: No person shall operate a vessel and enter into areas in which search and rescue operations are being conducted or in any area during a natural disaster such as fire, flood, wind, etc., unless authorized by the officer in charge of the search and rescue or disaster operation. Any person authorized in an area of operation shall operate his vessel at a no wake speed and shall keep clear of all other vessels engaged in the search and rescue or disaster operation."

*there's a little good
in the worst of things
. . . including floods!*

"Waters reached four feet above flood stage yesterday causing residents to leave their homes. . ." "Many roads have been closed due to high waters . . ."

News items like these always suggest scenes of disaster, and flooding, of course, brings property loss, municipal damage, and other undesired results. But, high waters periodically can be considered nature's means of "spring cleaning."

"High water is an essential ecological phenomena," according to Harry Harrison, superintendent of biology for the Conservation Commission.

"Floods change the character of the stream and river bottoms and when they occur periodically, these floods can, in some ways, be good."

A consistent, stable flow or current creates a wide and shallow stream or river. Pollution, sedimentation, and shifting sands fill deep water areas, and this accumulation steadily decreases the water's depth.

The flooding and high waters that Iowa has experienced this year will "clean out" this silt and debris.

In times of flooding, swift currents cut deep holes in the river bed and, at the same time, pick up the deposited "junk" on the bottom. Velocity is the key factor in this "cleaning" process. In the actual stream or river bed there is a deep, fast current while the velocity of the water which has over-flowed on the land is much slower.

The stronger and faster current does not permit the deposits to settle in the stream bed, but the slower flow on land allows the heavy silt, sludge, and debris to be distributed back on the river banks, thus "cleaning out" the river.

The "little bit of good" in the worst of any situation, then, can partially apply to floods. And, even though we may disagree with the methods used, we can give Mother Nature some credit for using the only means she has available to "clean her house."

It Doesn't Belong to YOU!

If you, like many other Iowans, will be spending a lot of time outdoors this spring and summer, you may encounter several species of wildlife—usually the young.

If you come upon wild game animals—leave them alone. They are not up for adoption. The worst thing you could do would be to take some "cute, cuddly" young animal home with you.

Some people have the notion that it would be fun to have a young animal for a pet. They fall in love with a helpless looking fawn, young racoon or baby rabbit but they "find" in the outdoors. If the young animal appears to be alone, the finders may decide it's "lost from its mother" or "it'll starve if we leave it here."

Both assumptions are probably incorrect. The mother of the young animal is usually just waiting nearby for the trespassers to leave before coming out of hiding. Even if the mother doesn't show up again, young game animals are well equipped to fend for themselves in the outdoors.

Tempting as it might be to bring a wild animal home. It's one of the worst mistakes one could make. It doesn't belong to you!

Each year one of the most difficult jobs that Fish and Game Conservation officers have is the reclaiming of wildlife pets held by individuals. Hundreds of animals are taken yearly.

*Don't get caught out
on a limb!!*



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