



Beginning with this issue the DCCS Newsletter will be published quarterly.

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles. ~Doug Larson

Iowa DNR Outdoor app

The GoOutdoorsIowa app helps you get more from every hunting trip. It offers guides and tips, regulation information, easy harvest reporting and even your license linked conveniently to your phone. Use the app for more convenience and more adventure! Download the Iowa DNR Outdoor app from the App Store or Google Play.

Are your trees prepared for harsh winter weather? *Source Arborday.org.*

One of the best things you can do to ensure a beautiful, healthy and thriving spring landscape is to properly put your yard and plants to bed before the harsh weather arrives. You might still be able to complete some of these steps.

- Prune back shrubs in late fall (after a couple of frosts) to keep them protected from winds and heavy snow and encourage healthy spring growth. Use chicken wire or similar fencing to protect young shrubs and trees from rabbits.
- Prune and shape your trees after they have gone dormant. Trees and shrubs that flower in mid- to late summer should be pruned in winter or early spring.
- Mulch around your trees to help insulate the roots and prevent loss of moisture. Mulch should be spread around the base of each tree, extending out to the edge of the tree's crown (or about 3 feet across) in a layer about 2 – 4 inches thick. Always make sure the trunk of the tree is exposed and not covered by the mulch (about 3 inches between trunk and mulch is ideal.) Adding a good fertilizer will help promote root growth in the spring.
- Watering once or twice a month when the temperature is over 40 degrees can keep trees from drying out. This is especially important for evergreens because they do not go dormant for the season.
- Wrapping your trees from top to bottom can help prevent sunscald and damage from deer and other animals throughout the winter.

Remove all diseased or dead branches and trees from the yard before they become a problem next year. If they're too large or hard to reach, hire a professional.

Food Waste and Climate Change

According to Jess Watson, the executive director of earthday365, lessening food waste can have a positive impact on climate change. Watson says managing food waste is one of the best ways for people to feel like we can have an impact on our environment and our pocketbook.

Of the food that comes into your household, around 40% of it gets wasted," Watson said. "So it's like every time you buy three grocery bags, you just drop one in the parking lot on the way to the car." That food waste hurts the environment, and it costs consumers, too — up to \$1,300 a year per person.

Watson noted that people often think that because food is biodegradable, food waste isn't a big issue. But as it rots in landfills, it's actually a huge source of methane, a greenhouse gas she describes as significantly worse than carbon dioxide. But composting is not enough.

According to Jess most of the climate change that we're talking about that's associated with food waste, is in the resources that went into producing the food in the first place to get it to your plate, Watson said. "It's the energy that it took to clear the farmland, the water that went into it, the transportation to get it to the grocery store, the packaging, all of that adds up to just a huge amount of wasted resources."

Another misconception Watson discussed is that most food waste comes from larger facilities, like farms or grocery stores.

"If you break down food waste by category, farms are something like 21% of that, grocery stores are 28%, but individual households, it's between 37 and 43% of the overall food waste," she said. "So most of the food waste is actually being generated by us, by you and me."

Doing your part is simple, Watson said. Freezing extra fruit to make smoothies or putting dairy in the coldest parts of your fridge can make a big difference. Plus, knowing how expiration dates really work — or don't work — is key. "There are no national standards for these expiration dates," Watson said. "They're just done by the individual manufacturers and so of course they're going to place them much earlier than the food would actually spoil."

The best way to check if your food is still good, she says, is to use your own judgment and senses. If a food's smell or appearance have changed, that's the best way to tell it might be on its last legs. Otherwise, it's probably safe to eat.

Organics and Composting Program.

Composting food scraps and yard waste reduces methane production and conserves natural resources. The best management option is backyard composting and Iowa State University has great resources to get you started and answer any questions you may have. For more information, <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Composting-Yard-Waste>. We understand, however, that backyard composting of organic materials doesn't work for

everyone. Some Dubuque county communities offer curbside collection options for organic materials. Check with your community for information.

Finished, Screened, Certified Compost available at DMASWA

<https://www.dmaswa.org/services/recycling-reuse/yardwaste-composting/>

Using finished, screened and certified compost has many benefits. Compost enriches the soil, nourishes vegetation, and contributes to a more sustainable ecosystem, and much more. Residents looking for small quantities of compost (less than 1 Yard) can utilize one of two self-load bunkers. There is no fee for residents self-loading small quantities from these bunkers located at:

- DMASWA Landfill Entrance - 101 Airborn Road, located off Sieppel Road. Appointments are not required. Compost can be accessed 7 days a week.
- City of Dubuque Municipal Service Center - 925 Kerper Court, Dubuque, IA 52001 (next to the recycling station). Check with the city for access times.

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 \$17.50 per cubic yard (2-Yard minimum charge). Appointments can be scheduled using the tool on the DMASWA website, www.dmaswa.org or by calling the landfill at 563.557.8220. Monday thru Friday 7:30 – 3:30 and Saturday morning.

The compost is certified by the United States Composting Council (USCC). Facilities such as DMASWA which participate in the USCC program report facts about their compost and its characteristics, which allows for transparent comparison to other composts and established product specifications/standards.

Winter tip

From Iowa Environmental Council; a coffee mug of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-ft driveway. It should be scattered so there is 3” of space in between grains. Salt is not for traction, sand or grit should be used for that. It also doesn't work very well below 10 or 15°. A teaspoon of salt will permanently pollute 5 gallons of water.

Working for Water Quality

<https://treesforever.org/document/working-for-water-quality/>

Water. It's the most valuable natural resource we have on Earth. Yet the availability of clean, healthy water has become a major concern for many. Runoff from farm fields, city streets, parking lots, and lawns degrades our lakes and streams and erodes our soils. Every year in Iowa and Illinois we lose, on average, five tons of topsoil per acre. Wildlife habitat also continues to decline as more trees and native plants are removed from the landscape. At Trees Forever, we care about the land and the people who work and live on it – today and tomorrow. Our vision is a future with clean water, healthy farms and communities, and a resilient environment that can sustain future generations.

Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond

https://treesforever.org/working_watersheds/

Trees Forever's Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond program helps to improve water quality, soil retention and habitat improvement by working with Iowa landowners to implement conservation practices and promote land stewardship.

Check the Trees Forever website for more information and to download an application.

Despite dry November, drought conditions improve and stabilize

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall, 515-452-6633, Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES — After a very wet October, November was drier than normal, but conditions improved over the month. As the state enters winter, conditions have stabilized, according to the most recent Water Summary Update.

Shallow groundwater conditions, as well as soil moisture, are showing improvement. Over meteorological autumn (September, October and November), precipitation was nearly normal. Statewide average precipitation in November was 0.92 inches, or about half of what is normally expected. Statewide average snowfall was just 0.1 inches, well below the average of 2.6 inches.

“Although the state did not receive normal rainfall in November, the extra rain we did get in October along with November’s rainfall is enough to continue the trend of improvement,” said Tim Hall, Hydrology Resources Coordinator for the Iowa DNR. “There is still time for December rainfall to soak into the ground before widespread soil freezing, and anything we get will improve conditions for the start of the 2022 spring season.”

Streamflow and soil moisture conditions show improvement, which is a good indicator of potential conditions for the spring of 2022. For a thorough review of Iowa’s water resource trends go to, iowadnr.gov/WaterSummaryUpdate.

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

2021 Baumgartner and Kapler Memorial Scholarship Award

Ted Bridges was chosen to receive the Memorial Scholarship. He is currently studying at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville after first attended Kirkwood Community College. Ted is an aspiring environmental engineer with a 3.8 GPA.

Ted has a passion for conservation and the outdoors. Much of his free time has been spent hunting and fishing. He is also interested in kayaking, canoeing, biking through the country, mushroom hunting, cutting firewood, berry picking, cider pressing, making maple syrup, and many other outdoor activities. Ted says, 'I value the resources I have grown up enjoying and

see a need for efforts to restore the landscape. I greatly appreciate the beauty of the world around me and for this reason, am driven toward a career in conserving it for future generations.' Through some of his work, he has developed a knowledge of the benefits of active conservation such as improved wildlife habitat, cleaner water, and improved soil health. He has also developed a greater appreciation for the work organized and carried out by agencies and environmental groups. His passion is to continue working in a field where he can produce societal benefits such as improved water quality, improved wildlife habitat, increased diversity in native plant communities, improved aesthetics, and increased access to recreation.

Ted has also had the opportunity to volunteer his time at several events with a focus on improving the natural world. A few of the more notable experiences include assisting his local Lions Club with a 4-mile ditch cleanup, helping organize Earth Day activities for his high school, the Iowa DNR State Forest Nursery (grading, sorting, packaging, and loading seedlings), forest landowner workshop with the Dubuque County Conservation Board (teaching landowners how to grow mushrooms from spores), and most recently participating in the Iowa DNR's 2021 Project AWARE river cleanup. Ted said 'Volunteering is so important to me because of the immediate results on the person or place to which I am donating my time.'

Ted's career goals include designing and rehabilitating structures that will benefit society through public safety, sustainability of resources, and recreation. Whether it be water quality or sediment control in our lakes, rivers, and wetlands, ensuring the safety of existing dams/levees, or stormwater control, he takes a personal interest. His goal is to develop systems to conserve and restore the natural world while protecting and benefiting the people who rely on these features every day.



Mark Kaufman, DCCS President, presented Ted with the award at the Conservation Society November meeting.

Cultivating lifelong conservationists

For Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's staff, each season brings with a flurry of activity, and winter is no exception. Whether sowing native prairie seed in preparation for spring, developing content for upcoming communications or submitting grant proposals for critical programs, our field and administrative staff stay busy year-round.

Winter is also when we begin assembling our summer intern crews for the coming year. A background in ecology, biology, communications, environmental studies or a similar field is nice. A willingness to work hard in all kinds of conditions a must. But above all else, our staff look for individuals with a passion for Iowa's outdoors, and a desire to learn about and be part of protecting and restoring Iowa's land, water and wildlife.

"At INHF, our internship goals extend far beyond the 12-week period that our interns are actually working with us," said Central Iowa Land Stewardship Director Ryan Schmidt. "Sure, the summer's work is incredibly valuable, but we know our impact extends well beyond their time with INHF. Our goal is not to extract as much labor out of each individual throughout the summer as possible, but rather to educate, motivate and inspire young folks in their career journey. If we can light a fire or fan the flames in a way that produces a more inspired conservationist in the future, then we've done our job."

If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved, go to <https://www.inhf.org/what-we-do/>

American Kestrel project

The Conservation Society awarded Sam Kaufman with a grant for his American Kestrel Eagle Scout project in the fall of 2020. The following is a recap from Sam.

I was able to complete my project. The American Kestrel is North America's Smallest Falcon, and I decided to build houses for them since their population has recently been in a decline due to a decline in prairie and natural habitat. I worked with four other people on this project, and combined we worked a total of 75 hours. In total, I created 7 Kestrel Houses, and I placed them in 3 different spots around Dubuque. I placed 2 in Swiss Valley, 3 in White Water Canyon, and 2 in The Proving Grounds. I only built 7 Kestrel Houses because it is recommended that each house should be around .5 miles away from other houses. This is due to Kestrel's being territorial.

DCCS/Pheasants Forever Workdays

If you can help with any of the following workdays and are interested in carpooling, contact Tim Fiedler 563-581-9034

- January 15, 2022 **Leifker Wildlife Area** 9am to 1pm, there are many small cotton wood trees to cut down, much help is needed.
- January 18, 2022, **Oxford Junction Wildlife Area** 9am to 1pm cutting and spraying invasive trees
- January 25, 2022, **Ringneck Ridge Wildlife Area** 9am to 1pm cutting and spraying invasive trees

Business Members

All Seasons Heating
798 Cedar Cross Rd

Artistic Cleaners
107 Locust St.

Brennan Baumhover Ins.
2615 Dodge St.

Dennis Baumhover Ins.
2615 Dodge St.

Behr's Funeral Home
1491 Main St.

Breitbach's Country Dining
563 Balltown Rd.

Cedar Cross Overhead Door
1040 Cedar Cross Rd

Citizens State Bank
P.O. Box 50
NewVienna

Copper Kettle
2987 Jackson St

Dupaco Credit Union
P.O. Box 179

DuTrac Credit Union
3465 Asbury

Environmental Management Services - 5170 Wolff Rd

Sherry Horsfield Farm Bureau Insurance
20214 E Pleasant Grove Rd

Home+Floor Show
1475 Associates Dr.

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

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

Hendricks Feed Co.
880 Central

Herbst Upholstery & Auto
76 Main St

IIW Engineers & Surveyors P.C.
4155 Pennsylvania

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

Oky Doky Food Mart
P.O. Box 300 Dubuque

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

Organic Valley
Dickeyville WI

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

Pregler Electric
216th Ave LaMotte IA

Premier Bank
1975 JFK Rd.

Schuster Tree Service
7273 Schueller Heights Rd

Sisters of Saint Francis
3390 Windsor Ave.

Skip Breithbach Feed
Balltown, IA

Stecklein Tree Service
Epworth, IA

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

TFM Co.
2040 Kerper Blvd.

Therapeutic Massage
2255 JFK Road

U.S. Bank
270 West 7th

Weber Paper Co.
4300 Chevenelle Dr.

White Front Feed & Seed
4290 Dodge St.

White Water Native Seeds
Epworth, IA

Zuccaro Dental
895 Main St Suite 900

Board Members

President: Mark Kaufman 563.879.3452
Vice-President: Paul Kaufman 563.583.5030
Treasurer: Connie Kintzle dbqccs01@gmail
Secretary: Bob Walton
Newsletter: Connie Kintzle dbqccs01@gmail

Punkie Birkel
Tim Fiedler tedfiedler@hotmail
Gerda Hartman 563.588.0649
Pat Hayes 563.542.2960
Whitey Kemp 563.582.7752
Tom Klinge
Matt McQuillen
Bev Rettenmeier
Dan Simon 563.583.0514

Dubuque County Conservation Society
PO Box 645
Dubuque, IA 52001



Reminders:

January 11, meeting will be at 6 PM, at the National Guard Armory, Old Hwy Rd

Check the conservation events calendars for Dubuque and surrounding counties

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

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

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

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

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

