



IN A NUTSHELL

MARION COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Our purpose is to provide conservation, recreation and educational opportunities to promote understanding and appreciation with a sense of empathy and responsibility towards our natural communities.



LOOMING THREAT TO IOWA'S ASH TREES – THE EMERALD ASH BORER

Steve Edwards, Director

Years ago it was Dutch Elm Disease which virtually eliminated Elm trees in Iowa. More recently, Pine Wilt has been so destructive to Scots Pines that forestry experts discourage people from planting them. Today, Iowa faces another threat, this time to its beautiful Ash trees.

Ash trees are a mainstay in many of Iowa's cities, roadways and parks, easy to plant, hardy and relatively fast growing and providing great shade. But this threat to them is very real and comes in the form of a very small, but very destructive, beetle called the Emerald Ash Borer or EAB for short. Bright metallic green in color, its slender body measures ½ inch in length and 1/8 inch wide and the average adult can easily fit on a penny. Larvae are creamy white and have flattened segmented bodies that grow up to an inch long.

The natural range for this beetle is northern China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia and eastern Russia. Although no one knows, for sure, how the beetle got into the United States, it most likely arrived in solid wood packaging materials that originated from Asia. In North America, the beetle is only found in Ash trees, but affected trees can be in any setting from the forest to a homeowners front yard.

How does the beetle kill the tree? Tunnels excavated by the feeding larvae destroy the water and nutrient conducting tissues under the bark. This basically starves the ash tree. The canopy of the tree will start to die, usually near the top and progress downward. Adult beetles chew characteristic "D"-shaped exit holes as they leave former feeding sites below the bark. Trees will be dead within 1-3 years! If a tree is infested with EAB, tree removal is recommended as the most effective way to eliminate these exotic pests and help prevent the species further spread. Chipping and burning of the wood is recommended.

EAB was first detected in June 2002 in southeastern Michigan, though they most likely arrived there 10 to 12 years before. EAB is currently known to be responsible for the death or decline of more than 15 million ash trees around the Detroit area. Currently, EAB is found in Indiana, Illinois, Maryland,

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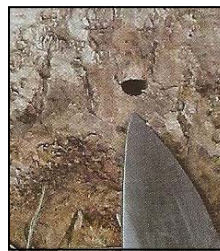
Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania and has caused the USDA to enforce quarantines and fines of these areas to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs. The cost of dealing with EAB could easily run into the tens of millions of dollars for municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest product industries.

As of the spring of 2006, EAB has NOT been found in Iowa! Let's all work to keep it that way. On its own, EAB moves only about ½ mile each year, however, people can greatly accelerate the spread of this exotic insect by moving infested nursery stock, logs and firewood to uninfested areas. So campers, check that firewood! If you are buying firewood for your next camping trip from a retail outlet and there is no tag on the wood identifying where it came from, ask the clerk. If it comes from one of the above mentioned states that may have a quarantine in place, contact your local county conservation board, Iowa State Extension Office, USDA or NRCS Office or the Iowa Department of Natural Resources so they can follow up on the information. Campers coming to Iowa's federal, state and county campgrounds with license plates from any of the EAB infected states that had brought their own firewood with them are very likely to get a visit from the local Park Ranger to verify the origin of their wood. Should the wood come from an area under quarantine, it will be requested that wood be burned immediately.

Currently, much research is being done on EAB and perhaps the Emerald Ash Borer will be eradicated or a resistant ash species will be found in the future. Trying to protect your ash trees by spraying or injecting insecticides is not recommended at this time. If you are in the market for trees to plant, there are other trees that you can choose that are not susceptible to EAB and can be recommended by your local nursery or landscaping company.

If you would like more information on EAB, please contact your local county conservation board, Iowa State Extension Service, NRCS Office, USDA Office or the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

By all of us being aware and working together, maybe we can sit under that shade of the big ol' ash tree a bit longer. Let's all work toward that goal.



Roberts Creek Park Archery Doe Hunt

In November 2007 the refuge portion around the Roberts Creek Park West Campground was opened to a limited, archery only, hunt for antlerless deer. The hunt ran from October 31, when the campground closed for the season, through November 30, the close of the early archery split. A total of 21 tags were issued for this hunt with a total of seven hunters. The hunters were able to fill 16 of the 21 tags for a success rate of 76%.

This, antlerless only, hunt took

place because of local concern for crop damage and car/deer accidents resulting from high deer densities. The Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife has been doing population surveys of the Roberts Creek refuge around the west campground for several years. This is done by flying over the area in the winter with fresh snow on the ground so the animals can be more easily spotted. In the last five years, the area has averaged 65 animals which figures out to about 100 deer per square mile.

In the past, only the Roberts Creek area has been surveyed. The state plans to do more extensive population surveys of the north side of Lake Red Rock in future years to get a better handle of the deer populations. That information, along with the data from this year's hunt, will determine whether a hunt takes place next year and, if it does, how many tags will be issued.

Mike Kalkwarf

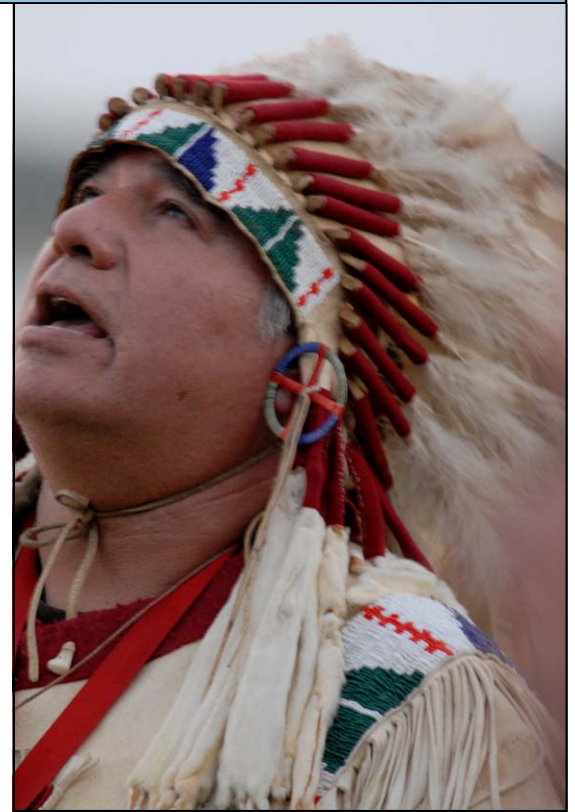
Roberts Creek Park Ranger

Fall Migration Celebration Held at



The Marion County Conservation Board sponsored a unique celebration of First Nation Culture bringing tradition and honor to Lake Red Rock and the Des Moines River Watershed marking the beginning of the 2007 Fall Bird Migration. Loren Zephier (Chief Golden Eagle) integrated the flight of the Osprey as ambassadors to our living waters—sharing native reverence and culture with the connection of our river and safe travels to all of our Global travelers preparing to leave their breeding grounds.

Hopefully, we are all looking to spring with the anticipation of our migratory birds coming back and allowing us to acknowledge their presence. It will be a time of celebration once again.



Chief Golden Eagle, Yankton Nation

Watch for Osprey placement events in July, 2008.

WHAT'S COMIN' UP.....

**LAKE RED ROCK'S
20th Annual
Bald Eagle Days
Saturday, March 1, 2008
Central College
Pella, Iowa**

Live Raptor Programs at Central College's Douwstra Auditorium 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 and 5:00. View the new Iowa Eagle DVD *"Listen to the Eagle's Message"*

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Environmental Fair, Live Birds, Eagle Education and Bald Eagle Replica nest! All at Central College's Graham Conference Center

Ride the free shuttle service (Central College Vans) to view the majestic bald eagle in the Wild! Outdoor viewing at North Tailwater Recreation Area. Event staff assisted.

PROGRAMS ARE FREE!



Eagle fishing below Red Rock Dam

Photo courtesy of Loren Burkhalter, Chariton

Ranger's Edge

by Rich Paris

We find ourselves in a time of awareness for what we consume and the origins of those products. Not that we had a cycle of reckless throw anything into our guts consumption, but the idea of "organic" and "free range" food stuffs has begun to generate more appeal, due to limited chemical or artificial interference. Actual guidelines have been established to categorize, qualify and produce these items for consumption. Regional production, to limit transportation and packaging, is also a factor contributing to the "localism" trend. Realistically not everyone has the area or inclination to garden, raise animals or harvest naturally occurring resources, but is willing to invest in "localism" as a quality of life issue. Maybe to some extent, this is modern man returning to our early heritage as a hunter-gatherer, relying on our own initiative instead of mass production, even if it's done through the corner "Farmers Market".

Sportsmen and other outdoor enthusiasts, in various degrees, have already been actively engaged in these principles well before the trendy phrases were coined. The harvest of naturally occurring game, fish, berries and other morsels is overlooked or just omitted when organic and free range topics are discussed. Most game meat or other edibles are gathered locally, utilizing a sustainable renewable resource for sustenance. The impact environmentally is minimal, since already existing habitat is utilized, harvested resources are naturally replenished and few energy resources are expended by the "localvore". Sportsmen have long realized the benefits of "locally produced" products as the general public is now starting to come to the same realization. Even though the method to obtain piece of mind may differ between the "localism" advocate and the active "localvore"; both strive for the same quality of life reassurances.

More later...

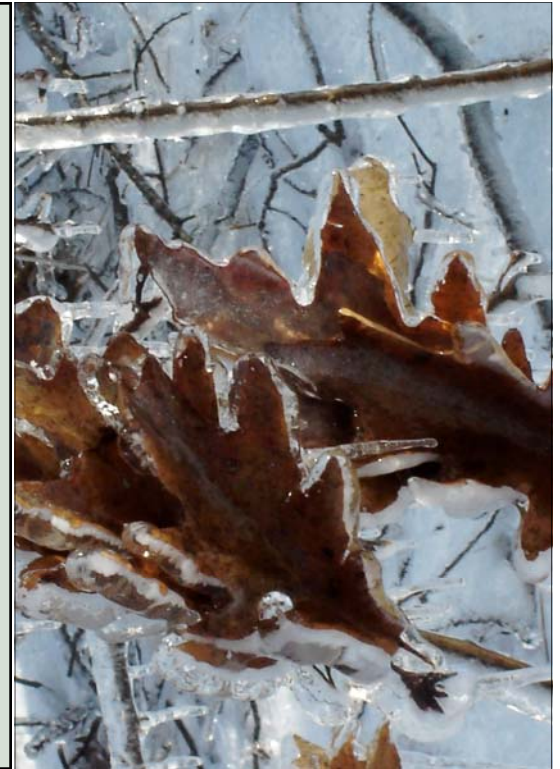
THANK YOU

On behalf of the MCCB, a big thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time & energy, support, material and monetary donations.



GUEST SPEAKER
Chief Golden Eagle
With assistance from:
Rod Stevenson
Joe Plum, Poet
Pat Schlarbaum

EDUCATION/ASSISTANCE
Mr. Ron Huelse, Eagle's Edge Photo
Mr. Ron DeArmond, Pella Wildlife Co.
Mr. Luke Knight and Father
12TH ANNUAL KIDS FISH DAY
The Knoxville Optimist's Club
Knoxville Wal-Mart
John Greatbatch/M.C. Sheriff's
Reserve



Poetry should begin in entertainment

and end in wisdom

—Robert Frost

In a Nutshell is the Marion County Conservation Board's newsletter. It is to serve as a link between the conservation board and the public. If you have any ideas for articles or would like to donate your artistic talents for this publication, please contact the Marion County Conservation Board.

If you wish to receive *In a Nutshell*, fill out the blank below and send it to Cordova Park, 1378 Hwy G-28, Otley, IA 50214. Or call (641)627-5935 and you will be added to our mailing list.

YES! I would like to receive In A Nutshell free of charge

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation (optional) _____

In Memory of Jim Dingeman

Jim served as a member of the Marion County Conservation Board for 16 years. He was a life long Marion County resident and the President of Pella Construction Co. During Jim's tenure as an active board member, he was instrumental in the development of the Cordova Park cabins. Jim's commitment to our natural resources and conservation will be greatly missed.



The Marion County Conservation Board does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Marion County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, DC 20240. A larger type version is available upon request.

MARION COUNTY

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