



President's Corner - Oct 2023

Hi All! Hope this finds you all in good health and ready for the upcoming holiday seasons! Halloween is coming fast then it's just a skip to Thanksgiving and on to Christmas and New Years! Don't know where the time has gone this year!

So at the last membership meeting we had nominations for the board and ballots were sent out. We counted the ballots and the officers and board members were all re-elected except Eric Bisinger was replaced with Dennis Ringgenberg. Eric will still be doing most of the same things he was but just won't be on the board any longer. Thank you all for returning your ballots so quickly.

We had some Girl Scouts come out for a lesson and help with earning the Archery badge on September 23 and they had a great time. Thank you to Vance Patrilla, Roger Reid and Eric Bisinger (all Wapsi Warriors JOAD coaches) for helping with the lesson.

October 7th we held our first indoor shoot of the season with a Vegas 450 round. We had 31 shooters and some really good scores for the beginning of the season. Some of us have not shot enough to come back right away and be as good as we know we can be but the JOAD kids came out and shot really well.

Next up we will have another Vegas 450 on November 4th. This is a Saturday evening shoot so it will start at 7 PM. Please be sure to arrive in time to sign in before 6:45. We will have food for a quick supper and snacks to purchase if you come out before the shooting begins.

So we have received word that we will have the Indoor Midwest Sectional at our facility in late February or early March. Keep watching for more details coming soon. We are very excited to have this shoot back in Iowa as we have not had it since 2020.

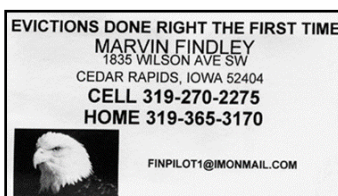
Well, that about does it for now. Keep shooting arrows and have a safe and happy Halloween!

Thanks!

Mary Bisinger
President

2023-2024 Club Officers

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Waltonian Archers Event Calendar

October

Saturday 7th	7 PM	Indoor Vegas 450
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November

Saturday 4th	7 PM	Indoor Vegas 450
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December

Saturday 2nd	7 AM—1 PM	Indoor 2D/3D
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Saturday 2nd	1PM—5 PM	Open House
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Saturday 2nd	6 PM	Club Chili Cookoff
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For full schedule go to: <https://www.waltonianarchers.net/Shoots.htm>

Member meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month (no December meeting) at 7PM, Waltonian Archers Clubhouse

There is a \$5/member fee for Indoor Open Shooting. If you're shooting often, the club offers Unlimited Open Indoor Shooting for \$200/yr. Full list of prices and fees are posted at the club and on the webpage

Waltonian Archers Hunting

Club grounds are open this year to members **archery only** deer hunting. Use of firearms on club grounds is not permitted. Members who wish to hunt must read and sign a waiver and return the waiver to club officers. You can drop in the envelope slot in the indoor range (next to the desk). The waiver is available at the clubhouse and online <https://www.waltonianarchers.net/> Deer stands and blinds are allowed, but we ask that you have your name on them and all must be removed after the season.

If you have any questions contact a club officer.



Dennis Ringgenberg shared a photo from his recent bear hunt in Manitoba. Taken with his longbow.

Area Shoots/Events

Jan 12-14, 2024: ISAA Iowa ProAm Archery Tournament, Horizon Event Center, Clive, IA
<http://www.iowastatearchery.com/>

Shavings Editor Bob Schell,

rschell5@gmail.com Please keep The Shavings in mind if you a hear of area shoots, have a story, news or a good joke you'd like to share. Pictures are always welcome. Bob

Conservation and Forestry Notes

Carl Mally

One of our trees we planted last April has grown past the top of the protective tube. It is a white oak shown in the picture. It is located just past target #9 on the orange range. Many others have grown more than halfway up the tube. The tubes act like a greenhouse encouraging growth. Only three out of the 100 seedlings planted have died off. We have been watering them all summer due to the drought. Any week that there is less than an inch of rain the trees need several gallons of water. During the next few weeks the tubes will be blocked up to prevent mice from making nests over the winter and girdling the seedlings.



On another note, over 50 large, mature white oaks on the grounds have died in the last year or so. The sudden death of white oaks has been a problem first noticed in Missouri in 2015 and has spread to five states. No clear culprit has been identified as DNR foresters in these states have run tests to look for things from pesticide drift to fungal infections to insect pests. The best guesses have been a combination of drought and derecho stress and insect pests. District forester Mark Vitosh looked at our trees and identified an infestation of the Two Lined Chestnut Borer but is not certain this is the sole cause. He says that the experience on several sites from the Amana Society woodland to Marshalltown has been that we will see more of the oaks die. We may have loggers come salvage some of these dead trees.



We will try a direct seeding of an open area on the white range tentatively on Saturday, October 21. Anyone who wishes to help please come out around 9AM. Sunday will be the rain date. We have collected several five gallon buckets of walnuts, acorns and hickory nuts. We will put these into the ground and see what emerges. The Linn Country Conservation Department has had success with this in the Wanatee Park. We have already seen some natural regeneration of oak, hickory and walnut on the clubgrounds though maple is dominating the regrowth. We have trimmed back the maple and brush in some areas to release these more desirable tree species and keep them from being shaded out. There is a nice walnut sapling about ten feet tall and a lot of white oaks in the area around the clubhouse.

We will be continuing work on the upper blue range over the fall through next spring. We are clearing an area with plans to plant more seedlings from the state nursery next April. This is part of a recovery plan that Mark Vitosh wrote for us. This is important in order to try to keep our forest reserve status for the clubgrounds.

From Iowa DNR News Release Oct 3.

Full Text at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-News-Releases>

An estimated 60,000 hunters will be heading to the timber in the next few months with Iowa's archery deer season underway Oct. 1. With some careful planning and scouting, hunters can capitalize on the predictable behavior of deer in the early fall.

"Early season deer strategy is usually pretty straightforward—find the feeding areas and you'll find the deer," said Jace Elliott, state deer biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "Acorns, which are high in both carbohydrates and fats, are becoming a major food source that hunters would be wise to target in the early archery season."

Statewide, the acorn crop appears promising. Hunters should focus on species within the white oak family, which are typically among the first to drop their acorns. However, acorns of red oak species, which are slightly less preferred by deer due to a higher acid content, can still make up a sizable portion of a deer's daily diet and should not be overlooked.

With drier than average conditions during the growing season, many crop fields are on schedule for harvest early in the archery season. This will create more daytime deer activity in places archery hunters tend to target, such as timber stands and wooded edges.

Deer will begin changing their daily behavior as the breeding season, or rut, approaches in late October and November.

"The rut is when a lot of our hunters fill their tag on a buck," Elliott said. "Rutting bucks can be found moving at all times of the day in search of a doe, which means putting a lot of time in the stand can pay off in a big way during this time of year."

No matter the time of season, look for new signs of deer activity, like tracks, droppings, rubs or scrapes, to help with stand location and maximize time in the woods.

Iowa deer population slightly increasing

The results of Iowa's annual spring spotlight survey indicate the population has slightly increased over the last several years, said Elliott, who coordinates the project.

"Our estimates can be variable from year to year, but for the past several years, the population has been relatively stable," he said.

He said the deer data shows statewide trends are stable to slightly increasing, which means opportunities to fill the freezer persist in every part of Iowa.

Bowhunters hunt a lot

Bowhunters fall on the avid range of the participation scale. Based on the annual bowhunter survey, they go out an average of 13 trips per year and spend an average of 3-1/2 hours per trip. They tend to be more selective and harvest fewer does than other regular deer seasons.

Bowhunters get the privilege of hunting during the breeding season, or rut, when adult bucks tend to be very active and vulnerable to harvest during daylight hours. However, this privilege comes at a cost—responsible bowhunters must spend countless off-season hours practicing and fine-tuning their weapons to make ethical shots when the opportunity comes. Despite being required to use more primitive weapons than deer hunters in the muzzleloader or regular firearm seasons, about 35 percent of Iowa deer hunters participate in the archery season, which contributes about 20-25 percent of the overall deer harvest each year.

CWD sampling

While chronic wasting disease sample collection is often associated with the firearm seasons, the Iowa DNR does collect deer tissue samples during bow season as part of its statewide annual effort to monitor for the fatal disease.

"Submitting a deer during the archery season is the best chance to take advantage of the free testing we offer before county quotas are reached," Elliott said. "Samples submitted in the early season also tend to have the speediest turn-around for test results, before the diagnostics lab gets bombarded with samples from the firearm seasons." Hunters willing to provide a sample are encouraged to contact their local wildlife biologist to arrange for the collection.

In the event that the county quota has been filled, or if the hunter is interested in testing a fawn or other nonpriority deer, hunters may choose to pay for their own test through a new partnership with the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Hunters will need to contact their local wildlife staff and ask how they can get their deer tested through the new hunter submitted option. The DNR will collect and submit the sample on their behalf. There is a \$25 fee for the laboratory to run the test. Results should be available within 2-3 weeks.

Changes to deer seasons

- The antlerless deer quota has been adjusted in 24 counties.
- Due to declining deer populations, Woodbury and Crawford counties were added to the "buck-only" list during the first shotgun season, meaning antlerless deer harvest is not permitted on general deer licenses in these counties from Dec. 2-6. Kossuth and Humboldt counties were removed from this list, opening up more antlerless harvest opportunities in light of recovering deer numbers.
- The Population Management January antlerless-only season will be offered in Allamakee, Winneshiek, Decatur, Appanoose, Monroe, Lucas and Wayne counties if the number of unsold antlerless licenses on the third Monday in December exceeds 100 tags. This season allows the use of any legal method of take, including shotguns, handguns, muzzleloaders, bows, crossbows, and center-fire rifles .223 and larger.
- The Excess Tag January antlerless-only season will be held in any county that still has unsold county antlerless tags by January 10. Only center-fire rifles .223 caliber and above are allowed during this season.
- A new requirement for hunters who harvest an antlered deer is reporting the length of the main beam of each antler.

Deer donation program

The Iowa DNR, the Food Bank of Iowa and 34 meat lockers are participating in the Help Us Stop Hunger program for 2023. Hunters are encouraged to contact a participating locker before they harvest a deer to see if the locker has any additional drop off instructions.

Hunters may also sign up as a deer donor with the Iowa Deer Exchange at www.iowadnr.gov/deer then scroll down to Iowa's Deer Exchange Program link. There, donors can provide their information on what they are willing to donate. The database creates a map and table with information deer donors and deer recipients can use to get connected. Participants requesting venison far outnumber those willing to donate. There is no cost to participate. It is illegal to sell wild fish and game in Iowa.

