

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper *Des Moines Register*
 Where published *Des Moines, Ia*
 Date of issue *Sept 29, 1968*
 Sent by *E. Beck Mc Carthy*
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 Stationed at *Eldora*

CLASSIFICATION: Weekly column ☐
 Story (SCS) ☐
 (Other) ☐
 Feature (SCS) ☒
 (Other) ☐
 Editorial ☐
 Advertisement ☐
 Cons. picture ☐

Eldora Lake Now Among State's Best

A SHINING example of all Iowa's artificial lakes is Upper Pine Lake at Eldora. Its waters remain clear and fishing is maintained at a high level.



As an example of the good fishing, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. (Bill) Damon of Conrad last week caught three northern pike weighing 8½, 6 and 6 pounds, respectively.

They were trolling a Flatfish about 2:35 p.m. when the action began.

"First came a 6-pound northern, then came an 8½-pounder followed by a 6-pound pike," Mrs. Damon said. "They hit fast and hard for a period of one hour then decided to quit."

This happened near the end of the major Solunar Period for that afternoon, incidentally. Mrs. Damon said the largest northern had a good sized crappie in its stomach. The other two were empty.

UPPER PINE Lake was built years ago, primarily as a silt basin to protect the waters of 63-acre Lower Pine Lake.

A list of nearly 500 Iowa farms where public hunting is permitted under a federal cropland program will be found on Page 1 of the Third News Section of today's Sunday Register.

as a silt basing to protect the waters of 63-acre Lower Pine Lake. It performed too efficiently and was soon filled with sediment from the watershed.

About eight years ago The State Conservation Commission built a new, higher dam and increased Upper Pine Lake's size to 101-acres — just over the 100-acre minimum for permitting the use of six-horsepower outboard motors on it.

Then three years ago the Commission joined with the Soil Conservation Service district office and the farmers on the lake's watershed to establish complete conservation practices.

Grass backslope terracing, drainage devices, planting and other modern soil and water saving practices were employed.

Before this energetic program was undertaken, Upper Pine Lake was a real problem area — one of the worst in the state. Today it has the most complete soil control treatment of any in the state.

It has emerged as a model watershed treatment area and has attracted nation-wide attention for its efficiency. Its waters remain clear even after heavy rains.

This in turn has provided ideal conditions for fish life and recreation. During the last two years, it has become popular with anglers of the area, producing excellent catches of bullheads, bluegills and crappies.

And the farmers still have their soil on their own lands where it belongs.

PRIVATE campground owners, who are beginning to relieve the load on publicly-operated campsites as well as providing camping facilities for travelers near important highways, are meeting at Hotel Sheraton in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 1-3 for the second annual convention of the National Campground Owners Association.

Ray Agnew, Greenwich, Conn., executive vice-president of the association, sends along a program of speakers, including representatives of manufacturers of recreational equipment as well as campground experts.

Among subjects to be covered will be what campers want in a campground, accounting for campgrounds, co-operation between government agencies and private operators and trends in camping and outdoor recreation.