



MIDWEST
 Association of
 Fish & Wildlife
 Agencies



BUILDING RESILIENCE:
 Rewilding an Altered Landscape through Partnerships

2026 AMFGLEO Chiefs Meeting Agenda
 June 21-24, 2026
 Lake Okoboji Resort & Conference Center, Iowa

Location & Lodging

Overnight accommodations are available at the Lake Okoboji Resort & Conference Center, 1405 U.S. Highway 71, Okoboji, Iowa 51355, at a discounted rate of \$160/night plus tax and resort fees. A limited number of rooms will also be available at the prevailing government rate to eligible individuals. To make a reservation, call (712) 332-2161 and indicate you are with the MAFWA Group.

Sunday	June 21, 2026
2:00 – 6:00 PM	Conference Registration Desk Open
4:00 – 6:00 PM	AMFGLEO Executive Board Meeting - Room: Pebble Beach South
6:30 – 8:30 PM	Welcome Reception – Room: Bayhill <i>Sponsored by: Brandt Information Services</i>
8:30 – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open – Room: Great Room <i>Sponsored by: Southwick Associates</i>

Monday	June 22, 2026
7:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Conference Registration Desk Open
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Attendee Breakfast – Room: Bayhill <i>Sponsored by: National Wild Turkey Federation</i>
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Welcome to Iowa – Room: St. Andrews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Posting of the Colors, Iowa DNR Law Enforcement Honor Guard ● Welcome to Iowa – Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator ● Opening Remarks – Kayla Lyon, Iowa DNR Director Keynote presentation: Mike Hawkins, Iowa DNR Fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building Resilience: Rewilding an Altered Landscape through Partnerships ● Abstract: In the heavily altered landscape of the Midwest, the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed stands as a testament to the power of collaborative conservation. For over 50 years, this region has served as a living laboratory for "rewilding" within a working landscape, proving that ecological integrity and economic vitality are inextricably linked. This presentation explores how myriad partnerships - spanning local fundraising, state agencies, and private citizens - have successfully implemented extensive land protection, wetland and shallow lake restoration, and urban conservation strategies. Long-term monitoring data reveals a clear trajectory of recovery: improved water clarity, decreased nutrient levels, and positive shifts in aquatic plant life and fisheries assemblages. The Iowa Great Lakes experience offers a scalable model for Directors across the Midwest, demonstrating how aggressive, partnership-driven conservation can build ecological resilience and restore natural function to our region's most premiere resources.
9:00 – 10:00 AM	State Hot Topics: IL, IN, IA, KS - AMFGLEO and Directors <i>Each State Director will describe a recent agency challenge. 15 min. each.</i>
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Refreshment Break - Room: Pebble Beach North
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	State Hot Topics: KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND - AMFGLEO and Directors <i>Each State Director will describe a recent agency challenge. 15 min. each.</i>
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Awards Luncheon - Room: Bayhill <i>Sponsored by: Canadian NAWMP Partners & Fall Flights</i> <i>Sponsored by: Ducks Unlimited</i> Awards: MAFWA Awards Committee – Pete Hildreth, IA DNR Awards: AMFGLEO Awards Committee -
1:30 - 2:45 PM	AMFGLEO Group - Room: Pebble Beach South <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Business meeting
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Refreshment Break - Room: Pebble Beach North <i>Sponsored by: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</i>
3:00 – 4:30 pm	AMFGLEO Group - Room: Pebble Beach South <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Business meeting
4:30 – 5:00 PM	Break to change for dinner & tour.
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Dinner - Room: Bayhill <i>Sponsored by: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</i>
6:30 - 9:00 PM	Leave for Queen 2 Lake Okoboji Boat Tour and Desser
9:30 – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open – Room: Great Room <i>Sponsored by: Safari Club International</i>

Tuesday	June 23, 2026
7:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Conference Registration Desk Open
7:00 AM	Bus loads for breakfast and tour
7:15 – 7:45 AM	Attendee Breakfast – At the hatchery <i>Sponsored by: National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)</i>
7:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Field Tour – Midwest Resilience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery - Kim Hawkins (Iowa DNR) ● Anglers Bay - Chris and Mike on buses (Iowa DNR) ● Moore Slough - John Smelzer (Spirit Lake Protection Association) and Joe McGovern (Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation) ● Shallow Lakes Initiative – West Hottes Lake/Kettleson Hogsback Complex - Chris Larue & Mike Hawkins (Iowa DNR) ● West Okoboji Wetlands Complex WMA/WPA & Okoboji View Golf Course - Chris Larue & Mike Hawkins (Iowa DNR)
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Luncheon @ Maser Monarch Lodge, Dickinson CCB <i>Sponsored by: Bass Pro Shops</i>
12:30 – 3:00 PM	Law Enforcement Chiefs Tour of Pure Fishing (Closed Tour, Invitation Only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bus leaving from Dickinson CCB at 12:30
3:00- 4:30	Meeting Resumes – Room: South Pebble Beach <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Airborne Hunting Act - Douglas Ault, Assistant Director Law Enforcement, USFWS 2. DOPLR Radar Enforcement Techniques - <i>Presenter?</i>
Evening	Dinner on your own
8:00 – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open – Room: Great Room <i>Sponsored by: DJ Case & Associates</i>

Tours & other activities to do in the area:

- Okoboji Classic Cars <https://okobojicc.com/>
- Maritime Museum <https://arnoldspark.com/maritime-museum/>
- Iowa Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame (find Website)
- Arnold’s Park <https://arnoldspark.com/>
- Winchester Museum <https://thewinchesterstore.com/>
- Sherwood Forest <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Dickinson/Park/Sherwood-Forest>
- Fisherman’s Factory Outlet (<https://www.purefishing.com/>)
- Freda Haffner Kettlehole State Preserve <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/freda-haffner-preserve/>

Wednesday**June 24, 2026**

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Conference Registration Desk Open

7:00 – 8:00 AM

Attendee Breakfast – Room: Bayhill

Sponsored by: The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF)

8:00 – 12:00 PM

Law Enforcement Business Meeting - Room: Pebble Beach South

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Agenda Review
- Any unfinished business from the earlier meeting

10:00 – 10:30 AM

Coffee Break - Room: Pebble Beach North

12:00 PM

Conference Adjourns; Lunch on your own
