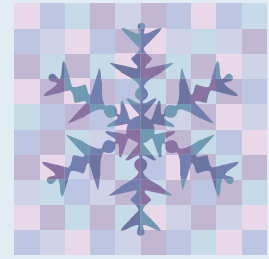


Let It Snow



Quiet Walker Lodge Durango, Iowa

It was the night before ... here at the Lodge



What a wonderful time of the year. We have had about 9 inches of snow and the forest is glittering with a fresh blanket of white. During this time of the year, the wildlife can be seen through the trees, as they search for shelter and food. The white tail deer enjoy finding the corn kernels that I leave for them in the morning. Usually three or four come at a time and enjoy the treat. My resident squirrel, Charlie, has figured out the squirrel protector on the bird feeder and takes

great pride in his conquest. It is funny to watch him slide off the bird feeder and try to jump to the hickory nut tree. Sometimes he makes it and sometimes he falls on the snow only to get up and try again.

There are numerous birds that visit the bird feeders in the winter. My favorite are the bright colored cardinals with their black top hats and exquisite feathers. I have also enjoyed woodpeckers, blue jays and a variety of native lowan birds.



During this time of year, the bald eagles are feeding off the lock and dam here at the Mississippi River. It is great fun to trek up to Eagle point and watch them dive for food. The ice fisherman are also out on the river catching perch.

Rock Climbing in Iowa

Yep! Last night I watched a series on Iowa Outdoors and was intrigued by a segment on ice climbing in Iowa. Seems that Don Briggs of Cedar Falls came up with the idea of running water down the side of a silo to create a vertical ice formation on the side of the structure. People come from all around to attempt to climb the ice structure all the way to the top. Veteran rock climbers say it is no easy feat because the climb is virtually straight up.

The ice silo is open when the temperature is at 26 degrees or below to guarantee safety for the climbers. Climbers say the experience is awesome and the view from the top of the silo is breathtaking! I don't think I will try it, but I would enjoy watching others climb to the top.

Besides ice climbing, Sundown Ski Resort is having some great skiing weekends lately. The snow is fluffy and there is lots of it to make skiers very happy.



Cedar Falls Ice Silo Climbing