

# OUR iOWA

February/March 2021  
\$5.00



**2021  
Photo Contest**

## The Scene Is Set—Time to Kick Off a New Photo Contest

Cast your vote for your  
favorite photo in the  
“Iowa Scenery” category.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL that we kick off our 14th annual “Focus on Iowa Photo Contest” with the “Iowa Scenery” category.

After all, Iowa is so doggone pretty...which means there are a lot of breathtaking photos to ooh and aah over in this category. And we think you'll agree this year's entries are more spectacular than ever.

Our staff carefully studied all of the entries in this category and narrowed them down to these jaw-droppers—the six finalists. Now it's your turn to cast your vote for your favorite. The finalist receiving the most votes will be the category winner.

There's a lot riding on your decision. For starters, the category winner will win a free dinner for four at his or her favorite restaurant...with *Our Iowa* picking up the tab, including the tip!

Then, after all four category winners have been determined later this year, they will compete for the Grand Prize—a 2-day Mississippi River cruise for two aboard the *Riverboat Twilight*, patterned after the great steamships that used to grace the Mississippi. Mark Twain called them “floating palaces”.

The leisurely cruise will take the winner and a guest from the Quad Cities upriver to Dubuque, where they'll spend the night at the swank Grand Harbor Resort and return the next day.

Along the way, they'll float by majestic river bluffs, past islands inhabited by bald eagles and great blue herons...and even go through a couple of river locks. Talk about some “Kodak moments”!

### Here's How to Vote

Voting is easy, but it's open to subscribers only—and only one vote per subscriber is permitted.

To cast your vote via email, put “Vote Iowa Scenery” in the subject line. Then, using the numbers printed on the photos, tell us “I vote for No. \_\_\_.” Email it to: [hotline@OurIowaMagazine.com](mailto:hotline@OurIowaMagazine.com).

Or you can mail your vote to: Focus on Iowa Photo Contest, Iowa Scenery Category, *Our Iowa*, 1510 Buckeye Ave., Ames IA 50010.

Next issue, we'll announce the winner in the Iowa Scenery category. And we'll give you an opportunity to vote in the “Iowa People” category.

Meanwhile, good luck to these finalists! 🍀

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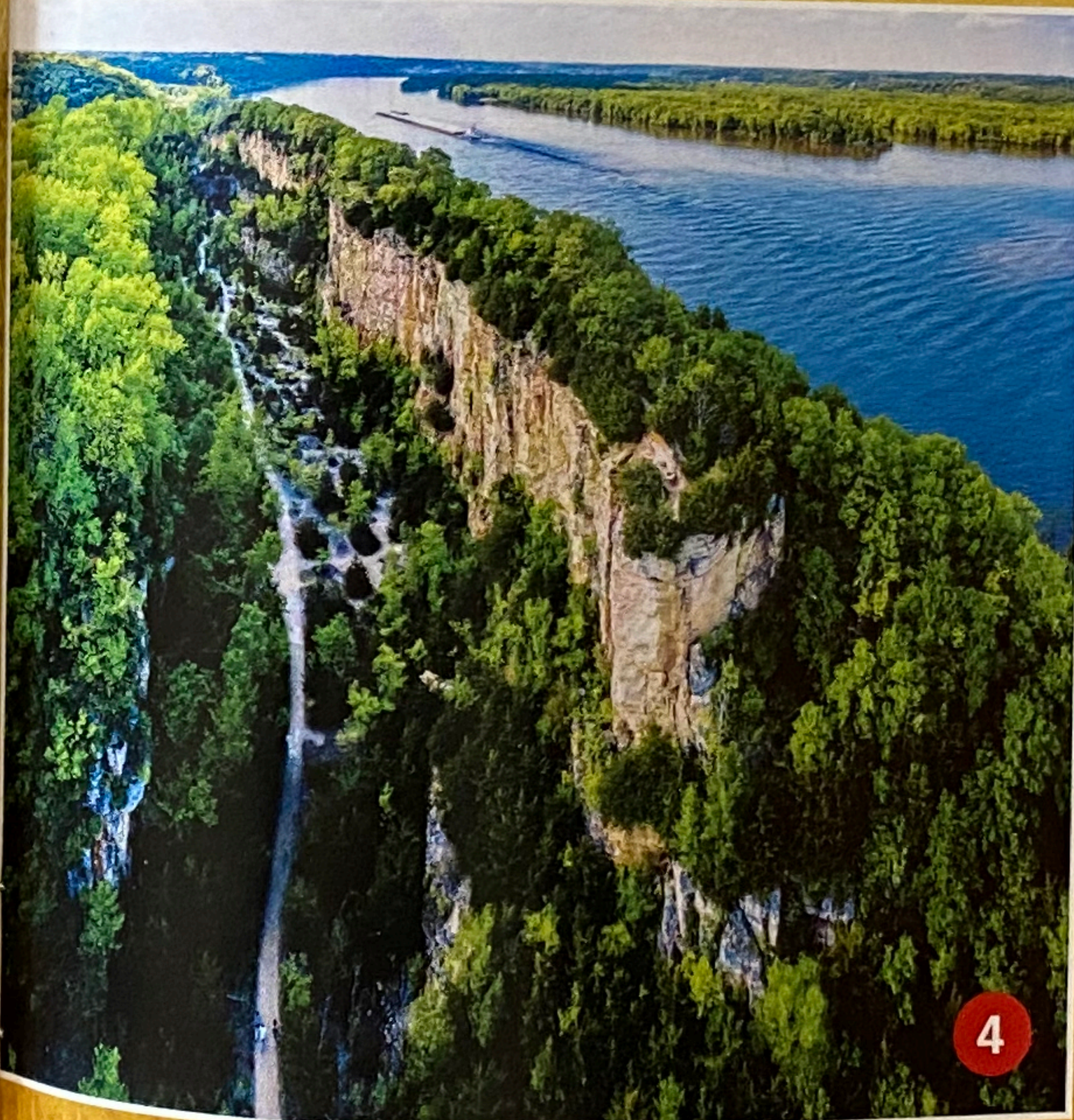
**1**  
**RISE AND DOUBLE SHINE.** Not just one but two sunrises throw rays over the lake on an early spring morning at Big Creek State Park near Polk City. “The calm waters of Big Creek Lake reflected the beautiful sunrise,” says Mark Iwig of Johnston. “The golden morning light bounced off the water and illuminated the bright green growth on the banks, announcing the beginning of spring.”



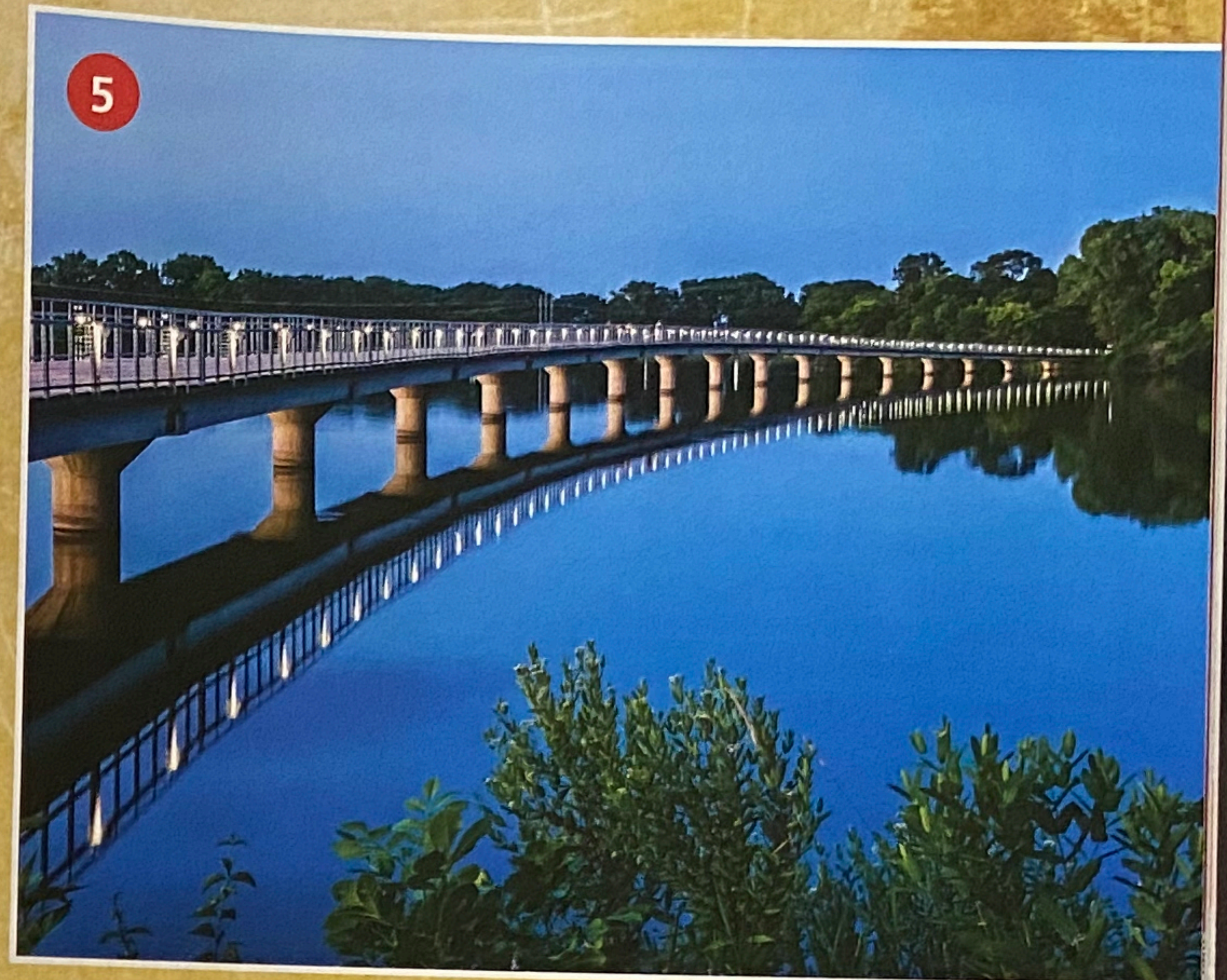
**2**  
**COMBINING THE CONTOURS.** Abundant sunlight fell over this sculptured field and caught the eye of Terri Dermody of Des Moines. “I was out in Guthrie County and just had to stop for this photo. I loved the way the backdrop of autumn colors surrounded the bright red combine ready for another harvest.”



**3**  
**KISSES FOR MOM.** “This mother fox had her kits in an old barn near Blue Grass,” reports Jack Denger of Davenport. “I was grateful to witness this show of affection between a new mother and her babies. Not many people get the chance to see this kind of Iowa beauty!”



**4**  
**SOARING SIGHTS.** High above the Horseshoe Bluff Trail at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area in Dubuque, Brian Abeling of West Des Moines captured a unique shot. “I could hear the barge coming on the other side of the bluff, so I launched my drone and got the picture just as a small group of hikers entered the photo.”



**5**  
**WE'VE GOT THE BLUES.** “Grays Lake is in a beautiful park near downtown Des Moines. It's one of those places where you can feel like you're away from it all,” notes Richard Edington of West Des Moines. “The bridge lights had just come on after sunset and the water was so blue—they should rename it Blues Lake!”

**MIDWEST BEAUTY.** “For most of my adult life, I've lived near the Appalachian Mountains,” says Joseph Giiter, now of Omaha, Nebraska. “Although the Loess Hills in western Iowa aren't mountains, they have a beauty that makes me want to return over and over. I took this photo at Waubonsie State Park north of Hamburg. What a view.”



**6**

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