

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Fish Salvage Set For Lake Yankton In Prep for Fish Renovation

LINCOLN, Neb. — An upcoming renovation project at Lake Yankton in Cedar County will result in all fish being eliminated on Sept. 10. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has authorized fish salvage there Aug. 20 through Sept. 8. The water level at the lake is down four feet and dropping.

This salvage allows licensed anglers to harvest fish remaining in the lake. Length and daily bag limits are rescinded for the lake during the salvage period. Legal methods of take include snagging, hand fishing, spearing and archery. The use of legal baitfish seines, dip nets and landing nets is allowed.

Anglers should use caution while salvaging fish as years of sedimentation has made the lake bed unstable. Stranded fish of all species may be salvaged for human consumption only. Because of concerns for the spread of aquatic invasive species, salvaged fish may not be sold or used for stocking purposes in public or private waters.

Crownover Named National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Officer Of The Year

PIERRE — The South Dakota Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF) has named Todd Crownover, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) conservation officer, as its 2014 Wildlife Officer of the Year. This is the 14th year the award has been presented by the South Dakota Chapter.

Crownover has served as a GFP conservation officer for over 21 years with the last 16 years in Bon Homme county. He is being honored for his positive attitude and passion for protecting all wildlife; with an emphasis on turkeys. In the last year, Crownover has investigated two high profile turkey cases. He has also been a firearms instructor, background investigator and is an expert in firearms and firearm training.

"The South Dakota Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is grateful to GFP conservation officers across the state who continue to do an outstanding job," said Mike McKernan, president of the South Dakota NWTFF Chapter. "The NWTFF works to conserve the wild turkey and connect men and women along with youth and those who are physically challenged to outdoor activities and our hunting heritage. Todd Crownover is a credit to these goals and we are pleased to honor him."

Crownover will be honored by the NWTFF at its state convention in January 2015. In addition, the South Dakota Chapter will forward his name to compete for a national award at the national convention in February 2015.

Riders Can Still Register For Annual Mickelson Trail Trek

LEAD — There are still openings for riders who want to take part in the annual Mickelson Trail Trek on Friday, Sept. 19 through Sunday, Sept. 21.

Registration can be completed online by visiting www.mickelsontrail.com and following the "Trail Trek" link. Registration is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The deadline is Sept. 1.

The ride is open to all bicyclists 14 years of age or older. Riders will cover 109 miles of the trail during the course of three days. The Trail Trek highlights the George S. Mickelson Trail as it winds through the heart of the Black Hills from Edgemont to Lead-Deadwood.

The registration fee includes the trail pass, shuttle service, commemorative souvenirs, refreshments and some meals. Riders are responsible for accommodations and mechanical support.

The ride began as a celebration of the completion of the rails-to-trails project. It continues today to introduce new bicyclists to the trail and thank supporters for their long-standing enthusiasm for the Black Hills trail.

For more information on the Mickelson Trail or the Trail Trek, visit www.mickelsontrail.com or contact the Black Hills Trail office at 605-584-3896.

S.D. State Parks Camping Reservations Available Year Round

PIERRE — The Game, Fish & Parks Department is reminding campers that the end of the summer doesn't mean the end of camping at South Dakota state parks.

"We take camping reservations for stays year-round," said state park director Doug Hofer. "In the past, camping was on a first-come, first-served basis after Labor Day."

Additionally, campsites and cabins at Custer State Park can be reserved up to one year in advance, and up to 90 days prior to arrival at all other campsites and cabins.

Group campsites located at Custer State Park and Lewis and Clark Recreation Area can also be booked one year in advance. Group lodges that can be reserved one year ahead of time include:

Lake Thompson Recreation Area near Lake Preston/Mina Lake Recreation Area near Aberdeen/Newton Hills State Park near Canton/Oahe Downstream Recreation Area near Fort Pierre/Palisades State Park near Garretson/Shadehill Recreation Area near Lemmon/Sheps Canyon Recreation Area at Angostura Reservoir near Hot Springs

Camping reservations can be made online at www.campsd.com or by calling 1-800-710-2267.

Writing Workshop Aug. 31 At Mahoney SP

LINCOLN — Join singer/songwriter and conservation advocate Erica Wheeler for The Soulful Landscape workshop Aug. 31 at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park near Ashland. Writers of all experience levels and non-writers are encouraged to attend.

The workshop includes a presentation on place-based arts, followed by writing exercises. Participants will learn how to generate fresh metaphors for use in songs, stories, poems and essays.

No fee is required for this workshop, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the park's Kountze Memorial Theater. A park entry permit is required.

Jig Fishing: The Ultimate Fish Catching Technique

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

With all of the traveling I do, I have the opportunity to talk with many anglers and at a recent in store promotion, I was talking with a group of anglers talking about different fishing techniques.

When we started talking about jig fishing, two of the folks told me they did not use them much because they fished for species other than walleyes.

After hearing this, I realized I might have given some people the wrong idea that jigs were primarily walleye bait.

I quickly explained to them jigs are not used for just one particular species of fish, as they will catch all fish, from the smallest to the largest.

As far as I am concerned, an angler can use no more productive bait!

I was surprised to see how many people felt the jig worked on only one species, that it is one-method or species bait!

Jigs are such a versatile tool, that they will catch anything that swims!

I have used them for walleyes, pike and bass in N.E. South Dakota, in western and northern Minnesota lakes, on all of the Missouri River reservoirs as well as for panfish on big and small lakes no matter what time of the year I was fishing.

Most anglers think a jig needs to be jigged or hopped up and down, only being used when fishing from a boat.

The truth is they work everywhere, making anglers fishing from a boat, shore or through the ice, a better angler that can be used to take all species of fish when other baits would not get a second look.

You can dress them with plastic bodies, Gulp, night crawlers, leeches and minnows or just fish them plain and they will produce!

They come in all sizes, shapes, colors and designs. You can bulk them up when fishing open water with marabou, squirrel, buck tail or plastic. During cold water, you can use a plain old jig tipped with a small minnow, plastic micro grub or wax worm.

Smaller jigs can be used for panfish as well as your larger species. You can use jigs in so many ways, they can be jigged vertically, drug along the bottom, cast along the edge of the weeds or suspended under a slip bobber with a small minnow, making them a very effective method of taking both small and large species of fish.

Walleye anglers use jigs from 1/32 up to 1/2 ounce, depending on the current and the depth they are fishing. By tipping them with minnows, leeches, plastics or crawlers they can be effective to entice a finicky walleye.

Anglers looking for bass use a jig & pig (pork rind or plastic) to take both smallmouth and largemouth bass during the toughest of conditions.

The biggest thing anglers having trouble when fishing jigs is they are using far too heavy of a line on their jig.

You want your jig to swim or drop naturally and if you are using a line that is too heavy, a jig will not work correctly.

By using a lighter line or a lighter jig and line combination, your offering will appear more lifelike, sinking quickly, allowing you to detect even the subtle bites.

Another thing that is confusing to anglers who are not used to fishing with jigs is what color of jig to use!

There are hundreds of colors and color combinations of jigs out there, which can be terribly confusing.



Gary HOWEY



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Duane Ryks is pictured with a fall walleye taken from Green Lake near Spicer, Minn.

My rule of thumb on jig color has a lot to do with how clear or dirty the water I am fishing.

If I am fishing a section of the river or a lake with dirty or turbid water, I will go with a brighter color, a fluorescent jig that will hold its color at deeper depths.

Fluorescent colors retain their color better in low light situations, appearing brighter than your standard reds or yellows when fished deep or in stained water.

Therefore, when I am fishing turbid water, I will tie on a fluorescent orange, green or chartreuse colored jig, as I am sure it will be more visible as the lure goes deeper.

In clearer water, I am going to use a more natural color, a shad, bluegill or perch color.

I still may use a brighter fluorescent color if I will be fishing deep, but I feel that I do not need to go to a bright jig when fishing in clear water.

The species you are after will also make a difference when it comes to your choice of jig color and size!

If you will be fishing for walleye or sauger, chartreuse and orange are preferred colors with anglers after them are more apt to throw these bright col-

ors. Bass anglers prefer the black, purple and less gaudy colored jigs, while pan anglers like to throw a white, pearl or pink colored jig.

There are days when one species of fish will prefer a certain color; this is especially true with walleyes, so I use multiple colored jigs.

There are days when walleyes will only bite on chartreuse and the next day it will be orange, so I give them a little of both. This gives me a better opportunity to have one of the colors they are attracted to on that day.

Chartreuse and orange, lime green and yellow, pink and white are some of the combinations I will use when fishing for walleyes.

It is simple really, give a fish a choice of colors and let them tell you which one they want. By using multiple colored jig heads, you will have a better chance of getting a finicky fish to bite.

It also saves time and allows me to work and catch active fish much more quickly.

If I were using a one color jig and the fish are not biting on that color, you would have to keep retying until the right color found, wasting precious

fishing time. With a jig head or body that is multi-colored, you will be cutting down your fish searching time and do more fish catching!

Jigs are very versatile bait that used for any fish that swims. It can be cast, drug, jigged suspended under a bobber, making it the bait used in so many ways, that if you are not fishing a jig, you are missing the boat.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning *Outdoorsmen Adventures television series*, seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. In the Yankton area, it airs on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am, on Siouxdand CW 4.2 Sioux City, IA. 9:00 am Sunday as well as on MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the *Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and KCHE 92.1 FM in Northwest Iowa* If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

Nebraska Dove Hunting Season Just Around Corner

LINCOLN, Nebraska — Dove hunting season begins soon and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has some reminders for those hunters, as well as recommendations for areas to hunt.

Doves may be hunted statewide. The season is Sept. 1-Oct. 30, with daily bag and possession limits of 15 and 30, respectively. Bag limits are for mourning, white-winged and Eurasian collared doves in aggregate.

Nebraska residents 16 years and older and all non-residents are required to have a valid Nebraska hunting permit, habitat stamp and Harvest Information Program (HIP) number. Register at nehip.com, OutdoorNebraska.org/HIP, at any Game and Parks district office or by phone at 1-877-NEHUNTS. Hunter education certification is required for some hunters.

Dove hunters who find a leg band on a dove should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banding office at 1-800-327-BAND or report it

at reportband.gov. In addition, randomly selected hunters will be asked to save one wing from each dove during the first week of the season and mail the wings postage-free to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sunflower, millet or wheat, which generally provides good dove-hunting opportunities, have been planted at the following wildlife management areas (WMA) across the state. Planting and weather conditions may have reduced seed production in some plots:

North-central — Pine Glen, Thomas Creek, Bobcat, Plum

Creek, Calamus Reservoir and Myrtle Hall

Northeast — Oak Valley, Wood Duck, Black Island, George Syas, Don Dworak and Elk Point Bend

Southeast — Branched Oak, Yankee Hill, Little Salt Creek West, Olive Creek, Little Salt Creek, Helmuth, Wildwood, Pawnee, Twin Lakes, Stagecoach, Osage, Kansas Bend, Peru Bottoms, Schilling, Rake's Creek and Tobacco Island

Southwest — Cedar Valley, Wapiti, Clear Creek, Red Willow, Medicine Creek, Swanson Reservoir and Enders

South-central — Alexandria, Alexandria SW, Flathead, Little Blue, Little Blue East, Rose Creek, Rose Creek West, Arrowhead, Diamond Lake, Dorky Acres, Dry Sandy, Meridian and Sacramento-Wilcox

No fields were planted specifically for doves at Panhandle WMAs, but Buffalo Creek, Bordeaux Creek, Chadron Creek and Cedar

Canyon provide good hunting opportunities around ponds or water sites.

Other WMAs throughout the state can provide good dove hunting opportunities, depending on local conditions.

Eurasian collared doves may be harvested Oct. 31-Aug. 31. The daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30, respectively.

Labor Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, September 1, for the Labor Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

Out On The Town..... Noon, Wednesday, August 27
Tuesday, September 2 newspaper..... 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 27
Wednesday, September 3 newspaper..... 5 p.m., Thursday, August 28
Thursday, September 4 newspaper..... 5 p.m., Friday, August 29

There will be no newspaper on Monday, September 1, 2014

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