

Outdoor Briefs: Outdoor Campus To Host Largest Event To Date

SIOUX FALLS — For the last 15 years, The Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls has taught thousands of people to fish, hunt, camp, canoe, kayak, shoot an arrow and much more. In late July, they take that record up a notch with Outdoor University, a day dedicated to all things outdoors.

Outdoor University runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, July 30, in Sertoma Park. The event is free and no pre-registration is required. Once the park's parking area is filled, extra parking will be available at the Sanford Clinic Family Medicine on 49th and Oxbow, behind the Sanford Wellness Center.

Outdoor University participants can try everything taught at The Outdoor Campus, including archery, BB guns, kayaking, outdoor cooking and fishing, said Thea Miller Ryan, director. But she said they will also be able to learn why and how the Department of Game, Fish and Parks works in South Dakota.

"We'll show everything from law enforcement boats and trucks, to mountain lion tracking technology, electrofishing, fish stocking and a wildland fire unit," Ryan said.

Families will get a chance to touch aquatic animals, make fish print T-shirts, see professionally trained hunting dogs show off their skills, meet representatives from outdoor organizations, and attend short demonstrations and seminars throughout the day. More than \$1,000 in door prizes will be awarded to attendees as well, Ryan said.

For more information call The Outdoor Campus at 605-362-2777.

Columnist Howey Earns

AGLOW's Golden Glow Award

NEW BUFFALO, Mich. — Gary Howey of Hartington, Neb., will be the 2011 recipient of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers Golden Glow Award.

The Golden Glow Award, established in 1987 is AGLOW's highest honor and is presented to specific individuals in the private sector for dedication to conservation activities. Howey's nomination was made by Past President Steve Nelson and then deemed deserving by the Council of Past AGLOW Presidents.

Past recipients of the Golden Glow Award include; Terry Redlin, Aldo Leopold, Maynard Reece, Homer Circle, Glen Lau and Forrest L. Wood.

"The Golden Glow Award is the highest award presented by the association and to be a Golden Glow recipient with such a distinguished group of individuals is a great honor," Howey said.

The award will be presented Sept. 22 at the 2011 annual AGLOW Conference at Honey Creek Resort, Moravia, Iowa.

Howey is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions LLC, Hartington, Neb., the Producer/Host of the Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, co-host of Outdoor Adventures radio and the outdoor columnist for the Yankton Press & Dakotan.

AGLOW is the third-largest professional outdoor communicator's organizations in North America.

Camping Available At SD Parks

PIERRE — Mother Nature has put a wrench in summer plans in a few parks along the Missouri River, but camping reservations are available at many other state parks in South Dakota.

"Many people assume that campsites book up 90 days ahead of time," said state Park Director Doug Hofer. "In fact, there are many weekend campsites still available across the state, including many parks along the Missouri River."

West Pollock Recreation Area near Pollock, Indian Creek Recreation Area at Moberg, Cow Creek Recreation Area north of Pierre, West Bend Recreation Area east of Pierre, West Whitlock Recreation Area west of Gettysburg and Snake Creek Recreation Area west of Platte all offer a number of campsites on the Missouri River.

Thirty-seven state parks and recreation areas take camping reservations. Of the parks that take reservations, 20 of them have at least one campsite available for all of the seven remaining summer weekends. Twelve of the parks have five or more campsites available for the upcoming weekends.

A weekend camping report is listed on the GFP website each Wednesday with the number of available campsites at each park for the upcoming Friday arrival.

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

Prairie Dog Control Programs Available

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and Department of Agriculture (SDDA) remind farmers and ranchers with unwanted prairie dogs to ask for assistance.

The state's prairie dog control program is cooperatively funded by GFP and SDDA; GFP manages encroachment issues stemming from adjacent public lands, and SDDA manages complaints between private landowners.

"GFP will control prairie dogs that have spread onto private land from adjacent public land," said GFP Wildlife Damage Program Administrator Keith Fisk. "Landowners with encroachment problems from nearby public land must be within one mile of that public land and have at least 20 acres of actual prairie dog colonies to be eligible for assistance."

"Landowners must call in before Aug. 15, 2011, and inform GFP that they have unwanted prairie dogs," Fisk added. "GFP provides assistance to many landowners scattered across western South Dakota, and the deadline allows gives us sufficient time to coordinate the logistics of our control program."

If a landowner has a complaint about prairie dog encroachment from nearby public land, GFP must be contacted at (605)773-5913 to request control. Once eligibility has been verified, GFP field staff or a department representative will control the invading colony on the private land later this fall. All complaints must be received by the Aug. 15 deadline.

Landowners experiencing encroachment from adjacent private land should contact SDDA or local weed and pest supervisors. If a prairie dog colony is encroaching from private land, a signed written complaint must be made.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Rattling Baits: Answer For Dirty Water

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

The environment fish live in changes from day to day. With the variation in the amount of moisture we receive, the huge volume of water coming through the Missouri River dams, the change in water levels of our lakes, along with changes in the current and water clarity, change fishing conditions drastically from day to day.

Fish, like all members of the animal kingdom, rely on their senses, allowing them to locate food and to keep them from becoming a meal for a larger fish.

This year with the high influx of water into our rivers, lakes and reservoirs are going to see large amounts of silt coming down river and lakes, reducing the light penetration, making the fish's sense of vision less effective.

When water clarity decreases, fish will have to rely less on their sense of sight and rely more on their other senses, especially hearing and the detection of vibrations in order to survive.

All species in the aquatic world create sound as they move through the water, displacing water, giving off vibrations.

The sense of hearing in fish is quite good and since sound carries so well in water, fish are able to detect movement at great distances. Their lateral line, which runs along the side of their body, detects these vibrations, helping them to pinpoint a possible meal.

A wounded, sick or unhealthy minnow/fish or other aquatic life gives off quite a different vibration than healthy ones. Perhaps its an erratic movement or it may be the frantic attempt of a sick or dying baitfish to stay upright and get through a dangerous area, these vibrations will help predators to locate and zero in on them.

I've seen a new species of fish stocked into a murky pond and have had other predator fish dart up from the deeper



Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Larry Myhre is pictured with one of the small-mouth bass caught on a rattling jig while fishing Lake Francis Case during this year's high water.

water to feed on the new arrivals. Since the visibility in the pond was poor, I have to believe that the sound and vibration of the new fish being put into in the water attracted the predators.

If fish rely on the sound and vibration to find a meal in murky water, then it makes good sense if your fishing water were with low visibility, trying to attract the fish to your bait: you might want to consider a lure that makes noise or vibrates.

Bass anglers have used rattling crank

baits for years, crankbaits and jigs, helping them to catch fish out of heavy thick cover and murky water conditions. Other baits, such as spinners and buzz baits also give off a lot of vibration when runs through the water, drawing fish towards the bait.

I've tried the plastic and glass rattles that you attach to your bait or insert into your plastic, they did rattle, but seemed to affect the action of the bait I was using.

I've had excellent luck with products where small metal BB's are built into the

Bow And Arrow: A Foot Above The Competition

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Matt Stutzman picks up his bow, a beautiful red compound, and nocks an arrow. His technique is unorthodox, something he's had to develop and learn himself; there aren't too many others quite like him on the range today, or, really, anywhere.

It's early Saturday at the Iowa Summer Games archery competition. Some of the best archers in the state have come to compete, starting 60 yards down to the line of targets arranged in a grass lot near the Iowa State University Veterinary Medicine building.

Most compound bow shooters use a release, a small trigger mechanism that allows them to let fly an arrow without the clumsiness of human fingers factoring into the equation. Stutzman's release is on his shoulder, secured by a broad band across his chest. He gets set and stretches out his jaw a little in anticipation. He'll use his chin to release the arrow, and, like most archers, he craves precision.

He draws back, stretching out, and his mind goes to a serene place. No thoughts. No mantra. Blankness. His arrow. His target. His formidable will.

Release.

The bowstring twangs, and the sound the arrow makes as it pierces the 10 circle is like a single fat raindrop on canvas. Stutzman has an incredible round, four 10s and a single 9, and the scores he brings down are what make him an amazing archer. But it's the way he does it that makes him exceptional.

Matt Stutzman was born without arms.

Everything he does on the range, he does with his feet, his head, his mind and his heart.

The 28-year-old Fairfield man has set out with the unapologetic goal of becoming the best archer in the world. And he's on his way. A member of the United States para archery team, Stutzman is on track to appear in London at the 2012 Paralympic Games.

Why archery? "Because I can do it," he said. "Archery is something that I can do that most people think I can't. The main reason I want to do this is to inspire people, and show them that they can do anything."

Stutzman has spent his life learning to do things in his own way. He's been learning to target shoot for the last year and a half, figuring it out as he goes.

"I taught myself," he said. "People do try to tell me how to shoot, but the way I do it is so different. I've had to learn on my own."

Stutzman has embraced his situation. He maintains a website at www.inspirationalarcher.com and tweets about his quest to reach London. The shirt he wears at the competition proclaims that "Team Stutzman" is "A foot above the competition."

He admits, walking back from retrieving his arrows, that he might not win the day. A bad shot in an earlier round at 60 yards came up

as an 8, he notes with chagrin. "There are a lot of good archers here today," he said. "People who don't get 8s."

The idea that he has done well, given his circumstances, never seems to occur to him, or, if it does, only as a joke.

"If there was an armless division, I'd win that for sure," he said.

Down the line from Stutzman is another archer with his own story. Ron Orris, of Jefferson, is one of the few competitive archers who uses a recurve bow, rather than a compound bow, to shoot. He said it's a purer form of the sport, requiring more discipline and practice to master. Orris would know; he learned from a woman who was literally one of the best in the world.

Doreen Wilber was Iowa's first "Golden Girl," long before Shawn Johnson. At the 1972 Olympics, in Munich, Germany, she won the gold medal using a recurve bow much the same as Orris uses now.

"Doreen would say those other bows have training wheels; these are real bows," Orris said.

Recently, Orris was a key figure in the erection of a sculpture in Jefferson honoring their hometown heroine, Wilber, who died in 2008.

Orris has passed Wilber's lessons on to the next generation, and some of his students from Jefferson are taking aim just down the line in the youth divisions. Of course, not all of Wilber's techniques are physical. Sometimes, the center ring is found in the moments just before the arrow is released.

"You have to hear the quiet," Orris said. "Focus until the goal comes to you. That's the routine Doreen taught me."

Despite their different tastes in equipment, Orris has a great deal of respect for Stutzman. "I really think it's wonderful," he said. "He has that attitude of 'I'm not going to give up,' and, anytime you see that, it's great."

Heat Wave Fosters Toxic Algae Growth In Touristy Lakes

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A prolonged heat wave in the central U.S. has fostered the growth of a dangerous form of algae in lakes and ponds, threatening swimmers and livestock and scaring away tourists during the busy summer season.

Blue-green algae are actually bacteria that produce toxins harmful to humans and livestock. It flourishes in warm, stagnant, sunlit water, and this year's heat wave combined with Oklahoma's worst drought since the Dust Bowl have created what one water official called a "perfect storm" for its growth.

Officials have issued a series of warnings, telling boaters and swimmers at lakes in northeast Oklahoma, southern Kansas and Nebraska to avoid contact with the toxic gunk. The issue attracted national attention earlier this month when Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe blamed a respiratory illness on a swim in Grand Lake in Ketchum, Okla.

The bad publicity has had dire consequences for some businesses in Oklahoma, where tourism is the third largest industry with an estimated annual impact of \$6.2 billion. Oklahoma's numerous lakes are a "huge economic engine" driving that industry, said Leslie Blair, a spokeswoman for the Department of Tourism and Recreation.

"We took a beating from hell," said Sam Williams, who sells everything from water skis to fishing supplies at the Grand Lake Sports Center in Grove. "My friends at the marinas say their shops are full to the ceiling with beer that they haven't sold ... all because a senator went into a bad area in a cove and got a rash."

Williams and some others think the issue has been blown out of proportion.

"Every lake has algae," he said.

Alert Continues For NE Neb. Lake

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — State officials have decided to continue a health alert for Willow Creek Lake near Pierce in northeast Nebraska.

Officials said in a news release Friday that water samples taken from the lake showed high levels of a toxin released by blue-green algae. The levels exceeded the state's threshold, as they did the week before.

Since May, the state has conducted weekly sampling at 47 public lakes in Nebraska. The state says the Willow Creek Lake alert is the first this year.

Some types of toxic blue-green algae can produce dangerous toxins. People can still camp, fish and boat on lakes under an alert, but they should not have full-body contact with the water.

Drinking toxin-tainted water can cause vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory failure and, rarely, death.

"It might have been a little worse this year because the heat came early and it's been so hot."

Inhofe's office said the 76-year-old Republican has recovered and is feeling fine, although the illness forced him to delay his return to Washington and miss a few votes.

Problems on Grand Lake have subsided, the Grand River Dam Authority said. But advisories remained in effect Wednesday for portions of Keystone, Fort Gibson and Eufaula lakes in Oklahoma, Marion and Big Hill lakes in Kansas, and Willow Creek Lake in northeast

Nebraska. "Anything that has a scum to it and a pea soup look, that's what you want to stay out of," said Ross Adkins, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tulsa. "Usually, it's just the stagnant areas where you'll find it. If you've got moving water, you don't usually find it."

Prolonged heat and steady sunlight, combined plenty of nutrients and a drought that has shriveled lakes, created a "perfect storm" for algae blooms this year, said Derek Smithee, director of water quality

for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

"Twenty-eight days of more than 100 degrees is a real factor," Smithee said. "You have a lot of sunlight, high temperatures. It's a perfect formula for algae production."

The algae feed on nutrients that flow into the lakes from industrial discharge, excess fertilizer and natural soil erosion and runoff, Smithee said. Without rain, portions of the lakes have dried up, leaving stagnant pools ideal for algae growth.

A portion of Keystone Lake where the algae was discovered

was cut off from the main body by the drought, said Elzie Smith, city manager for nearby Cleveland.

"It's nothing more than a big pond right now," Smith said. "Half of it's completely dry, and what's left, I saw birds standing in the middle of it. Another week and it will be bone dry."

Toxins from the algae affect the nervous system and liver, resulting in weakness, muscle tremors, convulsions and even death. Cantrell said ranchers should check ponds for blooms, fence off downwind drinking areas and switch to alternative water sources when temperatures rise and blooms are spotted.

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