

OUTDOORS BRIEFS

Neb. Closes Paddlefish Season

LINCOLN, Neb. — Due to unsafe conditions on the flooding Missouri River, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission closed the 2011 archery paddlefish season that was previously set to begin July 9 and run for 30 days. Game and Parks took the action during a special teleconference on Friday at agency headquarters in Lincoln.

Game and Parks will return permit fees to all 275 successful applicants who were awarded a permit via a drawing held May 9. All preference points for the applicants will be restored to where they were following the end of the 2010 season.

The archery paddlefish season normally takes place on a 77-mile stretch of the Missouri River from Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux River near Sioux City. The U.S. Coast Guard has closed this section of the river to all boat traffic due to flooding that is expected to last most of the summer.

Nebraska Agency Reports On Walleye Egg Collection

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — More than 530 quarts of walleye eggs for hatchery production were collected this spring at Sherman and Merritt reservoirs and Lake McConaughy (muh-KAH-nuh-hay).

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission says the egg collection was necessary because nearly 71 million fertilized eggs are needed to satisfy the 2011 stocking requests.

The collection took place the first week of April. Gill nets were used to capture females; an electroshocking boat was used to collect males. Their eggs and sperm were collected for fertilization, and the fertilized eggs were taken to state fish hatcheries.

Springfield Recreation Area Re-Opens After Closure

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Recreation Area boat ramp and ten campsites have re-opened after a two-week closure brought on by the swollen Missouri River.

"We were able to open the 10 campsites and the playground in the north campground loop," said Shane Bertsch, District Park Supervisor. "The city's golf course which lies adjacent to the recreation area is open, and the camper dump station is now useable." The south campground loop remains closed.

The boat ramp is available, but Bertsch reminds fishermen to use caution while out on the water, as floating debris is a threat.

The park was forced to close when the entrance road went under water on June 2. "There is a clearly marked detour that will direct you into the park's temporary entrance," noted Bertsch.

For camping reservations call 1-800-710-2267 or visit www.campsd.com.

GARY HOWEY | OF THE OUTDOORS

Late Spring Fishing In High Waters

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

Throughout much of the upper Midwest, high water has either eliminated some bodies of water or changed them drastically, making it a whole new ball game when it comes fishing in these areas.

In southeast South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska, the huge releases being released from the dams above us on the Missouri River, have created dangerous conditions in the lakes and rivers as well as to the homes located near the lake or river.

On Lewis & Clark Lake, there is still fishing and boating opportunities available, but with the debris (logs, bull rushes & cattails) safety is a big concern, but by taking your time and not getting in a hurry, there's still recreational possibilities on the lake.

Fishing is going to be tough, especially if you're a crankbaiter as every leaf, weed and other vegetation when it comes in contact with your line is going to travel down it and jam into your crankbait, destroying its action. One thing we do to help prevent this is to place a split shot 8" to 10" above the

bait, which will catch a lot of the vegetation that's caught your line, keeping it away from your crankbait.

Since the river below Gavins Point Dam is closed, there are still plenty of fishing opportunities out there as there are hundreds of small lakes and ponds throughout both South Dakota and Nebraska, most of these have excellent populations of walleye, bass, catfish and panfish. Many of these have areas along their shoreline giving shore fishermen access to the water with the larger lakes having boat ramps.

These smaller lakes and ponds are the home of some truly big fish and if you look at where many of the state record fish have come from, you'll be surprised at what you see as these smaller lakes and ponds have given up many record fish.

Unlike the larger lakes and rivers, these smaller lakes and ponds aren't as susceptible to the affects of cold fronts, making them an excellent choice when it comes to fishing cold front conditions.

Over the last two weeks, we've fished below Ft. Thompson and on lake Francis Case and had no problem launching our boats, fishing or catching our limits.



PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Doug Haas (Mitchell) is pictured with a Northern Pike taken from a northeast South Dakota slough.

New fish have been washed into the lake and below the dams, with nice limits of walleyes and white bass being taken in both places.

The same thing is happening all the way up the river, easy access and excellent fishing have drawn a lot of anglers to these areas. If you're heading for Lake Oahe, you might want to avoid the area below the dam as it was closed to boating due to the high water releases.

In Northeast South Dakota, there's plenty of water, more than I can ever recall, but there's still excellent fishing going on. What's nice about this area is there are hundreds of lakes to fish offering numerous species and if one lake isn't producing, you won't have to travel

far to find a lake where fish are being caught.

Some of the boat docks may not be useable, while others may have been relocated, or moved up, so you might want to call your local bait shop or convenience store in the area you plan to fish to find out if the launch you plan on going to is in service.

These lakes have numerous species of fish available and with the newly flooded land, species such as Northern Pike, Walleyes and Perch will have feeding areas as well as spawning grounds, which means that fishing down the road is going to be even better.

Both those fishing from shore and boat have reported success on all three

of the species mentioned above.

Since water temperatures are beginning to warm up, fish are more active, but looking for warmer water areas in the late spring is a good bet when it comes to finding fish. Fish just like humans, are going to be located wherever they're the most comfortable. The baitfish will move into these warmer areas with the game fish following close behind, so warmer water areas are excellent places to start fishing.

When I was younger living in Watertown, in the spring, we always caught fish in rocky areas, at that time I figured it was because the crayfish and minnows were hiding in the rock. Partially true, but not the only reason the fish were there. Rocks along a shoreline will absorb the heat of the sun; warming up the water they are located in and will retain heat after the sun goes down, making these areas more comfortable to the fish and a place to easily grab a meal.

Any area where there is water coming in, whether it be from the dam discharge or coming through a tube or culvert draining a slough or from one body of water to another all attract fish to the area. Since these inflows are coming in quickly, many insects baitfish and other aquatic life is drawn in and this draws the fish, making these areas excellent places to catch Northern Pike and Walleyes.

For Northerns, a spoon is hard to beat with a Bass type spinnerbait coming in a close second. Both of these baits if cast out and retrieved are hard for them to ignore. As you probably know, make sure you have your bait tied to a good tough leader when fishing for Northerns.

I've had excellent luck casting and hopping jigs tipped with minnows, leech or crawlers back to the shore or boat. The key to catching fish on a jig is to keep a tight line, which allows you to not only feel the bait being picked up by the fish, but also the bottom. If you don't keep a tight line on a jig and allow it to drop to the bottom, more times than not, you'll spend more time tying on jigs than catching fish.

This is a great time to catch fish, before it gets too hot, too buggy and before the lakes and ponds get too weedy as the fish are shallow and hungry after coming out of the spawn, so don't let high water scare you away, just remember to take your time, wear your life jacket and take part in all that the upper Midwest Outdoors has to offer.

Gary Howe, Hartington, Neb., is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions LLC, Producer/ Host of Outdoorsmen Adventures television and Outdoor Adventures radio. For more information on the outdoors check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

COMMENTARY | BABE WINKELMAN

It's Summer, Is Bowhunting On Your Mind?

The hunting bug. Yes, it's all-consuming. I've got it. You've got it. And even when it's the off-season it doesn't go away. There is simply no cure.

So what's a person to do when they want to hunt but can't? The answer is easy: become a better hunter.

There are two sure-fire ways to improve your odds of scoring in the upcoming season. One is to improve your knowledge of the animals in your hunting grounds; and you can do this through scouting and observing, either on foot with binoculars or with cutting-edge digital scouting cameras. The second way to become a more accomplished predator is to hone your shooting skills during the off-season, to help ensure lethal arrow placement later.

Your Eyes In The Woods

Digital scouting cameras have forever changed the way we scout for whitetails. In addition to showing you the exact animals you have working your property, they can also help you "pattern" the herd, as well as individual bucks.

I talked to a bowhunter and fan recently at a sport & hunting show. He was eager to show me photos on his smartphone of a buck he harvested last year.

It was a dandy! A mature 4 x 5 with amazing mass and big, palmated brow tines that looked like knife blades.

He told me the story of how he took the impressive whitetail. He had one of his Cuddeback cameras on the edge of a tiny food plot he had planted in a small clearing in his woods. He retrieved his images once a week during mid-afternoon when he was least likely to spook anything. On several occasions, when there was a south wind, he had photographic evidence of the buck accessing the food plot at about 4:30 p.m.

So this sharp guy waited for an afternoon when there was a perfect south wind and snuck into his stand near that food plot at about 2:00 p.m. Right around 4:20, that massive 9-pointer came sneaking in for an afternoon snack — just like clockwork. The hunter's Rage broadhead from 30 yards blew through both lungs and made that young man a very happy bowhunter!

This demonstrates an important point about using Cuddebacks. Instead of just looking at all the interesting pictures you capture, keep careful daily records of wind direction, temperature, lunar phase and general conditions so you can cross-reference the dates and times of pho-

tos. This will dramatically help you pattern deer movement and activity.

During the summer months, scouting cameras can reveal a lot about what you can expect come fall. No, you can't look at polished antlers. But you can monitor those bucks in velvet as they grow. One of my favorite summer Cuddeback tactics is to put the cameras near mineral lick sites, because deer visit those sites very predictably to get the nutrients they instinctively know they need for adult growth, milk production, etc.

Shoot Your Best!

Aside from scouting, the other critical off-season activity is to spend time at the range. If you have enough room where you live to take even 15-yard shots, set a goal for yourself to take at least 10 shots per day. And when you practice, try to mix things up a bit.

Put your Block target behind narrow gaps between trees, so it becomes commonplace to snake arrows through small openings. Shoot standing, but also practice

your shooting from sitting on a stool, kneeling and even sitting on the ground. If you hunt primarily from a treestand, put your Block target below an upstairs deck, or strap a ladder stand to a tree in your yard.

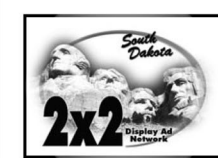
Shooting from an elevated position, particularly down at severe angles, is far different than shooting on flat ground.

Repeated practice sessions do more than improve your shooting form and accuracy. They also extend your range and the build the most important characteristic a bowhunter can have: Confidence! When you KNOW a buck is going down the moment you release that bowstring well, that's just the greatest feeling in the world.

Good Hunting!

Babe Winkelman is a Minnesota-based professional fisherman and host of the popular TV shows "Good Fishing" and "Outdoor Secrets." In 2007, he earned the "Excellence In Craft" award from the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

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Gayville-Volin School District 63-1

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Congratulations to the staff and students on another successful school year. See you all on Aug. 17, 2011

High School
Pre-Registration
August 8th & 9th
8am-5pm

Back to School Night
August 15th
5-7pm

First Day
of School
August 17th

Free Preschool
Programs for
3 & 4 Year Olds

Free
After-School
Program

Enrichment &
Remediation Days

Modified 5 Day
School Week

School-Wide
Title Services for
struggling students

District has met ALL goals set forth by No Child Left Behind

21st Century Technology in ALL Classrooms



Highly Qualified Teachers

55% of Teachers with Advanced Degrees

State of the Art Computer & Science Labs

Classroom Laptop Use for Grades 3-7

1:1 Laptops for Grades 8-12

Co-curricular Activities for 5th-12th Grade

As a student in the Gayville-Volin School District you have the opportunity to participate in school sanctioned and sponsored co-curricular activities starting in the 5th grade. The Gayville-Volin School District offers: 5th and 6th grade boys' basketball, football, music and band; 5th and 6th grade girls' basketball, volleyball, music and band. 7th and 8th grade boys' football; 7th and 8th grade boys' and girls' basketball, track, band, chorus, golf, Science Olympiad, Destination Imagination, and 7th and 8th grade girls' volleyball. Varsity and Junior Varsity volleyball, basketball, football, golf, track, Science Olympiad, Destination Imagination, drama, oral interpretation, student government, and student council.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Gayville-Volin School District does not discriminate in its policies and programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability, creed, or religion. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Title II (discrimination based on disability), Title VI (discrimination based on national origin or race) or Title IX (discrimination based on gender):
Jason Seichert, Ed.S.
Superintendent
100 Kingsbury Street
Gayville, SD 57031
(605) 267-4476 x. 104

Section 504 (discrimination based on disability):
Patrick Beeman, Principal
100 Kingsbury Street
Gayville, SD 57031
(605) 267-4476 x. 108

Parents' Right to Know

As a parent of a student at the Gayville-Volin School, you have the right to know the professional qualification of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether DOE has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subject he or she teaches.
- Whether DOE has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teacher's aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child, and if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call your child's principal at 267-4476.