

OUTDOORS DIGEST

State Parks Offers Summer Nature Camps For Kids

PIERRE — Three state parks are hosting nature day camps for kids ages 7-12. The camps are a great way for kids to explore the surrounding recreation area and focus on the outdoors.

Oakwood Lakes State Park near Volga is hosting a day camp from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, July 9. Prepare for games, crafts and campfire cooking! Call 605-627-5441 to register.

"Track Detectives" at Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs is Wednesday, July 10, from 9:30 a.m. to noon MDT. Learn about the many animals of the area, how to identify common animal tracks, and make an animal track to take home. Call 605-745-6996 for more information or to register.

Palisades State Park near Garretson will teach participants about nocturnal animals with a hands-on lesson, craft project, hike/walk and games on July 11 at 9 a.m. CDT. This qualifies as a Junior Naturalist program. Call 605-394-3824 for more information and to register.

While the camps are geared for kids ages 7-12, younger children may attend if accompanied by an adult. Kids are reminded to wear clothing appropriate for the weather, and also bring bug spray, drinking water and shoes comfortable for walking. Sandals are not appropriate. No snacks or refreshments will be provided, but kids are welcome to bring their own. There is no fee for the camp; however a park entrance license is required to enter state parks and recreation areas.

For a complete list of state park events, visit South Dakota state parks on the web at www.gfp.sd.gov.

State Park Visitors Should Leave Fireworks At Home

PIERRE — The upcoming Fourth of July holiday is always a busy time in South Dakota's state parks and recreation areas. If you plan to celebrate at the parks, Game, Fish and Parks Department officials ask you to please leave fireworks at home.

According to Doug Hofer, state parks and recreation director, campgrounds are traditionally very busy with campers and other visitors enjoying the parks during the Independence Day period.

"Combining fireworks and large numbers of people creates a dangerous situation," said Hofer. "We appreciate your help to keep the parks safe and fun this Fourth of July."

Discharging fireworks is prohibited on all lands owned or leased by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. The ban includes state parks, recreation areas, lakeside use areas, game production areas and nature areas. Discharging fireworks is also illegal within the boundaries of the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District, national forests and national parks in South Dakota.

For more information on the South Dakota State Parks, visit www.gfp.sd.gov or call 605-773-3391.

3D Archery Tournament June 30, July 7

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Hartington will host a 3D Archery Tournament on Sunday, June 30 and Sunday, July 7.

The tournament features 50 shots in wooded and other terrain. Outdoor Archery Range registration times are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Kevin Milleken at 402-640-3322.

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Rising Water & Fishing

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

When I was growing up in Watertown, where we fished, we didn't worry about the current and how it affected the fish. Why, because first of all, we didn't know a thing about it, secondly, we were fishing in the Sioux River and lakes where current wasn't a factor.

After moving down to the area I live now, where I'd be fishing the Missouri River, understanding current became pretty important.

Anglers, especially those who fish down river from a one of the Missouri Reservoir dams, need to pay close attention to hat's happening at the dam, especially the amount of water being released or decreased, as a change in water velocity and levels can drastically affect the location and mood of the fish.

I've heard it dozens of times where anglers have clobbered the fish one day and then the next not have a clue why fishing the following day will suck.

In many cases, the reason things have changed is that the discharge from the dams has changed either raising or lowering the water levels and changing the current.

In the Southeast South Dakota Tourism area, the *Yankton Press and Dakotan* gives the Gavin's Point Dam report showing the water temperature of the lake, the amount of discharge as well as other information.

The water temperature on the lake, gives anglers and idea as to when the spawn will happen and the bite will begin, while the information on the discharge is important as movement in the water causes all species of fish to change their patterns.

The best fishing is going to happen when there's and increase in water flow as this means there will be injured baitfish coming through the dam, signaling to fish down river that it's lunch time, causing them to move up stream to feast on what's being washed through the turbines or over the spillway.

With the increase in water flow, there's an increase in current, forcing fish to relocate, with some moving to the deeper holes, into current breaks or to the inside bend along the shore line to avoid the swift current while others, the more aggressive fish will move up to the head of the hole to be the first to the feed on what's washing down to them.

The exception to the rule is chan-



PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Larry Myhre of Sioux City, Iowa, with a channel catfish taken during high water-heavy current conditions.

nel catfish, since they seem to enjoy current and will eat about anything, they'll move to the outside bend where the current is stronger, taking advantage of what's being carried downstream by the current to feed.

We know that because of the increased water levels and current, fish will move up to feed, it may be up below the dam or to the top of the hole they're in, positioning themselves to feed on what's coming down stream.

If you're fishing for a species such as channel catfish, you don't need to be too particular as to what bait you're using as cats are opportunists

and will eat almost anything, if you're fishing for walleyes, what bait you're using can make a big difference. Since they will be in the current, I've found that the best bait in heavy current conditions to be pieces of cut bait with the skin still on from silver carp or skip jack as it's tough and won't come off easily in the current.

When fishing high water with heavy current, you'll want to do your best to match your bait that's coming their way. Livebait is generally your best bet as what's coming through the dam and down stream at one time was livebait, so it's good to know what the main forage base that lives

in the system is.

In the Missouri River, you'll find a lot of shad, river shiners and assorted minnows, making them, depending on the time of the year, the bait you'll see many anglers using.

I've found that Gulp Pearl White in the 3"/8 cm Minnow Grub or the Pearl Silver 3"/8cm Minnow work well when fishing rising water levels.

I use these baits in place of a minnow and have found that I can catch as many fish if not more than those anglers using Gulp baits in place of a minnow and because of their color, scent and toughness, I won't have to change bait as often.

When I'm jig fishing, because of the increased current, I may have to go with a heavier jig just to keep the bait in the fish catching zone.

If I'm casting or pitching a jig along a shore line or off a bar, I can get by with a lighter bait, but when fishing in deeper water where's there's current, a heavier 3/8th ounce jig helps me to get down and allows the bait to stay in contact with the bottom.

You can bait a jig with Gulp the same way you would a minnow, hooking it right through the head. If you're casting the jig, fishing weedy conditions or an area where there's a lot of trash, you may want to thread it onto the jig hook.

When you find the fish have moved out of the current into the inside bends of the river, where there's less current, a Lindy drifted through the area that's tipped with a minnow or creek chub will work.

If you can anchor above or off to the side of the hole, or use your trolling motor to hold you in place, you can attach a crankbait, one resembling the main forage base in the system and fan cast the water, starting shallow and then working on down to the deeper water until you find the depth the aggressive fish are in and then work it thoroughly.

Fishing high water with heavy current can be challenging while being very productive. Don't shy away from those days when the waters on the rise as it can be some of the best fishing you're going to find that year.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. Howey is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which can be seen in Yankton the series airs on channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program Monday-Saturday at 6:45 am on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com and like Outdoorsmen Adventures on Facebook.

Vikes' Allen Teams To Help Wounded Soldiers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Vikings wild man Jared Allen owns three bulls in the Professional Bull Riders series. Of course he does.

The defensive end who came within a fingertip of breaking the single-season sack record two years ago has always been a bit of an adventurer off the field, hunting wild boar, running with the bulls in Pamplona and skydiving in a constant pursuit of adrenaline.

Now, every time he watches one of his bulls jump into the chute at an event, the hair stands up on the back of his neck and the crazy thoughts start jumping around in his head.

"They just tempt me every time I'm at a ride," Allen said. "I'm like, 'I got this.' And I know I don't."

The Vikings might have something to say about that, so this season on the PBR's Built Ford Tough series, Allen is going to put those bulls to work for an even better cause. He is teaming up with the PBR to help benefit his Homes for Wounded Warriors foundation, a charity founded in 2009 that

builds handicap-accessible homes and remodels for veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. For Allen, it was a chance to bring two of his biggest passions off the field together.

"I think it's a cool cross promotion," Allen said. "We can reach so many from the sports side with the Vikings. We reach so many levels, and now we can branch out to the PBR and find another demographic that really fits into what we're doing."

The PBR will help market merchandise like T-shirts and hats with Allen's bulls — Hot Iron, HY Test and Thumbs Up — and the H4WW logo of his foundation. There will also be advertisement for the program's text-to-donate vehicle to help raise funds during the rides themselves. The first event will be the Express Employment Professionals Classic in Tulsa, Okla., on Aug. 16-17.

"There's 10 seconds right there where the announcer's talking about the foundation," Allen said. "There's 10 seconds where it's on someone's mind. Just putting it on the TV is

going to be huge for us."

The foundation has a goal of building three to five houses this year, but Allen hopes that this new partnership will help increase that number to five to 10 next year.

Allen's association with the PBR will also help him promote bull riding and rodeos, activities that were engrained in him growing up on a ranch in California. He said his dad would put him and his brother on cows for rides when they were 5 years old.

"My dad and grandpa thought it was really funny to put us on," he said. "The cows always won."

If Allen can use his popularity to help raise the profile of a niche sport that is near and dear to his heart, great. But for him, nothing can top the feeling that he gets from seeing a veteran in need move into a new home.

"When you give someone a key to their home that is fit specifically for them, the joy you see in that person, it's life changing," Allen said. "It's a small way we can say thank you."

Seven Neb. Parks Allowing Fireworks

Several Nebraska parks have full agendas planned for the Fourth of July weekend. Seven of the state recreation areas and one state historical park will allow park goers to set off their own fireworks in designated areas.

Visitors can set off fireworks on July 4 from 8 a.m. until midnight at Branched Oak State Recreation Area (SRA) near Malcolm, Fort Kearny State Historical Park (SHP) near Kearney, Fremont SRA near Fremont, Two Rivers SRA near Venice, Pawnee SRA near Emerald, Wagon Train SRA near Hickman and Memphis SRA near Ashland.

Signs will be posted at the recreation areas directing people to the fireworks sites and their boundaries will be clearly marked. Use of fireworks elsewhere in state areas or at other times is

prohibited. Only fireworks approved for sale in Nebraska by the state fire marshal are permitted and visitors must pick up expended fireworks and deposit them in appropriate containers. Here's a summary of event offerings at parks across the state:

• July 6 — Dutch Oven Cobbler Ice Cream Social — Ponca SP

Homemade Dutch oven cobbler and hand cranked ice cream will be served while old fashioned games are played at the Missouri National Recreational River Resource and Education Center at 7 p.m.

• July 6 — National Park Service Outdoor Event — Niobrara SP

The National Park Service will have staff presenting demonstrations on a variety of topics and outdoor events are scheduled.

• July 6 — Buffalo Cookout — Niobrara SP

A buffalo cookout will be held at the shelter at 6 p.m. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Deb Carpenter Nolting and Lyn Messersmith of the Nebraska Humanities Council will be providing the program, "Legends Leaders of the West." Reservations must be made by noon on the day of the event.

• July 7 — Sidewalk Chalk Art — Niobrara SP

The park office will be the focal point for a fun day of sidewalk chalk art beginning at 10 a.m. There will be prizes for participants.

A park entry permit is required for all vehicles. Contact information for the parks can be found at www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/guides/contact.asp

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Dr. Dan Johnson	

Creighton, NE	July 11 (morning)
Dr. Dan Johnson	

Please call to schedule an appointment.

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