

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Yankton Step Outside Event June 21

Yankton area youth will have a chance to participate in the sixth annual Yankton Step Outside event on Saturday, June 21. The event will take place at the Isaak Walton Trap Range east of Yankton on Highway 50 and will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Youth attending the event will be able to shoot shotguns, .22 rifles, BB guns, bow and arrow. The event is free and is open to youth 8 years old and older. All youth must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be a free lunch provided. The event will be held rain or shine, so come dressed for the weather.

If you have any questions, contact Conservation Officer Sam Schelhaas at 668-2985.

Pheasants Forever Will Open Regional Headquarters In S.D.

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Pheasants Forever plans to open its first regional headquarters office in Brookings in July. Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever's long-time Vice President of Government Affairs, will permanently move to South Dakota becoming the organization's point person in the state.

The move comes as the organization ramps up efforts to address substantial habitat losses and land use changes in South Dakota, which have resulted in a dramatic decline in pheasant numbers.

According to a 2012 South Dakota State University (SDSU) study, 451,000 acres of South Dakota grasslands were converted to agricultural production from 2006 to 2011. In 2013, the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks annual pheasant index showed a 64 percent drop in bird numbers; the result of habitat loss coupled with poor weather conditions during nesting season.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism estimates pheasant hunting generates \$223 million in retail economic impact annually and an additional \$111 million in salaries annually. Those revenues are the result of 76,000 resident and 100,000 non-resident pheasant hunters purchasing licenses, fuel, food and lodging during the state's three-month hunting season.

Make Plans To Attend Special Events In S.D. State Parks

PIERRE — South Dakota state parks will be holding several special events the third weekend in June. These activities are a great way to spend the official start to summer. Make plans to attend the following events:

- Through the Woods Thursday: Howls and Growls Hike, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton. Thursday, June 19, 9 a.m. CDT. Info: 605-668-2985
- Extreme Campers Challenge, Lake Vermillion Recreation Area near Canistota. Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. CDT. Info: 605-296-3643
- Wilderness Survival Challenge, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton. Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT. Info: 605-668-2985

The programs are open to all ages. There is no charge to participate in the events, except the Dakotaman Triathlon. A park entrance license is required.

For more information on activities in the S.D. state parks, visit www.gfp.sd.gov, contact the individual park office or call 605-773-3391.

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Water Released Downstream Means The Fish Are Biting

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

When you fish on the Missouri River Reservoirs, you will need to deal with water releases coming through the dams.

The bad side of this is that all the water running into the lakes, rivers, will change the water clarity making it harder to fish without getting your crankbaits, jigs, and livebait rigs all gunked up.

The old wives tale, "with every bad there comes some good" is very true in this instance as water flowing into any body of water means that the fish will become active.

It might take a few days for the water to settle down and the swift current to subside, but you can bet that when there is a rise in the water level, with more water coming downstream from the dams above the fish will become active.

The reason for this is simple; the influx in water washes new food sources down stream.

Worms, insects, zooplankton as well as the baitfish and fingerlings that were tucked safely into the deep-water pockets, bays and backwaters are now being flushed downstream into the rivers and lakes, bringing a smorgasbord to the fish, which will be moving towards the incoming water on their way to see what, is on the menu.

In the river below the dams, sandbars and vegetation that was once high and dry will now become flooded and the insects and other material that was lying in these areas are washed into the water.

This influx of water and new food sources attract the fish to the drop offs and points where the water is headed.

Both prey and predator fish will benefit, as they will all move towards the incoming water to feed on what is washed and forced downstream.

Another benefit of high water is that the reservoirs will reach capacity and water is released through the dams.

Because some of the deepest water with the most hospitable temperatures is located directly above the dam, this is where many fish will have congregated.

When the gates are open and the excess water from the lake is flushed



Gary HOWEY



Team Outdoorsmen Adventures Member Larry Myhre of Sioux City, Iowa, is pictured with a channel catfish taken below one of the Missouri River Dams during heavy water releases.

through, a tremendous amount of water is released, flushing thousands of gallons of water and fish through the gates into the river system below.

On the Missouri as well as on other river systems, our dams are used for generating electricity and in order to drop the elevation of the lake, excess water may need to be run through the turbines of the dam as well, drawing fish on the upstream side through the generators, down into the river.

Some of the fish washed through the turbines will be cut up or injured and then deposited down stream, not

only increasing the number of fish below, but also adding a new food source into the fast water below the turbines.

As the water levels rise and currents increases, fish in the system will move upstream into the more oxygenated water to feed on what is washed through the dam.

When water is being released, the fishing below generally improves, as numerous species of fish will have been relocated below the dam.

It's always good to keep an eye on the information in the local paper about the amount of water or CFS

that's being released through a dam, as a large increase is usually a pretty good indicator that there will be a possibility that fish coming through the turbines as well as fish moving up stream.

You never know what you might catch once new water has been dumped into the river, as this is when anglers will start to pick up numerous varieties of fish, some of which may not have been common in the area before the water release.

Prior to high water releases, the fishing below the dam may be slow, but several days after high water releases fishing usually begins to pick up.

You will want to keep your tackle basic, nothing fancy and try to use as light as weight as you like to use.

A simple live bait rig consisting of a hook, split shot or lightweight sinker tipped with a crawler, leech or minnow can be the best rig when fishing after water releases.

In non-current conditions, you can vertically jig these rigs, much as if you would when fishing a jig, staying in close contact to the bottom.

When drifting in current conditions, some anglers feel the need use a heavy weight on their rig to keep their bait vertical and to keep in contact with the bottom, to keep it from drifting too fast.

Unfortunately, the bottom may be where your rig stays as the heavy current can jam heavier weights tight into the rocks and other bottom obstructions.

A lighter rigs will drift along with the current just like the baitfish that have washed through the dam, eventually settling in the slack water pockets where the game fish will be waiting for lunch to arrive.

No matter how you fish, be in from boat or shore, the next time there's a big water discharge, give the fishing down stream a try as there's bound to be fish moving up to see what all the fuss is about.

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 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 Monday-Saturday at 6:45 am on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

Annual Bluegill Spawn A National Draw On Tennessee Lake

BY BRYAN BRASHER

© 2014 The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, Tenn.)

HORNBEAK, Tenn. — For 44 straight years, Gary and Martha Holder have been traveling from their home in Evansville, Indiana, to Blue Bank Resort on Reelfoot Lake to fish for bluegill during the spring.

There are plenty of bluegill in Indiana and plenty more in all the lakes and rivers they cross during their three-hour trip to Blue Bank.

But when it comes to the annual bluegill spawning run, the Holders insist nothing matches what Reelfoot has to offer.

"The bluegill are so fat here because there is so much food for them in this lake," Gary said. "We catch the same size bluegill at home, but they're always skinny. The bluegill here are always thick, and they're some of the best-eating fish you'll find anywhere."

The Holders spent a recent Friday evening bouncing from one bluegill bed to another with longtime Blue Bank fishing guide Billy Blakley. Their Indiana tag didn't look the least bit out of place in the parking lot, sitting alongside tags from Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida,

Illinois, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas — just to name a few.

That kind of mix this time of year always says the bluegill are biting.

"We have groups of people from all over the country who come down every year — and they always come right about now because they know the bluegill are gonna be working their way onto the beds," Blakley said. "People come from everywhere. My guide rates are \$325 for two people or

\$425 for three people, and I could book every day during the run if I wanted to."

An Annual Ritual

The bluegill spawn usually takes off on Reelfoot when the water temperature reaches the high 60s — and with the erratic weather in the Mid-South, it's always hard to know exactly when that will happen.

Thanks to a harsh winter and an unseasonably cool spring, last year's spawn did-

n't really hit its stride until mid-June and then lasted well into the summer. But this year's spring weather has been much milder.

Many people find bedding bluegill on other lakes by simply looking for light spots on a dark bottom where the fish have wallowed out their beds in shallow water by fanning their tails. But the murky water on Reelfoot forces anglers to rely more on experience and trial and error.

Once you locate a bed, it's

wise to commit the spot to memory because bluegill often bed in the same areas year after year.

"A lot of the beds I fish are just beds that I found years ago," said Blakley, who's been a hunting and fishing guide on Reelfoot for more than three decades. "But I find a lot of new beds just running from place to place. Knowing what to look for is really important."

Blakley lets a baited hook do much of his searching for him as he works quickly up

the shoreline, fishing around fallen logs, wood piers, lily pads and standing green grass. He uses live crickets 1-2 feet deep beneath a float — and if he catches one good bluegill, he lingers in the area to see if it's holding more.

Though some say it's an old wives' tale, Blakley believes he can smell bedding bluegill when he gets near them. But no sign means more to him than the sight of bubbles along the surface in shallow water.

A Flag Day Salute

A special compliment and thank you to the businesses and professional people who sponsor the YANKTON COMMUNITY FLAG PROGRAM in our 29th consecutive year is given on this, our national FLAG DAY. They make our flag displays of patriotic and community spirit in Yankton possible and contribute tremendously to the Lion's commitment to serving the sight and hearing impaired citizens in the area.

YANKTON LIONS CLUB

- 5 Star Communications Inc. KVHT, KVTK • Kopetsky Enterprises, Inc. (Ace Hardware) • Affordable Self Storage • All Seasons Powersports • America Best Realty • Anderson Realty • Aune Trucking, Inc. • Avera Home Medical • Jon Baumann DDC PC • Berkley Motors (Hacecky Enterprises, Inc) • Best Western Kelly Inn Yankton • Blackburn & Stevens, PROF. LLC • Bob's Candy Service • Boller Printing Company • Bomgaars • Bonanza (Dakota Restaurants, Inc) • Bonnie's Sheer Design • Bridge City Auto • Buhl's Cleaners • Captain Norm's • Casey's General Stores • Century 21 • Charles Pizza • Chesterman Co. (Coca-Cola) • Christensen Radiator & Repair • Cihak Insurance, CI Property • Clark's Rental-Custom Corner Inc. • John A. Conking Distributing Co., Inc • Cork 'N Bottle, Inc. • CorTrust • Cottonwood (Shipwreck Inc.) • Cox Auto Supply, Inc (NAPA) • Crescent Electric Supply Co. • Crist & Wenande Orthodontics, PROF. LLC • Culligan Water Conditioning • Dahlin Drywall, Inc • Dairy Queen of Yankton • Dakota Archery & Outdoor Sports • DamFireworks • Days Inn - YanktonEcho Electric Supply, Co. • Edward Jones • Eisenbraun & Associates • Yankton Elks Lodge #994 • Fairbank Equipment, Inc. • Farm Credit Services of America • Services Center • Federal Credit Union • Fejfar Plumbing & Heating, Inc. • First Chiropractic Center (Dakota Chiropractic Clinics) • First Dakota • First National Bank South Dakota • Floor to Ceiling • Harmalink, Fox & Ravensborg Attorneys at law • Fred Haar Co., Inc. • Frick Hog Buying & Trucking, Inc. (Eastside Storage) • Frontier Mills, Inc. • Fryn' Pan • Mead Lumber - Yankton • Gerstner Oil Co., Inc. • Graham Tire Co - Yankton • Gramps • Great Plains Therapy • GrowRite Greenhouse (Soil Works, LLC) • H & K Oil • Hair Studio • Hatch Furniture of Yankton • Hedahis Inc. • Holiday Inn Express Hotel Suites (SYMS, LLC) • Home Federal Bank • Hubbs Agency, Inc. • Hy-Vee Food Store • James Steel • JB Body Shop • Ben Jensen Dental • John's Service • Johnson Engineering Co. • Johnson, Miner, Marlow, Woodward & Huff, Prof. LLC • JR-S Oasis • Justra Body Shop (Kabeisenman & Pollard) • Pollard & Larson LLP • Kaiser Appliances • Kaiser Heating and Cooling (Electair, Inc) • Karl's TV Audio and Appliance • Karttrax Family Fun Park • Kennedy Pier & Knoff, LLP • Kevin Carda Insurance Agency Inc • King Dragon • K-Mart • Koletzky Implement, Inc. • Kolor Me Kids • Larry's Heating & Cooling (Slumberland) • Larry's Plumbing • Larsen Carpet • Laser Laser Tag • Leader Concrete Construction, Inc. • Lewis & Clark Realty • Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital • Leisure World • Lisa's Package Liquor • Long's Propane Service Inc. • Luken Memorials • M R Henderson & Co, PC. • Masonry Components • Midwest Insurance Agency, Inc. • Midwest Market Solutions • Midwest Radiator • Missouri River Associates • Modern Body Shop Inc. • More Than Pets, Inc. • M.T. & R.C. Smith Insurance Inc. • N-K Properties • Northern Extrusion Tooling • Northwestern Energy Corporation • Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Homes • Plath Chiropractic Clinic • Patriot Express • Patriot Express 02 • Chuck Stop LCC (Paul's Kwik Stop) • Photography by Jerry • Pizza Ranch • Planning & Development District III • Prairie Pumper • Premium Best Transport • Printing Specialists • Pro Auto, Inc • ProCenter Hearing • Pump N' Stuff - Riverside • Pump N' Stuff - Yankton • R&D Repair • RC Grossenburg DDS • River City Tool and Pawn • Riverfront Dental • Rod's Piddle Shop • Rogers Family Pharmacy • Ron's Auto Glass • Rupiper's Travel & Tours • Ryken 8th St Campground • Salon'a' More • ServiceMaster • Sherwin-Williams • Shur-Co • Slowey's Auto Body • Somsen Agency • South Central Safety, Inc • South Dakota Magazine • Southgate • Sportsman Spirits & Fine Wine (Tobacco Road) • Springwater LLC • State Farm Insurance - Wilcox • Steiner's Locker Service, Inc • Stern Oil Co, Inc. • Stevens Chiropractic Clinic • Stewart Carpet Center • Sturdevants Auto Parts • The Collision Center • The Glass Cutter • TJ's Mini Mart • Tom's Electric • Truck-Trailer Sales • Vanderhule Moving & Storage, Inc. • Varilek Truck Repair • Veterinary Medical Clinic • Vision Care Associates • Wagner, Kuntz & Grabouski, PC. • Walgreens • Walmart Store #01-1483 • Walnut Tavern, Inc. • Walnut Village • WCC Welfl Const. Corp • Wells Fargo • Wholesale Supply Co. Inc • Williams & Co. PC. • WinWholesale Inc., as Agent • WNAX Radio • Wohlenberg Ritzman & Co., LLC • Yaggies Inc • Yankton Ag Service • Yankton Automotive Machine • Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce • Yankton Diesel Injection, Inc. • Yankton Drug Co. Inc. • Yankton Homeless Shelter • Yankton Insurance Agency • Yankton Medical Clinic, PC • Yankton Minervas • Yankton Motor Co. • Yankton Motorsports • Yankton Transmission Specialists • Yankton Veterinary Clinic • Yesterday's Café

KYNT
AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Monday, June 16
7:40 am Yankton County Comm (Garry Moore, John Harper)
8:20 am Southeast CASA (Sherril Rodgers-Conti)

Tuesday, June 17
7:40 am KYB (Camille Swift-Slowey)
7:50 am YCTC (Shellee Hiememeyer)