

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Pheasants Forever  
Appoints Morlock  
Assistant Director

BROOKINGS – Matt Morlock of Huron, South Dakota, has been named Pheasants Forever's assistant director in South Dakota. A 12-year employee at "The Habitat Organization," Morlock will work out of Pheasants Forever's regional headquarters in Brookings to develop and expand upland habitat conservation programs, partnerships, and advocacy in the state.

As assistant director, Morlock will play a key role in working with South Dakota landowners by managing the state's Farm Bill biologist team and partnerships. The goal of Pheasants Forever's Farm Bill biologist program is to assist landowners in finding profitable ways to implement conservation practices in harmony with agriculture. Since 2003, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill biologists in South Dakota have worked with more than 7,000 landowners who were interested in voluntary conservation programs.

Roadside Mowing:  
Hold Off Until After  
July 10

PIERRE - The South Dakota Departments of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and Transportation (DOT) want to remind individuals there are laws and rules governing when mowing of highway right-of-way ditches can begin.

Administrative Rule 70:04:06:06 states in part that no right-of-way ditch mowing may be done before July 10 east of the Missouri River. The DOT may mow medians and ditches within the right-of-way prior to that date to control noxious weeds and provide increased safety to the traveling public.

In accordance with the administrative rule, abutting landowners on state highways are given preference to mow right-of-way ditches. Other persons wishing to mow must obtain a waiver from the abutting landowner.

Any person wanting to mow Interstate right-of-way ditches must apply for a permit, with preference being given to abutting landowners. Other persons wishing to mow must also obtain a waiver from the abutting landowner. The permit application and waiver are available at: [www.sddot.com/resources/forms/](http://www.sddot.com/resources/forms/).

Pheasant production is diminished when ditches are mowed prior to completion of nesting activity. Incubating hens nearing their hatch dates can be struck and killed by hay-mowing equipment. Hens and newly hatched broods remain susceptible to mowing equipment for another two weeks after hatching due to the restricted mobility of chicks and the tendency of the hen and young to hide from approaching danger rather than flushing to escape.

For questions regarding ditch mowing regulations, contact DOT at 605.773.3265.

# Fishing Deep When It's Hot

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

Here, lately, there have been days when I wondered if the warmer weather would ever get here. Right now, it may not seem like it, but have no fear when it arrives, it will be with a vengeance.

When it does arrive, it will warm up quickly. This along with the higher humidity will be the perfect combination for nasty weather and of course, tougher fishing conditions.

This is the time of the year, when fish will have to adjust with numerous conditions. These will include low water, high water, rising water temperatures, rising, falling barometric pressure and the summer's bright sunlight all making walleye fishing during this time of the year, the Dog Days of summer tough.

Anglers are going to need to adjust, heading

for areas with deeper water, those with less sunlight penetration as this is where the fish will be located when temperatures heat up.

With the rise in water temperatures, walleyes and other species of fish will head deep, searching out comfortable water temperatures.

These deep-water haunts provide the cooler water temperature the fish need to survive when things heat up.

Another reason is their food source, the baitfish has moved down, bringing the predator fish with them.

There are several methods allowing you to take these Deep-Water fish; those that have worked well for me are leadcore line, snap weights or downriggers pulling crankbaits.

During this time of the year, the movement of the fish can vary drastically, especially just prior to a severe weather change.

Fish can detect a change of weather well before it happens using their lateral line, which is a series of sensitive nerve endings extending from behind the gills to their tail.

Since they know that a severe weather change is about to occur, walleyes and other species of fish



PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member, Steve Isom (Valentine, Nebraska) is pictured with a walleye taken using the Dog Day methods.

will go on a feeding binge prior to the arrival of the storm, then move deep, lying dormant on the bottom until weather conditions stabilize.

If you are unfortunate to have to fish these dormant fish after a storm has passed through, you will need a lot of patience and a precise bait presentation, such as a Northland Roach Rig.

I have had my best luck on these inactive fish by presenting my bait right in front of the walleyes nose and staying there until I make them mad enough to bite.

Since the sun is at its highest point this time of the year and walleyes are very light sensitive, they're going to be more active in periods where sunlight penetration is minimal.

These periods include early

morning, late evening, when the sun is at its lowest point, with less sunlight penetration.

Not all walleyes will stay deep throughout the day, as there are times when conditions are right, walleyes are caught shallow.

One of these is on those very windy days as there is a good chance walleyes will move up shallow to feed in the on top of humps rock piles and sandbars.

Because the surface of the water is being rippled by the wind, reducing the sunlight's penetration, it makes the shallow water areas more comfortable and walleyes will move up from the deep water to feed.

Another time that you'll find walleyes shallow during the day would be when heavy winds are pounding into a point or shoreline.

With the wind hammering against a shoreline, a mud line will develop, dramatically cutting light penetration along the shoreline.

It may seem hard to believe that even walleyes would be able to find bait in the muddy coming back off a shoreline.

Just because it is muddy on the first couple of inches does not mean it is that way the way to the bottom.

In many cases, the water a foot or so below this mud line is cloudy or even clear allowing walleyes the opportunity to move up during the day and feed.

In a river, fish will also be in the deepest holes or in shallower areas where there is heavier current as heavy current cools and oxygenates the water making it a more hospitable environment for walleyes.

During the heat of the summer in a river, an increase or decrease in water will cause fish to make sudden location changes.

With a drop in water levels, fish will be forced into the remaining deep holes, concentrating them in smaller areas.

If there is an increase in water flow, fish will move up stream, up against the sandbars and shallower to feed, taking advantage of the new influx of baitfish and other aquatic creatures being flushed into the system.

The Dog Days of summer usually mean deep-water presentations, but under the right conditions, walleyes can be shallow giving anglers the opportunity to fish them with bottom bouncers and spinners, Roach Rigs or by pitching jigs and crankbaits.

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 locally in Channels 2 and 98 at Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).



PHOTO: T.J.'S MINIMART

Cole Auch, left, and Brady Hale caught this 12-pound, 51-inch long Gar.



PHOTO: T.J.'S MINIMART

Julie Evenson caught this 4-pound Walleye at Lewis & Clark Lake.



PHOTO: T.J.'S MINIMART

Andrew Schieffer caught this 8-pound, 14-ounce Flathead Catfish on the James River.

## Join The Great Park Pursuit For Neb. Outdoor Adventure

LINCOLN, Neb. – Enjoy an outdoor adventure with family or friends and experience Nebraska parks by joining The Great Park Pursuit (GPP) for a chance to win prizes.

The goal of GPP, a partnership between the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Nebraska Recreation and Park Association, is to promote active lifestyles while increasing awareness of the state's nature-rich outdoor recreation opportunities.

This is done by encouraging participants to visit up to 20 GPP sites located across Nebraska between May 1 and Sept. 18, 2015 and follow clues that will lead them to a GPP post, where they use a pencil to make an impres-

sion of the post to prove they were there. Prizes and entry into drawings are based on the number of impressions collected. The grand prize is an outdoor recreation package with a retail value of \$1,500.

The participating parks are: Chadron State Park, Chadron; Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area (SRA), Gering; Laing Lake Park, Alliance; Lake Ogallala SRA, Ogallala; Sutherland Reservoir SRA, Sutherland; Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park (SHP), North Platte; Sherman Reservoir SRA, Loup City; Sandy Channel SRA, Elm Creek; North Park, Holdrege; Windmill SRA, Gibbon; Fonner Park, Grand Island; Ashfall Fossil Beds

SHP, Royal; Willow Creek SRA, Pierce; Crystal Cove Park, South Sioux City; Benson Park, Omaha; Louisville SRA, Louisville; Two Rivers SRA, Venice; Prairie Queen Recreation Area, Papillion; Parade of Flags, Seward; Veterans Memorial Park, Beatrice.

For more information, to register or to see a list of the prizes that are available, visit [negpp.org](http://negpp.org). If you have any questions or would like to request a hard copy registration form, send an e-mail to [info@negpp.org](mailto:info@negpp.org).

### STIP Public Meetings

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2016-2019 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 13, 2015.....Ramada Convention Center.....Aberdeen.....7:00 PM (CD)  
July 14, 2015.....Ramkota Hotel.....Sioux Falls.....7:00 PM (CD)  
July 15, 2015.....AmericInn Lodge.....Ft. Pierre.....7:00 PM (CD)  
July 16, 2015.....Ramkota Hotel.....Rapid City.....7:00 PM (MD)  
July 23, 2015.....Webinar.....Contact: Dave.Voeltz@State.SD.US to register....1:30 PM (CD)  
*Individuals with disabilities or special needs call 605-773-3340 or 1-800-877-1113 (TDD).*

For more information please go to [www.SDDOT.com](http://www.SDDOT.com)



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## Got A Sports Tip?

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Short program followed by lunch and refreshments

YOU'RE INVITED to celebrate Gerstner Oil's newly finished biodiesel blending facility. This 12,000-gallon insulated tank will hold B100 for biodiesel blending year round.

The South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council partnered with Gerstner Oil to make biodiesel more available to farmers, distributors and retail stations. Over 50 percent of all biodiesel is made from soybean oil, which has increased soybean prices by \$0.74 per bushel—benefiting South Dakota soybean farmers.

\$100 biodiesel giftcard

The first 50 people to arrive will receive a \$100 gift certificate towards the purchase of biodiesel!

SOUTH DAKOTA SOYBEAN RESEARCH & PROMOTION COUNCIL

RSVP by June 24 to [cdoeden@sdssoybean.org](mailto:cdoeden@sdssoybean.org) or call 605-330-9942.