

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Women's Archery Classes Scheduled In May

LINCOLN, Neb. — A Beyond Becoming an Outdoors-Woman archery class will take place at Platte River State Park each Wednesday in May.

Participants may attend any of the classes, which are: May 8, Introduction to Archery; May 15, Shopping for Women's Bows; May 22, Tuning Your Bow; and May 29, Fun with Archery.

The classes cost \$5 each and run from 6-9 p.m. at the Roger G. Sykes Outdoor Heritage Education Complex. Bows will be available to participants who do not bring their own.

To register, visit <http://www.outdoormebraska.ne.gov/Education/pdf/Beyond-BOWArcherySummer2013.pdf> or contact Christy Christiansen at 402-471-5547 or [chisty.christiansen@nebraska.gov](mailto:chisty.christiansen@nebraska.gov).

The park is located west of Louisville on Nebraska Highway 66. A park entry permit is required.

Outdoor Cooking Camp Set In Northeast Nebraska

PONCA, Neb. (AP) — An Outdoor Cooking Camp has been scheduled May 3-5 at Ponca State Park in northeast Nebraska.

The camp will offer a variety of specialty courses with hands-on instruction. Courses include campfire cooking, wild game sausage making, smoking meat and backyard barbecue, grilling techniques, fish preparation, jerky making and Dutch oven cooking.

Special programs for children include campfire cooking and safety, food art and a wild edibles hike.

The cost of the workshop is \$50 for adults and \$35 for children ages 12 and under. The registration deadline is April 22. Participants who spend the weekend at the workshop will get a 30 percent discount on lodging rates.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact the park at 402-755-2284 or [ngpc.morivexpo\(at\)nebraska.gov](mailto:ngpc.morivexpo(at)nebraska.gov).

Anglers Wonder If They'll See Icy Fishing Opener

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) — With Wisconsin's fishing opener this weekend and Minnesota's a little more than a week away, many anglers and outfitters who are gazing out at ice covered lakes have divided opinions on whether they'll have enough open water for this year's annual rite of spring.

"I don't see it happening with this weather," said Darwin Markgraf of God's Country Outfitters, north of Grand Rapids. "I'm thinking it's going to happen on Memorial Day weekend."

Scott VanValkenburg, of Fisherman's Corner in Pike Lake, has more hope — but he's 80 miles farther south.

"I feel pretty confident by opener (the ice) will be gone," he said. "But it's going to be nip and tuck."

Minnesota's fishing opener is May 11. The Duluth News Tribune reported Thursday that even though ice is prevalent on bigger, deeper lakes, some areas near moving water have opened up.

Rick Leonhardt of High Banks Resort on Lake Winnibigoshish, said areas along the dam are open, as is Little Winnibigoshish Lake, just downstream.

In some places where the ice is likely to be out, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has posted fishing closures to protect spawning walleyes, which are spawning later than usual and could be vulnerable.

Markgraf said some anglers have told him that if lakes are still ice-covered, they might go ice-fishing just for the novelty of it.

"I'd caution people not to do that," said Tim Goeman, DNR regional fisheries supervisor at Grand Rapids. "That's risky any way you cut it. That ice is deteriorating."

The situation is more touch-and-go in Wisconsin, where the fishing opener is Saturday. Some lakes are opening, but many will likely still be frozen.

Gary Howey | Of The Outdoors

Morels: A Spring Obsession

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

It won't be long before an infectious disease appears in outdoorsmen and women throughout the upper Midwest.

It's been known to infect men, women and children, infecting young and old alike.

This the cause of this infectious disease is a fungi that goes by the name of morel mushroom and once they start to poke their heads out of the ground, men and women will leave their home, job and family, heading for the river bottoms, island and hills on mushroom hunting excursions.

Morels, found throughout our area, are easy to recognize, delicious to eat, making them the most popular wild mushroom in the upper Midwest.

In our area there are two types of Morels, smaller grays that look like any other Morels, except they are gray in color, they are generally found growing up in the hills with the yellows, the larger of the species, usually found growing down along the rivers

The most common morels found in the Midwest are the yellows which are elongated with an off white/yellow stem and a crown that is covered with white/yellow ridges with dark brown pits.

They grays look the same, only smaller and are gray in color. The easiest way to explain what a morel looks like is to look for a mushroom growing on the ground that resembles a cone shaped brain.

Morels appear in the spring of the year when temperatures reach around 50 degrees, with the greatest quantity

being found when temperatures hit the mid 50's. When there's moisture and humidity on these days, seems to really make them pop out.

There are several things that mushroom hunters use to know when to start looking for morels.

The old timers say that mushroom hunters don't need to start hunting until the oak leaves are in the mouse or squirrel's ear stage.

I can honestly say that I've never known anyone who's measured a squirrel or mouse ear, but I've been told that they are about half the size of your smallest fingernail.

In the upper Midwest there are several things that indicate to mushroom hunters that morels will be up.

If you have a lilac bush in the area, keep an eye on it, as when the lilacs are blooming, it's a good sign that you'll find morels.

Other indicators include; when the crab apples start to bloom or around the week of Mother's Day.

Others use the almanac to figure out the time that morels will start to appear. If you look in the almanac, take the average date for the last frost in your area and then add



PHOTO: DUSTIN LUTT

Morel mushrooms show up first in sandy soils where the ground warms up earlier. These Morels were found by Justin Lutt of Vermillion along the Missouri River near Vermillion.

two weeks to that date, you should be pretty close to the peak morel season.

Moisture, sunshine along with warmer temperatures has a lot to do with when morels appear.

A week of 55-60 degree daytime temperatures after the frost is gone with no freezing temperatures at night will generally be a good time to start looking for morels.

Along with warm temperatures, moisture is also important. Many mushroom hunters say that the best time to hunt for morels is after a rain, when temperatures are around 60 degrees with high humidity.

Morels appear earliest in sandy areas, on south facing slopes or in fields that have been burnt as these areas warm up quickly and retain heat longer.

One of the most asked questions pertaining to mushrooms is where do you find them?

The first morels are found on islands in the river, sandy areas and in fields with dead or dying trees.

My most successful hunt was along the river; early in the season in a cornfield that hadn't been planted yet. The field was loaded with them.

It was a new field cornfield and until a year or so before had been a wooded area. The decaying roots from the old elm and cottonwood trees that had been grubbed out were ideal places for the morels to take root.

I've also found mushrooms around trees that had been declining for several years, eventually dying and were now lying on the ground. Mushrooms seem to appear around these dead cottonwood and elm trees about the time that their bark starts to fall off.

The first morel is always the toughest to locate because they blend

very well with the forest or vegetated ground. Once you've found one, kneel down, looking closely because morels are like Perch, if you find one you generally find a bunch.

One thing is for certain when it comes to finding morels, there's no set rules as to where the morel might be located. Conditions change from day to day during the spring and a hillside that was barren on Monday may get a rain shower or warmer temperatures, causing the hillside to be loaded with morels by Wednesday.

My preferred method for locating mushrooms isn't real scientific; it's the old wonder around aimlessly method, picking my way through the vegetation until I spot one.

It's a good idea to stop from time to time and kneel down, getting a better view of the area as many times as morels will be pushing up through the leaves and can be verily visible.

For years, more hunters have hit the woods with bread sacks, ice cream buckets and other non-porous containers. Some seem to believe that these things have lead to less morel mushrooms.

Mushrooms reproduce through spores, which need to be returned to the ground in order to grow and if they are picked and placed in a solid container like those mentioned above, we may be denying the morels the opportunity to disperse their spores or to re-seed the area.

In order to allow the morels to throw their spores, it's not a bad idea to use collection bags that are porous such as onion

TROPHY SPOTLIGHT

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Tanner Becker, 10, of Yankton shot this 20-pound turkey with a 9-inch beard during a recent hunt in the Nebraska Youth Spring Turkey season.

If you have a photo you would like to see in Trophy Spotlight, email it to [jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net). Please include the name, hometown and location of the kill.



Managing Fisheries For The Future

BY LURA ROTI,  
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

Angler Mike Johnson thinks of the limits enforced at his favorite fishing hole like an insurance policy.

"Slot and harvest limits are a guarantee that I'll be able to fish Oahe Dam next weekend, next month, next year and the year after that," says the Rapid City native.

Fishing is a hobby Johnson shares with his wife, Brenda. The couple has been fishing together since their first date more than 20 years ago. At the time, Brenda, who grew up fishing with her grandma, asked him if he wanted to go fishing with her. Johnson, who spent much of his youth fishing with his brother and cousins, says he was impressed. Today they spend most summer weekends on the water.

"We enjoy the peace and tranquility. We turn off our phones and find ourselves spending about as much time watching wildlife along the shoreline as we do fishing," says Johnson, who currently serves as the president of the Rapid City Chapter of South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited.

Whether it's the opportunity to get outdoors, the challenge or the satisfaction of bringing home a fresh catch for supper; South Dakota Game Fish Parks (GF) works to maintain healthy fish populations for anglers to enjoy in the fisheries they manage throughout the state.

"The work we do to maintain healthy fish populations is for the anglers as much as it is for the fish. We want to provide anglers with good fishing all year long," says Gene Galinat, regional fisheries manager for South Dakota GF.

Galinat explains that a healthy fishery is a body of water with an optimal number of fish in good condition and containing a diverse mix

of ages and sizes. He and his team go to great lengths to ensure the health and sustainability of fish populations in more than 70 public lakes and hundreds of miles of streams throughout the Black Hills as well as prairie streams and rivers in western South Dakota.

It's a year-round process which begins with conducting fishery surveys each summer. And, based on data evaluated over the winter months, the process ends with the implementation of administrative regulations — like slot and size limits — which are designed to improve conditions at each fishery.

"While we try to keep regulations simple and similar across the state, we think of each body of water as its own ecosystem, which is why regulations may vary from one fishery to the next," Galinat says. "Today, we have the technology and ability to manage each body of water so that it can reach its highest productive potential."

Depending on its size, it can take Galinat and his team one to three weeks to complete a fishery survey. While on site they estimate the population size and inspect individual fish to gain a clear picture of populations' overall health.

"Based on the age, size and condition of fish we find within a fishery we can determine if the food supply is adequate, if there is too much or not enough competition and how fast the fish are growing," Galinat explains.

Angler feedback is also collected at each fishery.

"Angler surveys give us additional information on the health of a fishery and what anglers think of the regulations we've implemented," Galinat says.

All this data is analyzed during the winter months and used to develop specific management plans

for each fishery. For example, if most walleye in a fishery are less than 15— inches long, it tells Game, Fish Parks' staff that size limits may need to be put into place which will increase the population of fish 15— inches and greater. Or, if fish populations within a fishery are dwindling, staff may recommend to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reduce daily catch or implement other restrictions.

"Whenever I hear fellow anglers grumbling about a limit which protects a certain size fish, I ask them how many they think would be left to catch next time if it weren't for the limit? We all need to think about ensuring that our sport is sustainable," Johnson says.

Using data collected from 2012 fishery surveys Galinat and his team recently implemented 2013 fishery management plans. Dollars collected from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses fund the management of fisheries throughout the state.

Looking for Obedience Training? Classes Start Monday, May 6th



For information & registration contact Bill Sohl, Volunteer Instructor, 661-7077 • [williamwsohl@hotmail.com](mailto:williamwsohl@hotmail.com)

All proceeds go to Yankton's SAR K-9 Response Team



Yankton Medical Clinic®, P.C. Dermatologist, James Young, D.O., will be offering a free skin cancer screening clinic on May 7th. No appointment is necessary. Patients will be seen on a first come, first serve basis. Limit of 50 patients. Upon arrival at the Clinic please check in at Section N receptionist, upstairs in the expansion.

\*For screening purposes. If further tests are needed, standard charges will be applied.

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC®, P.C.  
1104 West 8th Street • Yankton, SD 57078 • 605-665-7841  
[www.YanktonMedicalClinic.com](http://www.YanktonMedicalClinic.com)

FREE Skin Cancer Screening

Tuesday, May 7th, 1pm-4pm

