

## OUTDOORS DIGEST

Women's Archery Classes  
Scheduled This Month

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.outdoornebraska.ne.gov/Education/pdf/BeyondBOWArcherySummer2013.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.

## South Dakota CRP Meetings For Landowners Prior To Signup Hosted By PF

Pheasants Forever is hosting informational meetings across South Dakota for landowners and agricultural producers in advance of the USDA Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up that runs May 20-June 14.

Led by Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists, landowners can learn how to increase their farm or ranch income while creating wildlife habitat in the process.

"It is Pheasants Forever's belief that there is room for conservation on every farm and ranch in the country," says Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever's Vice President of Government Affairs. "Just a look at recent history — from a wet cycle to a historic drought last year — showcases this need for conservation. Programs like CRP provide stability for producers on lower-yielding, tougher-to-farm acres, while simultaneously serving as America's top habitat tool for pheasants and quail."

At CRP informational meetings, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists will discuss how the Conservation Reserve Program works, and provide landowners with expertise on increasing the chances of their acreage qualifying for the program. While a majority of meetings are occurring prior to the opening of CRP General Sign-Up 45, in some areas meetings extend into the first few weeks of the open sign-up period. Nomsen encourages landowners to attend the meetings and to not assume there's no room for conservation practices in an era of record crop production and prices.

"CRP rental rates may be significantly higher in some areas than in years past, some CRP practices allow for haying and grazing, others encourage pollinator habitat, and those pollinating insects are also necessary for agricultural production. Every farm in the country, whether it's 200 acres or 2,000 acres, has a percentage of acreage in production that annually loses money. So we're looking to work together with landowners to identify these areas and help their bottom line, and also help Pheasants Forever's bottom line of conserving wildlife habitat."

The CRP informational meetings are organized by Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Landowners who can't make a CRP informational meeting are encouraged to make an appointment with their local Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist or visit their local FSA office.

Gary Howey | Of The Outdoors

## Catching Pre-Spawn Walleye

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

In this week's column we'll talk about one of the upper Midwest most popular game fish, the walleye and their smaller cousin found in the Missouri River, the sauger.

During the early season, walleye and sauger will be located near the areas where they'll spawn.

On the rivers, the walleyes up stream migration will be blocked by the dams, forcing them to stack up below the dams in the deeper slack water where they won't have to fish a lot of current.

On a reservoir or lake, they can be found in the deeper water near a shoal or rocky point.

Fish in both the lakes and rivers will locate very close to the areas which will warm up the quickest, as these are the areas they'll spawn in.

In most bodies of water, these warmer water will be located on the north or west shorelines. These areas receive more sunshine during this time of year and because of this, will warm up quickly. Another area where walleyes and sauger will be found during this

time of the year are the shallow water areas near the rock rip rap shoreline as these areas will be warmer as the rocks will retain the heat longer.

The males are always the first to arrive and these large schools of smaller aggressive fish will be prowling the area waiting for the larger females to arrive. Males will arrive much earlier than the females, as they make the move when the water temperatures were just a few degrees above freezing with the females arriving as the water temperatures near 40 degrees.

Since there aren't as many females located in the area and because they aren't as aggressive as the males, you're going to catch more of those smaller males than the larger females.

The females don't have to move around as much as the males, so they're using less energy, needing to feed less often. They'll stay deep throughout most of this period, moving up to the dam, occasionally to feed and then moving back into the deeper holes or other slack water areas to rest.

You'll find them resting behind sandbars and islands, out of the main current. A week or two prior to the spawn, as the



TEAM OUTDOORMEN ADVENTURES PHOTO  
Kent Hutcheson of Hutch' Guide Service is pictured with a pre spawn walleye taken on lake Sharpe in the early spring.

water temperature warms, they'll begin to move shallower and start to feed more aggressively in preparation for the spawn.

Both male and female will now roam around the shallows during low light periods, moving back deep as the sun begins to appear.

Farther north, spawning will occur when the water temperatures reach 40 to 45 degrees.

Once the water has reached the correct temperatures, the females move up into one to six foot of water or less to spawn.

Their spawning grounds are located in area with gravel or a rock bottoms.

Walleyes unlike the bass who build a nest and guard their young, are random spawners, meaning that they deposit their eggs into the rock and gravel and from that point on, the eggs and later on the fry are on their own.

In many areas like our Missouri River, an untimely drop in water levels can mean the

entire years spawn could be wiped out.

On a lake and reservoirs, the spawning beds are generally found in shallow gravel or rock areas exposed to the wind, as walleye eggs require aeration in order to hatch.

Wind isn't an important factor on a river as the continual current flow aerates the eggs.

Catching walleye and sauger during the pre and post spawn period requires patience, lighter and smaller tackle than you would use during other times of the year.

Light jigs (1/4 ounce or smaller) tipped with small minnows, attached to a light limp line when jigged vertically or drug slowly along the bottom are good bets for this time of the year.

Since the fish are lethargic when water temps are low, when you get a bite; it's not a bad idea to drop back on your rod, allowing the fish to inhale your bait before setting the hook.

Another piece of tackle that you might

want to use in the spring is a stinger hook. Stinger hooks are made up with a small treble hook and a short piece of mono attached behind the jig. The stinger hook allows you to have an additional hook in the tail of the minnow.

Walleye and especially sauger are notorious for grabbing the tail of the bait, holding on, just short of the hook.

The stinger hook catches many of these tail-biting fish as it hangs down behind the jig, hooked into the tail of the minnow.

A lighter, more limp line allows the bait to descend quicker, appear more life like and reduces the coils that would be present with heavier line, making it easier to feel the fish picking up your bait and to set the hook.

Since fish are cold blooded, they'll be moving super slow in cold water conditions and having more time to look over your bait. You'll want to slow down your presentation and at times many strikes will happen when your baits not moving at all.

Besides jigs, another bait presentations that work well during this time of the year is a live-bait rig such as the Lindy rig

Lindy rigs consists of a small hook (or double hooks for warm water fishing) that are attached to a monofilament leader. The leader is then hooked into a swivel with a Lindy sinker above the swivel.

When fish are in a slow mood, as they are this time of year, they'll mouth the bait and feeling any resistance can quickly spit the bait out.

With the Lindy rig, you can feed the fish line when you feel him pick up the bait, since there's very little resistance; he's less likely to spit the bait out.

After a couple of seconds, reel up the slack and if you still feel the extra weight on the end of the line, set the hook.

The simpler, the better this time of year!

Use small baits, fish slowly and this could be the time of year that you catch that big fish for the wall.

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 on MYUTV channel 10 on Saturday afternoon at 4:30 pm. 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, it can be found at [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).

## Outdoor Cooking Camp Provides New Experiences

BY JENNY NGUYEN

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Mouth-watering wild boar ribs, sizzling barbecued elk, beer can chicken, pies and bubbling casseroles — Ponca State Park's (SP) 2nd annual Outdoor Cooking Camp was a hit May 3-5 as guests added new techniques to their outdoor cooking repertoire.

From canning, to grilling, to smoking and sausage making, cooking instructors sent taste buds and noses cartwheeling, even with the occasional dampness overhead. Despite the gray, drizzly weather, the park's outdoor cooking camp weekend sent guests home with newfound knowledge and fun memories made with their children, spouses and friends.

The camp schedule included exciting and informative presentations such as canning venison from Allen and Wanda Wulf, pork and venison sausage making by Dave Roost, smoking meat and

backyard barbecue by Stephen Strauss, wild game grilling techniques by sous chef James Doxon of Kahill's Restaurant in South Sioux City, fish cleaning by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Clayton Stalling, jerky making and advance Dutch oven cooking techniques from Ponca SP superintendent Jeff Fields. Lori Curry, Tiffany Gerber and Maryann Gamble of Game and Parks contributed their knowledge on strawberry preserve making, Dutch oven basics and campfire cooking, respectively.

Youth activities included Campfire Cooking for Kids, Feeding Frenzy, Critter Corner, All About Owls, Nature Bingo, Trail Hike and Food Art led by park naturalists.

For many at the camp, preparing wild game and fish was a new experience. Thirteen-year-old Valyn Kirkpatrick from Wakefield, Neb., learned to make venison jerky for the first time. After a few pointers, he was loading the jerky

gun and expertly squeezing the ground venison mixture onto the drying racks on his own. With sticky hands, Valyn said, "This is pretty fun and a lot easier after you do it more than once."

Doxon demonstrated how to quickly grill wild boar ribs. His special blackberry glaze, which he brushed onto the hot ribs still sizzling from the grill, was awe-inspiring. Doxon's elk tacos with peach-jalapeno salsa were also a big hit with the crowd.

In his sausage-making presentation, Roost revealed that his favorite additions to homemade venison sausages are diced jalapenos and sharp cheddar cheese. Roost told participants how he cut the tendon in his pinky and offered the ever important advice, "Be careful with your knives!"

The sausages he and participant Jay Warren made during the demonstration were cooked and sampled by campers that same weekend; Warren is a frequent

Ponca SP visitor from Merville, Iowa.

Brian Lewis from northwest Iowa brought his four children to the Outdoor Cooking Camp for the second year. Last year he said "they couldn't stop talking about it for a week." Lewis also recognized at least 10 people in the class who returned from last year.

Each participant went home with a NEBRASKAland Wild Game Cookbook, Ponca SP cooking apron and Missouri River Outdoor Expo hat. Those who missed this year's camp can mark their calendars because next year's Ponca SP Outdoor Cooking Camp is slated for April 12-13.

Jenny Nguyen is a public information officer with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission stationed in Norfolk. Contact her at 402-992-0731 or by email at [jenny.nguyen@nebraska.gov](mailto:jenny.nguyen@nebraska.gov). Read her blog on the magazine's *Afield* and *Afloat* blog at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org).

## TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
LEFT: Tate Thoene, 9, of Hartington, Neb., shot this 18-pound turkey with a 4-inch beard during the Nebraska Youth Spring Turkey Season. ABOVE: Myles Thoene, 10, of Hartington, Neb., shot this 25-pound turkey with an 8-inch beard. It was the first turkey for both hunters.

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## Gebhart

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"It'll be fun to learn another conference, and this is a great one," she said. "I like the style they play. That's the way I like to play; that's the way my team was in high school, pressing all the time."

Gebhart, who said she plans to come to Yankton this summer for scrimmages and team camps, said one of the first messages she received from her new team was from April Winne — a first team All-GPAC guard last season as a junior.

"I'm anxious to see her up close. I knew she was a good player in high school," Gebhart said.

The addition of Gebhart should finalize Mount Marty's recruiting class for 2013, Schlimgen said. In all, the program signed nine newcomers, a figure that will help both the varsity and junior varsity squads, he said.

"In this racket, you should never say you're completely done, but we're really excited about this class," Schlimgen said.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](http://twitter.com/jhoeck)

## NCAA

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sion I last season was 67.5 points, the lowest since 1981-82. Scoring has declined each of the last four seasons in Division I.

The most notable rule change recommended on the women's side is the implementation of the 10-second backcourt rule.

The elbow-to-the-head foul was called about a dozen times in the

NCAA men's tournament, and on several occasions it was criticized because the contact appeared accidental.

"I just think we had some push-back from the coaching community that certain types of contact with the elbow did not deserve the severe penalty that was originally put in," Hyland said. "The

rules committee agreed with that."

The men's and women's committee recommended that in the last two minutes of regulation and overtime officials can use video review to confirm a shot-clock violation and to determine who caused the ball to go out of bounds on a deflection involving two or more players.

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