

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Yankton Youth Step Outside Event May 30

The Yankton Youth 'Step Outside' event will be held Saturday, May 30 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Jim River Trap Range, located five miles east of Yankton on Highway 50.

The event, hosted by the Isaak Walton League of America and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, will include 3D archery, BB guns, 22 Rifles, a shotgun trap and a hands-on fish tank.

It is free and open to all ages, and a parent or guardian must accompany youth. A free lunch will be provided.

S.D. State Parks Hosting Memorial Day Weekend Events

PIERRE -- Spend the first holiday weekend of the summer with South Dakota State Parks. Parks statewide are hosting fun events to connect families to nature.

Wishard Memorial Disc Golf Tournament, Oahe Downstream Recreation Area near Fort Pierre. Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. CT. Info: 605.223.7722

Nature Olympics, Pierson Ranch Recreation Area near Yankton. Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. CT. Info: 605.668.2985

Kids: Fishing Derby, Lake Poinsett Recreation Area near Arlington. Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. CT. Info: 605.983.5085

Riddle Hike, Good Earth State Park at Blood Run near Sioux Falls. Saturday, May 23, 11 a.m. CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Minute to Win It in Nature, Big Sioux Recreation Area near Brandon. Saturday, May 23, 2 p.m. CT. Info: 605.582.7243

Family Fun Amazing Race, Newton Hills State Park near Canton. Saturday, May 23, 2 p.m. CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Walk the Fort, Randall Creek Recreation Area near Pickstown. Sunday, May 24, 1:30 p.m. CT. Info: 605.487.7046

All events are free, except the Wishard Memorial Disc Golf Tournament. A park entrance license is required. For more information on activities in South Dakota state parks, visit gfp.sd.gov, contact the individual park office or call 605.773.3391.

“Go Fourth” Program Encourages South Dakota

Youth to Get Outdoors

PIERRE – Twelve thousand fourth graders in South Dakota schools will get a special taste of summer freedom through South Dakota Game, Fish, and Park's new “Go Fourth” program.

The “Go Fourth” program, presented in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Health, will distribute free entrance licenses for one day in any South Dakota state park to every fourth grade student in South Dakota. The passes allow entrance to any South Dakota state park to students and their families and include a free hour of kayak, canoe or paddleboat rental, where available.

“The program aims to give every student exposure to local natural resources and a chance to start a lifetime of healthy habits,” said state park director, Doug Hofer. “The program will showcase activities and opportunities available at state parks, as well as events and educational programs taking place.”

The passes will be distributed at all public and private schools. Families can turn in the day-pass for a discount off of an annual pass. The entrance licenses are valid between the distribution date and Dec. 31, 2015.

Matching The May Hatch

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

Well, spring is here and it's been a windy one, making it tough to develop any consistent patterns for catching fish. As spring rolls along, making its way into summer, our weather should stabilize and give us better fishing conditions and more time to spend on the water.

If you're a walleye fisherman, this is the time of the year when the fish become more aggressive. They will be packing on the pounds they lost during the spawn.

The walleyes have come through the cold-water periods where they've eaten just enough to survive.

Now that they've finished up



Gary HOWEY

with their spawning, they'll be on the bite, trying to gain back the weight and energy that they lost during the long winter and the spawning ritual.

They'll move from their slow lethargic routine where they had to be enticed to bite with a slow moving presentation like a jig or live bait rig into their more active period where they'll chase baits.

It's this time of the year, when you'll find walleyes working the mud flats looking for an easy meal. They will be feeding on the emerging of insects that have spent most of their life buried in the mud at the bottom of the river or lake.

In the Midwest, the May fly hatch is the primary hatch that all anglers need to be aware of. These insects will begin to hatch out in late April into May continuing to hatch on into the early summer.

Triggered by warmer weather and wave action, the larvae stage of the May fly will emerge from the bottom. They'll wiggle their way out of the bottom and make their way to the surface. On this trip, they become easy meals for all species of fish.

Once on the surface, the Mayflies will spend its short life, at times only a couple of days, mating and then die.

Once this is accomplished, their eggs will fall back into the water: sinking to the bottom to begin the entire process all over again.

I've been fortunate enough to hit a couple of May fly hatches at the right time, one on Merritt Reservoir, the another on Lewis & Clark Lake and caught some excellent fish.

Unfortunately, it took us the better part of a day to nail down a pattern that allowed us to take advantage of the situation.

May fly hatches generally occur in the shallower dark bottomed bays first, since they warm up more quickly, although I've seen them occur out in the middle of a shallow lake? Some hatches are over in just a few hours while others may last the better part of a day.



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Ted Takasaki of Sioux Falls is pictured with a walleye taken using the methods mentioned in this column during the height of the May Fly hatch.

Once you come across a May fly hatch, what you'll need to do is to use a presentation that imitates the insects making their way to the surface.

These hatches are easy to locate because of the floating husk, which once was the insects' underwater home will be floating on the surface and the hundreds of thousands of large May flies filling the air.

Since the hatch occurs on windy days, it can be tough to present your bait effectively 100 percent of the time.

I've found that the best presentation to be a slip bobber rig baited with a “tiny” leech.

I know, this is just the opposite of what you've heard when it comes to fishing leeches, since bigger is always better.

When fishing an insect hatch, the fish will be zeroed in on small insect size bait and they will ignore a larger leech.

You'll need to use your locator to determine the exact area where the flies are coming off the bottom. This isn't too complicated as the number of flies moving up from the bottom will really light up or black out your locator screen.

Once you've zeroed in on the

hatch, tie on a slip bobber rig with a small split shot, the smaller the better and a small hook. In order to keep you bobber from hanging up against your split shot and not working properly, you'll want to add a tiny bead just above the split shot. Tip the hook with a small leech and adjust the depth so your bait is suspended a foot or so off the bottom.

The wave action will make your leech rise up, imitating a fly as it's making its way to the surface.

Depending on how windy it is you won't need much weight on the rig. Use just enough to allow your bait to get down to the depth the fish are at and to keep your bobber upright. If your line doesn't slide through the bobber smoothly, you might want to replace your plain hook with a tiny jig to get your bait down a little faster.

Once you've cast the rig where you want it, feed line until your slip bobber stands upright.

I prefer to fish these rigs with an open face-spinning reel the same way I'd fish a Roach Rig.

I like to fish with the bail open and my finger on the line, this way, I can detect the slightest bite and feed the fish line as he moves off with my bait. Once the fish moves off with your

bait, aim the rod tip at the fish, reel up the slack line and once you feel the weight on the line, set the hook hard.

One thing you don't want to do is to think that because you're using a tiny leech that the fish you'll catch will be tiny.

We've taken walleyes over ten pounds using this rig during the height of the May Fly hatch.

By knowing what to do when a May fly hatch occurs, you'll be ready to catch fish and not waste a lot of time tying on different lures hoping to find one that the fish like.

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 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. For more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.*

Moose Presence Near Colorado Springs Shrouded In Mystery

BY LANCE BENZEL

(c) 2015 The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

How she ended up in Colorado's Black Forest is a mystery. But she sure seems intent on staying.

For the past four years, a female adult moose has prowled the wooded hills north of Colorado Springs _ surviving a major wildfire in 2013 and spurning a chance to link up with a couple of bull moose seen passing through the area within the past couple of years.

She's a startling sight to her human neighbors, who are accustomed to spying mule deer and other woodland creatures, but nothing like her.

Wildlife experts say they are no less flummoxed.

"I was quite shocked when I heard the reports, until I'd seen the pictures," said Sabrina Hurwitz, district wildlife manager with Colo-

rado Parks and Wildlife in Colorado Springs, who has been collecting reports of sightings for the past several years. In January, a witness used a camera to capture the moose jumping over a barbed wire fence.

Part of the surprise is that moose generally stick to lakes, rivers and wetlands, where they munch on young plants including shrubs, aquatic plants, grasses, mosses, willow and aspen.

Black Forest, an unincorporated community of roughly 13,000 people, has limited offerings when it comes to water, with a network of shallow ravines that fill seasonally.

"It's not great habitat," Hurwitz said. "I would expect it to be in a much wetter area."

Still, the moose seems to be getting what she needs. The cow is a fully grown adult, estimated to weigh between 800 pounds and 1,200 pounds.

Despite a languid appearance, moose can turn aggressive when threatened, and they're built to dole out damage _ rearing up on hind legs and using their hooves to pummel anything or anyone they perceive as a danger.

In late March, the moose charged a man walking his dog on his property _ coming within 5 to 6 feet before losing interest and wandering off.

"It scared the (heck) out of me,"

Black Forest resident Jeff Stockwell said, describing how he ran behind trees and hid until the moose suddenly turned and left. "She's about the size of a horse."

The most recent sighting came two weeks ago, prompting a warning from Colorado Parks and Wildlife that people keep their distance, especially if accompanied by dogs.

Dogs are a potential flashpoint because of their resemblance to wolves, a moose's only natural

predator, Hurwitz said.

Fortunately, it hasn't come to moose fisticuffs in Black Forest.

"She really hasn't caused very many problems," Hurwitz said. "We hear about her maybe once every couple of months or once every six months. She might even disappear off the radar for as much as a year, and then I'll have reports on her again."

Wildlife experts say as many as 10 moose live near Divide in Teller County, a population boom compared with a few years ago, when there were thought to be only three.

While one theory holds that she split off from the Divide group, proving it is another matter. She doesn't have a collar and hasn't been a part of any studies, Hurwitz said.

Moose are the largest members of the deer family and are found in the northern regions of North America, Europe and Asia.

T.J.'s Minimart Fishing Report

Below Gavins Point Dam

* Reports of Drum, Catfish, White Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye

S.D. Boat Ramp/East of Ramp

*Reports of Drum, Catfish, Northern Pike, Smallmouth

Bass, White Bass

Lewis & Clark Lake

* Walleye, Catfish, Smallmouth Bass

Lake Henry

* Crappies, Bluegill

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BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA – SPEARFISH CANYON

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