



Foxtail barley sways in the late-afternoon light at Indian Cave State Park in Richardson County, creating a beautifully photogenic, repeating pattern. Photo by Doug Carroll.



NEBRASKAland Magazine

Published by the
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

NebraskalandMagazine.com



\$2.95

Published by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission since 1926

NEBRASKAland

June 2007



Macro Photography

PLUS FERRUGINOUS HAWKS • FISHING FROM THE BANK
PAWNEE CORN • GOLFING NEAR STATE PARKS
MEMPHIS LAKE - PAST AND PRESENT



NEBRASKAland

Volume 85, Number 5, June 2007

FEATURES

10 Macro Photography (Photographing Nebraska's Outdoors - Part Three)

In this third part of our series on nature photography, we discuss how to successfully capture macro photography images. By CHRIS HELZER

16 Memphis Lake - Both Past and Present

Memphis Lake SRA is one of Nebraska's best-kept secrets. Offering camping, fishing and an interesting history, Memphis has a little something for everyone. By JEFF KURRUS

20 Ferruginous Hawks

I observed a nesting pair of one of North America's largest raptors on an exposed rim of a sandstone outcropping along the southern edge of the Niobrara river valley. By BOB GRIER

28 From the Bank

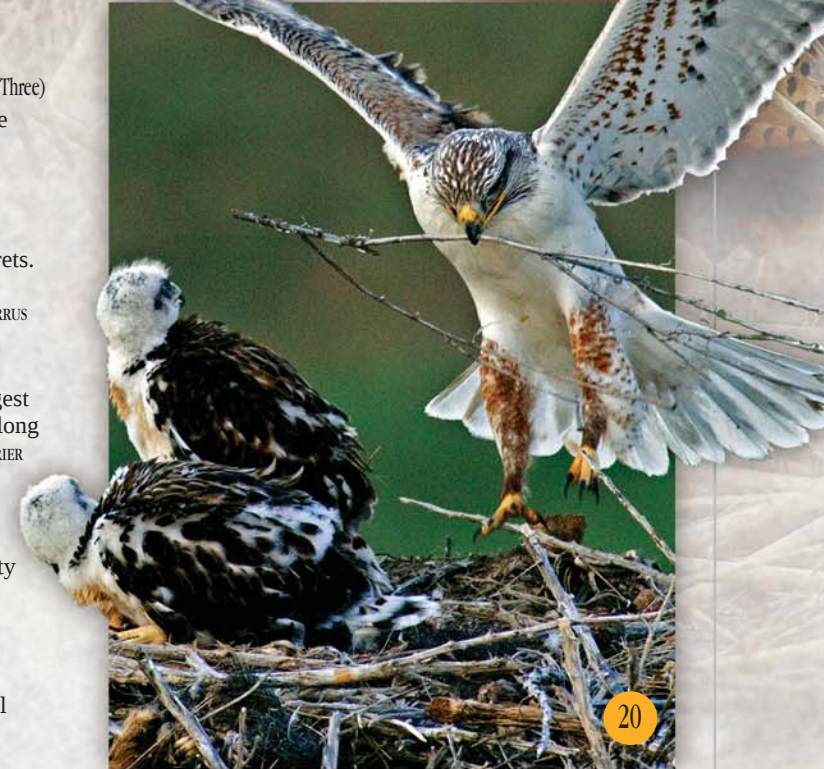
Shoreline fishing for bluegill, northern pike and largemouth bass requires a plan to maximize productivity when angling. Here is that plan. By JEFF KURRUS

34 Pawnee Corn - New Hope for Old Crops

The Pawnee Nation is looking to Nebraska for help in recovering its original strains of corn and other ancestral crops. By KEN BOUC

38 Golfing Near the Parks

Combining a round of golf and a weekend family vacation is easy near Nebraska's state parks. By ERIC FOWLER



20

DEPARTMENTS

8 Outdoor Business

Commission studies Niobrara River's instream flow needs.

46 Outdoor Update

Yutan Dive Team cleans up area waters through Project Aware.

47 Mixed Bag

Kirwin's Bad Egg had an unusually accurate name.

49 Parks & Places

A list of upcoming events offered at Nebraska State Parks.

Comment 4

Outdoor News 6

Classifieds 48

Portraits from the Past 50

Cover: This caterpillar photographed by Chris Helzer on a Hamilton County prairie is an example of the macro photography techniques that Helzer writes about in his story that begins on page 10. **Opposite:** A smooth softshell turtle lays eggs on a Missouri River sandbar at Elk Point Bend in Dixon County. Photo by Eric Fowler.



38



34



28

NEBRASKAland Magazine



Published by the
**Nebraska Game and
Parks Commission**

Director: Rex Amack

Assistant Directors:
Roger Kuhn, Kirk Nelson, Sam Sidner
Information & Education Administrator:
Doug Bauch

Commissioners

Chairman:
Gary Parker, Columbus
Vice Chairman:
Bill Zutavern, Dunning
2nd Vice Chairman:
George E. Hall, Bridgeport

James Ziebarth, Wilcox
Jerrod Burke, Curtis
Dr. Mark Pinkerton, Wilber
James Stuart, Jr., Lincoln
Ron Stave, Waterloo

Magazine Staff

Editor: Doug Carroll
Associate Editor: Jeff Kurrus
Art Director: Tim Reigert
Senior Editors: Jon Farrar, Ken Bouc
Regional Editors:
Eric Fowler, Bob Grier, Rocky Hoffmann
Contributing Editor: Michael Forsberg
Circulation: Donna Robinson
Photo Librarian: Sarah Johnson

NEBRASKAland VOL. 85 / NO. 5
ISSN: 0028-1964 JUNE 2007

Published monthly, except for Jan./Feb. and Aug./Sept.
issues, by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200
N. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE. Copyright 2006, all rights reserved.
Please address comments or questions to this address.
Periodicals postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska, and other
locations. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to
NEBRASKAland, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370.
NEBRASKAland is available on audio cassette from the
Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille
Service, Suite 120, 1200 N St., Lincoln, NE 68508, (800)
742-7691.

Rates: \$18 for one year; \$33 for two years; \$44 for
three years. Nebraska residents must add
appropriate sales tax.
To subscribe call 1-800-NEBLAND (632-5263),
or go online to: NebraskaLandMagazine.com.

For address changes and questions about your
subscription, e-mail donna.robinson@ngpc.ne.gov.



Former Nebraskan Marlea Turgeon photographed this great blue heron nest outside her second floor room in Florida this past February.

Wildlife Sculptor

I have subscribed to
NEBRASKAland Magazine for some
years and really enjoy it.

In the May issue, I especially
enjoyed the "Cliff Hollestelle -
Sculptor of Wildlife" article. The
photographs of the sculptures are
just fantastic. I especially liked the
great blue heron and the loons, for
two reasons.

I spend time each summer at a
private lake in northern Wisconsin,
and a pair of loons for years have
nested and had babies there on a
small island. They swim up to our
pier, and in the early stages a baby
will often be on the mother's back.

This year I spent February in
Bradenton, Florida, with my daughter
and son-in-law, and what did we
see? Great blue herons building a
nest in a pine tree not more than
about 25 feet from their lanai
(Hawaiian for balcony). Being on
the second floor, we had a bird's-eye
view of the nest.

I just have a little Minolta
Freedom Zoom 130 camera, but I
got some pretty good pictures of
the nest and thought you might
get a kick out of seeing the
"photography" of a little old
88-year-young gal – born and raised
in southeastern Nebraska.

In spite of the fact that I've been
"relocated" since 1945, I am still a
NEBRASKAN! For years I was able
to come back for one football game
each season, but no more. I watch
all that are televised here, subscribe
to *Huskies Illustrated*, fly the
Nebraska flag on all football days,
and it goes to half-mast when we
lose! I drive around with a Nebraska
window flag on my car during
football season, and my license plate
is NEBR FAN.

I think that I have bothered you
enough, so will sign off. Keep up
the good work with the magazine.

Marlea R. Turgeon
Evanston, Illinois

Medicine Creek Reservoir Article

I just wanted to let Rocky
Hoffmann know how much I
enjoyed the Medicine Creek
Reservoir story in the May 2007
issue of the magazine. My family
and I have enjoyed the area for more
than 50 years.

As a matter of fact, my son-in-
law, Ryan Groene, my daughter
Ashley and granddaughter Lunden,
from Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska, are
standing in front of my boat (NB
664 AFR) in the photo on page 36.

Noel Mues
Beaver City, Nebraska



Baby Barred Owls

My husband and I just moved to
an acreage in Pickrell, Nebraska and
we are now the two parents of two
baby barred owls.

My husband took some pictures
and we wanted to share them with
you. Mom owl was very close by,
just in case we got too excited about
the babies!

We hope you enjoy the pictures.
Adriana Larsen-Gisler
Pickrell, Nebraska



Send your comments to:
Doug Carroll, Editor
NEBRASKAland Magazine
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503
or e-mail doug.carroll@ngpc.ne.gov.
Please include your postal address
and telephone number.
Letters may be condensed and edited
for clarity. Photographs are
welcome and will be returned.

Story and photo submissions can be
sent to the same address. Include a
self-addressed stamped envelope for
mailed submissions. The publisher
assumes no responsibility for
unsolicited material.

Under federal and/or state law, discrimination is prohibited on the
basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status, national
origin, disability or political affiliation. If you think you have been
discriminated against in any program, activity or facility by the
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission or want more information,
contact the Commission in Lincoln, NE, at (402) 471-0641 or the
Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE, (402) 471-2024,
TTY/TDD (402) 471-4693.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Offices

Headquarters
2200 N. 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68503
Phone (402) 471-0641

District Office III
2201 N. 13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone (402) 370-3374

District Office VI
1617 First Ave.
Kearney, NE 68847
Phone (308) 865-5310

District Office I
East Hwy. 2, Box 725
Alliance, NE 69301
Phone (308) 763-2940

District Office IV
301 E. State Farm Rd.
North Platte, NE 69101
Phone (308) 535-8025

Omaha Office
1212 Bob Gibson Blvd.
Omaha, NE 68108
Phone (402) 595-2144

District Office II
524 Panzer St., Box 508
Bassett, NE 68714
Phone (402) 684-2921

Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium
21502 W. Highway 31
Gretna, NE 68028
Phone (402) 332-3901

World Wide Web site: OutdoorNebraska.org
E-mail: ngpc@ngpc.state.ne.us

Conservation Officers by Region

Administration					
Ted Blume (Adm.)	Lincoln	471-5531	Terry Brentzel	Grand Is.	384-8296
Craig Stover (Asst.)	Lincoln	471-5532	Darin Gress	Hebron (402)	768-2287
Wes Loos (Asst.)	Lincoln	471-5591	Dale Johnson	Kearney	237-1079
Rod Loos (Asst.)	Ogallala	(308) 284-8056	Mark Reeves	Loup City	745-0662
Murray Johnson	Lincoln	471-5003	Robert Finke	Milford (402)	761-3537
			Richard Seward	Ord	728-3115

Panhandle			Northeast		
Officer	City	Phone (308)	Officer	City	Phone (402)
Jim Zimmerman (Sup.)	Gering	436-7561	Tom Zimmer (Sup.)	Norfolk	371-6625
Walt Meyer	Chadron	432-4398	Robert Kelly	Albion	395-2538
Scott Brandt	Gering	436-3418	Dale Davis	Bassett	273-1700
Heath Packett	Gordon	282-2553	Ross Oestmann	Bloomfield	373-4412
Dennis Thompson	Ogallala	284-6450	Steve Oberg	Columbus	564-5937
Dan Zuehlke	Ogallala	284-4815	Daniel Roberts	Fremont	721-7852
Doug Pollard	Oshkosh	772-9950	Jon Reeves	Kennard	427-7378
Frank Miller	Valentine	(402) 376-1183	Marion Shafer	Norfolk	371-2031
Dan Kling	Whitney	432-8367	Pat George	O'Neill	336-1588
			Eric Wiebe	Ponca	755-2566
			Tim Williams	Neligh	887-1335
			Cory Krause	West Point	372-6979

Southwest			Southeast		
Officer	City	Phone (308)	Officer	City	Phone (402)
Roger Thompson (Sup.)	N. Platte	532-9175	Duane Arp (Sup.)	Gretna	332-2965
Ray Dierking	Brkn. Bow	872-3078	Sean McKeehan	Ashland	944-4174
George Sund	Cambridge	697-4629	William Krause	Auburn	274-3789
Michael Thome	Cozad	784-4362	Jeremy TenKley	Beatrice	228-1437
Matt Andrews	Elwood	785-3025	Mike Luben	Colon	443-4278
Dirk Greene	Imperial	882-5328	Douglas Kramer	Lincoln	466-9001
Virgil Gosch	McCook	345-2185	Dina Barta	Lincoln	483-2358
Dudley Sorensen	N. Platte	532-0747	Stacey Lewton	Lincoln	476-0436
Rich Routh	Rep. City	799-2085	Levi Krause	Louisville	234-2212
			Jerry Pecha (Sup.)	Kearney	865-5327
			Russell Mort	Nebr. City	873-5684
			Dan Evasco	Papillion	592-6733
			Jeff Clauson	Valley	359-5301

Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers 1-800-742-7627

The Gift of a Lifetime



Treat your special hunter or angler with the gift that lasts a lifetime . . . a Nebraska lifetime permit. Lifetime permits remain valid even if the holder leaves the state. A great gift for graduation, Father's Day and birthdays.

For VISA and MasterCard orders call toll-free
1-800-742-0056

Lifetime permits are now available for nonresidents as well as residents.

For prices, go to
www.OutdoorNebraska.org



www.OutdoorNebraska.org
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION



DOUG CARROLL

Almost 1,700 students competed in the 38th annual High School Cornhusker Trapshoot held at the Nebraska Trapshooting Association's home grounds in Doniphan May 3-5.

Cornhusker Trapshoot

Nearly 1,700 junior high and senior high school students competed in the 38th Annual High School Cornhusker Trapshoot held at the Nebraska Trapshooting Association's home ground at Doniphan May 3-5. When it was over, Chris Schropfer, a sophomore at Fillmore Central High School in Geneva, had won a shootoff with Jason Galley of Omaha Skutt Catholic High School to win the Cornhusker Cup, which is awarded to the high overall individual.

"Severe weather moved through the Doniphan area during this year's Cornhusker Shoot, and while we were delayed on Saturday by a fast-moving thunderstorm, the young shooters took the wet weather in stride and we saw some excellent scoring on all three days," said Rocky Hoffmann, shoot director. "The sportsmanship, responsibility and safety that the young shooters demonstrate each year is tremendous."

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Nebraska Trapshooting Association encourage all youngsters who wish to participate in the Cornhusker Shoot to get involved with their local gun club, contact shooting coaches or ask a father, mother or gun club member to serve as a coach. Official programs

are available each year by contacting the Commission or a conservation officer.

Flying WILD Workshop

The Flying WILD Workshop to be held June 28 and 29 at the McConaughy Visitor Center is a tool for educators, students and community organizations to learn about bird migration and adaptations, see birds in the hand with an expert bird bander and acquire some useful skills and educational tools for the classroom, nature center or park setting. Resources are provided by a network of bird experts, bird organizations, and environmental professionals assisting with the Flying WILD initiative. Space is limited to 25 participants and cost is \$30. For more information, contact Jeanine Lackey at (402) 471-5581 or jeanine.lackey@ngpc.ne.gov.

Youth Habitat Stamp Art Winners

Students from Mitchell, McCook, and Omaha won their respective categories in the 30th Annual Nebraska Youth Habitat Stamp Art Contest sponsored by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Nine-year-old Braydon Wiedeman of

Mitchell won the elementary division with an acrylic painting of a duck; 13-year-old Emily Tolliver of McCook won the junior division with a colored pencil drawing of a cardinal; and 16-year-old Felix Islas of Omaha won the senior section with a squirrel drawing, also done with colored pencils.

All winners received \$100 from the Omaha Fish and Wildlife Club, while finalists and honorable mention winners received a subscription to *NEBRASKAland Magazine*. In addition, 72 out of 1,198 total entries were chosen to be part of a traveling exhibit displayed at various locations throughout Nebraska.

A list of the 2007 Youth Habitat Stamp Art Contest winners, finalists, honorable mentions and those whose artwork is part of the traveling exhibit can be found on the Commission's web site at

www.ngpc.state.ne.us/wildlife/programs/habitat/youthwinners.asp.

Fishing Guide Error

Since many people received copies of the 2007 *Nebraska Fishing Guide* that inadvertently omitted the statewide length limits, anglers should note that length limits for 2007 are the same as last year and include:

Largemouth bass: 15-inch minimum except where other limits apply, and parts of the Missouri River.

Smallmouth and spotted bass: 12-inch minimum limit except where other limits apply, and parts of the Missouri River.

Walleye, sauger, and saugeye: 15-inch minimum limit, except for the Missouri River downstream from Gavins Point Dam and reservoirs with more restrictive length limits. The daily bag limit of four fish can include only one over 22 inches in length with the exception of Elwood Reservoir, which allows only one fish over 24 inches.

Muskellunge/Tiger Muskellunge: 40-inch minimum limit. ■

Make Your Cabin and Campsite Reservations Today!



LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE CABINS ARE AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

Plan your park vacation now make reservations or check for available dates by calling (402) 471-1414 or go online to www.OutdoorNebraska.org.



PONCA STATE PARK HAS MANY CAMPSITES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR RESERVATION

The Nebraska Annual Park Permit is your passport to the great outdoors all year long. Purchase your 2007 permit now at any state park or permit vendor – or go online to www.OutdoorNebraska.org.

Our online permit purchase is secure, there's never a line and your permanent permit will be mailed to you.



www.OutdoorNebraska.org
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Protecting the Niobrara River

Commission begins studying Niobrara River instream flow needs.

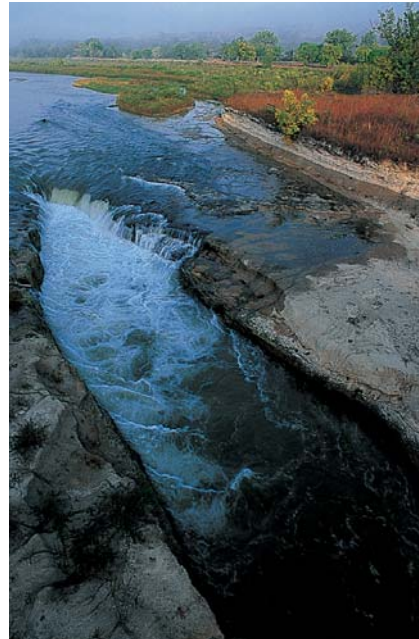
By Jon Farrar

In May 2006, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) board of commissioners instructed staff to study and recommend instream flow appropriation needs to protect the economic, recreational and ecological values of the Niobrara River. This will be the Commission's third instream flow initiative.

Instream flow legislation passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 1984 allows NGPC and natural resources districts (NRDs) to apply for the right to maintain water in a stream for beneficial uses other than out-of-stream uses such as irrigation. The law requires specified flows to remain in a stream for wildlife and recreation after prior water right holders have taken their share.

The state's first instream appropriation was granted to NGPC in 1989 to protect trout populations in Long Pine Creek in north-central Nebraska. The Central Platte NRD received an instream appropriation for the Platte River in 1992 to protect sandhill cranes, endangered whooping cranes and forage fish for threatened least terns, and six years later the Commission was granted another instream appropriation to protect habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species, including several threatened or endangered species, found on central and lower reaches of the river.

The Niobrara River study is especially timely now that the state is grappling with the enormous economic consequences of chronic exploitation of water in the Republican and Platte river basins. Both of those rivers were already over-appropriated due to both surface and groundwater uses when the instream flow legislation was passed. Approximately 95 percent of the flowing water and groundwater used in Nebraska goes to irrigate



JON FARRAR

Unless its flows are protected, the scenic Niobrara River in north-central Nebraska may suffer radical changes.

cropland. Under state law, irrigators and other water users are allowed to entirely deplete streams unless the streams are protected by an instream appropriation.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) has not ruled that the Niobrara is fully appropriated, but last month the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), owner of Spencer Dam on the lower Niobrara and holder of water rights dating back as far as the 1890s, asked the NDNR for protection of its 2,035 cubic feet per second flow rights, a volume it has not always received.

The NGPC study could continue for another three years, and if the Commission decides instream appropriations are needed, a request will be filed with the NDNR and the process of review and hearings will follow.

"We are looking at the Niobrara Basin because its valuable resources

are recognized nationally as well as regionally and locally," said NGPC biologist Larry Hutchinson. "It was a natural place to consider for an instream flow study before too much water had been appropriated and we were too late protecting the resource, as the state was on the Republican and Platte rivers."

There are many reasons to keep the Niobrara River flowing. A significant recreational industry, valued at millions of dollars, has grown around tourism in the area, particularly camping, canoeing and tubing. Protecting the unique and diverse assemblage of fauna and flora found along the river is another justification. And there are less obvious consequences for not allowing the Niobrara to be exploited. While Nebraska sits astride a vast underground aquifer, the top few feet of that buried water often dictates what is found on the surface. Lowering the aquifer only a few feet can turn hay meadows and marshes into dry valleys. Also of concern is the effect a falling water table would have on the waterfalls found on Niobrara feeder streams.

Instream appropriations do not affect existing and prior water rights held by landowners. Rather, the appropriation is a water right for flows not being diverted for other uses. An appropriation could be requested to preserve recreational opportunities, to protect fish and wildlife, or both. If instream appropriations are requested for the Niobrara, they could extend from the river's mouth to perhaps as far upstream as near Box Butte Reservoir in Dawes County.

"If it is decided instream appropriations are needed to protect the Niobrara," said Hutchinson, "we want all stakeholders in the river – local, regional and statewide – to

understand why they are necessary and to support the applications. We will be asking those stakeholders: What values does the river provide now that need to be protected? What do you want the Niobrara to look like in 50 years? There is a strong economic justification for people along the river and those deriving income from river recreation to protect those resources, to attract and keep people living in that area, to keep the area vital, the economy stable, the schools going."

The NGPC has invited the three Niobrara River NRDs, the Niobrara Council and others to be a part of the study and planning process.

The Niobrara Council, assigned by the Legislature to manage the Niobrara scenic river corridor in conjunction with the National Park Service, is supportive of the study. Both the Niobrara Council and the National Park Service have asked the three NRDs to place a temporary moratorium on new groundwater and surface water applications until the study is complete to prevent a rush of new wells in anticipation of restrictive regulations, such as occurred in the Republican River Valley.

With other Nebraska rivers and streams already seriously depleted and water tables falling, with major restrictions on new water uses and irrigation in other river basins, and with the amount of corn produced under irrigation expected to increase because of ethanol-driven rising corn prices, the threat to the Niobrara could be just around the corner. The number of requests for water rights in the Niobrara River basin in recent months suggests it is already happening. Now is the time to protect it for future generations. ■

NEBRASKALand Catalog's
Spring Fling Sale!

More than 120 quality NEBRASKALand items are
40% to 90% off the original price
 through **June 30th**

Purchase items for yourself or friends and family for Christmas, birthdays, Father's Day or just because. Pictures and descriptions of these select items are on our catalog web site at
www.nebraskalandgifts.com
 Quantities are limited, so go online and order today!

Photographing Nebraska's Outdoors

In this third part of our series on nature photography, we discuss how to successfully capture macro photography images.

Macro Photography

Chris Helzer – Nature photographer

My favorite type of photography is macro photography, otherwise known as close-up photography. One of the best things about macro photography is that you don't have to travel very far from home to find good pictures. If you take the time to look closely in your backyard, the city park or the creek just outside of town, you're sure to find plenty of subject matter. You don't need a lot of equipment either, but let's start there.

For macro photography I use a small Bogen tripod that only stands about four feet tall when fully extended. I can spread my tripod's legs to get close to the ground if needed, and I can extend the center post if I need more height. For subjects really close to the ground I attach a Bogen Super Clamp and small ballhead to one of the tripod's legs. That way I can slide the clamp down to ground level and still have a stable base to shoot from, which is very important.

Make sure you have a lens that will focus as close as you need it to. Many manufacturers claim their normal lenses are capable of doing macro photography, but a lens specifically designed for close-up photography, often referred to as a macro lens, will usually focus a lot closer and give you much better results. I've always used a 100mm or 105mm macro lens because of the longer working distance it gives me from the subject and the way it limits the amount of background that shows behind the subject. Because the Nikon D200 I currently use has a digital sensor smaller than a 35mm frame, my 105 mm macro lens acts like an even longer lens, which I really like. Speaking of cameras, because I shoot close-up photos using manual focus and manual exposure, the camera body itself might be my least important piece of equipment. I have taken just as good of photos using older, manual focus cameras as I have with newer, autofocus digital cameras. Getting the right focal point and exposure can be really tricky when doing macro photography, and I like the control I have when doing those things myself.

The last piece of equipment that I consider essential is a cable release, which keeps the camera from shaking or moving

when I click the shutter. This is especially important with the long exposures I often need because of low light and the small apertures used to maximize depth-of-field.

Weather is a key element of close-up photography. Most days there are only a couple small windows of opportunity when the light and wind are both right for making good photos, so it's important to plan ahead. Photography involves capturing the reflection of light off of a subject, so the quality of that light should be your first concern. Go out early in the morning and late in the evening for nice, warm light and interesting shadows, and take advantage of bright, overcast days and the soft, even light they provide. The other limiting factor besides light is wind. While it's possible to take close-up photos on windy days (particularly of rocks!), most subjects are easier to photograph when not waving in the breeze.

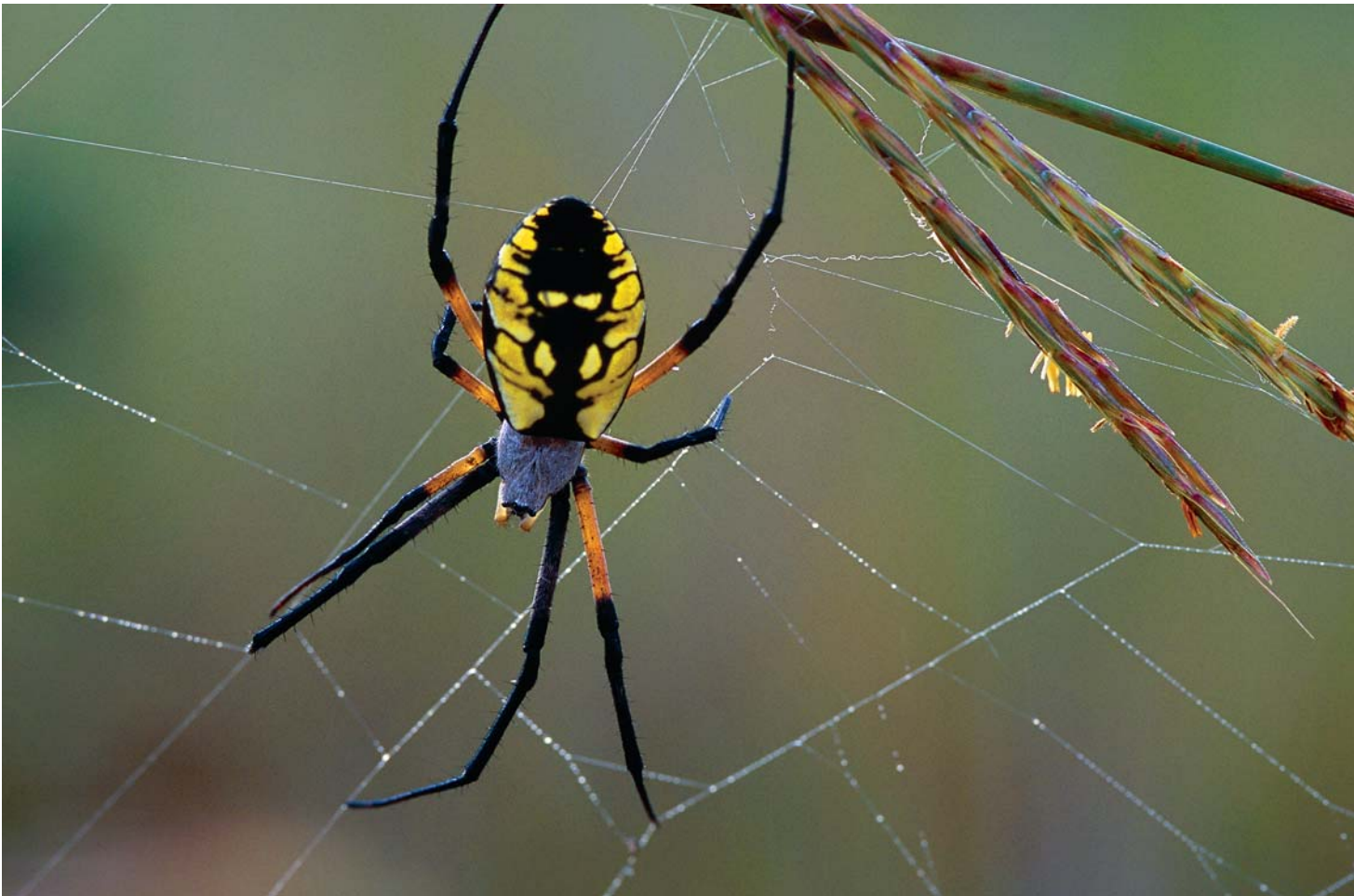
Once you have the necessary light and wind conditions, the next challenge is controlling depth-of-field – the amount of the photo that appears to be in focus. When photographing very close objects, the depth-of-field is very shallow, which means you have to think carefully about which parts of the subject you want in focus. If the subject is an insect or animal, it's usually important for the eyes to be in focus. With flowers or other subjects, you must decide what the focal point of the photo is going to be and make sure that it is sharp. Oftentimes positioning the camera's film plane parallel to the subject will give you a better chance of getting the entire subject in focus.

One nice thing about narrow depth-of-field is that it often allows you to "fuzz out" a photo's background, accentuating the main subject. The further your subject is from objects behind it, the easier it is to fuzz the background out. Make sure you pay attention to potential distractions – gently push aside stray grass leaves, for example, and position your camera so that the horizon line doesn't intersect your subject.

The best way to learn macro photography is to just try it, so the next time the wind dies down in the evening, pick up your camera and head outside. You'll be amazed at the number of photo opportunities waiting right outside your backdoor.

Chris Helzer is Program Director for The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Nebraska Project Office. ■





PREVIOUS PAGE: This caterpillar was photographed at Griffith Prairie, a Prairie Plains Resource Institute preserve in Hamilton County, with a 105mm lens, $\frac{1}{13}$ second at f/8, ISO 100. The picture was taken after the sun had gone down, so the light on the caterpillar is afterglow reflecting from the sky.

OPPOSITE: This milkweed leaf with sunlight shining through it was also shot at Griffith Prairie. A 105mm lens was used, set for $\frac{1}{25}$ second at f/16, with an ISO of 100.

ABOVE: This garden spider was photographed among big bluestem in a restored tallgrass prairie near Aurora using a 105mm macro lens and Fujichrome Velvia film.

RIGHT: These bark beetle galleries were found on a cottonwood log at Olson Nature Preserve near Albion. Bright, overcast light helped the picture, and the subject made the wind irrelevant. The photo was shot using a 100mm macro lens and Velvia film.

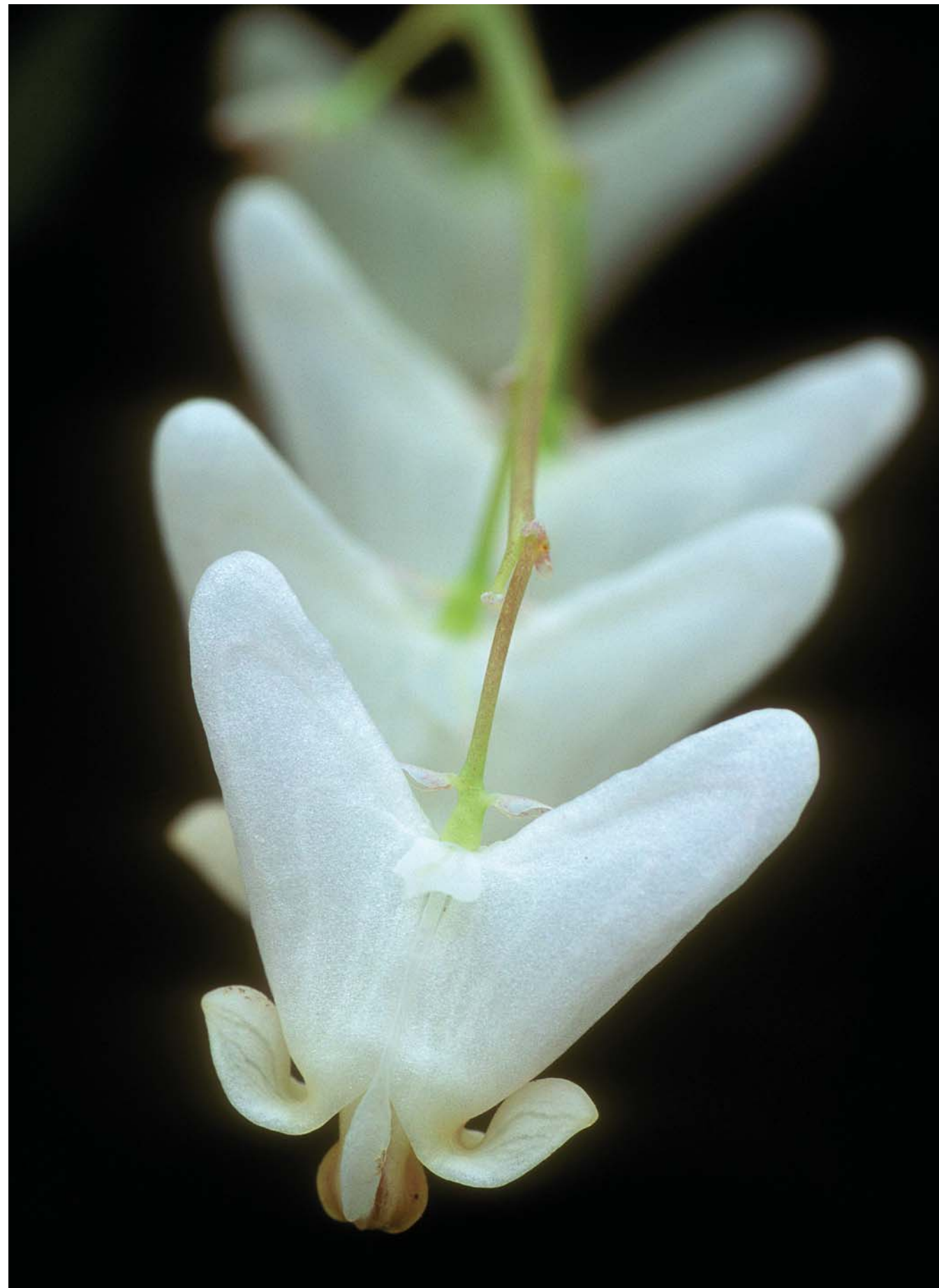




ABOVE: This sideoats grama plant was photographed in a native grass plot on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus using a 100mm macro lens and Velvia film.

LEFT: This dragonfly was photographed on roundheaded bushclover inside Aurora's city limits using a 105mm macro lens and Velvia film.

OPPOSITE: These Dutchman's breeches flowers were found in an oak woodland near Papillion. They were photographed using a 100mm macro lens and Velvia film. Exposing for the white flowers made the background appear completely black.



Memphis Lake

– both past and present –

By Jeff Kurrus

Once known for the Armour and Company Icehouse, Memphis Lake SRA is one of Nebraska's best secrets.

With activities that include camping, fishing, and hiking, Memphis offers a little something for everyone.

The first time I visited Memphis Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) was because I am originally from Memphis, Tennessee, I like to fish and was curious about a place named after a group of settlers who originally came to the area from Tennessee. This first visit, back in 2000, was disappointing – all I found at the lake was shallow water and sludge. While the area made a great, clean camping spot close to Omaha or Lincoln, I wanted an extra incentive to visit. A nice camping trip is great. A nice camping trip with scenery is even better. But a nice camping trip with

scenery and a few fish thrown in for good measure is the best of all. However, that wasn't what I found. It was my first introduction to silt, and we did not get along well. However, the lake has been rehabilitated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission since my first visit, and when I was finally coerced into visiting Memphis Lake again, I was in for a very pleasant surprise.

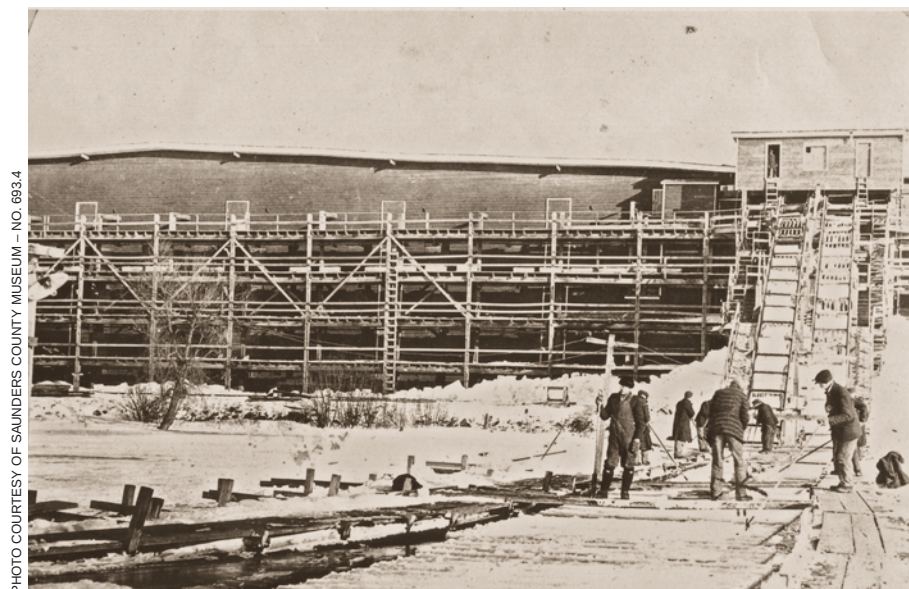
Aquatic Habitat Success

In 2002, the Commission completed a yearlong aquatic habitat project at Memphis Lake SRA, removing 51,000 cubic yards of sediment from the 45-

KEN BOUC



At Memphis Lake SRA in Saunders County, fishing possibilities with family and friends is one of the lake's strongest attributes.



At 200 feet wide, 735 feet long, and 40 feet high, the Armour and Company Icehouse located at present day Memphis Lake SRA produced 100,000 tons of ice in 1899.

acre lake to make it deeper, and creating an additional 3,760 feet of shoreline, including three jetties and an island. The project also involved installing a filtration system to prevent the reintroduction of rough fish. After the lake was refilled, it was restocked from 2002 to 2006 with 8,250 largemouth bass, 9,720 channel catfish and 60,730 sunfish and bluegill.

Memphis is now one of the top lakes close to the metropolitan areas of Lincoln and Omaha and provides excellent fishing for bluegill, catfish and bass even during the summer, when aquatic vegetation covers much of the

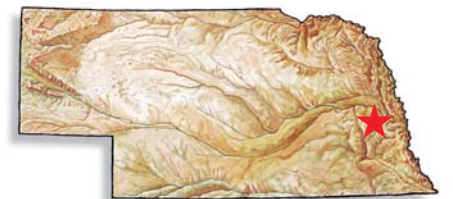
lake. Because the newly constructed jetties provide legitimate chances at finding deepwater spots to access, anglers can now catch a large number of fish, from bank or boat, throughout the year. It is clear how much the project has improved the lake. The funny thing is while fishing is such a large focus now, there was a time in the area's history when it wasn't even possible.

A Brief History

According to the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Armour and Company Icehouse was built in 1897-98 on the site of what is now Memphis

Lake SRA. The area was a pasture during the spring and summer months, but in the fall the man-made area was cleared of all debris and the lake filled with spring water from nearby Silver Creek. The ice was scored and sawed when it was eight inches thick, with the blocks poled along an open channel to elevators and up into ice rooms, where they were packed in sawdust. One of the largest icehouses in the country at 200 feet wide, 735 feet long and 40 feet high, the Armour and Company Icehouse was powered by a 300-horsepower steam engine and two coal generators.

The icehouse harvested 100,000 tons of ice in 1899 and shipped, on average,



Memphis Lake SRA is located on the northwestern edge of Memphis in Saunders County. Nearby attractions include the Strategic Air and Space Museum, Eugene T. Mahoney State Park and the Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari.



ERIC FOWLER

With 3,760 feet of shoreline, three jetties and an island recently added, Memphis Lake SRA's fishing possibilities include channel catfish (pictured), bluegill and largemouth bass.

24 carloads of ice daily to Omaha and Chicago and was advertised for its purity. According to the Nebraska State Historical Society, even during the summer it was quite common to ship more than 100 railcars of ice each month. The company employed 25 local families year-round and another 300 during its winter season, who took up temporary quarters in the Armour Hotel near the lake.

A 1921 fire destroyed the icehouse, but ice continued to be loaded directly onto railroad cars until refrigeration units began replacing ice houses. Artificial ice plants were quickly being constructed closer to major cities, eliminating the need for icehouses like the one at Memphis; so in 1928, the 144 acres were sold to Charles Tanner, a former foreman at the icehouse. Two years later Tanner sold the land to the state, which established the recreation area in 1930. These days, the area once used for supplying ice for Midwestern cities provides a different set of benefits for visitors looking for a little escape from city life and city lights.

Boyscout Troop No. 359

"It was so dark," said Boy Scout Scott Burkhart, describing the previous night's campfire game of "Ghost in the Graveyard." Scott and the rest of Troop No. 359 from Papillion were spending a weekend camping at Memphis late last fall when I first met them, and had just completed a orienteering exercise with their compasses. When asked what activities they did with the Boy Scouts, the boys recited a long list: How to use axes, mauls and knives; tying knots and first aid; water safety, fire safety and cooking their own food; building shelters and winter survival. "Is that all?" I asked. Both the scout leaders and boys shook their heads.

"We did one and a half hours of service work this weekend. It lets the boys learn that they have a responsibility to take care of their community," said John Lowndes, father of scout Tony Lowndes. "Scouting is about belonging to a community and principles and attitudes that, if you catch the boys early enough, become ingrained in

them so when the boys become adults, they don't think about community – community is just a part of them." While the troop was at Memphis Lake SRA, they visited all the fire rings at their camp, cleaned out the trash and ashes, and readied them for the next campers coming in.

During their stay, the scouts fished during the day and, when the sky cooperated, stargazed at night. Because they are not allowed to bring any electronic games, their leisure time is spent playing cards, talking around the campfire and playing games.

The troop camps somewhere once a month and has enjoyed several other Nebraska public areas, including Fremont Lakes SRA, Indian Cave State Park (SP), Mahoney SP, and Louisville SRA. At Memphis, the boys were able to work toward the 110 merit badges they can earn and also toward advancing in rank toward Eagle, the highest level of Boy Scouts. "I like camping and being outside," said Tony Lowndes. "It's fun to get away from the city. There are so many stars out here at night."

A Little Something For Everyone

Camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, picnicking, stargazing – name it, Memphis Lake SRA has it. And the best part about the area is that few people use it. Dozens of mature, shade-producing trees are scattered throughout the campground, which has 150 nonpad campsites. There is no electricity in the campground, but there are dozens of campsites along the water's edge. Pit toilets are scattered throughout and playgrounds are also on site. A separate, adjacent area even allows hunters to chase a number of species in season, including waterfowl, rabbits, pheasants and squirrels.

This summer and fall, either fish from one of the lake's rock jetties or drop a johnboat, kayak or float tube in its waters and take advantage of all the woody and aquatic structure that can't be reached from the bank. Just remember to use an electric or nonpowered boat there. Located 30 minutes from downtown Omaha and Lincoln and



JEFF KURRUS

Close to Omaha and Lincoln, Memphis Lake SRA is a great camping spot for visitors.

mere minutes away from both the Strategic Air and Space Museum and E.T. Mahoney State Park, Memphis is in the perfect geographical spot to make a weekend escape.

You might even see me there, but there's just no telling what I'll be doing. I have so many options. ■

The author would like to thank the Nebraska State Historical Society, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The Saunders County Museum and a paper by Merna Washburn entitled "Refrigeration Killed My Town" for the historical information regarding Memphis Lake SRA.



JEFF KURRUS

Solitude and scenery near Nebraska's metropolitan areas make Memphis Lake SRA an ideal spot for a morning walk.

Ferruginous Hawks

Photos and text by Bob Grier

The ferruginous hawk, (*Buteo regalis*) is one of North America's largest and most regal raptors. During the spring and summer of 2006, I observed and photographed a nesting pair and their young perched on an exposed rim of a sandstone outcropping along the southern edge of the Niobrara river valley.

An adult ferruginous hawk brings in additional nesting material as its two almost completely fledged-out chicks watch during the summer of 2006.



With a ground squirrel in the folded talons of its left foot, the adult male ferruginous hawk's outstretched wings softly carried it to the rim of its nest. The gusty winds blowing across the exposed nest near the top of a rocky bluff in western Nebraska posed little problem for the adult, whose graceful flight and regal bearing validated its Latin name, *Buteo regalis*.

Ferruginous hawks have been known to nest in trees, on protected, rocky points and ledges of outcrops. Some

have even nested on flat grasslands. Last year marked at least the seventh year that a breeding pair of ferruginous hawks have nested on the rim of a sandstone and marl outcropping along the southern edge of the Niobrara River Valley north of Hemingford. A similar, abandoned platform nest built on a flat-topped spire within sight of the active nest extends the hawk's local nesting activities even further back in time.

Formed almost entirely of the stalks of yucca plants, over the years the active nest has grown larger and larger, now resembling a miniature volcano.

Last spring its base was at least eight feet across and stood nearly 18-inches high before the annual nesting period began in March.

Natural History

One of the largest members of the *Buteo* genus, adult ferruginous hawks average 22.5 to 25 inches in length and have a 53- to 56-inch wingspan. Both sexes look alike, with females a bit larger than males. Ferruginous hawks have two distinctly different color forms, known as light and dark morphs.

Light morph birds, such as the breeding pair using the Hemingford nest, display the rusty brown on their back and shoulders leading to the species' common name (ferruginous means "rusty color") and have a paler head. Light morph adults display nearly white and silver underwings accented by small, rust-colored markings, a snowy white breast above rusty-red and black banded feathers extending to its large, yellow feet and formidable black talons. Dark morph birds make up less than 10 percent of the population and are almost completely dark brown, with strongly contrasting white and



The adult female uses her body to shade the young chicks from the heat of the sun.

dark feather bands under the wings.

In flight, ferruginous hawks of both color morphs have long, broad wings. The slightly barred, fan-shaped tails are opened when soaring and appear nearly pure white in both light and dark morph birds. Seen from below, the wings of adults have a pattern of markings along the coverts of the underwings extending mid-wing to the top of the legs. The dark leg feathers form an easily seen "V" shape.

The differences between adult and juvenile plumage adds to the difficulty of field identification of many raptor species and different color forms within the same species confuses matters of identification as well.

The ferruginous hawk's voice includes alarm calls consisting of a "kree-a" or "ke-ah" and harsh chirping "kaah, kaah" calls that are often heard near the nest location. The bird can remain nearly invisible at altitude above the nest and the ringing, high-pitched alarm calls echo over the nest site.

Ferruginous hawks are birds of the high plains of western North America. Their range includes the continent's grasslands and arid, elevated steppes from southern Alberta and southwestern Manitoba into Mexico and from the western half of Nebraska to eastern California.

Their breeding and summer ranges extend northward into southern Canada and some winter as far south as Texas. Year-round residents of Nebraska, only scattered sightings of ferruginous hawks occur east of the Missouri River.

Throughout their breeding and nesting grounds, the hawks nest in trees, on protected, rocky points and ledges of outcrops. Some even nest on nearly flat grasslands.

Ferruginous hawk egg clutches typically number between two and six, but as many as eight have been reported. The 2006 nest north of Hemingford started with four eggs, but only three hatched and one chick died within days of leaving the egg. The remaining egg, dull white with umber to dark brown splotches, could still be seen in the nest at the end of the nesting cycle.

Both the female and the male take turns at incubation, their white underbellies hidden by the rim of the conical nest and their darker-colored back providing effective camouflage. Egg laying in western Nebraska usually occurs from mid-March through mid-May. Observations by researchers show both adults spend an equal amount of time on the eggs during the average



Not much protects this ferruginous hawk nest built on the edge of a rocky outcropping in the central Panhandle.



Holding a ground squirrel in its beak, one of the parents prepares to feed its young.

32-day incubation period.

During the 2005 nesting season, four eggs were laid and the first egg hatched the last day of May, with the remainder of the eggs hatching about two days apart during the first week of June. That nest and its chicks were destroyed, however, when a thunderstorm with high winds, hail and torrential rains – including a tornado that touched down just north of the nest site – moved eastward along the Niobrara River.

Historical accounts of ferruginous hawks are few, yet they nearly always include the observer’s undisguised admiration for the species. Spencer F. Baird, in his 1860 report of the California Squirrel Hawk, as the species was then known, wrote: “This is one of the most handsome of the American Falconidae, and, though known in Europe for the last twenty years, was unknown to naturalists of this country until brought to their notice by Mr. Edward Kern, who was attached to Colonel Fremont’s expeditions.”

By the mid-1900s, the ferruginous hawk’s classification was refined by

the scientific community and Arthur Cleveland Bent made up for his predecessor’s dry writing style in his glowing 1937 report of the hawk’s new classification: “This latest name, *Regalis*, is a very appropriate one for this splendid hawk, the largest, and most powerful, and the grandest of our Buteos, a truly regal bird.”

Diet and Hunting Methods

Within seconds of the male arriving at the nest with the ground squirrel, the larger of the chicks, nearly three weeks old at the time, had grasped it in its beak and with a flip of its head, swallowed the rodent headfirst. The female then suddenly appeared, gliding in from the south, her flight path well below the height of the nest. She rotated her wings to cut her speed and rose nearly vertically to settle onto the nest’s rim. As if on cue, the male jumped into the air to continue his hunting activities.

Like Nebraska’s threatened and endangered swift fox (*Vulpes velox*), the ferruginous hawk’s diet is made up almost entirely of small mammals:

moles, voles, ground squirrels, pocket gophers and prairie dogs. The hawk’s prey also includes black-tailed jackrabbits. Both the swift fox and ferruginous hawk are often associated with prairie dog towns, where prey is readily available.

While small mammals make up 80 to 90 percent of the ferruginous hawk’s diet, they are opportunists. The list of prey on their menu includes mice, muskrat, pocket mouse, long-tailed weasel, snowshoe hare, curlew, black-billed magpie, bull snake, yellow-bellied racer, garter snake and insects including grasshoppers, crickets and carabid beetles. Prey items seen at the 2006 nest also included several meadowlarks.

During the mid to latter part of the 2006 incubation period, the female left the nest for less than 10 minutes to capture, kill and eat a snake that she located from the nest about three hundred yards away. Interestingly, the landowners and their children and grandchildren have hiked their pastures on numerous occasions throughout the spring and summer during the last seven years and have

never encountered a snake, suggesting snakes are a regular item of the hawk’s diet.

Researchers have identified at least seven hunting strategies for the hawk, including perching on trees, power poles, hillsides and other elevated sites and waiting for prey to appear. Four hunting flight patterns have been identified: low-level flights several feet above the ground, sustained flights from 40 to 60 feet above the ground and high-level hunting flights where the birds soar at higher altitudes. Observers report the success of the higher level hunting flights is generally low. Hovering flight – like the more commonly encountered hovering American kestrel or sparrow hawk, *Falco sparverius*, – is also used, with the hawk making rapid wing beats to hold its position before dropping quickly to the ground to snatch up a field mouse or other prey.

Other interesting hunting techniques reported includes “ground-perching,” where the hawk will land next to a rodent burrow and wait for the rodent to move just under the surface

before jumping into the air and dropping on the prey still under the loose soil. The ground perching technique appears nearly identical to a polar bear standing at a seal’s air hole in the ice before rising on its back legs and pouncing to break through the mantle of snow above the seal.

Other hunting strategies include cooperative hunting by ferruginous pairs and even outright piracy, where birds gather near prairie dog hunters and fly out to claim prairie dogs that are shot.

At the 2006 Nest

The adult female maintained her upright position at the nest through most of the warm midday, shading the chicks. She made use of her time by preening and cleaning her plumage, occasionally stretching one or the other wing and standing motionless, often on one leg with the other leg and talons held up against the outstretched wing. As the sun shifted, the female moved clockwise on the nest’s rim to keep the young in shade.



Glinting in the late-afternoon light, soft rain falls on the nest and its two almost fully fledged chicks during a summer rain shower.

The nestlings slept, occasionally re-positioning and preening themselves. When necessary, they moved to the nest edge to expel their waste.

After several hours, the chick's increasing activities signaled the end of their rest period. Picking up the ground squirrel she had brought earlier, the adult began to tear away small portions of meat and feed them to the two chicks, lowering her head and turning it from side to side to observe each chick's activities before using her sharp beak to pull another

portion from the rodent held in her talons. Occasionally she would hold a portion of meat in her beak, allowing first one than the other chick to attempt to tear away small parts of the offering before devouring what was left, including the head, bones and skin that couldn't easily be rendered into smaller portions.

Young ferruginous hawks stay in the nest for about 38 to 50 days, with male chicks fledging within 38 to 40 days and the slower-developing female chicks fledging

about 10 days later. The young birds in the 2006 nest feathered out at a surprising rate – the first black pin feathers on the wings appeared by the second week of June, and darker feathering on the back and light, rust-colored breast feathers by June 19. As the chicks matured, they increasingly used their wings and long legs to move about the nest, often preening and shaking away a cloud of downy feathers as they prepared for flight. Near the end of the nesting period, both chicks would leave and seek



With the unhatched egg perilously close to being underfoot, a ferruginous chick watches as its sibling tries out its wings.



Dust and small downy feathers glint in a beam of sunlight as the chicks build up their flight muscles.

relief from the summer sun in shade on the northeast side of the nest. As their size and mobility increased, the young birds would walk around the rock above the nest to seek shade on the cooler, northern exposure.

Only one chick remained in the nest on July 3. The other juvenile, usually accompanied by one of the adults, took up residence on a rocky outcropping about a quarter-mile northeast of the nest. During its time at the nest alone, the slower developing chick received fewer and fewer visits from the adults. Hunting had slowed in the heat of the summer, and the birds' prey was spending more time underground. Once the last chick left the nest, observations near the site became increasingly rare.

Future of the Ferruginous

Ferruginous hawks are known to have lived as long as 20 years in the wild, but researchers believe most birds die within the first five years. First year mortality is estimated at about 66 percent and adult mortality at 25 percent.

During the early to mid-1900s, the

species was believed to be in decline and the ferruginous hawk was listed on the National Audubon Society's Blue List from 1971 to 1981. The hawk was listed as a species of Special Concern between 1982 and 1986 and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service listed the hawk's population in its "undetermined" category in 1973. In 1991, the ferruginous hawk was petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act, but the petition was rejected due to insufficient data to warrant listing.

Like the swift fox, ferruginous hawks evolved on the mid- to short-grass prairies and arid, shrub steppes of the west. Their range continues to erode as agricultural practices and development reduce the size of the continent's grasslands.

The continuing concern for grassland species has led to increased banding, recovery and tracking efforts by biologists throughout the ferruginous hawk's range. Advancing technology, including satellite telemetry of birds fitted with extremely small transmitters called PTTs, or platform transmitter terminals, allow researchers to track the

hawk's movements. The high-tech transmitters, weighing about 30 to 35 grams, transmit once every eight days. Signals are received by National Oceanic and Atmospheric weather satellites in polar orbits about 600 miles above the earth and then relayed to researchers' computers.

By July 2006, 40 ferruginous hawks had been fitted with the lightweight transmitters – eight in Mexico, eight in Canada and 24 in the United States. Of the 40 hawks, fourteen are currently active and birders are invited to log on to www.ferruginoushawk.org to follow the study's progress and view actual maps showing the individual ferruginous hawk's movements across western North America. ■

Editor's note: The female ferruginous hawk returned to the nest site north of Hemingford this past March and began rebuilding the nest, but after waiting nearly a month for the male to return, she eventually abandoned her efforts and left the area. Only time will tell if these regal birds will once again use this nest site.

FROM THE BANK

By Jeff Kurrus

Shoreline fishing for bluegill, northern pike and largemouth bass requires a plan to maximize productivity when angling. Here is that plan.

After hundreds of hours spent fishing from shorelines across the country, I have left more lures than I care to think about hanging in trees and most certainly backlashed my reel a time or two in limbs behind me. Yet I have also learned a thing or two about

fishing from the bank and now know what to look for during these terrestrial excursions, what adjustments to make, and how to be creative when fishing for bluegill, pike, and bass. More importantly, lessons I continue to ingest from shore translate into more success when fishing from a boat. Plus, bank fishing is just plain fun. The following are some tips that might aid in your desire to catch a few more fish from Nebraska's long list of lakes accessible by foot.



BLUEGILL (*Lepomis macrochirus*) are a forage fish for both pike and bass and are also excellent tablefare for anglers.



NORTHERN PIKE (*Esox lucius*) are found by anglers in Sandhill lakes and attack the largest fish they can eat.



LARGEMOUTH BASS (*Micropterus salmoides*) are found across the state. A 5-pound bass is a trophy in Nebraska.

FISH ART BY DUANE RAVER, UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Fan-Casting

I have been told that fan-casting, a fishing method in which an angler stands in one spot and casts to various points to the front, left and right, is the most efficient way of fishing from the bank because it allows anglers to work a large amount of water from a single location.

While this notion is correct to a large extent, it should be modified slightly to increase efficiency. People often fan-cast water that is either unlikely to hold fish at all or while using inappropriate lures. For example, working eight-foot-deep water with a lure designed to run two feet deep is usually not the best way to catch fish, yet anglers repeatedly make this mistake.

Conversely, people sometimes fish lures designed to run much deeper than the water they are fishing, repeatedly creating hang-ups with underwater structure.

When fan-casting, start by making more casts parallel to the bank instead of away from it. Because bluegill, pike and bass often make their way to shallow water to feed, use the accompanying illustration (page 31) as a model of where to cast. Let us assume there are also more cover options in shallow water, again supporting the likelihood of these areas holding fish.

BOB GRIER



Windmill SRA is an example of a great bank fishing option for anglers. With five ponds on site, this area east of Kearney is home to bluegill and largemouth bass. In early morning hours, anglers can fish traditional fish-holding spots including points, then begin fan-casting various areas of the lakes looking for fish feeding near a variety of structure.

Fishing this way will also involve the use of short casts. Pulling a hooked fish past a fish you have yet to catch is not the best way to catch that second fish. When looking down a bank being fished, there will often be multiple cover types, such as riprap, submerged timber or some form of aquatic vegetation. Quite often there will be a fish in or on each of these structures that can be caught if fished correctly. This is the

same concept as not fishing the backside of a point or piece of structure from a boat before fishing the front side.

After making this series of short casts, start making longer ones using the fanning technique. This allows the angler to fish new water while also trying to find out if longer casts are needed, due to water clarity, to catch more fish.

Where to Look?

Too often, bank anglers spend a large amount of time fishing the same area because they think a fish might eventually strike. Unless fish can be seen actively feeding or the area has been extremely successful in the past, an angler should search for fish on a lake if they are not having success at a particular spot. One thing to look for is



JEFF KURRUS

Wading is another alternative for bank anglers to reach deeper water while also fan-casting shallow-water depths in search of fish.

fish. For bass, there are bluegills and other small fish, and so on. For pike, there is anything they can get to sustain their voracious appetite.

When shoreline fishing, become a thinking angler, one who will try Option No. 2 if No. 1 is not working. There is no reason to spend a complete morning fishing a two-to four-foot tapered bank that has a pile of woody cover if the fish are not there. Make the necessary adjustments when shoreline fishing and do not be afraid to spend some time changing locations around a lake in search of fish.

Lastly, anglers should not walk straight down the bank if changing fishing locations – it is better to loop

around to the next area. This will give the angler a better chance to catch the shallow-water fish that are in the areas between the former spot and the new area. Also, when walking up to a new area for the first time, an angler should stand back and make a cast in the water near the spot where they will stand in order to catch any shallow-water fish they might spook by walking too close.

Lure Selection

I have seen people catch bluegill with bubble gum, watched a northern pike eat a floating bobber, and caught largemouth bass with nothing more than a shiny hook. When these three

aggressive fish are feeding, they will strike just about anything. But on most days, it takes a little more planning. Start with imitation frogs, insects, bass, bluegill, crawfish, minnows and anything else shiny or obscure enough to trigger a strike. Plus, pay attention to what is happening around you.

Changing to an ultralight frog-imitation bait is a logical choice for bluegill after hearing a bullfrog croak, and trying a bluegill-colored crankbait for bass is an option if the angler is repeatedly seeing bluegills swimming in shallow water. It simply goes back to matching the hatch.

When choosing lures, also remember that most anglers will only continue to fish shorelines if they go home with the same amount of lures they had when they left the house. To do this, weedless lures are the first options, because they can usually pass through a variety of structure without getting entangled. Most weedless lures have their hooks hidden within the plastic covering of the lure, or the hooks rest against the edge of the lure's body. In addition, spinnerbaits and buzzbaits are also excellent weedless options and can be fished through most areas, only becoming entangled in aquatic vegetation. These lures, like other weedless lures, will go over most stumps without hanging up.

If an angler is going to fish a crankbait for bass, a topwater lure such as a stickbait for pike, or a popping bug for bluegill, then good casting is a must. Usually having two sets of treble hooks, these lures can easily entangle with underwater structure if not cast in an obstruction-free area but anglers can fish these lures through woody cover if they are careful. A good technique when using crankbaits through underwater obstructions is line watching. When the line stops as the lure runs over submerged cover, stop reeling. Start again when the lure has cleared its obstruction.

Fishing treble-hook lures from the bank is a necessity for bank anglers when pike and bass fishing, but should only be done after practicing crankbait fishing from a boat. It is much easier to swallow the notion of hooking a lure to an underwater stump when it can be retrieved versus having to break line while the lure remains embedded in a

Nebraska's Best Bank Fishing Spots

The main thing anglers should look for when searching for a bank fishing hotspot is accessibility to cover, variety of structure, and the ability (and sometimes even the inability) to get around a lake. Here is a short list of some of Nebraska's best.

● **North Platte I-80 Lake** – North Platte I-80 provides anglers all the room they want to walk around. It also has a variety of cover options, such as riprap and aquatic vegetation on the north side, as well as several spots of timber across the lake and in shallow water areas that anglers can access with long casts. Much of the lake has shallow water and while the east end of the lake looks promising with its host of stickups, spend more time fishing the north and south sides of the lake due to their access to deeper water.

● **Mayberry Lake** – Mayberry is visited by many bank anglers through the year because there is no road up to the lake and most john-boaters will forego its waters due to the long drag it takes to access the water. This makes Mayberry a perfect spot to fish for bass and bluegill either with waders or on dry land. Both the north and south sides can be accessed, yet the south side provides deeper water. On the lake's west end, there is a creek that should also be fished with spinnerbaits and topwater options.

● **Arnold Lake** – The great thing about Arnold is the amount of structure reachable from the bank. Two islands, riprap, sharp drop-offs, points, coves, lily pads, reeds, sunken timber, a man-made overflow, and shallow, tapered banks. At only four acres, Arnold doesn't offer the ability to hold a large number of anglers but I've

never seen a large number of anglers there. I've always seen fish.

● **Walnut Creek** – Start bank fishing this lake now due to the ever-increasing aquatic vegetation that accumulates throughout the summer. Look for the deeper water close to shallow water near the jetties throughout the lake. There are a number of these structures, as well as a number of curves on the lake's shoreline, many of which are lined with riprap. The levee itself is also covered with riprap, as is the accessible island on the south end of the lake. Many boat, as well as land, anglers spend time working the submerged timber reachable from the bank. Working these areas is good, but I've found a lot more fish from the boat and the bank working parallel down the shoreline.

● **Verdon** – On Verdon's east side, take advantage of the floating vegetation that covers much of the area. These patches can be fished with weedless lures, including scum frogs on top of the vegetation and spinnerbaits on its edges. If the fish are not there, move to the rock jetty on the south side and work the area using fan-casting techniques down both sides with a spinnerbaits, topwater plugs, and crankbaits, which are excellent in this area due to the large amount of deeper water within casting distance. Verdon is also a lake where anglers can fish open water and feel confident about finding fish. Because underwater

vegetation grows under most of the lake's surface, anglers can make long casts over seemingly open water and still catch fish. Spinnerbaits fished right beneath the surface work best in these areas.

● **Memphis** – Having a large number of rock jetties and deep water adjacent to these jetties, this lake is perfect for bank fishing anglers. Out of all the lakes on this list, it is probably the easiest to fish from land due to the casual path one can walk or drive around it. Plus, there are several depth changes throughout and the large number of jetties makes it easily fishable from a variety of angles for both bluegill and bass.

● **Multiple-Lake SRAs** – Many bodies of water are better than one, which is what makes these areas so good to fish. Examples are Louisville SRA, Two Rivers SRA, Fremont Lakes SRA, Fort Kearny SRA, and Keller SRA. While not all of the lakes in these areas are great to bank fish due to their bank accessibility (unless waders or hipboots are an option), several of them are. Some of my favorites include Fremont No. 16 and No. 7/8, Two Rivers No. 1/2, Keller No. 4, and Louisville No. 1. The great part about these SRAs is that new water can be found even on extremely crowded weekends. I've fished them on the busiest of holidays, including Memorial Day, Father's Day, and the Fourth of July, and have always found good water to fish.

stump that cannot be reached without a boat.

An angler can fish a 500-acre lake very effectively from the bank when they know what they are looking for. Yes, a boat would be nice, but big fish, as well as large numbers of fish, can be caught from the shoreline. With confidence to fish in this manner, Nebraska's long list of lakes are that much easier to tackle after work, on a

Saturday morning when the time to fish is two hours versus ten hours, or when the wind is a bit more than a person wants to fight from a boat that day.

The great thing about bank fishing is that it always feels like I am sneaking out to fish. Fishing from the shore might be my plan outright, but it always makes me feel as if I am the person who can't stay away from the lake, or am fishing over the lunch hour

because I couldn't wait for the weekend. Bank fishing, at least for me, has always taken me back to being a kid. For there was a time in life when I did not have a truck, or a boat, or the ability to fish any public, or even sometimes private, water I wanted. All I had was a rod, reel, pocket full of lures, and a lake. And of course, my feet, which got wet more than once standing too close to the edge. ■

PAWNEE CORN

NEW HOPE FOR OLD CROPS

Photos and text by Ken Bouc

Life, as the Pawnee tribe knew it in Nebraska, revolved around their corn. On a practical level, it was their staple food, but corn was so revered that it was assigned supernatural qualities as well. Leaders of Pawnee war parties wore an ear of sacred corn on their left shoulder as a guarantee of safety and success, and two ears of this holy “mother corn” resided in Pawnee ceremonial bundles to symbolize germination – the fundamental element of creation – and the origin of the Pawnee people.

When the Pawnee were forced to leave Nebraska in the mid-1870s, they took with them the seeds for their crops – beans, squash, watermelons and pumpkins, plus a dozen or more varieties of corn.

The northern varieties of traditional corn that the Pawnee took with them to Oklahoma, however, were difficult to

grow in the area’s heat and different soil, and other strains eventually had to be planted in their place. North American tribes raised four basic types of corn: flour, dent, flint and popcorn. Plains tribes such as the Pawnee ate mostly flour corn, both after it matured and in its milk stage as “sweet” corn. Modern corn was derived from native American flint corn, however, and is significantly different from the many varieties of flour corn that Plains tribes found so palatable and nutritious.

Today, the Pawnee again see value in their traditional varieties of corn, and from its Oklahoma reservation the Pawnee Nation is looking to Nebraska for help in recovering its original strains of corn and other ancestral crops.

“We were a healthy, thriving tribe once upon a time, but today a high percentage of our tribal members have diabetes and other health problems. We need to look at what made us healthy then and what isn’t working for us now,” said Deb Echo-Hawk, Pawnee Nation education and training director, director of admissions at Pawnee Nation College and a leader in Pawnee efforts to restore native crops. “Today, very few Pawnee do gardening and that’s what we’re looking at – encouraging gardening to bring in nutritious food for our tribal members.”

Echo-Hawk and a body of Pawnee elders known as the Culture Committee launched the Pawnee Seeds Preservation Project in 1997 to build a seed base of traditional crops that some day would provide their people with the same healthy diet that had nurtured their ancestors. After several years without much luck building their seed base, Ronnie O’Brien of Shelton

entered the picture.

O’Brien, director of educational programs at The Great Platte River Road Archway Monument near Kearney, learned of the project by accident when she called the Pawnee Nation in the fall of 2003 looking for Pawnee seed for use in the archway’s education programs. Telling O’Brien they could not spare any seeds, Echo-Hawk described their recent difficulties in raising traditional crops in Oklahoma. That’s when O’Brien, herself a gardener, suggested that since Pawnee crops originated in Nebraska, they might do better in their native climate and soil.

The idea struck a chord with Echo-Hawk. Her family had preserved one of

the two native varieties of corn still in Pawnee hands, called “eagle corn” because of a distinctive dark spot on each pearly white kernel that, as the corn matures, expands into a purple shape often resembling a flying eagle.

Echo-Hawk and her family had tried in 1998 to raise enough eagle corn to renew the seed at the reservation without success. The handful of eagle corn remaining was older seed from the early 1980s, when the family lived in Colorado and Deb had raised it with her brother, Walter. Recovering Pawnee crops by jumpstarting the seed base in Nebraska, as O’Brien proposed, made sense to them, considering their experience with eagle corn.

Deb Echo-Hawk agreed to look for more seeds if O’Brien and her small circle of expert gardeners would plant and raise them. As a result, the Culture Committee issued a call to the Pawnee Nation through its newsletter, asking tribal members to come forward with any seeds they had for the Nebraska effort.

Much of the tribe’s seed had been lost over the years to insects, mice, mold or to fires and storms that had destroyed outbuildings where it was stored, but luckily some Pawnee families had seed of traditional crops still remaining. In 2004, Deb Echo-Hawk sent nearly half of her family’s remaining eagle corn to O’Brien and her friends to plant in

Platte Valley soil. She also sent Pawnee watermelon seeds and kernels of yellow flint corn from Pawnee elder Henry StoneRoad’s ceremonial bundle, one of the few remaining among the Pawnee. StoneRoad and those before him had planted the seeds periodically to renew them, following Pawnee tradition.

Another seed trove, preserved by the Spotted Horsechief family and provided by Adrian Spotted Horsechief, later supplied kernels of blue-speckled flour corn, another original Pawnee strain. It has been difficult to grow, and is O’Brien’s challenge for 2007.

As an interpreter of Nebraska history at the Archway Monument, O’Brien knew the story of the Pawnee in



Eagle corn was renewed in 2005 when Ronnie O’Brien planted the last 25 kernels in the Echo-Hawk family’s possession.



Dark spots in the center of its kernels sprout “wings,” giving eagle corn its name.



Five-year-old Skidi Star LeadingFox found the watermelons much more exciting than the corn she had looked at the day before, much to the amusement of her mother, Karla KnifeChief, and Ronnie O'Brien, right.

Nebraska and their agricultural techniques. Her first effort began in May 2004, with 20 precious kernels of the Echo-Hawks' eagle corn and 12 watermelon seeds from the StoneRoad bundle. After soaking the seeds for 24 hours, in Pawnee tradition she planted an even-numbered four hills, placing five kernels of eagle corn and three watermelon seeds in each hill. Meanwhile, her sister, Tina Smith of St. Libory, sprouted 11 of the 14 watermelon seeds she planted.

"Tina watered hers quite a bit, but I figured the old-time Pawnee would have been a couple hundred miles away on the summer buffalo hunt and couldn't have done that, so I didn't either and mine turned out better than the ones that were watered," she said.

The first melon to ripen in O'Brien's garden was harvested in early September and found to be "very, very tasty." In all she raised seven melons, the two largest weighing 24 and 32 pounds, and had no trouble finding volunteers to eat them so that their seeds, 400 to 600 per melon, could be harvested.

The yellow flint corn from the StoneRoad bundle had been entrusted to another Kearney area gardener that year who had almost 100 percent germination and raised 23 plants with an average of three ears per stalk, so O'Brien sent a hefty packet of

watermelon seeds and flint corn to the Pawnee Nation seed bank that fall. Her 2004 eagle corn crop, however, did not fare so well – an unusually cold, wet spring rotted all of the eagle corn kernels in the ground.

The following year, less confident in nature and tradition, O'Brien entrusted the last 25 kernels of the Echo-Hawk's eagle corn to Myron Fougeron, a retired University of Nebraska-Kearney biology teacher and one of the gardeners raising Pawnee crops. He wrapped the kernels in moistened paper towels, what gardeners call "rag dolls," and sprouted all but one of the seeds in his greenhouse. Fougeron used this technique to sprout most of the Pawnee corn sent to Kearney.

O'Brien transferred the sprouts to her garden in late-May. Two stalks succumbed to a blight, but the remaining 22 were raised to maturity with a little watering and fertilizing to bring the crop through a couple of rough spells, "something the Pawnee wouldn't have done in the old days," she said.

Other Kearney gardeners raised Pawnee blue corn, Pawnee red-and-white striped corn and more Pawnee yellow flint corn that year, and in 2006, O'Brien raised more Pawnee watermelons while others grew white flour corn.

In early September 2006, Echo-Hawk, accompanied by Karla KnifeChief and

Karla's five-year-old daughter, Skidi Star LeadingFox, traveled to Kearney to meet the gardeners and see their Pawnee crops. KnifeChief, administrative assistant with the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority, is also active in promoting gardening among the Pawnee. She co-authored the youth gardening program and was a summer gardening instructor.

"I like what you've done with our



Red-and-white striped flour corn is one of six Pawnee varieties raised in Kearney.

land," KnifeChief quipped at a garden club reception held at the archway upon the visitors' arrival. She and Echo-Hawk had admired the seemingly endless rows of corn as they traveled up the Platte Valley. They spent much of the next day with O'Brien, visiting various stands of Pawnee corn and other crops around Kearney, and a few Pawnee-related points of interest.

After completing their rounds in the Kearney area, O'Brien took them on a quick jaunt through east-central Nebraska before they left for Oklahoma. It included a stop in Genoa, site of the last Pawnee villages and Pawnee agency in Nebraska, with a visit to a private museum featuring area Pawnee artifacts and a tour of the Genoa Indian School, built after the Pawnee tribe departed and later restored as a historic site.

Echo-Hawk and KnifeChief were interested in the work of Jerry and Nancy Carlson of Genoa, who raise several varieties of Pawnee corn on their nearby Kitkehahki Hills Farm and contributed three varieties to the Pawnee seed bank. The Carlsons were traveling outside of Nebraska at the time, but Phil Swantek, president of the Genoa Indian School Foundation, showed them some of the corn the Carlsons were growing on his property and just off the main street in downtown Genoa. They also visited Pahuk, a promontory overlooking the Platte River near Cedar Bluffs that was one of the most sacred places in Pawnee country during the tribe's days in Nebraska.

Before they left, KnifeChief and Echo-Hawk talked about their efforts to encourage gardening and expand the Pawnee Seeds Preservation Project. They and several others at the reservation started a garden "for the little ones" in front of the Pawnee Language Immersion School. They had good topsoil hauled in, then helped the children plant Pawnee watermelons, yellow flour corn, spotted-like-a-horse bush beans and Arikara squash.

KnifeChief's gardening education project was originally meant for youths 14 and older, but soon the little kids, three- and four-year-olds from the Pawnee language school, came over and joined them in pulling weeds and helping however they could.

"Then the elders started coming by when we were out there mornings and

evenings working while it was cool ... to pray over our garden while it was growing or saying something like 'wish I could go out there with you guys, but, boy, my knees...'. So I think, in Karla's dream garden, she's going to build an arbor just for the elders," Echo-Hawk said.

At the beginning of the class, KnifeChief learned that not a single teen in the program had ever set foot in a garden. By summer's end, however, a number of them were asking about finding a place where their family could raise gardens. "That's encouraging," she said.

The gardening and seed projects, however, still face fundamental limitations – soil and water. Much of the soil around the reservation is hard and claylike, hostile to gardens and gardeners, alike. The Pawnee are involved in a lot of construction, so they can obtain topsoil removed from building sites and haul it to potential garden areas, but that can be troublesome and expensive. The other factor is the Oklahoma heat, which makes water absolutely essential. "We can raise these crops in Oklahoma, but bringing the topsoil and plenty of water together is all important," Echo-Hawk said.

Things are looking up for the seed bank, however. For 2007 and beyond, the Culture Committee received tribal approval to raise crops for seed on a suitable plot of tribal reserve land. The tribe has its own water supply available for the project, which will make seed production feasible. The site is planted with blue flour corn this year.

But the seed bank still has a ways to go – the Pawnee are not yet eating their crops. For the most part they are still raising them for seed, according to Echo-Hawk.

"When the seed bank gets seeds from Ronnie, we keep them at the library and check them out like you'd check



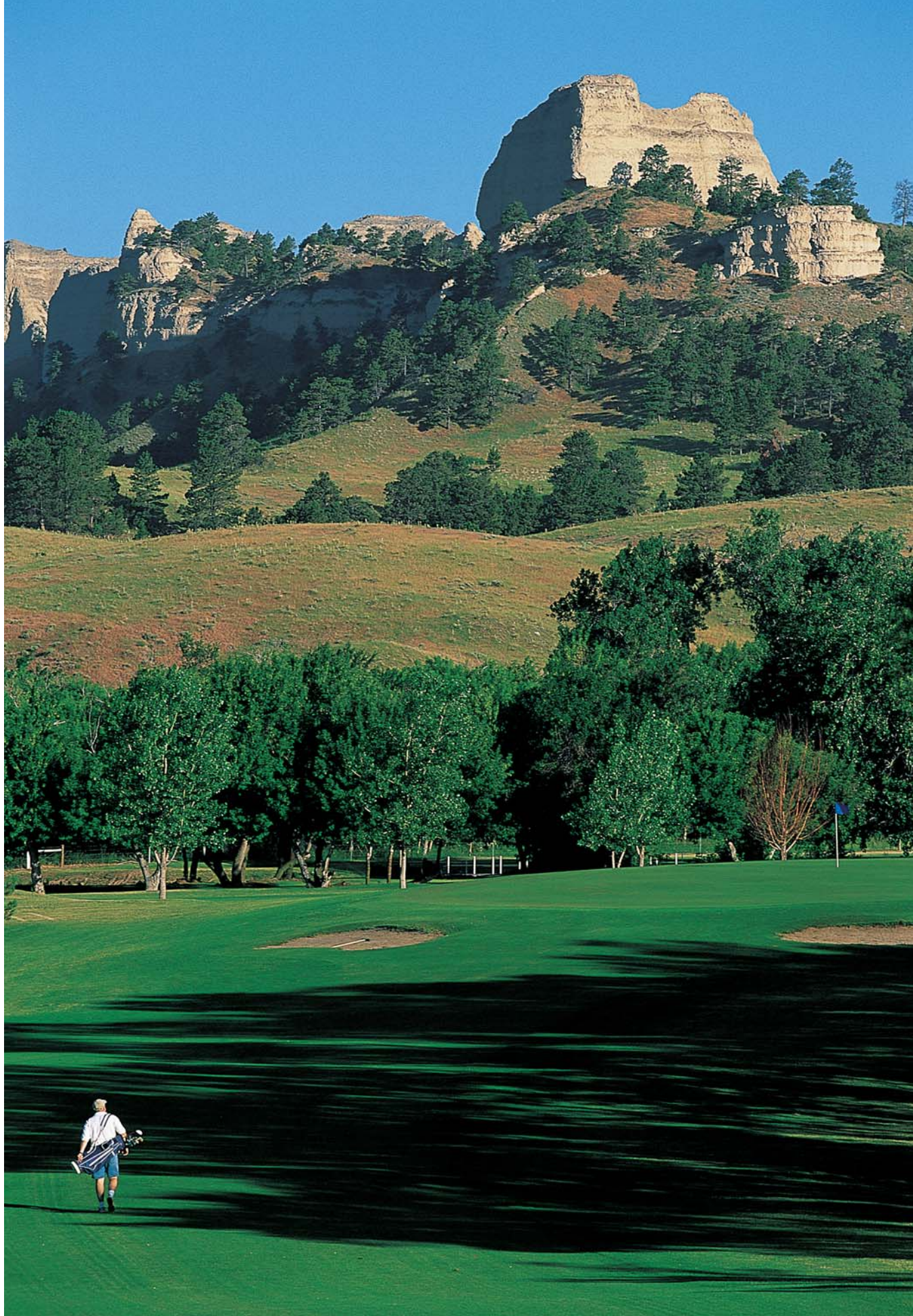
Myron Fougeron shows Deb Echo-Hawk the Pawnee white flour corn he raised in his garden on the outskirts of Kearney in 2006.

out books. At the end of the growing season, the gardeners check in with their seeds. That's how the seed bank grows," Echo Hawk said.

The brightest spot to date is the now abundant supply of Pawnee watermelon seeds that the tribe has.

"We had a wonderful time at Heritage Days. It was funny, because our emcee, the man that grew the blue corn, Dwayne Pratt, made sure everybody there kept all their seeds and after they had eaten their watermelon, we went around and collected them," Echo-Hawk said. Occasions like that, where tribal members can enjoy a sample of their crops, helps maintain interest in the gardening and seed bank projects, she said.

According to Echo-Hawk, the Pawnee seed bank wouldn't exist without the Nebraska gardeners. "If we'd had another year of blighted corn, it wouldn't have been possible," she said. "If Ronnie O'Brien came to the reservation, she would find that everyone here knows her name. As for us, Karla and I call her our 'Corn Sister.'" ■



Golfing Near the Parks

By Eric Fowler

The game of golf has seen its popularity take a huge upswing over the past 25 years or so and its practitioners greatly enjoy their time spent outdoors. Located near six of Nebraska's most picturesque golf courses are state parks where the whole family can go and have fun.

The game of golf has seen its popularity jump dramatically since the late-1980s, as evidenced by the number of golf courses that have been built since then.

Nebraska didn't miss out on the boom, and neither did our state's parks and recreation areas, adding one more thing to the list of activities the outdoor-inclined can do on their summer vacation and creating new opportunities to soak up nature for those people used to playing a round or two each week.

Of the eight parks where the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission offers cabins for rent, Fort Robinson, Ponca, Mahoney and Platte River state parks and Lewis and Clark Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) have each welcomed a new golf course to the neighborhood since 1989. If you count Lake McConaughy SRA, where the Commission doesn't offer cabins but others do, you have six.

And these aren't just any golf courses: Each of the three 18-hole courses near a state park or recreation area is ranked

by a national golf publication as at or near the top of the list of best public courses in the state. Among those, Quarry Oaks Golf Club near Ashland ranks among Golf Digest's Top 100 courses in the country. The three nine-hole courses are considered among the top in their class in the state as well.

So if you're headed up to Ponca State Park or out to Lake McConaughy for a weekend with the family, don't forget to pack the clubs – yours and theirs. In between nature hikes and walleye fishing, play a round. Or if you have a family reunion set at Fort Robinson, nine holes away from the rest of the gang might be just enough to get you through the weekend. And if you and your friends are looking to put a different spin on your regular weekend outing, go way out and spend time catching up on the course during the day and around the campfire at night.

Whatever the case, get your reservations fast. Like booking a weekend tee time at a premier course on a summer weekend, it pays to plan ahead. ■

Sitting in the shadow of its namesake landmark, Legend Buttes Golf Course at Crawford offers dramatic scenery as well as a challenging course.

Legend Buttes Fort Robinson SP

Legend Buttes Golf Course

Built in the shadows of the state's most picturesque and recognizable landmarks, Legend Buttes Golf Course is one of the top 9-hole courses in Nebraska. The White River winds through the course and comes into play on several holes.

- 9Holes/Par 36
- Signature hole: The scenery stares golfers in the face when they step to the hilltop tee for the 247-yard, par 4 No. 1 and hit their drive at the buttes that give the course its name. The fairway runs downhill and then doglegs right and rises up to a green protected by four bunkers.
- Dress Code: Shirt and shoes required.
- Season: April 1-October 1
- Driving Range on Site: Yes
- 9 holes with cart: \$26 (\$43.50 for 18)
- Phone/Web site: (308) 665-2431, www.crawfordnebraska.net/golf%20course/
- Length: Three tees, 2,461-3,178 yards.

Tees	Distance	Rating	Slope
Red (Women's)	2,461	34.1	109
White (Men's)	3,000	34.6	113

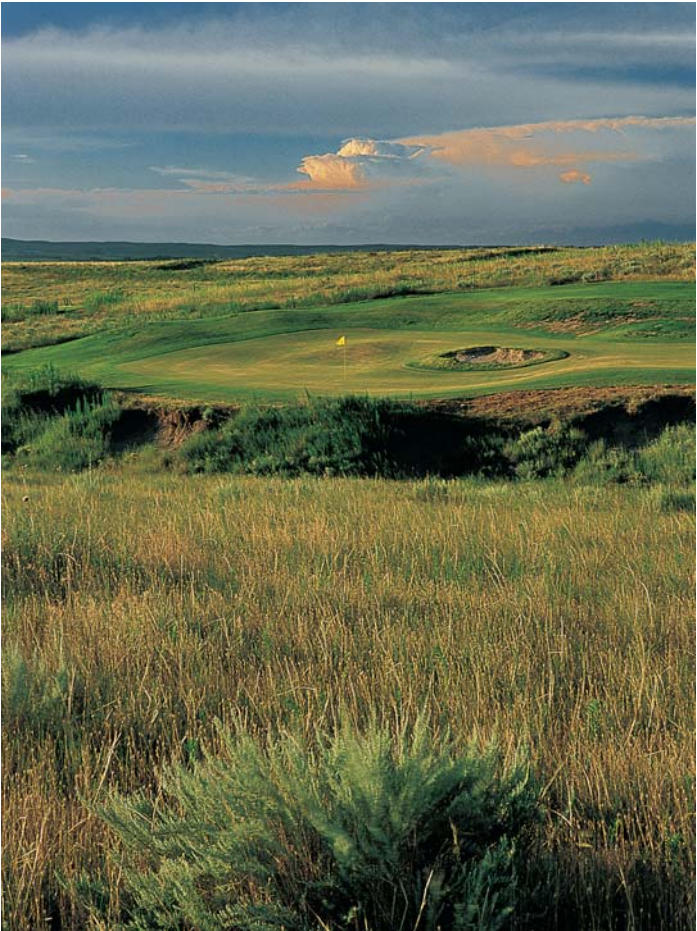
Fort Robinson State Park

Western Nebraska's premier state park, Fort Robinson has it all – more than 22,000 acres of exquisite Pine Ridge scenery, compelling Old West history, exceptional lodging, loads of activities, camping, wildlife and even its own buffalo and longhorn cattle herds.

- But the area's main draw is the Pine Ridge and the more than 280 square miles of state and federal land that is open to the public, including the Nebraska National Forest and Oglala National Grassland. Chadron State Park, another top attraction in the region, is located just down the road.*
- Amenities: 35 cabins and 22 lodge rooms that sleep from two to 60 people. Open April through November. Camping, restaurant, group conference facilities, dump station, modern restrooms, showers, picnic shelters.
 - Activities: Horse, mountain bike and hiking trails; fishing, hunting, jeep rides, museum, swimming pool, nature center, activity center, sutler's store, equestrian facilities, Post Playhouse theater, hayrack rides, buffalo stew cookouts, Trailside Museum of Natural History.
 - Distance from course: Technically, if you're at Legend Buttes Golf Course, you're in the park, but practically speaking, the course is about three miles west of the park's headquarters.
 - Contact: (308) 665-2900 or Fort.Robinson@ngpc.ne.gov



Before or after a round of golf at Legend Buttes Golf Course, visitors can go on a trail ride through the forest at Fort Robinson or Chadron state parks.



Bayside Golf Club at Lake McConaughy near Ogallala winds its way through shortgrass prairie dotted with sagebrush and soapweeds.



Lake McConaughy's world-class walleye fishing beckons visitors from Bayside Golf Course near Ogallala.

Bayside Golf Club Lake McConaughy

Bayside Golf Club

Hit good shots on this Scottish links-style course northwest of Ogallala or plan on pulling your sand wedge out of the bag often. There are 107 bunkers here, which seems fitting considering its proximity to Lake McConaughy, which is visible from most holes and known for its miles of white sand beaches. Among the state's top public courses, Bayside follows draws and ridges through shortgrass prairie. After play, relax in the log cabin-style clubhouse or in one of the course's cabins.

- 18 Holes/Par 71
- Signature Hole: The folks at Bayside like to talk about six of their course's holes, but when pressed, admit that the 652-yard, par 5 11th gets the notoriety. Nicknamed "Forever," it's the longest hole in Nebraska. From the black tees, you'll need to hit it 200 yards to clear a deep draw and find the fairway. The fairway follows a ridgeline to the green and has been widened since the course opened to make the hole more playable.
- Dress Code: Golf attire required.
- Season: March 1 - November 1
- Driving Range on Site: Yes
- 18-holes with cart: \$60, \$25 Sunday afternoon through Wednesday.
- Phone/Web site: (308) 287-4653, www.baysidegolf.com
- Length: Five tees, 4,282-6,597 yards.

Tees	Distance	Rating	Slope
Red (Women's)	4,282	64.9	104
White (Men's)	5,772	67.4	120

Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala state recreation areas

- Nebraska's largest reservoir when full, Lake McConaughy and nearby Lake Ogallala offer plenty of camping, boating, fishing and hunting opportunities. Many who visit Bayside Golf Club take in some world-class walleye fishing in the morning before playing a round in the afternoon. Bring your own boat, rent one from one of the concession areas around the lake, including nearby Van's Lakeview Fishing Camp, or hire a guide.*
- Amenities: Cabins available at area concessions and at course. Modern and primitive camping available, boat ramps, modern restrooms, showers, dump station, picnic shelters, fish-cleaning stations, concessions with rental boats.
 - Activities: Swimming, boating, fishing, hunting and getting a tan.
 - Distance from course: If the lake were full, a short iron would get your ball wet. With the drought, a short drive down the beach will get you to the water.
 - Contact: (308) 284-8800 or Lake.McConaughy@ngpc.ne.gov

Crofton Lakeview Lewis and Clark SRA

Crofton Lakeview Golf Course

The scenic oak- and cedar-forested hills and views of Lewis and Clark Lake, Nebraska's second largest reservoir, make playing this 9-hole course a joy. But narrow fairways (many guarded by woods on one side), small greens and hilly terrain make playing it a challenge. The course is extremely popular among the campers and cabin owners who flock to the lake on summer weekends, so be sure to call ahead for a tee time.

- 9 Holes/Par 36
- Signature Hole: There aren't many courses that would choose a par 3 as their signature hole, but the 142-yard No. 5 gets the nod at Lakeview. The course's name tells the story here: Looking downhill from the tee to the green and beyond, you can see straight down the middle of the 16-mile-long, 3-mile-wide reservoir. Put a little too much on a shot here and you're in one of the bunkers behind the green. Really get a hold of one and you're over a 50-foot-high cliff and in the lake.
- Dress Code: Shirt and shoes required.
- Season: April 1-November 1
- Driving Range on Site: No
- 9 holes with cart: \$25.30 weekdays/ \$28.75 weekends (18 for \$39/\$42.40)
- Phone: (402) 388-4522

Tees	Distance	Rating	Slope
Red (Women's)	2,430	34.5	113
White (Men's)	3,069	35	113

Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area

Lewis and Clark Lake's crystal-clear water, dramatic scenery, excellent fishing and top-notch recreation facilities draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each summer. The Weigand-Burbach area is the crown jewel on the Nebraska's side of this Missouri River impoundment and offers cabins, camping and a full-service marina.

- Amenities: Ten modern lakeside housekeeping cabins open year-round; full-service marina with seasonal slip rentals, short-term docks and 24-hour fuel service; modern and primitive camping, picnic shelters, boat ramps, convenience store, modern restrooms, showers, dump station, fish-cleaning station.
- Activities: Boating, fishing, swimming, playgrounds, hiking, mountain bike, horseback and snowmobile trails.
- Distance from course: The lake is a chip shot over a cliff from the fifth green. The Weigand-Burbach area is about 6 miles west of the course.
- Contact: (402) 388-4169 or Lewis.Clark@ngpc.ne.gov



Dennis Merkel of Crofton hits from a sand trap that separates the fifth green from a 50-foot drop leading to Lewis and Clark Lake at Lakeview Golf Course.



Golfers can bunk in a lakeside cabin at the Weigand-Burbach Area of Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area.



Kevin and Darla Thompson of Omaha watch as their sons Dylan (left) and Kyle play a round of golf at Highland Oaks Golf Course while visiting Ponca State Park.

Highland Oaks Ponca State Park

Highland Oaks Golf Course

Carved out of the oak-forested hills on the southern edge of Ponca State Park, Highland Oaks Golf Course offers spectacular scenery, rolling terrain and large undulating greens that challenge golfers of all skill levels. The Missouri River can be seen from a few locations, most notably the hilltop tee on No. 5, as can deer, turkeys and other wildlife.

- 9 Holes/Par: 36
- Signature hole: A smart golfer would hit two seven irons to reach the green on the 339-yard, par 4 No. 4 at Highland Oaks, hitting over rather than under the massive oak tree that is on the left. But most can't avoid the temptation to pull out a driver and let it rip, paying for it when they hit anything but a perfect shot.
- Dress Code: Shirt and shoes.
- Season: April 1-October 31
- Driving Range on Site: Yes
- 9 holes with cart: \$22 weekdays/ \$25 weekends (18 for \$34/\$38)
- Phone: (402) 755-4222
- Length: Three tees, 2,360-3,141 yards.

Tees	Distance	Rating	Slope
Red (Women's)	2,360	33.4	106
White (Men's)	2,920	33.7	110

Ponca State Park

Sitting at the gateway to the Missouri National Recreational River, this picturesque, 2,166-acre park offers outdoor recreation for the entire family. Recent additions to the park have opened up Missouri River bottomland and a restored backwater to visitors, who previously had been happy just to explore the oak-forested bluffs that make up most of the park. A new visitor and education center interprets the natural and cultural history of the river.

- Amenities: 14 two-bedroom cabins are available April through November. Discounted golf and lodging packages are available on spring and fall weekdays. Two of 25 new four-bedroom cabins planned for the park should be open by late fall. Kitchen and meeting facilities for up to 250 people, modern and primitive camping, showers, dump station, picnic shelters and boat ramp access to the Missouri River.
- Activities: Horseback trail rides, hiking and mountain bike trails, swimming pool, outdoor and environmental education programs, fishing, fall hayrack rides, limited hunting.
- Distance from course: The course is on park property. The clubhouse is a half-mile west of the park gate.
- Contact: (402) 755-2284 or Ponca@ngpc.ne.gov

Quarry Oaks Platte River SP

Quarry Oaks Golf Club

Carved out of the oak-forested bluffs above the Platte River between Lincoln and Omaha, Quarry Oaks Golf Club is one of Nebraska's premier courses and is 72nd on Golf Digest's Top 100 list of public courses in the country. The river can be seen from many holes, but rarely can you see one hole from the next, allowing golfers to think they're the only ones playing the course. Deer, wild turkeys and other wildlife are a common sight at Quarry Oaks. In the fall, non-golfers can rent a cart, drive the course and soak in the changing color and wildlife.

- 18 Holes/Par 71
- Signature hole: The 408-yard, par 4, No. 17 hole at Quarry Oaks was dubbed one of the "Best Modern 18 Holes in America" by *Golf Digest* in 2000. From the hilltop tee, golfers hit off of a huge dropoff and play for a second shot at the green, hidden by trees to the left and wrapped by a pond.
- Dress Code: Golf attire required.
- Season: Open year-round, weather permitting.
- Driving Range on Site: Yes
- 18 holes with cart: \$72 weekends/\$62 weekdays
- Phone/Web site: 888-944-6001/(402) 944-6000, www.quarryoaks.com
- Length: Four tees, 5,068-7,010 yards.

Tees	Distance	Rating	Slope
Gold (Women's)	5,068	72.3	124
White (Men's)	6,412	72.2	137

Platte River State Park

Situated amid the heavily wooded hills above the Platte River near Louisville, Platte River State Park offers a wide range of activities, lodging and group facilities.

- Amenities: 21 modern, fully-equipped, one- to four-bedroom housekeeping cabins open year-round, 31 affordable camper-cabins sharing showers and restrooms open May through mid-October, a barn that sleeps 20 and even a tipi village. Group and conference facilities, restaurant, picnic shelter. Camping is available at nearby Louisville SRA.
- Activities: Swimming pool, hiking and mountain biking trails, paddleboats, fishing, tennis, archery, volleyball, horseback trail rides, campfire cookout, outdoor/environmental education programs and an 85-foot tall observation tower.
- Distance from course: Five miles from Quarry Oaks, 10 miles from Iron Horse.
- Contact: (402) 234-2217 or Platte.River@ngpc.ne.gov



MICHAEL FORSBERG

Abundant wildlife, including white-tailed deer, draw many golfers to Quarry Oaks Golf Club near Ashland.



DOUG CARROLL

Ten miles of trails lead Platte River State Park visitors through the wooded bluffs along the Platte River.



DOUG CARROLL

Wrapped around the lake that now fills an old limestone quarry, the golf course at Iron Horse is beautiful as well as challenging.

Iron Horse Eugene T. Mahoney State Park

Iron Horse Golf Club

Wrapped around a lake formed in an 88-foot deep limestone quarry in the hills on the edge of Ashland, Iron Horse Golf Club offers plenty of scenic vistas. More than 2,000 yards separate the women's and championship tees, making the course, which is ranked among the top public areas in the state, playable for anyone.

- 18 Holes/Par 71
- Signature Hole: While No. 9 and No. 18 are challenging, the 575-yard, par 5, No. 10 is the most cussed and discussed. You'll have to carry 100-175 yards over water to find the first fairway, which is guarded on the right by the lake and the left by a wetland. From there, you can lay up on the lower fairway 150 yards from the green, or gamble and hit over a ravine to the second fairway, which is higher than the first.
- Dress Code: Golf attire required.
- Season: Year-round.
- Driving Range on Site: No
- 18 holes with cart: \$59 weekends/\$49 weekdays, off-season and senior rates.
- Phone/Web site: (402) 944-9800/888-465-3950, www.GolfIronHorse.com
- Length: Five tees, 4,411-6,500 yards.

Tees	Distance	Rating	Slope
White (Women's)	5,114	70.3	119
Blue (Men's)	5,700	68.2	124

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park

Situated in the scenic wooded bluffs above the Platte River just off Interstate 80 between Lincoln and Omaha, Eugene T. Mahoney State Park offers a wide array of lodging and recreational opportunities year-round.

- Amenities: 51 cabins ranging from two to six bedrooms, 40 lodge rooms, modern and primitive camping, restaurant, gift shop, meeting and conference facilities for 12 to 200 people, catering, picnic shelters, laundry, showers, dump station.
- Activities: Aquatic Center with water slides and wave pool, activity center with climbing wall and indoor playground, miniature golf, driving range, tennis and basketball courts, softball fields, horseback trail rides, crafts, fishing, picnicking, hiking, 70-foot observation tower, nature conservatory, live theater, waterway, paddleboats, fishing and in the winter, sledding, cross-country skiing, ice fishing and ice skating.
- Distance from course: 2 miles from Iron Horse, 5 miles from Quarry Oaks.
- Contact: (402) 944-2523 or Mahoney@ngpc.ne.gov

DOUG CARROLL

The aquatic center at E.T. Mahoney State Park near Ashland is a great place to spend the afternoon with the family after a morning round of golf at Iron Horse or Quarry Oaks.

Yutan Dive Team and Project Aware

Divers clean up area waters and assist in aquatic emergencies.

By Jeff Kurrus

On a September Saturday at Zorinsky Lake in Omaha last fall, many angler eyes were not on the water being fished. Their heads were turned, while kids pointed and dog walkers veered closer to the pile of wetsuits and SCUBA gear stacked near the water's edge. Curious myself, I wandered over and began asking questions of a woman standing near the equipment.

"We are the Yutan Fire Department Emergency Response Dive Team and we're doing a lake cleanup through Project Aware," answered Susie Gunia, one of the divers. We struck up a conversation as the legion of volunteers readied themselves for the water.

"Project Aware is a foundation serving the underwater environment through education advocacy and action," said Gunia. The foundation was established as an offshoot of the Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI), the world's largest agency that certifies SCUBA divers. "Project Aware is sponsoring a worldwide cleanup day today. The Yutan Dive Team is heading up the project here to help keep Omaha beautiful by cleaning up Zorinsky, one of the more popular fishing spots in Omaha."

Picnic tables, laptop computers, fishing line, street signs – you name it and unfortunately people throw it in the lake. This was the fifth year the Yutan Dive Team has sponsored the cleanup as part of Project Aware, and the number of volunteers and sponsors has grown each year. But that is just a small part of what they do.

The Yutan Dive Team is the primary agency called for underwater needs in Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Washington and Saunders counties, and has also traveled to other Nebraska and Iowa locations. Composed strictly of



Members of the Yutan Fire Department Emergency Response Dive team practice their craft while cleaning up the waters of Zorinsky Lake in Omaha last September.

volunteers, the team assists local, state and federal agencies in the area with water rescues and searches for drowning victims, missing persons, weapons and other evidence. The team is also often called to aid in removing vehicles from bodies of water.

In addition to helping improve Zorinsky Lake's safety and appearance, the dive team also uses its cleanup days to accomplish other goals, such as making the public aware that the team is available in the event of a possible drowning and that they and the local rescue team should be contacted right away by calling 911 in a water emergency. Many people don't realize that there is a "Golden Hour" time period during which a person can be rescued from underwater and still resuscitated. "The quicker we are called, the better the chances for a potential rescue," said Gunia.

The cleanup days also give team members a chance to practice their skills in a situation more enjoyable and less stressful than the normal call, while also providing publicity that assists the team in recruiting new members and fundraising. The team will raise money this summer by diving for golfballs at area golf

courses in order to buy a new boat, an underwater metal detector, and replace some of the specialized drysuits that the team wears.

The specialized equipment and techniques the team uses requires advanced certification and extensive training. Drills are scheduled at least twice a month and team members meet even when the weather gets cold, practicing diving under ice and surface ice rescue while also spending time going over ropes and knots, communication with other agencies, and general operational plans.

The dive team has a mixture of members, including both divers and tenders, who stay on the surface to manage the divers while they are underwater. All who participate have a love of water and a desire to help the community. "We are working on organizing the cleanup for September 2007," said Gunia. "We are always looking for volunteers who are interested in diving or helping with the shore-based trash collection."

For information on volunteering for or supporting the Yutan Dive Team, contact Susie Gunia at (402) 895-7952, Joe Vandenack at (402) 625-2151, or e-mail president@yutanvfd.org.

The Bad Egg

This vintage lure made in O'Neill had an unusual, if not accurate, name.

By Rocky Hoffmann

During the first half of the twentieth century, the manufacture of fishing lures was in full swing everywhere from mom-and-pop basement operations to the big plants of Heddon, Pflueger and South Bend. Today's lure collectors discover vintage fishing lures originating from nearly every state, and Nebraska is no exception. In fact, Nebraskans were quite entrepreneurial when it came to the manufacture and sale of fishing tackle – an angler could equip himself with rod and reel, lures, bait buckets, minnow traps and even a boat or two, all from Nebraska makers.

With so much competition vying for a limited fishing dollar, makers had to market their wares through product branding with catchy names that would convince anglers that they were buying the ticket to angling success. Enter Kirwan's Bad Egg.

Michael Francis Kirwan began manufacturing a little wooden, egg-shaped lure in his O'Neil home in the early 1920s. Some reference books list the Bad Egg with varying spellings of Kirwan, likely the result of some family members changing the spelling of their names after emigrating from Ireland. Nationally renowned collector and antique lure expert Carl Lucky



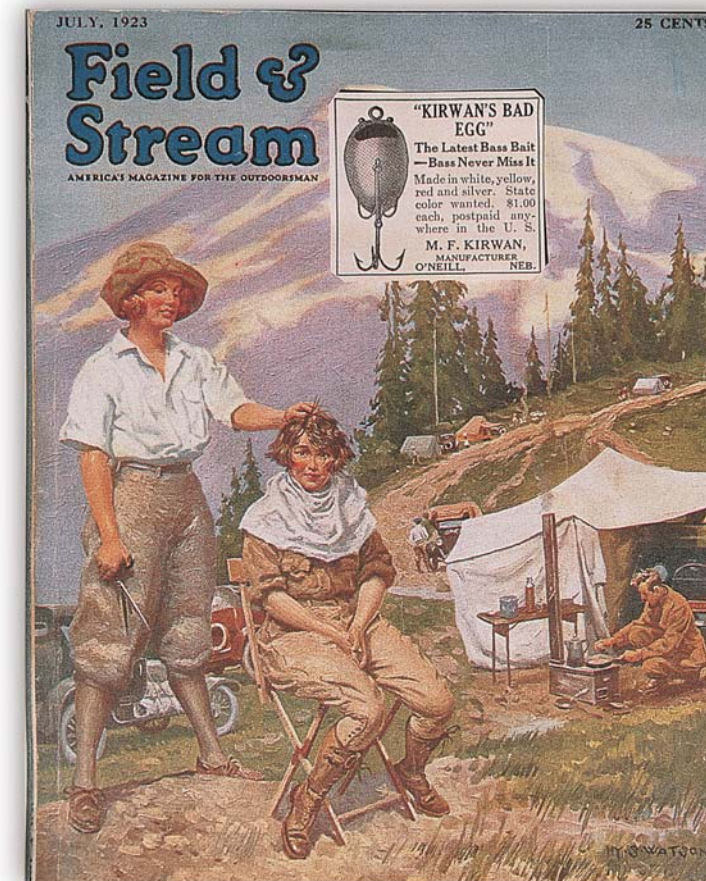
described Kirwan's Bad Egg in *Old Fishing Lures and Tackle* as "... a lure made in the shape of an egg with two small, protruding eyes, a belly treble and a trailing treble hook."

Referencing an advertisement in a 1923 issue of *Outers' Recreation Magazine*, Lucky wrote that the Bad Egg came in white, yellow and silver, but an ad that same year in the July issue of *Field and Stream* also offered the lure in red. Kirwan asked one dollar for his egg-shaped lure.

Not much is known of M.F. Kirwan, but what is known marks him as a colorful individual. A Golden Gloves boxer during the 1880s, most of his living was earned through barbering and painting, but he was involved in many things. He also helped organize and mark the Blue Pole Highway, one of the nation's first highway systems.

Kirwan was born in Cameron, Missouri on April 22, 1870 and died November 4, 1947. He now rests in the Calvary Cemetery in O'Neil. Although there is no information on how bad the Bad Egg was when cast in front of a bass, it is assumed that Kirwan thought the Bad Egg good. ■

M.F. Kirwan's Bad Egg lure resembled something pulled from a chicken coop and was advertised, among other places, in the July 1923 issue of *Field and Stream*. Many thanks to Bob Gregory of Omaha for supplying the lure photographed for this story.



ATTRACTIONS/EVENTS

ONLY ONE PAWNEE CITY! We have history that is proudly displayed at the Pawnee City Museum, The Schilling Bridge, the only Winery Micro-Brewery in the nation, Agritourism sites, the Pedal Clinic, a Toy Museum, and Our Historic Downtown. Go to Pawneecity.org for details.

DOGS

PLUM CREEK KENNEL. German Shorthairs, stud service, puppies and started dogs. Training for all pointing breeds. Specialize in training the handler as well as the dog. Wayne Clark, Percival, Iowa 51648 (close to Omaha) (712) 529-4238, e-mail wclark@heartland.net.

WILDERNESS KENNELS. Gun dog training – over 60 years combined experience. Training all sporting breeds – retrievers, flushing and pointing dogs. All dogs worked on pen-raised birds and wild game. Training program also includes obedience training – heel, sit, stay, down and come when called. Pups, started dogs and fully trained dogs for sale. Hunting dogs trained by hunters. Henry Sader, Wilderness Kennels, Roca, NE (402) 423-4212. Since 1968.

DUCKDAWG RETRIEVERS - Raising exceptional field-bred yellow and black Labradors. Hunting, family and competition companions. Puppies raised in our home. Written health guarantee. Stud service available. Home of GRHRCH DuckDawg's Eba Roll The Dice - first and only Grand Hunting Retriever Champion in Nebraska. www.duckdawg.com, Ron Green DVM and Libby Milroy, North Platte, NE (308) 534-3659.

FROSTY BROOKE ACRES LLC, Labradors and Golden Retrievers - Hunt test and Field Trial blood-

lines up close. Super temperament, desire and looks. Great all-purpose Labs and Goldens, www.frosty-brooke.com, (308) 783-LABS (5227), Scottsbluff Valley, Nebraska.

BRITISH LABRADOR PUPPIES, AKC/UKC, O.F.A./CERF. Guarantees. "Wildrose" Dam and Sire. Exceptional British field trial lines. Free training. Wildwind British Labradors. (402) 429-1836 steve.macdonald@davisdesign.com.

PRAIRIE DOG KENNELS, INC. specializes in retrievers and versatile pointers. Dogs worked in water, grass and timber on upland birds and waterfowl. Brian Moreland, Bennet, NE (402) 782-2075.

POINTING LABS, AKC REGISTERED, 5M/4F. Priced \$550 Males, \$600 Females. Currently taking \$200 deposit to reserve. Ready for new home 6/6/07. Excellent bloodlines and great family companions. Ivory or cream colors. (402) 729-2631 or (402) 587-0311.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TOXIC ALGAE MONITORING, Environmentally Safe Blue-Green Algae Control. Complete toxic algae consulting; algae sample analysis; laboratory analysis for toxins produced by blue-green algae; environmentally safe, EPA approved blue-green algae control; water quality monitoring on streams, lakes and wetlands. Contact: Ripple Environmental, Inc. Lincoln, NE (402) 438-0806 www.rippleenvironmental.com.

FISH/FISHING

FISH FOR SALE. Catfish, largemouth bass, small-mouth bass, perch, crappies, bluegills, walleyes, rainbow trout, grass carp, minnows, bullheads. Consulting available. Pleasant Valley Fish Farm, 27851 U.S. Highway 83, McCook, NE 69001. (308) 345-6599.

NEBRASKA LAKE MANAGEMENT – Biological lake surveys, fish stocking, rough fish control, lake aeration, algae control, shoreline construction. Rob Hofpar, Aquatic Biologist, licensed, insured and qualified. Phone (402) 784-6005 (Lincoln), or toll-free (888) 850-2460.

BUZZ'S MARINE, YOUR FISHING and recreational boat super store, www.buzzsmarine.com and family watersports dealer, www.buzzswatersports.com.

FREE WAXWORMS & MEALWORMS – raise your own. Thousands of waxworms and mealworms with our breeder kits \$22.95 - \$24.95. New Illuminator lighted glow jigs. Automatically light up when wet and turn off when dry. (763) 323-9273, www.waxwormkit.com.

FOOD/GIFTS/HOME

HOME BREWING/BEER AND WINEMAKING. Fermenter's Supply, 8410 K Plaza, Suite #10, Omaha, NE 68127. Phone orders only, (888) 655-2739. Advice line (402) 593-9171. www.fermenterssupply.com.

GUIDES/OUTFITTERS

CANOE THE NIOBRARA with an affordable canoe trip by Dryland Aquatics. One- and two-day trips...full service, or just canoe, tube or kayak. Transportation furnished. Your Niobrara River specialists...We do it your way! Dryland Aquatics, Dept. N, Box 33C, Sparks, NE 69220 or phone (800) 337-3119. www.drylandaquatics.com, info@drylandaquatics.com.

KRIPPLE DUCK ADVENTURES – Southwestern Nebraska. Guided hunts along the Frenchman Creek for white-tailed and mule deer, waterfowl, upland birds and turkey. We also have a controlled-shooting area for pheasants, quail, and chukar. New lodging accommodations are available on site. For information please call (308) 394-5345 or (308) 280-5345. Email at cdorm@bwtelcom.net, www.krippleduck.com.

GUNS/SHOOTING/ARCHERY

GUNS – Browning, Benelli, Winchester, Ruger, etc. 1700 guns, buy-sell-trade (402) 729-6112, Bedlan's, Fairbury, NE 68352. www.bedlans.com.

OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

IS PERFORMANCE IMPORTANT? For the finest canoes and accessories look to Great Plains Canoe Co., 205 Main, Springfield, NE 68059. Phone (402) 253-2000.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS. Matted, framed and signed. Go to inplaininsight.homestead.com, hathfotofreak@hotmail.com, (402) 848-2358. "The more you buy, the quicker my wife can retire!"

REAL ESTATE

HUNTER'S PARADISE IN WESTERN NEBRASKA. Geese/Ducks/Deer/Pheasant/Turkey, 204 +/- Acres, ½ mile frontage on North Platte River. Contact: Morrow Realty, LLC (308) 262-1207, jb.morrow@charter.net.

VACATIONS/RESORTS

FOR FISHING AND HUNTING accommodations. Guided pheasant hunts. Jefco Inn, Gordon, NE 69343. South Cornell, (308) 282-2935.

THE OLDE MAIN STREET INN. A historic bed and breakfast listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Beautiful dining room with fireplace. Featuring prime rib, buffalo, seafood, homemade soups, chilis and desserts. 115 Main Street, Chadron NE 69337 (308) 432-3380. www.chadron.com/oldemain.

RUSTIC RETREAT! DOUBLE R GUEST RANCH, 20 miles north of Mullen. Fish, hunt, relax! Open year-round. Sportsmen, vacationers, small groups welcome. Deluxe furnished cabins; fully equipped kitchenettes. (866) 217-2042, info@sandhilldouble-ranch.com, www.sandhilldouble-ranch.com.

LORD RANCH RESORT. Hunters, fishermen, family vacations, family reunions. Deluxe cabins, complete cooking facilities & TV. Quiet and peaceful in the middle of the Sandhills. Three miles north of Valentine Wildlife Refuge, open all year. Aubrey and Dorothy Lord, HC 37, Box 41, Valentine, NE 69201. Call (800) 270-0181. www.lordranchresort.com.

DIAMOND B TROUT RESORT & RESTAURANT, Orchard, Nebraska. Restaurant, lodge, cabins, spring-fed lakes, playground equipment, paddleboats. Great for families, groups, hunters. Book your cabin now! Call for brochure (800) 974-3002. www.diamondb-troutresort.com.

MILL IRON V LODGING is modern cabins for your vacation pleasure. We are located near Vedigre, NE in turkey country. Each cabin offers privacy, view and a birdwatcher's paradise. Stay with us for a COUNTRY EXPERIENCE. (402) 668-7488. www.milliron-v-lodging.com, jpeinrem@gpc.com.net.

DELUXE NIOBRARA RIVER CABIN: Private, fully furnished. Kids' adventure or adult getaway. Also Biggest Tubes on the Niobrara! www.nolasupertubes.com, (800) 799-9929.

VISIT NEBRASKA STATE PARKS this summer and enjoy activities such as fishing, swimming, camping and hiking. Call (402) 471-1414 or go online at OutdoorNebraska.org and follow the Parks link.

TROUT FISHING, HUNTING, TUBING on a cool, spring-fed stream. Perfect accommodations for families. www.aboutpinevalleyresort.com, 402-273-4351.

WEB SITES

JOIN FELLOW OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS www.nebraska-outdoors.com. Post pictures, place your classified and join in conversation at nebraska-outdoors!

Classified Rates: 75¢ per word, minimum \$15. Closing: First business day two months before issue date. Classified ads are accepted on a first-come, first-served, space-available basis. Classified Ads, NEBRASKAland Magazine, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370. Telephone (402) 471-5473. Fax: (402) 471-1984. E-mail: classifieds@ngpc.ne.gov. Ads are posted online at NebraskalandMagazine.com at no additional charge.

State Park Events

Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities at state parks across Nebraska.

Chadron State Park

Chadron, (308) 432-6167

Nebraska's first state park. Located in the scenic Pine Ridge. Housekeeping cabins available from mid-April to mid-November, plus a group camp/conference facility. Modern campground with showers available.

- June 16: 86th Chadron State Park Anniversary: 85-cent lunches, free paddleboat rides, horseshoe tournament, archery card shoot.
- July 13-15: Fur Trade Days.



A guided upper Missouri River zodiac raft trip is offered at Niobrara State Park.

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park

Ashland, (402) 944-2523

Ultra-modern park located in bluffs above Platte River. Year-round lodging and recreation. The park's restaurant is also open year-round.

- Holiday buffets: Easter, Mother's and Father's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Day, New Year's Eve and Day.
- June 15, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14: Stargazing.
- Oct. 6-7: Fall art show.
- Nov. 2-4: Fall Craft Show/Old West Cookout featuring buffalo stew.
- Feb. 10-14: 2008 Valentine's Day Lodging Packages.

Fort Robinson State Park

Crawford, (308) 665-2900

Historical outpost served from Indian Wars through World War II. Museums, restored buildings, modern and primitive camping, cabin and lodging facilities available from mid-April to mid-November.

- Restaurant: Open daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.
- June 8-10: Intertribal Gathering.
- June 18-24: Equestrian Vaulting

Camp and Clinic.

- July 1-4: Annual art show.
- July 4: Fort Robinson Fourth of July celebration.
- July 13-14: Horse Performance by the Trotters.
- July 28-29: Ride the Ridge.
- Sept. 3-8: American Paint Horse Association Trail Ride, all breeds welcome.
- Sept. 12-16: Arabian Horse Trail Ride, all breeds welcome.
- Sept. 16-21: Elderhostel.
- Sept. 19-23: Pine Ridge Riders.
- Sept. 23-27: Meade Trail Ride.
- Oct. 31: Haunted Halloween.
- Nov. 5: Tickets go on sale at 8 a.m. for the Historical Christmas Dinner.
- Nov. 18: Longhorn and buffalo sale, Crawford.
- Dec. 1: Fort Robinson Historical Christmas Dinner, celebrating the year 1926.

Indian Cave State Park

Shubert, (402) 883-2575

Restored schoolhouse and general store from the old Missouri River town of St. Deroin. Located in scenic Missouri River bluffs on the Lewis and Clark Trail. Modern and primitive camping available. Living history demonstrations.

- June 2: Trails Day – volunteers help with trail restoration.
- June 2-3, Sept. 1-3, Oct. 6-7: Black powder demonstrations.
- Sept. 1: Fireworks display (sponsored by Pioneer Longrifles).
- Oct. 12-13 and 19-20: Haunted Hollow hayrack rides, Halloween decorating contest.
- Oct. 13-14: NECTRA Horse Trail Ride-Competitive Horse Trail Ride.

Niobrara State Park

Niobrara, (402) 857-3373

Located at confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri rivers on the Lewis and Clark Trail. Modern and primitive camping available. Modern housekeeping cabins overlooking the river with year-round availability.

- May 26-Sept. 1: Buffalo cookout and entertainment every Saturday, Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- June 9: Swimming pool opens.
- May 26-Sept. 1: Upper Missouri River guided zodiac river raft trips.

- July 28: Discover SCUBA.

Platte River State Park

Louisville, (402) 234-2217

Located in wooded hills above the Platte River. Modern housekeeping cabins available for year-round lodging. Tipis and camper cabins also available.

- May 26-Sept. 3: Horseback rides, swimming pool, craft center, paddle boat rental.
- June 17: Father's Day Buffet (Scott Lodge Restaurant).
- July 4: Holiday Buffet (Scott Lodge Restaurant).
- Sept. 5: Labor Day Buffet (Scott Lodge Restaurant).

Ponca State Park

Ponca, (402) 755-2284

Located in scenic bluffs above Missouri River on the Lewis and Clark Trail. Modern and primitive camping available. Housekeeping cabins available May through October.

- June 16-17: Father's Day Fossil Festival.
- June 17: Father's Day Fish Fry (reservations required).
- June 22-23: Days of '56 Rodeo.
- Sept. 8-9: Archery sight-in days.
- Sept. 22-23: Missouri River Outdoor Expo.
- Oct. 6, 13: Hallowfest weekends. (The park's annual Halloween/autumn event that features haunted hayrack rides, pumpkin rolling and carving contest, campsite decorating contest, and much more).
- Nov. 3: Muzzleloader sight-in day.

For a listing of outdoor events across the state, visit the online "Outdoor Calendar" at OutdoorNebraska.org.



Children enjoy the Missouri River Outdoor Expo at Ponca State Park in September.

Portraits from the Past



ROUSEK

My uncle Charles Rousek, far left, is shown posing with friends after a successful jackrabbit hunt in Valley County in about 1920. The hunter on the far right is sharing his pipe with one of the rabbits. Charles was a member of the 308 Machine Gun Battalion in World War I and served 11 months in France in 1918.

— Ernest Rousek, Lincoln, Nebraska



IBURG

This picture of me was taken at our farm seven miles west of Eddyville in Dawson County during the 1942 pheasant season. My good friend Bingo is there with me, great on the hunt but poor on the retrieve. I departed soon after the picture was taken to join the Army Air Corps.

— Ira Iburg, Smyrna, Georgia



SIMMONS

This picture of me was taken in Lexington, Nebraska in 1960 when I was 12 years old.

The 8½-pound walleye was caught by me at the diversion dam near the Canada Steam Plant south of Lexington.

I caught the fish on a silver Sonar lure and it won the weekly prize for the largest fish caught in the Lexington Chamber of Commerce contest in late-May of that year. I won a net, stringer and some fishing lures. I still love fishing in Nebraska but have yet to catch a walleye that large again. However, I will keep trying my best.

Keep up the great work with NEBRASKAland — I look forward to it each month.

— Kim Simmons, Bellevue, Nebraska



SCHAAF

This photo was taken in the early 1940s. On the left end of the muskrat pelt line is my father, Lyle T. Clemens, and on the right is my grandmother, Verna Clemens. On the porch rearranging firewood is Dad's little brother, Delois (Deedy) and his sister Sally. My grandpa, Homer, trapped along the Elkhorn River west of Neligh and Dad helped skin 'em. As he recalls, muskrat pelts were around \$2.40, coons and weasels \$3.50 and mink were \$20.

Lyle is 74 and is still an avid hunter, fisherman and NEBRASKAland Magazine reader. We call each other when the new issue arrives and hash over the various articles of interest.

— Kimberly Clemens Schaaf, Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Send contributions to: Portraits from the Past, NEBRASKAland Magazine, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370. Photos should show people enjoying Nebraska outdoor activities, such as camping, boating, hunting or fishing, and must have been taken before 1970. We will give priority to unusual photos or activities. When possible, please include a story about the photograph and identify the people, places and approximate date it was taken. Photos will be returned.



You can think about work later...
Take me fishing.

For more information log onto:

www.OutdoorNebraska.org

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

