



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott
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Understanding spawn is key to fishing success

Knowing where your favorite fish is spawning is one of the keys to fishing success. It might sound funny, but fish are both predators and prey, and each species will attack another's nest for a quick food supply.

For instance, rainbow trout spawn in the spring. Brown trout spawn in the fall.

Rainbows hate browns and browns hate rainbows because they attack each other's nest to snatch eggs, fry and fingerlings.

The same goes for panfish and bass. That's why a female bass has such an attitude and will fight to the death when you hook one, early May or late June, in 60-70 degree water along sand and gravel areas with vegetation along pond and lake shores.

Growing up on Lake Pomona just outside of Vassar, Kan., I learned a lot about fishing through trial and error, and talking to other fishermen as I filled up their gas tanks working at the Lighthouse Bay Marina in the summers.

Working on the docks, I noticed that panfish hung close to the protective docks and tended to set up their nest under the marina. At night, a big bucket-mouth black bass would sneak up here and look for an easy meal.

Sometimes I would laugh to myself as fishermen would crank up their fancy motorboats and head to places unknown on the lake looking for those largemouths, only to come back empty-handed, so I got me a spiral notebook and wrote down results.

It was amazing when we filled those minnow tanks with shiners and the like just how many happened to slip through the cracks of the dock by accident. I will never admit I did it on purpose, but a few did drop through the cracks. Some even had a line on them.

Over the years, I studied when the best times were to fish for what species, and here are the correct spawning times for the species you might want to catch:

Bluegill and sunfish spawn between late May and run to early August, depending on the water temperature. They spawn when the temperature is between 65-70 degrees, around sand and gravel areas with vegetation along the shorelines.

Largemouth bass spawn in early May to late June in the northern half of America when water is 62-70 degrees in the same areas, and in the southern half when the water is between 65-80 degrees.

Crappie spawn in late May to late July in the north in about 60-70 degree water, preferring sandy and gravel vegetation in less than 10 feet depths. In the south, the temperature

will range between 70-80 degrees.

Yellow perch spawn between mid-March to mid-May in colder, 45-50 degree water, in weedy or brushy areas in shallow to deep ponds and lake water, and sometimes migrate to the inlets of the creeks or streams that feed the lake.

Smallmouth bass spawn in late April to late June in high 50- to low 60-degree water, choosing sand and gravel areas in water between five to 20 feet deep in lakes, ponds and streams.

Walleyes and sauger tend to spawn in colder water right after ice-out, somewhere around early March in 45-50 degree water. These species don't make a nest. The larger females just deposit their eggs, usually around the rip-rap of the dam and the smaller males (jacks) follow, fertilizing them in those areas. The female couldn't care less after that.

A young walleye is kind of like a neglected child with an irresponsible mother. Females, after laying their eggs, tend to just lay on the bottom of the lake in the sandy areas adjacent the rip-rap where they will rest and recover for up to a week before they will bite.

Northern pike spawn in the early spring in shallow, weedy lakes and sometimes migrate to the tributaries in flooded areas if the water is high. They like the temperature about 35-50 degrees.

Shad spawn in late summer, after June, and continue in some areas until November, depending on the water temperature. Usually they spawn in water between 55-70 degrees in upper rivers like the Kaw.

Rainbows spawn in the spring in about 50-65 degree water in rocky shallows of lakes and in the inlets of lake streams. Otherwise, they spawn along creek beds.

The nocturnal brown trout spawns in the fall between October and February in the same areas as the rainbow, in water from the high 40s to low 50s.

Lake trout or lakera, as some people call them, spawn in early October to late November in cold water around the high 30s to lower 50s, in deeper water on rocky lake bottoms, but they can vary in depth. Look along hidden reefs and vertical jigs.

This is a general guideline for most fishermen. It may vary in certain lakes across Kansas and Nebraska, but for rule of thumb, it is pretty close. It holds pretty close especially at Big Mac in Nebraska and most of the lakes here in northern Kansas.

Remember one thing: you can't catch fish unless your line is in the water. The more you put that line in, the better your chances are of catching that once-in-a-lifetime fish.

Girl takes third place

Oberlin's Leah Marietta, a sophomore at Kansas State University, finished third in the 24th annual Collegiate National Power Lifting championship in Miami on April 14-16.

The tournament drew 200 athletes from 46 universities across the United States.

Marietta competed in the 132-

pound weight class, squat lifting 331 pounds, bench pressing 176 and dead lifting 320 for a combined total of 827 pounds.

Marietta was recognized as an All-American power lifter for placing in the top three. She is the daughter of Alan and Judith Marietta of Oberlin.



GOLF COACH DICK AHLBERG gave (from left) Nolan May, Jonathon Richards, Corey Cook and Haley Barrett (foreground) pointers on their putting game during practice at the Oberlin Country Club.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

Junior varsity takes 11th

The Decatur Community High junior varsity took its lumps Friday at the Hill City golf tournament.

The greenhorn Devils, with five freshmen and a junior, got to see what it is like competing against 12 varsity teams, but managed to finish 11th out of 12.

Junior Nolan May, who missed the Oberlin Invitational tournament due to testing, shot a 44 on the front nine and a 40 on the back nine for an 84, shaking some of the rust off his game.

"Our five freshmen got some good experience versus varsity players and did fine," said Coach Dick Ahlberg.

Jordan Tally shot 48-45 for 93; Andrew Richards, 50-45, 95; Chris Larson, 57-52, 109; Nathan Simonsson, 54-66, 120; and Nathan Baker, 64-56, 120.

Phillipsburg won the tournament with a team total of 311; Trego Community High finished second at 319; Plainville, third, 324; Stockton, fourth, 329; Norton, fifth, 330; Ellis, sixth, 337; Grinnell, seventh, 337; Hill City, eighth, 342; Hoxie, ninth, 344; Osborne, 10th, 357; Oberlin junior varsity, 11th, 381; and Ness City, 12th, 403.

The Oberlin team was to play in Hoxie on Tuesday. The Red Devils travel to Atwood on Saturday to compete in the Rawlins County Invitational. Tee time is 9 a.m.

High winds devil Oberlin golfers

The Decatur Community High golf team struggled Tuesday at the Ron Coleman Invitational held at Heritage Hills Golf Course in McCook, finishing 13th in a field of 16 schools.

High winds gave most of the 80 players fits, and only one broke 80.

Senior Jonathon Richards led all Red Devils, shooting a 46 on the front nine and a 52 on the back nine for a 98. Breck Simonsson followed with 100, Nolan May shot 103, and

Andy Gilliam and Jobey Black tied with 112.

"It was just a tough day for everybody," said Coach Dick Ahlberg.

North Platte High won the tournament with a team score of 353, followed by Lexington 358, Kearney 366, McCook 368, York 369, Sidney 380, Ogallala 381, Cozad 391, Grand Island 393, Minden 403, Holdrege 407, McCook B team 411, Oberlin 413, Colby 417, Hoxie 422 and Gothenburg 424.

OBERLIN SPEEDWAY

Oberlin, KS
Sunday
April 29
6 p.m.



Classes:

IMCA Modified / IMCA Stock Car
IMCA Hobby Stock / Cruisers

For more information call:
Don or Paula Bolt 785-678-2416



CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Sat., May 6, 2006 • 9:30 a.m.

Sellers: Richard Bunstock Estate, Alexine Sprosser
Don and Genola Claussen, Joe and Renee Zodrow

Truck (will sell at 1 p.m.)



1935 Flathead Ford truck, All restored, odometer shows 1,200 miles, owner says these are actual miles. You will have to see to believe!

Tractor



1954 Oliver 550, 3 pt., real clean Bush Hog Mower

Miscellaneous

Thermos Jugs • Area Rugs • Smith Corona typewriter • 8-Track tapes • Lots of Books • Lots of wall hangings, pictures • Jewelry box • Ceramic items • Lg. ceramic owl • Fruit jars • Old scales • Ironing board • Iron • Panasonic microwave • Mirrors • Lots of fabric • Sewing accessories, Patterns, buttons • quilting items • Bowling balls • Bamboo shade • Candle rings • Mouse doorstop • "Snow White" doll • Pillows • Lots of bedding • Picnic table set • Panasonic vacuum sweeper • TV trays • Luggage • Stationery drawer • Picture frames (all sizes) • Avon collectible bottles • Ski track exercise machine • Games & Puzzles • Sleeping bags • Lawn chairs • Clothes hamper • Lg. assortment pictures • Christmas decorations • Fans • Paintings • Scout uniforms • Lots of fabric • Curtains • Binoculars • Cutting boards • Steam iron • Ceramic curios • Records (45 & LP) • 8-track tapes • Vases • Singer Handy Stitch • VHS Video player • Lg. assortment books • Folding chairs • Box fans • Exercise bike • Coolers • Mail box • Golf clubs • Fishing poles • Ladders • Craftsman Wet/Dry Vacuum • Bar-B-Q Grill w/propane bottle • File cabinet • TV & stand • Dirt Devil • Brooms, mops • towels • Jars • Utility cart • Folding chairs • Green cabinet

All buyers unknown to auctioneer must have a letter of credit with their checks.

Furniture & Appliances

Lounge chair w/footstool • Cabinet stereo w/tape player, changer & radio • 4-Drawer chest of drawers • Night stand • Sewing machines in walnut cabinet • 4-Drawer sewing chest • Card table • Set of 6 kitchen chairs • Lg. assortment end tables • Cot w/pad • Lg. Assort lamps • 82" Table w/drawers • Typing desk • Rocking chair • Bedroom set - 4-drawer chest, 6-Drawer dresser w/mirror, double bed/mattress • Nightstand • Sofa table & end table w/inlaid glass • Beige sofa • TV cabinet • Several living room chairs • Magnavox TV • Sylvania VHS • Beige rocker/recliner, good • Single Bed • (2) Wooden chairs • 3-Drawer dresser w/mirror • Sm. nightstand • Double bed & mattress • Gray vanity dresser and chest-of-drawers • Sears Kenmore washer & dryer • Drop leaf table • Utility table w/1 drawer, drop sides • Sears chest deepfreeze • Wooden Cabinet

Antiques & Collectibles

Antique wooden 20-drawer filing cabinets • Lg antique wooden cupboard • Antique buffet w/mirror (doors missing) • Handmade quilts • Tables • "Wagnerware" iron skillet • Trucks • Barrel chair • (2) Dining chairs • Secretary desk • Nut sheller & cracker • Child's rocking chair • Comic books • Ice cream parlor stool • Scrap books & photo albums • Lady night light • Sewing chest • Puzzles • Sick call set • Music box • Trinket box • Books from late 1800s • German boxes • Jars • Crock bowls • Bowls, platters, saucers • Lead crystal assortment • Lemon juicer • Brown & green glass items • Brass lamp • Brass sugar & creamer • Root beer mugs • Box of lace • Waffle iron • (2) Flat irons • Granite baby bath basin & misc. • Meat grinders • Flour sifter • Cherry pitter • Noodle cutter • Brass school bells & cow bell • Cream cans • Antique Coo-Coo Clock (German) Collector tins • Lg. collection of "dog" figures • Handmade shawl & blanket • Embroidery hoops & thread • Tapestry • Dolls • Plate collection (dogs) • Table cloths, dresser scarves • Set of antique encyclopedias (very old in good condition) National Geographic • Boiler • Old pump • antique desk • antique chairs • Partial set china "Elegance" • Some Ansley England China "Elegance"

Kitchen

Large assortment dishes, glasses • Lts of pots, pans & misc. cookware • Goblets • Kitchen appliances • Lg. assortment kitchen utensils • Cookbooks • Steak plates • Tea pots • Hand mixer • Food grinder • Blender • Glass cookwaer • Crystal • Lots of glassware • Salad Shooter • Electric Skillet • Electric roaster

Auctioneer's Note: If you are interested in a good, clean line of collector items, antiques, household, tools, woodworking equipment, garden tools, vehicles, tractor and a restored truck YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS AUCTION!

Location: **The Gateway, Oberlin, Kansas**
(SW of Intersection US 36 and US 83)



1983 Dodge Ram Charger, 4x4, 318 engine, auto, AC, 100,000 miles



Mowers

Sears 48" Riding Mower, 23-hp Kohler engine, 130 hours

Shop & Garden Tools

Par Mak 110 volt fencer • Can crusher • Hoes • Tree trimmers • Brooms • Pitch forks, rakes • Hand sprayer • Craftsman lawn mower • Extension cords • Propane bottle on cart • Lawn sprinklers • Traps • Cordless rechargeable trimmer • Garden hose • Gas cans • Craftsman 18" 42 CC chain saw • Ryobi Weed trimmer • Roto tiller • Cob forks • Axes • Sledge hammers • Fertilizer spreader • McCullough chain saw • Craftsman hedge trimmer • Homelite gas weed trimmer • Post hole digger • Watering cans • Lawn watering tractor • Metal cabinet • (2) 350 Gal. fuel tanks • Tire chains • Assortment shovels • Air compressor • Vise • Pitch forks • Come-A-Long • Log chains • Electric motors • Tool boxes • Battery charger • Washer tubs • Craftsman lawn mower • Propane bottles • Wheels, tires • 1/2-hp Grinder on stand • assortment saws • Nail pullers • Hammers • Screw drivers • Black & Decker Work-Mate • Work light • Assorted nails • Tin snips • C-clamps • Electric sanders • Planes • Jig saw • Skil saws • Rope • Dremel saw • Mark I drill press • Grease guns • Saw horses • Hydraulic jack • Clevises

Troy Built Rear Roto Tiller

Many more items too numerous to mention! Lunch will be served.

Not responsible for accidents. All guarantees are between sellers and buyers. No items are to be removed until paid for. Announcements Day of Sale take precedence over printed matter.

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COTTONWOOD RANCH
SHEEP DOG TRIALS

Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7, 2006
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days

Competitive Classes: Open, Pro-Novice Novice, Nursery

Sanctioned by: American Border Collie Association
FREE ADMISSION

Food and Refreshments will be available at the Ranch

Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site
Located along U.S. Highway 24
18 miles west of Hill City or 15 miles east of Hoxie

Contact: Ed Mattke, Ogallah, KS 785-743-2976 for participation details or Don Rowilson, Cottonwood Ranch, Studley, KS 785-627-5866 for general information.

Event sponsored by The Friends of Cottonwood Ranch and The Kansas State Historical Society