

State Fair

I had the pleasure of visiting the Minnesota State Fair this past Thursday and I have to say that it was a lot of fun. I have not been exposed to a crowd of people like that in a long time, but I managed to keep my anxiety attacks to a minimum. The Double-Ferris Wheel is the only ride I attempted that night, but my wife and relatives rode them all.

The "old school" wooden roller coasters are still around, but they are slowly being replaced with some extreme high velocity iron monsters. There is one called "Steel Venom," located by the park entrance, and I cannot even explain how utterly insane it really is. You will just have to go see for yourself.

Valley Fair's infamous "Wild Thing" steel roller coaster is still my favorite ride, but my ten-year-old niece kept her head buried in my sisters' lap the entire time. I would have too at that age. It is pretty intimidating to be that high up in a little cart with a lap belt. My brother sat in front of me and when we reached the peak of the first hill and slowly began to descend I noticed his cigarette lighter jumped out of his chest pocket and suspended in mid-air as the cart began racing down the hill. It sat there for so long that I finally reached out and grabbed it with two fingers. It was not spinning or anything, just motionless in mid-air, descending at the exact same speed we were.

The vacation ended with some appliance shopping which caused us to get home late on Sunday night. When passing by the George Washington Pines, I noticed the outside temperature dropping to 35 degrees and could not believe it. My headlights were reflecting a very faint shimmer that appeared to be frost. I thought I was just getting tired of driving but it was actually frosting up in different spots. As we got further up the Trail, the temperature began rising into the mid-forties. This morning I went out to check the garden and sure enough the squash leaves are showing signs of frost damage.

I was told by Jon Schei, Gunflint Lodge Fishing Guide, that the walleyes bit really well through the bad weather this past weekend. He has been finding his fish down deep in the 25 to 30 foot range. The bigger fish are still up a little shallower, but some nice schools of eater-sized fish are down deep.

Cory Christianson, a 2000 Graduate of the University of Iowa, has worked as a fishing guide on the Gunflint Trail for nine years. If you have any fishing reports or stories to share, send an email to: christianson-cory@hotmail.com or call 218-388-0315.

TAILS from the TRAIL



Cory Christianson

I attend for the people watching. On the North Shore we are so sheltered from the strange and unusual people out there. I could not help but stare at some of the crazy outfits and piercing that people were sporting. I saw a lot of man bags or "murses" being shouldered by the trend setting fellows, but I just don't see myself ever carrying a purse.

Saturday we had a family reunion at Valley Fair in Shakopee. I know, two crowded places in the same weekend, what was I thinking? I actually did not have any say in the matter, but, it too, was a lot of fun. The roller coasters are pretty darn impressive. I have not been to an amusement park since high school and they have certainly evolved.

Catch a BIG fish?
Let us see it!
Cook County News-Herald

Where are the fish biting?



Cool temperatures have not kept the fishermen off of area lakes. Buck's Hardware offers the following report of where the fish are biting:

Walleyes are being caught on Caribou Lake in 18 feet of water using jig and minnow; on Homer Lake by slowly trolling with raps or drifting with leeches; on Tom Lake in 15 feet of water using jig and minnow or slowly trolling with leeches; on Two Island Lake in 12 to 15 feet of water

using jig and minnow and on Seagull Lake in 20 to 25 feet of water using jig and minnow.

Lake Trout are being caught on Trout Lake in 45 feet of water using spoons and on West Bearskin Lake in 35-38 feet of water by fishing off the bottom with jigs.

Bass fishermen have been reporting success on Poplar Lake when using spinners and on Devil Track Lake by "working the shoreline."

Northern Light Lake is the spot reported for northern, caught by trolling with spoons.



Photo by Dave Saethre

Jon Clousen of St. Paul caught this 28.5 inch, 8.5 pound walleye fishing with guide Cory Christianson on Lake Saganaga on Sunday, August 15.



Photo by Joe Carlson

Robby Deziel from Lakeville, MN landed this 16" smallmouth using a beaver flick lure and leech in four feet of water while fishing at an undisclosed lake with Joe Carlson of Joe's Inland Fishing.

Bear season open

Staff reports

Minnesota's bear hunting season began September 1 and runs through October 18 and in accordance with Minnesota statutes, which authorize the use of bait, hunters are now stocking bait stations.

Baiting is permitted, provided the bait is biodegradable and is placed no more than two weeks before the start of bear season.

About three-fourths of Minnesota's

approximately 15,000 bear hunters use bait. The average hunter sets out two or three bait sites each year, according to Dave Garshelis, bear research biologist with the DNR's forest wildlife research group in Grand Rapids.

Minnesota's bear population is estimated at 20,000 to 30,000. In the absence of hunting, Garshelis estimates the population would grow by more than 20 percent per year.

At press time, bear registration has

still been light. Buck's Hardware in Grand Marais reports that only two males and two female bears have been registered. Lockport General Store reports two bears registered. Windigo Lodge on the Gunflint Trail has had four male bears registered. The Hovland Post Office reports one female bear.

Buck's Hardware reminds bear hunters to bring in the bear or some part of the bear for registration or hunters will be refused registration.

Small game hunting opens Sept. 19

Staff reports

Grouse, rabbit, squirrel and partridge seasons open Sept. 19, offering Minnesotans the opportunity to discover and explore more than five million acres of Minnesota's fields and forests this fall.

"Small game season is a forgotten pleasure," said Dennis Simon, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife section chief.

"It doesn't take a large investment of time and money

or much hunting expertise to get out and find grouse, squirrels and rabbits."

All that is needed to hunt is a blaze-orange-colored article of clothing above the waist, a small caliber rifle or shotgun, a valid hunting license and firearms safety training, and a suitable hunting location. Complete details about seasons, requirements and bag limits are listed on pages 37-44 of the 2009 *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook*.

"This should be a great small game season, the kind you look forward to sharing with friends

and family," said Simon.

Simon noted that higher ruffed grouse numbers will likely lure some folks who haven't hunted recently back to their favorite grouse coverts. The higher grouse numbers also make for an ideal year to introduce a youngster or friend to grouse hunting.

He encourages people who are just getting into hunting to learn about the state's Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system, which offers hunting on its 1.2 million acres. State, county and national forests also offer opportunities.

The WMA system, one of the largest and most developed in the United States, contains 1,380 public wildlife areas across Minnesota, with habitat ranging from prairies and wetlands to forests and swamps. State forests offer an additional 4 million acres in 58 designated areas.

Details about WMAs and state forests are available online at www.mndnr.gov/destination.

Those who visit Minnesota's WMA system can comment on conditions and habitat at www.mndnr.gov/wmas/condition_survey_pre.html.

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Thursday, September 10, 2009
5:30 pm Cocktails & Raffles
7:30 pm Dinner

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Grand Marais, MN

2 Gun Raffle
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Only 125 Tickets Will Be Sold
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