



SD WOMAN PROVIDES EXPERT FLY FISHING TIPS

After fly-fishing nearly all her life, a South Dakota woman says she never tires of the adventures that present themselves while out on the water.

"I always enjoy being outdoors," said Lorie Hagen of Mitchell. "I like the peace and quiet that comes with fishing and just relax and take in the beautiful scenery."

Although she loves to catch fish, one of her favorite aspects of the sport is customizing her own flies.

"Fish are used to seeing the same flies over and over and will eventually lose interest," Hagen said. "It's amazing how one simple change to an existing fly can make all the difference."

Plus tying her own flies gives her something to do when the season is over.

To feed her hobby and be around like-minded people, she works for [Larva Lace](#), an established South Dakota company that sells synthetic fly tying materials to create your own custom flies.

"I love my job and I am proud of the line of synthetic fly-tying materials we sell," Hagen said. "We've made a name for ourselves and people from literally all over the world know and appreciate the overall quality of our products."

If that isn't enough, she is married to Kevin Hagen, whose family owns [Hagen's](#) of Mitchell. They purchased Larva Lace in 2008 and today they collaborate to manufacture both fly and freshwater tackle and fishing components that are sold all over the country.

After 11 years, Lorie said balancing her job and her love for being on the water is easy because she always has an opportunity to get out of town.

One of her favorite places to fish is the same place her grandfather took her when she was just getting into the sport — the Black Hills. "We went there every summer to fly fish. I loved it then and I love it now," Lorie said.

Creeks meander through the mountains, meadows and canyons and eventually feed into lakes that are home to an abundance of trout. Spearfish Canyon in the Northern Black Hills is one of the most popular places to fly fish, but Lorie would rather take the path less traveled and find her own place.

"It's challenging to fish in the Black Hills," she said. "The creeks are narrow. You aren't doing a lot of wading like you would in other areas."

The most important tip Lorie has for success in fly-fishing in this environment is to be "spot on" with a cast to avoid getting caught up in the trees and shrubs that inundate the creek's riparian.

Lorie also advised anglers to be conscious and alert of whether the fish can see shadows and to make sure the fly lands in the right spot without making any noise on the water. "It will spook them," she said.

Another favorite spot is along the Missouri River in Pierre where Lorie fly-fishes for Northern Pike.

"I like to go when the ice melts off the river because they really like shallow water," she said. "I never know what to expect because Northern Pike can really put up a fight."

But when the season is in full swing, she embarks on a few road trips to explore other areas to fly fish.

"It's nice to share the experience with someone and I'm lucky to have a family and a group of close friends who enjoys going on adventure as much as I do," Lorie said.

One trip in particular stands out — a road trip to the Grand Tetons in Jackson County Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park.

"All we did was fish and drive," she said. "It was by far the best experience of my life."

As far as one adventure she would like to cross off the bucket list is heading to Pierre, but fish for carp rather than Northern Pike.

"I've heard they are huge up there and would love to see if I could catch one," Hagen said.

To learn more about Larva Lace and the products the company sells, visit www.unexcelledfishing.com. To learn more about Hagen's Fishing and Tackle Components, visit www.hagensfish.com or call customer service at 1-800-541-4586.

