

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Children's Fishing Derby
April 20

Friends of Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery will host the annual Children's Fishing Derby on Saturday, April 20. Hours are 10 a.m.-noon. Children from ages 4-12 are welcome to fish for very hungry Rainbow trout in the hatchery ponds.

Bring a rod. Bait and refreshments are furnished. Some members of Yankton law enforcement will clean the fish and pack them in ice. A parent or guardian need to be present as well.

For more information, call the Hatchery at 605-665-3352

2013 Birding Festival
Slated For May 3-5

PICKSTOWN — Birding enthusiasts, both novice and experienced, will gather May 3-5 at the Fort Randall area near Pickstown to hope-fully catch site of hundreds of migrating bird species returning to South Dakota or heading to other parts of the country. The communities of Wagner, Pickstown and Lake Andes stand ready to welcome visits for this weekend event.

The festival offers a full schedule of birding activities that include presentations on Listening to Birds, Basics of Bird Identification, an Owl Prowl and much more. Some of the outdoor ac-tivities will be held at the Karl Mundt Wildlife Refuge at Fort Randall — this is the only time the refuge is open to the public, which is an added bonus for festival attendees. In addition, the Fort Randall Dam Visitor's Center will be open from noon until 4 p.m. on Saturday.

For an event schedule and registration form, go online to: www.sdgreatlakes.org/greatout-doors/birdinginfo or call 1-605-487-7603.

Minnesota Bears Emerging
From Hibernation

GRAND RAPIDS, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota's bears are emerging from hibernation, but wildlife managers say there's no need for alarm — just preparation.

The Department of Natural Resources says bear sightings are most common in northern Minnesota, but bears can also be spotted in some cities farther south.

DNR bear researcher Karen Noyce says spring can be tough for bears. With berries and vegetation scarce, she says, bears may be tempted by dog food, livestock feed, birdseed, compost or garbage.

Jeff Lightfoot, the DNR's northeastern re-gional wildlife manager, says removing food that attracts bears resolves problems much more ef-fectively than attempting to trap and destroy bears.

Never approach bears, and always leave them an escape route. A treed bear should be left alone as well. It will leave once the area is quiet.

Western ND Bighorn Sheep
Population Healthy

MEDORA, N.D. (AP) — The bighorn sheep population in North Dakota has increased to its second-highest level on record.

The state Game and Fish Department says its annual March sheep survey in the Badlands found 297 bighorns, up 5 percent from last year. The count doesn't include about 30 bighorns in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Big Game Biologist Brett Wiedmann (WEED'-man) says nearly all of the lambs counted during a survey last summer survived the winter. But Wiedmann says the healthy lamb numbers prob-ably won't translate into more hunting licenses for several years because the number of rams remains much lower than it was five years ago.

Game and Fish has issued four bighorn li-censes for this year, the same as last year.

Gary Howey | Of The Outdoors

Calling & Bagging Turkeys

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

We've all heard that bagging a turkey in the spring isn't all that tough! All you need to do is to fool one of the Mother Nature's weariest creatures, one that has excellent eye sight and superb hearing.

Seriously, bringing a Tom into range, generally less than 40 yards isn't as com-licated as it may sound. There are calls out there that make calling turkeys pretty easy.

When I started turkey hunting years ago, I started with a box call, the basic turkey call.

They're easy to use and are pretty fool proof. All you need to do is tilt the top slightly and drag the cover across the box, the friction created between the chalked lid and the box creates the yelps, purrs and putts that turkeys make.

One thing you're going to need to do is to develop a rhythm, one long and 4 or five quick short yelps are the basic turkey call. Turkeys use the yelp to locate each other and regroup once there flock has been split up.

The only problem I've ever had with a box call was that they re-quired frequent chalking in order to work prop-erly. They aren't the call I'd go to in wet, rainy weather as the chalk on the call will gum up,



Gary
HOWEY

making the call sound squeaky.

When I use my box call in damp weather, I put it into a large zip lock or other plastic bag; By leaving the bag open, you can still operate the call inside the bag. It does cut down on the volume, yet, still allows you to use your box call if you need to.

There are several new box calls on the market that aren't affected as much by the wet weather. I rely heavily on a box call made by Roost'em calls as it has the vol-ume and the tone to reach out long dis-tances.

With this call, I've been able to call big Toms across a busy highway right during the middle of rush hour.

It's got the volume to be heard on windy days when other calls simply don't have what's needed to be heard on noisy days.

These calls are available through their web site www.roostem.com.

Another easy call to use is the slate call, it makes the same sounds that a box call makes, but it too is susceptible to damp weather. The calls are made on the slate call by dragging a wood, plastic or carbon striker across the slate.

Since moisture affects the slate calls,



PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES
Team Outdoorsmen Adventures Member Larry Myhre of Sioux City, Iowa, is pictured with a Tom he took using Roost'em calls last spring in Dixon County, Neb.

many manufacturers have developed dif-ferent types of slate call. Some have put glass over the top of the slate while others have replaced the slate with aluminum.

The slate call is able to produce sev-eral pitches of yelps, purrs and putts. The sound or pitch of the call will change de-pending on the area of the call that you run your striker across.

I've found out that all slate calls have what I call a "sweet" spot, or an area on the call that sounds better to the turkeys, that's the area on the call that I use the most.

You won't have any trouble finding the "sweet" spot as the turkeys will let you know quickly which call they like the best, letting you know where that "sweet" spot is located on the call.

The only thing needed to assure your

slate call sounds the way it should is to rough up or be sanded from time to time.

There are numerous other calls on the market; many of them are simple to op-erate. I'd recommend you don't put all of your eggs in one basket and have several styles of calls with you, as a turkey's mood, likes and dislikes seem to change from day to day or even from hour to hour.

Decoys are another item I use to help bag a spring turkey.

They started out as a hard plastic type decoy, which worked great, but they make a lot of noise and were bulky to carry.

Later on I switched to the silhouette de-coys with photo quality images; they worked excellent, but were a bit bulky.

The new hand painted soft foam col-lapsible decoys look very realistic and

have worked very well for me and my hunting partners. You can fold them up and stuff them in your vest or back pack and can be put out quickly with very little effort.

I use two or three of these decoys, two hens and one jake (young immature Tom). I'll position the decoys out between 20 & 30 yards. You'll want to place them off to either side of your position. Since I'm right handed, I place the jakes to my left and the hens to the right. This way I have a good shot as the Tom approaches the jake.

Many hunters think that the Tom will move right to the hen, but in most cases this isn't the way it happens! The Tom ap-proaches the jake, trying to intimidate him and if they doesn't run off, he'll stomp the tar out of them.

If you find the Tom hanging up and not coming in, it might be a good idea to put one of the Toms near the hen or have her in a ready, mating or low to the ground po-sition. I've done this and had Toms that had been known to hang up on the small-est of obstacles, come charging in.

A mistake that I and many new turkey hunters make is to not pattern our shot-guns before heading for the turkey woods.

Since the best shot on a turkey is a head or neck shot with most shots taken at 20 to 30 yards, I'll need a tight patterned shot gun. I started with a full choke, which worked pretty well and if I have problems with the birds hanging up outside that range, I may switch to an Extra-full or Extra-Extra full choke in my shotgun.

The extra tight pattern works well if the bird hangs up out there at 40 plus yards.

I'd recommend that you test fire your shotgun with different loads. Whenever I change shells, chokes or shotguns, I'll test fire the gun from several distances with different loads just to see if which load performs the best for me.

I've found that a 3" or 3 1/2" Winchester Supreme 5 or 6 shot or their Extended Range shells pattern well in my shotgun from 20 to 40 yards.

With the right equipment, a little prac-tice with your calls, patience and little luck you'll be able to tag a turkey this spring and once you do, you're hooked and you'll be counting the days until the next spring turkey season.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. Howey is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which can be seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Out-door Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor informa-tion, it can be found at www.outdoorsme-nadventures.com.

Kansas Dog Shows Knack — Or Nose — For Antlers

BY MICHAEL PEARCE
(c) 2013 The Wichita Eagle (Wichita, Kan.)

EDWARDS COUNTY, Kan. — A snapping tail telegraphed Winnie's joy as she bounded over grassy hills and bulled her way through gnarly jungles of wild plums as she seized the air with her nose.

The Labrador's entire body went into overdrive the second she scented the object of her search, as she cut right fast enough to spray sand. She jumped over, instead of around, a yucca to pounce on her find.

Rather than a duck or dove, Winnie was proudly carrying a mule deer antler in her mouth.

"Once you get her out she usu-ally really gets going," Amber Sti-matze said of the six or so times she's taken the Lab afield this spring. "I've seen a few (antlers), and walked her up to find it to build her confidence. After that, she's been finding a lot on her own."

Going into the day's search, woman and dog had teamed to find about 20 antlers that had fallen from bucks in the past few months.

So it's supposed to be in the world of an antler dog,

facility near Smithville, Mo.

It's from them that Stimatze's friend purchased Winnie about two years ago.

The Siglers have trained thou-sands of dogs in about the past 50 years, including most breeds of ca-nines for chores from detecting drugs and to those that hunt for birds, animals or lost humans.

An avid hunter, Roger Sigler knew what he needed to do when a friend suggested training dogs to find coveted shed antlers.

"In any dog sport, it's always about the quality of your dog, but that doesn't mean how much you've spent on the dog," Sigler said. "I'm talking about innate skills. Each dog we work with is tested in a variety of ways."

The most important require-ment, Sigler said, is an inner drive to search and hunt.

"That's one thing you really can't train," he said. "I want a dog that's out there charging around, actively looking. They're not just supposed to be antler retrievers, they're supposed to be antler find-ers, too."

The Siglers are on their third generation of dogs they've se-lected to be the foundation for their breeding program.

The dogs are Labs, for one of the main reasons they are Amer-ica's most popular breed.

"They're multi-taskers. You can do horns with them, or bombs with them. You can do blood trails with them or you can do ducks with them, and they make good family dogs," Sigler said, "There is not much you really can't get them to do."

The Siglers use a variety of training techniques that use real antlers and positive reinforcement from the time their dogs are four months of age on.

Clients, currently from about 40 states, are required to stay a few days at Antler Ridge to make sure they're familiar with the basics of training.

thing started, like filling a feeder," she said, "and Winnie and I will go walk around in that area."

They spend a lot of time check-ing areas where deer may have concentrated to feed, like around feeders or food plots.

On this afternoon, Winnie started searching amid 3,000 acres of sandhills south of Kinsley. Deep and tall wild plum thickets, where bachelor herds of bucks may have bedded through the winter, were primary places for searching.

It took about a half-hour before Winnie fetched the first mule deer antler. Another was found about a

half-mile away.

Eventually the crew moved to a long drainage bristling with prickly locust trees, a place known to have held high numbers of white-tails through the winter.

Two years of drought, deep snow and hungry deer had ground cover within the draw down to about putting green height.

The white tine tips of dropped antlers were easy for Stimatze to spot. Winnie, too, spotted some antlers before they were scented.

Other times it took several sec-onds, and some excited scurrying, for Winnie to find an antler strictly

by smell.

There was certainly no short-age antlers to give off Winnie's fa-vorite scent.

Stimatze eventually had both hands full and several antlers jabbed into the back pockets of her jeans. One area no larger than Turner's truck had five sheds awaiting.

At that truck, Stimatze and Win-nie added 17 more antlers to the pile of what they've already found this spring.

"You can just never have too many antlers," Stimatze said with a smile. "You just can't."

Training An Addiction

For about the past seven years Roger and Sharon Sigler have been raising and training such canines at their Antler Ridge Antler Dogs



AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS

7:40 AM


MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

Yankton's Home Team!



GOOD GOVERNMENT DEPENDS ON PUBLIC NOTICES!

www.sdpublicnotices.com



You're ready for a career change.
You want to make a difference.
You've always wanted to teach.

The M.Ed. in Teaching is designed for individuals who currently hold a non-teaching baccalaureate degree and wish to obtain secondary teacher certification in their major or content area.

siouxfalls.edu/GradEd >> (605)331-6710

teach

Service is not our sideline, It's our business.

Walk Behind Mowers
Service Special
\$4750 (Parts Extra)



Riding Mowers
Service Special
\$9500 (Parts Extra)

• Service Special •

Includes Sharpen Blades, Clean Air Filter, Check Belts, Lube, Change Engine Oil, New Spark Plug. All Parts Extra. Pickup & Delivery Available.

Fred Haar Company:
Freeman (605) 925-4241 • Wagner (605) 384-4580 • Yankton (605) 665-3762
Davison County Implement: Mitchell (605) 996-6633