

**OUTDOORS DIGEST**

**Kids Fishing Clinic At**

**Lewis & Clark Lake SRA**  
NORFOLK, Neb. -- Children and parents are invited to participate in the Crofton Kids Fishing Clinic on April 25, 4-5 p.m. The clinic will be held at Lewis and Clark Lake State Recreation Area, Weigand Area, near Crofton. Clinic is limited to 50 children (under 16 years old).  
Certified Aquatic Education fishing instructors from the National Walleye Association Kids Fishing Clinics Charity, Inc. and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will be available to instruct parents and child on casting, knot tying, bait, tackle, water safety, and fish identification and anatomy.  
Each child will receive a free fishing rod, reel, and tackle. Candy bar and pop will be provided by CJ's at the Lake.  
Families are encouraged to arrive early to watch the Nebraska Walleye Association tournament weigh-in at 3 p.m.; check-in for the kid's clinic will begin shortly after weigh-in.  
To register for the Crofton Kids Fishing Clinic, please contact Joyce and Doyle Stevens at 402-388-2477 or doyles@gpcom.net. Registration ends April 24, spots are limited.  
Event organizers are also seeking local volunteers to assist with the fishing clinic and tournament. If interested, contact Ray or Betty Clayton at 402-450-9235 or clay7120@gmail.com.

**Public Encouraged To Report Crane Sightings**

LINCOLN, Neb. -- The entire population of whooping cranes in the Central Flyway is expected to migrate through Nebraska over the next several weeks. Conservation entities encourage the public to report whooping crane sightings.  
Information on sightings is used individually and collectively by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Crane Trust and the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program to positively affect whooping crane conservation and recovery efforts.  
Individuals should report whooping crane sightings by contacting Game and Parks at 402-471-0641 or joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 308-382-6468, ext. 205, or the Crane Trust Whooper Watch hotline at 1-888-3WWATCH (1-888-399-2824). Observers are encouraged to record number of birds, location, type of activity, and number of adults and juveniles, and then report the sighting so it can be verified.  
Observers are reminded that other common species occasionally are mistaken for whooping cranes. Sandhill crane, American white pelican, great blue heron, trumpeter swan and snow goose are regularly reported as whooping cranes. Whooping cranes are approximately 5 feet tall and fly with their neck outstretched. Adults are all white with the exception of black wing tips and reddish-black facial pattern.  
Whooping cranes should not be approached. Harassing whooping cranes may put them at risk, and it also is a violation of state and federal law.

**S.D. Elk, Mountain Goat Seasons Set**

PIERRE - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission finalized the 2015 elk hunting seasons at their April meeting.  
The Commission finalized the allocation of eight any elk licenses for the Custer State Park (CSP) firearms season. As in 2014, four any elk licenses will be available for the CSP early archery elk season. The CSP late archery elk and CSP antlerless elk seasons will remain closed.  
The 2015 Black Hills firearms elk season will have 430 any elk and 500 antlerless elk licenses available, an increase of 260 licenses from 2014. The Commission also allocated a pool of antlerless elk contingency licenses, not to exceed 20 percent of allocated antlerless licenses for the Black Hills firearms season.  
The Commission finalized 48 any elk and 50 antlerless elk licenses for the 2015 prairie elk season, an increase of five licenses from 2014. No licenses will be issued for Unit 30A (portions of Gregory County). The portion of Jackson County south of Highway 44 and BIA Highway 2 will be added to Unit 11A, B, C and D. The season dates for Unit 11C have been adjusted and will run from the second Sunday of October to Nov. 30.  
There will be 144 any elk and 56 antlerless elk licenses available for the 2015 archery elk season, an increase of 93 licenses from 2014.  
The Commission also re-opened the mountain goat hunting season, the first time in the state since 2006. The season will offer two any mountain goat licenses and the season will run from Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2015.

**Black Hills Mountain Lion Hunting Season Ends**

PIERRE -- The Black Hills mountain lion hunting season officially closed on March 31, 2015. The season also would have closed if hunters harvested a total of 75 lions or 50 female mountain lions.  
This year, hunters harvested a total of 43 lions; 22 of those were female lions.  
The season remains open for areas outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District year round.

**Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey**

# Scouting For Turkeys

**BY GARY HOWEY**  
Hartington, Neb.

I can't wait until old man winter releases his grip on the upper Midwest and spring arrives when I can hit the woods to begin another season to pursue spring turkey.  
This will be my forty-first season where I hope to add my 104th bird to my turkey log. This year, I'll have three Nebraska tags and help my Son-in-Law Matt and grandson Teddy to tag their first birds in South Dakota.  
It's a good time to get out, spend some time in the woods doing a combination turkey scouting and shed hunting trip.  
Deer general; shed their headgear in mid-February, but not all deer shed at the same time. It's possible you will find sheds shortly after the rut. While I'm out looking for sheds, I have my eye out for turkey sign as I hunt sheds



Gary **HOWEY**

in the same areas where I hunt turkeys.  
When my camera crew and I are seriously thinking about turkey hunting, the first thing we need to do is to put together some sort of a plan.  
If you are hunting locally, putting a plan together doesn't take much time, but if you're looking at hunting in a different area or even a different state, making a plan will be very important.  
If I'm going to be hunting in a different state, I start by checking the web sites of the state's Game and Parks or DNR I'm looking at getting a permit. If they have a lot of information and columns devoted to turkey hunting, it's a good bet there a good numbers of the birds in the state.  
After looking at the South Dakota Game & Parks site where I had hoped to have the opportunity to do some turkey hunting with my son in law and grandson, I was disappointed to find out the county they would be hunting in, didn't issue any non-resident permits, I had to re-plan the hunt.  
We would have to start checking around at the states where we would have a chance at obtaining a permit; I'll grab the phone and contact the game department of the state. This is where I obtain as much information



PHOTO: OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES  
**Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Nicole Grev of Pierre is pictured with the spring gobbler she took while hunting in South Dakota.**

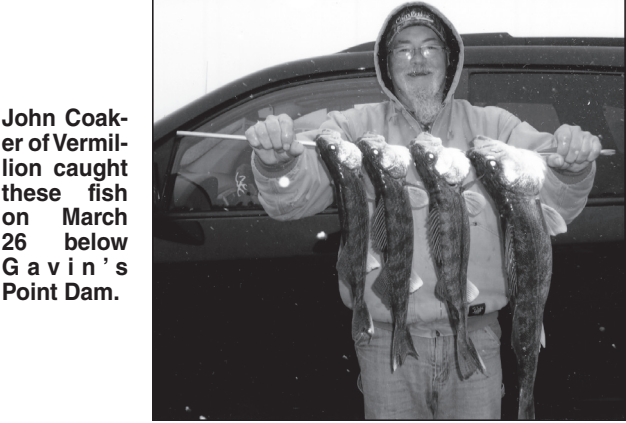
as I can from their experts. I'll talk with the people that spend a lot of time in the field and have their finger on what's happening as far as turkey numbers. This information helps me to zero in on an area with good numbers of birds and if I'm lucky, I may even be able to obtain some names of folks in the area that may allow hunting.  
I choose a zone or area where I have a good chance of getting a permit. Then it's that anxious time, waiting to find out if you were successful on the draw. Once I know I have a permit or tag I look for any public land in the area, if that area happens to be one the game department was high on, I get an aerial map of it and see what's there, checking out any heavily wooded areas for possible roosts and areas where the birds could feed.  
I've hunted turkeys in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas and Mississippi and got my best information from those states Game & Parks-DNR's. Some of them have turkey density and harvest information that helps us to choose what area to hunt.  
As much of our hunting was on public ground, we avoided opening weekend, as there are just too many folks out in the woods during opening weekend. Before I avoided opening weekend of the turkey season, I called almost as many hunters in as I did turkeys. When we head out to film a turkey hunt, there are at

least two people with us and when it comes to calling critters, be it, waterfowl, turkeys or deer, the less people you have to compete against the better.  
On many of our hunts, generally, the first time we see the ground we will be hunting will be the day before when we arrive in the area. Which means there isn't a whole lot of pre-season scouting; this is why we rely on aerial maps and the advice from the local game officials?  
The first thing we will do upon arriving, is to carefully look over our aerial map, trying to pick out those areas where the birds may roost and possible food sources as wells as any funnels going from their roost to a feeding area. A funnel is anywhere two terrains come together, such as a valley between two forested areas. Funnels are good places to set up as it narrows down the bird's path, putting the turkeys within shotgun and bow range.  
Next, we do a drive around of the area, comparing what's there with what is on the aerial map. We also like to stop by any adjoining landowner to introduce ourselves, to see if they have seen any birds and ask them if it's Ok to hunt on their land, should the birds move onto their land off the public ground.  
Then it's sit down time for us to put a plan together so when the season opens, we will be fairly close the right place ready to go.  
We always leave enough time

prior to the sun down, to be out and use our locator calls, our crow, owl and coyote howler to get the birds to shock gobble. If that happens, armed with the information from the game department, our use of aerial maps, the talks with landowners and a gobbler giving away where he spends the night, we now have a plan  
The next morning before the sun appears in the eastern sky, it's time to head out and try locating their roosting areas by getting close and using our locator calls.  
As the sun appears in the eastern sky, we have our decoys out, backs against the tree, using soft tree calls, letting the Toms know where we are and ready for another opening day.  
  
*Gary Howey, Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, seen in the Yankton area on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday@ 7:00, on KTTM/KTTW-TV Fox-Sioux Falls and Huron at 6:30 am Saturdays and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.*



**Tom Knutson of Meckling caught these fish on March 24 near Pickstown.**



**John Coaker of Vermilion caught these fish on March 26 below Gavin's Point Dam.**

## New Invasive Species Site Launches

PIERRE -- With spring well underway, so is this year's fishing season. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) launched a new website today to help inform anglers and boaters about the new statewide aquatic invasive species rules; expected to take effect the middle of May.  
"In an effort to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species in South Dakota, anglers and boaters, residents and nonresidents, will soon be required to change their old ways of transporting bait and fish and comply with newly established regulations," stated Kelly Hepler, GFP Secretary. "With that, we have launched a new website that serves as the hub of all information related to aquatic invasive species in our state."  
The website, <http://sdleastwanted.com> features information on the new laws and regulations; species information related to zebra and quagga mussels, Asian carp and invasive plants; boat washing techniques and locations; a map depicting water bodies and any invasive species it may contain; frequently asked questions related to the new laws; how to report an invasive species; a news section; and a media gallery with images and videos.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks will continue to keep anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts informed as to the exact date of when the new laws take effect. For more information on aquatic invasive species and how to help slow their spread in South Dakota water bodies, please visit <http://sdleastwanted.com/>

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**MORNING COFFEE**

**WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**Monday, April 6**  
7:40 am Yankton County Commission (Donna Freng)  
8:20 am KC Royals baseball (Les Norman)

**Tuesday, April 7**  
7:40 am Yankton Library (Kathy Wibbels)  
8:20 am Hy-Vee Dietician (Kenny Tomek)

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**Clinic closed. Easter Sunday April 5th**

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