

Outdoor Briefs: Sportsmen For Youth Outdoors Event Aug. 27

Sportsmen for Youth, in conjunction with the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Department and US Fish & Wildlife, will be holding the third annual Step Outdoors Event on Saturday, Aug. 27. The event will be held at the Isaac Walton's trap range on Highway 50 east of Yankton.

The event is free to all youth between the ages of 8-18. Registration will begin at 11 a.m., with the event to follow at noon. A light lunch will be available prior to the event at no charge. All youth shall be accompanied with a parents, or guardians, during the outdoor event.

All participants will have the opportunity for hands-on experiences with archery, trap shooting, small caliber rifles, fishing and wild game cleaning with safety having the highest priority.

The Yankton Sportsman For Youth Group is composed of members of various local conservation and sportsmen's groups from the Yankton area including members of the Isaac Walton, North American Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Yankton Sharpshooters, Whitetails Unlimited, Yankton BASS Club and Pheasants Forever. The organizations have collaborated to provide an outdoor experience and related activities for the youth of the Yankton area.

Those interested in attending the event should contact Sam Schelhaas, Yankton County Conservation Officer with S.D. Game, Fish & Parks, at 668-2985.

Youth/Adult 3-D Archery Tournament Aug. 21

HARTINGTON, Neb. — The Shannon Trail and the Northeast Nebraska Archers will be holding an Adult/Youth Team 3-D Archery Tournament Sunday, Aug. 21, at the Hartington Outdoor Archery Range east of Hartington, just one mile east of the Hartington Recycling building. The shoot opens at 8 a.m. and will go until 2 p.m. Teams can show up at any time in that time frame to shoot. Medals and prizes will be awarded.

First Division is adult with youth age 8-12. Second Division is adult with youth age 13-15. The course is a 40-target course one arrow per target.

There will be concessions on the grounds. For more information contact Kevin Millikan at 402-640-3322 or email finsnspurs@hotmail.com.

Some Missouri River Campsites To Re-Open

PIERRE — Visitors to Farm Island Recreation Area near Pierre and Platte Creek Recreation Area near Platte will finally get a chance to bring out the campers. Select campsites will be available for camping starting Wednesday, Aug. 24.

"The water is going down on the Missouri River, and we are able to open some campsites," said state Park Director Doug Hofer. "As releases from the Missouri River dams continue to decline, more park facilities will become available."

The east campground at Farm Island Recreation Area will open 17 campsites and three camping cabins. Electricity will not be immediately available, however.

Although campsite electricity is not expected to be on until Labor Day weekend at Farm Island, Farm Island manager Pat Thompson hopes to get it restored earlier. The three camping cabins will not be available for rentals until they have power.

Platte Creek Recreation Area will open 14 electrical campsites on Aug. 24.

Fishing has been good in the area, and the Platte Creek boat ramp and fish cleaning station are open, District Park supervisor Dave Enke said.

Camping will be available on a first-come, first-served basis starting Aug. 24 at both Platte Creek and Farm Island. Reservations are now being taken for Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-4, at both parks.

Boat ramps at both Platte Creek and Farm Island are open, and other ramps on the Missouri are opening up daily.

Campsites at Buryanek Recreation Area west of Platte re-opened last week. Additional state park facilities along the Missouri River will be made available as high water levels recede.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Terry Redlin Art Center Rocks

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

What is it that draws millions of visitors from all over the world to N.E. South Dakota year in and year out? Could it be the hunting, as it's been tremendous since I was a kid growing up in the area? No, it's not the hunting or the fishing, it's the unbelievable art work of one of America's most renowned Americana and wildlife artists, Terry Redlin and the Redlin Art Center which is located in Watertown.

If you're an outdoorsman or woman who hasn't heard of Terry Redlin, you really need to get out more as Redlin's prints draw big bucks at Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever as well as numerous other wildlife organizations banquets. As of this writing his donations to Ducks Unlimited raised more than \$28 million.

Redlin, born and raised in Watertown, with each stroke of his brush to the canvas created some truly memorable pieces. Through his paintings, he's brought the outdoors into thousands of homes in America.

Known for his dramatic sunrise/sunsets and the warm glow coming from the windows of the cabins in his paintings, he makes one feel as if you're back home, when times were simpler.

At the age of 40, in 1977, Redlin's painting "Winter Snows" appeared on the cover of "The Farmer" magazine bringing his artwork to the forefront of the art world. In just two short years, his artwork was in such great demand that he left his art-directing career to concentrate on painting wildlife.

He's won numerous awards including the 1981 and 1985, Minnesota Duck Stamp competition; the 1982 Minnesota Trout Stamp contest; paced second that year in the Federal Duck Stamp Competition; honored as Artist of the Year for Ducks Unlimited (National and Minnesota), and as Conservationist of the Year-Magnum Donor by the Minnesota Waterfowl Association for his gifts of entire print collections. Three times he received the "Lithograph of the Year" award from the National Association of Limited Edition dealers for excellence in the medium. In 1998 the City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota named an elementary school in his honor. The Terry Redlin Elementary School opened in the fall of 1998.

I've always been a huge fan of Redlin artwork and was blessed to have had the opportunity to spend time with Terry as we filmed several of our Outdoorsmen Adventures television shows with him. Not



PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

The Terry Redlin Art Center in Watertown attracts thousands of visitors each year and each fall attracts concertgoers to their annual free concert. Earlier this year, thousands were rocking to the band Three Dog Night.



Gary HOWEY

only was I amazed at his artwork; I was in awe at just how humble this great artist was.

Much of Redlin's early original artwork was sold. In 1999, the Redlin Art Center was informed of an auction featuring 15 of Redlin's older originals. Terry's son, Charles Redlin felt compelled to purchase these special pieces for the Redlin Art Center. Almost all of Terry's paintings done between the years of 1977 and 1984 had been sold, so the Redlin Art Center had not been able to display these original pieces. Each represented a year of Redlin's career. With the arrival of the "new" paintings, the Center now has Terry's originals dating from 1978-1985. They are part of Redlin's history — each painting tells a story and marks a specific time in the artist's life and career.

In 2007 Terry announced his retirement, when Redlin indicated that "he wanted to tell stories with his paintings, to remember the experiences of his youth, and to imagine and capture forever, events that have been related to me by older folks I have had the pleasure of knowing."

I can relate to many of the Redlin paintings, I grew up in the Watertown area and each time I have the opportunity to spend time in the Redlin Art Center and view a Redlin painting, I see memories of many of the places from my childhood, some places I knew and other places one can only dream of.

Redlin Art Center

The Redlin Art Center can be seen for a distance as it majestically rises from the

South Dakota prairie. It's truly a beautiful building located at the junction of Interstate 29 and U.S. Highway 212.

Now don't think that this is just another one of those art galleries: as it is a real work of art!

As visitors approach the center, they're greeted by immense white granite columns, which soar skyward up 38 feet, giving the center's 52,000 square foot brick building a look like no other. Inside, it's just as impressive, with more than 9,000 square feet of white granite on the main floor. This, along with over 10,000 square feet of Indian Black Galaxy granite used in the Grand Entrance and behind the railings of the gallery makes this gallery like no other. This along with over 5,900 square feet of Impala granite from Africa that lines the walls of the gallery, draws visitors to hundreds of Redlin's original paintings.

The Center houses many of Terry's early works, his original paintings from 1978 to 1985 as well as a gift shop that offers something for all Redlin fans.

Each year, in the summer, the Redlin family and the Art Center put on an open-air concert that attracts thousands upon thousands of attendees. In 2011, it was Three Dog Night, with in the past performers including: Ronnie Milsap, The Oak Ridge Boys, Sawyer Brown, Blackhawk, Restless Heart and Little Texas.

Just how popular are the concerts at the Redlin Art Center? You be the judge, as in 2010, over 15,000 attended that concert.

This year's event was unbelievable! We

arrived at the Center as the group Sgt. Rock was performing. This group, made up from members of the South Dakota National Guard headquartered out of Mitchell was rocking the crowd with great acoustics and vocals.

When Three Dog Night came on stage the crowd erupted as they entertained us all with many of their twenty-one songs that made the Billboard's top 40 hits in America, with three of their hits, "Mamma Told Me Not To Come," "Joy To The World" and "Black and White" reaching number one.

It was a great evening, I had the opportunity to return home to Watertown, to enjoy Terry Redlin's unbelievable artwork, to spend time in the exquisite Redlin Art Center, while spending time with family and good friends. It just doesn't get any better than that.

The grand finale was another eye-popping fireworks display lighting up the sky above the Redlin Art Center, bringing an end to another beautiful South Dakota evening and the Redlin Art Centers free concert.

If you haven't had the opportunity to make the trip to Watertown and to go through the Redlin Art Center, you are missing one of South Dakota's greatest attractions.

Gary Howey is the president of Outdoorsmen Productions LLC and the producer/Host of Outdoorsmen Adventures TV that airs throughout the upper Midwest and Co-Host of Outdoor Adventures Radio. For more information on the outdoors go to www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO: CAPTAIN NORM'S
Norm Blaaid caught this 5-pound walleye on Aug. 18.



PHOTO: CAPTAIN NORM'S
Velma Weversted (left), 95, caught this 13-pound channel catfish with Nata Jones in Springfield on Aug. 14.

B10: No Expansion In League Plans

PARK RIDGE, Ill. (AP) — The Big Ten Conference is not looking at another expansion — for now.

The 12-team league said Friday that its Council of Presidents/Chancellors met recently and there is no plan to "actively" engage in expansion now "or at any time in the foreseeable future, barring a significant shift in the current intercollegiate athletic landscape."

Of course, there is that possibility. Texas A&M confirmed this week that it is interested in leaving the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference — a move that would almost surely set off another round of conference realignment.

The SEC, which has won the last five BCS championships in football, on Sunday reaffirmed its 12-school membership while leaving the door open to expansion. Earlier this week, Big East Commissioner John Marinatto said has been in contact with Dan Beebe, his counterpart at the Big 12, and John Snowford of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Softball

From Page 9

ally stop these girls. They want to do better and they are hungry to win."

The Gazelles are looking to improve on their 2010 season with the strength of their seniors as well as the experience gained from being a young team last year. Strong underclassmen will assist the seniors in their drive to improve.

"As long as the seniors can come together as leaders and bring the rest of the team with them I don't think there is anything stopping them from placing anywhere from fifth to higher,"

said Cabalka.

"I think they have a goal in mind, they definitely want to finish higher, it just depends on how hard they want to work and how much effort they put in," he added.

Leading the junior class for the Gazelles will be Jessica Wirth, who was voted to the All-State team, and Karlee Kozak, an honorable mention All-State selection.

"Juniors, Kozak and Wirth, we expect them to provide good defense in the infield, and they will also be at the top of our batting lineup as well," said Cabalka, adding, "Hannah Horn and Tayler Huchison bring some good speed to the team both defensively and offensively, so we expect that out of them."

The depth of this still young team will add to their strength

this season with underclassmen fighting for spots on the varsity squad. The 2010 JV team earned second place in the JV State B Tournament.

"The key will be to get the least amount of mistakes and play some good defense, I think that will be the key to where we are going to finish."

"We have some good depth on the JV squad, and may see some of them up on varsity depending on who wants to step it up," said Cabalka.

The Gazelles will begin their season on Sunday against Watertown and Brookings in Sioux Falls.

"We have always felt that when you have good batting and get the ball in play things happen, but more importantly defense wins the game, and that should be our strength," Cabalka said.

Texas Remains No. 1 For Doves

BY RAY SASSER
(c) 2011, The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — There's a good reason Texas is home to about 25 percent of all of American mourning dove hunters and about 74 percent of American white-winged dove hunters.

The reason is birds, and lots of them. In spite of indications that their numbers are slowly declining, mourning doves are, by far, the nation's most populous game birds. The total U.S. population estimate is 350 million mourning doves. Texas usually has about 40 million resident mourning doves when the season opens.

Though 23 states permit the harvest of white-winged doves, migratory game bird population and harvest estimates by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service don't include whitewings.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists do their own whitewing population estimates, at least around urban areas. Whitewings, the dominant native dove in Mexico, are thriving along the Interstate 35 corridor from San Antonio to Dallas and are spreading through West Texas and into the Panhandle.

Corey Mason, TPWD's dove program leader, said he's even gotten whitewing reports from Lufkin, though East Texas is not consid-

ered a dove hot spot.

Mason said the urban estimate is 8 million white-winged doves, though he thinks the number is conservative. Millions more of the big, blocky doves are scattered through the rural countryside.

Mourning doves are the most populous U.S. game birds and whitewings are second. A distant third are probably mallard ducks, which, this fall, should number about 8 million. Arizona (85,000 harvested) and New Mexico (29,000 harvested) also have healthy whitewing populations.

Behind Texas, only two other states, California (1.25 million) and Alabama (1 million), harvested a million doves last season. Not only does Texas produce more doves than any other state, but as the season progresses, Texas serves as a funnel for mourning doves migrating into Mexico.

The volume of resident doves is particularly important during an extreme drought, Mason said.

"We have so many doves that the sheer numbers help soften the blow of reduced reproduction," he said. "Doves will re-nest multiple times, and the law of averages comes into play in terms of successful nesting efforts. Doves also have the advantage of parental-provided food (crop milk) for several days to get them jump-started."

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