

OUTDOORS DIGEST

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

# Exploring Bon Homme Co.

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

## S.D. State Parks Offer Activities At Weekend Events

PIERRE — State parks across South Dakota will be holding a variety of special events. The activities give visitors the opportunity to be active and learn while enjoying the fresh air of the outdoors.

- Birding by Bike, Aug. 11, 10 a.m. CDT, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton. Bring your bike and binoculars as we tour the park looking for South Dakota birds. Meet at the Lewis and Clark amphitheater. Info: 605-668-2985
- Sand Volleyball Fun, Aug. 11, 10 a.m. CDT, Oakwood Lakes State Park near Bruce. Gather at the beach volleyball court for some fun in the sun! Info: 605-627-5441

- Adams Homestead Celebration, Aug. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. CDT, Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve near North Sioux City. Take a step back in time and experience some of the cultural and natural history of South Dakota. This free, fun event for all ages is full of activities, crafts, music and demonstrations. Make a rope or candle; visit the Lamont Country School and Stavenger Lutheran Church; watch the threshing machine demonstration; taste great food at the Dutch oven cooking demonstration; and compete in the watermelon seed spitting contest and buffalo chip throwing contest. Info: 605-232-0873
- Butterfly Bonanza, Aug. 11, 4 p.m. CDT, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton. Come learn about the beauty and mystery of the butterflies of South Dakota. Info: 605-668-2985
- Street Masters Car Show and Ice Cream Social, Aug. 11, 7-9 p.m. CDT, Oahe Downstream Recreation Area near Fort Pierre. Check out the car show as you enjoy ice cream! All guests are encouraged to cast a vote for their favorite car. The Camper's Choice trophy will be awarded to the most popular car. Info: 605-223-7722

There is no cost to participate in any of these programs; however, a park entrance license is required for all events.

For more information on the South Dakota State Parks or for a full calendar of events, please visit [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov) or call 605-773-3391. To learn about park programs in your area, contact your local state park office.

## Dead Fish Caused By Temps, Low Water, Ammonia

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources says low flows, high water temperatures and elevated ammonia levels contributed to hundreds of fish that died and washed up along the Big Sioux River.

The department says its investigation showed the ammonia levels in the river would not have normally been toxic to the fish. But combined with the stress from the low flows and high temperatures in the water, the ammonia level was enough to kill the fish last week.

The temperature of the Big Sioux River reached 90 degrees last Friday, lowered to 72 on Saturday and was back up to 90 by Tuesday. River flows had dropped to 28 cubic feet per second on Friday on parts of the river. River flows normally average 250 cubic feet per second.

## Nebraska Angler Reports Snagging Hand Grenade

HICKMAN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities have blown up a hand grenade that a man said he'd caught while fishing at a southeast Nebraska lake.

Lancaster County deputies say the man was fishing at Wagon Train Lake near Hickman around 9 p.m. Thursday when he reeled in what he thought was a piece of vegetation. The man told deputies that when the end of his line neared him, he saw that it looked like he'd snagged a hand grenade.

He called the sheriff's office for help, and deputies who arrived confirmed it was a grenade. A Nebraska State Patrol bomb squad was called for assistance.

The area was evacuated, and the squad blew up what was believed to be a live device that still had the pin in place.

## Neb. Squirrel Hunting Season Opens

LINCOLN, Neb. — Squirrel hunting season opened Aug. 1, giving Nebraskans an opportunity to introduce novices to hunting.

Taking a new hunter along on a squirrel hunt in the woods can serve as an introduction to an activity that can last a lifetime. It also may develop a novice's sense of stewardship of natural resources and appreciation for conservation.

Streeter has the following tips for a safe hunt:

- Use insect repellent with DEET.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Call out and identify yourself if you see another hunter stalking the woods.
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

- Be careful when loading and unloading a firearm.
- Know where the muzzle is pointed and never point it at a person.
- Inspect and clean your firearm before the hunt.

There will be plenty of opportunities to hunt squirrels. The season lasts through Jan. 31, 2013. The daily bag limit is seven squirrels, and the possession limit is 28.

Squirrels prefer to eat the nuts of oaks, hickories and walnuts. They will eat other types of nuts and fruit when preferred food types are not available. Scouting locations for trees that bear mast could pay off when it is time to hunt.

Hunting permits may be purchased at OutdoorNebraska.org.

## DNR Officer Kills Collared Bear In NE Minn.

ELY, Minn. (AP) — A conservation officer with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has shot and killed a collared black bear in the Ely (EE'-lee) area.

The bear had entered a garage where children were present and refused to leave.

Upset residents called the agency Thursday to report they had tried to scare the bear away — including using an air horn — and that the bear had snarled at them.

Two conservation officers arrived and found the bear still in the area. The DNR says after the bear refused to leave, the officer killed it.

The DNR says the bear had been collared by bear researcher Lynn Rogers. The DNR notified Rogers' associate.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press reports the DNR will examine the bear carcass for disease or other health problems.

## ND Hunters Can Kill More Mountain Lions This Year

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota wildlife officials are increasing the number of mountain lions that can be killed by hunters.

The Game and Fish Department says Zone 1 will have a quota of 21 cougars, up from 14 last year. There will be a limit of 14 in an early season from Aug. 31-Nov. 25, and a late season with a limit of seven lions that runs through next March 31.

Zone 1 is basically the area west and south of the Missouri River. The rest of the state, Zone 2, has no quota. Hunting in Zone 2 is from Aug. 31-March 31.

Well, it doesn't take a mad scientist to figure out the Dog Days of Summer have arrived, as a matter of fact, they've been here over a month and it looks as if they'll be around awhile.

The high temperatures didn't stop Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Larry Myhre and I from heading out to do some filming in Southeast South Dakota's Bon Homme County around the Springfield area last week.

I'd guided throughout the area years ago and was amazed at how much the river had changed after last year's flooding, areas which were once back water bays now had become channels and other areas impossible to get into were now wide open.

Our plan would be to spend a few days filming with Tim Peterson in Bon Homme County taking in its great history, cultural and outdoor opportunities.

The area abounds with outdoor opportunities fishing hunting and a whole lot more with excellent fishing for walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and catfish as well as an abundance of wildlife all calling Bob Homme County home, including waterfowl, turkey, deer and upland game.

We'd be headquartered out of the Cogan House [www.thecogan-house.com](http://www.thecogan-house.com) a beautiful place, located east of Springfield overlooking the Missouri River with great accommodations with unbelievable meals.

Because of the hot weather, our plan was to get on the water early, launching from the boat dock at Springfield.

As Tim maneuvered the boat from the dock, our plan started coming together, we'd hit some areas for bass, others for walleye and then head for the catfish holes.

It didn't take long for us to get started as a small flathead catfish took my Gulp baited jig shortly after Tim dropped the trolling motor into the water and a few minutes shortly thereafter, Larry hooked into my flatheads big brother, not a bad start.

As we worked the shoreline, we were serenaded by the wildlife in the area as a family of Canada Geese talked to us from the Nebraska shoreline while numerous Bullfrogs chimed in along the shoreline.

Because Tim is a member of the Bob Homme Bassmasters, as soon as he spotted a fish rising along the shoreline, he was pitching spinnerbaits towards it and before



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
**Tim Peterson is pictured with one of the numerous bass taken while fishing the Missouri River in Bon Homme County.**

long he hooked into a nice smallmouth.

It didn't take us long before we were given the opportunity to sample the fishing smorgasbord the Missouri River in Bon Homme County is known for as we boated sauger, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass along with both channel and flathead catfish.

Motoring down river, it wasn't hard to imagine how this area must have looked when the first Americans came through the area.

The southern border of Bon Homme Counties lies along the Missouri River, which in days of old was one of the major transportation routes for boat traffic, military and settlers, and because of this, history abounds in the area. Lewis & Clark and their Corps of Discovery pushed and pulled their way up river, pitching camp several times in the area while on their way to the Pacific Ocean.

Not too far from our headquarters,

Custer and his 7th Calvary wintered in the area, with the officers spending time at the original Cogan House prior to heading to the Black Hills and to their demise at the hands of the Sioux at the Little Big Horn. The Bon Homme Cemetery, not far from Springfield is the resting place of some of those troopers from the 7th's Calvary who'd died on their way up river.

Not only is Bob Homme county rich with history, the communities in Bon Homme County have numerous celebrations to enjoy each year including; Scotland's Catfish Days, Springfield's 4th of July Celebration, Tabor's Czech Days, the Tyn-dall Down Home Christmas Celebration, as well as others.

The following day in an attempt to beat the heat, we were on the water early, looking for bass and catfish and as on the previous day, Tim connected with a nice largemouth, while I managed to hook into a couple of sauger, with Larry, our catfish

expert landing a couple of channel cats.

Since we only had a half-day, we decided to head down stream and hit one of the many backwater chutes to see what they might have to offer.

Our first pass through a channel running between two islands would be one for bass as the area we were fishing was known to hold both large and smallmouth bass.

Tim, using a spinnerbait hooked into the first fish, a chunky smallmouth, shortly there after my spinnerbait was engulfed by a good largemouth bass and not to be out-done, Larry soon brought a healthy small-mouth in the boat.

As we were working down the bank, we passed a huge beaver lodge, we just knew had to hold bass, but after several passes, we realized that the bass weren't home.

Tim suggested that it might be a good idea to anchor up above the lodge and see if the hole adjacent to it might be holding some catfish.

This was right up Larry's alley as he's a catfishing fool, enjoying catfishing in many of the creeks, rivers and lakes in North-west Iowa and Southeast South Dakota.

Rigging up with smelly old Sonny's catfish stink bait, Larry was the first to get his bait in the water just above the lodge, with I and Tim's baits coming in a close second.

Lodges such as these are excellent places for all species of fish to hang out, as there's plenty of places for both bait and prey fish to hide and are always adjacent to deeper water.

About the time, Tim and I finally got set down, the rod tip on Larry's rod began to jump, Larry released line, allowing the fish to get the stinkbait worm and it's treble hook in to it's mouth. Shortly there after, Larry set the hook and the fight was on with the fish making a dive for deep water and then towards the safety of the snag infested beaver lodge.

Larry gingerly worked the fish towards the boat allowing me to lip the net under a feisty 7-pound channel cat.

What a trip, during some of the toughest fishing conditions of the year, the Dog Days of Summer, we boated over 30 fish, had the opportunity to become familiar with a few of the many things the area has to offer and came to appreciate the rich history of Bon Homme County.

*Gary Howe, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide, the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which can be seen on Fox affiliates in the upper Midwest. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor information, it can be found at [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).*

### TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



**Buck Boje, left, caught this paddlefish with a bow on a recent outing with Missouri River guide Marlyn Wiebelhaus.**



**ABOVE: Julie Stevens caught this 1.9-pound Crappie near the marina at Lewis & Clark Lake.**



**RIGHT: Jenny Blaaid caught her limit of walleye during a recent outing.**

# South Dakota Panel Proposes Boost In Mountain Lion Hunting

PIERRE (AP) — A state panel on Friday proposed a mountain lion hunting season that would give South Dakota hunters more time to shoot more of the big cats next winter.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission has been gradually increasing the number of mountain lions that can be shot in an effort to reduce the population in the Black Hills and protect elk and deer that serve as the lions' prey. During its Friday meeting in Milbank, it proposed allowing hunters to shoot 30 more lions than last

year during a season running from Dec. 26 to March 31.

The season would end early if 100 lions were killed or if 70 females were killed.

Last year's season ended a month early after 70 lions were killed. It was supposed to run from Jan. 1 to March 31.

The commission will make a final decision on this year's season after an Oct. 4 public hearing in Deadwood.

The plan also would give some hunters, chosen by random, access to Custer State Park and let

some use dogs to hunt lions in the park during some periods. Hunters so far have not been allowed to use dogs to track mountain lions in South Dakota, partly because some argue that gives hunters too much of an advantage.

Game, Fish and Parks Department biologists have set a population target of 150 to 200 lions in the Black Hills. They estimate the population is now about 300, including about 100 kittens.

Many hunters have argued that more mountain lions should be shot because they believe the cats

are killing too many deer and elk, which are popular game for hunting. But others say the increase in mountain lion hunting in recent years is decimating the cougar population.

Chris Hesla, executive director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, said the association of hunters and anglers would support the increased quota for mountain

lions as long as it was based on sound research. The federation opposes the use of dogs in mountain lion hunting.

Custer veterinarian Sharon Seneczko, president of the Black Hills Mountain Lion Foundation, said the quota shouldn't be raised again because it takes several years of research to understand the effects of previous increases.

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