

OUTDOORS DIGEST

PDR Deer Hunt Sept. 14-15

CLARK — A free white-tail deer hunt for disabled youth will be held Sept. 14-15 near Clark. The PDR Hunt is a non-profit organization that provides a white-tail deer hunt to disabled youth. Included for both hunter and one parent or guardian are: meals/lodging for two nights as well as access to: firearms, ammunition, targets, prime private hunting land, special ground-level deer blinds with hard surface floors to accommodate wheel chairs, individual hunting guides, transportation to/from the field. For more information, contact Dean Rasmussen at 605-233-0331. Applications are available online at [www.pdryouthhunt.com](http://www.pdryouthhunt.com).

S.D. Mountain Lion Season Proposed

MILBANK — The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission has proposed several changes in the coming Mountain Lion Hunting Season. As proposed, the season would run from Dec. 26, 2012, through Mar. 31, 2013. The season would end earlier, however, if the harvest limit of 100 total lions or 70 female lions is reached. Similar to last year, lions harvested in Custer State Park would be included in the harvest limits. Outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District, any licensed hunter may harvest a lion from Jan. 1-Dec. 31. Hunting in Custer State Park (CSP) would be allowed for licensed mountain lion hunters who are awarded free temporary access permits to the park. The CSP hunting season structure would be set up in two ways. One would involve five specific hunting periods without hounds, each period 14-16 days in length, with 30 hunters getting access permits for each period. The other would involve three hunting periods - with the use of hounds - each period seven days in length, with four hunters getting access permits per period. The temporary access permits would be issued by a free random drawing. The South Dakota mountain lion season will be finalized Oct 4-5 during the Commission meeting at Deadwood. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposal may send an email to [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us) or send written comments to South Dakota GFF, 523 E Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501.

Long-Standing Blue Catfish State Record Falls

PIERRE — The second-longest state fish record in South Dakota, a blue catfish caught by Edward Elliot in 1959, is a thing of the past. On July 21, Steve Lemmon from Elk Point grabbed his own place in the record books by landing a 99-pound, 4-ounce blue catfish from the Big Sioux River, edging out the previous record by 2 pounds, 4 ounces. With the aid of only a rod, reel and a creek chub for bait, Lemmon managed to wrangle in the trophy fish from his fishing hole in Union County. His fish stacks up well with those from nearby states. The Nebraska state record blue catfish weighed in at 100 pounds, 8 ounces while neighboring Iowa currently boasts a state record blue catfish of 101 pounds. Kansas, a state known for having some large catfish, has a slightly smaller state-record blue cat weighing it at 94 pounds even.

GFP Commission Amends Trapping Regulations

MILBANK — The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission has changed the restrictions on the use of body-grip traps on public lands and road rights-of-way. No one may set or operate a body-grip trap with a jaw spread greater than 6 3/4 inches in conjunction with any bait, lure or scent unless the trap is recessed in a plastic, wood or metal cubby with a minimum of 7 inches from the front end of the cubby to trigger the trap, or the trap is set below the water's edge in a stream, river or other body of water. The change was made because of concerns about dogs getting caught in the traps, and it applies only to public lands and road rights-of-way. The GFP Commission also clarified the legal size of muskrat colony traps. A previous rule did not address square traps. The size of colony traps used for muskrats may not exceed 36 inches in overall length. If using a round colony trap, the diameter cannot exceed 12 inches. If using a box colony trap, the height may not exceed 12 inches, and the width may not exceed 12 inches.

Minn. Deer Licenses On Sale

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota deer hunting licenses are now on sale for the coming season. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says hunters who want to hunt in a lottery area must apply by Sept. 6. Currently, 58 of the state's 127 deer permit areas are lottery areas. The DNR says hunters should carefully review the list because many of these permit areas have not been lottery areas for a significant period of time. Many of these areas, focused in northwest, north-central and a portion of northeast Minnesota, were designated lottery areas in response to hunter desire for higher deer populations. Lottery winners will be notified in October.

Minn. Taking Applications For Upcoming Wolf Season

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota is taking applications for its upcoming wolf hunting and trapping season. The state will award 6,000 licenses by lottery for a statewide target harvest of 400 wolves. The statewide bag limit is one wolf. The early hunting season starts Nov. 3 when the firearms deer season opens. The late hunting-and-trapping season opens Nov. 24. The seasons will close in the state's three wolf zones if the zone's quota is reached. Lottery winners will be notified after the application period closes Sept. 6. Licenses go on sale by Oct. 15. Wolves came off the endangered list in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan last January. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says the state's wolf population is about 3,000 and has held relatively steady for the past 10 years.

Wolf Hunt Opponents Petition DNR

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Opponents of wolf hunting and trapping are petitioning the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to stop this year's hunt. The DNR set up a wolf hunt season after the federal government took the gray wolves off the endangered list in January. But, Maureen Hackett of the opposition group Howling for Wolves says the DNR is moving too fast. Hackett tells Minnesota Public Radio News (<http://bit.ly/Ni5LBo>) the wolf population is growing, but is still vulnerable. The group is rallying at the DNR headquarters in St. Paul Thursday where they plan to file a petition against the hunt. The wolf population in Minnesota is estimated at 3,000. The DNR is allowing hunters and trappers to kill 400 wolves during a season that partially coincides with the gun deer hunt.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

# Small Water Can Mean Big Fish

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

When most people think of trophy fishing waters, they think of huge lakes like Lake Oahe, Lake McConaughy or Waubay Lake. The truth is; you don't need to have thousands of acres of water in order to produce trophy fish. Some of the largest fish I've ever caught came from farm ponds and stock dams than were only a couple of acres.. Year in and year out, in our area, there are numerous Master Angler/Trophy Fish taken from these smaller bodies of water. They weren't built as recreational pond; they were built to supply water for live-stock. Once they're built, fish found their way into the ponds. The Game & Parks or the D.N.R. stocked some, while landowners and neighbors stocked others.



Gary HOWEY

The ponds that were stocked by or with the help of the Game & Parks and D.N.R. usually have a good balance between the predator and the prey fish. These ponds generally contain bass, bluegill and catfish. The bass and the catfish are the predator species while the bluegills are the prey. If your pond is out of balance, you'll end up with stunted fish because there just aren't enough predator fish to control the panfish population. Once this happens, the bluegills and other panfish will become the predator, attacking the bass nest eating the eggs and the small fry. Some ponds, especially those out west also contain good numbers of perch, crappies and northern pike. An ideal trophy fishpond would be one that has both shallow and deep-water areas. The shallows are needed for spawning; the deeper water gives the smaller fish a place to escape the prey fish and to move to once winter sets in. Structure is another thing a trophy pond must have. It doesn't have to be much; downed trees, brush piles or weeds will all fit the bill. The structure gives the smaller aquatic life a place to live, which in turn attracts minnows and smaller fish while they attract the larger fish. It gives them a place to look for food, to hide and keep from becoming food for another fish.



PHOTO: GARY HOWEY  
Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Joel Vasek is pictured with a big bass taken from a small pond in Gregory County.

If I come across a pond that looks like it has deep water areas and structure in the shallow water, I'll spend a little time casting the shore line and along the structure trying to temp a fish into biting. If I'm after panfish, I'll start with something small, like a 1/8 or 1/32-ounce jig tipped with a piece of worm or a small minnow. I'll gently pitch it along the edge of the brush or along the weed edge. If the shallow water drops off quickly into deeper water, I'll put a small slip bobber above it and let it float along the edge of the weeds. If the water looks like it might hold bass, I'll go to Mepps spinner, which will catch all species of fish and I do many all species. Take for instance a trip I took last weekend with my grandson Braedon to a small pond for bluegill and bass. Braedon was fishing with the old hook line and sinker tipped with a worm while I was casting my trusty Mepps # 3 Anglia with a white trailer. A few weeks before, I'd caught several species of fish casting the Mepps, with the biggest fish being a 5-pound channel catfish. On this trip, I was doing my best to make this a good trip for Braedon and not paying enough attention to my own fishing. I was bringing my Mepps across the deeper water when I had a strike; I set the hook about the time my grandson needed some help. My line went slack, so I got his line straightened out and started to pull my lure out of the weeds and as I put pressure on the line, it took off again, peeling drag off a foot at a time, heading for deep water.

Because we were fishing for small bass, I'd cranked my drag up tight so I could flip the fish into the small boat we were using, a real dumb rookie mistake as this fish took drag as I desperately tried to loosen the drag when my 14# Fireline could stand it no more, snapping it as if it was a light mono. I thought all was lost when I spotted the line on the water, figuring the fish has gotten away, I grabbed the line, hoping to get my spinner back. Once I put pressure on the line, off it went, making it impossible for me to hold on. In order to keep the line from pulling out of my hand, I wrapped my fishing towel around my hand and then wrapped the Fireline around it and as I put pressure on it, trying to work it towards the boat, a big flathead catfish burst out of the depths. It ran along the top of the water, until it hit the end of the line, breaking it again, swimming off with my favorite Mepps spinner, once again proving that even the smallest of ponds can hold some really huge fish. Another bait that works well for bass is a jig & pig combination, which I like to work in and out of the pockets, along the trees and brush piles. You'll need to place the larger jigs down as gently as you can on the water so as not to spook the fish. Hop the jig back to shore or along the edge of the weeds, keeping a tight line at all times. Bass don't always hit like a freight train, as they may just suck the bait in and if you don't have a tight line, they'll spit it out before you even know it's been picked up. If your line moves to the side or your

## Minnesota Man Whips Deer In Struggle, But It's Painful

FERTILE, Minn. (AP) — The way Mark Christianson tells it, in his lilted Old Country accent, the deer started the fight. "I was going out to finish spraying the soybeans," he said. "I stepped out a side door, and we saw each other, and he started coming closer. "He was pummeling me, standing on his hind legs and hitting me with the front ones. He hammered me good, rapid fire, and I thought, 'Well, this isn't good.' I wasn't winning, so I grabbed him and tackled him and we both went down on the ground." We don't have the deer's account because, after losing the kick-boxing and wrestling portions of this North Woods triathlon, Christianson shot the eight-point whitetail buck, which had brought antlers and attitude and a strong left hoof to the fight but nothing to match Christianson's 30-06 rifle. The confrontation, which left Christianson, 66, with black eyes and pink-to-purple bruises over his arms, shoulders and chest, occurred last Thursday as he stepped outside his farm home about 10 miles southeast of Fertile. Mark and his wife, Judy, 65, had seen the deer days before, brazenly hanging out in their yard, sampling Judy's potted impatiens and ignoring all attempts to shoo it away. "We sometimes have 17 or 18 deer in the yard here, but we have a hard time getting a picture," she said. "You open the door a little and — phfft — they're gone. They're usually so sensitive. "But this one, I would stomp my feet and it wouldn't go away."

Two days before the fight, Mark came upon the deer near a shed. "He was 8 feet away, and instead of being scared he came right up to me. I went inside, and he stuck his nose right up against the window. Then he banged his antlers against the wall." As he left the shed and ran toward the house, the deer followed, and Christianson ducked into the back seat of a 1992 Bonneville that had been retired to a side yard. Later that day, Judy stepped out to hang clothes on a line and turned around to find the deer facing her. The next day, they watched as the buck feasted on a flaming crabapple tree. On the third day, last Thursday, Judy had been napping when she was startled to hear her husband hollering. "He got me!" he cried. "He got me!" "Mark was dripping blood all over, and his ear looked like it had been tore off," she said. "He was shaking and trying to load bullets into his gun. I didn't know what to think." The buck was still standing its ground. "I gut-shot him where he was, then saw he went down at the edge of the hill over there," he said, gesturing through a thick stand of old oaks. "I got him a couple more times there." The deer had sounded "wheezy" and sick, Christianson said, so he had contacted the Norman County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources even before the animal picked a fight. Blane Klemek, wildlife supervi-

sor for the DNR's Detroit Lakes area, said the deer carcass was sent to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in St. Paul. Disease specialists there have ruled out rabies but continue to check for other diseases, such as chronic wasting disease or Lyme disease. He said the deer had no tags or other indications that it was a domestically raised deer. "It did have a fair number of liver flukes (parasites) in its liver," he said, but it's unclear whether that would explain the animal's unusual behavior. "It is an odd one," Klemek said. "Deer normally are afraid of people. We don't know why this one would attack this guy. But it's always a concern when we get calls from the public about an animal acting strangely." Friends "have given me some grief about it all," Christianson said Wednesday. "They said they don't believe my story. They say, 'It's the wife.'" An Amish family lives close by with three small children who often play outside, and Judy had gone over to sound a warning about the deer. After Mark's bout with the buck, the family brought over a lemon pie, Mark's favorite, and a card. The children — Magdalena, 4, Sylvia, 2 1/2, and Perry, 11 months — signed the card with hand prints. "So sorry you got hurt," the card read. Christianson said he was too sore to sleep the first two nights after the attack. Blows near his eyes caused blackening about the sockets and bent his glasses, but

he said he's grateful the deer didn't damage his eyesight. The sorest bruise was to his right shoulder, probably due to his sudden take-down move, and couldn't raise his right arm for days. "Friday morning, he had a bowl of Cheerios in front of him,"

Judy said. "He just sat there, holding the spoon. I said, 'You'd better use your left hand.'" And how would Mark respond if another bellicose buck showed up and tried to pick a fight? "I wouldn't wait three days to get my rifle."

### River City Gymnastics and Cheer Presents

## The First Annual Ice Cream Sunday & Fall Registration 2012

**7:30-8:45 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12**

Performances Starting at 7:30 p.m. followed by Ice Cream Social and Fall Registration

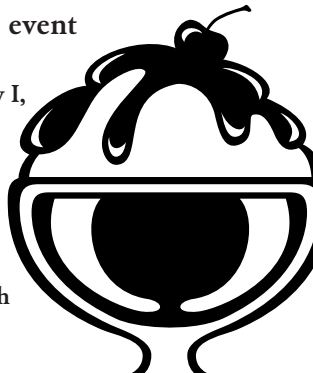
### Yankton High School Main Theatre & Commons

Ice Cream Sunday is a layered event that will include:

- Performances from Cheer Academy I, II, III, IV Summer Session
- Gymnastics Exhibition from Summer Session
- Free Will Donations
- Ice Cream Social
- Fall Registration for all Gymnastics Classes, Cheer Classes and Strength and Conditioning Classes

Hope to see you there!

For more details contact Justin Olson at 605-661-4971 or [yanktonrcg@yahoo.com](mailto:yanktonrcg@yahoo.com)





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## Savor the Possibilities

It's all about fresh, seasonal dishes prepared by our culinary expert, Chef Staci Stengle.

Check out Staci's case-for pre-made salads and side dishes, ready for your table! Or pick your favorites for the perfect picnic to take to the lake or your campsite!

Chef Staci will also answer your food questions and give advice on how to prepare chef inspired meals.



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