

OUTDOORS DIGEST

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Ted Nugent Kamp For Kids
Sept. 15 In Yankton

The third annual NFAA & Ted Nugent Kamp for Kids will be held in Yankton at the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Complex, 800 Archery Lane, on Saturday, Sept. 15. It runs from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

This will provide hands-on outdoor experiences for children ages 7-17. The day will include: archery, air rifles, trap shooting, fishing, sling shots, geo-caching and more. Participants will receive lunch, drinks, event T-shirt, outdoor gear and archery accessories.

Ted Nugent's appearance at the camp is planned but not guaranteed.

This camp is limited to the first 200 paid registrations. Participants need to be dressed appropriately for weather and outdoor activities. No sandals; wear closed toe shoes.

Register on-line at www.yanktonarcherycomplex.org. Registration is on now. For more information, call 605-260-9282.

S.D. Wildlife Action Plan
Revision Under Way

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks is continuing its planning effort to address the needs of all fish and wildlife species that spend all or part of their lives in the state.

The effort, called the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan, was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2006. The document provides a voluntary planning framework to encourage partnerships because no single agency or group can solely fulfill the needs of wildlife and natural areas.

GFP is now revising the Wildlife Action Plan. The agency's website will serve as the primary tool for sharing information and soliciting feedback. The revision will continue the original plan's focus on providing diverse habitats as the basis for accommodating fish and wildlife. The revision emphasizes integrated and user-friendly final products with the potential to be of interest to many users.

The link connects to the draft species list, lists criteria and provides a comment form. The comment opportunity is not an opinion survey, but a request for factual input on the draft species list for the revised South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan. GFP will accept comments on the draft list of species until Sept. 17.

To request a paper copy of the material, please contact Sandy Hoerner by email sandy.hoerner@state.sd.us or U.S. postal mail: Sandy Hoerner, SD Game, Fish and Parks, 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD, 57501.

The plan revision website may be visited regularly for updates on the planning process and for additional opportunities to provide input.

River Otter Plan Available
For Review

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is offering citizens the opportunity to review a five-year draft management plan for river otters.

The South Dakota River Otter Management Plan is a draft plan on how the state proposes to manage this unique species associated with South Dakota's riparian habitats.

The draft is now open for review during a 30-day public comment period.

A printed copy of the report can be obtained by writing: River Otter Plan; Game, Fish and Parks; 523 East Capitol Avenue; Pierre, SD 57501. Written comments on the draft plan may be mailed to the same address.

S.D. State Parks Offer
Weekend Programs

PIERRE — Schools are starting back up, but the weather is still warm. Take advantage of the last days of summer by attending a state park program.

• America's Comeback King: The Bald Eagle, Chief White Crane Recreation Area near Yankton, Aug. 24, 7 p.m. CDT. Learn all about our nation's iconic bird, its habitat, feeding habits and phenomenal comeback. Info: 605-668-2985

• Kayaking for Fun, Randall Creek Recreation Area near Pickstown, Aug. 25, 9 a.m. CDT. Learn how to safely and effectively paddle a kayak. Kayaks will be provided, but bring your own personal flotation device, if possible. Info: 605-487-7046

• CSI: Newton Hills, Newton Hills State Park near Canton, Aug. 25, 4 p.m. CDT. Meet at the amphitheater where the kids can take part in Animal CSI! The park ranger will join us for this program where we will talk about animal tracks, how to identify animals, and make bookmarks. This will qualify as a Junior Naturalist Program. Info: 605-987-2263

There is no cost to participate in the programs; however, a park entrance license is required to enter the parks.

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes, dress for the weather and bring bug spray.

For more information on South Dakota state parks and a calendar of events, visit www.gfp.sd.gov or call 605-773-3391.

Chasing Those Erratic Doves

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

Dove hunters throughout the Midwest will have the opportunity to hit the fields beginning Sept. 1.

Hunting doves is an excellent opportunity for hunters to sharpen their shooting skills and allow their dog to get in shape for the upcoming upland game season.

For those of you who've never had the opportunity to hunt doves, you'd best be ready to do some shooting, cause these little birds are quick.

We have three varieties of doves in the upper Midwest, the Morning dove and the larger Eurasian Collared dove and in some areas, the White-Winged dove.

In Nebraska the dove season will open Sept. 1-Oct. 30 with a daily bag limit of 15 (Mourning, White-winged and Eurasian

Collared) Total harvest of all species combined cannot exceed 15 with a possession bag limit: 30. An upland game permit, habitat stamp and HIP number are required in order to hunt the regular dove season in Nebraska.

The Nebraska Eurasian Collared only dove season is open Oct. 31-Aug. 31 with a daily bag limit of 15 and a possession limit of 30. An upland game permit and habitat stamp is required, but no HIP number is required during Eurasian Collared only dove season.

In South Dakota, the season dates for the Morning dove hunting season is Sept.-Nov. 9 with a daily limit of 15 and a possession limit of 30. A small game permit and the Migratory Bird Certification are required to hunt doves during the South Dakota Morning dove season.

Since doves are migratory birds, shotguns must be plugged to limit no more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.

Just how tough are doves to hit, well, a few years ago, in a national survey, the average hunter took 5-7 shots per dove, yes that's what it said 5-7 shots per bird.

This may sound like a lot of shells, but it really isn't, as doves never fly in any sort of a straight line, which means getting a bead on one of the little devils can be difficult to say the least.

With a little over a week before opening day, it's a good idea to head out and scout the area you're planning on hunting. The evening is the best time to scout for doves, as this is when you'll want to check out small ponds in the area, if there are any left after the high temps we've been having, as these will attract the birds. If the doves are using the pond, you'll more than likely see them setting on power



Dove hunters in the upper Midwest have the opportunity to hunt three species of doves. The larger more vocal Eurasian Collared dove as shown with the black collar on the top of its neck, the White-Winged and the Mourning dove.

PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

lines, in dead trees or fence lines close by.

I've hunted these dodging, weaving, diving birds since the first season and found that hunting them can be a frustrating experience if you aren't in the right place at the right time.

Doves like to group up and fly during the late afternoon as they make their way to water and then onto their roost. They'll feed heavily on weed and grain seed, with ragweed and hemp two of their favorite foods and once their crops are full of seeds they'll need a drink before retiring for the night.

When doves are in the air, they very seldom fly in a straight line, zig zagging their way across the skies. I'm not sure, but perhaps all the hemp or marijuana they consume may have something to do with their erratic flight patterns.

My hunting and I partner, Larry Myhre, of Sioux City, Iowa, like to set up around small stock ponds during the evening.

We look for a pond with bare ground along the waters edge as this gives the doves a place to land and then walk down to the water to get a drink before retiring for the night.

Our most productive ponds are those that have Hemp/Marijuana or small grain growing near by. A pond with dead trees near by will also attract the birds, as they like to sit in the branches of dead trees resting and looking over the area before dropping down for a drink.

We're looking for sections containing several ponds. The ponds

we hunt are generally smaller, one or two acres in size. If you're in an area where hunters are located on several ponds, it will keep the birds moving from one pond to the next ensuring you'll have birds coming in until sundown.

It's best to hunt with another hunter on the larger ponds. Your hunting partner can act as a spotter for you and you for him, letting each other know when birds are coming in behind you.

Several hunters can hunt a pond safely, as long as you know exactly where the other hunter is and know your shooting lanes.

Because we're hunting over a pond, a good water dog is a big plus as many of the doves you hit will end up in the pond. Not only does a good dog allow you to re-

trieve all your birds it also lets your dog out for a little exercise.

The shot size used by most dove hunters is 7 1/2 to 9 shot. If you have some quail loads, they'll work just fine.

When purchasing dove loads, don't look for the cheapest loads. The cheaper loads generally are light, which puts you at a disadvantage when it comes to hunting doves.

A dove's erratic flight requires a good shot and more importantly a good shot pattern to bring them down. Some of the cheaper loads don't pattern as well and may not have the power to reach out for the longer shots. I use Winchester 7/8th ounce shot in my 20 gauge and 1 1/8 ounce in my 12 gauge. These loads pattern well in the

guns I use, helping me to bring down more birds.

Many dove hunters prefer the smaller, faster, lighter gauge shotguns. My partner hunts with 28 gauge and occasionally a 20-gauge shotgun.

These smaller, lightweight guns can be brought up a lot quicker and lighter loads won't tear up the bird.

I like to put out a few decoys, relying heavily on my wind operated decoys which I place on the face of the dam or up the hill a ways, which allows the doves to see these decoys as they're coming in, taking their eyes off of me and my hunting partner.

I'll also place a few decoys off to the side on the open ground around the pond, making it look as if there's a large number of birds using the pond.

Because doves are migrators, it doesn't take much of a weather change for them to flock up and head south. Lower temperatures or several days of cooler damp weather will start the fall migration. When the migration begins, the birds will join together in larger flocks and the shooting can be non-stop.

Once the local birds have moved south, migrating flocks will move in from up north, replenishing the bird numbers in your area.

As long as the weather in your area doesn't turn nasty, you could have doves migrating through most of the season.

Dove season is a great opportunity for some early fall shooting. Who knows, if we bring along enough shells, we might even be able to bag a limit of these acrobatic little flyers.

Gary Howey, 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.

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Time is running out.....
REGISTER NOW

Fall 2012 courses at RTEC begin Aug. 28th.

You CAN choose between taking a single class, pursuing a certificate or earning your Associate of Science degree in Advanced Manufacturing in Yankton!

BHSU and the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) have partnered to offer classes, certificates and a degree to meet the needs of local industries. Classes are offered in the evening one day a week.

TECH 210 CAD Tuesdays 4-7pm

Introductory course that teaches the fundamentals of computer aided drafting software. Students will start with two-dimensional drawing and progress to three dimensional. This is the first course in BHSUs computer aided drafting sequence offered in Yankton

TECH 181 Safety Management Wednesdays 5-8pm

Learn safety and health principles along with the skills needed to be a leader/safety manager in your company.

TECH 341 Lean Concepts Thursdays 5-8pm

This course examines the concepts associated with Lean and an introduction to the management of Lean.

Black Hills
State University
~Transforming Lives~

Black Hills State University
Office of Admissions
Located in the RTEC building
1200 W. 21st, Yankton
Call: 605-668-5700
Email: steve.wynia@bhsu.edu

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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Announcing...Yankton
Citywide Rummage

SEPTEMBER 6th-9th

Ask About Our On-line Rummage Map!

Stop By The Press & Dakotan To Place Your Ad OR Place It On-line At www.yankton.net/ **\$27.00** prepaid
(10¢ per word over 30 words)

Includes:

- Your ad (30 words, 1 address per ad) placed in the special Citywide Rummage Sale section published along with the P&D Locator Map on Wednesday, Sept. 5th & Friday, Sept. 7th
- Your ad will also appear on-line at www.yankton.net
- Garage Sale Kit: 2 Yard Signs with Stickers & Balloons

DEADLINE: Friday, Aug. 31st

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