

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Federal Duck Stamp Winner To Be Honored Aug. 2

SIOUX FALLS — Adam Grimm, winner of the 2013 Federal Duck Stamp competition, will be honored at a celebration at the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (SDGFP) Outdoor Campus at 1:30 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 2. Grimm, from Burbank, will display his artwork and sign stamps. Adam's daughter Madison Grimm, who is a recent winner of the Junior Duck Stamp competition, will also be in attendance.

The event will be held in conjunction with SDGFP's 2014 Outdoor University family weekend, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free to the public and there are several different activities for the entire family, including canoeing, rock climbing, fishing, and outdoor cooking.

Stamps signed by the artists will be available for purchase the day of the event.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the federal duck stamp. Since its enactment in 1934, this landmark initiative has generated almost a billion dollars—paid for and supported by waterfowl hunters, refuge visitors, conservationists, and stamp collectors—to conserve more than 6 million acres of wetlands across the United States. Hunters, bird watchers and other outdoor recreationists, art and stamp collectors, and many other people who want to invest in wetland conservation buy Federal Duck Stamps.

DU Great Plains Region Celebrating 30th Anniversary Aug. 7

BISMARCK, N.D. — Ducks Unlimited's Great Plains Region is celebrating its 30th anniversary at an open house on Thursday, Aug. 7, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Brats, hot dogs and beverages will be served at the regional office at 2525 River Road, Bismarck. The event is open to the public.

DU established the Great Plains Regional Office (GPR) in 1984 to protect and restore wetlands and grasslands across the Great Plains. Today, the GPR works with landowners and partners in seven states, which include some of the most important nesting and migration habitat on the continent. DU has conserved more than 1.2 million acres in the Great Plains states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming.

For more information on our work, visit www.ducks.org.

S.D. GF&P Meeting Aug. 7-8

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission will hold its August meeting at the Ft. Pierre Holiday Inn Express, August 7-8.

The Commission will finalize the 2014 fall turkey and waterfowl hunting seasons.

Adams Homestead To Host Celebration

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve is celebrating 17 years as a state park with its annual festival on Aug. 9.

There are many activities scheduled throughout the day including a threshing machine demo, corn shelling, candlemaking, tin punching, homestead tours, rope making, musicians, watermelon seed spitting contest, buffalo chip throwing contest, face painting, Dutch oven cooking demo, kids' games, homemade pie contest and more.

Those interested in participating in the homemade pie judging contest need to bring their pies to Adams Homestead by 10:30 a.m. Judging begins at 11:30 p.m. Pies will be judged by their appearance, texture and taste.

Plan to spend the entire day at Adams. Food and refreshments, activities, presentations, music and crafts will be available for the entire family to enjoy. Bring your walking shoes, bikes, strollers and your love for the great outdoors.

Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve is located off Interstate 29 Exit 4, one mile west, and a half mile south. Follow the brown nature area signs from the interstate.

For more information, call 605-232-0873.

Meat Processors For Hunters Helping The Hungry

LINCOLN, Neb. — Twenty-one meat processors will participate in the 2014 Hunters Helping the Hungry program. Administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Hunters Helping the Hungry provides ground venison to Nebraskans in need.

Deer hunters may donate deer at any contracted Hunters Helping the Hungry processor beginning with the start of the archery season on Sept. 1, 2014. The most up-to-date list of processors accepting deer for the program will be available at OutdoorNebraska.org/HHH.

Participating meat processors include Amherst - Belschner Custom Meats Inc.; Bayard - Bayard Processing; Bridgeport - KDK Meats LLC; Broken Bow - Broken Bow Pack; Elwood - SteakMaster Inc.; Franklin - Franklin Locker; Humphrey - Country Butcher; Johnson - Pelican's Meat Processing; Lindsay - Melcher's Locker; North Bend - Bob's Custom Meats LLC; North Platte - Kelley's Custom Pack LLC; Oakland - Oakland Processing; Omaha - B. I. G. Meats Inc.; Stoyich House of Sausage; Orleans - Harlan County Meat Processors; Oxford - Oxford Locker Inc.; Panama - Panama Locker; Ralston - Van Fleet Meats; Table Rock - Den's Country Meats; Ulysses - The Butcher; Wahoo - Wahoo Locker.

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Tips For Hunting Doves

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

Summer is quickly slipping away with the fall hunting season right around the corner.

Late summer is when I start to think about the upcoming hunting seasons with the dove season the earliest to open.

Most of the states in the upper Midwest now have dove seasons opening up around September 1. We have two species of doves in our area we can hunt, the Morning Dove and their larger cousin, the Eurasian Colared Dove.

The weather plays a big part in the dove season, as it will not take much of a weather change for the birds to pack up and migrate south.

If a cold front or damp weather arrives around opening day, hanging around several days, many of the doves will begin to move out.

The good news is that unless the "fowl" weather stays for an extended period, the doves from up north will move down, stopping over in our area, giving us another chance to take a few doves.

If the numbers of birds that we see in the upper Midwest this year are any indicator of what the hunting seasons are going to be like, it should be an excellent one. There are large groups of doves around ponds, especially those that have the dove's favorite foods growing nearby.

Good concentrations of doves love to hang out in harvested wheat fields and areas that contain ragweed or hemp, as doves will fly long distances to feast on the seeds of these plants.

Perhaps the hemp or marijuana is one of the reasons a doves flight path is so erratic. About the time a shooter fires, the birds will fold their wings losing altitude and wing off in a different direction.

It always seems that doves will zig zag across the sky, changing altitude and direction at will. Unfortunately, for many hunters, just about the time they shoot, the bird drops a few feet, causing the shooter to miss.

The dove season generally opens up on Sept. 1 and there should be plenty of these dodging and weaving game birds to shoot at.

You will notice that I said shoot at and not shoot or bag, as doves can be some of the toughest of all game birds to bring down. This is especially true after you have fired your first shot and missed!

Once a dove has heard the first shell go off, they go into an aerial flying act that would make any of the pilots from the Blue Angels envious.

The choice of a gun is up to the shooter. Some prefer the lighter 20 or



Gary HOWEY



PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

Doves enjoy each other's company making the use of decoys when dove hunting a plus. When there is no place to put your decoys, an easy to make PVC stand gets your decoys off the ground, where the doves can see them.

28 gauge while others like the 12 gauge since 12 gauge shells are less expensive to shoot.

For ammunition, and believe it when I say, you will need a lot of ammunition as the average shot per bird is somewhere around six or seven. I use Winchester AA Trap load in a 7 1/2, 8 or 9 shot. They are inexpensive and if you are into reloading, the casings can reload numerous times.

The best hunting is generally during the late afternoon or early evening as this is when the birds stop by the local ponds for a drink before heading to the roost.

I have found the best location to set up would be around one of these watering holes and this year, there should be plenty of them to hunt. When hunting around water, a good retrieving dog really comes in handy as many of your birds will end up in the water.

The dams or ponds that have a small open area around the edge of the pond seem to be the most attrac-

tive to the birds. Doves like to fly to the edge of the grassy area and then walk across the bare dirt to the edge of the water to take a drink.

If you can find a pasture area with several ponds in it, the hunting will be much better.

Station shooters around each of the ponds and the birds will jump back and forth between them, giving the shooters many more opportunities to take the doves.

As I mentioned earlier, if there are weeds around or adjacent to the dam, doves will spend more time in the area.

Another item that makes a dam attractive to the birds is dead or defoliated trees. Doves will land in these trees and look over the area or rest before and after visiting the watering hole.

If you can set yourself up between the trees, weeds and water, chances are you will have the opportunity to shoot at quite a few doves as the wing back and forth from one spot to

Archery

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tional because it provides her with invaluable experience and exposure.

"It's the only way you get better," Dillman said.

Though she may be relatively new to the sport, Dillman does provide one asset that her fellow archers aren't likely to boast.

"I always tell people, 'You're safe with me around,'" Dillman joked, referencing her position as a nurse.

The NFAA Outdoor National Championships continues today (Saturday) and concludes Sunday with an awards ceremony at 3 p.m. at the Yankton Easton Archery Complex.

Michigan Pro Headed To College

Emily Bee has been shooting archery since 2002, and has competed in a number of prestigious tournaments since then, but she will soon take her talents to the collegiate level.

Bee, an 18-year-old professional archer from Howell, Michigan, will later this month attend Michigan State University to compete in archery.

"I'm excited that I can still shoot and represent a Big Ten school," she said following

her round Friday afternoon.

A number of colleges across the country sponsor club archery (such as Mount Marty College, Dakota Wesleyan and Wayne State College in Nebraska), but even fewer offer archery scholarships.

Bee joked that she visited nearly every one of those schools.

Among those schools she visited were Texas A&M, University of the Cumberlands (Kentucky) and Emmanuel College (Georgia).

Bee, whose father and brother are also in Yankton for the NFAA tournament, said she didn't have much experience on a field course, but said she enjoyed the Yankton ranges.

"It's pretty amazing here," she said.

Colo. Archer Headed To Dakota State

Within a year or two, Jolie Baty of Englewood, Colorado, may be a student at Dakota State University in Madison.

Baty, an 18-year-old high school graduate this spring, plans to spend 1-2 years at a community college in Colorado before transferring to

DSU to pursue a Master's Degree in teaching.

"I just liked the small town feel up there," Baty said of Madison.

Baty, who has been shooting archery for four years, already owns three Colorado state championships as well as a national 3D title.

Feedback On Updates 'Positive'

The Outdoor National Championships have served as the first major archery event to utilize the three new ranges, as well as the other amenities on site at the NFAA complex.

Major construction, which totaled \$1.2 million, on the site was done in phases, including dirt work (six million pounds of dirt) and a comfort station (with concessions, etc.). Other projects in the area included a picnic area, with bow racks, course maps and signs for each target.

"The feedback on the ranges has been overwhelmingly positive," NFAA president Bruce Cull said Friday. "The comfort station is the pinnacle for us."

Members of the South

Dakota National Guard helped move dirt and build the comfort station, with work done in time to host the Outdoor Nationals and next week's international field tournament.

The comfort station, partly because of its centralized location, is probably the thing people notice right away, Cull said.

"That part is so cool, because it added so many things for us," he said. "Safety was a big thing."

National Guard members constructed embankment berms to prevent arrows from flying into the adjacent parking lot, Cull added.

'Like A Second Family'

As she stood with three other female archers following their round Friday, Jessica Button joked that she leads two lives — her normal life and her archery life.

Thing is, Button was rather serious.

"It's like a second family," said Button, a 24-year-old from Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, a suburb of Madison.

Button comes from a family that takes archery serious, she said. Her father, Jeff, and brother, Danny, are avid shooters.

What about mom? "She shoots probably twice a year," Jessica said, smiling. "I think she just likes watching us do it."

Jessica, who works at a sporting goods store back home, said she is in week two of what she calls an "archery marathon."

Before arriving in Yankton, she had previously shot in Las Vegas, Ohio, Kentucky and Iowa.

"It's a lot of traveling," Jessica said.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

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