

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

GF&P Reminds Boaters Of Safety

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks would like to remind boaters to have a safe and enjoyable summer on the water.

To ensure safe boating, operators should monitor their alcoholic beverage intake and have a designated boat operator. SDGF&P will be conducting sobriety checks throughout the month of August on our lakes, streams, and rivers.

2014 Fall Turkey Season Finalized

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission has finalized the 2014 fall turkey hunting season. The fall turkey season will begin Nov. 1, 2014, and end Jan. 31, 2015.

Fall turkey hunters will see a reduction in turkey licenses available and the closure of several West River and East River counties. The Black Hills unit includes a boundary change which retains an open area on the eastern and southern areas of the Black Hills; including a reduction in licenses from 1,500 to 750. Fall turkey hunters will be limited to a total of two turkey licenses.

S.D. Mountain Lion And Bobcat Hunting Seasons Finalized

PIERRE — There were no proposed changes to the upcoming mountain lion hunting season nor were there proposed changes to the bobcat hunting and trapping season at the recent South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) Commission meeting. As a result, there will be no public hearing and both seasons will follow the same structure as last year.

The mountain lion hunting season begins Dec. 26, 2014, and ends on March 31, 2015. The harvest limit is set at 75 total lions or 50 female lions; whichever comes first. If either harvest limit is reached, the season then closes in the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit. However, the statewide mountain lion hunting season runs year round, with no harvest limits. Custer State Park (CSP) will have eight separate hunting intervals; four of which will allow the use of dogs. Licensed mountain lion hunters can apply for a free CSP access permit, drawn in a lottery process.

The bobcat trapping and hunting season begins Dec. 26, 2014, and ends on Feb. 15, 2015 for all West River counties. For Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Bon Homme and Yankton counties, the season begins Dec. 26, 2014, and ends Jan. 18, 2015. Trappers or hunters who participate in the East River bobcat season are limited to one bobcat per person.

9th Annual Bat Festival Aug. 16 At Custer SP

CUSTER STATE PARK — The South Dakota Bat Working Group (SDBWG) will present the 9th Annual South Dakota Bat Festival on Saturday, Aug. 16, at 6 p.m. MDT in Custer State Park's Tatanka Theater.

Biologists will answer questions about bats and at 7 p.m. there will be a lecture-presentation. The festival also includes educational bat displays, crafts for kids and refreshments.

After the presentation, "bat-detectors" will be used to listen to bats flying overhead in Game Lodge Campground.

The purpose of the SDBWG is to work to protect bats and bat habitat through action, education and cooperation with federal, state, tribal and private landowners. The group aims to raise awareness about the role bats play in maintaining healthy ecosystems, and to work with public land managers and private landowners and provide alternatives that will reduce possible adverse effects to bats or bat habitat.

The SDBWG is a member of the Western States Bat Working Group. For more information on the festival and the South Dakota Bat Working Group, please contact Joel Tigner at 605-390-2061.

Tips For Quality Food Plots

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

These days, you hear a lot of talk about planting food plots as far as the pros and cons of planting them.

Some feel that they are not needed, doing a lot more harm than good, while others feel that they're essential, especially in the upper Midwest and the northern tier of states.

I know that good food plots do have a tendency to concentrate the game, which makes it easier for predators to find them, but the benefits, especially during the cold tough winters, when does are carrying the fawn and wildlife suffers they seem to outweigh the disadvantages.

I feel that a food plot, those that are planted in the spring or in the fall, when put in the right place and established correctly serves its purpose, giving upland game and other species of wildlife the help needed when they really need it.

The important thing is that these food plots are in established in the proper location and planted properly.

Proper location can be very important to wildlife, especially during the winter.

Food plots need to be in close proximity to the area where wildlife lives! During the winter, wildlife will not have any excess energy and if they have to leave cover and travel to a food plot a distance away, they will use up valuable energy and make themselves more susceptible to predators.

This is the reason; food plots should be near winter cover such as sloughs or shelterbelts.

By putting food plots near these areas, wildlife are able to get to their food source easily without using up needed energy or having to worry about traveling across open ground.

There's a lot more to putting in a food plot than simple throwing some seed in the ground and by doing it right, you're assured that your food plot will be there when the wildlife need it.

According to food plot specialists at Mossy Oak GameKeepers Club



OUTDOORSMEN PRODUCTIONS PHOTO
Planting a food plot in late July and early August will be ready when archers take to the field during archery season.



Gary HOWEY

(www.gamekeepersclub.com), there are four things that are important in order to have a successful food plot established during the spring as well as those put in the fall.

- Seed soil contact
- Adequate soil moisture
- Adequate soil temperature
- Adequate soil ingredients

Seed Soil Contact

When planting a new food plot, the soil needs to be worked down to about three or four inches, tilling it to break up any large clods of dirt.

You do not want to till the soil too deep as you will bring up the weed seeds and you do not want to fight any more weeds in your food plot.

Once you have prepared the soil, rake the area, removing any rocks

and other large trash. Your seed can then be spread with the same type of equipment used to spread fertilizer or by hand in those smaller areas.

Do not put all of the seed on going the same direction, as you will want to spread half at right angles to the first trip through the field. By doing this, you will cover the area completely.

Your seed should be planted no deeper than ¼ inch, always follow the directions on the package. Once you have finished planting, roll it to firm up the seedbed.

Adequate Soil Moisture

If everything works out the way, you hoped Mother Nature would supply enough moisture to keep the seeds moist. In order to get seeds to

germinate evenly, you do not want the topsoil layer to dry out.

Adequate Soil Temperature

Most cool season grasses and legumes germinate when soil temperatures reach approximately 50 degrees, which is a consideration during spring planting and not a problem when planting in the fall.

Adequate Soil Ingredients

Seeds have enough nutrients to germinate and send out roots, sending them out in search of food; this is why you should have an adequate supply of nutrients at all times

Before you plant, I would recommend that you do a soil test. The information obtained from the test will help to insure your food plots success.

Once you have planted and added fertilizer, you will want to begin a regular scheduled fertility program.

This is a good time to start thinking about putting in a fall food plot. You will find that a food plot planted in the fall is much easier to get started and you will have a lot less problems than those started in the spring.

There are several types of food plots that when planted in early fall will have enough growth by the time the archery season opens to attract wildlife

By following these recommendations, you will be assured your planting will not only be successful, but will also be located in an area that wildlife will be able to get too easily and safely.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning *Outdoorsmen Adventures* television series, seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. In the Yankton area, it airs on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am, on The CW 4.2 Sioux City, IA. 9:00 am Sunday as well as on MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the *Outdoor Adventures* radio program on *Classic Hits 106.3*, *ESPN Sports Radio 1570* in Southeastern South Dakota and *KCHE 92.1 FM* in Northwest Iowa. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

South Dakota State Parks Announce Upcoming Events

PIERRE — South Dakota state parks will host special events. The activities are a great way to spend a summer day. Make plans to attend the following events:

- Teeth, Jaws and Claws, Friday, Aug. 15, 5:30 p.m. CDT at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls. Info: 605-987-2263 or newtonhills@state.sd.us, register: 605-362-2777 or www.outdoor-campus.org
- Exploring Good Earth, Saturday, Aug. 16, 9 a.m. CDT at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls. Info: 605-987-2263 or newtonhills@state.sd.us, register: 605-362-2777 or www.outdoorcampus.org
- South Dakota Birthday Bash, Saturday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. CDT at North Point Recreation Area near Pickstown. Info: 605-487-7046
- South Dakota Bat Festival, Saturday, Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m. MDT at Custer State Park's Tatanka Theater. Info: 605-255-4464 or www.sdbwg.org
- Steady Ed Memorial Disc Golf Tournament, Saturday, Aug. 16, 9 a.m. CDT registration, 9:45 a.m. tee off at Oahe Downstream Recreation Area near Fort Pierre. Info: 605-280-5007 or visit the event Facebook page
- Forces of Nature, Saturday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls. Info: 605-987-2263 or newtonhills@state.sd.us, register: 605-362-2777 or www.outdoorcampus.org
- DakotaMan Triathlon, Saturday, Aug. 16, 8 a.m. CDT at Lake Alvin Recreation Area near Harrisburg. Info: www.dakotamantriathlon.com
- Parrot Program, Saturday, Aug. 16, 11 a.m. CDT at Newton Hills State Park near Canton. Info: 605-987-2263
- Family Dino Dig, Saturday, Aug. 16, 2 p.m. CDT at Big Sioux Recreation Area near Brandon. Info: 605-582-7243
- Persied Meteor Shower and Star Party, Saturday, Aug. 16, 10 p.m. CDT at Palisades State Park near Garrettson. Info: 605-594-3824
- Tricky Tracks, Sunday, Aug. 17, 4 p.m. CDT at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls. Info: 605-987-2263 or newtonhills@state.sd.us, register: 605-362-2777 or www.outdoorcampus.org
- North American Salads, Sunday, Aug. 17, 6 p.m. CDT at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls. Info: 605-987-2263 or newtonhills@state.sd.us, register: 605-362-2777 or www.outdoor-campus.org
- Magnificent Mammals, Sunday, Aug. 17, 11 a.m. CDT at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls. Info: 605-987-2263 or newtonhills@state.sd.us, register: 605-362-2777 or www.outdoorcampus.org
- Murder Mystery, Sunday, Aug. 17, 5 p.m. CDT at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls. Info: 605-987-2263 or newtonhills@state.sd.us, register: 605-362-2777 or www.outdoorcampus.org

The programs are open to all ages. There is no charge to participate in the events; however, a park entrance license is required to enter the parks.

For more information on activities in South Dakota state parks, visit www.gfp.sd.gov, contact the individual park office or call 605-773-3391.

Archery

From Page 7

Much like a baseball pitcher would remember the lone hit they gave up to spoil a no-hitter, Pearce joked that she clearly remembers the one arrow she missed (or "dropped," in archery terms) Friday.

"Oh yeah, it was on the third target," she said, cracking a smile. "It was forty-eight yards, and I moved my sight a little bit, and it (arrow) went to the left."

"I moved my sight back and the rest of the day was fine."

As the day progressed, the tension started to mount, however.

"My group was nervous, they were worried that I didn't know what was going on," Pearce said. "Trust me, I knew."

Admitting to allow herself to think ahead a bit, Pearce said she remembered the point when reality started to set in — meanwhile continuing to hit the center circle with every subsequent arrow.

"When I started doing the math in my head and thinking of what targets I had left, that's when I got nervous," she said. "Normally I handle that stuff pretty well, but I was stressing out."

Yankton Girl Wins World Title

Hailey Johnson, an 11-year-old archer from Yankton, now boasts something that none of her friends at school can.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Hailey Johnson, an 11-year-old from Yankton, holds the American flag on the awards podium Friday night following the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championship. Johnson won the Cub Female Freestyle Unlimited title.

She won a world championship. Johnson took first place in the Cub Female Freestyle Unlimited division at the World

Field Championships. "Now I can brag to my friends," she said, smiling, during Friday night's awards ceremony.

Capturing a world title certainly wasn't something Johnson expected to do as she geared up for the international tournament this week, she said.

"I thought it was amazing," Johnson said. "I was shocked that I actually got first. When we started adding up my scores, I still didn't believe it."

Saying that she prefers bigger tournaments, Johnson said one of the biggest joys for her this week was competing alongside archers from across the globe.

"It was nerve-wracking," she said. "I heard good comments about the South Africans being good shooters. But it was fun to meet them."

Team USA Takes First

Also part of the World Field Championships was an international battle called the Team of Nations, which pits

groups of archers from one country against archers from other countries.

The 7-man United States team finished first with a score of 118 points, well in front of Australia (80) and England (44). Team members for the U.S. included Gary McCain, Rick DeBrueler, Jeff Human, Bubba Bateman, Bob Gentry, J.C. Bradway and Dana Chatoo.

"When they told us in the beginning that we would be on this time, it made you try a little harder," said DeBrueler, who lives in Naples, Florida.

The United States team, for example, was chosen by National Field Archery Association president Bruce Cull, based on previous scores.

It was a source of pride to represent one's country in the competition, said Bradway, who lives in New Jersey.

"I've been shooting for 30 years, and this is the first time I've been part of something like this," he said. "It's exciting."

Archers in the Team of Na-

tions competition could earn as much as three points on their own. They received a bonus point if they won their division, if they beat an amateur in the same division, and if they defeated an archer from another country.

"It made it a lot more interesting, that's for sure," DeBrueler said.

Bateman, who lives in Canyon Lake, Texas, said he had planned to compete on the Team of Nations in past IFAA tournaments, but couldn't afford the travel.

"Boy am I glad I did this time," he said. "You get to meet a bunch of new friends

have a good time."

Plus, there's an opportunity now to brag to friends back home, Bateman joked.

"Now when I go home, I can tell people that I beat Australia's best," he said. "Even if there was only one other guy (from Australia) in my division."

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

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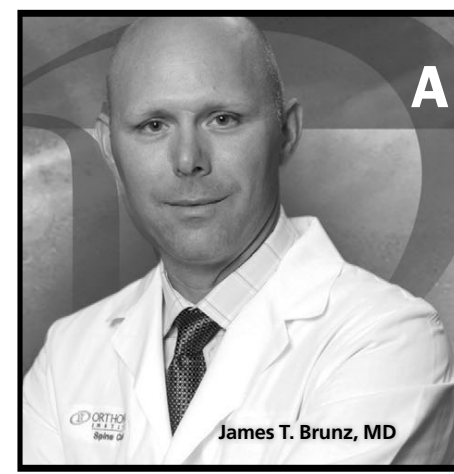
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RSVP is requested, but not required. Please call 605-339-6834 or email mwhite@ortho-i.com



James T. Brunz, MD