

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Outdoor Campus Hosts 5th Annual Outdoor University

PIERRE – Are you and your family interested in learning a new outdoor activity together? Here's your chance! The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls will host its fifth annual Outdoor University on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Sertoma Park.

"Outdoor University provides something for everyone," said Thea Miller Ryan, director of the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. "Individuals and families can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities no matter if they are an avid outdoors person or just getting started. Spend an hour or the whole day here. Food and drink vendors will be available so make plans to have lunch on site, too."

Individuals and families can try canoeing, archery, air rifles, fishing, kayaking, rock climbing and outdoor cooking. Outside, visitors can see hunting dog demonstrations, fish cleaning clinics and wildlife capture demonstrations.

A kids' area features a gold mining sluice, soft target shooting and other fun outdoor games and crafts. Several other outdoor organizations will have booths with activities: the Sioux Falls Herpetological Society will have snakes, Science Steve from SD Public Broadcasting will do two shows and there will be several touch tanks for kids who want to touch a frog.

Parking in Sertoma Park is free and additional parking is available at the Sanford Clinic at Oxbow and 51st near the park entrance. Shuttle vans will run until 4 p.m. For more information, call 605.362.2777 or visit www.outdoorcampus.org.

About the Outdoor Campus: The Outdoor Campus' mission is to provide education about outdoor skills, wildlife, conservation and management practices of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to all ages in order to preserve our outdoor heritage.

Proposals Encouraged For L&C Rec Area

PIERRE – Entrepreneurs interested in operating a resort inside one of South Dakota's most popular state parks are reminded that they still have time to submit their proposals until Sept. 16, 2015, at 3 p.m. CDT.

A prospectus for the operation of Lewis and Clark Resort, located inside Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton, is available online through the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). The prospectus details the terms and conditions under which interested operators may submit a proposal for consideration and also includes a detailed business opportunity, the requirements necessary to submit a proposal along with a draft concession agreement for a term of 10 years.

The 1,045-acre Lewis and Clark Recreation Area consists of four multi-lane boat ramps, 409 paved electric campsites, two swimming beaches, four boater beaches and many other amenities such as bath/shower houses, picnic shelters and playgrounds. The resort has 17 housekeeping cabins, 24 motel-type rental units and a group lodge capable of housing over 20 guests.

A copy of the prospectus is available by contacting GFP at 605.773.3391

Daugaard Announces Grant Funding To Five Communities For Recreational Trails Upgrades

PIERRE – Gov. Dennis Daugaard recently awarded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding to several communities, state parks and the Black Hills National Forest totaling approximately \$1.3 million.

"I am pleased to award these grants to project sponsors around the state who have demonstrated a commitment to improving our communities, parks and recreation areas," said Gov. Daugaard. "Their efforts will benefit South Dakota's future generations."

The following communities were awarded grants for trail construction and upgrades:

- Aberdeen – Northwest Trail Resurfacing, Phase I, \$62,967
 - Crooks – Sunset Park Walking Path, Phase 2, \$77,783
 - Hot Springs – Freedom's Trail Improvement Project, \$9,000
 - Sturgis – Fort Meade Trail, \$250,000
 - Worthing – Worthing Recreational Trail, Phase I, \$161,217
- Additional grants were awarded for trail improvement projects at Angostura Recreation Area Trail, George S. Mickelson Trail, Black Hills Snowmobile Trail System, the Black Hills National Forest for three Motorized Trailheads and four Trailhead Kiosks and the Fall River Ranger District for the Railroad Buttes Trailhead.

The five person citizen RTP Advisory Council reviewed the applications and made the recommendations to Gov. Daugaard. The federal assistance program provides up to 80 percent reimbursement for trail-related development and maintenance projects. The RTP is funded by the Federal Highway Administration and administered by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). The funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use.

For more information on this program, contact Randy Kittle at 605.773.5490 or randy.kittle@state.sd.us.

No Elk Contingency Licenses For 2015

PIERRE – Earlier this year, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission established a pool of antlerless elk licenses that would be issued only if the range conditions in the Black Hills dictated a need for them. At the upcoming August Commission meeting in Aberdeen, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) will recommend that the Commission not authorize issuance of these licenses.

"One component of the elk management plan was the development of elk contingency licenses," noted Tony Leif, director of the Division of Wildlife. "The intent of these licenses is to lower elk numbers when reduced habitat conditions such as those created by drought dictate a reduction."

S.D. National Guard Converge On Dry Lake For Tournament

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

Not far from Madison, S.D., you will find Dry Lake 2, one of the numerous Glacial Lakes located in Northeastern South Dakota

In mid July, members of the South Dakota National Guard converged on this lake, they weren't there to assist with some natural disaster as they have on many other occasions, they were there to find out who would have the bragging rights for the 2015 SDNG Pro-Am Walleye Tournament.

Members of the Guard, along with potential Guard members joined with members of the Lake Area Walleye Club (Madison) and several professional anglers to compete in the one-day SDNG Walleye Fishing Tournament.

Cameraman Bill Miller and I were fortunate enough to film the event for one of our shows on our Outdoorsmen Adventures television series. Our job would be to move from boat to boat, recording the event, which would air during our 2016 Outdoorsmen Adventures television season.

The event was sponsor by Berkley, the South Dakota National Guard, Lake Area Walleye Club, The Walleye Guys and others.

As we arrived at the lake, it looked to be a great day for fishing; overcast with a slight breeze, perfect walleye fishing weather.



Gary HOWEY



OUTDOORSMEN PRODUCTIONS PHOTO
Team members gather after a successful 2015 South Dakota National Guard Pro-Am Walleye Tournament held on Dry Lake 2 on June 17.

The ten teams had their boats lined up along the fence line as they made plans on how to attack the lake. Dry Lake 2 is a 6,500-acre lake with a maximum depth of fifteen feet like many of these shallow northeastern South Dakota lakes and has a healthy weed growth coming out from the shoreline.

Prior to the start of the tournament, president of the Lake Area Walleye Club, Mike Dorris introduced the teams and explained the tournament rules, with each team's top five largest fish used for heaviest weight to decide the winning team.

This would be a Catch, Record and Release tournament, where two photos were taken, one of the angler with their fish and another of the fish on the ruler, the fish were then released. The photos were then text via smart phones to tournament headquarters. Tournament officials would verify the photos, record the length, converting length to pounds with a conversion chart and then post the photos to a computer program viewed at the end of the tournament.

Our cameramen jumped from boat to boat, giving us an idea as to what was the hot bait. On this day,

the most effective bait seemed to be a swimbait cast into the opening of the weedbeds and then retrieved in a jigging action back to the boat. Crankbaits were also working, but not as well as the swimbaits as crankbaits had a tendency to snag up in the weeds, where a swimbait would work its way through.

As the sun came through the cloud, allowing anglers to pin point the opening in the weeds, place their baits into those openings, where the fish waited in ambush for their next meals to swim by.

Walleyes aren't the only species of fish inhabiting these waters as the walleyes close relative the yellow perch and the main predator in the lake, the northern pike both do well in the weedy shallows of these lakes.

As the tournament wound down, the sky opened up as another front made its way through the area, making it a wet last thirty minutes of the tournament.

When the final gun went off, it was the team of Aaron Wohlleber, Casey Baumgarn, Cole Frost with a total weight of 18.51 pounds taking home first place. In second with 14.84-pounds was the Steve Alverson, Elizabeth Raml, Zach Anger-

hofer team. Bringing home third place with 14:11 pounds was the team of Ryan Sauter, Todd Fuerst, Jackson Vanorny. The fourth place team with Jason Merkley, Jason Bain, Justin Maas with 13.10-pounds. Rounding out the top five places was Mike Dorris, Cory Richardt, Josh Bales with 12.55-pounds.

The teams boated over 300 walleyes, numerous northerns and several perch with the largest fish of the event, a 4.22-pound fish taken by the team of Aaron Wohlleber, Casey Baumgarn and Cole Frost.

Thanks to The Lake Area Walleye Club, South Dakota National Guard and the other sponsors for allowing our crew to be part of the team.

More information on the Lake Area Walleye Club is available at lawllc.com

To learn more about the South Dakota National Guard check out their web site at dguard.ngb.army.mil/default.aspx

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 locally in Channels 2 and 98 at Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am. It is also seen on KTTM/KTTW-TV Fox, Sioux Falls/Huron, S.D. on Saturdays at 6:30 am and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

Mixing Riley's System With QB's Skills Challenges Nebraska

CHICAGO (AP) — Nebraska's offense will look different under new coach Mike Riley.

In his first year with the Huskers, Riley inherits a quarterback in Tommy Armstrong with a skill set that does not match what the coach so often had to work with at Oregon State.

The transition to Riley's pro-style offense in the spring from the version of the spread the Cornhuskers ran under Bo Pelini for eight seasons was not pretty.

"Some of it looked like football," Riley said Friday at his first Big Ten media days. "Not totally yet. But some of it looked like football. So we've got a long way to go in that."

Riley's easygoing attitude and welcoming personality have been well received by Nebraska fans and the Cornhuskers, especially after the fiery and gruff Pelini.

"He is the nicest person I have ever met," Nebraska receiver Jordan Westerkamp said.

Nice won't be enough when the Huskers start playing games. Riley said the challenge

for him and offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf will be taking what Armstrong and the Huskers have done well and trying to incorporate some of that into his offense, which is usually built around prototypical pocket passers.

"So we've had to do a lot of studying and being specific about what that really is and how that looks. And so we kind of dove into some of that stuff in spring practice and will continue with it," Riley said. "And at the same time, we wanted to be selective about what we've done and done well in our past that would fit the skill set of the people that we have here."

Armstrong passed for 2,695 yards last season, though he only completed 53 percent of his passes. Riley wants his quarterbacks ideally to be pushing 70 percent completion rates.

In the Huskers' previous offense, Armstrong could make significant contributions as a runner. He went for 705 yards and six touchdowns last season.

Armstrong said the designed runs, zone-reads and

run-pass options that were the bedrocks of the previous offensive system are not part of Riley's attack.

"You can't bail yourself out with your feet. You have to complete passes and be accurate and give your guys a chance to get the ball," Armstrong said.

Armstrong's improvement is paramount with the departure of star running back Ameer Abdullah, who gave the Huskers a one of the best playmakers in the country.

Terrell Newby is Nebraska's top I-back coming out of spring, Imani Cross ran for 384 yards and five touchdowns last season and more help appears to be on the way.

Jordan Stevenson, a four-star recruit from Dallas who signed with Wisconsin but could not meet eligibility requirements for the school, tweeted on Thursday that he plans to attend Nebraska.

Riley said nothing is official yet but he could confirm that Nebraska was recruiting Stevenson.

Big Ten

FROM PAGE 7

forward from a variety of perspectives," Delany said.

The Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference each require their teams to play at least one Power Five nonconference opponent, but play only eight conference games and have no plan to eliminate FCS opponents.

The Big 12 plays nine conference games, but has no conference title game and its teams play FCS opponents. The Pac-12 has a nine-game conference schedule and a championship game, and while its members don't play FCS opponents as frequently as other Power Five leagues, they do play outside of the FBS.

Last season, Ohio State's schedule strength of sched-

ule did not match that of SEC champion Alabama, but it didn't keep the Big Ten champions from making it to the College Football Playoff. The Buckeyes then won the first playoff as the fourth seed, beating Alabama in the semifinals and Oregon in the national title game.

Delany said the Big Ten's future scheduling format is not just about setting up its teams better for playoff selection. Better opponents help draw more fans to stadiums and to television sets.

"But if you really look at - I'm not sure people have paid as much attention to the guidelines for the selection of teams," Delany said. "There are about eight paragraphs that deal with the issue of when resumes look similar. Similar record, similar resumes. Conference champions are going to get the first tiebreaker consideration and strength of schedule is going to get the second."

Golf

FROM PAGE 7

Damon Olson are each at 118, three strokes back.

Play begins at 7 a.m. today (Saturday). The final round is scheduled for Sunday.

Tour Camped In Yankton

The Dakotas Tour, of which the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am is an event, began a stretch of 10 straight days in Yankton, the only place on the 19-event tour where more than one event is held in the same city.

"A lot of it has to do with the two courses. The personnel with both want to host an event," said Dennis Chandler, the executive director of the tour. "There are disadvantages to it. The advantages are all for the pros."

For the professionals, it means not having to drive a long way to chase the next potential payday.

"Having our tournament and Hillcrest here, they love being able to hang out," Doby said. "We typically draw well

because of that."

The challenge can come in filling the amateur portion of the field, Chandler noted.

"It's a bit of overload," he said. "Some have to make choices between one or the other. It's a lot of golf in a short period of time."

Chandler noted that there has been discussion about separating Yankton's two main events on the calendar.

"We're not sure they will stay this close together forever," he said. "Right now, it's good for the pros and for the tour."

A New Opportunity

In between the two events - the three-day Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am, which ends Sunday, and the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am, which runs Aug. 6-9 - there is a two-day event that serves as a Hillcrest qualifier for the pros and a unique opportunity for amateurs.

Hillcrest has hosted its Pro-Ladies event for several years, but it has now been combined with a Pro-Juniors event to form a two-day event for the professionals. On Monday, professionals will pair up with youth golf-

ers. Pros will pair up with women's teams on Tuesday, with both days counting as a single event for the professionals. Each event will be separate for the amateurs.

"This is the first year

Yankton has done it," Chandler said. "It's a great premise, brought to us by the North Dakota Golf Association. They have an event that's not a tour event, but the pros pair up with youth

golfers. "They have such a great response to that event, we stole (the idea)."

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