

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Fall Turkey Permits Available Beginning Aug. 10

LINCOLN, Neb. – Hunters may begin purchasing fall turkey permits Aug. 10 at 1 p.m. Central Time. Permits will be available at OutdoorNebraska.org and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission permitting offices.

A fall turkey permit is valid statewide and allows a hunter to harvest two turkeys of either sex with a shotgun or archery equipment. Each hunter may have up to two permits. There is no minimum age requirement for youth.

Turkey permits cost, not including an issuing fee, \$23 for residents, \$95 for nonresidents, \$11.50 for resident landowners, \$47.50 for nonresident landowners and \$5 for resident or nonresident youth age 15 and younger. A \$20 Habitat Stamp, with some exceptions, is required.

The fall turkey season is Sept. 15-Jan. 31, 2016.

Adams Homestead to Host Annual Celebration

PIERRE - Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve is celebrating 18 years as a state park with its annual festival on Aug. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities are scheduled throughout the day, including a threshing machine demo, corn shelling, candle-making, tin punching, homestead tours, rope making, musicians, watermelon seed spitting contest, buffalo chip throwing contest, face painting, Dutch oven cooking demonstration, 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. CDT. Judging begins at 11:30 a.m. CDT. Pies will be judged by their appearance, texture and taste. Food and refreshments, activities, presentations, music and crafts are available for the entire family to enjoy. Bring walking shoes, bikes, strollers and a 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.

S.D. State Parks Hosts Diverse Events

PIERRE - South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) events this weekend encompass animal themes, triathlons, car shows and even a fiesta. With this variety, anyone from kids to grandparents has the opportunity to check out South Dakota's best features and have some fun along the way.

Saturday, August 8
RiverKid Sprint Triathlon – Farm Island Recreation Area, Pierre. 8:30 a.m. CT. Info: 605.773.2887

Adams Homestead Celebration – Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve, North Sioux City. 10 a.m. CT. Info: 605.232.0873

Riddle Hike – Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, Sioux Falls. 11 a.m. CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Honey Bees – Newton Hills State Park, Canton. 1 p.m. CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Butterflies – Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, Sioux Falls. 2 p.m. CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Bike Rodeo – Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce. 2 p.m. CT. Info: 605.627.5441

Dutch Oven Demonstration – Newton Hills State Park, Canton. 3 p.m. CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Bats in the Belfry – Fort Sisseton Historic State Park, Lake City. 3 p.m. CT. Info: 605.448.5474

Dogs at Good Earth 101 – Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, Sioux Falls. 4 p.m. CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Street Masters' Car Show and Ice Cream Social – Oahe Downstream Recreation Area, Fort Pierre. 7:30 p.m. CT. Info: 605.223.7722

Stargazing Along the Lake – Lake Vermillion Recreation Area, Canistota. 9:30 p.m. CT. Info: 605.296.3643

Sunday, August 9
Greet a Grass – Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, Sioux Falls. 3 p.m. CT. Info: 605.987.2263

For more information, visit the events calendar at gfp.sd.gov.

Commission Finalizes Duck & Goose Seasons

PIERRE - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission finalized the 2015 duck and goose hunting seasons at their August meeting.

2015 Duck Hunting Season Information:

• High Plains Zone: Oct. 10, 2015 – Jan. 14, 2016

• Low Plains North and Low Plains Middle Zone: Sept. 26 – Dec. 8, 2015

• Low Plains South Zone: Oct. 10 – Dec. 22, 2015

A daily bag limit of six ducks may be comprised of no more than five mallards (which may include no more than two hens), three wood ducks, three scaup, two redheads, two pintails and two canvasbacks. The possession limit for South Dakota duck hunters is three times the daily bag limit.

Commission Proposes Expansion Of East River Bobcat Season

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission proposed to expand the bobcat hunting season on the east side of the river to a total of 10 counties for 2015.

The proposed season would run from Dec. 26, 2015 – Feb. 15, 2016, for all counties west of the Missouri River and from Dec. 26, 2015 – Jan. 17, 2016, for Hughes, Hyde, Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Hutchinson, Yankton, Clay and Union counties in eastern South Dakota.

Trappers or hunters who participate in the East River season are limited to one bobcat.

The Commission will finalize this proposal at their Oct. 1-2, 2015, meeting at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the official public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. MDT on Oct. 1. Please include your full name along with the city and state of residence. If you would like to comment in person, the public hearing will be held Oct. 1 at 2 p.m. MDT.

Slip Bobbing: The New Wave

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

We all remember bobber fishing, how we fished when we were youngsters, you would snap a plastic bobber onto the line at the depth you want your bait to be. You would cast it out and when the bobber goes under the water, you set the hook.

It was a great way to catch fish, at times a real pain as your hook, weight and bait would tangle up with your bobber.

You're probably wondering why I'm writing about bobber or float fishing? Everyone knows about bobber fishing, right!

It really does not take a nuclear scientist to figure out this fishing method. This is true but there are several problems with this type of bobber fishing, especially if you are fishing deep water.

First off when your bobber or float as they're called today is set at six or seven feet, it's darn near impossible to cast without bouncing the bobber off your fishing partners head or piercing your ear with the hook.

Secondly, once you have reeled the bobber up to your rod tip, you've still have six or seven foot of line and your fish dangling below the bobber.

With the really tough part being, how can you land or net a fish at the end of that six or seven feet unless your net man has super long arms or at least a net with nine foot of handle!

Slip bobbbers have solved these



TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES PHOTO

Slip bobbbers cast easily, allowing you to put your bait where the active fish are located.

problems allowing you to fish areas that you were not able to fish with the old style bobbbers!

They allow you to fish for suspended fish at any depth and not have to worry about the bobber being "attached" several feet above your hook. These bobbbers slide down against the weight, jig or hook allowing the angler to cast the line with ease.

Slip bobbbers are simple to use; they slip or slide up and down your line until stopped by the bobber stop.

The stop is adjustable, sliding up and down allowing you to set it at any depth and small enough to allow you to reel it up into your reel.

These bobbbers' stops are simple. They can be fancy or as simple as braided line or rubber band tied around the line.

Attaching the rig below the slip bobber is also very simple. You can

use a small jig or a small hook along with a split shot. Attach a leech, minnow or crawler and you are in business.

With slip bobbbers, you can fish at all depths over deep or shallow water structure. Walleyes feeding on top of a submerged island, rock bed or sandbars are perfect examples of structure fished using a slip bobber.

You can set your slip bobber allowing it to float just above the structure, your bait will drift or work it's way across the structure, right in the face of those fish moving up to feed.

If you had tried fishing this area with a jig or other live bait rig, you could end being snagged up much of the time.

Another place where slip bobbbers work well is in an area that has a lot of rocks, snags or debris with current. One of these areas would be the fast water coming out of the turbines below a dam.

Using your locator, look the area over, find the average depth of the water you will be fishing and set your slip bobber just above that depth. Cast your rig out and let your bait drift through the area.

If there are any active fish holding in the rocks and rubble below the turbines, they'll come up from below to take your bait.

Fast water areas below a dam are areas that hold good numbers of fish, but will eat up any other tackle that you might throw at the fish.

As with any bobber, you want to have as little of the bobber showing above the water as possible.

You can accomplish this by adding just enough weight so the very tip of the bobber shows above the surface.

With the bobber adjusted this way, fish can easily pull down the bait and bobber without feeling much resistance and are more apt to hold onto the bait.

The smaller the bobber the better, when it comes to slip bobbbers, The K.I.S.S., method is best!

Keep It Simple Stupid may sound harsh, but like anything else, we have a tendency to make things way to complicated, as it takes all of the fun out of something that could be a real enjoyable family outing.

Try slip bobbbers and in certain situations, you'll find you'll have more fish coming into the boat.

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 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.

After Lion Kill, Bowhunters Under The Gun

BY DOUG SMITH

(c) 2015 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

CHATFIELD, Minn. – This sleepy southeastern Minnesota farm town is light years away from Zimbabwe, yet the public hurricane that erupted over the killing of an African lion by a Minnesota hunter was felt here.

Phones rang and emails flowed into the Pope and Young Club's headquarters and museum, and the national bowhunting group's website (pope-young.org) crashed. Vitriolic messages blasted the group, apparently because the Minnesota hunter at the center of the storm is a Pope and Young member.

"I got a dozen messages on my recorder and that many or more email threats," said Glenn Hisey, executive secretary for the 8,000-member nonprofit group and the museum's director.

Hisey, 75, said the messages were misdirected: Pope and Young focuses on North American big game, not African animals. "And we only recognize legally taken big-game animals under the rules of fair chase," he said.

Eden Prairie hunter Walter J. Palmer, who killed the lion in Zimbabwe and now faces possible poaching charges, has several North American animals in the Pope and Young record book, Hisey said.

"If he pleads guilty or is proven guilty, we will take necessary steps," he said.

Palmer's name and trophy animals would be removed from the record book, because the conviction would cast doubt on all of his animals, Hisey said.

Hisey, an avid bowhunter, said the incident is unfortunate because it casts hunting in a bad light. "It never should have happened," he said. "Somebody cut corners."



DOG SMITH/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

Glenn Hisey, executive secretary and director of the Pope and Young Club Museum in Chatfield, Minnesota, along with some of the extensive display of broadhead arrow tips at the museum.

Archery Revived

Ethical hunting is a core value of the Pope and Young Club, Hisey said. Even the club's quarterly magazine is called Ethic.

The club says the fair chase philosophy "reaches to the very foundations of the hunting spirit. It should be a dominant factor in the personal hunting ethic of every responsible individual. It is key to bowhunting's future."

The group, formed in 1961, is named after Dr. Saxton Pope and Art Young, often called the "fathers of bowhunting." In the early 1900s, Pope and Young learned archery skills from the last known survivor of the Yana tribe in Northern California, a man called Ishi.

Guns had long since replaced bows and arrows for hunting, but Pope and Young were intrigued by the challenge of using a bow and arrow to take down big game. Their hunting exploits – and a book Pope wrote in 1923 – rekindled interest in the old-style way of hunting.

But it took years for state wildlife managers to accept archery hunting and to create special hunting seasons for

archers, something that is commonplace today.

"Some states prohibited use of bow and arrows for hunting," Hisey said. "They felt it was a toy: a stick and a string."

Neighboring Wisconsin made a pivotal change in 1930, legalizing a bowhunting season. Minnesota legalized use of a bow in 1929, but a special bow season wasn't held until 1943.

Other states slowly followed.

Eventually, in 1961, Glenn St. Charles of Seattle helped form the Pope and Young Club, which was dedicated to keeping bowhunting records and promoting conservation and fair-chase ethics.

"The purpose of the club

is to preserve and protect the bowhunting heritage for future generations," Hisey said.

About 1,000 volunteers measure and score trophy animals taken with a bow and arrow, and the club publishes those that exceed minimum scores. The group also annually gives out about \$100,000 for outreach and education programs, as well as operates the museum in Chatfield.

Why In Minnesota?

Pope and Young's headquarters and museum are in Chatfield by happenstance. The museum had been at St. Charles' business in Seattle. Offices for membership, record keeping and secretary were scattered in separate states.

"I got appointed executive secretary," said Hisey, a Chatfield native, "so we moved the offices all to Chatfield in 1989."

With St. Charles aging and his family wanting to close the business, the museum had to move, so it, too, went to Chatfield into a building that now houses it and club offices. The museum opened there in 2004.

Minnesota is a good location, Hisey said. Interest in bowhunting has exploded in recent years, and the state now has more than 100,000 archery deer hunters. "We have more members and bowhunters in the Midwest

than anywhere else," he said, "because of the whitetail deer hunting here. The majority of our members can drive here."

The museum documents the evolution of archery hunting, and it is brimming with artifacts, including archery equipment owned and used by Pope and Young. There's even a pair of ivory goggles that Young used to shield his eyes on a polar bear-hunting trip to the Arctic.

About 3,000 broadhead arrow tips – the world's largest public display – line several walls. Scores of long bows, recurve bows and modern compound bows also are on display. So, too, are mounts of the 29 North American big-game species, including muskox, caribou, elk, grizzly bear, sheep, moose and whitetail deer, some from Minnesota – all killed by bow and arrow.

Dioramas depict Pope, Young, Ishi, St. Charles and Fred Bear, who founded Bear Products Co. and is perhaps the most visible bowhunter of the 20th century.

Hisey said bowhunters love the challenge that their sport offers over hunting big game with firearms. Bowhunters must get much closer to their prey. That means more missed opportunities than hunting with a firearm.

"It's not for everybody," Hisey said. "For me, it's the total experience that counts, not just the kill."

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