

Briefs: Junior Duck Stamp Contest Taking Entries

SPEARFISH — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invites students to learn about wildlife conservation and express their creativity by entering the 2012 Junior Duck Stamp competition. The deadline for entries is March 15, 2012.

The Junior Duck Stamp Program is an annual art contest that provides students with the opportunity to learn about biology and express their knowledge of the beauty, diversity, and interdependence of wildlife through art. The Junior Duck Stamp Contest, partnered with a dynamic art curriculum, teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school.

Since the Junior Duck Stamp Contest was introduced in South Dakota in 1993, over 10,000 students have submitted artwork in the state. In 2011, 716 South Dakota students from 60 towns participated in the program; and throughout the United States, over 27,000 students submitted artwork to a state contest.

Prizes are awarded to the top nine entries in four different age groups at a public awards reception held in April. Last year over \$6,000 in cash and prizes like art supplies, field guides, DVDs, and binoculars were awarded to South Dakota students. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Booth Society, the Friends Group of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives in Spearfish, sponsor the South Dakota contest.

The Best of Show winner from South Dakota is judged nationally in Washington D.C., and the winning submission from the national contest will be used to create a Federal Junior Duck Stamp the following year, which is sold for \$5 a stamp.

In 2011, Alex Ogren, 18, from Watertown, took the "Best of Show" title in South Dakota.

For more information and for art submission rules, visit www.sdjuniorduck.org.

Bowhunters Convention Set For Feb. 24-25

SPEARFISH — The South Dakota Bowhunters Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Spearfish on Feb. 24-25.

There will be multiple raffles and seminars including one from Nick Mundt of the Bone Collectors.

For more information, visit www.sdbi.net or call Jim Peterson at 605-484-7579.

GFP Honors Regional Habitat Partners

PIERRE — The Game, Fish and Parks Department has selected Regional Habitat Partners of the Year.

The award recognizes people who have established and enhanced habitat for wildlife and fish in South Dakota.

The four regional awards went to: Kenneth McClravy, Philip, in the West region; Larry Ness, Yankton, in the Central region; Bob Rennolet, Menno, in the Southeast region; and Lee and Janice Schull, Watertown, in the Northeast region.

Private landowners from around the state are nominated by GFP staff based on how those landowners used state and federal programs to improve habitat on their property, create innovative habitat efforts, and exhibit leadership in promoting habitat development and partnerships.

One of the four regional winners will be selected as the 2012 South Dakota Habitat Partner of the Year and honored at the March Game, Fish and Parks Commission meeting in Fort Pierre.

Roughlock Falls To Host Snowshoe Hike

SPEARFISH — On Feb. 25, visitors to Roughlock Falls near Spearfish will have the opportunity to experience the winter sights and sounds of the Black Hills by donning a pair of snowshoes on a special Game, Fish and Parks Department hike.

"This snowshoe walk is a great way to try something new and to experience the Hills from a whole different perspective," said Dana Garry, Mickelson Trail manager. "We encourage folks of all skill levels to join us. No previous experience is needed."

Staff will teach basic snowshoeing skills while leading a two-mile, round-trip nature walk along the trail.

Snowshoes are provided, but reservations are required to borrow snowshoes by calling 605-584-3896. There is no cost for the hike, which departs from the Latchstring Restaurant at 1 p.m. MST on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Participants should dress appropriately for the weather because temperatures in the Black Hills can be unpredictable. Any footwear can be used with snowshoes; however, waterproof hiking boots are recommended.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Hard Water Angling: Wild West Style

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

Something just didn't seem right. From fifteen feet on down to seventy feet, my Vexilar screen was lit up like a Christmas tree. No matter what adjustments were made, my locator was just one huge mass of color.

There are times, when fishing shallower water I've had similar things happen when large weed beds would show up like this, but at this depth, what I was seeing on the locator could only mean one thing, a HUGE school of fish. I quickly sent my Lindy Slick Jig down as Lee Harstad, Deadwood Chamber of Commerce (www.deadwood.org) was bringing up one of the many fat 10" Perch we'd ice that day.

We were fishing just down the road from Deadwood on Deerfield Lake, a 435-acre impoundment with depths reaching 95 feet. We were probing the depths of the lake for Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout and Splake Trout (a cross between a Brook Trout/Lake Trout).

Our group was made up of sixteen anglers from throughout the U.S. that had been invited up to try some of the Wild West fishing for which the Deadwood area is known for.

A mature bald eagle soared overhead as we ripped one perch after another from the depths of Deerfield, hoping for the opportunity to swoop down and grab one of the numerous perch that now covered the ice.

Lee was on my left, with Ben Ekrem, with Jiffy Auger out of Sioux Falls off to my

right while Larry Myhre was fishing directly in front of me. It was nothing to see the five of us all setting the hook at the same time.

When Lee had told us we were going to be doing some wild west angling, he wasn't kidding, as this was wild.

The previous day, Tyler French and Alex Jessen Dakota Dream Outdoors (www.dakotadreamoutdoors.com) had taken us to another of these jewels in the hills, Pactola Reservoir, a 785-acre lake surrounded by majestic rock formations covered with the pines and spruce famous in the Black Hills.

The 165-foot depths of Pactola are ideal for trout and the other fish that call the reservoir home, as Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Splake Trout, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Perch and Bluegill all can be found throughout the lake.

In fact, in 2009 a new state record state record lake trout, a 28 pound 5 ounce lunger, was pulled from Pactola.

Just two weeks before our arrival, the boys from Dakota Dream Outdoors pulled a 24-pound Lake Trout through the ice of Pactola.

You may have thought you fought some pretty tough fish through the ice but until you've tangled with a big lake trout. You ain't seen nothing yet as in order to successfully land a cold water species such as a Lake Trout on light line, you'd best have your stuff together, have good line, tied good knots and have your drag set correctly. To masterfully fight the fish, you must and most of all have a ton of patience as you can be a fight with a lake trout through the ice won't be a short one.

I had the opportunity to be the ground-man or should I say the iceman, helping to bring a couple of these big bruisers through the ice. One with Ted Takasaki from Sioux Falls who took an 8 pounder



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE
Jeff Samsel, North Georgia with the 10.8-pound Lake Trout he took while ice fishing with light line at Pactola Reservoir near Deadwood.

using a Lindy Slick Jig tipped with a shiner and another, with Jeff Samsel of Georgia who landed his 10.8 pounder on Lindy Wat-sit Jig tipped with a large shiner. This was no easy task as both anglers were using light three and four pound test, so everything had to down to a science to win this battle.

Just about the time the anglers thought they had the trout under control, the drags on their reels began to scream as the fish would make one hard charge after another as they desperately tried to dislodge the bait they'd inhaled.

On one run, the fish had Jeff's line down to just a few yards, giving him few options



Gary HOWEY

Bucks

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"Pierre played hard and got after us defensively," Gross said. "They forced us into things that we didn't want to do, and we had a few too many turnovers."

Becker also noted the defensive intensity employed by his team.

"We are starting to play with more urgency," Becker said. "Hanson's injury has forced more guys to step up and right now we are building some of that chemistry we need."

Despite the tough loss, Gross felt his team performed fairly well.

"We played pretty well, it has just been a struggle for us to get over that hump," Gross said. "We are right in each game and are competitive, but have been missing too many close shots at crucial times."

"Hopefully we can get that fixed for our last game of the season on Tuesday against Huron, and for the District Tournament."

The loss drops Yankton's season record to 3-15 overall and 2-11 in Eastern South Dakota Conference play. Pierre improves to 14-5, and 10-3 in the ESD.

In sub-varsity action the Bucks JV fell to Pierre 49-34. Kellen Soulek led Yankton with 11 points. Yankton scored a victory in the sophomore game, 53-29. Ryan Olson scored 13, and Lane Sawatzke and Brady Hale each scored eight points.

Yankton's freshmen "A" team beat the Gavs 42-27. Brady Hale and Austin Johnson each scored 10 points.

The final score was Yankton's "B" freshmen winning 56-36. Brody McClure had 27 points.

YANKTON (3-15, 2-10 ESD): JJ Hejna 4-8 6-8 14; Connor Vlasman 2-4 0-0 4; Connor Fitzsimmons 6-8 1-2 14; Jackson Seitzinger 3-12 6-8 12; Zach Benjamin 0-0 0-0; Kellen Soulek 1-5 0-0 2; Troy Humhoff 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 17-41 13-19 48

PIERRE (14-5, 10-3 ESD): Matt Monroe 2-3 5-6 10; Connor Berg 4-12 1-3 9; Lane Sevryn 9-22 1-1 24; Nate Buscher 0-1 0-0 0; Joe Tetzlaff 2-5 0-2 4; Garret Pochop 0-0 0-0 0; Conrad Adam 1-5 1-2 3; Cooper Walton 2-5 4-8 8. Totals 20-53 12-22 58

PIERRE 10 28 43 58
YANKTON 12 23 33 48
Three-pointers: Yankton 1-4 (Rucker 0-1, Fitzsimmons 1-2, Hejna 0-1) Pierre 6-16 (Monroe 1-2, Sevryn 5-11, Adam 0-3). Rebounds: Yankton 30 (Hejna 8) Pierre 33 (Tetzlaff 9). Assists: Yankton 12 (Seitzinger 5, Rucker 4) Pierre 5. Steals: Yankton 1 Pierre 7. Turnovers: Yankton 14 Pierre 6. Fouled out: None.

Challenge To NCAA Scholarship Plan Falls Short

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA plan to offer multi-year scholarships will go forward.

An override attempt has fallen just short. The NCAA said Friday that 62.1 percent of 330 schools called for an override during an online vote this week, falling just short of the 62.5 percent majority needed.

The rule was put in place last October, giving schools the option to offer multiyear scholarships instead of those that need to be renewed annually. Critics had said athletes were unfairly losing scholarships for poor performance.

NCAA President Mark Emmert supported the option and said it would benefit the student-athlete.

The NCAA Board of Directors is still reviewing a plan to award up to \$2,000 to scholarship athletes to cover miscellaneous expenses.

Gazelles

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against our zone created some open looks for them," Pierre coach Lisa Bahe said. "We went for a stretch where we missed quite a few bunnies in the paint and we need to put those in."

Emily Fedders answered Livermont's 3-pointer with one of her own to extend Yankton's lead; the Gazelles led 24-15 at the half.

Granflaten's shooting came back to haunt the Lady Gavs once again in the third quarter as her three extended the Yankton lead to double digits.

While the Gazelles were hitting outside shots at will, the Lady Gavs were struggling to find any rhythm offensively.

"We got a little impatient in the third quarter. We were trying to do other people's jobs and if we would just execute the offense as designed we would get much better shots. We talked about that in timeouts and at the quarter break and we got better looks in the fourth quarter," Bahe said.

Busters

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next season (2012-13) or in 2013-14. To that end, Boots said Friday that USD has not made a decision on when the Coyotes will play in San Marcos.

When it comes to the future, the areas of improvement have become crystal clear.

"We're certainly not pleased with the year we've had, we know we have to get better," Boots said. "We have some kids we can develop, and we have kids coming in to the program who can really help us."

"It's just important that we finish these last three games as hard as we can."

Yankton will close the regular season Tuesday with a contest in Huron. The Huron-Yankton match begins at 7:30 p.m.

In sub-varsity action, Pierre won the JV contest 37-32. For the Gazelles, Whitelee Larson had 11 points and seven rebounds, Kelsey Butler added eight points and Morgan Tessier grabbed eight rebounds. Jessica Wirth posted six points and six rebounds.

Pierre won the sophomore game 56-37. Abby Schulte led Yankton with nine points and five rebounds.

Yankton won the lone freshman game 28-20 behind eight points and nine rebounds from Andi Sprakel. Jaclyn Arens added six points and eight steals, and Madison Dangler had nine rebounds.

YANKTON 45, PIERRE 36
YANKTON (13-5, 9-3 ESD): Chloe Cornemann 1-6 0-1 3, Mikala Hora 2-6 0-6 6, Tory Gross 0-1 0-0 0, Kelsey Fitzgerald 2-5 2-3 6, Emily Fedders 3-8 0-1 8, Jenn Granflaten 6-10 1-2 15, Audrey Fuks 1-2 0-0 3, Sarah Ekren 2-6 0-0 4, Vanessa Rockne 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 18-47 3-7 45.
PIERRE (3-16, 2-11 ESD): Molly Tschetter 2-3 0-0 5, Taylor Hyde 2-6 0-0 5, Katelyn Sevryn 3-9 0-1 6, Sydney Palmer 4-8 0-1 8, Kristi Livermont 3-5 0-0 8, Courtney Brandt 0-1 0-0 0, Kalle Berg 0-1 0-0 0, Nikki Anderson 2-6 0-2 4. Totals 16-39 0-4 36.
YANKTON 8 24 35 45
PIERRE 8 15 20 36
3PT FG — YHS 2-12 (Cornemann 1-4, Hora 0-1, Fedders 2-7, Granflaten 2-4, Fuks 1-3). PHS 4-12 (Tschetter 1-1, Hyde 1-5, Palmer 0-2, Livermont 2-3). Rebounds — YHS 30 (Fitzgerald 8), PHS 22 (Sevryn 10). Total Fouls — YHS 11, PHS 11. Steals — YHS 6 (Cornemann, Hora 2), PHS 4 (Anderson 3). Turnovers — YHS 6, PHS 12.

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