

# Briefs: Twelve Hunting-Related Incidents In Neb. Reported In 2011

LINCOLN, Neb. — Twelve hunting-related incidents were reported to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in 2011. Two of those incidents each resulted in the death of one person.

Seven incidents involved the discharge of a shotgun, three involved the discharge of a rifle, one involved a fall from an elevated stand and one involved a hunter being shot by an unknown person with an unknown firearm.

"All of the incidents occurred because one or more participants were not following safety rules," Nebraska Hunter Education Coordinator Mike Streeter said.

Four incidents occurred while hunting upland birds, three while hunting deer, two while hunting waterfowl, two while hunting furbearers and one while hunting nongame animals.

Historically, the most common cause for a hunting incident in Nebraska is a shooter swinging on a flying game bird and striking a hunting companion with shot from a shotgun.

To view the full Nebraska 2011 Hunting Incident report, visit [huntsafenebraska.org](http://huntsafenebraska.org) and then click on Hunting Incident Report.

## Neb. G&P Offers Safety Tips For Goose Hunters

LINCOLN, Neb. — With goose hunters going out in force this winter and spring, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has the following safety reminders:

- Dress in layers to stay warm.
- Be aware of the symptoms of hypothermia, which can affect your judgment and ability to control a shotgun.
- Before hunting, practice mounting and maintaining control of the shotgun while wearing cold-weather clothing.
- Do not get careless or excited when in a blind, including a lay-down blind. Control the muzzle. When hunting with others, know safe zones of fire and communicate with them about who is going to shoot where.
- Never put a loaded shotgun in or take it out of a blind. Unload it and then check to make sure it is unloaded. Wait until you are settled in the blind before loading.
- Wear a personal flotation device if venturing onto ice.
- Avoid alcohol, medication and other mind-altering drugs before and during the hunt.
- Never jump or climb over or into a blind or boat with a loaded shotgun.
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

## Ponca State Park Offers Super Bowl Package

LINCOLN, Neb. — Ponca State Park is offering a Super Bowl package for guests at its mini-lodges Feb. 4-5.

The package includes two nights lodging at a 30-percent discount, five free bundles of firewood, two free pizzas and 1 p.m. checkout. A one-night package also is available.

Ponca's mini-lodges have four bedrooms, two baths, 42-inch television with cable, kitchen, fire-place and wireless Internet.

To get this special offer, call the park at 402-755-2284 and mention the Super Bowl.

A park entry permit is required of each vehicle entering the park.

## Oakwood Lakes State Park To Host Winter Events

VOLGA — Oakwood Lake State Park will host the Kool Kids Klassic Fishing Derby and the Groundhog Day Cross-Country Ski Tour on Jan. 28 and 29, respectively.

Children under age 14 are invited to take part in the Kool Kids Klassic Ice Fishing Derby. Registration for the derby is \$2 and will take place at the park shop at 11 a.m. The first 150 entries will receive a free fishing pole made by park staff. Bait is furnished and event staff will drill holes in the ice as needed. Fishing will take place in designated areas from 12 to 2 p.m., with weigh-in to follow. Winners will be announced at the award ceremony at 3 p.m. Snacks will be available throughout the day, and numerous door prize drawings will be held.

On Jan. 29, the 32nd Annual Groundhog Day Cross-Country Ski Race and the Sons of Norway Barneloptet Children's Ski Run features a 5 kilometer non-competitive poker run, a 10 kilometer competitive race and a kick sled race. A registration fee of \$8 for adults and \$3 for youth (17 and under) applies to the ski race/poker run. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each age group. The top poker hands, youngest and oldest skier and most colorful ski costume will also earn awards.

The day also features the 25th Annual Sons of Norway Barneloptet Children's Ski Run. This event is free for kids under 13.

Registration for the ski events begins at the park shop at 12:30 p.m. The race will start at 1:30 p.m. Cookies, hot chocolate and various Norwegian treats will be served throughout the day. Ski rentals for the event are available from Sioux River Bicycles and Fitness. In the event of no snow, a walk will be held in place of the race.

"These events are a great way for the entire family to get active, get outside and have fun at the park," said Randy Pitts, Park Manager at Oakwood Lakes State Park. "The park offers many opportunities for outdoor winter recreation that families can enjoy."

The cross-country ski tour is sponsored by the Sons of Norway, Sioux River Bicycles and Fitness, Brookings Radio, 1481 Grille, Brookings Engraving and the SD Division of Parks and Recreation.

## Bramble WMA Closed To Target Shooting

LINCOLN, Neb. — Bramble Wildlife Management Area (WMA) now is closed to target shooting. The 93-acre WMA is located along the Platte River 3 miles east of Morse Bluff in Saunders County.

"We have had some valid concerns about safety," said Pat Molini, southeast district wildlife manager of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. "The area is small and flat, so it does not allow for safe target shooting."

Signs that close the area to target shooting will be posted.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

# How To Find, Use The Right Rod

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

How many times have you been out fishing and had trouble detecting a bite or were constantly setting the hook because the end of your wimpy rod was jumping all over the place?

It happened to me several years ago when I was fishing with a friend near Niobrara, Neb. It was one of those days where I had a terrible time detecting a bite.

The trip was set up rather quickly and on my way out the door, I grabbed a couple of rods, not paying any attention to the rod action. When I started fishing, I knew I'd screwed up, as it was obvious that I'd grabbed rods that were far too heavy for the type of fishing we were doing.



Gary HOWEY

The cranks baits I was trolling with couldn't shake, rattle or vibrate hard enough to make the stiff rods I was using move an inch.

When you're trolling crankbaits, the vibration on the end of the rod is the only way to tell if your bait is working properly.

I needed a lighter action rod so I could be sure the bait was working and to tell if I had a fish on or was dragging a mess of weeds and cotton.

Many anglers don't spend much time looking at the action of a rod when they choose a rod before they purchase it. Some push them against the floor while others shake the rod to see how much give is in the end of the rod.



PHOTO: OUTDOORSMEN PROMOTIONS PHOTO

The right rod helped columnist Gary Howey (left) to detect the subtle bite of this large walleye along with others over eight pounds while fishing the Red River in Manitoba, Canada.

Sure these are a couple of ways that lets the angler see how stiff or fast the rod tip is, but you won't know if the rod your buying has the correct action until you look at the manufacturer's recommendations.

Different action rods will perform differently, especially when the reel you put on the rod is filled with the wrong weight line.

On the rod just above the handle, you'll find the recommendations for lure size, line weight and the action of the rod.

When it comes to rod action, there are several categories. There's the Ultra-light, Light, Medium, Medium Light, Medium Heavy and Heavy action.

Listed below are guidelines for each of the rod actions.

- Ultra-light rods are set up to throw 1/16 - 1/4 ounce baits and be spooled with 1 to 6 pound line, working well for panfish.
- Light weight rods 1/8 - 5/8 ounce baits and 6 to 15 pound line. These rods work well for walleye and larger panfish.
- Medium rods are set up for 1/4 - 5/8 ounce baits and 6 to 15 pound test.
- Medium Light rods are set up for 1/4 - 5/8 ounce baits and 6 to 12 pound test work very well on walleyes.
- Medium Heavy rods are set up for 1/2 to 1 ounce baits and 10 to 25 pound test. These rods are made for dragging heavy lures through heavy cover and work well for bass fishing.
- The Heavy rods would be set up for

# This Dog Makes Hunting Ducks Extra Special

BY STEVE WATERS

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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Randy Nelson admits that he wasn't happy when he found out that his son, Kevin, had bought a yellow Labrador retriever to take duck hunting.

"He wasn't supposed to get a dog until he was done playing baseball (in college) and he was between his sophomore and junior years," Nelson said.

Now, he has to laugh, because the day that his son came home with Drake was one of the best days of Nelson's life.

That rambunctious puppy has become a duck-retrieving wonder.

"I don't think I could ever go back to hunting without a dog," Nelson said. "He loves it so much. If he sees me getting dressed to go hunting, he's at the door waiting for me."

When he's in a duck blind, Drake patiently scans the skies. When shots are fired and ducks fall, Drake leaps off the carpeted stand that Nelson had built for him, bounds through the water and grabs the downed duck.

Then he nonchalantly returns to the blind, as if to let everyone know that retrieving ducks is no big deal. (And just in case you're wondering about duck dogs in Florida, Drake has never had a problem with alligators, who are wary of duck hunters.)

Drake, who'll be 4 years old in March, is at his best when ducks drop far from the blind or into thick vegetation. Once, Kevin Nelson killed a shoveler that sailed 250 yards away. He sent out Drake and, using a whistle, the term "back" and hand signals, directed Drake close enough to the bird so he could pick up its scent, at which point he charged over and picked it up.

Another time, Willie Fernandez shot an incoming gadwall that fell into a stand of cattails. Kevin came over with Drake, Willie pointed to where the duck fell and two minutes later, Drake was back with the gadwall.

Fernandez said he needs only one word to describe what it's like hunting with Drake.

"Awesome," Fernandez said. "It's an experience in itself watching him retrieve."

Kevin Nelson, who played baseball for Nova High School in Davie, played college ball in Tennessee for two years before transferring to Campbell University in North Carolina for his junior season. A shortstop and an avid duck hunter, he had been thinking about getting a hunting dog and before he left Tennessee, he saw an ad by a breeder who had Lab puppies for sale for \$250.

"When I went to the breeder's

house, I was walking around looking at all the puppies," he said. "Drake was the one running around in circles that I couldn't even keep up with."

Randy Nelson and his wife, Terri, found out about Drake not from their son, but from a friend who had seen the photos Kevin posted of Drake on Facebook and said, "Did you see Kevin's new dog?"

"Both my parents were ready to kill me," Kevin said.

Their love affair with Drake began when Kevin brought the pup home to Sunrise for the summer. Since he didn't have time to take care of Drake with his busy college schedule, when Kevin went back to school, Drake stayed in South Florida.

Using tips from several books, videos and other hunters, Randy trained Drake in the basic commands and worked with him on his retrieving. When Drake was 9

months old, Randy took him on duck hunts. He kept Drake on a 100-foot check cord and did not do any shooting so he could focus on teaching the dog what to do.

Drake has matured since then, growing big and solid and serious about duck hunting, but he's also sweet and gentle and almost never barks.

"He's a family pet that lives in the house," Randy Nelson said. "This dog sleeps in my bed."

"He's not the best-trained dog in the world, but he does what he's supposed to do."

Over and over and over again.

"That's one thing about Drake, he will never quit on you," Kevin Nelson said. "I've seen him retrieve 36 ducks and then come home and he wants you to throw his Frisbee for him."

## Girls

From Page 9

Lanae Van Gerpen chipped in 10 points.

Parkston travels to Salem on Tuesday to take on McCook Central-Montrose. Avon plays at Menno on Tuesday.

Parkston also won the JV contest.

AVON (6-6)	4	11	29	39
PARKSTON (10-3)	18	39	51	69

## South Central 52, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 41

TRIPP — South Central out-rebounded Tripp-Delmont-Armour by 17 on its way to a 52-41 win Friday night.

South Central's Ashley Green led the team with eight rebounds and five steals. Chloe Kenzi added five boards.

TDA's Kelly Batterman posted five rebounds. Hannah Just stole the ball five times.

South Central (5-7) travel to Corsica Tuesday. TDA travels to Marty Friday.

SOUTH CENTRAL	14	27	37	52
TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR	9	15	31	41

## R.C. Stevens 47, Brookings 45

BROOKINGS — Rapid City Stevens shot 54 percent from the field on their way to a 47-45 victory over Brookings on Friday night in Class AA girls' basketball action.

Margaret McCloud led the Raiders with 22 points, 11 rebounds, and four steals.

The Bobcats were led by Amelia Miller's 11 points.

Rapid City Stevens, 5-7, plays at Watertown today (Saturday). Brookings, 2-11, hosts Rapid City Central today (Saturday).

RAPID CITY STEVENS (5-7)	18	31	35	47
BROOKINGS (2-11)	15	26	32	45

## Pierre 50, Spearfish 44

PIERRE — Spearfish suffered their second loss of the season as Pierre had three players in double digits in Friday nights 50-44 loss.

Pierre's Sydney Palmer led the team with 19 points. Kate Severyn recorded a double-double on the night with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Spearfish's Brittain Burditt led the team with 11 points. Miranda Meeker and Kaitlyn Hinch each added 10 points.

Pierre (3-10) hosts Sturgis today (Saturday).

Spearfish (9-2) hosts Lead-Deadwood Tuesday.

PEARFISH (9-2)	10	25	38	44
PIERRE (3-10)	14	23	34	50

## Bucks

From Page 9

Gross also reflected on the huge night for Seitzinger, who ended with 26 points.

"Seitzinger had a great offensive performance," Gross said. "Connor Vlasman also played well for us as did everybody else who played. It was just unfortunate that we had to lose this game."

Gross continued to talk about his team's exceptional play, but also the play of Roosevelt.

"I have to give them credit, Roosevelt shot better from three than they did from two," Gross said. "But our guys showed a lot of character tonight. We could have folded our tents in the first half and given up, but we didn't."

The loss drops the Bucks to 2-11 overall and brings Roosevelt to 8-4 on the season.

In sub-varsity action the Yankton freshman "A" team lost 50-47.

Brady Hale led the way with 18 points.

In freshman "B," Roosevelt won 43-50. Ryan Sternhagen ended with 12 for Yankton.

The Yankton sophomores won 40-32, with Landon Breen scoring 14.

In the junior varsity game Yankton prevailed 59-56, with Michael Rucker scoring 23.

S.F. ROOSEVELT (8-4)	Jeremiah Clark 0-3 0-0 0; Tyler Howard 11-16 1-2 28; Nate Cole 2-5 4-4 9; Tom Nugteren 4-7 1-2 9; Brett Ledebor 0-0 0-0 0; Austin Sitter 0-0 0-0 0; Trevor Moody 0-0 0-0 0; Calvin Krause 1-4 0-0 2; Lucas Wilber 4-4 0-0 9; Brandon Boggs 0-1 0-0 0; Josh Kirkwood 1-1 0-0 2. TOTALS 23-41 6-8 59.
YANKTON (2-11)	Jackson Pasco 3-4 2-5 8; Connor Vlasman 3-3 4-4 10; Connor Fitzsimmons 0-1 0-1 2; Bryan Youngberg 4-9 0-9 9; Jack-

son Seitzinger 11-18 4-6 26; Michael Rucker 0-1 2-2 2; J.J. Hejna 0-2 0-0 0; Kellen Soulek 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 22-44 12-18 57.

ROOSEVELT	16	28	42	59
YANKTON	8	21	44	57

Three-Pointers: RHS 7-12 (Howard 5-7, Wilber 1-1, Cole 1-4), YHS 1-3 (Youngberg 1-3). Total Rebounds: YHS 25 (Seitzinger 9), RHS 16 (Nugteren 4). Turnovers: RHS 15, YHS 14. Personal Fouls: RHS 18, YHS 12. Fouled Out: None.

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## RTEC Announces Next Dates for CDL, CNC & Welding Trainings

### CDL Truck Driving Training

Let Mitchell Technical Institute's experienced instructors and trusted program put you on the road to success! MTI will return to RTEC in Yankton to offer its Commercial Truck Driving Training. One course begins Feb. 22 and another begins Mar. 21. Cost is \$350 for CDL Prep (classroom only option) or \$2,275 for full course (classroom & driving).

### CNC Machine Operator Training Program

Sign up for this streamlined course featuring Amatrol's industry-validated learning system, On-The-Job Training and a chance to prepare for and earn certification from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS). Course runs Feb. 27 to May 21 on Mondays & Thursdays from 4-8 p.m. Cost is \$2,700. Class size limited to 10. Apply today!

### Welding Basics Course

You'll learn the basics of 5 different types of welding in this introductory 48-hour course that runs from Mar. 26 to May 9. Class will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-8 p.m. Cost is \$1,375.

### AWS Skill Upgrade Welding Course

Enhance your existing welding skills and prepare to earn AWS (American Welding Society) Certification in this 48-hour course. It runs Mar. 27 to May 10 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-8 p.m. Primary welding processes are GMAW and SMAW. Cost is \$1,375.

Find details at [www.rtecedu.org](http://www.rtecedu.org) or by visiting RTEC at 1200 W. 21st St. in Yankton. Then call (605) 668-5700 and reserve your spot today! Financial assistance may be available.



**1200 W. 21st St.  
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