

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Group Camping Reservations For Lewis & Clark Rec Area Open Jan. 14

PIERRE — At 7 a.m. CST on Jan. 14, visitors can start making group reservations at Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton.

The opening date for group camping reservations was changed this year because the state Division of Parks and Recreation has implemented a new reservation system.

"When group reservations open next week, campers will be able to book group sites one year in advance," said Lewis and Clark Park Manager Shane Bertsch. "As an example, if you want to book campsites for July 4, 2014, you can reserve on July 4, 2013."

To qualify as a group reservation, all campsites in a "group loop" must be reserved. Reservations can only be made for sites designated as group sites. A limited number of campsites are available for group reservations. Regular camping fees apply.

A two-night minimum stay is required for group campsites, and a three-night minimum is required for holiday weekends.

After a group reservation is made, a fee of one night's stay will be charged for each campsite cancelled. Cancellation fees are effective immediately upon making the reservations.

All camping fees must be paid at the time the reservation is made. There is a \$7.70 per site, non-refundable reservation fee, which does not apply to South Dakota residents. A valid park entrance license is required in designated fee areas.

Jan. 31 is the first day to make individual campsite reservations for 2013. Campsites are reservable within 90 days of arrival year-round. Custer State Park accepts reservations one year in advance.

For more information on reservations, visit the Division of Parks and Recreation website at www.gtp.sd.gov or call 605-773-3391.

Mobridge Ice Tournament Set For Jan. 12

MOBRIDGE — The Mobridge Chamber of Commerce is gearing up to host the largest 2-person ice fishing tournament in the Midwest, if not the nation to be held Saturday, Jan. 12.

Anglers from 14 states and Canada make up the 1000 anglers registered for the event. The popularity of this event is driven by great fishing, beautiful scenery, a charged atmosphere, comradeship, and the hospitality of Mobridge. All of this is complemented by anglers' chance to win their share of over \$165,000 in cash and prizes.

"We were able to find great sponsors which allowed us to purchase an unbelievable amount of prizes," said Jesse Konold, Tourism Committee Member. "Without their support, I don't think this tournament would have grown to what it is today."

Anglers that participate in the one day tournament impact the community by tens of thousands of dollars. In a study by the tourism committee, it is estimated that nearly \$170,000 is spent by participants during the week in Mobridge.

S.D. State Parks Bounce Back From 2011 Flood

PIERRE — Visits to South Dakota State Parks were back on track in 2012 after a 2011 burdened with widespread flooding.

State parks saw record visitation and camping in 2012 after spring flooding in northeastern South Dakota and along the James River and summer-long flooding on the Missouri River closed several parks and damaged others in 2011.

"Our park staff was extremely busy from the fall of 2011 through the spring of 2012 making repairs before last year's park season," said State Parks and Recreation Director Doug Hofer.

In 2012, state parks hosted over 7.9 million visitors statewide and 270,000 overnight camping units. Visitation increased by 11 percent and camping by over 13 percent compared to 2011's flood-impacted numbers. Park usage is back to the record numbers that were set in 2010.

Fisher Grove State Park near Redfield is the only campground that remained closed last summer. Plans call for relocating that campground this spring, and it should be open next summer.

Neb. Spring Turkey Permits Available Jan. 14

LINCOLN, Neb. — Spring turkey hunting permits for 2013 will be available from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission starting at 1 p.m. Central Time on Jan. 14.

Each spring turkey permit allows a hunter to take one male or bearded female turkey with bow and arrow in the archery season or a shotgun in the shotgun season. A person may purchase up to three spring turkey permits.

Archery season for youth and adults opens March 25. Shotgun season opens April 6 for youth and April 13 for adults. All seasons close May 31.

Visit OutdoorNebraska.org or Game and Parks permitting offices to purchase permits. For more information on turkey hunting, check out the 2013 Turkey Guide at OutdoorNebraska.org.

SD State Parks Celebrate Winter With Snowshoe Hikes

PIERRE — The South Dakota State Parks are encouraging folks to get outside and remain active during the winter months.

Three snowshoe hikes are planned for Jan. 19 at parks across the state.

• Snowshoe Walk in the Park, George S. Mickelson Trail, location to be determined, 1 p.m. MST. This snowshoe walk is a great way to try something new. No experience needed! Snowshoes are provided, but pre-registration is required. Participants must have a Mickelson Trail pass. Walk departs from the Englewood Trailhead. Info/register: 605-584-3896.

• Geocaching the Snowshoe Way, Newton Hills State Park near Canton, 1 p.m. CST. Meet park staff at the welcome center to embark on a high-tech treasure hunting game while equipped with GPS devices and snowshoes. The basic idea of geocaching is to find hidden containers and share your experiences with other adventure seekers. GPS devices and snowshoes will be provided but pre-registration is required. Info: 605-626-3488.

There is no cost to participate in any of the programs, although a park entrance license is required. Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy walking shoes or boots and dress in layers.

For more information on activities in the South Dakota state parks, visit www.gtp.gov or contact the individual park office.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Gun Laws, Fact And Fiction

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

The entire nation mourns the death of the school children and others shot during the rash of killings at the end of last year.

These crimes were committed by people not in their right mind with the anti-gun folks coming out of the woodwork wanting more gun laws.

Aurora, Colo., where the theater shooting occurred, has some of the strictest gun laws in the state of Colorado, yet these killings occurred.

It's gone so far that several anti gun newspapers in New York have published the address of gun owners in their county, which gives the criminals the exact place where they can go to steal a gun and which houses would be easy pickings since they have no guns to protect themselves.

Of course, when they break in to a

home that has guns, if the home owners are there, they may need to get by an irate individual with a gun in their hand, whose willing to defend their family and their home.

Many of these anti-gun fanatics are those elected congressional officials in Washington, D.C. the people that run our country and have no clue when it comes to guns and the thousands of gun laws we currently have.

These are the same people that are surrounded by security personnel armed to the teeth, yet preaching anti-gun rhetoric.

I hear so called news media screaming bloody murder about the machine guns and automatic weapons readily available from gun dealers and at gun shows.

When in fact, automatic rifles have been illegal in the U.S. since 1994, with California, the state anti-gun advocate Senator Dianne Feinstein represents, from a state that banned automatic weapons back in 1989. As far as machine guns, civilians have been restricted from owning machine guns since 1934.

I'm sure most of you, outdoorsmen and women, those who read outdoor columns on a regular basis know more about guns than many of those representing us in Washington D.C. and those demanding more gun laws. There are many folks out there who don't know the difference between semi-automatic weapons and an automatic weapons.

A semi-automatic weapon fires one

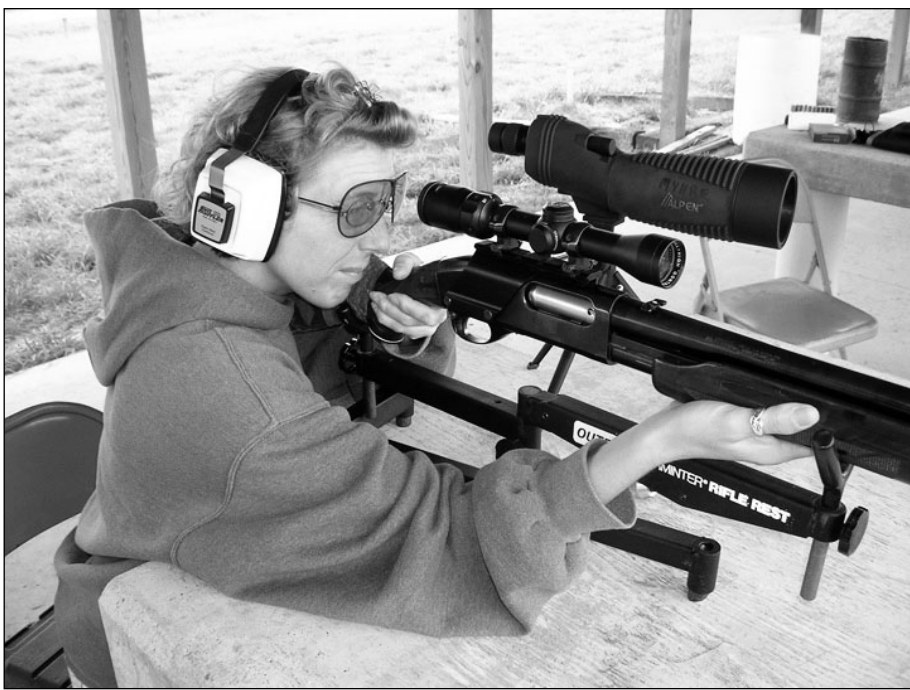


PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE
Renae Myhre of Sioux City, Iowa, takes aim, zeroing her shotgun prior to last seasons Iowa deer season at a local gun range in northeast Iowa. She along with millions of hunters and shooters are purchasing more weapons, ammunition and spending time on the range enjoying shooting sports.

bullet each time the trigger is pulled, ejecting the spent round, automatically loading another bullet. In order to fire a semi-automatic weapon, the trigger needs to be pulled each time.

Unlike semi-automatic weapons an automatic weapon continues to fire as long as the trigger is pressed.

As far as gun laws, there are thousands and thousands of gun laws on the books and in order to legally purchase a weapon, there's the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check which needs to be done in order for an individual to purchase a weapon from any federally licensed gun dealer.

The background check is used by licensed firearms deals to determine if a potential buyer has a criminal record, a history of serious mental illness or a history of domestic abuse, all of which prohibit gun dealers from selling to any of these individuals and buyers from legally obtaining a firearm.

The key word here is legal, as far as these laws are concerned, they will be obeyed by those individuals that do things legally.

Some believe there are no background checks done on weapons purchased at Gun Shows, which is false as background check run are done on all gun sales.

One sports commentator made the statement that if one football player didn't have a gun he and his child would be alive

today. Yes, it was a terrible crime, but in the state of mind he was in, he may have found other ways to commit the killings in other ways.

Those that would use guns to commit crimes aren't going to legally purchase firearms, they'll get them any where they can and when a gun isn't available they've used knives, hammers and vehicles, but you don't see anyone trying to ban them.

Because of the anti-gun politics in DC and the fear that more restrictive gun laws will be passed, restricting ownership of weapons, the legal purchases of weapons has increased dramatically. In November there were a record 2 million FBI National Instant Criminal Background Checks made, with 2.9 million being completed in December. A year ago, the total number of FBI National Instant Criminal Background Checks was 900,000.

The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that a well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Owning a weapon is our constitutional right, yet there are groups out there who are working hard to take away our right to bear arms, when the real answer is that gun laws we have now, need to be enforced.

History has shown, one of the first things dictators, such as Hitler or Stalin did was to ban gun ownership and confis-

Late Wis. Deer Season Event Provides Extra Chances

BY PAUL A. SMITH

(c) 2013 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

RICHLAND CENTER, Wis. —

One moment, the coulee was filled with sparkling late afternoon light.

The next, as the sun dropped behind MacDaddy Ridge, a new movement spilled into the agricultural bottomland.

Deer.

Four does and fawns streamed down the wooded hillside and into the field. The animals pawed through 12 inches of snow to feed on clover and turnips.

Minutes later, another, larger deer moved into a back corner of the field.

This animal bore a rack. Similar bucks in past years had given the ridge its name.

Payton Purnell, 11, was watching it all. Seated in a blind next to her father, Mike, she leveled her rifle at the deer and squeezed off a shot. As the report echoed through the valley, the antlerless deer ran out of the field.

Payton ran, too — to tag the first buck of her life. The 11-pointer had handsome headgear and weighed about 190 pounds. It will be mounted and provide meat for the table.

The outing was part of the late deer season known as the Holiday Hunt in Wisconsin's Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone. The hunt was instituted by the Department of Natural Resources in the last decade to increase hunting opportunity and kill more deer in an area of the state with high deer numbers. The hope,

too, is that the additional harvest will slow the spread of CWD, the deer disease found in Wisconsin since 2002.

This year the Holiday Hunt ran Dec. 24-Jan. 6.

Mike Purnell of Oconomowoc and his brother Lloyd Jr. of Pewaukee hosted a group of hunters in late December on property they own in Richland County. We gathered between Christmas and New Year's Day in the rural camp called The Roost. The crew included Lloyd Jr. and daughter Phelan (14); Mike and Payton; Eric McMillan, 30, Jim Smukowski, 43, Jesse Spanaus, 33, and me.

The Purnells' mother, Billie, grew up in Richland County, and the boys have been coming back to hunt the area for four decades. It began with squirrel hunting outings led by their father, Lloyd Sr. At the time, no one would have contemplated a gun deer season that stretched into January with the goal of reducing deer numbers.

"We used to dream about seeing a buck," said Lloyd Jr., 59.

The Purnell brothers purchased their first chunk of land in Richland County in 1987. Like many hunter/land owners, they've managed the property to benefit wildlife, including selective timber cuts and planting food plots.

The deer population in the rich, rolling Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin is among the highest in the state. Here in Deer Management Unit 71 CWD, the fall population was estimated at 55 deer per square mile of deer range, according to a 2011 DNR

report.

It can be hard to wrap your mind around deer densities of 30, 50 or even 100 per square mile. But in winter, it becomes much easier. With snow on the landscape, the deer stand out like neon. And with food resources at an annual low, the animals are concentrated.

The Purnells planted turnips and clover in several fields. They also paid a farmer to plant corn and leave some unharvested.

By late December, the ears had been picked clean of kernels.

On the second night of the hunt, Mike Purnell and I watched 18 deer move into a field that included several rows of corn stalks.

In keeping with the Purnells' wishes, I shot two antlerless deer, an adult doe and a doe fawn, out of the group. I missed another when my bullet hit a low-hanging branch (my story).

The next afternoon, Smukowski killed an adult doe on a different part of the property. On the fourth day, Spanaus also

tagged an adult doe. And on the fifth day, the group conducted a drive and pushed two deer past Smukowski. He killed an antlerless deer with one shot but missed a buck.

The Holiday Hunt has evolved into one of the highest-quality deer hunts of the season, Mike Purnell said.

"There is much less hunting pressure," he said. "And it gives us a better feel for how many deer we have on the property and what we need to do to manage it."

Our group savored Smukowski's home-cooked soup and stew on midday breaks and evening meals, watched spell-bound as deer flooded into the fields after dark, were visited by bald eagles and red-bellied woodpeckers, and burned calories "hutching" up and down ridges through snow. The girls also enjoyed sliding down hillsides on our plastic deer-hauling sled.

The Purnells keep the same traditions and goals in place from the early archery season, through the nine-day gun hunt and to the

end of the Holiday Hunt.

Their primary emphasis is on passing on and sharing the hunting tradition. New hunters are encouraged to shoot any deer they feel they can make a clean, killing shot on. If experienced hunters see the buck of a lifetime, they should try for it. At all times, the harvest of female deer is encouraged.

And if a hunter happens to miss a deer, they enter the "Skunk Hall of Shame." Smukowski and I joined the class of 2012. Our photographs, wearing a skunk-skin cap, will join others on the walls of The Roost.

The Holiday Hunt put the 2012 season total to 35 deer killed, including seven during the October youth hunt, on about 600 acres surrounding The Roost. Past experience shows next season will be another year of plenty, Lloyd Purnell Jr. said.

"It's bittersweet now, at the end of our deer hunting for the year," he said. "But this (Holiday Hunt) always ends the season on a high note."

Upcoming S.D. Gun Shows

If you're interested in shooting and collecting guns, there are several of the Gun Shows coming up in the next few months.

Jan. 12-13	Brookings	Swiftel Center
Jan. 26-27	Yankton	NFAA Headquarters
Feb. 2-3	Aberdeen	Ramkota Hotel
Feb. 9-10	Pierre	Ramkota River Centre
Feb. 9-10	Sioux Falls	Ramkota Conv. Center
March 9-10	Sioux Falls	Expo Building
March 16-17	Watertown	Cod. Co. AG Building

cate guns, eliminating any opposition to the heinous crimes these dictators would commit.

When talk turns to more gun control, hunters and shooters worry about being unable to get guns and ammunition, creating an increase in gun purchases, all of which will be run through the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check.

Recently, I talked with good friend Vic Carter, Kones Korner of Castlewood, a member of the Dakota Territorial Gun Collector's Association as I wanted to know how gun sales in his shop in Northeast South Dakota were going.

According to Carter, "Gun sales have been crazy as have ammunition sales and with the increased sales, it may take as long as an hour to get through to the do the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check because there are so many weapons being sold.

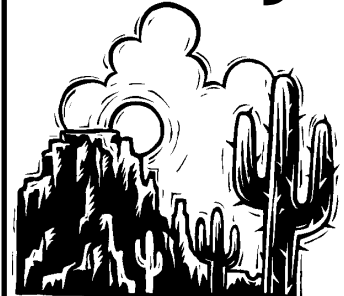
"Since gun sales are so high, gun and ammunition manufacturers are having a tough time keeping up."

Do we need more gun laws, I don't believe so, the thousands of gun laws we currently have need to be enforced and those criminals committing crimes need to be put away for a very long time and not let out to kill again.

When legal guns are taken away from citizens, the only ones who will have guns will be the criminals.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. Howey is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which can be seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor information, it can be found at www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

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OIF/OEF VETERANS AND SOLDIERS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH "Neural and Behavioral Correlates of PTSD and Alcohol Use"

If you have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, are right-handed, and are between the ages of 18 and 45, and are not currently pregnant, you are being invited to participate in a research project about past experiences with stress and current behaviors. This study is being conducted by Drs. Gina Forster, Jeffrey Simons and Raluca Gaher at The University of South Dakota.

Participation in this study involves completing an interview and questionnaire with a research team member, which should take 3 hours or less. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and your responses will be confidential.

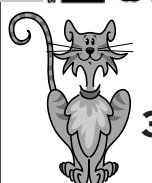
You will be given \$100 for completing the initial interview and eligible participants will be invited to participate in a second study using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in which you will receive \$300. If you are active duty military, you will only be compensated for research participation if you are off duty.

If you are interested in this study, please contact Dawne Olson at 605-677-5170 or neurostudies@usd.edu for more information.

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