

## OUTDOORS DIGEST

## State Parks Busy During July 4 Holiday

PIERRE — As with most summer holidays, the Fourth of July was a busy one in South Dakota State Parks.

Park managers across the state reported full campgrounds and busy day-use areas over the weekend. Parks saw a high number of boaters, swimmers, picnickers and good attendance at park events.

"For the most part, campgrounds were full from Wednesday through Sunday," said state park director Doug Hofer. "The warm weather kept the boat ramps and beaches full."

Fisher Grove State Park near Redfield had its first holiday weekend since the new 22-site campground opened. "We were happy to see the campground at capacity over the weekend," said regional park supervisor Becky Graff. "It's nice to have facilities available in that area again."

Custer State Park received over two inches of rain, but the weather didn't interfere with camping. "Our campgrounds and resorts were full despite the weather," said park superintendent Matt Snyder.

Programs and activities continue in the parks all summer long. Visit the events calendar at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov) or call your local park for more information on upcoming events.

To make reservations at South Dakota state parks and recreation areas, visit [www.campsd.com](http://www.campsd.com) or call 1-800-710-CAMP (2267).

## Good Earth Dedication July 19

ST. LOUIS FALLS — On July 19, South Dakota will officially dedicate Good Earth State Park at Blood Run as its first new state park in over 40 years.

"We want to preserve this culturally significant site for future generations," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. "By setting aside this land as a state park we will protect its natural beauty and provide an excellent educational opportunity about a site that was a peaceful Native American trading and ceremonial center for centuries."

Good Earth State Park at Blood Run is located just southeast of Sioux Falls and is part of the Blood Run National Historic Landmark. The landmark lies on both sides of the Big Sioux River at the mouth of Blood Run Creek, and includes over 3,000 acres of land in South Dakota and Iowa.

The river, abundant wildlife, fertile flood plains, availability of pipestone and protection from winds made the site an important gathering place and trading center for American Indians from 1350 to 1700 A.D. During the latter part of that period, Blood Run was the largest Oneota site known to exist anywhere. Archeologists speculate that there were 6,000 to 10,000 people utilizing the village that served as a trade and ceremonial center for the entire region.

The park was officially designated as a state park during the 2013 Legislative session but the project has been in the works for several decades.

The National Park Service recognized the site's cultural and historical significance and named Blood Run a National Historic Landmark in 1970. Over the next several decades, the states of South Dakota and Iowa purchased pieces of land within the landmark.

The major acquisitions came recently in South Dakota, where over 400 acres of pristine natural property have been added to the park over the last two years.

"Partnerships have been key to this project from the beginning," said Doug Hofer, South Dakota State Parks Director. "The outpouring of support from both public and private entities has been phenomenal."

Hofer noted The Conservation Fund as an important partner. As a national non-profit organization dedicated to saving special places and land for public use, the organization acquired a key portion of the park and held it until funding was available for the state to purchase the property.

The dedication, which is open to the public, will take place 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. CDT on July 19 at the site. Scheduled speakers include Gov. Daugaard, GFP Secretary Jeff Vonk, members of area tribes, SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation Past President Jeff Scherschligt and Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad. Guided hikes of the new park will be offered following the ceremony.

For more information on Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, visit [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

## Become A Youth Fishing Instructor

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will certify youth fishing instructors Aug. 24 in Kearney at the Harmon Park Activity Center, 3100 5th Ave., from 9 a.m. to noon.

Youth fishing instructors will receive training and tools to conduct fishing clinics. These volunteers will have access to Game and Parks' loaner fishing equipment and educational materials, as well as receive program incentives. They also are encouraged to volunteer for such Game and Parks programs as Family Fishing Nights and the Outdoor Discovery Program.

Space is limited. Reserve a spot in this free workshop by Aug. 16 by calling 402-332-4204 or emailing [lindsey.chizinski@nebraska.gov](mailto:lindsey.chizinski@nebraska.gov).

## Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

## The Dog Days Of Summer

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

Those of us, who have been patiently waiting for the warmer weather to get here, have gotten our wish.

This is the time of the year when the temperatures will start to rise, as will the humidity, making for perfect conditions for nasty weather and tougher walleye fishing conditions.

This time of the year, fish have a lot of different conditions they have to adjust or relate to including: rising water temperatures, rising/falling barometric pressure, high water, low water and the summers bright sun-

light all making walleye fishing during the Dog Days of summer tough.

There are a few keys to locating and catching fish this time of the year. Deeper water and areas with less sunlight penetration are where the fish will be located this time of the year.



Gary  
HOWEY

With the rise in water temperatures, walleyes and other species of fish will head into deeper water searching out comfortable water temperatures.

These deep-water haunts provide the cooler water temperatures that the fish need to survive when things heat up.

There are several reasons that the fish will relocate into the depths. Another of these is that their food source, baitfish has moved down bringing the predator fish with them.

There are several methods that will allow you to take these Deep-water fish, those that have worked well for me are: leadcore line, snap weights or downriggers dragging crankbaits.

During this time of the year, the movement of the fish can vary drastically, especially just prior to a severe weather change.

Fish are able to detect a change of weather well before it happens using their lateral line, which is a series of sensitive nerve endings extending from behind the gills to their tail.

Since they know that a severe



Kella Rodiek of Mitchell is pictured with a nice smallmouth bass caught while fishing with Chuck Krause on Oahe using the Dog Day methods mentioned in this column.

PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

weather change is about to occur, walleyes and other species of fish will go on a feeding binge prior to the arrival of the storm, then move deep, lying dormant on the bottom until weather conditions stabilize.

If you are unfortunate to have to fish these dormant fish after a storm has passed through, you'll need a lot of patience and a precise bait presentation, such as a Lindy Rig.

I've had my best luck on these inactive fish by presenting my bait right in front of the walleyes nose and staying there until I make them mad enough to bite.

Since the sun is at its highest point this time of the year and

walleyes are very light sensitive, they're going to be more active in periods where sunlight penetration is minimal.

These periods include: early morning and late evening, as the sun is at it's lowest point and sunlight penetration is the least during this time of the day.

Not all walleyes will stay deep throughout the day, as there are times when the conditions are right, walleyes can be caught shallow.

One of these is on those very windy days as there's a good chance that walleyes will move up shallow to feed in the on top of humps rock piles and sandbars.

## Panel Shortens Bobcat Hunting, Trapping Season

PIERRE (AP) — Faced with questions about how many bobcats live in South Dakota, a state panel Monday decided to shorten next winter's hunting and trapping season by two weeks in an effort to limit the number of cats that will be killed in the western part of the state.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission last month had proposed that no more than 600 bobcats could be shot or trapped in western South Dakota next winter.

But on the advice of state wildlife biologists, the commission decided Monday to scrap the idea of a quota. The panel instead voted 5-2 to cut two weeks off the start of the season, a change biologists said would reduce both the overall number of cats killed and the number of females taken.

The season will run from Dec. 26 through Feb. 15 next winter, starting two weeks later than last winter's season, which ran from Dec. 14 through Feb. 15.

Commissioners have said they are worried that soaring prices for bobcat pelts could cause trappers to kill more of the elusive creatures next winter. The price for a prime pelt reached about \$1,000 last winter.

A limited season also will be held in five southeastern South Dakota counties, where each hunter or trapper would be limited to one

bobcat in a season running from Dec. 26 through Jan. 18. The season in eastern South Dakota would be held only in Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Bon Homme and Yankton counties.

South Dakota's main bobcat population is in the western part of the state, and biologists are in the first year of a three-year study aimed at getting a better idea of how many cats roam the state.

State wildlife biologist Keith Fisk said bobcats are so elusive it will be difficult to estimate the population. But he said biologists are worried because hunters and trappers in western South Dakota took slightly more females than males in recent years, an indication that a lot of pressure is being put on the population.

"It's time to do something before we end up in a real bad scenario," Fisk told the commission.

A quota system would have ended the season early once 600 bobcats had been taken, but Fisk said a quota might have increased the number of females taken by

trappers trying to get cats before the limit was reached. Starting the season two weeks later than normal should reduce the number of females taken because many females seem to be trapped early in the season, he said.

Hunters and trappers have taken 600-650 bobcats a year over the past decade, Fisk said.

Some hunters and trappers urged the commission to make no change in the season. Anna Hermanson, of Newell, president of the South Dakota Trappers Association, said the group believes there is insufficient data to indicate the bobcat population is in trouble. But the association would have preferred a quota of 650 instead of a shortened season, she said.

Hermanson, who said she runs more than 100 traps, said she used to see hundreds of bobcat tracks when she lived on a southwestern South Dakota ranch, but she actually saw only one.

"They are a very elusive species," Hermanson said.

## SD State Parks Remind Visitors To Practice Mosquito Prevention

PIERRE — After the wet spring, the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation is reminding people to take measures to protect themselves from mosquitoes while outdoors this summer.

"The best prevention is to become knowledgeable on the subject," says Doug Hofer, director of the Division of Parks and Recreation. "By implementing just a few steps to decrease personal contact with mosquitoes, we can make outdoor experiences much more enjoyable this summer."

To prevent mosquito bites, the South Dakota Department of Health suggests the following steps:

- When outdoors, use mosquito repellent containing DEET, according to directions.
- Spray repellent on both skin and clothes, but avoid applying repellent to the hands of children, as it may irritate the eyes and mouth.
- Wear light colored long-sleeve shirts and pants.
- Be aware that mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn and when the air is calm.

For more information on mosquitoes and West Nile Virus, visit the Department of Health's website at [www.doh.sd.gov](http://www.doh.sd.gov).

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## STIP Public Meetings

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2014-2017 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 16, 2013..... Ramada Convention Center ..... Aberdeen ..... 7:00 PM  
July 17, 2013..... Ramkota Hotel..... Sioux Falls..... 7:00 PM  
July 18, 2013..... MTI Tech. Center (1800 E. Spruce)..... Mitchell ..... 7:00 PM  
July 23, 2013..... Ramkota Hotel..... Pierre ..... 7:00 PM  
July 24, 2013..... Ramkota Hotel..... Rapid City ..... 7:00 PM

Individuals with disabilities or special needs call 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 (TDD).  
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## Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am Auction and Dinner

July 25th from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
at Elks Lodge in Yankton

Meal tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at 665-2341.

Buffet dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. with a live auction to start at 7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Yankton Sack Pack Program and Yankton Area Special Olympics.

This event is sponsored by the Broadway Group of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

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