

OUTDOORS DIGEST

GFP Opens Application Process For S.D. Deer Hunting Seasons

PIERRE — The Game, Fish and Parks License Office has announced that the application process for all South Dakota deer hunting seasons is now open.

Applications may be submitted online through the GFP website at www.gfp.sd.gov. A paper form containing application and information for all deer seasons will be available in late June. Hunters will have the option to apply online or fill out the paper application and mail it to the License Office.

"We are now accepting online applications for all deer hunting seasons. Deadline dates for submitting applications will vary from season to season," GFP Licensing Supervisor Shon Eide said.

Season deadline dates include:

- Archery Deer, no deadline
- Youth Deer, no deadline
- Custer State Park Deer, July 19
- Black Hills Deer, July 19
- West River Deer, July 19
- Muzzleloader Deer, Aug. 30 for Any Deer tags

- Refuge Deer, Aug. 30
- Resident East River Deer, Aug. 30
- Nonresident East River Deer, Oct. 11

In addition to deer seasons, the application process is also open for Fall Turkey and Archery Antelope. The deadline is July 22.

For more information or assistance with the application process, call 605-223-7660 or email wildinfo@state.sd.gov.

S.D. Deer Hunting Seasons Finalized

PIERRE — The Game, Fish and Parks Commission has finalized all 2013 South Dakota deer hunting seasons.

The online application process for the hunting seasons will open in mid-June. A new paper application including all deer seasons will be available later this month. Deadline dates for submission of applications will vary and are specified within the application.

East River Deer season dates are Nov. 23-Dec. 8 for all tags, and Dec. 29-Jan. 5 for antlerless tags only. The deadline for license lottery applications is Aug. 30.

The West River Deer season will run from Nov. 16-Dec. 1 for all tags; except Gregory and Mellette counties will run from Nov. 2-5 and Nov. 18-24, and Dewey, Ziebach and Corson counties will run from Nov. 2-24. The season will be open in all areas Dec. 29-Jan. 5 for antlerless tags only. Deadline for license lottery applications is July 19.

Additional seasons, season dates and application deadlines are as follows:

Black Hills Deer, Nov. 1-30 for all tags, application deadline July 19

Custer State Park Deer, Nov. 2-15, application deadline July 19

The Archery Deer season will run from Sept. 28-Dec. 31 for all tags. In addition, antlerless tags will be valid from Jan. 1-15.

The Muzzleloader Deer season will run from Dec. 1-31 for all tags. In addition, antlerless tags will be valid from Jan. 1-15. Deadline for license lottery application for the limited Any Deer tags available is Aug. 30.

The National Wildlife Refuge Deer seasons have various starting dates within each refuge. Deadline for license lottery applications is Aug. 30.

The Youth Deer season will run from Sept. 14-Jan. 15.

Application information for these deer hunting seasons will be available online through the GFP website at www.gfp.sd.gov beginning in mid-June.

SD GFP Commission Re-proposes Bobcat Season

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission re-proposed the 2013 Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Season at its June Meeting.

The Commission adopted a proposal to change the West River season from the second Saturday of December to February 15, to Dec. 26 – March 1 and to include an overall harvest limit of 600. If the overall harvest limit is reached prior to March 1, the season will close at that time. The East River season dates would change from the second Saturday of December to December 26 and run through the third Sunday of January.

The Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Season will be finalized at the July 8-9 GFP Commission meeting, which will be held in Pierre at the Ramkota RiverCentre. To view the full proposals on those seasons, visit www.gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx and look under the "Rule Proposals" heading.

To comment on any of the proposals, send a letter to: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission, 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501; or email wild.info@state.sd.us. Comments on proposal will be taken until 5 p.m. CDT on June 5. To be included in the public record, please include your full name and city of residence.

To comment in person on the proposed rule, the GFP Commission will host a public hearing beginning at 2 p.m. CDT as part of their meeting on Monday, July 8.

GFP Emphasizing Boating Safety

PIERRE — With the approach of the Fourth of July Holiday, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is joining a national effort to highlight boating safety.

Operation Dry Water will take place June 28-30, and is a national weekend promoting boating safety and responsible use of alcohol while boating.

Approximately 17 percent of all boating fatalities nationwide are alcohol-related. As part of the national event, GFP will be conducting extra boating safety patrols across the state to promote safe and responsible boating practices heading into the Fourth of July holiday.

"Our conservation officers conduct these safety patrols throughout the year," Brandon Gust, GFP boating safety coordinator, said. "As we move into the peak boating season, we feel we can use our presence to share the message that safety is an essential element of any boating experience."

Having a safe and sober operator is always a critical part of boating but Gust added there are other items to account for as well.

The majority of boats in South Dakota are required to carry:

- One U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable, properly sized personal flotation device for each person aboard
- One U.S. Coast Guard-approved throwable type flotation device (seat cushion or ring buoy) for vessels 16 feet or longer
- One U.S. Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher of B-1 type or larger for vessels with enclosed gas compartments

Gust noted that state regulations require all children under age seven to wear an approved personal flotation device anytime a boat is moving at greater than no-wake speed. He recommends taking the next step and keeping a personal flotation device on all occupants in the boat at all times.

If boaters are uncertain what safety equipment they are required to have onboard, Gust suggests that they pick up a copy of the South Dakota Boating Handbook at the nearest GFP Office, state park, GFP-license outlet or by going online at <http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/boating/>

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Wind, Cold & Walleyes

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

There are times, especially this year when something just doesn't seem right, this would be one of those times, when our June weather seemed more like the weather we'd see in early April

Our plans would be to film and fish out of Platte as the bite had been going well on the lake. I and Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Larry Myhre (Sioux City, Iowa) and Outdoorsmen Productions/Wayne State College interns Kella Rodiek (Mitchell) who'd be fishing with us, while our other intern Morgan Ruterbories (Clearwater, Neb.) handled the filming.

We were headquartered out of Kings Inn, kingsinnmotel.com in Platte, so we launched out of Platte Creek, where we were met by wind roaring up to 40 MPH, whipping the waters to a froth with monstrous white caps pounding into the shoreline.

Only the day before, other anglers from Hartington had taken good fish off of the many points outside of the bay, but the front which rolled through the evening before we arrived, put the fish down as they waited out the cold front which continued to roll in the next couple of days.

Temperatures were in the low 60's, it was cloudy with rain in the forecast. This was June when temps should be close to 80 degrees and where was the sun, you'd swear it was April.

Our plan was to spend the first afternoon pitching spinnerbaits and tube jigs into the warmer water of the bay for smallmouth bass, as on most years, in June, the smallmouth have moved into the warmer waters of the bay, where they should be stacked up along the rock strewn bay shoreline.

Larry, who was running the boat was doing his best to keep the boat running parallel along the shoreline started out pitching a 3/16th spinnerbait, but, because of the strong wind had to upsize and go to a 3/8th ounce.

Kella and I were also pitching heavier spinnerbaits, with Kella loosing a fish at the boat while I had big northern make a pass at my bait just as I pulled it from the water.

Myhre was the first to connect with a smaller fish and had the hot hand the rest of the afternoon, landing all eight of the smallmouth caught in our boat.

As we loaded the boat, our hopes were that the weatherman would be right on his predictions for a lot less wind tomorrow.

Stepping out onto the deck of my room the following morning, it looked as if the wind may have died a bit, but not a lot.

Like my 5 year old granddaughter Presley said one time when I had mentioned the weather man was wrong on his predictions, she said, "sometimes those weatherman don't tell the truth!"

The wind once again was howling, not as bad as the day before as it had changed direction and was now blowing 15-20 MPH from the other direction.

It didn't take us long to realize the cold fronts sliding into the area each evening had changed everything.

We hit the water earlier than we had the day before, hoping to get out onto the big lake before the wind picked up.

We'd be probing the many points and mud flats along Lake Sharpe's shoreline and because of the wind and the depth, we'd be fishing at, had to go to upsize or baits, going to heavier 2 ounce bottom bouncers, Lindy spinners and minnows while other anglers were having good luck trolling leadcore with crankbaits over the trees in the deep water of



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Outdoorsmen Productions Wayne State College intern Kella Rodiek is pictured with a walleye taken while fishing in the Platte area of Lake Francis Case.

the channel.

As the wind hammered into shoreline, creating a huge mud line, we worked out along the edge of the points coming out of the bay.

On Francis Case, all walleyes until the 1st of July need to be 15" after the 1st, there's no size limit on walleyes.

The lake holds good numbers of fish 15" and larger but when ever you're fishing cold front conditions, the fishing can and be tough.

Kella was the first to connect with a legal fish, a nice 16" fish and shortly after we netted her fish, I brought a fat 15" fish into the boat.

Because of the cold front and heavy winds, which had changed direction, the fishing was tough, although, throughout the day, we landed numerous fish below the 15" minimum, indicating that the walleye population down the road would be in excellent shape.

Kella soon landed another keeper, while Larry and I kept pounding on and releasing those short fish. My second keeper another just over the minimum size came later in the day as did Larry's first keeper.

There's always tomorrow, a short day as our plans were to pull out around noon.

Upon arising the following morning, the wind seemed to have settled down a little, while the cold temperatures were still with us.

We layered up with sweatshirts and rain gear and headed for Pease Creek to give it one more try.

Pulling into the dock, once again, we were greeted or should I say harassed by strong winds blowing into the bay, where it was obvious we needed to make a decision, should we pound our way out into the big lake, getting us and our camera equipment wet or stay in the bay where we'd caught a few keepers the day before.

We thought about it, for about 30 seconds

and then motored across the bay to work the shoreline with the same gear we used the day before.

As luck would have it, on a day when we didn't have time to clean fish, we started picking up the fish we'd looked for the day prior, those fish over 15" started coming into the boat, which made good footage for the show we were filming of Kella, Larry and I releasing keeper fish.

We ended up with enough fish for a couple of meals, had the opportunity to spend some time on one of the Great Lakes of South Dakota, to meet some great people and to make some new friends.

This wouldn't be our first trip to Lake Francis Case as the fishing there is excellent year around, only next time, we'd try to hit it when there were less cold fronts in the area.

More information on all that's happening in the Platte, SD area can be found at www.platetd.org with other information on the Missouri River Reservoirs in the Great Lakes of South Dakota can be found at www.sdgreat-lakes.org.

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 in Yankton the series airs on channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program Monday-Saturday at 6:45 am on Yankton's Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com and like Outdoorsmen Adventures on Facebook.

Hungry Anglers In Florida Take Gourmet Trip

BY SUSAN COCKING
(c) 2013 The Miami Herald

MIAMI — Rarely do South Florida fishing guides prepare lunch for their customers; if they have any food on board at all, it is usually a stale grab-and-go from the local convenience store or a can of Vienna sausages that must be carbon-dated.

But Anthony Hunt is not a typical South Florida fishing guide. The 36-year-old Tamarac, Fla., resident is a five-star chef who recently helped open Fort Lauderdale hotspot S3 on the beach and also prepares gourmet meals at A-listers' homes. When he is not baking, sauteing or flash-frying, he is competing on the FLW bass tour or guiding anglers to big catches in lakes, rivers and canals from the Everglades to Central Florida. Recently, Hunt decided to combine cooking and fishing into a single enterprise called BoatAppetite.com — guided freshwater fishing with a fresh, gourmet lunch included.

"One thing the guide industry is missing is hospitality," Hunt said. "And being the only chef on tour, who better to do it?"

Click on his website to book a trip and tell him where you want to go, what you want to fish for, and what you want to eat for lunch. He offers full, half- and three-quarter day and nighttime excursions for up to three anglers aboard his tricked-out 20-foot Ranger bass boat. For larger groups, he draws from a cadre of trusted guides to handle the overflow.

"I'm really trying to target people who want a different experience and love good food," he said.

Before water levels began rising in April and May, Hunt and his customers were enjoying 60-bass days in several of the Everglades canals, casting everything from plastic frogs to swimbaits to top-water plugs. These days, the fish are spreading out into their expanded wet-season habitat, but there are still plenty of postspawn lunkers in the 5- to 8-pound class ready to take a bait.

On a recent trip to the canals around Sawgrass Recreation Area in west Broward, Hunt and a customer caught and released some 30 bass to about 3 pounds using mainly brown/tan Live Target Frogs. Casting to lily pads and deadfalls, guide and angler watched breathlessly as the larger fish crashed the lively, jumping plastic baits at the surface.

They paused from fishing at midday to munch on curried chicken salad accompanied by a tart cole slaw and a dessert of fresh strawberries soaked in red wine —hardly a typical Florida bass outing. Then they resumed casting and pitching baits until thunderstorms chased them back to the boat ramp.

Afterward, Hunt's customer was hard-pressed to decide which was better — the food or the fishing. It was just too close to call.

Weekend Adventure To Teach Women Outdoor Skills

LINCOLN, Neb. — Grab a friend, your mother, daughter, sister, or colleague and get outdoors for a life-changing adventure in the Sandhills. A workshop sponsored by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission gives women the opportunity to learn outdoor skills in a comfortable environment.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman is a weekend getaway for women

18 years and older scheduled for Oct. 4-6 at the State 4-H Camp, located in the Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey. Game and Parks is accepting registrations.

Outdoor novices get preference, but experienced outdoor-women are invited, too. All will be taught by a staff of Game and Parks professionals. Skills learned may be enjoyed for a lifetime.

Participants choose from a variety of activities, including hiking, canoeing, kayaking, firearm safety, fishing, fly-fishing, bowfishing, GPS, camping, rifle marksmanship, shotgunning, deer and turkey hunting, photography and bird identification.

Visit NebraskaBOW.com or call Peggy Kapeller at 402-471-5482 for more information or to get a registration form.

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