

S.D. GF&P Hosting Open House In Yankton March 24

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks will be hosting an open house on Wednesday, March 24, at the National Field Archery Association Headquarters in Yankton.

The Game Fish and Parks Open House will give the public the opportunity to converse with department employees from 5-7 p.m., with a short presentation at 5:15 p.m. There will be representatives from the Department from the Parks Division and the Wildlife Division available to discuss issues that are brought to them from the public.

The presentation will consist of a general overview of game, fish and land issues in Yankton County, paddelfish management goals, recent land acquisitions, South Dakota Parks and summarizing with waterfowl management in the respective area.

If there are questions

regarding this open house, call Wildlife Conservation Officer Sam Schelhaas at 605-668-2985.

Following the open house, a discussion on mountain lion management will be conducted from 7-9 p.m. at the same location. The discussion will begin with a presentation by John Kanta, regional wildlife manager for the western part of South Dakota. Kanta will offer some basic information on mountain lion history and management. He will also discuss some of the findings from research conducted in the Black Hills. He will also outline the department's mountain lion management plan and solicit input from attendees as to what they feel should be included in the plan and how they feel mountain lions should be managed in South Dakota. This input will be included in the mountain lion plan revision currently being conducted.

GUITAR

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special," Rounds said.

When the 2006 event was still in its planning stages, Vietnam War veterans were asked the type of activity that would be appropriate to help bring people together at the dedication.

"They were asked, 'What kind of entertainment do you want? Do you want a dance?' and they replied, 'Are you kidding? We want concerts.'"

"So we went to work, and we asked people in South Dakota if they would help us put together a plan where we would have a series of rock concerts," Rounds said.

The state's memorial to honor the 28,000 South Dakotans who served in the Vietnam War was dedicated Sept. 15-16, 2006. Two concerts were held at Hollister Field in Pierre as part of the dedication events.

The Beach Boys with special guests the Red Willow Band performed on Friday, Sept. 15. The Steve Miller Band with special guests Creedence Clearwater Revisited performed on Saturday, Sept. 16. Both concerts sold out 10,000 tickets.

Planners of the concert decided, as a special touch, to ask the performers to sign the guitar while they were in Pierre.

"Not only did they sign it, but they also decorated it," Rounds said. "What we ended up with was a commitment that we would find some way to honor the veterans on a longer-term basis with a remembrance of that time in Pierre when we literally had the entire state participating and celebrating in this 'welcome home and thank you for your service' ceremony."

Planners at one time had thought of selling the guitar to help offset the costs of the celebration.

"As we looked at it, we realized this is too precious to ever have it leave our state," the governor said.

The guitar's home since the

concert has been Rounds' office.

"Realizing that I only have eight months left in office, we knew that we needed to do something which would allow the guitar to not only be celebrated, but also would be available for people to see and to help people remember that this was a very special time," Rounds said.

Steve Miller's signature stood out clearly as the governor held the guitar so that everyone at Friday's gathering at the museum could get a good look at the instrument. Miller added a flourish, extending a line from the last letter of his name up much of the face of the instrument, and embellishing that line so that it resembles a long feather. Under his name is printed "Fly Like A Eagle," the title of one of the Steve Miller Band's best known songs.

Rounds recalled that after Miller and Love had signed the guitar, Cook and Clifford of CCR prepared to add their personal touches to the instrument.

"When they started to do that, the first thing that happened was a big blob (of ink) had dropped on it," Rounds said. "And they were so upset. They said, 'Oh no, look what happened!'"

"It was kind of funny because here are two guys who are clearly well-known as musicians, and yet to them this was something special because these other

USD Hosts 26th State Science Olympiad

VERMILLION — More than a dozen middle school and high school teams will compete in the 26th annual South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament at The University of South Dakota on Saturday, March 27.

More than 200 middle school and high school students will compete in several science events. The top teams from each division will be invited to the 2010 National Science Olympiad Tournament in May.

South Dakota schools participating in this year's event at USD include Brookings High School, Deuel Middle and High Schools, Elk Point-Jefferson Middle School, Gaville-Volin Middle and High Schools, Great Plains Lutheran High School (Watertown), Madison Middle School, McLaughlin Middle School, Mickelson Middle

School (Brookings), Mitchell Middle and High Schools, Sacred Heart Middle School (Yankton), Spearfish Middle and High Schools, Timber Lake Middle School, Todd County High School, Vermillion Middle School, and Yankton Middle and High School. In addition to the ongoing competitions, there will be open house activities, including demonstrations by The Outdoor Campus.

All events for the Science Olympiad are determined at the national level. For the state tournament, faculty, staff, and students from USD organize and judge these events. The schedule with a list of events is located on the USD Web site at <http://usd.edu/math/sdscioly>. For a brief description of the events, visit the national Web site at www.soinc.org.

guys, who they respected, had already signed this," the governor said.

Rounds quickly grabbed his handkerchief and wiped off the offending spot.

"Those two said, 'We never could have talked to those guys again if we had ruined that guitar.'"

The governor handed the guitar to Randall during Friday's ceremony, officially adding it to the collection of instruments in the National Music Museum.

"Arian Sheets, our curator of stringed instruments, will be taking this shortly, and it might be the last time that bare hands get to hold this," Randall said. "Most guitars have a few years of anonymous use and then go into closets and die. This guitar was blessed to be signed by these wonderful musicians, and now it comes here and gets to rub shoulders with world-famous

musical instruments."

"This is an interesting instrument because it has a lot of high-profile, recognizable names on it," Sheets said following the presentation. "For the general public, getting to see the actual signatures of their favorite stars from the 1970s and '80s can really be meaningful."

The instrument presented by the governor will fit in well with other guitars at the National Music Museum linked to famous musicians.

"We have a guitar autographed by B.B. King, and we also have a guitar autographed by several country music stars," Sheets said. "This is the first guitar that we received that is autographed by several great rock musicians."

In addition to the guitar, Gov. Rounds is also donating a collection of documentary materials related to the 2006 War Memorial dedication.

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