

Briefs: S.D. State Indoor Archery Tournament This Weekend

The NFAA Easton Archery Complex in Yankton will host the South Dakota Archers Association 2012 Indoor State Tournament this weekend, March 17-18. Competition will begin at 8 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. The Yankton Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) Club will have a concession stand open during the tournament. For more information, call the NFAA at 260-9282.

Pheasants Forever Adds CRP Landowner Workshop In Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS — A Conservation Reserve Program Landowner Workshop has been added to assist the many landowners in the Sioux Falls area at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, at the Outdoor Campus. The signup period, which runs March 12 through April 6, is crucial to South Dakota's ring-necked pheasant population. "Landowners can learn from Pheasants Forever farm bill biologists how to improve the odds of their lands being accepted in the competitive CRP general signup 43," says Andy Gabbert, habitat biologist with the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. "Conserving marginal lands through CRP can prove mutually beneficial for wildlife and agriculture production." Abundant CRP grassland habitat in South Dakota has helped maintain the state's status as the nation's top pheasant producing state, but the state has lost more than a quarter of its CRP acreage since 2007, from 1.56 million acres in 2007 to the current level of 1.1 million acres. Subsequently, South Dakota's pheasant population has steadily declined from 2007, when hunters harvested an estimated 2.1 million pheasants. Game Fish and Parks habitat biologists will also be available to answer questions regarding habitat management strategies.

Trout To Be Stocked Below Fort Randall Dam

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department will stock approximately 15,000 trout below Fort Randall Dam this month. The first stocking of about 7,500 trout in the boat basin below the dam is scheduled for Friday, March 16, according to Jason Sorensen, GFP fisheries biologist. The remaining trout will be stocked on March 23. Trout are stocked annually below Fort Randall Dam to provide a unique fishing opportunity, in addition to other fishing opportunities in the area. Crews from McNenny State Fish Hatchery in Spearfish will stock brown trout and two strains of rainbow trout below the dam near Pickstown. "There are 5,000 each of brown trout, Shasta strain rainbow trout and McConaughy strain rainbow trout scheduled to be stocked," Sorensen said. "The trout range between 9 and 12 inches in length and bite readily, providing excellent angling opportunities for kids of all ages, as well as adults," he said. One strain of rainbow trout has been marked with a fin clip to aid in differentiating them for an ongoing research project that hopes to help maximize stocking efficiency, Sorensen said. Monitoring is done over the course of several years to account for the effects of variables such as weather and post-stocking survival. A main objective of the stocking is to return trout to the angler creel.

Special S.D. Buck Hunting Seasons Finalized

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has finalized 2012 Special Buck hunting seasons with no changes in structure from the 2011 seasons. The Commission had earlier recommended increases in the number of resident and nonresident West River Special Buck licenses from 500 to 600, and increasing the \$500 nonresident fee to \$600. Those proposals were defeated at the GFP March meeting, and the existing season structure was left in place. The application process is now open for the limited Special Buck licenses available for those seasons. Hunters may apply online, or print an application from the GFP website and mail the application to the GFP License Office. Printed applications will be available in field offices by the end of March. The application deadline for Special Buck seasons is April 20.

Antlerless Deer Permit Part Of Neb. Big Game Changes

LINCOLN, Neb. — A change in strategy has the state's antlerless white-tailed deer harvest focused on river corridors. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commissioners adopted big game regulation amendments at their meeting in Lincoln on March 9. New in 2012 is the River Antlerless permit, which allows 126 days of hunting along 11,300 square miles of river corridors. The permit is not valid on federal or state public land. This \$11 permit replaces the October Antlerless permit and has a bag limit of two antlerless white-tailed deer. The new permit is valid for archery Sept. 15-Dec. 31, muzzleloader Dec. 1-31 and firearm Oct. 1-10, Nov. 10-18 and Dec. 26-Jan.18, 2013. The River Antlerless Unit includes most of the state's major rivers and allows hunting within 3 miles of the banks on designated stretches of rivers. Game and Parks' deer management goal is to provide quality hunting and viewing opportunities within the limits of the deer resource, while maintaining deer populations at a level acceptable to most landowners.

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OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Predator Calling Has Surprises

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

There's nothing more exciting than calling predators as you never know what might come calling, as there are all types of predators out there. Some folks find it offensive to call in Bobcats, coyotes don't bother them, but if you show a picture of a Bobcat that's been killed, you'd be surprised on the reaction you get as some folks think a Bobcat is just a kitty, when in fact, they're predator's-carnivores. Well if you're one of those folks, I'm sorry to offend you, but that's just the way it is.

Just what is a predator, well it's defined as, a carnivore, a meat eater, an animal that lives by capturing and eating critters. According to that definition, a predator can be any number of things. We're predators as are mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, fox, badgers as well as lions and tigers and bears.

Depending on the location you're doing the calling from, you might be surprised by what comes to the call. Of course these aren't the only critters that, once hearing the sound of distressed rabbit, fawn or other animal, will come running to investigate, taking advantage of another animals unfortunate situation.

It's not unusual for deer, which are curious critters to come into a predator call as it has happened to us numerous times, especially when you're in Mule Deer country. There are numerous other animals/birds out there that are opportunists and will eat what ever happens to be available.

Raccoons and skunks are a couple of the furry critters that will come in if they're within hearing distance as well as hawks, eagles and owls, so when you're calling predators you need to be ready for almost anything. I've had friends who were calling up north in a mountainous region that called in black bears. In the upper Midwest, you're more apt

to bring in coyotes, fox, bobcat, raccoons or skunks. Coyote and fox are the most commonly seen critter when predator calling.

Another predator that's getting to be more common in the upper Midwest is the Bobcat,

It's an elusive critter that's pretty much nocturnal and is rarely spotted by humans, as they'll spot you long before you see them.

Bobcats roam throughout much of North America, like other predators are very adaptable and can live in forests, swamps, along wooded rivers/streams, deserts and even in suburban areas.

Bobcats aren't all that big, weighing in at 11 to 30 pounds or about as twice as big as our house cats. They're long legged with very large paws.

Their tracks are easily identifiable, as unlike coyote, fox or other canine, whose claws are exposed when they walk, cat tracks show no claw marks.

Brown or brownish red in color with an underbelly that's white. They get their name from their short, black-tipped ibobbed tail.

Bobcats are Mother Nature's stealth fighter, unlike coyotes, that will charge in, bobcats hunt slowly, sliding up on their quarry and then delivering a deathblow by pouncing on it.

They can be fierce hunters, which are able to kill prey much larger than they are, but feed primarily on rabbits, birds, mice, squirrels, and other smaller game animals.

On one predator calling trips that we made into South Dakota a few years back, we'd called in several Bobcats, one as close as 8 feet, since the cat season was closed, all we could do was film and take photos of it.

On our last trip to the Sandhills, we called in several coyotes including a pair that almost ran over the top of us.

During the second afternoon of that hunt, we decided to move into another area we'd called coyotes in prior years. The area we'd be hunting, also held cattle, which is one of the primary reason holds it coyotes as they'll be prowling around looking to make a meal of the after birth and a calf if the opportunity presents itself.

We made several set ups, giving each spot 25 to 30 minutes and after having no takers, would head off to another location. Moving about a mile across the prairie



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Marlyn Wiebelhaus of Wynot, Neb., is pictured with a large male Bobcat he took while hunting in northeast Nebraska.

we stashed our pickup in a depression and headed up hill looking for a decent spot to set up. Over one hill and then another we slowly trekked towards the Dismal River which meandered through the property we were hunting. Topping one ridge then another, we eventually came to an area where the prairie started to drop off into an area with a few scattered cedars that over looked the river.

As we moved down the ridge we spotted two-cedar tress that looked to be a good place for a hide, giving us decent filming and shooting lanes.

As we proceeded along the upper side of the cedars, my partner Larry Myhre spotted the tell tale tracks of a cat in the snow. We paused for a second to take footage and pictures of the tracks for future reference.

Our other partner, Andy Glidden from Ainsworth, Neb., had worked his way around the tree and was setting out the Fox Pro call and decoy below us as we got into position.

As we set up, we talked about the cat tracks that were along the trail behind us, just over the hill. That's when Andy indicated if a cat did show up, he'd take it as he had the required permit needed to shoot it.

Andy was set up slightly above us in front of the first cedar while Larry and I would be just below him and off to his right. I'd be manning the camera on this shoot with Larry on my right flank armed with his 243.

Because of the rough terrain we were in and the separation that was sometimes needed, we were equipped with Midland radios, helping us to make sure that the

NCAA

From Page 8

"You worry they don't understand, hey, these guys are pretty doggone good."

They wound up finding out just how good.

By that time, it had cost them dearly.

Kyle O'Quinn had 26 points and 14 rebounds in a breakout performance, and the plucky MEAC champions upset the second-seeded Tigers 86-84 on Friday, advancing in the West Regional while Missouri headed home to ponder what could have been.

"We tried all week, our coaching staff, explaining how good Norfolk State is," Haith said quietly. "You get in the NCAA tournament on a neutral court, they

cheer for the underdogs. That's what happens. And they stay in the game, they bank in a couple 3s, you have a ballgame."

Missouri struggled with the Spartans (26-9) all afternoon, falling behind by eight in the opening minutes and by six late in the second half. But the Tigers still had a final shot when O'Quinn missed two free throws with 3.8 seconds left.

Haith called timeout to set up a final play, and the ball wound up in Phil Pressey's hands. He took a couple of hard dribbles and let loose a 3-pointer from the wing that clanked off the back iron and fell to the floor as the buzzer sounded.

Pressey walked over to a court-side table, his face buried in his jersey, before falling to the floor in disbelief as Norfolk State players dashed to center court to celebrate.

"We had great execution there

on that last play," Haith said. "He got a good look."

But it didn't go in, and all those brackets that had the Big 12 tournament champs advancing to face Florida in the West Regional — perhaps all the way to the Final Four — can be torn up.

"We messed up some brackets! We messed up some brackets!" O'Quinn said as he led his team to the locker room. "We even messed up my bracket."

Michael Dixon led Missouri (30-5) with 22 points, and Pressey and fellow guard Marcus Denmon finished with 20 each. Pressey also contributed eight assists, though senior guard Kim English was held to two points on 1-for-7 shooting.

CREIGHTON 58, ALABAMA 57: GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Josh Jones figured he owed his teammates one.

After missing two crucial free throws with 8.7 seconds left, the junior guard blocked a 3-point attempt by Trevor Releford on the other end of the floor to help Creighton end its 10-year NCAA tournament drought with a 58-57 victory over Alabama on Friday.

Doug McDermott had 16 points and 10 rebounds as the eighth-seeded Bluejays overcame an 11-point deficit in the second half and then held on to win despite missing three free throws in the final 32 seconds.

"It's been 10 years since our last win, so that's great for our

great fans — an incredible feeling," said Creighton coach Greg McDermott, father of the team's star player. "Here we beat Alabama at their own game. I would not have guessed that we could win a game (in the 50s). I thought we were going to need to be in the 70s and get the tempo in our favor the entire game."

Creighton moves on to face North Carolina, the Midwest's top seed, on Sunday.

Doug McDermott, the MVP of the Missouri Valley Conference and the nation's third-leading scorer at 23.2 points per game, was held scoreless for more than 14 minutes but then scored nine points down the stretch.

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