

OUTDOORS DIGEST

**S.D. State Record  
Paddle Fish Landed**

PIERRE — A Chamberlain man has landed the largest fish ever recorded by an angler in South Dakota. Earlier this month, Bill Harmon shattered a 35-year-old record when he snagged a 127 lb., 9 oz. paddlefish on May 7.

Harmon drew a permit for the Lake Francis Case paddlefish snagging season. His fish surpassed the old record of 120 lb. 12 oz. set by Don Gregg in April 1979 in the Ft. Randall tailwaters.

Annual stocking efforts of paddlefish began in the early 1990s and have resulted in quality numbers of the species in Lake Francis Case. Jason Sorensen, SD Game, Fish and Parks' fisheries biologist, noted, "One of the original goals of the paddlefish stocking program was to initiate a sport fishery for this species. Paddlefish are a long-lived species and the Lake Francis Case population has some very old fish. There is potential for anglers to harvest large paddlefish and Bills' recent catch is proof of that."

Paddlefish are among the largest and longest lived species of freshwater fishes. Native to the Mississippi River drainage, these prehistoric fish once roamed freely throughout the network of rivers in the central United States. From the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers in the west to the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers in the east, paddlefish are believed to have made long seasonal migrations throughout the Mississippi River basin.

The unusual appearance of paddlefish amazed early European explorers. Different from most fish species, paddlefish can best be distinguished by their very large mouths and a paddle-shaped snout that is about one third their body length. Paddlefish are bluish-gray in color and appear dark when viewed from above. Similar to many freshwater fishes, they are white on the bottom. Paddlefish lack scales and have smooth skin similar to catfish.

Paddlefish feed primarily on zooplankton (microscopic "bugs") by swimming with their mouths open and filtering zooplankton out of the water with their gill rakers. Since paddlefish do not feed on bait fish and invertebrates, conventional fishing methods prove useless to anglers pursuing paddlefish. Anglers typically snag for paddlefish using heavy-duty equipment and heavy fishing lines.

**South Dakota Proposes  
Deer License, Tag Cuts**

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has proposed steep cuts to the number of licenses and tags available for many of the state's deer hunting seasons.

The commission says a decrease in deer population prompted the proposed cuts. The 2014 seasons could see a substantial decrease in antlerless tags.

The East River 2014 deer season would see a reduction of more than 7,000 licenses and 20,000 tags compared to 2013.

The West River season would see about 4,000 fewer licenses and a reduction in tags of more than 25,000. Antlerless tags alone would be reduced by 23,000.

The proposal leaves the Black Hills with no antlerless licenses for 2014.

The commission expects to finalize the proposal in June. People can comment on the matter by email at wildinfo@state.sd.us.

The Commission will finalize these proposals at their June 5-6 meeting in Yankton at Lewis and Clark Resort. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us.

To be part of the official public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. on June 5. Please include your full name along with the city and state of residence. If you would like to comment in person, the public hearing will be held Thursday, June 5, at 2 p.m. CDT at Lewis and Clark Resort in Yankton.

**Deer Hunters Need  
Access Permits For  
Certain Areas**

PIERRE — A proposal by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission would require archery, muzzleloader, youth and mentored deer hunters to obtain a free access permit to hunt on the Hill Ranch Game Production Area in Fall River County (Unit 27L), Custer National Forestlands in Harding County (Unit 35L) and the Little Moreau Game Production Area in Dewey County (Unit 24B).

Permits are free of charge and unlimited. The issuance of these permits will allow agency staff to improve the collection of hunter use and harvest information from hunters who use these areas.

**Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey**

# What Is 'Back-Seating'?

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

Most anglers know what being back seated means! It means that the angler in the back of the boat can be at a disadvantage.

When I fished bass tournaments down south, I ran into anglers that were professionals at it.

Well the worst example of back seating happened to me a few weeks back, I was fishing a partner tournament and I back seated myself.

Sounds impossible, well it is not! My partner who was running the trolling motor was working a break-line between 7 to 10 feet. He was fishing off the deep side of the boat and I was working the shallow side.

We were moving quickly down river and I made a major mistake. We were dragging bottom bouncers and spinners, which were almost identical. The only difference was that I had chosen to use a bigger Colorado blade on my spinner.

I had figured since the water was dirty that I needed more flash and vibration to attract the walleyes. What I had not figured was that the larger blade at faster speed would rise off the bottom.

I had a terrible time finding the bottom and as you know; if you are after walleyes, you need to be on the bottom.

With the larger Colorado blade my spinner and crawler was grabbing more water and lifting my bait high off the bottom and at times lift up my light bottom bouncer.

In order to get my bait down, I had to let out a lot of line, which put me so far behind the boat that I was not able to follow the contours and keep my crawler in contact with the bottom.

I should have used a smaller blade and kept my bait closer to the bottom and along the contour.

In order to keep my bait in contact with the bottom, I was letting more line out, making it impossible for my bait to follow the contours.

I could have solved the problem by going to a heavier bottom bouncer, but did not want to take my bait out of the water any more than I had to.

My grandpa Menkveld always told me, "you can't catch fish unless your baits in the water!" Which is true, but if it is the wrong bait, you are just dragging bottom!

If we would have been drifting and fishing out of the same side of the boat, the Colorado blade would have been the ticket in the dirty water because it would have been turning slower and creating more vibration and flash.

The same thing happens when two anglers are trolling crank baits.

One angler will be fishing shallower water than his partner will, so he should be using a shallower running lure.

The angler on the shallow side should



Gary  
**HOWEY**



TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES PHOTO  
**Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Duane Ryks, originally from Minnesota and now residing in Alaska, is pictured with a healthy walleye taken using tips found in this column.**

be using a shallow diving # 5 or # 7 Shad Rap or something similar while the angler in the deeper water should be running a deeper diving # 7 or # 9 Shad Rap.

If the angler trolling shallow is using the same size crankbait as the deep-water angler, he either he becomes hung up much of the time or scare the shallow water fish by beating the bottom to death.

Another way that anglers back seat themselves is by not paying attention to what the fish are trying to tell you.

When you are trolling crankbaits, the boat makes a turn and the outside rod catches the fish, this means that the fish want faster moving bait. As the boat turns, the outside bait will speed up and the inside bait will slow down.

If the inside baits takes the fish, slow down your trolling speed.

Speed is important no matter what type of bait you are using. There are days when fish want a slow presentation or a quicker more active presentation.

Generally when trolling, I like to run about 1.5-2 miles per hour.

When I drift, I like to keep the boat moving just a little faster than the current. If I am using a spinner, I will need to move

just fast enough so that the spinner will work. You can tell if the spinner is working right by watching your rod tip, if you are moving too fast your rod tip will not vibrate as the spinner turns.

The next time you are in the back of the boat and things are not working out the way you planned, think about these things and it may help you to keep from back seating yourself.

Fish hard, fish often and take a friend, neighbor or kid fishing.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. In the Yankton area, it airs on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am as well as on MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program Monday-Saturday at 6:45 am on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out outdoorsmenadventures.com.

TROPHY SPOTLIGHT

**Morgann Sudbeck of Hartington, Nebraska, is pictured with the Tom turkey she took on her first Nebraska spring turkey hunt.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO

You can send your outdoors photos to the P&D to appear in the Saturday Trophy Spotlight. Email the large-sized image to jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net, and make sure to include the necessary information (name, date, location, etc.)



## USD Wins Five Events At Summit

FARGO, N.D. — Senior Jeff Mettler won his third straight Summit League 3,000-meter steeplechase title and junior thrower Kyle McKelvey etched his named into the league record books while winning the men's shot put to highlight South Dakota track and field's performances during the second day of The Summit League Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Ellig Sports Complex on Friday.

Three more Coyotes won league titles while several qualified for finals races being held on Saturday. Jeff O'Connell won the men's long jump, Danielle Waldner broke a school record while winning the women's shot put and Hunter Wilkes took the women's pole vault title to round out USD's winners. The men ended the day in second place in the team standings while the women were in third.

## Lancers

From Page 7

Morgan, a 5-10 point guard, helped Pender to its fourth straight state tournament appearance this past season, earning honorable mention all-state honors. During the 2014 Nebraska State Class C2 Girls' Basketball Tournament, she averaged 7.0 points per game, including 11 in the third place game of the tournament.

Morgan, the daughter of

Brad and Kathy Morgan of Walthill, Nebraska, plans to major in elementary and special education at MMC.

"Trista Morgan has been a big part of Pender's success the past four years," Schlimgen said. "She has the ability to score and is a very good defender."

Wingert, a 5-9 forward at Hills-Beaver Creek, Minnesota, High School, was an honorable mention all-conference selection for the Patriots. The daughter of Matt Wingert of Valley Springs, she will major in chemistry and psychology at MMC.

Participate in the 2014 Pulse of America  
**Shopping & Media Survey**  
and you may win \$2,000!

Go to:  
**www.pulsepoll.com**  
and enter Survey Code "148"

Sponsored by  
South Dakota Newspaper Association  
and Pulse Research

**Cedar Tree Removal**

**VELDKAMP**  
LAND, PASTURE, HUNTING  
GROUND IMPROVEMENTS  
Gain Value &  
Reclaim Your Land!

**David Veldkamp**  
**(605) 530-3471**

**DREAM  
BIG  
this summer.**

## WE'LL HELP YOU GET THERE.

Whatever your summer dream might be, we have the financing to help bring that dream to life. Boats, trucks, RVs and even motorcycles are affordable with our great rates as low as

**2.99%\***  
**APR**



**First National Bank**

Yankton • Mitchell • Huron • Woonsocket • fnbsd.com • 800.262.9611

\*Rates will be 2.99% or 3.99% APR depending upon credit, term, auto deduct from a FNBSD account, loan amount and model year 2010 or newer. Subject to credit approval. New money only. Title perfection fee due at closing. Offer expires June 30, 2014. See a banker for details. Member FDIC